



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Upgrading the National Ambulance Code (AIS-125)

3 July 2026 · **SOCIAL ISSUES** · **GS2** · **GS3**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com



Upgrading the National Ambulance Code (AIS-125)

3 July 2026 · 6 min read

 Source: ujyari.com — researched, fact-checked & UPSC-mapped

 **Every fact web-verified against primary sources** (<https://ujyari.com/how-we-verify/>)

WHY IN NEWS

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed amendments to the Automotive Industry Standard AIS-125, the National Ambulance Code, notified as draft GSR 382(E) on May 14, 2026, to strengthen the safety and medical capability of road ambulances across India.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL AMBULANCE CODE (AIS-125)

The **Automotive Industry Standard (AIS)-125** is India's **National Ambulance Code**, the technical standard that specifies how road ambulances must be built, equipped and classified. It defines categories of ambulances by their level of medical capability, from basic patient-transport vehicles to advanced life-support units, and lays down the equipment, dimensions and safety features each must carry. The proposed amendments do not scrap the code but upgrade it, responding to gaps in specialised transport, emergency extraction and the emerging shift to electric vehicles.

This is a **standing policy development rather than a same-day event**: the draft was notified as **GSR 382(E) on May 14, 2026** and placed on the Ministry's website for public comments before finalisation, and it was profiled again in early July 2026 as the consultation advanced.

THE KEY AMENDMENTS

The draft introduces new capabilities across four areas.

AMENDMENT	WHAT IT DOES
Neonatal Road Ambulance	New category to transport premature or sick newborns between hospitals
Multi-stretcher Road Ambulance	New category able to carry multiple stretchers, with intensive-care support
Rescue and extraction equipment	Mandated for higher ambulance classes to extract victims from crashed vehicles
E-ambulance power provisions	Dedicated power source to run medical equipment on electric ambulances

1. Neonatal Road Ambulance

A dedicated **Neonatal Road Ambulance** is introduced to transport premature or sick newborns, typically from one hospital to a higher centre of care. Such vehicles carry specialised equipment such as transport incubators, neonatal ventilators, multi-parameter monitors and temperature-control systems to keep a fragile infant stable in transit. Given India’s newborn-mortality burden, safe inter-hospital neonatal transfer is a significant public-health gap that this category directly addresses.

2. Multi-Stretcher Road Ambulance

The **Multi-stretcher Road Ambulance** can carry more than one stretcher at a time, useful in mass-casualty situations, while still focusing intensive medical support on one patient. This adds surge capacity to the emergency-response system.

3. Rescue and Extraction Equipment

For higher ambulance classes (the more advanced life-support categories), the amendment mandates **rescue and extraction tools** so that responders can free victims trapped in vehicles damaged in road accidents, and provide rescue support even if the ambulance itself is involved in a crash. This blends the roles of medical transport and first-response rescue.

4. Provisions for Electric Ambulances

To support the transition to green mobility without compromising patient care, **electric ambulances (e-ambulances)** must be provided with a **dedicated power source** for operating medical equipment, so that clinical devices do not draw down the traction battery that moves the vehicle.

WHY IT MATTERS: THE ROAD-SAFETY CONTEXT

India carries one of the world’s heaviest road-crash burdens. In **2024**, the country recorded about **4,87,707 road accidents and about 1,77,175 fatalities**. Crucially, experts estimate that roughly **half of road-crash deaths are preventable** with prompt, good-quality care in the “**Golden Hour**,” the first hour after

a serious injury, when timely medical intervention most sharply improves survival. The Golden Hour is now a defined concept in the amended **Motor Vehicles Act**, underlining that ambulance quality is not a technical footnote but a determinant of whether people live or die.

Linkage to Cashless Treatment: PM-RAHAT

Better ambulances work hand in hand with financing reform. Under **PM-RAHAT**, the cashless-treatment scheme, a road-accident victim is entitled to cashless treatment of up to **Rs 1.5 lakh per victim for up to seven days**, funded through the **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**. An upgraded ambulance that reaches the victim within the Golden Hour, stabilises them and hands them into a system where treatment is financially guaranteed together forms a continuous chain of survival, from crash site to hospital bed.

