

**08-09-2022**

## **Road Accidents in India**

### **Why in Newspapers?**

Recently, road accidents in India have become a central topic of discussion after the unfortunate death of Cyrus Mistry (former chairman of Tata Sons).

### **Quick Issue?**

- **Item Status (as per latest NCRB data):**
- Deaths in road accidents have increased by 17%.
- In 2021, 1.55 lakh people died in accidents on Indian roads, up from 1.33 lakh in 2020.
- Total road accidents in 2021 were recorded at 4.03 lakhs.
- Highest numbers of cases were reported in Tamil Nadu.
- Cause: Over speeding caused 87,000 deaths, which is more than half of the total deaths, while dangerous and reckless driving caused more than 42,000 deaths.

### **Other Key Facts?**

#### **Necessary Measures**

- Establish evidence-based, India-specific and effective road safety policies by institutions.
- Improved road design and maintenance of road and traffic infrastructure.
- Removal of 'median' on intercity highway and replacement of 'steel guard rail' or 'wire rope barrier'.
- Awareness about the use of seat belts and installation of airbags.
- Use the EU General Safety Regulations. These safety regulations mandate new vehicles to incorporate advanced emergency braking technology that automatically 'activates' in the event of an imminent collision.

### **Historical Background?**

- The 'Three-Point Seat Belt' is a low-cost control system that prevents the occupants of the vehicle from falling forward during an accident.
- Seat Belt:- It loosens the person in the vehicle according to the speed of the vehicle and distributes the external physical force during the accident to the stronger parts of the person's body such as pelvis and chest.
- According to the Ministry of Road Transport, 26,896 people lost their lives due to non-use of seat belts during 2017, of which 16,876 were passengers.
- Seat Belt + Airbag:- Even if the vehicle is fitted with an airbag, the force with which an uncontrolled person hits the airbag can cause serious injury. So the airbag works in conjunction with the seatbelt.
- According to the study by IIT Delhi, the death rate has been reduced by 63 percent by installing airbags in the vehicle.
- Head restraints: These are fitted to vehicles as adjustable models, or are attached to the seats and 'whiplash injury' caused by sudden backward and forward motion of the head in the event of a collision ' (whiplash injury).



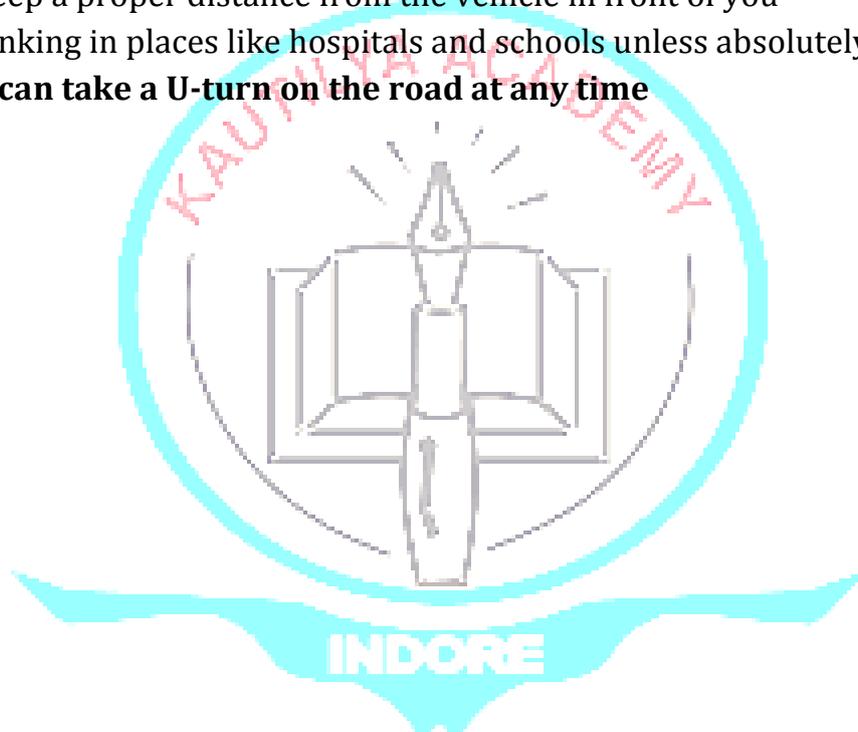
- A draft notification has been issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to provide 'three-point seat belts' in all vehicles (up to 8 seater vehicles).
- Under the amended Motor Vehicles Act 2019, it is mandatory for the passenger in the passenger vehicle to wear seat belt for the driver and the passenger, otherwise fine will have to be paid.
- Apparently- Although seat belts are installed in cars, it is virtually absent for rear seat occupants in India.

### Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

**Que. Select the incorrect statement regarding traffic rules.**

- (a) You can take a U-turn on the road at any time
- (b) Always stop your vehicle before the stop line at an intersection during a red light
- (c) Should keep a proper distance from the vehicle in front of you
- (d) Avoid honking in places like hospitals and schools unless absolutely necessary

**Answer—(a) You can take a U-turn on the road at any time**



## Ramon Magsaysay Award 2022

### Why in Newspapers?

Recently the Ramon Magsaysay Awards were announced.

### Quick Issue?

- This year the award will be given to Sothiara Chim, Psychiatrist (Cambodia), Tadashi Hattori, Ophthalmologist (Japan), Bernadette Madrid, Pediatrician (Philippines) and Gary Benchehib, activist and filmmaker (Indonesia).

### **Other Key Facts?**

#### Ramon Magsaysay

- Magsaysay became the President of the Philippines in 1953. The years of Magsaysay's administration are described as the Golden Years of the Philippines. He was known for his generosity and agrarian reforms.

### Historical Background?

- **Sothiara Chhim, Psychiatrist (Cambodia)**
  - Sothiara Chhim, a 54-year-old Cambodian, was rewarded for dedicating her life to helping those suffering under the Khmer Rouge regime.
  - Sothiara Chhim herself was a victim of the ultra-Maoist Khmer Rouge regime, the Khmer Rouge regime that killed nearly a quarter of Cambodia's population in the 1970s through starvation, overwork, and mass capital punishment.
- **Tadashi Hattori, ophthalmologist (Japan)**
  - Tadashi Hattori, a 58-year-old Japanese ophthalmologist, was honoured for providing free eye surgery in Vietnam, where such specialists and facilities are limited.
- **Bernadette Madrid, pediatrician (Philippines)**
  - Bernadette Madrid, 64, has received an award for helping domestic abuse victims and setting up a child protection center in the Philippines.
  - Since 1997, he has headed the country's first child protection center at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila. It has served over 27,000 children in the past year.
- **Gary Benchehib, activist and film producer (Indonesia)**
  - 27-year-old French environmental activist and filmmaker Gary Benchehib has been awarded the award for his efforts to clean up Indonesia's polluted waterways.
- **Ramon Magsaysay Award**
  - This award is considered as the Nobel Prize of Asia. It was established in 1957. The award honours individuals who have achieved excellence in their field and have generously helped others.
  - The award is given in five categories namely journalism, government service, public service, literature and creative communication.
- **How are the Ramon Magsaysay Award recipients chosen?**
  - Since 2009, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation selects awardees for the Emergent Leadership Sector on an annual basis.
  - The winners of this award receive a certificate, a medallion with an embossed portrait of Ramon Magsaysay and a monetary prize.



## Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

**Que. Ramon Magsaysay Award.....was established in the year.**

- (a) 1965 (b) 1962  
(c) 1957 (d) 1982

**Answer: (c) 1957**

