

Tesla welcome only if it wants to make cars here, says Gadkari

'Highway Accidents Rose By 10%'

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Nagpur: Reiterating his stance on Tesla, Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari said the company can come to India only if it wants to make the car here. "We cannot accept the offer if it wants to have the manufacturing facility in China and sell the cars in India, and also want tax exemptions here," he said while responding to a question asked at the Zero Mile Samvad meet organized by the IIM-Nagpur on Saturday.

Gadkari also said the network of highways he is creating will soon reduce the distance between Delhi to Chennai by 320km. He also spoke on the plans about an electric cable car connecting Jaipur to Mumbai. The minister accepted that the highway accidents have increased by 10% touching over 1.68 lakh a year. "This is more than the deaths which may have occurred in a riot or war," he said.

A strong champion of alternate fuel, he also accepted that despite the attempts to reduce their use, the demand for fossil fuels will only go up. "However, there was time when people were sceptical about electric vehicles, now I get request to get an electric vehicle delivered out of turn," said Gadkari.

The Indian automobile sector which was the seventh largest in the country in 2014, is third in the world only after China and US, he said. "It is the largest exporter and also the highest contributor to the goods and services (GST) collection," said Gadkari.

"A network of tunnels will reduce the time of travel in the Himachal, Ladakh and Kashmir. Driving through the tunnels, Srinagar would be reached in mere three and a half hours from Jammu as against 10 hours now," he said.

A network of highways will start from Nashik to Ahmednagar, Solapur, connecting Chennai and Kanyakumari. "This will reduce distance between Delhi and Chennai by 320kms," he said.

IIM-NAGPUR'S STAR-STUDED EVENING

Pics: Ranjit Deshmukh



Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis attended Zero Mile Samvad meet organized by the IIM-Nagpur on Saturday

All investments can't come to Maha: Fadnavis

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Nagpur: Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said in the age of fierce competitive federalism, Maharashtra may not get every corporate investment in its kitty, but the state government is ready to vigorously take on competition. This came in reply to a question at the Zero Mile Samvad at IIM-Nagpur on the state losing a crucial investment proposal to Gujarat.

There are many states which are competing to bag investment opportunities. "Companies often tell me that other states are giving more incentives. In turn, I ask their representatives to look at the track record here," said Fadnavis.

He said after Mumbai, Pune and Navi Mumbai, now the thrust is to bring development to cities like Nagpur, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (Aurangabad) and Nashik. There is no need create another Mumbai or Pune. Rather each place has its own inherent potential, which will be exploited for its growth. For example, logistics is Nagpur's strength.

Emerging & disruptive technologies no longer superpower centric: COAS Pande

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'Agniveer will bring tech-savvy personnel into Indian Army'

The chief of army staff (COAS) Gen Manoj Pande said the Agniveer scheme will enable inducting personnel more conversant with technology in the Army's rank and file. The best will be retained and the rest can work as trained manpower in the market, he said.



The COAS stressed emerging and disruptive technologies are no longer superpower centric.

"They are also available to non-state actors who are not restricted by normative behaviour. Even the thresh-

old of initiative conflict is low. We are also witness to the low-tech versus hi-tech contestation, amid increased propensity in risk taking behaviour," he said.

Pande said, disputes are increasing in the Indo-Pacific region in both traditional and non-traditional domains. Its key markers

include assertion of sharp and aggressive power with a gravitational shift and economic heft. At the same time, common interests and capabilities are bringing countries together.

"India's rise in a non-threatening manner has been acknowledged by the world and its fine example

can be seen in the Indo-Pacific region, which has emerged as the pivotal theatre in contemporary geo-strategic canvas. India's location has catapulted its stature to a key player in the region's discourse," he said.

He said "country's stakeholdership in region finds reflection in policy initiatives and participation in various frameworks like Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM-STEC), Security and Growth for All Regions (SQUAD) Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) and India-AE-SAN engagements.