



NHAI Releases First Annual Report on National Highways – Green Cover Index (NH-GCI) for 2025-26

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With **the** objective to provide a quantitative assessment of the plantations along the National Highways, NHAI has released the **first-of-its-kind** Annual Report on the National Highways **Green Cover Index (NH-GCI) 2025–26**. The report has been prepared in coordination with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research **Organisation (ISRO)**. The initiative aims to provide a scientific and quantitative assessment of green cover within the Right of Way (RoW) along the National Highways network by leveraging advanced space-based technologies.

The assessment is derived from chlorophyll content detected through high-resolution satellite sensors, enabling an objective, technology-driven measure of vegetation presence along the left and right sides of **the** highways. NH-GCI is reported as a percentage value **that** represents the proportion of land covered by green cover within the RoW of National Highways at a granularity of **one kilometre**.

In this first assessment cycle, approximately **30,000 km** of National Highways spanning **24 States** have been covered for the period **July–December 2024**. Subsequent annual cycles will track year-on-year changes **to monitor** progressive improvements in green cover.

The initiative has been taken under a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) that NHAI signed in January 2024 with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian Space Research **Organisation (ISRO)**. This innovative approach offers a robust, reliable, cost-effective, and time-efficient mechanism for macro-level estimation of the green cover along the National Highways. The findings will enable comparison, ranking, and targeted interventions for improved plantation management.

The NH-GCI initiative reflects NHAI's strong commitment to enhancing environmental sustainability and advancing the green transformation of the National Highway network. A copy of the report is available on **the** NHAI website. Read the report by clicking the following link:

https://nhai.gov.in/nhai/sites/default/files/mix_file/NRSC_NH-GCI_FinalReport_09Dec2025.pdf

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