

## Service Report

Brahma Kumaris centres across various locations globally, organized solemn gatherings to collectively offer thoughts of peace for victims of road crashes. Representatives of government and private institutions also participated in these events. These events also served to reinforce that the loss of these precious lives must serve as a reminder for all of us to play our roles actively in enhancing road safety.

## **International**

### **Mauritius**

To observe the UN World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic victims on 17th November 2013, a special programme was organized by the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University in collaboration with the Special Road Safety Unit of Prime Minister's Office and Traffic Branch, at the seat of Brahma Kumaris, Curepipe.

The programme symbolically started with candle lighting in silence, in remembrance of God and road traffic victims.

Mr S. Doomun, Police Inspector of Traffic Branch, helped to invite bereaved families of victims of recent accidents.

More than 50 persons joined the event with photographs of their dear ones who are no more.

Mr Ben Buntipilly, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Road Safety invited everyone to form part of a forum for consistent communication to sensitize road users through personal experiences to help in reducing fatal accidents. He added: *"Only those who have gone through the trauma (of having lost a dear one) can*

*bring their experience to sensitize other people.*” He stated that the Government will soon come with a bill forbidding the use of mobile phones for pedestrians. However, the main reason for commemorating this event was to provide a psychological, moral and spiritual support to the bereaved families.

Sister Geeta, the Coordinator of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Curepipe, expressed her deep good wishes and pure feelings for everyone present in the audience and for the whole world at large. She said *“let’s altogether send our good thoughts, good and peaceful vibrations, to those departed souls and that God will take good care of them.”* She said that the Soul is eternal. *“We need to create a good thought every morning before we start driving. When our mind is peaceful, we will be peaceful too.”* She gave some tips for meditation on how to control our mind.

After a brief explanation on Meditation, everyone participated in a 30-minute guided meditation in our local language.

After the meditation session, few of them expressed their feelings:

*“I lost my father in an accident caused by a drunk driver, since then life has not been a bed of roses. We miss him. For us, there is no Divali, no New year, nothing.”* She made an appeal: *“Please, do not drive if you are drunk. It can destroy the life of so many people, the innocent ones.”* *“We must learn to live even after the death of dear ones... we must be careful on roads.”*

The programme was covered by media. It was broadcast on the same day in the news on national TV (MBC). The husband of one victim was interviewed and he related what he learnt during the programme. He said he learnt two things: “there are only 2 healers: Time and God. He learnt how to connect with God and harness the inner self. He also learnt that one tragedy may precipitate another tragedy. Therefore, we have to control the self with the help of meditation.” There was also an interview on a private radio (Radio Plus).

We had also the presence of Mr Ramesh Moonshiram, the CEO of Brammer Bank and member of Rotary Club of Curepipe.

## **Lenasia, South Africa**

*Powerful waves of silence filled the room in remembrance of all Road Traffic Victims and their families.*

The Program started with warm welcome by Brother Mitan who introduced the Brahma Kumaris and guest speaker Siphonhlapo Operations Manager, Road Safety and Transport promotions for the City of Johannesburg.

*Feelings from the Heart*, both Sister Shobna and Sister Shirley shared their heart felt experiences on how spirituality gave them the strength and power to cope with losing a close family member.

By having the courage they were not only able to forgive someone, most important they were able to forgive themselves. By having spiritual knowledge this encouraged them to hold on to good memories and subdue the pain one feels by healing through spiritual power and a stage of acceptance. This creating great compassion to those who have lost loved ones.

Siphonhlapo introduced the Streets Alive Road Safety Awareness Campaign in Johannesburg.

After having experienced a tragic accident and losing a loved one a lesson was learnt, all questions such as what could I have done differently? The awareness was that solutions such as physical things such as speed breakers, wide roads etc was the solution to reduce accidents on the road. The main factor leading to most road accidents were related to behavioural human issues and the decisions we make. The road safety problem is a sign of illness in society. The direct symptoms in society from observation can be easily seen such as: speed problems, alcohol and driving, vehicle conditions and road user behaviour. The indirect symptoms in road safety are not obvious and require more examination such as the traffic management, education, and traffic police enforcement legislations.

