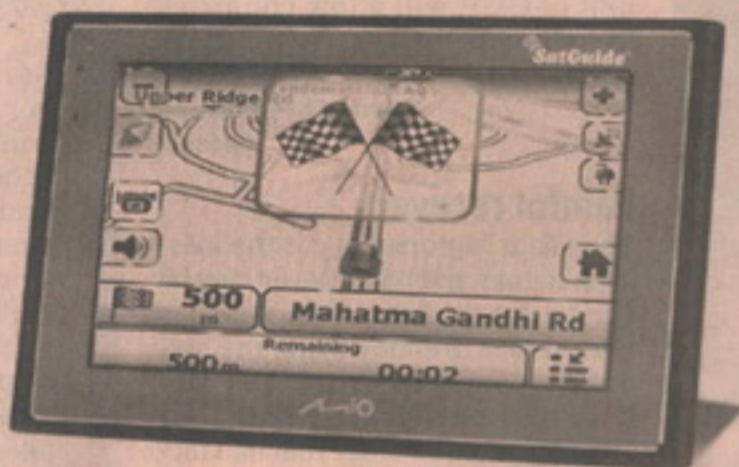


GIZMO GALLERY | Personal navigation

Directions from above

PRIYANKA JOSHI

With mobile phones and laptops boasting of embedded maps and GPS features, one would think that personal navigation devices (PND) would make a graceful exit from the market. On the contrary, PND manufacturers are betting on accelerating their reach in 2010, primarily backed by rising automobile sales. We are big fans of mobile phone-based navigation applications, but there is a lot to like about stand-alone navigation devices. These dedicated gadgets typically offer better display screens and simplified maps that are easier to use while on the move and don't require you to choose between making a call and accessing location information.



PROS

- Excellent satellite signals
- Voice support during navigation

CONS

- Cannot connect external headphones
- Battery lasts two hours (has a large display)

SatNav Moov 560

Price: Rs 16,990

We firmly believe that GPS units with text-to-speech and widescreen displays are worth a consideration and that's where SatNav's Moov 560 comes in.

This gadget comes with maps of almost 404 cities and over 1,600,000 destinations (points of interest) that can be displayed in either 2D or 3D forms. A 4.7-inch touch screen super widescreen is a pleasure to have on a navigation device. If you go globe-trotting frequently, the company offers maps covering over 250 provinces across the US and Canada and 22 European countries.

During our review in the NCR, the Moov 560 capably planned the shortest and the closest route to our destination and the voice-based support gave some much needed assistance in navigating heavy traffic.

The text-to-speech feature allows the gadget to give audio warnings of the roads and points of interest as they approach, while you keep your eyes on the road. The free map-browsing mode comes handy, especially if the device cannot find the address entered.

The Moov 560 comes with an internal memory of 64MB that can be increased using external memory cards. It runs on a rechargeable Lithium-ion battery that has a battery life of just about two hours (remember, larger the display, faster the battery drain).

Audio and video playback is also supported, although it is nothing to boast about. Some other features, like a Trip meter that can be used to calculate the distance and speed travelled, are nice but not critical to the device.

Priced higher than the MapmyIndia Loaded, the Moov 560 retails at Rs 16,990, but that's backed by voice support for a trouble-free navigation.