

Address by Mr. S. S. Tarafdar,
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From the pulpit of Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Orissa,
On the occasion of launching Countrywide Student Skill (Essay) Contest on
“Role and Responsibility of Youth to Reduce Road Risk”

On 1st April, 2011 on the occasion of UTKAL DIVAS and in Response to International Year of Youth Proclaimed by UNO

It is an immense pleasure for me to be here on this auspicious day of UTKAL DIVAS with you all the most important intellectuals, particularly with all those from Indian Education Service, Indian Medical Service and Indian Police Service and all the distinguished guest respected professors, Lecturers and beloved students of Utkal University including the people of press and media.

I am really proud of Utkal University which came into existence in 1943, set up with an objective to promote higher education to the people of the region and the Foundation stone of which was laid by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first Hon'ble President of India on 1st January 1958 and this Campus was inaugurated on 2nd January 1963 by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the second Hon'ble President of India, a great philosopher and intellectual of our country.

The initiative initiated by the 68 years oldest Utkal University, of Orissa and 17th oldest University in India with kind approval of our beloved Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Binayak Rath jointly with “Nation Wide Intellectual Meet to Reduce Road Risk and Make Roads Safe” for launching the Countrywide Student Skill (Essay) Contest on the most important and vital topic ***“Role and Responsibility of Youth to Reduce Road Risk”*** during the year of International youth proclaimed by UN is an instance before the other Universities in India.

Over 1.3 million people die on the world's roads each year due to road accidents & 1/3rd of these victims are young people under the age of 25 yrs. The current world population includes an estimated 1.2 billion young people between the ages of 15 & 24 years. More or less 54% of the 1.18 billion Indians are less than 25yrs old & a 3rd of the population have not even reached the age of 15yrs. At the same time increasing number of road accident deaths in India- the highest in the world at 1.18 lakh as per the World Bank. India's population predicted in the year 2020 going to be 135 crores and in the year 2050, 150 crores. Similarly productions of buses, trucks, trailers, dumpers, car, two-wheeler and three-wheeler are in millions

As every road users has the **right** to restrict road accident, **role** to reduce serious road injuries, incidence & illness and **responsibilities** to rescue road accident victims to recover from road risk with remedies, similarly the authorized administrative authority need to review, revise and reform road traffic rules to reduce road risk and make roads safe and inspire all those involved and initiating to incline injuries, incidence, illness, and decrease disability and death due to road accidents.

It is not only the government liability but also every road users need to respect the road safety rules & regulations, law of the land and to work together to save the human lives forgetting fear and should attend the road accident victims to take them to the hospital, for a noble human cause saving the human lives.

If we don't act now, many people will lose their lives on the country's roads over the next decade and we may lose our near & dear ones. We need to accelerate awareness activities across the country to avert, avoid and away from avoidable accidents.

Road traffic injuries are a public health epidemic that cost the country millions of rupees. Road accidents not only cost human lives but also affect approximately 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) of India as estimated by the World Bank. To tune and tackle the tremendous traffic toll among youth need political will and financial investment in its **promotion, prevention and protection** programme for public purpose targeting the youth of the world.

It is a matter of deep sorrow to say that levels of funding for road safety are still not commensurate with the scale of the problem in different 'Pradesh' in our country. If we don't make the necessary investment, we are likely to see 1.9 million deaths by 2020.

Road safety is such an important global issue but unfortunately it has been ignored for such a long time. Road crashes cause an unquantifiable amount of pain and suffering. An accident happens in a mere 3 seconds but it leaves lifetime of permanent scars & damage and most lost that can never be quantified.

We wanted the member country and the UN to commit a “Decade of Action for Global Road Safety” with the aim of reducing 50% of the increased in global road deaths between 2010- 2020 and you all will be happy to know that UN has agreed 2011-2020 will be the global decade of action for road safety.

It is the time for action and if we don’t act now, many people will lose their lives on the country’s roads over the next decade. Unless the action is taken, more than 20 million lives could be lost by 2015 with a doubling of annual death rate by 2030. If we ignore to take action then by 2015 road deaths will be the leading cause of premature death for children age over five in developing countries. Road crashes are expected to be the 5th leading cause of death worldwide by 2030. A toll said to increase to 2.4 million by 2030 according to world health organization study.

650 million people in the world or about 10% of the total world population-experience various forms of disabilities, according to the World Health Organization. 80% of persons with disabilities live in poor countries. All over the world, the person with disabilities continue to face barriers in their participation in society. An instant improvement initiative to incline traffic serious injuries the biggest killer global cause of *young people* around the world is the call of the day.

Industry and institution without intellectual is beyond imagination. Each and every individual in India is important. Inhibiting, *“Ignorance”, “Injustice” & “Inequality”*, igniting & inspiring every individual with the inspiration of intellectuals in the eternal & internal interest of improvement of Global Road Safety and to make India free of high road risk irrespective of caste colour & creed is imperative.

Global Training and Consultancy Services is committed to take the country forward and desire to play pivotal role with its “Decade of Action for Road Safety 2010-2020”. We must do more to tackle road traffic injuries, the biggest killer of young people around the world.

It is an appeal to all the respected parents, pupils, principal and pupil’s preacher (teacher) including medical practitioner, prosecutor, police professionals, Press & Media and general public and celebrity to play an important role to promote public good health, prevent serious injuries and protect people with an attitude *“Jointly we can save millions of lives, mitigate misery and make our world safer”* and support the government because now is the time to take action.

You will be happy to know that Prof. (Dr.) Binayak Rath is one of the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of the country who has kindly consented to be the most prestigious Hony. Executive Member of the country’s first ensuing “Nation Wide Intellectual Meet to Reduce Road Risk and Make Roads Safe” among many other Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of Indian University. People of the country are proud of him and proud of Utkal University at the same time we are proud of Press & Media, the power of the people and the pillar of the Planet.

Road risk is a crisis that neither knows any social, economic & ethnic boundaries, nor poor and rich, literate and illiterate, mazdoor and managing director, postman and president, police and prosecutor, practitioners and principal.

We have a “Decade of Action Plan for Road Safety 2010-2020” in India which includes **Road Safety Research** with Indian University and road safety **Project, with State Police Department**. GTCS is quite keen to work with Utkal University for effective, collaborative Road Safety Research selecting a series of the area of improvement providing technical support and a National Youth Training and Development Program on road safety laid by GTCS involving its students to reduce road risk.

GTCS together with Orissa State Police may develop “Road Safety Programme” and awareness activity across the state to be known as **“Orissa Sadak Suraksha Sangram”** under a joint venture programme if we receive such an offer for the same.

GTCS is also quite keen to work with Orissa State Government to investigate and prepare a plan of actions and ready to suggest systematized system and support supplying scientific skill with accuracy and technical Knowhow for the application of 3E’s (Effective, Efficient, Engineering system) with world class tested & trusted technology to tune and tackle any turmoil and cure the current, critical and crucial road safety crisis to conquer submitting Orissa State Road Safety Project (OSRSP) with a primary goal to save human lives. Once again I express my heartiest thanks to all dignitaries present today including the Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University and his team members expecting a joint venture program very soon and a large number of participation of its students to reduce road risk and make road safe.