

Q- A truck weighing 1 tonne rests on a slope of 30 degrees with its brakes locked. Due to rain the coefficient of friction between the tires and road reduces to 0.3 and the truck starts sliding down the slope under its own weight. What is the net acceleration of the truck down the slope? What will be its speed after 25 m?

The forces acting on the truck are its weight mg vertically down, normal reaction force N , normal to the slope and the frictional force μN along the slope in backward direction. Under these forces it is slipping down. As we know that the truck is not moving normal to the slope, resolving the weight in the directions parallel to the slope and normal to the slope we get

Tangential downward component of weight
 $= mg \sin\theta$

Normal component of its weight
 $= mg \cos\theta$

As the truck is not moving normal to the slope the acceleration in that direction will be zero and hence writing the equation of motion [$F = ma$] in that direction we have

$$N - mg \cos\theta = m \cdot 0$$

Gives $N = mg \cos\theta$ ----- (1)

For the motion in the direction of the slope we have

$$mg \sin\theta - \mu N = m \cdot a$$

Where a is the acceleration of the truck down the slope. Substituting the value of N from equation (1) we have

$$mg \sin\theta - \mu (mg \cos\theta) = m \cdot a$$

Gives $a = g \sin\theta - \mu g \cos\theta$

or $a = 9.8 (\sin 30^\circ - 0.3 \cdot \cos 30^\circ) = \mathbf{2.35 \text{ m/s}^2}$.

As the initial velocity is zero the velocity after distance $s = 50 \text{ m}$ is given by using third equation of motion we have

$$[v^2 = u^2 + 2 \cdot a \cdot s]$$

Or $v^2 = 0 + 2 \cdot 2.35 \cdot 25 = 117.5$

Or $v = 10.8 \text{ m/s}$

Hence velocity of the truck after 25 m will be 10.8 m/s.

