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འབྲུག་ ཐེམ་ཕུག

Ministry of Information and Communications
Road Safety and Transport Authority
Thimphu: Bhutan



Brief

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (21st November 2021)

Background:

According to World Health Organization, the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was started by RoadPeace in 1993. Since then it has been observed and promoted worldwide by several NGOs, including the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) and its associated organizations. It was then adopted by the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/5 on 26th October 2005 as an “appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families”. It is commemorated on the third Sunday of November each year. It is a high-profile global event to remember the many millions who have been killed and seriously injured on the world’s roads and to acknowledge the suffering of all affected victims, families and communities. This day also offers prospect to pay tribute to the dedicated emergency crews, police and medical professionals, who deal daily with the traumatic aftermath of road crashes.

Context:

This special Remembrance Day is therefore intended to respond to the need of road crash victims for public recognition of their loss and suffering. It has also become an important tool for governments and those who work to prevent crashes or respond to the aftermath, since it offers the opportunity to demonstrate the enormous scale and impact of road deaths and injuries, and the urgent need for action.

Their remembrance represents a lesson learned, because today we know that being responsible saves lives. Keeping their memories alive serves to prevent further crash victims which would help to take measures to prevent these tragedies from recurring today and in the future.

As with every year, the objectives of WDoR 2021 are to provide a platform for road traffic victims and their families to:

- remember all people killed and seriously injured on the roads;
- acknowledge the crucial work of the emergency services;
- draw attention to the generally trivial legal response to culpable road deaths and injuries
- advocate for better support for road traffic victims and victim families;
- promote evidence-based actions to prevent and eventually stop further road traffic deaths and injuries

The theme for the World Day of Remembrance 2021 is “*ACT for LOW SPEEDS*”, which have the potential to prevent many deaths and serious injuries, in particular those of pedestrians and all other vulnerable road users – children, elderly and the disabled.

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This theme will also highlight the importance of speed in the reduction of fatal road crashes. Speed is a significant road safety issue. Vehicle speed plays a part in every crash. According to WHO, speed has been identified as a key risk factor in road traffic injuries, influencing both the risk of a road crash as well as the severity of injuries that result from road crashes. There is strong evidence that low speeds on the roads save lives, especially among pedestrians, cyclists, children, and young people, and have environmental and other benefits.

Program:

This year, World Day of Remembrance falls on Sunday 21st November. Commemorating the aforementioned day has been one of the prioritized activities with certain budget allocated for the Road Safety and Transport Authority. The Road Safety and Transport Authority would like to commemorate the day at MoIC conference hall this year with the following programs:

1. Lighting and offering butter lamps with short prayer (Moenlam) for the crash victims
2. Launching of RST Regulations 2021
3. Launching of Awareness Audio Visuals on vehicle ownership transfer and road markings/traffic signs
4. Highway inspection by RSTA Officials

The program list attached for kind reference.