

Black Spot

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In News: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will, from now on, also look after the development of Ropeways and Alternate Mobility Solutions (AMS).

What is Black Spot ?

- A definition is established for designating an accident prone location as “Black Spot” based on combined criteria of the number of fatalities and accidents.
- Road accident black spot is literally not a spot but is a short stretch of road
 - Of about 500 m length
 - Where Five accidents involving serious injuries/fatalities or Ten fatalities took place during the past 3 calendar years.
 - Sometimes single accident can have multiple fatalities. Hence number of fatal/ grievous accidents at the same location is better indicator of problematic road / road environment (i.e., Black spot) than the number of fatalities.

Genesis of black spots

- Black spots which are short stretches where the accidents /fatalities take place repeatedly get created on the road network due to various reasons like
 - Commissions & omissions in the development projects
 - Changes in the road side environment
 - Changes in developmental scenario in the region
 - Unplanned developments /unauthorized constructions on/ near the roads like advertisement boards, Poles, statues, buildings, trees, bushes etc.
- Therefore rectifying the black spots is a continuous process.

Government policy initiatives for improving Road Safety:

- The **National Road Safety Policy** looks at overall road safety, and outlines initiatives to be taken by the Government at all levels.
- The government is committed to:
 - Raise Awareness about Road Safety Issues
 - Establish a Road Safety Information Database
 - Ensure Safer Road Infrastructure
 - Safer vehicles with built in features at the design stage
 - Road Traffic Safety Education and Training
 - Enforcement of Safety Laws
 - Emergency Medical Services for Road Accidents
- Government has decided to establish a dedicated **National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board (NRSTMB)** to oversee the issues related to road safety and evolve effective strategies for implementation of the Road Safety Policy
- **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016** passed in Lok Sabha and pending at committee stage, seeks to address various issues, including road safety:
 - The Bill allows the government to order for recall of motor vehicles if it may cause damage to the environment, driver or other road users.
 - **Good Samaritan** will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of an accident victim.
 - Bill increases penalties for several offences under the Act like drunken driving
 - Cashless treatment for road accident victims during golden hour.
 - Compensation in case of death in hit and run accident, where no person can be held liable for the accident
 - However, the Bill does not provide for any road safety agencies or improving road design and

engineering.

- Constitution of National Road Safety Council (NRSC)/ State Road Safety Councils and District Committees.
- Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) has been made mandatory for some classes of vehicles.

Policy initiatives in Road Accident data

- Practice of assigning unique ID numbers to identified black spots is initiated to facilitate their monitoring and tracking
- Efforts are being made to work out a web based software for capturing road accident data and its automated transmission.
- Crowdsourcing and mobile application technologies are being explored to collect road accident data.
- All the states and UTs have to take active interest in establishing state level road safety engineering cells to work exclusively in this area. 23 Black spot improvem

Ropeways

- A ropeway is a form of naval lifting device used to transport light stores and equipment across rivers or ravines.
- It comprises a jackstay, slung between two sheets one at either end, from which is suspended a block and tackle, that is free to travel along the rope and hauled back and forth by inhauls.
- An amendment to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 has been notified, to enable this step.