



Asia's longest high-speed track in Indore, India (on 29 June 2021)

India has got its longest high-speed track, inaugurated by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar. This high-speed track in Pithampur near Indore is spread over 1,000 acres and has been developed by National Automotive Test Tracks (Natrax). This high-speed testing track is something that could help the Indian automobile industry to develop vehicles with more efficiency. Some key facts about the Natrax test track.

Minister



The Natrax is the **longest** such testing track in **Asia** and the **fifth-longest in the world**. It is 11.3 km in length and 16 metres in width. This high-speed testing track is oval-shaped and comes with four lanes. **High-speed capability:** The testing track has been designed for neutral speeds of 250 kmph and it is capable of handling a maximum speed of up to 375 kmph on the curves. **Wide range of testing:** This high-speed track has been developed for testing a wide range of high-performance vehicles. These include two-wheelers, four-wheelers, commercial vehicles, three-wheelers and even tractor-trailers too. This means the supercar manufacturers like Lamborghini; Ferrari too can test their vehicles in this facility. **Various kinds of manoeuvres:** This test track allows a variety of vehicle testing manoeuvres, ranging from braking, high-speed runs, mileage accumulation, high-speed handling, coast down, acceleration, fuel-consumption evaluation, stability etc. (Cover Story: Image Natrax)

Quick News

Now, PUC certificate for all vehicles to be uniform in India



The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification to make the PUC (Pollution Under Control) certificate for all vehicles uniform across the country and also to link the PUC database with the National Register. After the changes in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 by the road ministry, the QR code shall be printed on the PUC form and will have details of the vehicle, owner and the status of the emission. "The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification dated 14th June, 2021, for a common format of the PUC Certificate to be issued across the country, under Central Motor Vehicle Rules 1989," an official statement said. According to the statement, the new PUC will have vehicle owner's mobile number, name and address, engine number and chassis number.

SAFE DRIVE INDIA: Programs: Live and Online Sessions on Defensive Driving, Simulator program, Route Risk Assessment, Pan India.



Cyclist fatalities on British Roads: The number of cyclists killed on British roads increased by 40% in 2020, official statistics show (DfT), with cycling groups saying an increase in dangerous driving could have cancelled out the safety dividend from fewer cars on the roads amid lockdown. In total, 140 cyclists were killed on the roads over the 12 months, up from 100 the year before, an increase the AA called "staggering". Fatalities fell for all other road user types, ranging from a drop of 15% for people in cars to a 71% fall for those in buses and coaches. (Courtesy: The Guardian)



Repair Potholes: The bench was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Owais Pechkar, a regular commuter on the Mumbai-Goa Highway, The Bombay High Court on Friday directed the Maharashtra Public Works Department (PWD) and the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), to carry out necessary repair work and fill potholes on the Mumbai-Goa National Highway. Also directed the authorities to ensure proper barricading of portions, where a road-widening work was underway along the highway, to prevent "loss of lives". 3 July 2021



Digital Driver Safety - An innovative technology is here in India to make our road safer to travel.

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Also, we have: SAARTHI SEWA (Empowering our highway warriors using technology)



CASE STUDY – Dangerous Overtaking



Background: A truck overtaking a car on a Two-lane Road, saw an Auto Rickshaw approaching on an opposite lane and steered to the left resulting in hitting the right rear end of the red car. Car got disbalanced, resulting in it being positioned horizontally in front of the truck and the car dragged for a few meters, even then opposite traffic moved on. Luckily no Fatality. **Problem:** Truck overtaking on continuous road marking (Not to cross continues line marking) on small stretch, later broken road marking arrives, the red car could not anticipate the rear traffic, may be poor mirror observation. Not moving towards the road shoulder also does not reduce speed when someone is overtaking. Auto Rickshaw on opposite road driving at a speed even observing a truck overtaking a car. **Learnings:** Before overtaking, bring back your vehicle, ensure the road is clear ahead for which you need to study the environment (Signages, Road Marking, Visibility etc.) Use MSM method Look to mirrors, indicators and move, keeping a passing gap. Here the car can reduce the speed to allow overtaking or if not possible speed up so as to maintain traffic distancing. On undivided roads always expect the unexpected, always observe for 360 observations with the help of mirrors. Reduce speed to 30kmph when traffic is mixed with vulnerable road users.

THE WORLD HISTORY

The Lane Marking



The introduction of lane markings as a common standard is connected to June McCarroll, a physician in Indio, California. She began experimenting with painting lines on roads in 1917 after being run off a highway by a truck driver. After years of lobbying by Dr. McCarroll and her allies, the state of California officially adopted a policy of painting lines on its highways in November of 1924. A portion of Interstate 10 near Indio has been named the Dr. June McCarroll Memorial Freeway in her honour.



Black centre line on an Autobahn in Germany in the late 1930s

Road Safety Education: Diving in Monsoon

Rain makes for slippery roads, especially when it has not rained in a long time. This is because greasy substances like lubricants and oil drip from vehicles as people drive, and these substances accumulate on the surface of the road until they are washed away. The first rain can loosen these greasy materials,



Photo Courtesy: cars24.com



creating an oily slick on the surface of the road which can make driving very dangerous. In the rain, poor visibility is a major threat to driving safety, as you may be less aware of oncoming cars, pedestrians, and hazards on the road. It is important to leave your lights on and drive slowly in the rain that you are better prepared for unexpected hazards.

Pedestrian Facilities at Roundabout:

Any four-legged uncontrolled junction offers 32 vehicle-vehicle conflicts and 24 vehicle-pedestrian conflicts while roundabouts only offer 8 vehicle-vehicle and 8 vehicle-pedestrian conflicts. Only Multi-Lane roundabouts present some challenges to pedestrians, thus reducing the safety effects. Fig. shows pedestrian facilities at round-about in which all the approach arms can be used to provide zebra crossings with table top facilities.



What is the emergency lane?

The concept is far simpler than you'd ever imagine -- it is basically the lane outside the outside lane and they are typically not as wide as traffic lanes. Also referred to as the shoulder, it is found on the left side in India.



Think Road Safety?

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