

# Daily News Decoding

## 2nd December 2022

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## Digi Yatra

Prelims & GS Paper - II

# Now use your face as boarding pass at Delhi, Varanasi, Bengaluru airports

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Passengers traveling from Delhi, Varanasi and Bengaluru will be able to use their face as boarding pass from December 1 to enter these airports, to access the security check area and pass the boarding gate. Travellers will have to mandatorily provide their Aadhaar details to avail themselves of this service.

The technology, however, is not available at airline check-in counters at the moment and is expected to be introduced at a later stage, said airport sources.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the technological initiative called "Digi Yatra" at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi on Thursday.

The facility is also ex-



**Photo finish:** Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia during the launch of the DigiYatra facility. PTI

pected to be operational at Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune and Vijayawada by March 2023, and then gradually across various airports in the country.

### 'Not mandatory'

The service is voluntary in nature, and is currently available only for domestic flights.

At Delhi airport, for in-

stance, it will be available only at one airport entry gate at Terminal 3, one security-check lane and two boarding gates.

Under the DigiYatra process, a passenger will first be required to download the Digi Yatra app on his or her phone, register with an OTP received on the Aadhaar-linked mobile number, upload Aadhaar de-

tails and a photo followed by uploading the boarding pass for the upcoming travel. This will now allow the passenger to enter the airport building after scanning the QR code on the digital boarding pass followed by a facial scan. Next, the passenger can gain access to the security area too with a mere face scan.

The passenger will have to continue to use the traditional method for check-in and baggage drop, which involves a digital or a paper boarding pass along with other identity documents.

Speaking about privacy concerns, Mr. Scindia said that passenger's identity details and personally identifiable information (PII) will be stored in a secure wallet in the passenger's phone.

**Context:** *Passengers traveling from Delhi, Varanasi, and Bengaluru will be able to use their face as a boarding pass from December 1 to enter these airports, to access the security check area and pass the boarding gate.*

### About:

- The **Digi Yatra paperless airport entry facility** is now **functional** at three airports in the country.
- **Based on the Facial Recognition Technology (FRT)**, Digi Yatra aims to achieve seamless and contactless processing of passengers at airports.
- With this, **passenger data will be processed automatically** based on a facial recognition system, at various checkpoints at the airport.
- By March 2023, four more cities will be added: **Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, and Vijayawada**. Subsequently, the technology will be rolled out more widely.
- **Digi Yatra ID**
  - After **downloading the Digi Yatra app** from **Google Play Store** or **iOS app store**, passengers can get this ID by sharing details such as name, email

address, mobile number, and details of an identification document (Aadhaar, driving license, voter ID etc.).

- After entering this information, a Digi Yatra ID will be created; it has to be shared while booking tickets. Airline companies, in turn, will share this ID and passenger data with the departure airport.
- There is no central storage of Personally Identifiable Information (PII). The passenger's ID and travel credentials are stored in a secure wallet on the passenger's smartphone itself.

### How to use the facility?

- At the airport e-gate, scan the bar-coded boarding pass; the facial recognition system installed there will validate your identity, as well as the travel document.
- After this, the user can go inside, and follow the regular procedure to clear the security and board your flight.

### Benefits:

- Faster movement to boarding gates
- Hassle-free travel
- Enhanced security
- Contactless
- Dedicated gates to ensure seamless mobility

