

Drunk Drivers of E-Scooters Increase, Report Says

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Rental (Noun) /'rentl/ the action of paying to use something for a period of time
Example: The man has a lot of rental properties under his name.
2. Sidewalk (Noun) /'saɪd,wɔ:k/ a path on the side of the road that people walk on
Example: Vendors are occupying the sidewalks and there's nowhere to walk..
3. Intoxicated (Adjective) /ɪn'tɒksɪkeɪtɪd/ drunk or having taken drugs
Example: He was intoxicated by her beauty and almost drooled over her.
4. Downtown (Adjective) /,daʊn'taʊn/ in or relating to the center of a town or city
Example: Our company has an office in downtown Atlanta.
5. Suspect (Verb) /sə'spekt/ to have an idea that something is true without having the evidence to support it
Example: The people suspect the man to have broken into the store.



The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department has reported an increase in drunk driving of electric scooters. Although there was only one such case in 2021, in the first nine months of 2022 there were 39 arrests of electric scooter riders because of drunk driving. Electric scooters, also called e-scooters, have become popular in recent years as a cheap and easy way to get around cities and towns. Many cities around the world now have e-scooter sharing systems that make them available for short rentals. In Japan, e-scooter sharing systems can be found in cities including Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto, Osaka, Sendai and Fukuoka.

In April 2022, the Japanese government introduced new rules for e-scooters that will become law in May 2024. According to these rules, e-scooters with a top speed of 20 kilometers per hour can be ridden without a driver's license by anyone over the age of 16. Riders will not need to wear a helmet and will be able to ride on the sidewalk if they limit their speed to 6 kilometers per hour. When these rules become law, e-scooters will become easier to use and are expected to become more popular.

However, as more people ride them, there are concerns about people riding e-scooters after drinking alcohol. In September 2022, a man in Tokyo died after crashing his e-scooter and hitting his head on the ground. He was not wearing a helmet, and is believed to have been drinking alcohol before riding. After this accident, one e-scooter sharing business introduced security guards at e-scooter rental locations near Tokyo's entertainment districts at night. The security guards check that customers aren't intoxicated.

Police in Tokyo have also warned that they will stop e-scooter riders and check them for alcohol. Speaking to Kyodo News, a senior officer of the Metropolitan Police Department said, "When we see e-scooter users at nighttime in downtown areas, the first thing we suspect is drunken driving."

DISCUSSION

1. What comes to mind when you think of Qatar?
2. Have you been to the Middle East? If so, where did you visit? If not, what country would you most like to visit?
3. What sports tournaments would you like to attend someday? Who would you take with you?
4. Has your country hosted any major tournaments in recent years?
5. What are the biggest sporting events of the year in your country?