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## MENU

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## Topics Covered



- What is the news?
- Understanding the Gravity of the Challenge:
- With whom Punjab Government Collaborated?
- How it works:
- What role does this play in Punjab's "Road Safety Force" Project?
- What is the "Road Safety Force(Sadak Surakhya Force)" Project in Punjab?
  
- QuizTime:
  - Are you Ready!
- Read the Below Instructions Carefully:
  - Please Rate!
- Mains Questions:
  - Question 1:
  - Model Answer:
  - Question 2:
  - Model Answer:
  - Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:

## *What is the news?*

- Punjab has emerged as a trailblazer in the fight

against road accidents, becoming the country's first to map all accident-prone locations in a navigation system.

- This game-changing programme has the potential to save lives and change the face of traffic safety in Punjab and beyond.

## ***Understanding the Gravity of the Challenge:***

- Road accidents continue to be a major public health concern in India, taking numerous lives and injuring countless others each year. Despite its smaller geographical size, Punjab had 15,459 traffic incidents in 2021, resulting in 5,097 deaths and 16,604 injuries. These tragic numbers highlight the critical need for creative solutions to avert such tragedies.
- The NCRB releases annual crime reports in India, which contain data on traffic accidents. In Punjab, road accidents killed more people than they injured. In Punjab in 2022, 6,122 road accidents caused 4,688 deaths and 3,372 injuries. The previous year, 6,097 road accidents caused 4,516 deaths and 3,034 injuries.

## ***About Reports:***

- Punjab Road Accidents and Traffic Report-2021: The Punjab Police Department produced this report,

which offers thorough data on road accidents in the state, including the number of accidents, fatalities, and injuries. It also details the causes of accidents and the demographics of people involved.

- Report from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB): The NCRB is a government body that collects and disseminates crime data from across India. Their annual report contains data on traffic accidents, including state-by-state breakdowns. The most recent NCRB report is available on their website.

## *With whom Punjab Government Collaborated?*

- Recognizing the crucial role of technology in tackling complex challenges, the **Punjab government, in collaboration with MapMyIndia**, has embarked on a remarkable initiative.
- All 784 identified accident-prone areas in the state have been meticulously mapped onto the Mappls navigation app. This comprehensive database becomes a powerful tool for enhancing road safety.

## *How it works:*



- **Drivers using the Mappls app** will now receive timely voice alerts, in Punjabi no less, warning them of approaching black spots. These alerts, issued approximately 100 meters before entering a high-risk zone, serve as a crucial reminder for drivers to exercise caution and adopt defensive driving practices.

### ***Beyond Technology: A Multi-Pronged Approach***

- While the mapping programme is an important step forward, it is critical to recognise that technology cannot solve the problem of road accidents on its own. A complete solution is required, including stronger traffic rule enforcement, enhanced road infrastructure, and ongoing driver education programmes.



## ***A Ray of Hope for the Entire Nation:***

- Punjab's pioneering endeavour serves as a shining example for other Indian governments to follow. Other states may help construct a safer road network across the country by copying this approach and adjusting it to their specific needs.

## ***What role does this play in Punjab's "Road Safety Force" Project?***

- The endeavour to map accident-prone locations in Punjab's navigation system is an important component of the Punjab government's larger "Road Safety Force" project. Here's how they're related:

## ***Alignment with Road Safety Force Objectives:***

- Accident reduction: Both efforts share the common goal of reducing traffic accidents in Punjab. Drivers are directly informed when hazardous locations are mapped, potentially affecting their behaviour and preventing crashes.
- The Road Safety Force emphasises the use of data-driven solutions to better understand and address road safety issues. The accident-prone region mapping programme, which uses accident data to identify high-risk zones, completely corresponds with this aim.
- Technological advances: The Road Safety Force

advocates for the use of technology in road safety measures. This method is exemplified by mapping these locations using navigation apps, which provide a proactive and real-time solution.

### ***Complementary Aspects:***

- While the Road Safety Force comprises a larger variety of initiatives such as enforcement, education, and infrastructure improvement, the mapping programme focuses on specific accident-prone regions.
- Enhanced effectiveness: The mapping endeavour complements other Road Safety Force operations by identifying places that require additional enforcement, signage, or awareness campaigns.
- Data for future action: The mapping project's data can help the Road Safety Force in other areas, such as identifying trends in accident causes and prioritising infrastructure enhancements.
- Overall, the mapping endeavour is a significant tool within the context of the Road Safety Force. It adds to larger efforts by delivering focused solutions, employing technology, and creating important data to guide future action. This collaboration increases the Road Safety Force's overall influence in attaining its aim of safer roads and fewer accidents in Punjab.

