An introspective session on Road Safety was organized by ASSE Kolkata Section in collaboration with Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata, on 9th January 2015, at Shivananda Hall, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata. Nearly 200 participants from various walks of life participated in this event. Mr Indranil Chakraborty, Member of ASSE Kolkata Section briefed on emergency procedure of the venue before start of the event.

Theme of the event “Be a Change” was unfolded by an introductory audio-visual presentation by “E-frame”, a multimedia company who volunteered to support this initiative. It depicted the need for building good habits and retain faith in self to be a change.

Mr. K N Sen, President ASSE India Chapter introduced ASSE and highlighted various activities of ASSE India Chapter including Student Sections and ASSE Kolkata Section. He stated we all are exposed to risks on roads, citing examples of common violations and described what can we do to bring down the unsafe acts.

Mr. Indranil Choudhury, Director of E-frame, highlighted various challenges on the road and the need of focusing on human errors and driver competence. He highlighted need of imparting defensive driving training and reiterated the importance of following “two second rule” while on the road.

Presence of His Holiness Sri Sampurnanand-ji Maharaj, Head of the Ram Krishna Mission was very encouraging to the whole team. He shared his thoughts on the subject and on introspection, he highlighted on the need for effective communication with the drivers in a decent way instead of finding fault with them and their lapses.

Dr. Samrat Deb presented a part of his doctoral research on road safety and physiological stress of drivers including MSD, under the guidance of Dr. Somnath Gangopadhyay. His findings corroborate the facts on driver’s errors and indicated that need of addressing the issues from a macro level.

Mr. Bimal Mukhopadhyay, a renowned expert on Road Safety, made a detailed presentation on road safety highlighting various causes of road accidents as well as importance on drivers awareness. He stressed on sharing of information on road marks, road traffic signs and proper use of TREM CARDS while transporting Hazardous Chemicals by road.
Mr. Nilanjan Biswas, IPS, Commandant, State Armed Police, appreciated the efforts made by ASSE to prevent accidents on road. He stressed on the need for safe driving of two wheelers and use of PPEs. He told apart from disregard to safety norms and road safety signs, there are multiple causes of accidents and drivers attention and attitude towards safe driving plays a crucial role on road safety. He stressed on the need to strengthen the legal provisions to control the increasing violations of road safety norms, e.g. by review of the penal system.

Mr. S Roy, Managing Director, Vesuvias India Limited, explained how their corporate policy takes care of people before profit. He shared various good practices and initiatives taken to promote safety and prevent road accidents.

Mr. V. Solomon, Nesakumar, IPS, Dy. Commissioner of Police, (Traffic), shared few case studies of recent road accidents in Kolkata. It seemed an eye opener to the audience. He stated that some major corporates are coming up to support the cause of road safety and to check the growing menace of road accidents at Kolkata. He mentioned that more safety promotional activities are to be taken up and welcome any volunteering efforts from safety professionals and organisations like ASSE, to take this forward.

Mr. Gurudas Bandyopadhyay, President of ASSE Kolkata Section while recapitulating the subjects discussed in the programme, stressed on the need to look back at one’s own life and analyze the mistakes made. He emphasized on the need to keep senses alert, use ingenuity and change the limiting beliefs to accept that all accidents are preventable. Simple changes may bring home big rewards, if we think how to change instead of only desiring for a change. He stressed on the importance of taking care of the health, safety and well-being of the drivers as over 75 percent of road accidents are caused at that end. He extended vote of thanks to all concerned for their contribution, particularly to Mr Avijit Sasmal, Treasurer and Mr Aloke Chatterjee, Secretary of ASSE Kolkata Section for their contribution for success of this event.

This was followed by safety pledge, administered by Ms Sandipa Lahiri, EC Member of ASSE Kolkata Section. This event ended with National Anthem.