<p><b>Facial Recognition Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>About:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Facial recognition</b> is a way of <b>identifying</b> or <b>confirming</b> an <b>individual's identity</b> using their face.</li> <li>➤ Facial recognition systems can be used to identify people in photos, videos, or in real-time.</li> <li>➤ Facial recognition is a category of biometric security. Other forms of biometric software include voice recognition, fingerprint recognition, and eye retina or iris recognition.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Benefits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Efficient Security:</b> Facial recognition is a quick and efficient verification system. It is faster and more convenient compared to other biometric technologies like fingerprints or retina scans. There are also fewer touchpoints in facial recognition compared to entering passwords or PINs. It supports multi factor authentication for additional security verification.</li> <li>➤ <b>Increased Accuracy:</b> Facial recognition is a more accurate way to identify individuals than simply using a mobile number, email address, mailing address, or IP address. For example, most exchange services, from stocks to cryptos, now rely on</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Facial Recognition Technology in India</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Indian government has developed a facial recognition system that can identify anti-social elements with or without disguise, with face masks or monkey caps on, even in low-resolution images at restricted zones as well as public places.</li> <li>● NITI Aayog in a draft discussion paper "<b>Responsible AI for All: Adopting the Framework – A use case approach on Facial Recognition Technology</b>" proposes rigorous standards for data processing, storage and retention to adequately address privacy issues associated with facial recognition technologies (FRTs). It also envisages the constitution of an ethical committee to assess the implications of FRTs and oversee their mitigation measures.</li> <li>● To facilitate the <b>online submission of life certificates by the pensioners</b>, the Central government has launched a unique face recognition technology that would serve as a proof of 'life certificate'.</li> <li>● <b>Odisha has unveiled a tender</b> for the implementation of a <b>facial recognition project</b> in the third largest city, <b>Rourkela</b>, under the framework of a <b>government-run Smart City Projects</b>.</li> <li>● In the state of <b>Uttar Pradesh (UP)</b>, the <b>police</b> are using an <b>AI-based facial recognition system "Trinetra"</b> to alert the police whenever a woman is in distress.</li> <li>● In another example, the <b>Central Board of</b></li> </ul>
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facial recognition to protect customers and their assets.

- **Easier Integration:** Face recognition technology is compatible and integrates easily with most security software. For example, smartphones with front-facing cameras have built-in support for facial recognition algorithms or software code.

- **Applications**

1. Fraud Detection
2. Cybersecurity
3. Airport and Border Control
4. Banking
5. Healthcare

**Secondary Education (CBSE) used facial recognition to match admit card photos** on record to match students logging in to give their board exams.

- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** has issued a **Request for Proposals (RFP)** which invites bids for the **creation of a National Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS)**. This database is purported to be used to swiftly identify criminals by gathering existing data from various other databases.
- **Telangana State Election Commission** also came up with a similar idea to counter impersonation in polls. **TSEC** with the help of the Telangana State Technology Services **tested FRT in 10 polling stations** in Kompally Municipality of Medchal Malkajgiri district by using the technology to verify the identity of voters by comparing the photographs taken at the polling station with photographs of the voters in the TSEC database.
- The **Delhi High Court** had in **Sadhan Haldar v The State NCT of Delhi** issued the use of **Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS)** for the purpose of tracking and re-uniting children.
- **Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh** has established the **Pehchaan citizen app**. The app has integrated Microsoft's Advanced Facial Recognition Technology and can be used by the public and law enforcement. The app provides users with a confidence score of the likelihood that two faces belong to the same person by running the face against the "All India Criminal Database".

## Personality Rights

### Prelims & GS Paper - II

# How do personality rights protect celebrities?

What are personality rights and how do they differ from publicity and trademark rights? Can indiscriminate use of a person's name on the internet be a violation of personality rights?

**G. S. Bajpai**

#### The story so far:

The Delhi High Court recently passed an interim order to prevent the unlawful use of Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan's name, image and voice. The court, through its order, restrained persons at large from infringing the personality rights of the actor.

#### What are personality rights?

Personality rights refer to the right of a person to protect his/her personality under the right to privacy or property. These rights are important to celebrities as their names, photographs or even voices can easily be misused in various advertisements by different companies to boost their sales. Therefore, it is necessary for renowned

personalities/celebrities to register their names to save their personality rights.

A large list of unique personal attributes contribute to the making of a celebrity. All of these attributes need to be protected, such as name, nickname, stage name, picture, likeness, image and any identifiable personal property, such as a distinctive race car.

