

Bharat NCAP program

June 29, 2022

In news— The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways has recently approved notification to introduce **Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program)**.

What is Bharat NCAP program ?

- Under this program **automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings (from 1 to 5 stars)** based upon their **performance in Crash Tests**.
- It will serve as a **consumer-centric platform allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their star-ratings**, while promoting a healthy competition among Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in India to manufacture safer vehicles.
- **Testing protocol of Bharat NCAP shall be aligned with Global Crash Test Protocols** factoring in the existing Indian regulations, allowing OEMs to get their vehicles tested at India's own in-house testing facilities.
- It will be the new car safety assessment programme for cars that are produced and sold in India and **will come into effect from April 1, 2023**.
- **It is applicable on Type Approved motor vehicles of category M1 [motor vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising not more than eight seats, in addition to driver's seat]** with gross vehicle weight less than 3.5 Tonnes, manufactured or imported in the country, **in accordance with the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS)-197**.
- **The rating will provide consumers an indication of the level of protection offered to occupants by evaluating the vehicle in the areas of**
 - Adult Occupant Protection (AOP).
 - Child Occupant Protection (COP) and
 - Safety Assist Technologies (SAT).

- The vehicle shall be assigned a star rating from one to five stars, based on scoring against various tests undertaken as per AIS 197.
- It is important to note that the government **aims to reduce 50 per cent road accident deaths by 2024.**

Global NCAP-

- The US was the first country to start a programme that provided information on car safety with regard to crashes to customers in 1978.
- Since then, a number of similar programmes were started across regions such as Euro NCAP, Australasian NCAP, Japan NCAP, ASEAN NCAP and China NCAP, which were based on the American model.
- In 2011, a UK-based charity Towards Zero Foundation formed the Global NCAP to enhance cooperation among the various NCAPs and promote vehicle crash-testing and reporting in emerging markets.