Going forward the community safety program has identified that they need more and better Behavioural change, Education and awareness, Enforcement, Community partnership and to Lower speed limits and to look at other ways of calming streets.

The City of Joburg has adopted the following transport values to promote behavior change for road safety: Accountability, Co-operation, Honesty, Respect, Ubuntu.

The transport department and community safety runs awareness and education program focused on school children and road users using Pedestrian Angel, a mobile unit and industrial theatre to promote behavioral change.

Sister Magela shared that road safety depends on the individual, every thought or word we speak influences us either negatively or positively. To have the awareness of what kind of driver, person, pedestrian or passenger am I? Do I react through neglect carelessness or is it intentional. To take few seconds to ground yourself before starting your car, arm yourself with power and have the awareness that God is my protection.

Through a guided meditation Sister Shirley created an experience on how to relax the body and clear the mind of any negative feeling, filling the mind with positive thoughts. This inspiring everyone in making a pledge an effort to be more aware in bringing about Road safety.

### **Georgetown, Guyana**

On Sunday, 17th November 2013, the main centre in Guyana had a small, simple but beautiful programme for the observance World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. From 6:15 to 6:30pm a background to the decade for road safety and WDR was given, and the message for the day by the UN Secretary General was read. This was followed by a beautiful guided meditation based in healing and good wishes, in a dim-lit setting with candles. The experience stimulated an interest in learning meditation. Thanks for the ideas that made this happen – Br Mark.

## Suriname



*Remembrance is ...  
The ability to connect with the power of thought  
The subtle communication of a loving heart  
A vivid vision of the invisible*

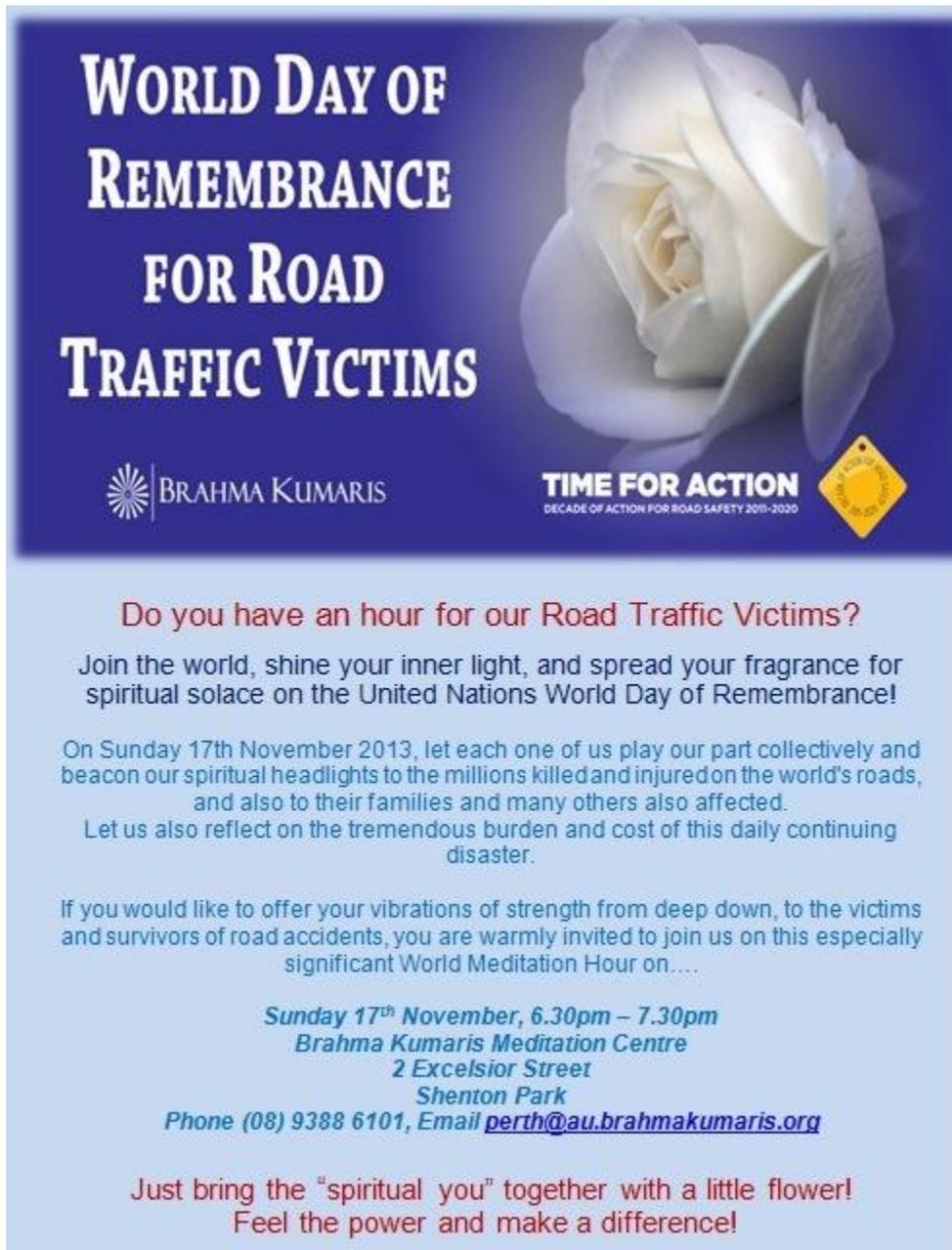
**U wordt van harte uitgenodigd  
voor een meditatief samenzijn  
zondag 17 November a.s.  
van 18:30 – 19:30  
Cattleyastraat 12**