#### Are personality rights different from publicity rights?

Personality rights are different from publicity rights. Personality rights consist of two types of rights – firstly, the right of publicity, or the right to keep one's image and likeness from being commercially exploited without permission or contractual compensation, which is similar (but not identical) to the use of a trademark; and secondly, the right to privacy or the right to not have one's

personality represented publicly without permission. However, under common law jurisdictions, publicity rights fall into the realm of the 'tort of passing off'. Passing off takes place when someone intentionally or unintentionally passes off their goods or services as those belonging to another party. Often, this type of misrepresentation damages the goodwill of a person or business, resulting in financial or reputational damage. Publicity rights are governed by statutes like the Trade marks Act 1999 and the Copyright Act 1957.

#### Does the use of a name on the internet affect personality rights?

The Delhi High Court in 2011 made an observation in the case of *Arun Jaitley vs Network Solutions Private Limited and Ors.*, in which Mr. Jaitley filed a suit seeking permanent injunction against the

defendants from misuse and immediate transfer of the domain name [www.arunjaitley.com](http://www.arunjaitley.com). The Court stated that "the popularity or fame of individual will be no different on the internet than in reality." The Court decided in the favour of Mr. Arun Jaitley, stating that the "name also falls in the category wherein it besides being a personal name has attained distinctive indicia of its own. Therefore, the said name due its peculiar nature/distinctive character coupled with the gained popularity in several fields whether being in politics, or in advocacy, ...has become a well-known personal name/mark under the trade mark law which ensures him the benefit to refrain others from using this name unjustifiably in addition to his personal right to sue them for the misuse of his name."

#### What about consumer rights?

While celebrities are protected from commercial misuse of their name and personality, there have also been instances where the consumers are misled owing to false advertisements or endorsements by such personalities. Due to such cases, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has made a notification in 2022 to keep a check on misleading adverts and endorsements of consumer products by imposing a penalty on the endorser.

*G.S. Bajpai is Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab.*

#### THE GIST

▼ The Delhi High Court recently passed an interim order to prevent the unlawful use of Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan's name, image and voice.

▼ Personality rights refer to the right of a person to protect his/her personality under the right to privacy or property. These rights are important to celebrities as their names, photographs or even voices can easily be misused in various advertisements by different companies to boost their sales.

▼ Personality rights consist of firstly, the right of publicity, or the right to keep one's image and likeness from being commercially exploited without permission or contractual compensation and secondly, the right to privacy.

**Context: The Delhi High Court recently passed an interim order to prevent the unlawful use of Bollywood star, Amitabh Bachchan's name, image, and voice.**

#### About:

- **Personality rights**, sometimes referred to as the **right of publicity**, are rights for an **individual to control the commercial use of their identity**, such as name, image, likeness, or other unequivocal identifiers.
- Personality rights fall into two main divisions: the right to publicity and the right to privacy.
  - The right to publicity refers to the individual's ability to protect their likeness from being used for profit without their permission or appropriate compensation.
  - The right to privacy refers to an individual's right to not be exploited. For instance, a celebrity might sue a company that uses an image of them taken when they were merely performing routine acts like going to the grocery store or the pharmacy.

#### Legal Framework:

- There is **no separate codified law in India** dealing with personality or celebrity rights ("Personality Rights") and the position and development of such rights and laws in India is still at a nascent stage largely governed by judicial pronouncements of courts.
- The most important statutory provision governing **Personality Rights is contained and governed** as part of the **fundamental right of Right to Life** guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- Other statutory provisions broadly governing and protecting Personality Rights can be found under the **Intellectual Property law** such as the **Copyright Act 1957**, where moral rights are attributed only to authors and performers which comprises actors, singers, musicians, dancers, etc.

- Personality Rights can be protected to some extent by relying on the provisions of **Section 14 of the Indian Trademarks Act, 1999**, which prohibits use of personal names.

