

# It is very important that citizens welcome the New Year with happiness and safety

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INVC NEWS New Delhi, Geneva based International Road Federation,(IRF) a global body pursuing the mission of safe roads and safe road mobility world wide has expressing concern at India accounting for highest number of road deaths in the world has urged motorists to usher in new year 2018 with happiness and safety as this time of the year is most high risk times on roads world over including India. "At present India accounts for 10 Per cent of global road accidents with more than 1.51 lakh fatalities annually, highest in the world . As a signatory to Brasilia Declaration, India is committed to reducing the number of road accidents and fatalities by 50 % by 2020. Although efforts in this direction had started earlier, the year 2016 saw the Ministry taking major steps towards fulfilling this commitment." said Mr K K Kapila,Chairman, International Road Federation (IRF) The International Road Federation (IRF ) which has recently received the prestigious Prince Michael International Road Safety Award 2017 for its Enhanced First Aid Training Programme in India . "Most of the holiday makers hit the road to various destinations for year end celebrations. But travelling during holiday periods can be more risky because of increased traffic volumes, winter fog, congestion, tiredness, people driving in unfamiliar environments, and a higher number of people who are driving under the influence of alcohol." Said Mr Kapila,. "It is very important that citizens welcome the New Year with happiness and safety. Thus, while celebrating, they should understand their responsibility as well. Road safety is everyone's responsibility, every fatal crash or serious injury has a long-lasting effect on the family and friends left behind," he said. " New year holiday makers should Plan their journey if they are travelling a long way, prepare to have regular rest stops to avoid fatigue. They should stick to the speed limit and never overtake in an unsafe manner. If it's wet, drive with extra caution and if it's flooded, forget it. Please drive safely and ensure your holiday memories are happy ones, as we all want a great, safe start to 2017." Said Mr Kapila. " The other suggestions for safe driving during holidays include Ensuring vehicle is properly maintained. With car and tires inspected before one takes a long drive. One should Check vehicle's oil level, tyre pressure, windshield wipers and washer fluid, heater, defroster, antifreeze, and brakes before departing. During driving one should Pull off the road to make calls, or leave the calling to one of co- passengers" he added. "The statistics support it — one is much more likely to survive a crash or come out with less injury by wearing your seatbelt. Always keep a safe following distance between yourself and the vehicle in front. Finally, one should relax. Driving during the holiday season can be stressful. Frustration can lead to poor decisions and risky behaviour behind the wheel. However, with the right attitude and some pre-planning it can also be more enjoyable. One should be patient and don't be provoked by other drivers' aggressive behaviour." he said.

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