

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MR. K. K .KAPILA AT THE IRF-IC INAUGURAL WEBINAR ON
TUESDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 2021**

Respected Gadkari ji, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSME, an inspirational leader and an extremely passionate person about Road Safety, other respected dignitaries including Ms. Luciana Iorio, Chair UNECE Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety and Mr. Bill Halkias, President, IRF Geneva, Dr. Gangopadhyay, President, IRF India, Mr. T. K. Amla, Secretary, IRF India, delegates to this Webinar, friends from the media, Ladies and Gentlemen, Namaskar.

I extend a very warm welcome and thank you all for joining us today.

Road Safety, though extremely important has still not been able to attract enough attention in India despite the fact that there have been higher fatalities year on year on account of road accidents than due to COVID 19 pandemic in 2020. In India, more than 150,000 people die every year while 500,000 get injured. A significant point to be noted here is that while over 70% fatalities due to road accidents, are in the most productive age group of 18 to 45 years, over 70% fatalities due to COVID, were in the age group of over 65 years.

Globally, road accidents account for 1.3 million deaths and 50 million injuries, with many living their lives with permanent disabilities. Of this, India's contribution to the fatalities is at 11%. In 2010, the world leaders from 100 countries gathered together and resolved to reduce road fatalities and accidents by 50% by the end of 2020. Though we did not achieve the target, there is now an increased sensitivity and awareness towards road safety. Having failed to achieve the target, a new target has been set up to achieve reduction in road accidents by 50% by 2030.

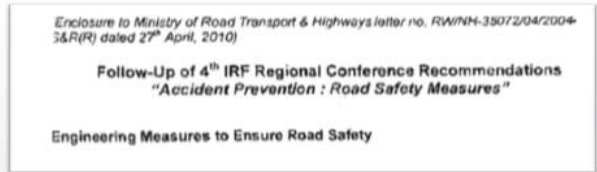
To achieve it, an action plan was contemplated to be prepared in 2020 but because of COVID 19, this has got delayed and we have now embarked upon it. In this effort we have the whole hearted support of a number of International and National Organisations including FIA, Road Safety Organisation of Prince Michael Duke of Kent, iRAP, IRF-Geneva, UNECE and MoRTH amongst others.

Our attempt through this webinar series is to sensitise every wing along the lines of 5Es to collectively finalise, resolve and move to achieve this target.

1. Let us first look at Safety on Roads. In this effort, we have been continually working and in 2010 the MoRTH as a sequel to an IRF Seminar issued a circular to build Forgiving Roads. Thereafter the NHAI issued 2 Circulars on the subject in the years 2010 and 2012 respectively.

Engineering of Roads

- Circular of MoRTH Letter no. RW/NH-35072/04/2004-S&R(R) dated 27th April, 2010 – Engineering Measures to Road Safety
- Circular of NHAI vide no. NHAI/2008/Road Safety/IRF/588 dated 12th July, 2010 – Ensuring Road Safety – Engineering Measures as per directions of MoRT&H – reg.
- Circular of NHAI vide no. 11041/218/2007/Admn dated 13th September, 2012 – Road Safety issues on the ongoing projects.



In spite of explicit instructions, these have not been adhered to, primarily on the plea of cost increase as well as a casual attitude of the people involved. This is indeed unfortunate.

Let us now resolve to follow these instructions, both in letter and spirit.

2. Moving to Vehicular Safety, the GoI has initiated provisioning of safety measures in the Vehicles aligning them with UNECE standards, in both two wheelers and four wheelers. We compliment the Government of India for mandating crash test standards, identical with Europe. Similarly the provisioning of ABS in two wheelers is again a very welcome gesture.

Another positive step is with regard to introduction of Bus Codes. However, nobody follows these codes and RTOs in States do not have the expertise to verify the compliances. The Registration currently takes place based on self-certification by Fabricators. There is an urgent need to plug this loophole which is also a cause of corruption in the system. Till a proper system is evolved, OEM dealers may be empowered along with the & C Centres proposed to be set up by including this activity under Rule 62 meant for issuance of Annual Fitness of vehicles.

The Government of India's move to encourage use of CNG is welcomed. However, if we are retrofitting CNG kits in the market, it is important that these vehicles meet the same crash test safety standards as mandated for all cars. Secondly, many of these kits are imported from China and do not meet basic safety standards. Under Atma Nirbhar Bharat, we need to develop and manufacture these in India, so that they meet all test standards, stop their import, and generate local employment.

