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## Government committed to stronger road safety policy: Karnataka Health Minister

Wednesday, 06 April 2016 - 7:26pm IST | YM Reddy | Edited by: Vinaya Patil

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A road safety event was organised by the Institute of Public Health (IPH) in Bengaluru on Wednesday. *YM Reddy/iamin*

Karnataka health minister UT Khader on Wednesday, on the eve of World Health Day, said that the state government is committed for a stronger road safety policy so that many lives can be saved from road crashes every day.

Participating in a road safety event organised by the Institute of Public Health (IPH), a city-

based organisation working on research and advocacy in the health sector, Khader said that to attend to the woes of victims of road crashes, the state government has introduced schemes such as Harish Scheme, Bike Ambulances etc. “We understand that a lot needs to be done and we are in full support of a stronger road safety policy” he added.

Dr N Devadasan, director of IPH said that India loses more than two lakh people every year on the roads and Karnataka is the fourth worst state for number of road deaths in India. “Unfortunately, road safety has not received the necessary priority from public health experts. IPH that has been working on priority health issues for the last 10 years has decided to take up road safety as a priority issue on work front. We are supporting the national campaign for a stronger road safety law and will be presenting a detailed action plan before the state government soon,” Dr Devadasan said.

Dr Upendra Bhojani, assistant director at IPH opined that state government has taken positive steps such as notifying state road safety policy, mandating helmet use for pillion rider and providing schemes for medical relief to road crash victims. “Having set a positive example, it would be apt to see Karnataka government now pushing for and supporting comprehensive legislation on road safety at national level,” Dr Bhojani said.

Students want government to save young lives

On the occasion, students from MES. Teachers’ College thanked the Karnataka government for the steps taken to ensure safety to lives on the road, and they also requested the ministers for a stronger intervention from the government to form a better road safety policy.

Dr Vishal Rao, Head and Neck Cancer Surgeon from HCG Hospital, Prof H S Ganesh Bhatt, principal of MES Teachers' College and students took part in the event.

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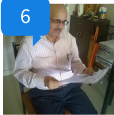
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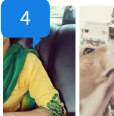
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