

Road accidents: UP is No.1 in child deaths

FRIGHTENING FIGURES At least 2,610 kids killed in accidents across the state in 2015, says report

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LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh is ahead of other states in the country when it comes to child deaths in road crashes. At least 2,610 children were killed in accidents across the state in 2015. Bihar is second on the list with around 1,121 fatalities, reveal statistics of the Transport Research Wing. As many as 1,102 children in age group 0-14 years were killed in mishaps across UP and this amounted to over 1/5th of the total number of children in 0 to 14 years age group killed in accidents across India, reads the transport research wing report. Moreover, almost 43 children below the age of 18 were killed due to road crashes every day across the country, which was six times more than all crimes against them put together, reveals National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data.

The data reads that 15,633 children, including 12,666 male and 2,967 female, aged between 0-18 years lost their lives in road accidents across the country in 2015 itself.

NCRB figures also revealed that around 1,622 children were injured and 422 were killed due to accidents involving school buses in India in 2015. Uttar Pradesh witnessed 28,095 road accidents with 17,384 injuries and 18,407 deaths in 2015.

The increasing number of such incidents exposes the existing policy gaps with regard to road safety, especially safety of vulnerable road users like children.

Saji Cherian, director, operations, Save LIFE Foundation said there is urgent need for major reforms in the way our children are transported and their safety on roads.

He said there is dire need for school buses, vans and other vehicles in which children are transported to and from school to be designated as a special class of vehicles and their regulation should be defined under the ambit of the law, he added.

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill-2016, which was introduced by the government in August last year has provisions for protection of children, but is languishing with the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC), he said.

“We hope that the PSC submits its report at the earliest, so that the Parliament passes the Bill in the upcoming Budget session,” he emphasised.



■ The school bus collided with a sand-laden truck amid dense fog in Etah district's Aliganj area on Thursday morning.

HT PHOTO

SC GUIDELINES ON SCHOOL BUSES

1. There must be appropriate permit for the vehicle issued by competent authority as 'passenger transport vehicle'.
2. 'On School Duty' must be permanently written on the back and front of every vehicle carrying such school children.
3. No such vehicle shall carry children in excess of its permitted seating capacity. No child should be allowed to sit on the lap of others, if any.
4. There must be a first-aid box and drinking water in the vehicle.
5. The seat belts, wherever applicable, must be fastened properly.
6. School name and telephone number must be displayed.

7. Drivers of vehicles carrying school children must have minimum 5 years of experience in driving such categories of vehicles and must not have any record of previous traffic offences.
8. Whenever a contract carriage is used for carrying school children, the owner of the vehicle must inform the local police station.
9. There must be an attendant in every school vehicle to ensure safe travel of the children and render adequate assistance for safe embarking and disembarking of the children.

MAJOR MISHAPS IN INDIA IN 2016

FEB 12: Three children were run over by a speeding truck in Kolkata, West Bengal.

MAR 14: Four children killed as bus overturned after hitting a tree in Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.

JUN 21: Eight children killed as private bus collided with school van in Udupi, Karnataka.

JUN 30: Four children killed as truck collided with stationary car in Medarametta, AP.

JUL 6: Three children killed as tractor trolley collided with truck in Bhilwara, Rajasthan.

JUL 9: Three children killed as truck ran over pavement dwellers in Ballia, UP.

JUL 21: Four children killed as SUV collided with a bus in Vadodra, Gujarat.

JUL 25: Eight children killed as school van collided with train at unmanned crossing in Bhadohi, UP.

SEP 12: Four children killed as truck rammed into an SUV on Assam-Bengal NH in Assam.

SEP 20: Seven children killed and 13 injured as school bus fell into a drain while crossing a bridge in Amritsar, Punjab.

DEC 13: Five children killed as a mini-bus collided with an auto-rickshaw in Raigarh, Madhya Pradesh.

