

Shri Nitin Gadkari releases India's first ever Highway Capacity Manual

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

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Manual will guide Road Engineers and Policy Makers about Road Expansion

Posted On: 12 FEB 2018 4:57PM by PIB Delhi

The Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari released India's first ever **Highway Capacity Manual** in New Delhi today. The manual, known as Indo-HCM, has been developed by CSIR – CRRRI on the basis of an extensive, country-wide study of the traffic characteristics on different categories of roads like single lane, two-lane, multi-lane urban roads, inter-urban highways and expressways and the associated intersections on these roads. The study involved seven academic institutions including IITs at Roorkee, Mumbai and Guwahati, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Engineering and Science and Technology, Shibpur, Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Institute of Technology, Surat and Anna University, Chennai.

The manual lays down guidelines for when and how to expand or manage different types of roads and their intersections and the level of services to be put in place. It is designed to be a useful tool for guiding road engineers and policy makers in the country. It has been developed based on the unique nature and diversity of traffic on Indian roads. While countries like USA, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan developed their own Highway Capacity Manuals long time back, this is the first time that the manual has been developed in India.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Nitin Gadkari expressed hope that the long awaited manual would help in the scientific planning and expansion of road infrastructure in the country. Calling upon the scientific fraternity, as well as the designers, policy makers and executioners of highways projects the Minister said that India urgently needs to catch up with the world's best technology and practices being used in the sector so that we are able to build world class infrastructure that is safe, cost effective and environment friendly. Shri Gadkari also underscored the need to popularize the use of new material like fly-ash, plastic, oil slag and municipal waste in road construction, saying that scientists and the media should also play an active role in this regard. He also called upon researchers and engineers to expedite formulation of a good design for safe and effective speed breakers for Indian roads.

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(Release ID: 1520312) Visitor Counter : 0

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