**Judicial Aspect**

- Personality rights in the form of the right to privacy were first recognized explicitly by the Supreme Court in **R Rajagopal v State of Tamil Nadu**. In that case, the court observed that: “The first aspect of this right must be said to have been violated where, for example, a person’s name or likeness is used, without his consent, for advertising or non-advertising purposes or for any other matter.”
- In the case of **Titan Industries Ltd. vs M/S Ramkumar Jewellers**, the court, while recognising the personality rights of Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan granted an injunction to the Defendants who had put off a hoarding containing photographs of a celebrity couple without their consent.
- In **Shivaji Rao Gaikwad vs. Varsha Productions**, the Madras High Court dealing with a case filed by the reputed Indian Actor Mr. Rajinikanth observed that although there is no definition of “Personality Right” under any Statute in India, courts in India have recognised the same in various judgements, which are further dealt with as under.

**Advertising Legislation:**

- All advertisements are governed by the Code for Self-regulation in Advertising (“Code”), adopted by the **Advertising Standards Council of India** which mandates that no advertisement should contain unauthorized references to any person, firm or institution such that the product advertised gains any unfair advantage and brings disrepute to the person, firm or institution referred to.
- It also states that if and when required by the Advertising Standards Council of India, the advertiser or advertising agency should be ready and willing to submit the authorization granted by the person, firm or institution referred to in their advertisement. As per Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, no advertisement shall be carried in the cable service violating this Code.

**Ethical Aspect:**

- There is a need for generation of compassion and empathy by not penetrating the privacy of individuals and considering them public figures without having a private life.
- While attaching names with commercial brands, personalities should get thorough information about what they are advertising as any false information that may create discrepancy or mishap also dents their image.

<p><b>Moment Marketing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Moment marketing</b> can simply be understood as a <b>marketing technique</b> that encapsulates <b>current happenings, social events</b> and <b>"trending"</b> or <b>"buzzing"</b> topics to promote one's goods and services.</li> <li>● Moment marketing has become an effective way to connect with people at large by discussing relevant and relatable topics.</li> <li>● The Cartoon/Sketches published by the Milk Co-operative giant Amul are perhaps one of the most popular forms of moment marketing in India.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Personality Rights and Consumer Rights:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● While the celebrities are protected from commercial misuse of their name and personality, there have also been instances where the consumers are misled owing to false advertisements or endorsements by such personalities.</li> <li>● While on one side Indian courts have considered recognition of Personality Rights, the Government has realized the imminent need to also protect the consumers in large from false and misleading advertisements of products endorsed by such personalities.</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One of the Food Delivery App- Zomato has proven to be an effective user of the moment marketing technique, by adding their own 'flavor' to current happenings and connecting to its customers via social media platforms, such as Twitter.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As a result of the same, to find a balance to the scale, the Amendment to the Consumer Protection Act of 2019 was passed to keep a check on the misleading advertisements and endorsements of consumer products by imposing a penalty on the endorser as well.</li></ul>
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# Road Safety in India

## Prelims & GS Paper - II & III

### *Safer roads for a greener, more sustainable environment*

The impact of road safety goes a long way. In addition to ensuring an easier, comfortable, and more secure commute, safer roads also have a positive impact on the environment. In 2021, India reported 4,03,116 crashes, each of which adversely impacted the environment in various ways and in different degrees. Most vehicles contain toxic metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium, which are detrimental to the environment. Fuel and fluid leaks are seen at crash sites. Severe road crashes lead to automobile wreckage, which becomes a part of unusable end-of-life vehicles. This gives rise to scrappage. India is estimated to have about 22.5 million end-of-life vehicles by 2025. Despite being one of the largest car and light commercial vehicle markets in the world, India's National Automobile Scrappage Policy, launched in 2021, is still in its nascent stages.

With the absence of widespread, systematic facilities dedicated to their proper recycling, vehicles after road crashes as well as old end-of-life automobiles are left to rot by the wayside. Some end up at landfills or at informal recycling facilities where rudimentary hand tools are utilised to unscientifically dismantle them. This leads to the leakage of hazardous constituents such as oils, coolants and glass wool. Vehicle landfills turn into automobile graveyards leading to wasteful and sub-optimal land usage and water and soil pollution for decades.

