

Nitin Gadkari launches "TCI Safe Safar"

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New Delhi: Mr Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Road Transport & Highways, officially launched Transport Corporation Of India Ltd's (TCI) Safe Safar awareness initiative directed towards the transport community at his residence in New Delhi. Mr Gadkari also flagged off a specially-fabricated ecologically compatible truck that will make stops across all major truck terminals and industrial parks pan-India. Mr VIneet Agarwal, Dr. DP Agarwal and Mr Chander Agarwal from TCIL were also present on the occasion.

"The idea is to reduce accidents and save as many lives by having more awareness campaigns. It is time that people must take all cautions while on road as we have the highest road accidents/deaths. After the implementation of the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act 2019, traffic police across the country are coming down heavily on those who are violating the new rules and various state governments are either resisting the new MV Act or bringing changes to it by detuning the violation fines. Stringent rules were "much needed" as people had taken traffic laws very

lightly and there was neither fear nor respect for the law. Above all, it is also important to have citizens who are aware about the road safety and initiatives like TCIL Safe Safar will help the country avoid these unfortunate

Director, TCIL, said, "Our aim is to reach around 25000 truck drivers over the year. For the same, a specially-fabricated ecologically compatible truck is making stops across all major truck terminals and industrial

Safar" has already covered around six States, more than 70 locations and around 7000 truck drivers. This year the organisation targets one lakh pledges, reach 50 lakh people and 25000 drivers. As per the latest government

crashes every 10 minutes. "The gravity of the situation can be understood from the fact that around 43,600 two-wheeler riders without helmets lost their lives in road accidents last year. Roads are full of perils and there are numerous reasons behind accidents, so we have to be careful and we are sure that TCIL Safe Safar will be able to be of great help to the society," pointed out Mr Agarwal.

The group feels that it is high time that we take serious stock of the situation and pay attention to the awareness campaigns. "In fact, road accidents in India are more fatal than war in Afghanistan lead to more casualties than Vietnam War (Between 2014 and 2017, 5.84 lakh people were killed on Indian roads while estimated casualties of South Vietnamese soldiers was 2.5 lakh in the Vietnam War that spanned 20 years) between 1955 and 1975. In fact, the numbers of people killed in road accidents was twice the number of people killed in India due to HIV/AIDS in 2017. The explosion of vehicular density in India also calls for the steps to increase awareness. We are sure that 'Safe Safar' will help people understand that the menace of road accidents can be controlled by being cautious," he added.



deaths/injuries," said Mr Gadkari.

Government data on road accidents for 2017 show that 30.4 per cent of the accidents took place on national highways and 25 per cent took place of state highways. Raising concern about the increasing accident deaths on Indian roads which is around one death per 3.5 minutes, Mr VIneet Agarwal, Managing

parks pan-India. There are approximately 1.5 lakh deaths every year due to road accidents and 400 fatalities every day that leads to 3 per cent GDP loss as per a UN study. So we are concentrating on our community to make sure that right steps should be taken and awareness spread about the importance of driving safely."

In Phase I, "TCI Safe

data, in 2017 alone, 1,47,913 people were killed in road accidents across India. Between 1953 and 2017, India lost 1,07,535 people in floods and heavy rains. Between 2001 and 2017, a total of 20.42 lakh people lost their lives in road accidents and 82.30 lakh were injured. In total, India witnessed 79.10 lakh road accidents at an average of 9