

KOLKATA

on

WHEELS

your autoventuring guide around the city

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KOLKATA on WHEELS

your autoventuring guide around the city

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EDITORIAL

We are at crossroads. We live in a country where we fasten our seat belts for fear of fines and not for our own safety. On the other hand, we have the fastest growing automobile industry in the world. Quite a contradiction of sorts!

In an endeavour to bridge the gap, we at Guide India Publication have come up with a monthly magazine 'Kolkata on Wheels' dedicated exclusively to the motorists of Kolkata, with information on the city, its cars and life style.

We offer three exciting gifts to our subscribers:



a 24X7 dedicated Helpline;



a personal accident insurance of Rs 50,000;



and a membership to the the activity wing of the magazine.

'Kolkata on Wheels' together with this set of gifts, will surely prove to be resourceful and effective for our subscribers.

The active cooperation of Kolkata Police and Automobile Association of Eastern India in support to this endeavour is an added motivation.

We sincerely look forward to your participation and suggestions in all our efforts.

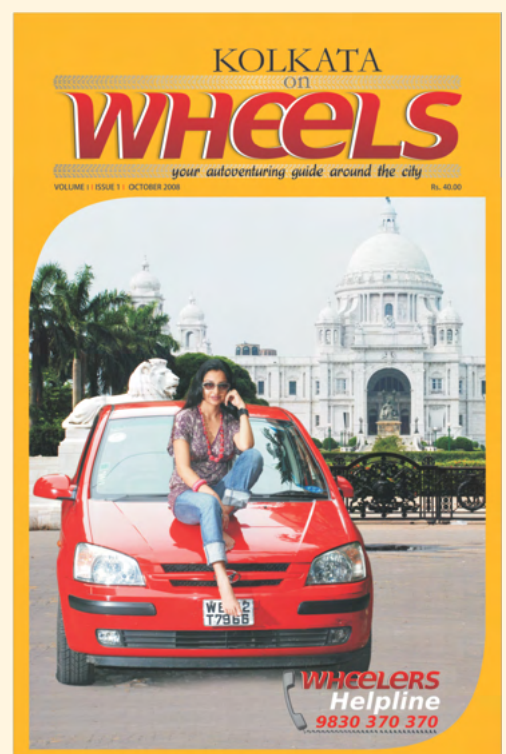
Yours in Wheeling,

Souvik Ghosh
Editor
Kolkata on Wheels

Supported by In association with



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OF EASTERN INDIA



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Kolkata's killing fields: Spare us the deadly dividers

A damaged divider - Sarat Bose Road

Did you know what's the most common cause of accidents in Kolkata? Road dividers. Find out why...

Debjani Bandyopadhyay

Have'n't we often seen cars crashing into dividers on Kolkata roads? Yes, it's a common sight. And they often turn gory. In fact, these dividers are the primary cause of road accidents in our city. Though meant for a safe passage down the busy roads, they ensure anything but that.

The median dividers are meant to facilitate faster movement of two-way traffic and also to stop pedestrians cross busy roads. But when you are behind the wheels, you will see these mean dividers cropping out of nowhere, making narrow roads narrower, winding roads worse and often after sundown you just won't see them at all. These menacing contraptions on our city roads have many more critical problems.

These dividers have turned some of the busiest thoroughfares into veritable death traps. Sarat Bose Road, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Gariahat Road, Diamond Harbour Road, are some that have the worst kind of dividers.

What's worse, most of these roads have dividers that have not been planned scientifically. In Kolkata, out of the 1,500 kms of road space, only 170 kms have guard railings lining the sidewalks and dividers. Some roads could even be better off without dividers. "Median dividers are not at all recommended for roads with sharp and frequent turns. On Alipore Road, just beside the National Library, the median dividers make the area more accident prone," said Executive Traffic and Transport Engineer Ajoy Das. "Towing cars that have rammed into these unplanned dividers is one of our major jobs almost every night," said another police officer.

Some thought and planning should go into the positioning of both dividers and guard rails. "To start with the median divider cannot run up to a road crossing. It should end much before that for free movement of vehicles in every direction," said Chief Traffic and Transport Engineer B.K. Sadhu. He also admitted that median dividers are not placed properly on most roads and pose a serious threat to life and limb.

"If you are driving in Kolkata, you must remember to be extra alert and in the best of your senses. That's the only way you can be safe while driving," said additional commissioner (IV) of the city police K. Hari Rajan. Over and above that, these dangerous dividers turn into devils after sundown, when our sensory organs, especially the eye, are already highly challenged by strained night vision, smog, poorly lit streets etc. Hence, many motorists simply miss these dividers in the dark and crash into them for no fault of theirs.

The only way around this muddle is to paint the dividers fluorescent; if not the entire stretch, at least the two ends and increase the heights of these terminals as visible indicators. This is mandatory for safe night driving. "Since, most of the time contractors put up these railings, they do not bother to think about the technicalities and there is hardly any monitoring. There is neither proper engineering nor aesthetics in their exercise. Mostly these median dividers remain just another ugly addition to the roads," Das added.