ACCIDENT STATISTICS

states with highest number of child fatalities in road crashes in 2015

State	below 5 yrs	6 to 9 yrs	10 to 14 yrs	15 to 17yrs	Total
Uttar Pradesh	0	261	841	1508	2610
Bihar	64	148	330	579	1121
Haryana	29	189	402	455	1075
West Bengal	68	96	284	559	1007
Rajasthan	64	164	258	468	954

Source: Transport Research Wing

Etah mishap: Tragic dilemma for a parent

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AGRA: Rajveer Singh, 38 was in a dilemma – whether to attend the last rites of his daughter Mamta, 5, in village at Etah or rush to Agra for treatment of his injured daughter Karishma. The helpless father chose to go with the surviving daughter who was injured in the bus accident in Aliganj area of Etah district on Thursday.

Amongst others killed in the mishap was Mamta, student of Upper KG, who was in the ill-fated bus with her sister Karishma, 8. Both sisters had left home to go to their school JS Vidhya Niketan, but one never came back.

“Karishma and two other injured students – Adesh, 5 and Anshika, 7 were shifted to SN Medical College of Agra. It took us two hours to bring them to the emergency ward,” informed the staff accompanying the ambulance driver from District Hospital at Etah.

“I am clueless after losing one daughter while the other one is struggling for life,” stated Rajveer, a father of three daughters who works as labourer in Nagla Umeed of Aliganj area.

Rajveer had tears in his eyes when he said he would not be able to attend Mamta's last rites because he was in Agra to attend to Karishma who suffered head and leg injury.

Sher Singh, another labourer, was also rushing to the SN Hospital where both his children Adesh and Anshika were admitted in injured condition.

“The bus was generally overloaded and many students used to go standing in it,” lamented Singh. Most of the injured students were shifted to Saifai for better treatment.

Rajesh Krishna, SSP, Etah informed that the deceased included Avdesh Kumar, driver of the school bus.

“Two girls, Radhika and Nikki were on a cycle when they were caught in the collision between the truck and bus” stated the SSP who informed that these girls were from RD Public School in Aliganj.

“A case has been registered under Section 188 of IPC (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) against



■ Injured children being taken to hospital in Agra.

HT PHOTOS

SCHOOL SANS RECOGNITION

AGRA: The district magistrate of Etah informed that the school, JS Vidhya Niketan, was running illegally and had no recognition. Basic shiksha adhikari RK Verma had earlier maintained that proceedings were on for cancellation of recognition of JS Vidhya Niketan, but DM (Etah) Shambhu Nath said the school was not recognised. ‘We have ordered magisterial probe into various facts related with accident’ stated Shambhu Nath.

‘DELAYED LUNCH BOX’ SAVED 5 LIVES

Delay in preparation of lunch box saved lives of five students from Tikaitpur village in Etah.

Two children of one Sugreev Singh and three children of his brother Narveer are students of JS Vidhya Niketan.

But on Thursday, their lunch box could not be prepared as Sugreev's wife was not well. Her failure to prepare lunch did not allow these five children to board the ‘bus of death’ on Thursday.



the school owner and manager Jog Raj Yadav who had defied orders of district administration, which had asked schools in Etah to remain closed till January 20 because of cold and fog,” he added. SSP Etah informed

that the school owner was yet to be arrested.

“We are waiting for the truck driver to recover and able to talk so that more facts can be revealed about the accident,” he stated.

Prominent leaders express grief

NEW DELHI: Prominent leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Rajnath Singh, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and chief minister Akhilesh Yadav condoled the death of school children in the Etah road mishap.

“Anguished by the tragic accident... I share the pain of the bereaved families and condole passing away of young children.” Modi said in a tweet. “I pray that those injured in the accident in Etah recover at the earliest,” he added.

Similar sentiments were expressed by the home minister and the Congress chief.

“Deeply saddening to learn of the loss of many precious lives in a road accident in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh, this morning,”

Anguished by the tragic accident... I share the pain of the bereaved families and condole passing away of young children.

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

Rajnath Singh wrote on Twitter. “My heart goes out to the families of those children who lost their lives in this tragedy. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured,” he added.

Sonia Gandhi expressed sympathy towards the affected families and said guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court

should be followed. She also wished speedy recovery to the injured. UP governor Ram Naik and chief minister Akhilesh Yadav also condoled the death of the children in the mishap.

The chief minister has asked the district officials to launch all out rescue operations and ensure proper treatment of the injured.

BJP President Amit Shah said he was “pained beyond words” by the loss of lives in the tragic road accident. “My thoughts and prayers with the bereaved families,” Shah wrote on Twitter.

Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi expressed shock over the accident and said: “My prayers are with the bereaved families.” **AGENCIES**

NCPCR ISSUES NOTICE TO ETAH DM

NEW DELHI: Taking suo motu cognisance of the death of 25 school children in Etah, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has sent a notice to the Etah district magistrate to take stringent action against Aliganj JS Public School for opening the school despite the district administration's order to keep the school closed till January 20, 2017.

It has also directed the district administration to send a progress report as well as action taken report within seven working days from the issuance of the

notice. NCPCR member Yashwant Jain also asked the DM to provide urgent medical assistance to the injured children, counsel the parents of the children to cope with the trauma caused due to the accident, and provide compensation to the victim's families as per law and notify all schools in the district for compliance of transportation norms for carrying school children. NCPCR also wrote a letter to UP chief sec recommending him to take action against the school for defying administration order. **HTC**

Interior designer shot at, critical

LUCKNOW: A 24-year-old interior designer, Amir, was shot at under mysterious circumstances while sitting inside his sedan parked outside his house in A-Block of Indira Nagar on Wednesday midnight.

The victim suffered a bullet wound in the stomach and was undergoing treatment in KGMU's trauma centre where his condition was stated to be critical till late Thursday night.

The victim's elder brother, Rashid, who is also into interior designing, has lodged an FIR against unidentified people with Ghazipur police.

Deepak Dubey, inspector of Ghazipur police station said the complainant alleged that the unidentified assailants shot at Amir while he was returning home from a late night party.

Rashid told the cops that he came to know about the incident

when Amir himself called up on his mobile informing that he was shot around 12.30 am on intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday.

He said Amir was profusely bleeding while sitting on the driving seat of his Honda City. He immediately rushed him to the hospital after informing the local police about the incident. The inspector said preliminary probe suggested that the bullet was fired from inside the car. He said the circumstances also hinted that the victim was shot at by a familiar person sitting with him inside the car.

The victim's family had failed to clarify several things and the picture would be clear after talking to the victim, he said. “We are waiting for the victim to regain consciousness after which he will be questioned about the incident,” he added. **HTC**

Four FIRs against cops for illegal arrest, torture

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LUCKNOW: Four separate FIRs were registered against four policemen on Thursday for allegedly keeping four youths in illegal confinement, torturing them and demanding extortion from their families. The cops had allegedly tried to help a criminal by framing a trader of the Old City in a fake contract killing case after arresting the youths and showing them as contract killers.

Two FIRs were registered in Thakurganj police station and one each in Saadatganj and Hasanganj police stations, against two crime branch sleuths, SI Dharendra Shukla and constable Luv Kush Mishra, and two constables, Anil Singh and Dharendra Yadav, of Para police station. A dreaded criminal, Aqeel Ansari, his two aides, Arif

and Bablu, and some unidentified people were also accused. SSP Manzil Saini said the FIRs were lodged by family members of the youths, Kamran, Anwar, Afzal and Tamim, whose arrest was shown by the crime branch team led by SI Dharendra Shukla in Para on January 10.

Saini said the team claimed that the youths had confessed that Sarwan Sahu, an Old City trader, had given them the contract of ₹20 lakh to kill a Thakurganj resident Aqeel Ansari. On the basis of the police claims, Ansari had also lodged FIR of hatching murder conspiracy against Sahu with Thakurganj police on January 11, she said.

The SSP said probe exposed the unholy nexus between cops and criminals. She said the investigation confirmed that Aqeel Ansari was the prime accused in the October 2013 murder of

Ayush Sahu - the trader's son. She said the four cops were immediately sent to lines for alleged connivance with Ansari to frame the trader in fake case.

The SSP also ordered to expunge the previously lodged FIR by Ansari against Sahu. She also got registered FIR against Ansari for hatching criminal conspiracy on the complaint of Sahu with Saadatganj police station on January 12. Ansari disappeared from his house soon after registration of FIR against them and efforts to arrest him are on.

Sarwan Sahu is a key witness in the murder of his son, Ayush, who was shot dead by Ansari during a brawl outside a beer shop in Thakurganj on October 16, 2013. Ansari was in jail for over three years but had been continuously pressurising Sahu to turn hostile. He even tried to eliminate Sahu and two other witnesses..

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