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Walk in memory of road mishap victims

Consumer Guild with support from Consumer VOICE, Delhi, organised a peace walk which originated from Swasthya Bhawan crossing and ended at Shaheed Smarak to mark the World Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims and demanded safer roads for all.

More than 200 people participated in the peace walk, including NGOs, lawyers, students, doctors, Nursing Association, bankers, corporate sector representative, Ex-Army Welfare Federation. This year’s theme of World Day of Remembrance was ‘Road have stories — Voice of victims.’

About 1.3 million people die each year on world’s roads and between 20 and 50 million sustain non-fatal injuries. Road traffic crashes are a major cause of deaths among all age groups and the leading cause of death among those aged 15–29 years. As per the annual publication ‘Road accidents in India 2017’ released by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in total 464,910 road accidents took place causing 1,47,913 road traffic deaths and 4,70,975 injuries in 2017.

“This means that on a daily basis, 1,273 accidents took place and 405 persons were killed on Indian roads. Road casualties are an epidemic and the governments can no longer afford to ignore. All avenues be it road design, licensing, driving skills, traffic management, vehicle design, policing, enforcement need to be addressed through a strong and comprehensive road safety legislation immediately,” said Consumer Guild chairman Abhishek Srivastava. “This road safety bill promised by the Government is yet to see the light of day. We are requesting the government to pass the Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill 2017 in the upcoming winter session of the Parliament. Fast action is required,” he said.

Ekta Purshottam from the same organisation said, “If this bill is further deferred, we will be putting at risk precious lives of citizens before the next session of Parliament can adopt it. These casualties may include thousands of innocent children and youths in their productive years of life. This is a clear case of carnage on our roads.”

The walkathon ended with a two-minute silence in the memory of road accident victims.