

KERALA

Kerala, a South-Western coastal State constitutes only about 1 percent of the total area of the country. The State stretches for about 360 miles (580 Km) along the Malabar Coast, varying in width from roughly 20 to 75 miles (30 to 120 Km). The Capital of Kerala is Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum).

Kerala has the fourth highest number of road accidents in the country. The State, which was ranked fifth from 2015 to 2018, stood fourth in the country in terms of the number of road accidents in 2019. Last year, there were 41,111 road accidents in the State, or 930 more than in 2018.

Amongst IRF-IC's 7 State Demonstration Safe Corridor Project, the Govt. of Kerala had identified a 151 Km Aroor to Kadampattukonam as the project stretch for 5E interventions. These 5E interventions will help transform this stretch to a forgiving road with an almost zero fatalities and serious injuries.

The coordinator for the project from Kerala Govt. and IRF-IC is:

- Dr. Samson Mathew, Director of NATPAC

Status of the 5E Interventions:

1st E of Engineering of Roads: The objective of this intervention is to study the road stretch through an extensive Audit and identify areas of improvement through design corrections, enhancing traffic signages, markings etc. The Road Safety Audit was undertaken by Team NATPAC.



Median on Pedestrian Crossing



Unpaved Shoulder

A comprehensive audit report has been prepared giving details of proposed corrections at the Junctions, recommendations on Traffic Signage and Markings along with a detailed BoQ submitted to NHAI. The next step is the implementation of the corrections by NHAI to make the stretch Safer.

2nd E of Engineering of Vehicles and Policy Interventions: The objective of this intervention is to promote and propagate various mandatory safety features in motorised and non-motorised vehicles as well as the supporting policies. It is often observed that though many provisions related to safer mobility is in existence, there is a lack in their enforcement and compliance in various States of India. We have identified certain key vehicular safety measures such as fitment of Side Under-run Protection Devices, Rear Under-run Protection Devices, Front Under-run Protection Devices, Conspicuity of vehicles, retro fitment of Anti Brake System, etc., and policies such as Good Samaritan Rule, Linkage of Driving Licenses with Aadhar Cards, etc., for pursuing with the State Government for their propagation, enforcement and ensuring compliance.

3rd E of Road Safety Education: We have imparted Road Safety Education in around 350 schools on the stretch with the help of Fabio Infra as the Delivery Partner. The children in the age group of 11 to 17 years are being imparted the education.

Besides this, we are promoting our Road Safety Anthem in 23 Indian languages towards creating mass awareness. IRF has produced a few short films of 1 to 5 minutes duration with the support of Corporate India. We are making efforts with the concerned department in the Governments at the Centre and the State to make it mandatory to show these short films in Cinemas before the screening of the commercial films. This is similar to the anti-cancer campaign of the Government which has successfully created massive awareness to the cause.



Road Safety Education Programme at schools

4th E of Enforcement and Traffic Management: The objective of this intervention is to strengthen the Traffic Management and Accident Data Collection capabilities of the Police Personnel through imparting a short duration Training. For this purpose, 34 Police Stations on the project stretch were identified and a brief survey was undertaken to understand the infrastructure availability at each of the Police Stations. As a next step, a 3-day training programme on Traffic Management, Enforcement and Accident Data Collection for a group of 30 police personnel of different ranks drawn from each of the 34 Police Stations will be organised before the end of August 2022.

5th E of Emergency Care: The objective of this intervention is three pronged. First, a Survey of the Hospitals at District Level, offering more than 100 Beds and having provision for 24-hour emergency, to understand their current available Infrastructure and Skilled Capacities was undertaken. This was followed by a feasibility exercise aiming to enhance 5-6 of these hospitals to Level 1/Level 2/Level 3 Trauma Care Centers. IRF-IC team had surveyed 55 hospitals which met our screening criteria and collected data from 27 Hospitals.



Enumeration of Govt. Hospital, Allapuzha



Enumeration of BR Hospital, Kollam

Second is to undertake training of able-bodied Bystanders to act as First Responders during prehospital care. An IRF-IC team of Pre-hospital Trauma Care Technicians imparted hands on training on First Aid Trauma Care to the Bystanders drawn from road side establishments, communities, institutions, etc. The curriculum covered in the training programme include Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Splinting, Injuries Management, Management of Animal Bites, Safe Transportation of the victims, etc. On the Project Stretch, 8 Training Programmes were imparted to Bystanders / Workers / Staff at Toll Plazas, Schools, Panchayat Samiti, etc. 349 Bystanders were trained.



Bystander performing CPR in Fatima School



Interaction during First-aid Training in SN College

Third is with regard to Rehabilitation of Accident Victims. We are presently working on this concept and shall update this space as and when ample progress is recorded.