

OBSERVANCE OF 19TH ROAD SAFETY WEEK
FROM 01/01/2008 TO 07/01/2008

Every year, around 90,000 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. 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, Government of India have decided to observe the 19th Road Safety Week from 1st to 7th January 2008, and this time, the theme of this year's celebrations will be

**“ DRIVE TO CARE!
NOT TO DARE!”**

Accordingly, the 19th Road Safety Week will be celebrated in Tamilnadu, from 1st to 7th January 2008.

The vehicular population in Tamilnadu has been increasing by 10 to 11% every year. The number of vehicles in the state, as on 1.12.2007 is, as follows.

Transport Vehicles	=	6,72,541
Non-Transport Veicles	=	90,77,336

Total	=	97,49,877

Out of the above, 76 lakhs vehicles are **Two Wheelers.**

Due to the phenomenal growth of vehicles and lack of knowledge and observance of road safety rules, during the year 2007, upto November 2007, **11130 persons have lost their lives in 54553 road accidents** in the State. In Chennai city alone, **1096 persons were killed in 6409 road accidents**, during the said 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 SAFFETY 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 the “ **drunken Driving**” and the drivers causing fatal accidents. During the period from **January to November 2007**, the **driving licences of 7184** drivers have been suspended and that of **4969** drivers have been cancelled **for drunken driving**. In the same manner, **the driving licences of 8372** drivers, involved in fatal accidents, have also been suspended and that of **727** drivers cancelled. Apart from this, during the period of January to November 2007 **the permits of 581** transport vehicles **involved in major accidents** have either been suspended or cancelled. Since strict action is being taken against the drivers and permit holders, considerable degree of awareness has been created among the road users, regarding road safety and it is hoped that these would bring about considerable reduction in the accidents in coming days.

3. In order to provide immediate medical assistance to the accident victims within ‘Golden hour’ **100 numbers of ‘Emergency Accident Relief Centres’** are successfully functioning all over the State. During the period from **January to November 2007**, the valuable lives of **10868** persons have been saved by these centres.

4. For the purpose of celebrating **the 19th Road Safety Week and other road safety measures and campaigns,** **during the year 2007-2008**, the Government of

Tamilnadu has allotted **a sum of Rs 65.5 lakhs** to the District Collectors and Commissioner of Police, Chennai City. They will co-ordinate various road safety activities in a befitting manner by involving all the concerned departments like Police, health, information and Publicity, Education and voluntary organisations, Non-governmental organisations and others involved in the field.

5. Similarly, during the current year, Government have also allotted another Rs 5.50 crores to various District Collectors/Commissioners of Police of six cities to undertake and implement various other ROAD SAFETY measures.

The following activities have proposed to be organised during the 19th Road safety Week.

- (i) Distribution of pamphlets and materials for Drivers and other road users in order to educate them on road safety aspects.
- (ii) Conducting medical check-ups and eye camps and free distribution of spectacles to drivers, through voluntary organizations.
- (iii) Erection and maintenance of sign boards, traffic signals on accident prone zones. Proper road marking works on National highways/ State highways and other major roads.

- (iv) Conducting Special drives for checking of overspeeding and overloading vehicles, drunken driving, unauthorized parking, Vehicles plying without Fitness Certificate, Vehicles carrying hazardous goods, share autos etc.
- (v) Special campaigns in schools and colleges to impart road safety guidelines.
- (vi) Orientation programmes and Refresher courses for drivers of State Transport undertakings and private sector.
- (vii) Traffic training for children who visit the traffic training parks. Awareness programmes through exhibition vehicles of Institute of Road Transport.
- (viii) Practical traffic education campaign among cyclists, pedestrians and others, near manned and unmanned level crossings and other suitable places.
- (ix) Ensuring safety provisions on Educational Institution Vehicles.
- (x) Ensuring Motor Cyclists wear helmets and Motor Car passengers wear seat belts.

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