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SUMAN Roadmap 2030 and National Ambulance Services Guidelines

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SUMAN Roadmap 2030 and National Ambulance Services Guidelines

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WHY IN NEWS

On June 29, 2026, at the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW), Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 and the first-ever Operational Guidelines on National Ambulance Services (NAS), 2026.

Together, the two initiatives target the two ends of the emergency continuum of care: safe motherhood and childbirth on one side, and reliable last-mile emergency transport on the other.

SUMAN ROADMAP 2030

SUMAN stands for **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (Safe Motherhood Assurance)**. The Roadmap 2030 is a national strategy to accelerate progress toward the maternal and newborn health targets under the Sustainable Development (<https://ujjyari.com/terms/sustainable-development/>) Goals (SDGs).

Targets and Coverage

ELEMENT	DETAIL
Headline goal	Zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) target	Below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030
SDG alignment	SDG 3.1 (reduce global MMR)
Geographic focus	130 districts across 13 high-focus States

How It Works

The Roadmap uses a **four-stage high-risk-pregnancy tracking** model to follow vulnerable mothers across the pregnancy journey:

- ① **Antenatal** stage
- ② **Third-trimester** stage
- ③ **Intrapartum** (during labour and delivery) stage
- ④ **Postnatal** stage

Community accountability is anchored in the **SUMAN Panchayat**, which mobilises local bodies to ensure universal antenatal care, institutional deliveries, full immunisation and nutrition support, backed by interventions such as pre-pregnancy folic acid supplementation and enhanced maternal death reviews.

NATIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICES (NAS) GUIDELINES, 2026

The first-ever Operational Guidelines on National Ambulance Services standardise pre-hospital emergency care across the country. Key features include:

- **Integrated Command and Dispatch Centres** for coordinated ambulance deployment.
- **AIS-125 ambulance vehicle standards** for safety, equipment and quality of construction.
- **Geographic Information System (GIS) health-facility mapping** for scientific deployment based on population density, accident hotspots and geographical accessibility.
- **Integration with the emergency response number 112** for a single, unified access point.

ANALYSIS AND WAY FORWARD

India's MMR has fallen steadily over the years, as tracked by the Sample Registration System (SRS), reflecting gains from institutional delivery schemes and antenatal outreach. Yet the remaining maternal deaths are concentrated in high-focus districts, which is exactly where SUMAN Roadmap 2030 directs its energy through targeted, stage-wise tracking.

The pairing of SUMAN with the NAS 2026 guidelines is significant because a large share of maternal and newborn deaths is linked to **delays in reaching a facility**. Strengthening last-mile emergency transport, standardising ambulances to AIS-125, and linking dispatch to number 112 directly attack the "second delay" in the classic three-delays model. The way forward lies in reliable financing, trained emergency medical technicians, real-time monitoring dashboards, and **convergence** (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/convergence/>) between the maternal-health and emergency-transport systems so that no mother or newborn is lost to a preventable delay.

UPSC RELEVANCE

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GS Paper 2: Issues relating to health; government policies and interventions for vulnerable sections; SDG-linked social sector schemes; role of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.

GS Paper 3: Science and technology in service delivery (GIS mapping, integrated dispatch, emergency number 112); infrastructure for health.

Prelims pointers:

- SUMAN = Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (Safe Motherhood Assurance).
- SUMAN Roadmap 2030 and NAS 2026 launched at the 16th CCHFW conference on June 29, 2026 by J.P. Nadda.
- MMR target: below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030 (aligned with SDG 3.1).
- Coverage: 130 districts across 13 high-focus States.
- NAS 2026 features: Integrated Command and Dispatch Centres, AIS-125 standards, GIS mapping, integration with number 112.

Mains question: “Reducing maternal mortality requires not just better antenatal care but a reliable last-mile emergency transport system.” Analyse in the context of the SUMAN Roadmap 2030 and the National Ambulance Services Guidelines, 2026. (15 marks, 250 words)

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Launched: June 29, 2026, at the 16th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFV), by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda.

SUMAN: Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (Safe Motherhood Assurance).

Roadmap 2030 goal: zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths; MMR below 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030 (SDG 3.1).

Coverage: 130 districts across 13 high-focus States.

Tracking model: four stages, antenatal, third-trimester, intrapartum and postnatal; SUMAN Panchayat for community accountability.

NAS 2026: first-ever Operational Guidelines on National Ambulance Services.

NAS features: Integrated Command and Dispatch Centres, AIS-125 vehicle standards, GIS health-facility mapping, integration with emergency number 112.

Data note: India's MMR has declined over the years as tracked by the Sample Registration System (SRS).

Sources: *Ministry of Health and Family Welfare* (<https://mohfw.gov.in/>), *PIB* (<https://pib.gov.in/>), *DD News* (<https://ddnews.gov.in/>)

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