According to transport experts, one solution to this problem could be the replacement of the vertical rails of dividers with horizontal ones. The vertical rails often create a visibility problem for motorists particularly at

road crossings. "A vehicle moving from south to north, cannot clearly see vehicles moving from west to east because of the vertical rails, which blocks the vision at an acute angle," opined Bimal Guha, a secretary of the West Bengal Motor Training School Association.

A recent forest department proposal may also be a welcome breather. The department has hit upon a unique plan of replacing the dreaded, iron dividers with scenic, green hedges down the aisle. This would be cheaper and would also reduce the fatality of accidents.

"Creating hedges is the best possible option. Besides adding a pleasing dash of green, the government would also save a lot of money. The installation and maintenance cost of the hedges are negligible compared to the iron railings," said Deputy Conservator of Forest Somenath Mukherjee.

Forest department officers said that if the hedges are thick and strong they could be a life saver. "Plants like Kamini and Putranjibi will be used since they have a strong stem with thick foliage. In the city, where the average vehicular speed is not that high, these hedges can be a perfect alternative to the metallic rails," added Mukherjee.

The department has already been successful with the planting of hedges instead of iron dividers in Rajarhat. Now, it hopes to convince the government to do the same for the rest of the city. As a pilot programme, the department has chosen the EM Bypass. This, it says, will not only be cheaper but also improve the environment and add refreshing shades of greenery to the grey roads.

All this has apparently been encouraged by the Chief Minister's mantra for offsetting increasing auto-emission with a green drive. Forest officials said that the green hedges also hold better prospects in attracting sponsors compared to the iron-railings. "Because of low-cost and high ecological and utilitarian value, corporate houses will be more encouraged to sponsor them as well," said Mukherjee.

The iron railings can also be replaced with modular plastic ones. According to traffic officials, plastic railings would prevent erratic pedestrian movement and avert accidents from turning fatal. They are soft and pliable. If a car crashes into them they would simply bend back or break down, yet causing neither the car nor the driver much damage. In case of plastic rails on median dividers, they would simply stop the car from veering beyond control or crashing into the traffic on the other side. In some cities like Indore and Bhopal, plastic railings have been a huge success. This model can be replicated in Kolkata as well.

Though the ideas are great, we can only hope that they are implemented soon, so that a few lives are saved on Kolkata's killing fields.

Dangerous dividers

- Sarat Bose Road
- Ashutosh Mukherjee Road
- Prince Anwar Shah Road
- Gariahat Road
- Alipore Road
- Diamond Harbour Road



Thorough facts

- Total road length - 1,500 kms
- Stretch with railings on the pavement and median divider - 170 kmsl
- Cost of railing installation - Rs 1,500 per meter
- Cost of railing maintenance - Rs 100 per meter per year (painting, replacing damaged and stolen bars)
- Cost of planting hedges - Rs 60 per meter
- Cost of hedge maintenance - Rs 20 per meter per year (pruning, watering)

Way out

- Colour rails fluorescent for better night view
- Increase heights of the terminal railings
- Use horizontal bars instead of vertical ones on the rails (for clearer view) to avoid vision blockage
- Use green hedges instead of metallic dividers to reduce fatality
- Plastic guard rails instead of iron ones could also reduce fatality





CAROGRAPH

This section provides the readers with the list of car prices and technical specifications. For the convenience of our readers TEAM WHEELS have classified the cars into four different categories namely Sedan, Hatchback, SUV/ Station Wagon / Van and Coupe & Convertible.

