

## World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2012 Service Report



Thoughts of peace are perhaps, the best medium to carry our compassion to the victims of road traffic accidents, and also their bereaved families. On 18 November 2012, as people across the globe observed the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR), the Brahma Kumaris dedicated their World Meditation Hour\* to observance of this day. Special programmes organized across four continents, featured distinctive and inspiring activities, in addition to the common platform of reflective meditation. The reflective evenings encouraged individuals to contribute their thoughts of peace and good wishes, as well as be inspired to practice appropriate road behaviours and to follow rules of the road. In an extended period of meditation, the practice of 'traffic control' of the mind was experimented.

(\* World Meditation Hour - On third Sunday of every month, Brahma Kumaris centers across the globe dedicate an hour to World Peace - 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm local time).

- **Mount Abu, India (HQ of Brahma Kumaris):** Three radio shows were aired on the theme of Road Safety on the community radio station 'Radio Madhuban' on 16th and 18th Nov. These were aired during the shows Youth Junction and Spotlight Values. In the evening of 18th Nov, powerful meditation was held for one hour in the presence of Dadi Janki, Chief Administrative Head and Dadi Ratanmohini, Joint Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris.
- **New York, USA:** Members of the local community came together at Harmony House in Great Neck Long Island to offer peace and power to victims of road accidents and natural calamities, in light of the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. Individuals with first-hand experiences narrated life-changing stories, public announcements were showcased and a poem was recited to motivate the participants to complete a commitment card, which invited them to commit to road safe behaviour.
- **Khoyratty, Mauritius:** A public function was organized during which various stakeholders shared their views and experiences on the subject. Participants who addressed the group included Mr. B. Buntipilly, Special Advisor on Road Safety matters at the Special Road Safety Unit of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Mr. B. Munusami, a well-known Police Sergeant at the Road Safety Unit delegated by the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Emmanuel Renard, French expert on Road Safety.
- **Colombo, Sri Lanka:** A two hour programme on the theme 'Good Wishes for Road Traffic Victims' was held at Dehiwala. It included a small drama, group discussion on the theme of 'Accidents and Carelessness', a short talk on 'Spirituality for Safety' and an hour of guided meditation.
- **Barcelona, Spain:** The Association for preventing road accidents of Barcelona invited Brahma Kumaris to share insights at an interface programme on road safety and WDR.
- **Johannesburg, South Africa:** Inspiring experiences were shared at a special two hour programme organised at Lenasia. A young survivor of road accident, Atish Lalla, now quadriplegic, shared how he dealt with this challenge in life and now inspires others to live with Love, Hope and Faith. The Chairperson of an NGO 'Compassionate Friends' and Rehana Moosaje – the MMC for Transport in Johannesburg also shared their experiences, crucial information and suggestions. Everyone involved in an Interfaith Prayer, followed by Meditation.
- **London, UK:** Global Co-operation House was glad to welcome Brigette Chaudhry MBE, founder of the UK Charity – Road Peace, which first started WDR. Her presence was special at the International Meditation hour dedicated to WDR.
- **Calgary, Canada:** The Calgary BK Centre hosted a J.A.M. & Chai event, a forum for people to engage in a thought-provoking group discussion. The chat in this café-style event was focused on the question: What five qualities do you feel play a major role in road safety? The discussions inspired all to enjoy mindful behaviour on the roads.
- **Mumbai, India:** At two locations in Borivali, special meditation was held with guided commentaries. An interactive talk was held on subtle communication and on identifying the spiritual powers needed by different stakeholders in relation to road accidents viz. victims, survivors, their families, emergency service providers, traffic personnel etc.
- **Orissa, India:** A rally and public function were organized on 18 November in observance of WDR. Participants included Block Development Officers - Pradeep Kumar Sahu and Gayatri Naik, Motor Vehicle Inspector - Nirmala Mahaty, Senior Journalist - Balaji Tarasia and President of Truck Owners' Association - Sanjay Nanda.

● "Slow down, don't hurry!"

- Atish Lalla, Young survivor of Road Accident, now quadriplegic, serves as a motivator, Johannesburg

● "After more than 27 years of experience in the field of road safety, I now believe that spirituality has been the missing dimension in road safety policies".

- Mr B. Buntipilly - Special Advisor on Road Safety Matters at the PMO, Mauritius

**The Chariot**

The car moves slowly down the road  
A destination well in mind  
Firm thoughtful hands do control  
Completing its journey, a part of time

The motor growls a stronger beat  
The road is clear a race track looming  
Driver sinks lower into the seat  
Racing driver emerges, heart beating

Grand Prix time the road is thronged  
With the masses cheering heroes across the line  
Machine and driver power on  
Wait something is wrong

The car is completely in control  
Taking the driver for a trip  
To join it is a complete disaster  
Refuse for the municipal tip

I return and seek control  
Of this chariot of my mind  
Am I a passenger in this life I lead?  
For in my hand my future I do hold

If I wander there and here  
What hope will this vehicle have  
No intellect to think it through  
And crash into a wall of fear

So – Who drives this chariot of ours  
Past experiences of woe  
Or future goals of love and bliss  
Hands lovingly and firmly steer  
You will be guided by angels softly singing  
Directions for you to hear

By Frank Wilson  
Brahma Kumaris, Bali, Indonesia



**New York, USA:** Introducing the links between Road Safety and Spirituality - Gayatri Naraine and Erik Larson.

*Glimpses of events organized in observance of WDR 2012*



**Khoyratty, Mauritius:** Mr.B.Munusami, a well-known Police Sergeant at the Road Safety Unit talks to the audience. He emphasized that change in attitude and behaviour is most essential to curb the casualties on roads



**Mumbai, India:** Guided group meditation in progress in the precincts of a garden, contributing the power and fragrance of peace, compassion and courage to all victims and survivors of road crashes.

**Safety through Spiritual Life Skills:** This is a road safety initiative being implemented by the Transport and Travel Wing, RERF and Brahma Kumaris, synchronized with the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011 – 2020. Through this project initiative, we engage with multiple stakeholders through meaningful and creative mediums, to bring home the idea that peace of mind, inner stability and application of human values are fundamental for enhancing safety. Observance of WDR 2012 was one of the many activities under this project. For more information, visit [www.bkroadsafety.org](http://www.bkroadsafety.org)