

Gadkari flags off truck for road safety awareness

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Union Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday flagged off a specially-fabricated truck that will spread road safety awareness in the country. He also launched Transport Corporation Of India Ltd's (TCI) 'Safe Safar' awareness initiative in New Delhi. Gadkari said, "The idea is to reduce accidents and save as many lives by having more awareness campaigns. It is time that people take all caution 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. Various state governments are either resisting the new MV Act or



Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari launches TCI 'Safe Safar', a road safety initiative, at his residence in the Capital on Thursday.

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bringing changes to it by reducing the violation fines. Stringent rules are 'much needed' as people had taken traffic laws very lightly and there was neither fear nor respect for the law."

Gadkari added, "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."

Government data on road accidents for 2017 shows that 30 per cent of the accidents took place on national highways and 25 per cent took place on state highways.