

Printed from

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

# Make stronger laws for road safety, child rights and health experts urge govt

TNN | May 18, 2016, 07.42 PM IST

**B**ENGALURU: The child right and health experts who met in the city on Wednesday, have voiced out their opinions, asking the central and state government to take strong steps, passing and implementing comprehensive and stringent road safety law to protect the lives of the minors.

An initiative of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) in association with the Institute of Public Health (IPH), a health NGO and Red Cross Society, the experts who had gathered revealed that 20 children are killed every day in India due to road accidents.

Dr Kripa Alva, head of KSCPCR said: "Karnataka, which happens to be the fourth worst state in terms of number of road deaths in the country, also accounts for considerable number of children deaths in road accidents. With stronger legislations things can be changed both state and nation wise. To save the lives of children and the productive youth of our nation we must act now. We urge the government of India to pass and implement a comprehensive and stringent road safety law to protect millions of young lives."

"The figures of road crashes and deaths are alarming and a lot is needd to be done to curb this preventable cause of death to check on the huge drain on Indian economy. Road crashes are estimated to cause a loss of 3% of our GDP," said Pragati Hebbar, Advocacy Officer, IPH.

S Ashok Kumar Shetty, the General Secretary of the Karnataka chapter of the Red Cross, said: "Karnataka government has taken several positive steps such as Harish Scheme, Bike Ambulances, notifying state road safety policy, mandating helmet use for pillion riders and providing schemes for medical relief to road crash victims. Having set a positive example, it would be apt to see Karnataka government now urging for and supporting comprehensive legislation on road safety at national level."

Few health experts have written a letter highlighting the important points of road safety to Karnataka transport minister B Ramalinga Reddy and Yoonus Khan, Chairman, Group of Ministers, constituted to examine best practices in road safety and road transport sector.