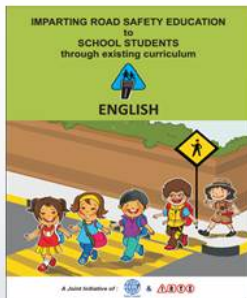
3. Education

IRF India in association with IRTE has prepared books by removing the existing chapters of NCERT books from Class VI to Class X and introducing new chapters aligned with Road Safety so that the children who are educated with these books have deep rooted sensitivity engrained in their minds about road safety. These are freely available on our website.

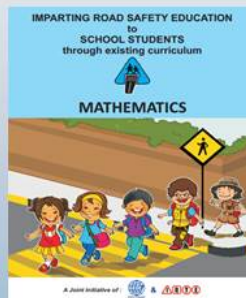
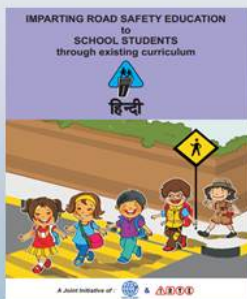


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Education



[http://www.indiairf.com/IRF Initiative for Integrating Road Safety in School Curriculum.html](http://www.indiairf.com/IRF_Initiative_for_Integrating_Road_Safety_in_School_Curriculum.html)



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For Mass Awareness, we need to screen, short road safety films in Cinemas before a commercial film is screened as well as on Doordarshan channels, **similar to the anti-tobacco drive**. We may encourage those who produce these films by making appropriate Tax Relief for investment on making these films.

IRF has produced a number of short films which are freely available on our website.

4. Enforcement

I would like to salute you Sir for having spearheaded the Amendment of MV Act 1988. The amended MV Act 2019 implemented in September 2019 will bring a remarkable change in the road safety scenario in the country when it is adopted in entirety by the States and Union Territories across the country. Removing the human interface from Enforcement and extensive use of ITS technologies to capture violations is the way forward.



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Enforcement



India's first 'Intelligent Traffic System' launched in Gurgaon

Source : <http://urbanupdate.in/indias-first-intelligent-traffic-system-launched-in-gurgaon/>



Ahmedabad to get Intelligent Traffic System by October

Source : <https://www.trafficinfotech.com/ahmedabad-to-get-intelligent-traffic-system-by-october/>

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5. Emergency Care

IRF-IC has been relentlessly working with AIIMS Trauma Centre, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Health and WHO to promote First Aid Trauma Care. We have had a number of First Aid Training Programmes and we have worked to

have One unified First Aid Trauma Care Programme which was duly released by the Hon'ble Health Minister during the Road Safety Week in 2019.

Our Vision is that Bystander Training Programme should be undertaken in a time bound manner along all National and State Highways to begin with.

I would like to invite your kind attention to the Good Samaritan Law which gives comfort to the bystanders who come forward to help the accident victim. The Law provides that police will not question them nor the hospital will refuse to attend the accident victim.

I am pleased to share the latest intervention in trauma care area by the DRDO Scientists who have created a Motorbike Ambulance called "Rakshita". I firmly believe that we must promote manufacture of these Motorbike Ambulances in a populated country like ours with massive road network and disproportionately large accidents to save human lives. This effort should be launched in the same manner as we have taken up the vaccine drive for COVID 19.



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Emergency Care



DRDO initiative of Motorbike Ambulance Rakshita

- Reclining Casualty Evacuation Seat (CES)
- Head Immobilizer
- Safety Harness Jacket
- Hand & Foot straps for Safety
- Adjustable Footrest
- Physiological parameter measuring equipment with wireless monitoring capability
- Auto warning for the driver

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IRF has decided to honour those responsible for the development of this Motorbike Ambulance in the near future.

I humbly solicit the Hon'ble Minister's support to bless us with his presence at IRF Webinars on commencement of each new subject and assist us in our effort to invite the

Hon'ble Ministers of Rural Development, Industry, HRD, Health and Home to launch respective Webinars covering Rural Roads, Vehicular Safety, Education, Emergency Care and Enforcement, along with him in these webinars. We propose to prepare an action plan and get it finalized in consultation with various Ministries during the ongoing Webinar Series.

Besides it we propose to take up various demonstration studies and their implementation to base our recommendations on evidence based programme of Road Safety Interventions.

We propose to have the concluding programme of this year-long series during the Road Safety Month in January 2022 to release the National Road Safety Action Plan. On this occasion, we must take a pledge that we will all relentlessly work to make it a success. Sir, I am extremely confident that your vision and support in this initiative will go a long way in achieving reduction in road accidents and fatalities. This has to be treated as a "Yagnya" in which everyone's "Ahuti" is required. Saving a life is the biggest prayer one can offer at the feet of the All Mighty by whatever name you call him.... RAM, ALLAH, JESUS, BUDDHA or GURU NANAK Jee.

Let's all pledge that we will relentlessly keep giving these "Ahutis".

Jai Hind.