

Data to Policy: Data-driven and Smart Transport Safety Policies

The focus of this session was to help formulate data systems which will improve the measurement of India's road traffic safety problem, and to facilitate the selection of evidence based interventions which could allow for better evaluation of progress.

Mr. Amit Kumar delivered the Welcome Address and began the discussion by describing data driven policy making as the new frontier for Smart Transport Safety Policies. He further emphasized that the magnitude of vehicular population as well as the complexity created by a number of concerned agencies are two of the two major parameters which need to be addressed while framing new traffic safety policies.

This was followed by the Key Note address delivered by Mr. S Sundar, Distinguished Fellow & Emeritus Professor, TERI, who brought in the focus on how neglected the road accidents are as compared to aviation & railways. Road accident and road safety is a major equity issue with vulnerable sections of the population being more exposed to the dangers and risks.

Dr. Geetam Tiwari, Professor, IIT Delhi, in her Key Note, addressed the issue of epidemiology of crashes as the starting point for enhancing the research and framing the road safety standards.

Further to this, Mr. Girish Pillai, Member Traffic, Railway Board, Government of India, discussed about how the data collection process has evolved in Indian Railways and has now become a robust system.

The Panel Discussion covered a wide range of topics. It was chaired by Mr. Shri Prakash, Distinguished Fellow, TERI.

Mr. Taj Hassan, Special Commissioner of Police- Traffic, Delhi, first gave a presentation on 'Analysis of Data, Road Accidents & Identification of Causes: A case from Delhi' and spoke about how the role of citizens is essential in maintaining accidents' data. He specified that inadequate reporting of data, reluctance of people to take the case to court are the primary reasons for unavailability of adequate data.

This was followed by a discussion by Mrs. Babni Lal, Senior Advisor & Additional Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), on 'Overview of Road Accidents- Statistics, Issues & Challenges in Data Management'. She emphasized on the need of harmonisation of data and the role played by various agencies in data collection at present in India. She stated that, fragmentation at various regional levels, timelines of data collection & discrepancies between crime records bureau & traffic police data are the main issue that hinder the data management and analysis process.

Further, Mr. Vinod Kumar, Principal Executive Director (Safety), Railway Board, talked about Railway Safety & Data Policy. He spoke about how Indian Railways are consistently able to reduce the number of casualties due to a better and integrated data management system that has evolved over time.

This was followed by a discussion on 'Strengthening Recording and Use of Road Safety Data: WHO's Perspective' by Dr. Gaurav Gupta, National Professional Officer, Injury and Disability Prevention, WHO. He highlighted how data sharing across agencies can be the solution for reducing the fatalities caused by road accidents. He mentioned that a lot of data is collected by

hospitals across the nation, and such data should be collated and disseminated in the public domain.

Dr. Pravesh Biyani, Assistant Professor, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, spoke about how open data can play a key role in managing road traffic injuries in his session on 'Open data for Urban Transportation Planning and Road Safety Analysis.'

This was followed by a talk by Ms. Ruchi Varma, Global Fellow, Dalai Lama Fellows, on 'Humanizing Transport Policy: Integrating the Mobility Needs of Children'.