**World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is...**

*An opportunity to offer solace to the departed souls  
A day to empathize with the bereaved families  
A day to salute those who regularly handle post-accident scenarios  
A time to dedicate precious moments to express that we Value Life  
A silent, yet profound acceptance of the pressing need for Change  
An occasion to pledge for positive change, beginning with the self*

 Brahma Kumaris doneert wereldwijd het uur voor Wereld Vrede Meditatie  
in liefdevolle herinnering aan verkeersslachtoffers. 

## Perth, Australia



The poster features a dark blue background with a large, detailed image of a white rose on the right side. The text is in white and yellow. At the bottom, there is a light blue section with text in red and black.

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

 BRAHMA KUMARIS

**TIME FOR ACTION**  
DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY 2011-2020



**Do you have an hour for our Road Traffic Victims?**

Join the world, shine your inner light, and spread your fragrance for spiritual solace on the United Nations World Day of Remembrance!

On Sunday 17th November 2013, let each one of us play our part collectively and beacon our spiritual headlights to the millions killed and injured on the world's roads, and also to their families and many others also affected.

Let us also reflect on the tremendous burden and cost of this daily continuing disaster.

If you would like to offer your vibrations of strength from deep down, to the victims and survivors of road accidents, you are warmly invited to join us on this especially significant World Meditation Hour on....

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm – 7.30pm**  
**Brahma Kumaris Meditation Centre**  
**2 Excelsior Street**  
**Shenton Park**  
**Phone (08) 9388 6101, Email [perth@au.brahmakumaris.org](mailto:perth@au.brahmakumaris.org)**

**Just bring the "spiritual you" together with a little flower!**  
**Feel the power and make a difference!**

With enthusiasm, a program was held at Perth's Main Centre, Shenton Park, Western Australia for this special memorial day. Attached are some photos and the

flyer for the program which was posted on the UN Day of Remembrance Website as well as Facebook. An A0 size poster related to road victims was created, printed and laminated.

