

Speech by Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport & Highways

I am very pleased to be here for the 12th IRF Webinar on the Theme of Sustainable Development with Road Safety. This series of Webinars was inaugurated by me on 9th February 2021, and I am very pleased to see that the series is culminating with its 12th (Final) webinar today on this very important topic.

You all are well aware that the target of UN Decade of Action for Road Safety with 50% reduction in fatalities by 2020 could not be achieved due to a number of reasons. Further, we are also aware that due the Covid-19 emergency

across all nations we all could not prepare the Road Safety Action Plan in 2020, as agreed by Global community as the first task of Road Safety Performance Targets for 2030 in our meeting at Stockholm. As an active stakeholder intimately involved with the road safety related efforts in the country,IRF has pledged to prepare this Action Plan for India under Mr. Kapila's leadership by generating all possible ideas and compiling technical know-how from all over the world through this Webinar Series, where they have invited many international speakers and there has been active international participation.

The Webinar Series is ending with this 12th Webinar today and all the ideas and recommendations are being compiled to formulate the Action Plan. I am extremely happy to learn that all the concerned Ministries of Government of India are involved in finalization of their components of the Action Plan. The final Road Safety Action Plan with every Ministry's input will be released in 2022.

In addition to the Webinar Series, the IRF-India Chapter has also taken up a Validation Programme of the 5Es concept of Road Safety. For this I had written to the Chief Ministers of seven states with worst road safety records in

terms of highest number of accidents and fatalities, to suggest a road stretch of 100-150 km length in each of these states, which has the worst road safety record. These seven roads have been taken up by IRF-India Chapter for the validation exercises with implementation of 5Es: Engineering of Roads, Engineering of Vehicles and Policy Interventions, Education, Enforcement and Emergency Care. The objective of the 5Es Validation Programme is to showcase that, when they are undertaken together, how effective the interventions become, in converting the worst road stretch to the safest stretch.

It is learnt from global experiences that though independent actions have been undertaken on 5Es aiming for improving safety, they became standalone efforts and happening in isolation had no significant impact. It has been seen in some of the developed nations of the world, that when all 5Es are attended simultaneously, it can change the road with worst safety record to a safest corridor. Actually, the correlation among all Es, which when plugged together has the potential to achieve the targets. Thus, with 5Es actions implemented, these seven corridors are expected to become some of the safest corridors in the network of the seven states. The States and the concerned Departments have been very helpful in

conduct of the studies as well as their implementations.

My grateful thanks to all the Chief Ministers.

I am very happy to know that all the expenses for the studies for the 5Es actions are funded by Corporate India. However, only the corrections in the engineering of the roads shall be done by the respective road agency of the State or Centre. I would like to convey my sincere thanks to all the contributors for this “Safe Corridor Demonstration Project” of IRF, and we would like to give due recognition to all such Corporate partners in this road safety mission. With all the efforts of IRF under the leadership of Mr. Kapila and contributions from Corporate India, I am sure we

will be able to fulfill my mission of achieving the targets of 2nd Decade of Action for Road Safety, even five years earlier than global target date and by 2025 itself.

I am hopeful that once this strategy of simultaneous 5Es actions are validated through these seven “Safe Corridor Demonstration Projects”, all the Central and State agencies would like to implement such approach across the whole country to realize the global target at a faster pace.

JAI HIND