## *What is the “Road Safety Force (Sadak Surakhya Force)” Project in Punjab?*

The Punjab government’s “Road Safety Force” is a multi-pronged project begun in June 2023 to reduce the increasing number of road accidents and fatalities. It tries to make roads safer through a combination of strategies centred on:



- **Tougher traffic enforcement:** Dedicate a specialised force of 5,000 police officers, initially deployed on highway patrol routes determined based on accident trends in the past. Provide specialised vehicles and technology to these officers, such as speed radars, breathalysers, and medical kits. Increase penalties for traffic infractions such as speeding, driving under the influence, and dangerous driving.

- **Better road infrastructure:** Determine and prioritise high-risk accident zones for infrastructure improvements such as improved signs, illumination, and road maintenance. Create statewide criteria for safer road construction and design. Collaborate with appropriate agencies to maintain and improve overall road conditions.
- **Programmes for driver education and awareness:** Launch thorough driver education programmes that emphasise defensive driving tactics and road safety rules. Conduct public awareness efforts through various media platforms to educate all road users about the need of safe driving. Collaborate with educational institutions and non-governmental organisations to raise awareness of road safety among the next generation.
- **Technological advancements:** Implement the accident-prone region mapping programme, which includes incorporating high-risk zones into navigation apps to immediately inform drivers and encourage cautious driving. Investigate alternative technical alternatives, such as intelligent traffic management systems and automated enforcement tools. Encourage safe technology use while driving and avoid distractions.
- **Multi-agency collaboration:** Create a collaborative framework that includes traffic officers, transportation officials, health officials, civil society organisations, and private partners. Share data and knowledge among authorities in order to find answers and put in place efficient road safety measures. Continuously monitor and assess the Road Safety Force's impact, and change strategies as needed.

The Road Safety Force strives to address many causes that contribute to road accidents in Punjab, ranging from reckless driving to poor infrastructure. The government thinks that by applying this complete approach, it will drastically reduce accidents, save lives, and provide a safer road environment for all inhabitants.

### **Conclusion:**

- Mapping accident-prone locations shows a true dedication to saving lives, not just a technological marvel. Punjab's proactive attitude provides a ray of hope not only for its own residents, but for all those who travel India's roads. The drive towards safer roads and a reduction in traffic accidents gets substantial traction as this programme gathers traction and expands its scope. The dream of a safer India on wheels may become a realistic reality with ongoing innovation, collaboration, and commitment.



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*Are you Ready!*

*Thank you, Time Out !*

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**General Studies**

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

***Read the Below Instructions Carefully:***

- Click on - Start Quiz
- Attempt all questions (You can attempt or leave)
- After Attempting Last Question.
- Enter Name & Email
- Click on - Check Result
- Scroll down - Check out Solutions too.

Thank you.

Loading ...



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Category: Punjab PCS

**What is the main goal of this initiative?**

- Reduce traffic congestion
- Improve navigation accuracy
- Save lives by preventing accidents
- Monitor driver behavior

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Category: Punjab PCS

**What is the name of the navigation app used for the new initiative to map all accident-prone areas in Punjab?**

- Google Maps
- Mappls
- Google Earth
- MySafety

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Category: Punjab PCS

**Which additional measure has been taken by the Punjab government to strengthen road safety?**

- Increased public awareness campaigns
- Launched the "Road Safety Force" initiative
- Improved emergency response infrastructure
- All of the above

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Category: Punjab PCS

***In what language are the voice alerts provided by the app to map all accident-prone areas in a navigation system in Punjab?***

- Hindi
- English
- Punjabi
- All

Prev

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Category: Punjab PCS

***Which Indian state is the first to map all accident-prone areas in a navigation system?***

- Uttar Pradesh
- Kerala
- Punjab
- Tamil Nadu

Prev

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Category: Punjab PCS

***How many "black spots" have been mapped in Punjab under this initiative?***

- 450
- 550



784

978

Prev

Finish

**Check Rank, Result Now and enter correct email as you will get Solutions in the email as well for future use!**

Check the Result

Your score is

0%

Restart quiz

**Please Rate!**

Send feedback

***Mains Questions:***

**Below Mains  
Question**

Write in Comment Section



## **Question 1:**

**(a) Examine the importance of Punjab's effort to incorporate accident-prone areas into a navigation system. Examine the possible effects of this approach on road safety in the state and beyond.**

**(b) Recognise the main obstacles in implementing and expanding this initiative across the entire nation. Provide effective strategies to overcome these challenges and ensure widespread adoption throughout India.**

## **Model Answer:**

The importance of the initiative:

- Punjab's project sets a remarkable example of taking proactive measures to address road accidents, which is a significant public health issue in India.
- Harnessing the power of technology: By incorporating accident data into navigation apps, drivers can stay informed in real-time, leading to increased awareness and the possibility of changing their driving habits.
- Efficient strategy: By concentrating on high-risk areas, we can enhance the effectiveness of alerts and potentially prevent more casualties.