25 souls were seated in a circle with the poster in the centre. A variety of motor accessories were placed around the image to create an accident type scenario. To express warmth and sympathy, everyone placed lit candles around the picture and flowers in vases to a live background commentary. A powerful healing atmosphere was ignited to offer comfort to affected victims and their families. Toli was distributed in deep silence and each one shared their experience in just one word which included compassion, powerful, healing, tribute and many other deep sentiments. Over deep silence, toli was distributed and there was reluctance to break the silence and leave the Centre.

## **Thailand**

*‘Spiritual Rose’ song created the atmosphere of ‘Fragrance Forever in our fond memory of the values and virtues of our loved ones. We made a pledge to be ‘Ever – Ready’ in the game of ‘suddenly’.*

Today, over 30 B.K. students got together the whole day for accumulating 8- hour yoga in action to commemorate world Day of remembrance for road traffic victims. All thinking patterns and activities of 8 groups were structured on the basis of 8 powers. Each power presented in meditative stage continuously from amrit vela to noon. At 5 pm, the programme started with refreshment, video presentation on “Who Am I?” to give knowledge about the soul as a driver who controls the car (a body) to its destination. A soul with the powerful intellect can lead to the destination in life safely.

Our guest of honor was **Air force Colonel Dr. Boonlert Julakiet**, former Director of Bhumibol Hospital who used to be the head of emergency department for 12 years, dealing with life & death cases. He did the research on causes of death to give the scientific reasons why people die on the basis of religious principles. He became well known public speaker on how to lead a life in a worthwhile way with his short expression “it does not matter to live a long life but ever-ready to die”. He mentioned causes of death such as normal death at full lifespan; interruption of karmic accounts caused by lack of discipline and concentration. He referred to the 3 characteristics of existence with the belief that nothing is permanent. Everything

is perishable. He believes that life after death is the meeting with the Supreme. So he recommended 3 principles of living: 1) To live to serve the Supreme for the welfare of human species 2). To become good and happy 3). To die in a natural, glorious, and equal state in order to experience the least suffering when death makes us apart. Firstly, one must see the impermanence, state of suffering and non-self in order to make effort to leave the devilish natures and perform charitable act. Secondly, one must not hurt the beloved ones but fulfil one's responsibility while he is alive. Thirdly, one must blossom with wisdom and be free from blind faith.

**B.K.Sr.Nuan**, next speaker confirmed his principles above are related to the teachings of Brahma Kumaris in which The Supreme soul, the Supreme Father or Baba teaches us to become world benefactors on the basis of self-transformation by being the instrument in Godly service in order that we finish the old accounts and accumulate the pure charitable accounts. In this, one must always remind oneself not to become careless and use every moment at the present time in a worthwhile way. The slogan of Mama is "Consider every moment the last moment" If we are faithful to life on the basis of truth, we become good and happy all the time. From the angle of wisdom, we change problems into the entertaining games and change the situations into gifts so that we can learn to do our best at the present time and always create the better future.

B.K. Sr.Nuan saw the connection between Dr.Boonlert's ideas and Baba's teachings, to prove the universal truth, especially those whose heart is widely opened can imbibe and understand this universal principles naturally.

In relations to this, B.K. Sr.Nuan has the highest aim to become a Godly instrument who is constantly powerful, having One Baba and none other, free from attachment to anyone in order to remain beyond. However, when her youngest brother instantly died on spot because of his car crash with a lorry 2 years ago, she realized that attachment remained hidden and could not keep her powerful stage. She asked spiritual brothers and sisters to send her brother soul to the high state. She got the insight that we do not know what is going to happen, how? with whom?; we must be ever-ready thinking that each moment is the last moment in order to do our best in everything now. Whatever happens, I am ever-ready. She said "this happened to me and I fell but I got a lot of ideas to stand up and create my valuable life again." She related her story in a letter to Baba. Her recorded voice reading the letter was played after Dr.Boonlert's talk for all participants to learn from her story as a case study.

