

# Death on roads

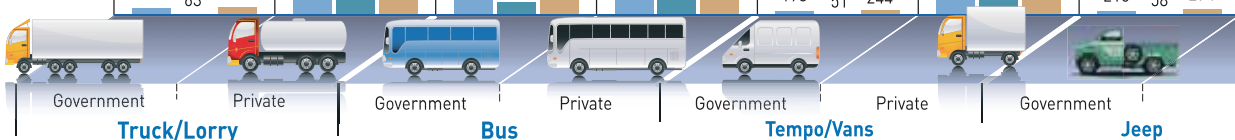
Deaths on roads continue to account for the majority of fatalities caused by accidents, natural or manmade.

BY R.K. RADHAKRISHNAN

**ONE** accident every minute and one death every four minutes: these are the stark facts about Indian roads. In 2013, there were 4,86,476 road accidents, which resulted in 1,37,572 deaths and injuries to 4,94,893 persons. As many as 1.24 million deaths took place across the world in road accidents in 2010, data gathered by the World Health Organisation from 182 countries show. More than a tenth of these, 1.34 lakh deaths, happened in India. The same year, China accounted for over 65,000 deaths. National Crime Records Bureau

Road accident victims (deaths, gender-wise) and the vehicles, and pedestrians, involved

Male  
Female  
Total



(NCRB) data indicate that the number of persons killed in road accidents showed a marginal decline subsequently: 1,39,091 in 2012 and 1,37,423 in 2013. (There is a slight variation in the NCRB and Union Ministry of Road Transport statistics; the Ministry's publication, "Road Accidents in India 2013 Report", records that there were 1,37,572 fatalities in 2013 as against 1,38,258 in 2012.)

## TAMIL NADU, DEADLIEST STATE

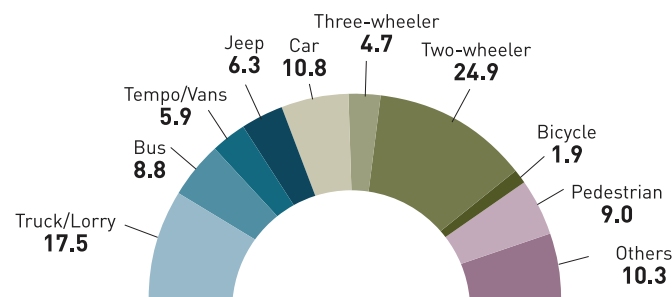
Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Haryana and Bihar together accounted for 88.4 per cent of all road accidents in the country in 2013. Tamil Nadu had the highest number of road accidents (66,238) and the highest number of persons injured in road accidents (75,681) in 2013, says the report.

As many as 28.1 per cent of the total road accidents occurred on national highways, accounting for 33.2 per cent of the total number of persons killed in road accidents in 2013.

"Amongst the vehicle categories, two-wheelers accounted for the highest share in total road accidents (26.3 per cent) in 2013, followed by cars, jeeps and taxis (22.2 per cent), trucks, tempos, tractors and other articulated vehicles (21.1 per cent), other motor vehicles (9.9 per cent), buses (8.6 per cent), and auto rickshaws (6.4 per cent)," the Ministry's report notes.

The good news is that for the first time two consecutive years (2012, 2013) have recorded a decline in road accident deaths. The bad news is that deaths due to road accidents surpass deaths in any other category of accidents, natural or manmade, by many a mile.

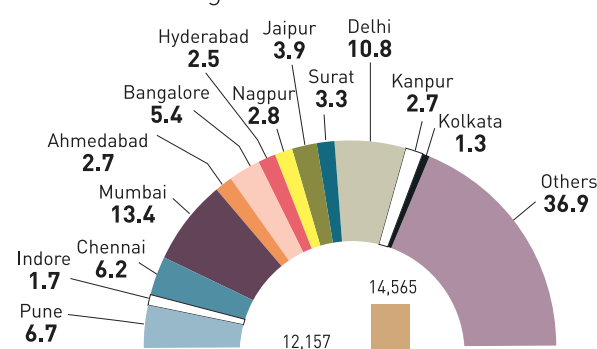
Percentage share of total deaths, the type of vehicles, and pedestrians, involved in 2013



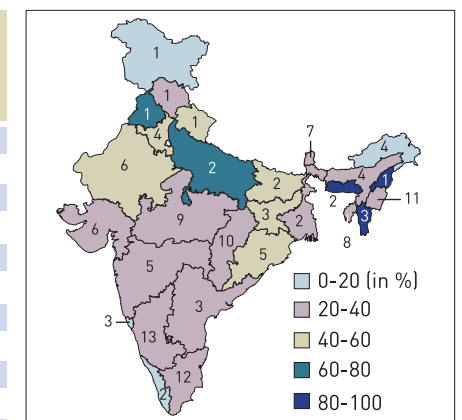
Incidence and rate of deaths due to road accidents in major States in 2013

State	No. of cases of road accidents	Total registered motor vehicles as on 31.03.2012 (in 000')	No. of deaths due to road accidents in 2013	Rate of accidental deaths per 000' vehicles
Andhra Pradesh	43,048	12,424	14,647	1.2
Bihar	10,198	3,113	4,989	1.6
Chhattisgarh	13,657	3,104	3,477	1.1
Gujarat	25,035	14,414	7,458	0.5
Haryana	10,473	5,978	4,547	0.8
Jammu & Kashmir	6,455	917	992	1.1
Jharkhand	5,161	3,158	2,646	0.8
Karnataka	39,591	10,910	9,044	0.8
Kerala	35,215	6,893	4,258	0.6
Madhya Pradesh	34,034	8,144	8,977	1.1
Maharashtra	43,863	19,432	13,245	0.7
Odisha	9,680	3,759	4,062	1.1
Punjab	6,323	6,263	4,588	0.7
Rajasthan	23,586	8,985	9,724	1.1
Tamil Nadu	66,238	17,412	15,563	0.9
Uttar Pradesh	25,975	15,445	15,630	1.0
West Bengal	16,549	3,861	5,827	1.5

Percentage share of accidental deaths in mega cities in 2013



How different States were prone to fatal accidents in 2013



1. Jammu & Kashmir	15.4	1. Punjab	72.6
2. Kerala	12.1	2. U.P.	60.2
3. Goa	6.3		
4. Arunachal Pradesh	0.5	1. Nagaland	89.7
		2. Meghalaya	87.6
		3. Mizoram	85.1