

Road Transport Ministry announces formation of Empowered Group of State Transport Ministers; to advise on policy issues

NEW DELHI: The Road Transport and Highways ministry has announced formation of an Empowered Group of State Transport Ministers to advise on policy issues to make the country's transport sector modern, efficient and transparent.

The Empowered Group will be headed by Rajasthan's transport minister Yunus Khan. Transport minister Nitin Gadkari made this announcement on Monday.

"Several state road transport corporations are incurring huge losses and the problem has to be addressed by developing an integrated approach for transport sector in the country," Gadkari said.

"To tackle the jams and accidents Road Traffic Control of Air Traffic Control Control which will technolog," he said. Gadkari said that been identified on across the country have been remedial steps in



problem of traffic there is need for a system on the lines and River Traffic use satellite based

720 black spots have National Highways and Rs. 11,000 crore earmarked to take this regard.

Presently about 5 lakh accidents take place in the country in which about 1.5 lakh people are killed every year. The target is to reduce accidents by 50% in next five years.

About strengthening the network of National Highways Gadkari said the total length of National Highways is planned to be increased to 2 lakh kms from the present 96000 kms. He added that a number of access controlled expressways are also coming up in the country.

He further announced that e-tolling will be introduced at all toll plazas across the country. With this, vehicles will not be required to stop at the toll plazas for payment of toll. "This will cut down the huge pile up of vehicles at these plazas, which causes loss of about 1.5 % to 2 % to the GDP and also a lot of pollution," he said.