#### Speeding limits

Road safety and environmental sustainability are closely intertwined concepts. Being cognisant of the latter while working on the former is the need of the hour. One of the biggest factors for road crashes is speeding. In 2020 alone, speeding was responsible for 91,239 road crash fatalities,



**Piyush Tewari**

is the Founder and CEO of SaveLIFE Foundation, a non-profit organisation committed to saving lives on roads in India since 2008

Being cognisant of road safety while working on environmental sustainability is the need of the hour

comprising 69.3% of all road crash deaths registered. Speeding has consistently been responsible for over 60% of all road crash fatalities in India in the last five years. Simulation exercises in Europe have demonstrated that cutting motorway speed limits even by 10 km/h can deliver 12% to 18% fuel savings for current technology passenger cars, along with a significant reduction in pollutant emissions, particularly Nitrogen Oxides and particulate matter (PM) output, from diesel vehicles. A similar study conducted in Amsterdam demonstrated that where the speed limit was lowered from 100 km/h to 80 km/h, PM reduced by up to 15% thereby significantly improving air quality. Studies also show that highway speed limits of 96.5 km/h are 25% more efficient than limits of 120 km/h, in which case wind resistance leads to more fuel consumption.

Consequently, several governments globally have reduced speed limits to prevent crashes and lower air pollution. For instance, the Wales government brought in 80 km/h speed limits at five locations across Wales to reduce outdoor pollution and improve public health. In India, the Zero-Fatality Corridor solution for road safety by the SaveLIFE Foundation (SLF) takes environmental sustainability seriously and focuses on reducing speeding through advanced engineering and enforcement technologies.

#### Various initiatives

Vegetation on or very close to the road stretches often falls prey to road widening initiatives. All road safety initiatives undertaken and recommended by the SaveLIFE Foundation are designed to be impactful and environment-friendly. The Foundation's Zero-Fatality Corridor (ZFC) programme, which was deployed on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway

in 2016, helped bring down road crash fatalities by 52%, as of 2020. Similar interventions were introduced in 2018 on the Old Mumbai-Pune Highway and helped reduce the road crash fatalities on this stretch by 61%, as of 2021. Initiatives included guarding natural hard structures such as trees using crash barriers to prevent direct collisions, and installing retro reflective signage on the trees to make them more visible to commuters. The Government of India too is now building green corridors to go over forests and animal paths as opposed to going through them. Scaling this will have a profound impact on preserving the environment while ensuring better road connectivity.

Missing or inadequate signages are another leading cause of road crashes. Their absence results in road users being unaware of a stretch's unique features in a timely manner, which could lead to crashes. It is a common standard practice to use asbestos for creating these signages. As asbestos has an adverse impact on the environment, the ZFC programme opts only for long-lasting, high-quality, non-hazardous material for signage. Despite being more expensive than asbestos, one of the most sustainable and recyclable materials, Aluminium Composite Panels, are employed for signages. Not only is this free of toxic gas or liquids during the production process, it is also recyclable separately as aluminium and plastic, without much value or quality loss. This also makes it apt for subsequent multi-purpose usage.

Roads and the environment are inseparable spaces. They are not just our shared resources but also our joint responsibility. Therefore, safer roads and a sustainable environment can be ensured only through the joint efforts of road-owning agencies, enforcement officials and the public.

#### About:

- United Nations General Assembly on 14th April 2004, a resolution co-sponsored by India expressed grave concern about the large number of fatalities in road crashes.
- The World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention of the World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO) in the year 2004 stated that road traffic injuries are a major but neglected global public health problem requiring concerted efforts for effective and sustainable prevention.
- **Brasilia Declaration:** The Brasilia Declaration, adopted at the second global high-level conference on road safety held in Brazil, lays down recommendations on strengthening existing legislations, adopting sustainable transport and strengthening post-crash response.

