

KITBAG

MAPMYINDIA NAVIGATOR

GIVE DIRECTION

WE TRY OUT THE MAPMYINDIA NAVIGATOR IN TOWN

MapmyIndia offers two units, one manufactured by Amax and the other by

Delphi. Both sport the same software and touch screen, but the latter has buttons to access menus and stuff, while the former uses the touch screen alone. Both feature a Samsung 400 MHz processor, and a Sirfstar III GPS chipset. Our Amax unit was well put together and weighed in at 175 grams. It came with a 1 GB SD card with all-India preloaded maps and the ability to play MP3 and video, neither of

which, to be honest, we ever got around to trying. Between Aux ports in car audio systems and iPods, we never really felt the need.

We tried the unit while driving on our usual commute to start with. The data in the map is pretty impressive and locating ATMs, fuel pumps and stuff is not only easy, the database is pretty comprehensive. My house, which is less than two years old, is already on the map, but one ATM, less than four months old, is not on it. So it's very impressive data.

The basic operation is pretty simple. Things only get complicated when you start trying to edit routes. What bugs us most is the boot-up time. The device comes online fast, but getting the satellites needed takes as much as 20 minutes, which is too much. Also, the GPS engine seems a bit slow and that causes problems. While the directions were accurate, sometimes we were asked to

take a turn, *after* we'd taken it. This could cause a lot of trouble if, say, two left turns were close together, and the device wanted you to take the first one. There were also a few minor data glitches, like the time when we were on an overpass and the device advised a left onto the road passing 20 feet before us.

Shumi, on the other hand, found it hard to believe that an intermediate waypoint could not be added to the current route. He also found the route engine a bit slow. Detours were simple enough, but not really intuitive to use.

On the whole though, the unit works very, very well. It is remarkably easy to use, the data is comprehensive and current and at the end of the day, we never, ever, got lost while using it. And we never had to ask for directions either. A faster processor, all told, is perhaps all the unit needs to be a seriously impressive piece of kit. — Rohin **BSM**

MapmyIndia Navigator

Touchscreen, GPS navigation device. Maps for all of India or your state are available. 1 GB SD card included. Plays MP3 and video. Rs 20,500 (all India map), Rs 14,500 (state map only)

- + Identifies many useful locations
- + Easy to use
- + Well built unit
- Takes long to boot
- Not dead accurate
- Routing engine can only handle origin and one destination

