

DriveWise

Highway Checks for a pleasant drive

Driving on Indian highways can often be a stressful affair, although there are small checks that can be conducted beforehand to make it less stressful and more of a fun experience. If you prepare your vehicle and yourself before a drive, you will always be better prepared for any unexpected surprises that you may encounter on your journey.

- By Dhruv Paliwal



Checking your car's tyre pressure

You may think that checking the tyre pressure at a petrol station once a week might be enough to keep your tyres in good shape, and for the most part, it is. However, carmakers often recommend different levels of pressure for the tyres, depending on how loaded a car is. If you are going on a highway drive with your family with a lot of luggage, the tyres will need to be inflated to a higher pressure to handle the extra weight. If you don't undertake this step, the car can feel unstable at highway speeds, and it can even wear out the tyres much quicker.

Check the liquids

Tyre pressure is one thing, but your car also takes in a bunch of liquids that need to be replenished every now and then. The usual suspects are engine oil, brake oil, steering oil, transmission oil and coolant. Transmission oil doesn't need to be replaced all that often and should ideally be inspected by a mechanic. The rest of the liquids are easy to top up and can be done at home. A highway journey can put a vehicle under more mechanical stress than regular city drives and not topping up these liquids can cause irreparable damage to the car.



Be ready for emergencies

While your car might be in the best condition, unexpected happenings such as traffic jams can often stretch a highway journey. It is wise to plan for such scenarios in advance. When you travel on highways, make sure you have a basic medical kit, some food, and water available for such occasions. Often, you will not find all the amenities that you might require on a highway journey on newly constructed highways, which is another reason for starting a journey well-prepared.

Use the right lanes

Many people are not aware that different lanes on highways are for different speeds and usage. For example, the innermost lane is reserved for overtaking. You will often find people driving at high speed in these lanes, which could cause problems. The overtaking lane must be left empty at all times for vehicles that have to overtake, which can often be emergency vehicles that can go above the legal speed limit. If you want to drive at a fixed pace, then you should use the middle lane.



Get a Fastag

If you didn't buy one until now, we recommend you get a Fastag right away. It not only reduces the amount of time you spend at a toll but also saves you money. With Fastag being mandated on all highways, passing through tolls without it will cost you double the required amount.

Getting to Jaipur faster

Now, if you drive to Jaipur often from Delhi, we have some more suggestions for you. The first leg of the Delhi to Mumbai expressway is now open. It stretches from Sohna to Dausa and makes the journey a whole lot smoother than before. Currently, the highway doesn't have any toll collection, but it will change soon - once it becomes popular with motorists. Once fully operational, it is expected to reduce the Delhi to Mumbai travel time to under 12 hours.



MyLeasePlan Portal relaunched

MyLeasePlan website (<https://myleaseplan.co.in>) has now been relaunched with a refreshing new look and an improved user interface for easy navigation. MyLeasePlan is another handy channel for you to make service bookings, report an accident, request damage repair assistance, view car insurance details and access other vehicle related information of your LeasePlan car.

*Not for SalaryPlan users. (SalaryPlan users can visit salaryplan.co.in for their account related information and support)

