## Almost 27,000 Indian Truck Drivers Die Due To Lack Of Sleep. One Man Trying to Change This. Surabhi Sinha - 9th April 2016

sleep on.

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question why and how it became the driver's fault.

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Sadly, the above mentioned truth is not recognized or acknowledged my many.

"The truck driver is the fighting soldier of country's economic system."

definitely not one of the respectable jobs. They have no lives, they are constantly on the roads, driving day and night, 24×7, away from their families in all seasons and all festivities. And the worst part is the number of deaths that road accidents, especially trucks cause. And the blame goes on the driver. Nobody stops for a minute and asks the

Truck drivers in India live a life that is not considered at par with other jobs and

Ramesh Agarwal, the owner of the Agarwal Packers and Movers famous across the nation recognized and realized what he could do right by the truck drivers and is doing exactly that - providing them with cots to

started clapping, only to find himself being the only person doing so. He says, "I looked around, and immediately realized I had done something wrong. I asked around, and that's when I realized the presenter had said India was leading the

He got back to India and after a lot of research he found that out of

automatic response, assuming it was a praise, and considering his weak English, he

Ramesh Agarwal recalls that the idea for a service center dedicated

He says that he heard the speaker say "India is world's number one". As an

conference and listening to a presentation on transport.

number of road deaths in the world."

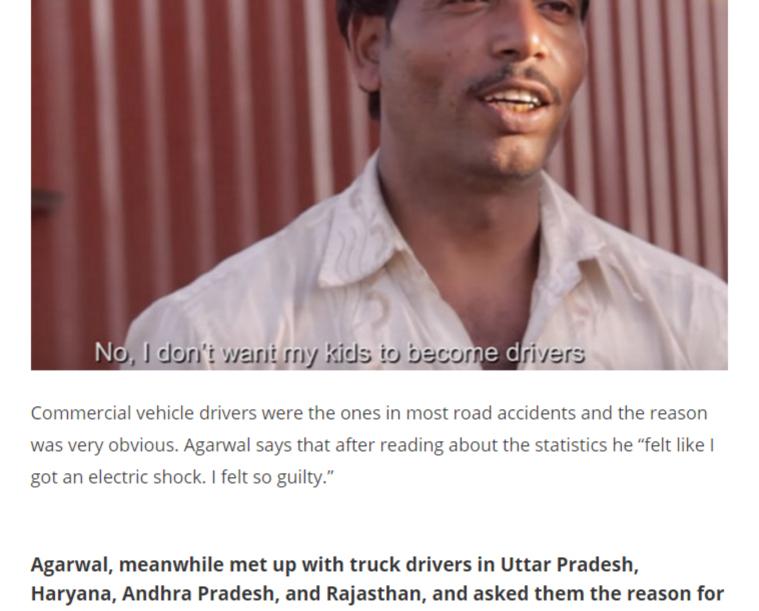
their lack of sleep

Nidra Daan Center

especially for truck drivers came to him while he was in Istanbul for a

lack of sleep.

the 1,39,000 people died in road accidents every year, 26,678 died due to



could sleep. Even though now trucks manufactured by good companies are more comfortable, they can't sleep in them for extended periods of time because of security problems.

The truck drivers in India lead a life that involves them sleeping for only

2-3 hours a day or taking pills to stay awake

He said, "All of them laughed at my question and asked me where did I think they

Image source

Most of these pills (or as called by them – kali golis) are opium based and addictive.

And that is when, together with the AITWA (All India Transport Welfare

Association), Ramesh Agwarwal set up the Driver Service Center, aka the

The motive? To provide our truck drivers sleep, other facilities and subsequently avoid road accidents. The Driver Service Center is located somewhere at NH-8 between Jaipur and Ajmer

''अग्रवाल मूवर्स ग्रुप'' द्वारा देश को समर्पित प्रथम

'Nidra Daan', a Unique Initiative Towards Safer Roads by Agarwal Movers Group

The other facility is ready to open near NH-6 in Malkhapur, on the route between

drivers and = and all they have to do is sign a statement that says they will use the

The Driver Service Center, has the capacity to fit in 250 trucks at a time,

and has 500 cots for drivers to sleep and get rest. In addition to that,

clean bathrooms, barber services, small repair shops are available all

Surat and Kolkata, later this month. Both facilities will be open 24×7 for truck

facility to get 6 hours of sleep. But that's not all.

free of cost

This act of selflessness from Ramesh Agarwal has not just infused confidence in the drivers but also made them believe that there is

Image source

someone looking out for them as well. He estimates they might have saved 41 lives on the Jaipur stretch alone every month. 'Great Indian drivers - a revolutionary CSR for safe Driving by Agarwal Mov... 🕓 🥻

Not only that, but drivers are welcomed to the center by washing their feet, which

in India is a huge sign of respect. One driver said, "In my 18 years of professional

life I have never seen someone wash a driver's feet. I have seen this the first time

He adds,"I want to change the mindset against these drivers, who are the backbone of this industry. They are neglected and need to be given their dignity

Make my judgement sound as steel,

And be my hands upon the wheel.

and lives back."

today. Drivers are also respected."

I don't know what I want become when I grow up

It's surprising how nobody respects or knows about the hardships faced by the soldiers of the country's economic system. Well, time to change that, one Driver Service Center at a time.