

PRESS RELEASE

**OBSERVANCE OF 21TH ROAD SAFETY WEEK
FROM 01/01/2010 TO 07/01/2010**

As part of the road safety measures, '**Road Safety Week**' is being observed throughout the country every year during the first week of January.

As in the past, the Government of India have decided to observe the **21st Road Safety Week from 1st to 7th January 2010**, and the **theme** of this year's celebrations will be

<p style="text-align: center;">"Life is safe"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"If Driving is safe"</p>

Accordingly, the 21st Road Safety Week will be celebrated in Tamil Nadu, from 1st to 7th January 2010.

Every year, around One lakh people get killed in road accidents in India, which is a matter of grave concern. In order to improve upon the safety of road users, various road safety measures are being implemented.

The number of vehicles in the state, as on 1.11.2009 is, as follows.

Transport Vehicles	=	8,22,290
Non-Transport Veicles	=	1,09,30,996

Total	=	1,17,53,286

Out of which, **96,28,720** vehicles are **Two Wheelers**.

Due to the phenomenal growth of vehicles and lack of knowledge and observance of road safety rules, during the year 2009, upto October 2009, **11592** persons have lost their lives **in 10742** Fatal road accidents in the State. In Chennai city alone, **510** persons were killed in **500 Fatal road accidents**, during this period. In order to create awareness on **road safety** and to minimise the number of accidents, the Government have taken the following steps:-

1. The Government have announced **"ROAD SAFETY POLICY"** during the year 2007. The Government of India , taking this as a major initiative, have addressed all the other State Governments, to bring out similar policy statements in their states. In fact, Government of India themselves are contemplating to bring out a National Road Safety Policy document on similar lines.
2. Stringent action is being taken against "**drunken Driving**" and the drivers causing fatal accidents. During the period from **January to October 2009**, the **driving licences of 5287** drivers have been suspended and that of **660** drivers have been cancelled **for drunken driving**. In the same manner, **the driving licenses of 4816** drivers, involved in fatal accidents, have also been suspended and that of **123** drivers cancelled. Apart from this, during the period January to October 2009 **the permits of 1064** transport vehicles **involved in major accidents** have either been suspended or cancelled. Since stringent action is being taken against the drivers and permit holders, considerable level of awareness has been created among the road users, regarding road safety and it is hoped that this would bring about considerable reduction in the accidents in the coming days.

3) In order to provide immediate medical assistance to the accident victims within the 'Golden hour' **100 'Emergency Accident Relief Centres'** are successfully functioning all over the State. During the period from **January to October 2009**, the valuable lives of **9085** persons have been saved by these centres.

4) For the purpose of celebrating **the 21th Road Safety Week and other road safety measures and campaigns, during the year 2009-2010**, the Government of Tamilnadu has allotted **a sum of Rs.112 lakhs** to the District Collectors and Commissioner of Police, Chennai City. Apart from the above, an amount of **Rs.1.25 crores** has been sanctioned to the Commissioner of Police, Chennai city and an amount of **Rs.1.25 crores** has been sanctioned to Commissioner of Police, Chennai sub urban to carry out the Traffic improvement in Chennai city and its suburbs. They will co-ordinate various road safety activities in a fitting manner by involving all the concerned departments like Police, health, information and Publicity, Education and voluntary organizations, Non-governmental organizations and others involved in the field.

5. Inter-Departmental Teams to study and prevent Fatal Accidents:-

Government have decided to follow a holistic approach in each and every individual case of fatal accidents to analyze the factors that could have contributed to the accidents and have ordered for constitution of an Inter-Departmental team of officers comprising Police, Transport and Highways Department with instructions that these teams shall visit the accident spots on the same day or at the most very next day, make a comprehensive study of the accidents from different angles and make specific recommendation /measures to be initiated to avert such accidents in future.

6) Improvement at Inter-Section points:-

As many Road Accidents on the National Highways have occurred at the junctions where the Village and town Roads meet the Highways, the Government have issued orders to improve all these 1283 Inter-Section points with Speed breakers, warning boards and adequate lighting facilities. Government have sanctioned Rs.12.80 crores for taking up these item of works and the entire works have been completed.

7. The following activities are proposed to be organised during the 21th Road safety Week.

- (i) Special messages from Chief Minister
- (ii) Holding of meetings on Road Safety and to be attended by Senior Officials of concerned departments and public representatives.
- (iii) Panel discussions on Road Safety on AIR & Television.
- (iv) Inviting entries for slogans on Road Safety in newspapers and awarding prizes to the best entries.
- (v) Release of advertisements & messages on Road Safety from various dignitaries in daily Newspapers.
- (vi) Public announcement on road safety at important intersections using mobile vans.
- (vii) Display of Banners, Road Signs, Dos and Don'ts regarding Road Safety at important locations/Traffic Junctions.
- (viii) Organization of exhibitions, seminars, lectures, screening of documentary films, etc. in public places.
- (ix) Bringing out pamphlets, folders for children, road users and drivers in order to educate them on road safety aspects.
- (x) Medical check-ups and eye-sight testing camps and free distribution of spectacles to drivers.
- (xi) Checking of over speeding, over loading, unauthorized parking, drunken driving etc.
- (xii) Special training programmes for school/college students in traffic rules.

- (xiii) Refresher course for drivers of State Transport Undertakings and for drivers in the unorganized sector.
- (xiv) Traffic training to children who visit the traffic training parks.
- (xv) Practical traffic education campaign particularly among cyclists and pedestrians.

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Department, Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.