

This has serious consequences for the state's youth. As per the [Himachal Pradesh Department of Transportation's report](#) on road accidents in 2022, the

primary cause of death for people aged 18-45 years in the state is road accidents. The same report discusses how challenging terrains, poor road infrastructure, high-risk driving, adverse weather and lack of alternatives to road transportation for local commute contribute to the high number of fatal road accidents in the region.

This tragedy could be avoided if drivers followed traffic rules and lane discipline. As per the above-mentioned report, there are three main causes of road accidents: human error, road condition /environment, and vehicular condition. Of all these, accidents due to human error form the biggest piece of the pie. Approximately one-third of accident-related deaths in 2022 were due to overspeeding, while approximately 15% were caused due to driving on the wrong side.

Pan-India too, trucks and buses are involved in more than 70% of the crashes in both rural and urban areas, as per a research study by [IIT Delhi, published in 2023](#).

Despite efforts over the years, finding an effective, lasting solution has remained a challenge. The rapid urban growth over the past decade, which has led to a surge in the number of vehicles on the road — especially private ones — could be one factor, as it puts immense pressure on the existing infrastructure.

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, has said that [India aims to halve its road accidents by 2030](#). This can only be achieved if punitive action is taken against those who flout traffic regulations. Our roads and highways need separate lanes and strict timings for heavy vehicles. Lane discipline must be maintained, and cyclists and pedestrians must be given priority in road development plans.

In addition, we need to identify roadblocks to road safety such as illegal hoardings, poor construction quality, and improper water drainage, and eliminate them. Countries like [Japan](#) have implemented Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems (ADAS) (which helps in automated emergency braking and lane-keeping assist) and V2X Technology (Vehicle-to-Everything), which allows the vehicles to communicate with each other and with road infrastructure, providing real-time traffic information and warnings to drivers. This ultimately reduces collisions.

Road Safety Week is an opportunity to discuss how stakeholders — from governments to civil society — can take collective action to address the safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

## Keep reading

If you loved how we made sense of the data for you, read more such stories on [ISDM DataSights](#):

- [How Extreme Weather Events affect our lives](#)
- [What led to maternal mortality declining in the country](#)

## Become data-forward

*Want to make data-driven decisions for your organisation?*

*Subscribe to [ISDM DataSights](#) today, for FREE*

[Subscribe Now](#)

Got feedback? Mail us at [datasights@isdms.org.in](mailto:datasights@isdms.org.in)

You can [Unsubscribe](#) or [Update your preferences](#)

