

Traffic police train guns on drunk drivers

BY ASHWINI M SRIPAD

Bangalore, March 11: Drunken drivers beware! Traffic police are on the prowl.

This is not an empty threat on behalf of the city's traffic police. Not only have they booked a whopping 192 cases in just two hours on Saturday and touched an average figure of 74 cases booked per day. Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic & Security) Praveen Sood said that the department has also called for tenders to procure 30 additional alcometers.

The traffic police are presently equipped with 20 alcometers at any given time.

So, imagine, with more than double such gadgets, and almost every main thoroughfare being turned into a one-way, drunken motorists are in for further trouble.

In just the first two months of this year, the police have booked 4,628 cases against drunken driving (refer to the box for previous three years' statistics).

According to senior police officials, the drive against drunken driving is being intensified mainly because drinking-related road accidents have persisted despite effective measures being in place.

A study conducted by NIMHANS reveals that in India 1.20 lakh people were killed in road mishaps last year.

The rate of increase in deaths in road accidents has been about 5 per cent annually. About 33 per cent of the victims are aged between 20 and 39.

According to a study conducted by Traffic Engineers and Safety Trainers (TEST) in Bangalore, on an average 27 accidents take place everyday. Three to five people die and 21 are injured in 27 accidents daily. Out of every seven people involved, six are male, the study reveals.

The Bangalore traffic police are not leaving anything to chance. Post-successful implementation of the helmet rule, the department is looking at drastically cutting down fatalities on the road -- particularly those caused by drunken driving.

A study conducted by NIMHANS reveals that in India 1.20 lakh people were killed in road mishaps last year

Year	No of cases
2005	27,673
2006	27,264
2007	27,644
2008 (till Feb)	4,628