Potential for replication: This model has the potential to be easily adapted and implemented in other states, which could lead to the

establishment of a national safety framework.

Effects on road safety:

- Accident rates can be significantly reduced with timely warnings, which promote safer driving practices such as decreased speeding and improved lane discipline.
- Increased awareness: The general public's knowledge of dangerous areas can promote safer driving habits, even without relying on a specific app.
- Efficient solution: By consistently collecting and analysing data, the system can be improved by identifying potential risks and enhancing alert systems.

***(b) Challenges and solutions:***

- Encouraging widespread use of the designated app could be facilitated through incentives, awareness campaigns, and integration with existing navigation systems.
- Accurate data: To keep databases of accident-prone areas up to date, it is crucial to have efficient data collection and collaboration between agencies.
- Infrastructure improvements are crucial for long-term safety. Along with addressing driver behaviour, it is important to make parallel investments in road infrastructure, signage, and enforcement.

Approaches for achieving widespread implementation:

- Support from the central government can make it easier to replicate initiatives across different

states. This support can come in the form of funding, technical assistance, and policy frameworks.

- Collaboration between technology companies, transportation authorities, and NGOs can greatly speed up implementation of public-private partnerships.
- Streamlined data: Creating a nationwide database of accident zones promotes consistency and makes app development more straightforward.

In general, Punjab's initiative is a significant move towards creating a safer road network in India. Understanding the difficulties involved in implementing effective solutions can lead to widespread adoption and a substantial decrease in road accidents.

### **Question 2:**

***(a) Evaluate the role of technology in enhancing road safety, using insights from Punjab's accident-prone area mapping project.***

***(b) Discuss the importance of a multi-pronged approach to road safety, encompassing technology, infrastructure, enforcement, and driver education. Suggest specific measures that can be implemented alongside technological solutions.***

### **Model Answer:**

The role of technology in road safety is significant.

- Strengths:

- The availability of real-time information and warnings can have a direct impact on driver behaviour.
- By analysing data, trends and high-risk areas can be identified, allowing for targeted interventions.
- Utilising automation and enforcement tools can greatly enhance traffic management and ensure compliance.

- Limitations:

- Addressing all factors contributing to accidents requires more than just technology, as it also involves considerations like poor infrastructure and human error.
- Technology can sometimes divert drivers' attention or give them a false sense of security.  
We must address the ethical considerations surrounding data privacy and the potential for misuse.

Punjab's project as an example:

- Illustrates how technology can have a positive influence by increasing awareness and encouraging safer driving habits.
- Emphasises the importance of seamlessly

incorporating technology into all aspects of road safety.

**(b) Comprehensive strategy:**

- Improving infrastructure by prioritising road improvements, clear signage, and proper street lighting can have a significant impact on reducing accidents.
- Enforcement is essential for ensuring compliance with traffic rules, speeding regulations, and drunk driving laws. Strict implementation serves as a crucial deterrent.
- Driver education is crucial, as it provides comprehensive training programmes that focus on defensive driving, awareness of road safety rules, and responsible behaviour.

Additional measures in conjunction with technological solutions:

- Investing in public awareness campaigns can help educate people about road safety through various media channels, which in turn can foster a culture of responsible driving.
- Improving emergency response systems: Making sure that medical attention and accident management are provided quickly to reduce the number of fatalities.
- Supporting sustainable transportation: Encouraging cycling, walking, and public transportation helps alleviate traffic congestion and enhances overall safety.

Ultimately, a comprehensive approach is crucial for ensuring long-term road safety, despite the potential benefits that technology may bring. Punjab's initiative highlights the

significance of combining technological advancements with infrastructure improvements, rigorous enforcement, and ongoing driver education to ensure a safer future for everyone on the roads.

***Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective.***

**Relevance to the *UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus* under the following topics:**



***UPSC Prelims:***

- **General Science and Technology:** This section could potentially include questions about the use of technology in improving road safety, with the Punjab initiative serving as a relevant example.
- **Current Affairs:** Questions about ongoing government initiatives and their impact on public welfare are common in Prelims. The Punjab project, being a recent and impactful development, might find mention in this

section.

### **UPSC Mains:**

- **Essay:** The initiative offers a good platform to discuss themes like technological advancements in public safety, data-driven governance, and responsible infrastructure development.
- **General Administration/Digital Technology:** This section covers aspects of public policy and administration. Candidates could analyze the initiative's implementation, potential challenges, and long-term impact on road safety policy in Punjab.
- **Optional Subjects:** Depending on the chosen optional subject, the initiative could be relevant under topics like transportation engineering, urban planning, or information technology.



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Hindi.**

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# Quiz Time

The profit triples with a doubling of the selling price. Determine the profit percentage.

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3



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