

Soon, all vehicles to have 'brakes with brains'

New Delhi: Come 2022, your new car and all heavy vehicles such as buses and trucks will come fitted with a device that will automatically apply brakes if they suddenly detect any object on the road to avoid accidents. The government will make the feature of Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) mandatory, transport minister Nitin Gadkari announced on Thursday.

The ADAS system include features such as electronic stability control, autonomous emergency braking system, anti-lock brakes, lane departure warning and adaptive cruise control. Road transport ministry sources said the government will soon notify the speed at which the emergency braking system will get activated to give enough time to automakers to plan their production.

"We have already held one round of discussion with the stakeholders including the industry. This feature is likely to become mandatory in some western countries by 2021. So, we are also advancing our plan," said a transport ministry official.

Electronic stability control (ESC) reduces the loss of traction or skidding. When ESC detects loss of steering control, it automatically ap-

In 4 years, cars and heavy vehicles will come fitted with a device that will automatically apply the brakes if any object is suddenly detected in front of the vehicle

plies the brakes to help steer the vehicle. Similarly, the autonomous emergency braking system monitors vehicles or other objects in front and applies brakes to keep the necessary gap to avoid collision.

At present, manufactures like Volvo and Mercedes offer the ADAS such as adaptive cruise control, lane keeping assistance and automatic braking. Use of such systems is limited as they rely on proper road signs and markings besides good road conditions. According to the annual road accident report prepared by the government, human error accounts for nearly 80% of accidents on Indian roads.

India loses almost 2 lakh lives annually in road accidents, which is the maximum across the world. The ADAS can also have other features such as "blind spot monitor" and features to detect driver drowsiness.