

**WORLD DAY  
OF REMEMBRANCE  
FOR ROAD CRASH  
VICTIMS**

**New Delhi, November 2008**

**Press Note**

Road traffic injuries are a growing public health issue, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups of road users including the poor. Globally approximately 1.2 million people are killed and more than 20 million get seriously injured in road accidents. India is crossing the 1, 00,000 mark of road fatalities in addition to more than 1.3 million serious injuries qualify as the highest on the map of global road crash causality.

On the one hand Indian roads are witnessing a revolution of modernity spelt by the automobile industry and on the other the situation is made worse by rapid and unplanned urbanisation. The absence of adequate infrastructure (which includes that of traffic management) together with the lack of regulatory framework has made the unprecedented rise in the number of road accidents all the more worrisome.

Following statistics issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India.

The recorded data of the number of people killed and injured in road accidents since 1999

<b>Year</b>	<b>All roads</b>		
	<b>Accidents</b>	<b>No. of persons killed</b>	<b>Persons injured</b>
<b>1999</b>	386456	81966	375051
<b>2000</b>	391449	78911	399265
<b>2001</b>	405637	80888	405216
<b>2002</b>	407497	84674	408711
<b>2003</b>	406726	85998	435122
<b>2004</b>	429910	92618	464521
<b>2005</b>	439255	94968	465282
<b>2006</b>	460920	105749	496481

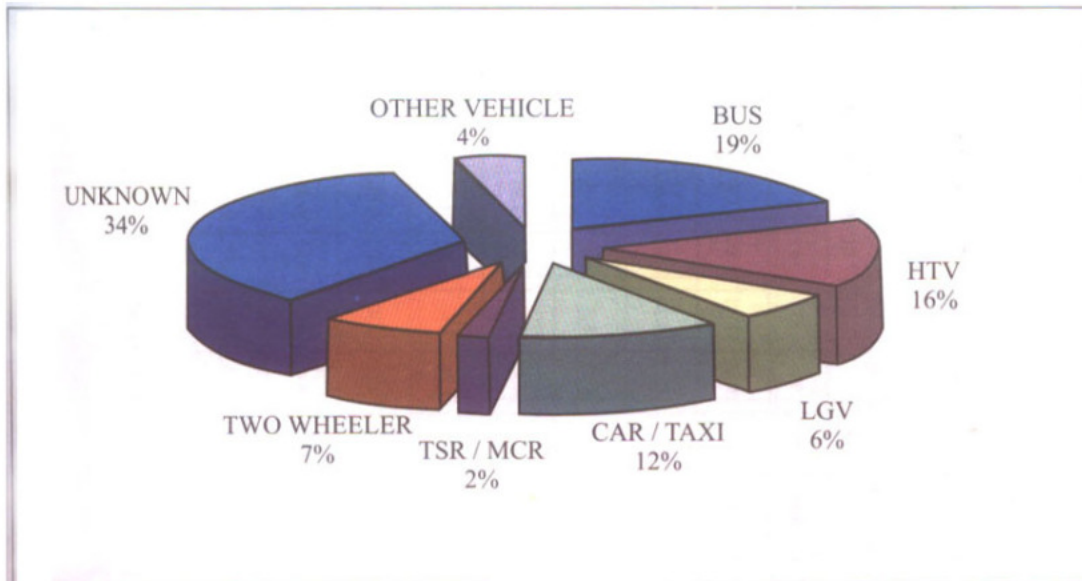
### Accident Investigation & Analysis

Due to lack of scientific accident investigation, information analysed is limited to basic statistics of time, place, victim, impacted vehicle etc. The causes and consequences of such crashes are not adequately known. Remedial measures to avoid such accidents in the future are also arbitrary. And it may not be wrong to presume that in most cases the guilty go unpunished.

### Lack of scientific evidence collection

Various factors including inability to reform old police investigation systems and delays in reaching accident spots, lack of confidence on police in the public as well as a careless attitude of the public towards road accidents leads to the acquittal of the guilty..

The fact is evident by the following chart of road crash fatalities (Traffic Police Statistics 2004) that out of the 1832 fatalities 34% were unknown vehicles or hit and run cases.