#### Road Safety Challenges:

- Increased motorization/urbanization/migration India faces severe road congestion in most areas.
- CAGR of motor vehicles over 10%; growth in road network only 4% causing congestion – impacting road safety.
- Road safety holistic issue – involving roads, motor vehicles and human beings.

#### Punishment related to Road Accidents:

- **Section 279:** Rash driving or riding on a public way.
- **Section 304A:** Causing death by negligence.
- **Section 336:** Act endangering life or personal safety of others.

- **Section 337:** Causing hurt by an act endangering life or personal safety of others.
- **Section 338:** Causing grievous hurt by an act endangering life or personal safety of others.

**Governance Framework:**

- Gol announced the establishment of the **National Road Safety Board** and **National Road Safety Fund**. The first was to **supervise matters related to road safety**, and the second was to **finance road activities by allocating a certain percentage of the cess on gasoline and diesel**.
- The administrative apparatus was further strengthened by setting up **District Road Safety Committees (DRSC)** for each district in the country under **Section 215 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988**. The DRSC was to take a periodic review of road accidents in the district and collect data on road crashes, their causes, accident spots, and victim details.
- The DRSC was responsible for developing a district road safety plan, an emergency medical plan, and ensuring the availability of ambulances and linkages with hospitals.

<p><b>Current Trend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In India itself about eighty thousand people are killed in road crashes every year which is thirteen percent of the total fatality all over the world.</li> <li>● It is estimated that 17-18 percent of these fatalities occur in urban areas.</li> <li>● According to the NCRB Report, deaths by accidents on roads increased by almost 17 per cent in 2021 compared to 2020, indicating an increase in the rate of deaths per 1,000 vehicles in India.</li> <li>● Person behind the wheel plays an important role in most of the crashes.</li> <li>● In most of the cases crashes occur either due to carelessness or due to lack of road safety awareness of the road user.</li> <li>● The maximum increase in number of traffic accident cases from 2020 to 2021 was reported in Tamil Nadu (from 46,443 to 57,090), followed by Madhya Pradesh (from 43,360 to 49,493), Uttar Pradesh (from 30,593 to 36,509), Maharashtra (from 24,908 to 30,086), and Kerala (from 27,998 to 33,051).</li> <li>● National Highways comprise only 15% of the total length of roads in India but account for 33% of the fatalities. Fatality rate per km of the road is the highest on NH with 0.67 deaths per km annually and this fact should be the guiding factor in future design considerations.</li> <li>● According to the MoRTH 61% of the RTI fatalities occur in rural areas and it is possible that a larger number of cases go unreported on rural roads.</li> <li>● In India, the proportion of fatalities for the age group 18-59 is greater than their representation in the population and less for the age groups 0-18 years (1:5 of the population) and &gt;59 years (1:1.4 of the population).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sundar Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of S. Sundar, Former Secretary (MoST) in the year 2005 to deliberate and make recommendations on creation of a dedicated body on road safety and traffic management.</li> <li>● The Committee while submitting its report in February, 2007 inter alia, recommended a draft National Road Safety Policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>National Road Safety Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The National Road Safety Policy outlines the policy initiatives to be framed / taken by the Government at all levels to improve the road safety activities in the country.</li> <li>● The Government will provide assistance to local bodies, Union Territories and States to improve the quality of crash investigation and of data collection, transmission and analysis.</li> <li>● A National Road Safety Information System will be established for providing continuity and policy guidelines to this activity.</li> <li>● The Government will take measures to review standards pertaining to safety in the design of rural and urban roads and bring them in consonance with international best practices keeping in view Indian traffic conditions.</li> <li>● Continuing application of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) under a national framework to establish a safe and efficient transport system will be encouraged.</li> <li>● Road safety knowledge and awareness will be created amongst the population through education, training and publicity campaigns. Road safety education will also focus on school children and college going students, while road safety publicity campaigns will be used to propagate good road safety practices among the community.</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the scheme, cranes and ambulances to various State Governments will be provided.</li> <li>• NHAI also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 kms. on each completed National Highway under O&amp;M contract.</li> <li>• 3 pilot projects for providing cashless treatment of road accident victims launched .</li> </ul>
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#### **4E's of Preventing Road Accidents in India**

