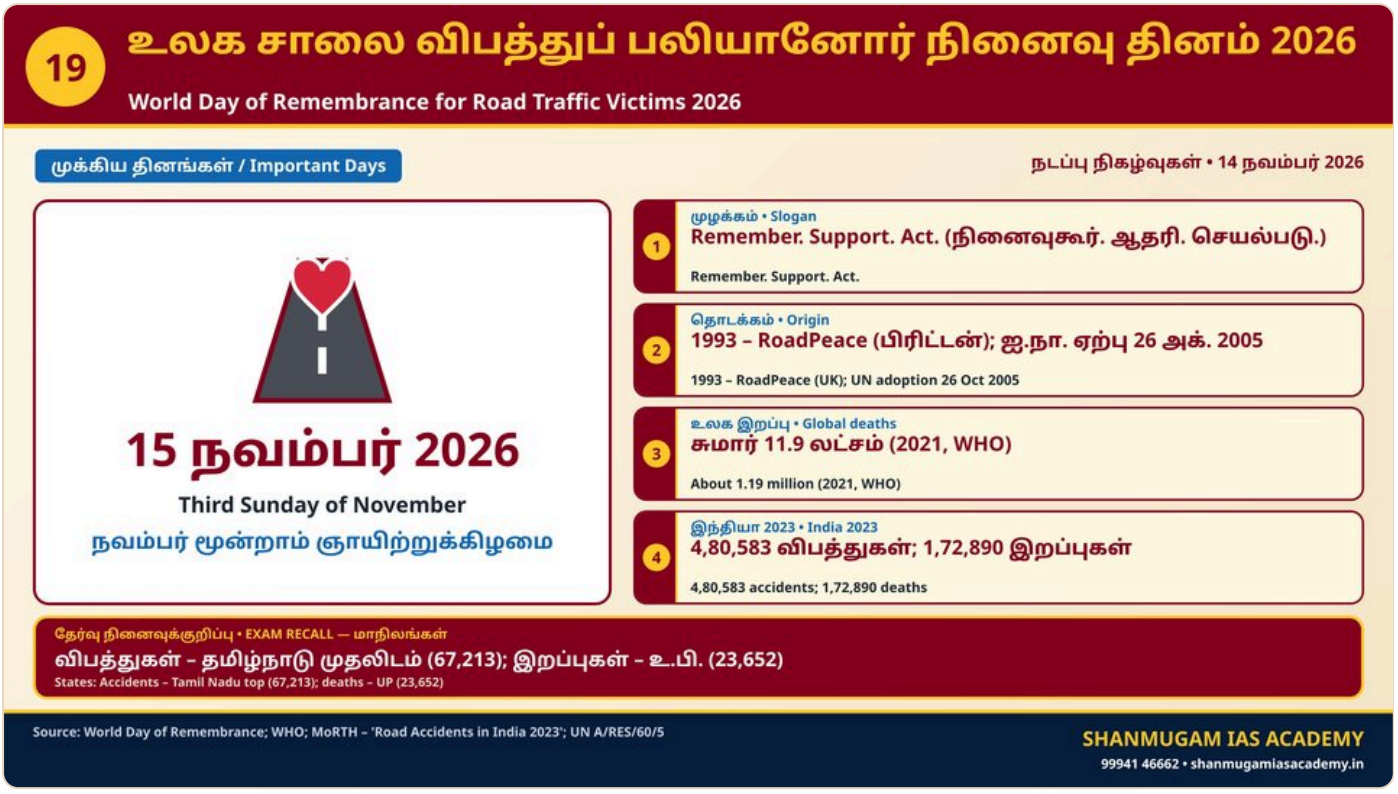
World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2026

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News

The 'World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims', honouring those killed or injured on the roads and their families, is observed every year on the third Sunday of November; in 2026 it falls on 15 November. The 2026 campaign slogan is 'Remember. Support. Act.' The Day began with memorial services organised by the UK's RoadPeace in 1993, and the UN General Assembly adopted it as a world day on 26 October 2005. WHO estimates that about 1.19 million people died in road crashes worldwide in 2021. The UN's second 'Decade of Action for Road Safety' (2021–2030) aims to cut road deaths and injuries by at least half by 2030. According to the Road Transport Ministry's 'Road Accidents in India 2023' report, 1,72,890 people died in 4,80,583 accidents in 2023; Tamil Nadu had the most accidents (67,213) and Uttar Pradesh the most deaths (23,652). Not wearing helmets and seat belts alone accounted for 70,593 deaths (40.8%).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Day	Third Sunday of November – 15 Nov in 2026
Slogan	Remember. Support. Act.
Origin	1993 – RoadPeace (UK); UN adoption 26 Oct 2005
Global deaths	About 1.19 million (2021, WHO)