### Lack of responsibility of road making and maintenance authorities:

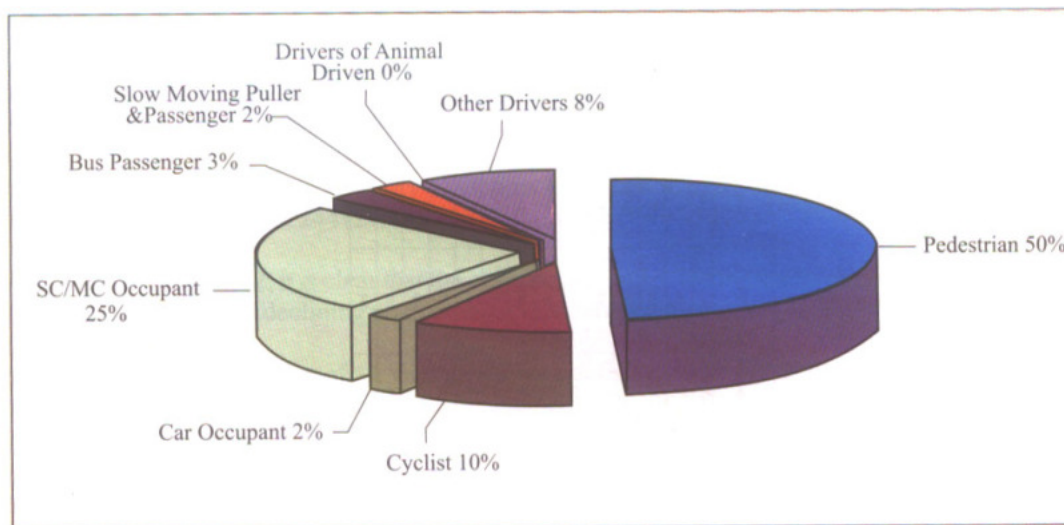
One of the major contributing factors in road crashes is faulty road and traffic engineering and uninformed hazards during road maintenance and construction etc. In case of road accidents in India no definition of liability is spelt out for road construction and maintenance authorities who violate the basic safety norms of

road and traffic engineering. Suitable amendments are also required in the Motor Vehicles Act for holding such civic agencies responsible and awarding necessary compensation for victims of such negligence.

Need for a political & bureaucratic will towards road safety management :

There is no information of a politician or a government official resigning , or be dismissed on account of road accidents happening in their domain. The Government has not yet defined the basis of 'traffic management' including the role and responsibility of traffic management authorities. There is a need to create political and bureaucratic will to make such definitions so that a genuine attempt is made in developing a safe road environment.

The Victims: The victims in road accident cases are more often the poor. And each such accident drives the family to more poverty. As per Delhi Traffic Police accident statistics road crash fatalities include 50% pedestrians, 10% cyclists, 25% two wheelers riders and 2% non-motorised transport pullers/passengers making the vulnerable victims amount to 85% of the total fatalities.



Families of victims who have died in road accidents prefer to take the happening as destiny and do not venture out to fight these cases due to system ridden hiccups and fear of police torture, court delays etc.

Many of those victims with serious injuries who have survived the road crash face life full of torture and are unable to cope up with expenses of medical treatment and litigation fee etc. chose to come to term with life as it comes.

## The World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims

Road deaths and injuries are sudden, violent, traumatic events, and their impact is long-lasting, often permanent. Each year, millions of newly bereaved and injured people from every corner of the world are added to the many Millions already suffering as the result of a road crash.

The sense of grief and distress of this huge group of people is all the greater because many of the victims are young, because many of the crashes could and should have been prevented and because the response to road death and injury and to road crash victims is often experienced as inadequate, cruelly unsympathetic, and inappropriate to a loss of life or quality of life.

This special Remembrance Day therefore responds to the great need of road crash victims for public recognition of their loss and pain.

The United Nations in the General Assembly in October 2005 declared that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each November would be marked as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, and requested member countries and international community to give appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families.

IRTE as a member of the United Nations Global Road Safety Collaboration has taken this initiative to observe this World Remembrance Day across the country. IRTE is supported in this endeavour by the Road Peace, UK, as well as the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR).

Though the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday falls on November 16<sup>th</sup> to commemorate this day the IRTE & Delhi Traffic Police are organizing a special event at the Traffic Pavilion, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 11.00 am.

The Joint Commissioner of Police, Mr. S N Shrivastava IPS, Addl. Commissioner of Police, Mr. Muktesh Chander IPS will participate in the Workshop, Mr. Rohit Baluja, President- IRTE will give the information about the World Day of Remembrance, Dr. M C Mishra, Head Trauma Care Centre-AIIMS and Dr. Amit Gupta, Asst. Professor of Surgery-AIIMS will address the gathering, Dr. Yatindra Kharbanda, Senior Orthopaedic Surgeon- Apollo Hospital will talk about the need of immediate medical care to road crash victims.

The most important highlight of the event will be to listen to accident victims/families who will relate their real time experiences.

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