- **Education** involves creating awareness amongst the people regarding road safety and practices.
- **Enforcement** comprises the implementation of the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act 2019 and rules framed thereunder and press penal action wherever necessary.
- **Engineering** deals with proper road design, elimination of accident spots, appropriate signages, separation of local traffic from highway traffic, and traffic calming and safety management measures.
- **Environment and emergency care** involve the provision of advanced life support ambulances and quick evacuation of the injured to hospitals and trauma care centers.

#### **Good Samaritan:**

- A Good Samaritan is a person who, in good faith, without expectation of payment or reward and without any duty of care or special relationship, voluntarily comes forward to administer immediate assistance or emergency care to a person injured in an accident, or crash, or emergency medical condition, or emergency situation.
- The Good Samaritan Law allows a person, without expectation of payment or reward and without any duty of care or special relationship, voluntarily come forward to administer immediate assistance or emergency care to a person injured in an accident, or crash, or emergency medical condition.

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# Centre halves windfall profit tax on crude, cuts diesel levy

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday slashed to less than half the windfall-profit tax on domestically produced crude oil and also reduced the levy on diesel.

The revised tax rates become effective from December 2. In the fortnightly revision of windfall-profit tax, the government cut the rate on export of diesel to ₹8 per litre from ₹10.5 per litre. The levy includes ₹1.5 per litre as road infrastructure cess.

**Context:** *The Government slashed to less than half the windfall - profit tax on domestically produced crude oil and also reduced the levy on diesel.*

**About:**

- A windfall tax is a tax levied by governments against certain industries when economic conditions allow those industries to experience significantly above-average profits.
- A windfall tax is a surtax imposed by governments on businesses or economic sectors that have benefited from economic expansion.

- The purpose is to redistribute excess profits in one area to raise funds for the greater social good; however, this can be a contentious ideal.
- Some individual taxes—such as inheritance tax or taxes on lottery or game-show winnings—can also be construed as a windfall tax.
- Companies and industrial sectors that can be subject to windfall taxes are those with massive increases in profits, generally due to situations such as wartime, commodities shortages, and other situations and events that drive up prices.

#### **Reason for Implementing Windfall Tax:**

- India's record-high trade deficit and a depreciating rupee have raised the value of imports, which is the economic justification for implementing windfall taxes.
- Additionally, the government's spending increased as a result of the recent reduction in Central Excise Duty and increased spending on fertilizers and food.
- In order to close this imbalance, it subsequently decided to impose a windfall tax on the oil industry, which increases the government's revenue.

#### **Pros:**

- **Funding Social Programmes:** The benefits of a windfall tax include proceeds being directly used by governments to bolster funding for social programs.
- A one-off windfall tax that is based on past behavior and is a response to an external event that was not foreseen has a strong case to be regarded as more economically efficient than, for example, an increase in the corporate tax rate that will apply for the next few years, or an increase in personal income taxes that affects decisions about working time, spending and saving.
- No cess will be placed on the amount of crude that is produced by a crude producer over and above what was produced the year prior in order to encourage increased production. The cost of oil or the cost of fuels and petroleum products would not be affected by this policy.

#### **Cons:**

- **Prohibits Innovation:** The benefits of a windfall tax include proceeds being directly used by governments to bolster funding for social programs.
- **Private Pensions:** Older people could suffer disproportionately, as many pension funds "benefit from the profits of big oil companies".
- **Unpredictable:** Windfall taxes make the tax system unpredictable. Businesses may have legitimate suspicions that the tax will be reimposed in the future. That might deter them from making capital expenditures (investments to increase their output and earnings) because they might be worried that the government might tax some of the potential returns away.