

Survival in the fast lane

Road trips are fun, but make sure you are aware of the do's and don'ts of Indian highways. Here's a brief know how of things.



Before you pull out to overtake, make sure the road ahead is clear

Last issue, we tried to get you ready for a road trip. This time let's get to the real thing: driving on Indian highways.

First, start your trip early and maintain a speed you are comfortable with without posing a threat to others. The problem here is that you might be comfortable doing three digit speeds, but the rural person crossing

the road can't judge your speed and might still cross after spotting you.

OVERTAKING: It is always a good idea to peep out to check for oncoming traffic and do this by maintaining a good distance from the vehicle ahead. If the way is clear, blip your high beams and go for it. In case you are in a higher gear, shift down to reduce time on the wrong side of the

road. Never ever try to overtake from the left as the vehicle up front might not notice you.

SHARING ROAD WITH TRUCKS: Trucks require longer distances to stop. Hence don't stop just anywhere or abruptly. Glance through the rearview mirrors first. Also, after overtaking don't immediately cut in, in front of the truck, but give it some room.

HALTS: Driving long distances can cause fatigue, and hence, give yourself a break from time to time. Park at a safe place away from the road and get out for a stretch. Plan your breaks at places where you see a crowd. Most likely, it's a tried and tested joint. In case it's getting dark and the road ahead is lonely, stop for the day. If in a hurry, consult truckers. They are excellent source of information.

NIGHT HALTS: There are bil-



lions of small motels thronging the Indian highways, but not all of them are good. Enquire whether they have decent parking. Check the rooms and only then check in. Check out other options as well. In case there's no parking, make sure you don't leave valuable items like cell phones, laptops etc in the car. Also, take the detachable music system along with you. In case you have other safety equipment like gear locks, put them on even if there's a security guard.

Rahul Ghosh



Don't sneak up from behind a truck, especially from the left

When you want control at the wheel, you need to keep your wheels in control.

 APOLLO TYRES
Safe drive
CHECK. SET. GO