After that we were in remembrance of the goodness of our beloved ones who departed to give good wishes to all departed souls. We made a pledge to be disciplined in following the traffic rules. Candles were lit in front of the photo of Brahma Baba and Dadiji having Supreme light shining in the centre of the room by which the deep yoga stage was created in dedication to souls and the world. At the end everyone received blessings, shared experience and celebrated the 62th birthday ceremony of Sr.La which co-occurred today .... Om Shanti.

Thanks Baba and World Family for the intention behind the word 'Remembrance' used by UN World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. This was the purpose that ignited the collective effort for B.K.family to sit together with the world as it coincided with the International Meditation Hour practiced by the Brahma Kumaris on the third Sunday of every month.

Thanks Thai B.K.family for the habit of 'traffic control mind' instilled practically for the whole good day of remembrance.

Thanks Thai local governments for three big road monitors in Nonthaburi Province where B.K. center located, promoted daily the project till 17 November 13

'Pattani' Province, southern part of Thailand surrounded by terrorism got local police department cooperated and made a pledge for 'Safety Road' behaviors.

## **Coventry, UK**

On Sunday November 17th 2013, the Brahma Kumaris Centre in Coventry hosted an event to mark "**World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims**". The aim was to support the UN project, and also to discuss the relevance of spirituality to the topic.

To begin with everyone shared their vision of "**A world in which we are safe to travel**". The qualities which emerged from the sharing, those qualities which would be visible in people, included Tolerance, Patience, Discipline, Concentration and Alertness.

This was followed by a presentation on ways in which a spiritual approach to life enables us to handle the challenges we face as pedestrians, drivers, cyclists etc. The role of meditation was also discussed.

Each one shared personal experiences of times when they have felt unsafe while travelling. Describing behaviour patterns that made us feel **unsafe**, helped to raise the awareness of personal responsibility as road users.

There then followed a description of some of the key principles within the teachings of the Brahma Kumaris. Namely – **Self Awareness, Positive attitude to others and A personal relationship with God**. These principles, it was explained enable individuals to develop human qualities for safe travel.

Concluding the session, Centre Coordinator Cherry Steinberg, described the Brahma Kumaris approach to spirituality, saying that it was not simply a matter of “Turning to God and hoping for His protection”, but one which leads to empowerment and self responsibility.

The group then sat together for an hour in meditation sending vibrations of healing and comfort to victims and their carers.

One of the participants gave the following comment: “I enjoyed this event. It has made me realise, while I’m driving, that even if I adjust the heating system in the car while driving, which I needed to do today, I must take care that it does not distract me from being a safe driver”.

## **National**

### **Bhosari, Pune**

There was 30 minute lecture given by BK Karunabehen on importance of mental stability during driving to avoid accidents and how meditation can help in attaining mental stability. Candle lighting was done by the entire audience in remembrance of the traffic victims and also a few minutes silence was observed. Mr. Jitendra Patil – Sub Regional RTO was the chief guest. Ramesh Yadav – Plant Manager of Hindustan Petroleum -Chakan, shared his experiences of promoting road safe behaviour amongst the driving staff and workmen and the positive results of Rajyoga observed in their behaviour.