Point	Details
UN target	Decade of Action 2021–2030: halve deaths/injuries
India 2023	4,80,583 accidents; 1,72,890 deaths
States	Accidents – Tamil Nadu top (67,213); deaths – UP (23,652)
Good Samaritan	MV Act, Section 134A (2019 amendment)
Cashless treatment	2025 scheme – up to ₹1.5 lakh, 7 days; implemented by NHA

Background

- Global efforts: Global Ministerial Conferences on Road Safety – Moscow (2009), Brasilia (2015), Stockholm (2020), Marrakech (2025). Following the 2020 Stockholm Declaration, the UN General Assembly (Resolution 74/299) declared 2021–2030 the second 'Decade of Action for Road Safety'. SDG target 3.6 aims to halve road deaths and target 11.2 covers safe transport systems.
- Law: motor vehicles are in the Concurrent List (Entry 35). The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 amended the 1988 Act – higher penalties; a definition of the 'golden hour'; protection for Good Samaritans (Section 134A); a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund; and a National Road Safety Board. The Supreme Court approved guidelines protecting Good Samaritans in 2016 (SaveLIFE Foundation case).
- Treatment: the 'Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025' came into force on 5 May 2025 – cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh per victim at designated hospitals for at most 7 days from the accident. The National Health Authority (NHA) is the implementing agency; State Road Safety Councils are the nodal bodies in States.
- Data: 'iRAD' (Integrated Road Accident Database; now eDAR) is India's first national road-accident database; it was designed by the RBG Labs of IIT Madras and built and deployed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC); all 36 States/UTs had joined by November 2022.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu: (1) Per 'Road Accidents in India 2023', Tamil Nadu recorded the highest number of accidents (67,213; 14.0% of India's total), but its share of road deaths was 10.6% – Uttar Pradesh had the most deaths. (2) The national road-accident database iRAD/eDAR was designed by the Centre of Excellence for Road Safety (CoERS) / RBG Labs at IIT Madras, Chennai. (3) The Tamil Nadu Government's 'Innuyir Kaappom – Nammai Kaakkum 48' scheme, giving free treatment to accident victims for the first 48 hours, began in December 2021.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The 'World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims', honouring those killed or injured on the roads and their families, is observed every year on the third Sunday of November; in 2026 it falls on 15 November.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Day: Third Sunday of November – 15 Nov in 2026; Slogan: Remember. Support. Act.; Origin: 1993 – RoadPeace (UK); UN adoption 26 Oct 2005; Global deaths: About 1.19 million (2021, WHO).

What is the background to this news?

Global efforts: Global Ministerial Conferences on Road Safety – Moscow (2009), Brasilia (2015), Stockholm (2020), Marrakech (2025).

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The 2020 global ministerial declaration that led to the UN's second Decade of Action for Road Safety was adopted in –

A) Stockholm

B) Brasilia

C) Moscow

D) Marrakech

Answer: A – Explanation: Stockholm (3rd conference, Feb 2020). Moscow hosted the 1st (2009), Brasilia the 2nd (2015) and Marrakech the 4th (2025).

2. Which Section, added to the Motor Vehicles Act by the 2019 amendment, protects 'Good Samaritans' who help accident victims?

A) Section 129

B) Section 134A

C) Section 185

D) Section 66

Answer: B – Explanation: Section 134A – no civil or criminal liability for the helper. Section 129 covers helmets; 185, drunk driving; 66, permits.

3. Which agency implements the 'Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025' across India?

A) IRDAI

B) NHAI

C) NITI Aayog

D) Natl. Health Authority

Answer: D – Explanation: National Health Authority (which runs AB PM-JAY) – up to ₹1.5 lakh for 7 days from the accident; State Road Safety Councils are State nodal bodies.

4. As per 'Road Accidents in India 2023', which State recorded the highest number of road accidents?

A) Uttar Pradesh

B) Maharashtra

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C – Explanation: Tamil Nadu – 67,213 accidents (14.0%). Uttar Pradesh, however, had the most deaths (23,652). India recorded 1.72 lakh deaths.

5. Which institute conceptualised and designed 'iRAD', India's first national road-accident database?

A) IIT Bombay

B) IISc Bengaluru

C) IIT Madras

D) IIT Delhi

Answer: C – Explanation: IIT Madras (RBG Labs / CoERS); NIC built and runs it under the Road Transport Ministry; it is now called 'eDAR'.

Sources: World Day of Remembrance; WHO EMRO; MoRTH – 'Road Accidents in India 2023' report (morth.nic.in); PIB/MoRTH gazette S.O. (5 May 2025) – Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025; UN – A/RES/60/5 (26 Oct 2005) and A/RES/74/299; IIT Madras CoERS – iRAD. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.