ANALYSIS AND WAY FORWARD

The AIS-125 upgrade reflects a maturing approach to **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** governance. For years, India's EMS was uneven: ambulance quality varied widely, neonatal transfers were improvised, and electric ambulances lacked clear standards. By codifying specialised categories, rescue capability and e-ambulance norms in a single national standard, the Ministry moves EMS from ad-hoc provision toward a rights-oriented system, advancing the **right to health** implicit in Article 21.

The way forward lies in implementation and equity. A standard is only as good as its enforcement: states must retrofit or procure compliant vehicles, train paramedics for neonatal and rescue roles, and ensure that rural and hilly districts, not just cities, get the new categories. Integrating the upgraded ambulances with a single emergency number, real-time dispatch, and the PM-RAHAT cashless network will determine whether the reform actually shrinks the gap between a preventable death and a saved life.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2: Government policies and interventions for development in the health sector; issues relating to the development and management of the social sector; mechanisms and institutions for the vulnerable; the right to health under Article 21.

GS Paper 3: Infrastructure and its related issues; science and technology in service delivery; green mobility and electric vehicles; disaster and emergency response.

Prelims pointers:

- AIS-125 is the National Ambulance Code; the amendment was notified as draft GSR 382(E) on May 14, 2026, by MoRTH.
- Two new categories: Neonatal Road Ambulance and Multi-stretcher Road Ambulance.
- Higher ambulance classes must carry rescue and extraction equipment; e-ambulances need a dedicated medical-equipment power source.

- Road accidents in 2024: about 4,87,707 accidents and about 1,77,175 fatalities.
- The “Golden Hour” is defined in the amended Motor Vehicles Act.
- PM-RAHAT provides cashless treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh per victim for up to seven days through the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund.

Mains question: “Strengthening Emergency Medical Services is central to reducing India’s road-crash mortality.” Discuss with reference to the upgrade of the National Ambulance Code (AIS-125), the Golden Hour concept and the PM-RAHAT cashless treatment scheme. (15 marks, 250 words)

FACTS CORNER

FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

Development: MoRTH has proposed amendments to AIS-125, the National Ambulance Code, notified as draft GSR 382(E) on May 14, 2026, and open for public comment.

New categories: Neonatal Road Ambulance (for premature or sick newborns) and Multi-stretcher Road Ambulance.

Rescue capability: Higher ambulance classes must carry rescue and extraction equipment for crash victims.

E-mobility: Electric ambulances (e-ambulances) must have a dedicated power source for medical equipment.

AIS-125: The Automotive Industry Standard that classifies road ambulances by medical capability and specifies their equipment and safety features.

Road-safety data: In 2024, India recorded about 4,87,707 road accidents and about 1,77,175 fatalities; roughly half of crash deaths are preventable with Golden Hour care.

Golden Hour: The first hour after serious injury; a concept now defined in the amended Motor Vehicles Act.

PM-RAHAT: Cashless treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh per victim for up to seven days, funded by the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund.

Sources: *Press Information Bureau* (<https://pib.gov.in/>), *Ministry of Road Transport and Highways* (<https://morth.nic.in/>), *Deccan Herald* (<https://www.deccanherald.com/>), *Medical Buyer* (<https://medicalbuyer.co.in/>)

Source: Upgrading the National Ambulance Code (AIS-125) — Ujijari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

RELATED EDITORIALS

Ujjiyari Current Affairs · ujjiyari.com · Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

THE HINDU

[A Shot at Life: Mandsaur's HPV Vaccination Model](#)

3 Jul

INDIAN EXPRESS

[Healing the Healers: Doctor Safety and Workforce Welfare](#)

1 Jul

THE HINDU

[NEP's Three-Language Formula and the Status of English](#)

1 Jul

THE HINDU

[Caught in the Middle: Reframing India's Drug Fight](#)

30 Jun

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[Active Case Finding \(TB\)](#)

A proactive public health strategy where health workers systematically...

KEY TERM

[Advance Directive \(Living Will\)](#)

A legal document in which a competent adult specifies their medical...

KEY TERM

[AHTU](#)

Specialised district-level police units tasked with investigating...

KEY TERM

[Anganwadi](#)

A government-run village-level child care and mother care centre under...

Ujiyari Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · **Free Daily** Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

 [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

 [Read Full Article on Ujiyari](#) →

<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/07/03/ais-125-national-ambulance-code-upgrade-2026/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing](#) → bharatnotes.com

OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

 epicbharat@gmail.com

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com