## Mumbai

1. Borivali (E): We had a meditative evening on Sunday, 17th November for World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims and International Meditation Hour. The guests were: Bro. Siddhartha Pahwa – CEO, Meru Cabs, Bro. Sunil Savla, Proprietor, Neeta Travels, Bro. Nitin Dossa, Executive Chairman, Western India Automobile Association. Divyabehn, National Co-ordinator, Transport & Travel Wing, RERF shared her inspirations at the evening. Bro. Sunil Savla shared a personal experience where he put on the seat belt in his car and within 30 seconds, the vehicle met with a high impact collision. But for the seatbelt, it would have been fatal for him. It gave him a new life! Bro Nitin Dossa highlighted the importance of not using earplugs while walking on the road, and inspired that Brahma Kumaris and WIAA may jointly do something for this cause.
2. Borivali (W): A brief session was held on the significance of WDR and the spiritual tools for Road Safety. It was followed by guided meditation for sharing vibrations of peace and power with victims, survivors of road crashes and their families. Bro. Gopal Shetty, MLA, presided the programme
3. Gorai, Borivali (W): A special meditation programme at GORAI CENTRE – with Mumbai Deputy Mayor Mohan Mithbavkar , M.Y.Chauhan- BEST Depot manager (Bandra to dahisar), Mr.KUNDRA Manager of Bank Of India, Dr.Gopal Shastry (Scientist)
4. Malad, Mumbai: Malad Center organized a session for the Dindoshi Bus Depot staff at their training center. There was 30 minute lecture given by BK Kuntibehen on importance of mental stability during driving to avoid accidents and how meditation can help in attaining mental stability. Followed by lecture there candle lighting done by the entire audience in remembrance of the traffic victims and also few minutes silence was observed. The session was well appreciated by the Senior Managers. There was candle lighting done by all followed by 1 hour meditation to give peace & power to the affected victims and their families. This was attended by various guests – Dr Shyam Agrawal, Well Known Eye Surgeon & Social Activist, Ashok Patel, Shiv Sena Malad Shakha Pramukh, Brahmakumari

Kuntibehen, Supriya Pawar, MNS Ex-Corporator & Social Activist, Bhushan Wade, Social Activist and others.

## **Vapi, Gujrat**

Mr. Ramesh Verma (Director of transport. Daman diu, n Dadara Nagar haveli ), Mr Parmar, (PI, Vapi.as Representative of ASP), MR Rafik (Principal), Rashmi ben were present on the dias.

Total 22 photographs of departed souls were displayd as a remembrance to offer pure vibration.

The Evening was really beautiful with candle light meditation. Total 180 souls were present to spread vibrations for peace and power.

## **Mt. Abu, Rajasthan**

Radio Madhuban held the following programmes for the above event.

1. Nayi Kiran: 7 to 9am (Morning Show)  
It covered the history of the day and gives brief intro about why UN has declared the day. Mr. Jitendar Soni, SDM, Mt. Abu will give good wishes and condolence message for the victims.
2. Aapka Swasthy Aap Ke Haath: 9 to 9.30 am (Live phone in with doctor)  
Doctor Giriraj, Trauma specialist, GHTC  
The doctor guest spoke about the importance of first aid while travelling, what are all the things to be carried. In case of any trauma what are the initial steps to be taken, how to maintain the mental health. How does drink and drive distracts judgement and leads to accidents.
3. Salam E Zindagi: 1 to 2pm (Senior citizen special)  
This was an interview with the senior citizen Mr. Rameshwarlal who is coping with the loss of family member in the road accident – the moral, social and economic loss that has accured after the loss of the family member. How are they now recovering? What do they want to appeal to the general public?

4. Spotlight Values: 4 to 5pm (Spotlight on values in every walk of life)  
An interview with a Govt. authority. Knowing the different reasons for accidents, statistics of accidents and the victims during the year. What are the values to be practiced for a safe journey. Mind body coordination that is required while driving.
5. An Interview with Rajyogini Divya Ji 9.30 to 10pm on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 13, 12 to 12.30 pm & 9.30 to 10pm on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov' 13  
This interview gave insights on what does maintaining silence mean. How do we bestow peace for the victims? How does it affect their life? Why do we have to give peace vibrations? What impact it has on our life....

### **Palakkad, Kerala**

It was a state level program during which the Road Safety Awareness Campaign was launched. Other events included inauguration of Palakkad Trauma Care & Road Safety Utility Services by District Panchayath President, State level, by State Transport Minister on Nov 5 at Thiruvananthapuram. This society will be training volunteers to do first aid and take victims to hospital. Also a Trust was formed and relief was distributed to poor victims.

