

Bharat New Car Assessment Programme

written by iasexam.com | 11/08/2023



Context- India is set to receive a car crash safety star rating from October 1, 2023.

Key Highlights

- Automakers who manufacture vehicles in the country or import their vehicles from abroad must voluntarily conduct a safety test.
- Crash test and safety ratings comply with Automotive Industry Standard (AIS)-197.
- The United States was the first country to introduce a program to test car safety standards using crash tests.

What is Bharat NCAP?

- **About:**
 - The Bharat New Car Assessment Program or Bharat NCAP is a safety assessment program for new vehicle models sold or marketed in India.
- **Test parameters:**
 - The parameters of the security standard take into account various factors.
 - These include evaluating the pedestrian-friendly design of the car, the structural safety of the vehicle, the provision of active and passive safety assistance technologies, and the safety of adults and children in the vehicle.
 - Vehicles have stars from one to five, which determines the safety level of a

particular car.

- **Voluntary process:**
 - Cars are tested only at the request of the manufacturer.
 - Voluntary NCAPs aim to encourage companies to offer more than basic safety features by stimulating competition.

Importance of Bharat NCAP

- **Original rating system:** Bharat NCAP is expected to benefit domestic automakers as they will no longer need to submit their prototype vehicles to the global NCAP for crash testing and star rating.
 - This brings India at par with other parts of the world like the US, Europe, Japan, Australia and Latin America, which have their own NCAPs.
- **Vehicle credibility:** This increases transparency, increases consumer awareness and helps buyers choose cars based on their safety records.
- **Developing safer vehicles:** It also encourages automakers to adopt advanced safety technologies to get better ratings.

Challenges

- Extensive crash tests require special facilities with advanced technology and test equipment that require a significant financial investment.
- Coordination between regulatory agencies, testing agencies and automakers is critical to a standardized and rigorous testing process.

Way forward

- Addressing inadequate transport infrastructure in metropolitan cities is essential to effectively support the implementation of Bharati NCAP and ensure its positive impact on vehicle safety in India.