

**Press Release**

The Hon'ble Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre (Retd), Chairman of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, along with his legal Assistance Harshit Khandar, conducted a Road Safety Review meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 at Chennai. The Chairman was briefed by the Lead Agency, Transport Department on the Road safety measures undertaken by the collective stakeholder departments like Transport, Police, Health, Highways and Education Department. During the discussion the Chairman has insisted that the enforcement activities should be more stringent to curb the fatal accidents. The chairman further briefed that most Road accidents occurred due to over speeding and drunken driving and hence he has directed the Enforcement authorities to crack down on the violators with all might. He further elucidated that ANPR and CCTV cameras should be maintained in working order for better enforcing non-contact enforcement.

He advised that all the road engineering activities henceforth should constitute an active Road safety angle. The chairman has specifically insisted that the quality should not be compromised at any cost while laying the roads by the respective road owning agencies.

The chairman also insisted that active enforcement drive should be enhanced with Interceptor vehicles and hoped for a better future with underused ambulances and redundant hospitals.

The chairman lauded the Nammai Kaakum 48 scheme for its active intervention towards complimentary post-crash hospitalization care

After accessing the performance of various stakeholder departments in Road safety department the Hon'ble Chairman has appreciated the various steps under taken by Tamil Nadu Government and further praised Tamil Nadu for being a role model in road safety in our country. He concluded the meeting by reiterating the fact that each human life is valuable not only for their respective family but also for the society and

requested the people of Tamil Nadu to practice road safety as a way of life to further the cause of road safety in the state.

Some key observations made by Lordship during the meeting:

1. Use of Helmet and safety devices such as seat-belts alone could have saved at least 50% of lives during an accident as per analysis of data relating to causes of death in the State of Tamil Nadu.

2. Over-speeding, which is single biggest factor causing maximum number of accidents and deaths in the State, requires active attention and focus of the Enforcement agencies by use of modern technology and better vehicles such as interceptors.

3. Highways should be made a focus of attention, because around 64% accidents and around 67% of total deaths in the State take place on Highways which constitute as little as 26% of the total road length of 66,039 kms in State.

For this, the Hon'ble Chairman suggested removal of black spots and making necessary engineering rectification measures.

4. Although the Chairman expressed deep satisfaction with post-crash measures taken in Golden Hour to save the victims of Road Traffic Accident due to good initiatives of State Govt. such as Nammai Kakkum 48 (NK 48) etc. The Hon'ble Chairman suggested that focussing on reducing and taking as many pre-crash prevention measures on reducing accidents should always be the focus of any Govt.

5. Looking at a sudden spike in fatalities @ 26 % in post-pandemic time, the Chairman has urged that use of safe and comfortable public transport should be actively encouraged and all the schools, govt and major corporate offices should be encouraged to adapt to use of public transport and be urged to mandatorily have no tolerance policy for non use of safety devices such as helmets and seatbelts by their employees

**Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.**