Participants at the programme included:

Sri.Aryadan Mohammed, Honorable Kerala Govt. Minister for Transport & Energy

Sri.Rishiraj Singh, IPS, Transport Commissioner,

Sri.P.V.Varghese, Transport Dy.Commissioner

Sri.Shafi Parambil, MLA, palakkad

Sri.Kandamuthan, Jilla Panchayath President

Sri. Vijayan, SP, Crime Branch

Sri.Philomina, Municipal Councillor

Sri.Sahadevan, Municipal Councillor

Sri.Dr.P.M.Muhammed Najeeb, RTO, Palakkad

B.K.Meena, Coordinator, BK Palakkad & Malappuram

**Ahmedabad**

## World Day of Remembrance for Traffic Victim

### विश्व सड़क यातायात पीड़ितों के लिए स्मरण दिवस पर कार्यक्रम

**सुख शांति भवन** :- आज विश्व सड़क यातायात पीड़ितों के स्मरण दिवस पर अहमदाबाद म्युनिसिपल ट्रान्सपोर्ट कोर्पोरेशन के ड्राइवर्स के लिए रीफ्रेशर ट्रेनिंग का कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में अहमदाबाद म्युनिसिपल ट्रान्सपोर्ट कोर्पोरेशन के चेयरमेन भ्राता बाबुभाई झडफीया, डीरेक्टर ओफ ट्राफिक भ्राता जीतेन्द्र महेता १०८ के ट्रेनर भ्राता मयंक बारोट की उपस्थिति में मुख्य महमान के स्थान से ब्रह्माकुमारी नंदा बहन ने अपने वक्तव्य में तनाव मुक्त ड्राइविंग के तरीके बताए। उन्होंने बताया कि शरीर एक कार है और हम आत्मा ड्राइवर हैं। जैसे सलामत ड्राइविंग के लिए गाडी में ब्रेक और एक्सीलेटर पर कंट्रोल आवश्यक है, वैसे अपने विचारों के ट्राफिक को कंट्रोल करने हेतु मेडीटेशन का अभ्यास आवश्यक है।

इस अवसर पर ब्र. कु. जयश्री बहन ने कहा कि परमात्माने हम सभी को सृष्टि रंगमंच पर भेजा है तो ट्राफिक के नियमों को रोड पर पालन करना आवश्यक समझते हैं वैसे जीवन के कुछ नियम बना कर पालन करना जरूरी है। सभी को अकस्मात को रोकने के लिए संकल्प कराया।

१ मिनट मौन रख कर पीड़ितों को श्रद्धासुमन देकर श्रद्धांजली अर्पण किया।

कार्यक्रम के दौरान मन की शांति के लिए ब्र. कु. हेतल बहन ने मास मेडीटेशन का अभ्यास कराया। जिससे उपस्थित ड्राइवर्स परमशांति की अनुभूति की और अपने विचारों को एकाग्र, शांत एवम् शीतल बनाने का तरीका जाना। कार्यक्रम के अंत में डीरेक्टर ओफ ट्राफिक भ्राता जीतेन्द्र भाई ने रेग्युलेटर ट्रेनिंग कार्यक्रम बनाकर आगामी दिनों में शुरू करने का शुभ संकल्प रखा।

अहमदाबाद म्युनिसिपल ट्रान्सपोर्ट कोर्पोरेशन के भूतपूर्व ड्राइवर, कर्मचारी बडी संख्या में उपस्थित रहे।



## Voices heard at WDR 2013 events

Slow down, don't hurry

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

By current trends, in Africa, by 2020, deaths from Road Accidents will be higher than HIV and Cancer combined..... We need to deepen values in communities to prevent road accidents.

– Rehana Moosaje – the MMC for Transport in 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

“Traffic control” of the mind needs to be practiced at regular intervals throughout the day, specially at the start of the day/ journey as a means to empower the self in order to enhance our ability to remain cool, calm, focused and alert under all circumstances.

– BK Gaitree – Mauritius

“I was very impressed by the quality of silence, the quality of exchanges and by the peace which reigns here. I had no idea at which point meditation allowed one to be resourced. Thank you very much.”

– A participant at the event in Mauritius