Company Name	Car Name / Model	Kolkata Price (Rs)	Engine (CC)	Power (bhp)	Torque (kgm)	Performance	Fuel Efficiency (Petrol/Ltr)	City	Highway	Company Name	Car Name / Model	Kolkata Price (Rs)	Engine (CC)	Power (bhp)	Torque (kgm)	Performance	Fuel Efficiency (Petrol/Ltr)	City	Highway		
SEDAN																					
Bentley Motors	Arnage - RL	NA	6752/V8 T	450	89.17					Mercedes Benz	Class C - C200K	28.37	1796/4S	158	22.5	10.97	6.9	10.8			
Bentley Motors	AZure	NA		450	89.17					Mercedes Benz	Class E - E200K	37.54	1796/4S	184	25.49						
Bentley Motors	Continental - Flying Splur	NA	5998/W12T	553	66.2					Mercedes Benz	Class CLS - CLS350	67	3498/V6	272	35.7						
Bentley Motors	Continental - GT	NA	5998/W12T	553	66.2					Mercedes Benz	Class SL - SL500	91.08	4966/V8	306	4.6.9	7.54	4.8	7.3			
Bentley Motors	Continental - GTC	NA		553	66.2					Mercedes Benz	Class M ML350	3498/V6	268	35.66							
BMW	Series 5 - 523i	NA	2497/6	187	23.96					Mercedes Benz	Class S S350L	75.32	3498/V7	272	35.69	8.81	6.1	9.1			
BMW	Series 7 - 740Li	NA	4000/V8	300	39.76					Mercedes Benz	Class SLK 350	66	3498/V6	272	35.7	6.8	5.7	8.3			
BMW	Series 3 - 320i	NA	1995/4	136	19.37	11.57	7.2	10.9		Mitsubishi	Cedia Select	9.08	1999/4	115	17.8	10.23	10.2	14.2			
Chevrolet	Aveo 1.4 Base	6.53	1399/4	94	12.95	13.42	10	14.9		Mitsubishi	Lancer - 1.5LX i	7.43	1468/4	85	13.46	12.95	9.6	14.9			
Chevrolet	Opra Magnum 1.6	8.86	1598/4	104	15.09	12.49	9.5	14.4		Nissan	Teana	NA	2349/V6	173	22.9	11.01	6.6	9.2			
Chevrolet	SRV - 1.6 Base	7.88	1598/4	101	14.27	13.14	9.7	12.8		Rolls Royce	Phantom	NA	6749/V12	453	73.4						
Chevrolet	Captiva LT	18.7	1991/4	148	32.6	11.72	9.5	11.5		Skoda	Octavia - 1.9 TDI	12.27	1896/4T	90	21.4	13.49	12.7	18.9			
Ford	Ikon - 1.3 Flair	5.27	1299/4	70	10.07	14.54	8.9	14.4		Skoda	Laura - 1.9 PD L	15.24	1896/4T	105	25.49	11.54	12.9	18.6			
Ford	Fusion 1.6	6.39	1596/4	101	14.9	11.75	9.4	14.8		Skoda	Superb - 2.8 V6	21.84	2771/V6	191	26.5	11.42	6.1	7			
Ford	Fiesta - 1.4EXI	6.41	1400/4	82	12.9	13.45	10.2	15.3		Tata Motors	Indigo - GLS	5.12	1405/4	85	11.2	14.01	8.3	13.7			
Hindustan Motors	Ambassador - 1800 BE Std	4.29	1817/4	82	14	17.15	8.7	12		Tata Motors	Indigo - XL Petrol	7.32	1396/4	101	12.64	13.14					
Honda	City ZX - Exi	7.54	1497/4	77	12.8	13.11	10.9	16.6		Toyota	Corolla - HE	9.4	1794/4	125	16.1	9.97	8.6	13.8			
Honda	CR V 2.0 2WD	18.51	1997/4	143	19.3	11.01	8.6	11.9		Toyota	Camry - W1	22.07	2362/4	167	22.8						
Honda	Civic - 1.8S MT	11.9	1799/4	130	17.5	9.59	9	14		Volkswagen	Passat 2.0 PD DSG	NA	1968/4 T	140	32.6						
Hyundai	Accent - GLE	5.87	1495/4	94	12.5	13.12	8.1	13.8		Volvo	S80 3.2	NA	3192/6	238	32.6	9.35	5.24	8.51			
Hyundai	Sonata Empera - 2.4VTVT	14.51	2359/4	160	22.9	9.64				Maruti Suzuki	Dzire Lxi	5.27	1298/4	87	11.5						
Hyundai	Verna 1.6i iVTVT	6.84	1599/4	103	14.9	12.33	9.2	13.8		Maruti Suzuki	SX4 Vxi	7.05	1586/4	102	14.78	12.1	9.3	14.5			
Mahindra Renault	Logan 1.4 GL	4.98	1390/4	75	11.2					Toyota	Camry W1	22.07	2362/4	167	22.8						

HATCHBACK																			
Chevrolet	Spark - 1.0E	3.21	995/4	63	9.2	15.93	12.3	16.9		Maruti Suzuki	800 Standard	2.23	796/3	37	6.01				
Chevrolet	U-VA 1.2 Base	4.38	1150/4	76	11.2	16.49	10.6	15		Maruti Suzuki	Alto - Std.	2.58	796/3	47	6.3	20.38	13.5	18.8	
Fiat	Pallo Stile - 1.1SL	3.97	1108/4	57	9.38	20.45	10.2	15.1		Maruti Suzuki	Zen Estilo LX	3.5	1061/4	64	8.56	14.75	11.7	16.9	
Hyundai	Santro Xing - XK 1.1	3.65	1086/4	63	9.8	14.66	12.1	16.2		Maruti Suzuki	Swift LX i	4.45	1298/4	87	11.5	12.29	11.5	16.2	
Hyundai	i10 D-LITE	3.84	1086/4	66	10.1	15.55	12	16.3		Maruti Suzuki	Wagon R - LX	3.59	1061/4	64	8.5	15.32	11.7	16.2	
Hyundai	Getz Prime GLE1.1	4.4	1086/4	66	10.4	17.7	9.3	14.6		Maruti Suzuki	Versa DX Std	4.22	1298/4	82	10.04	13.46	10.1	13.6	
Maini	Reva Standard	3.56	DC Elec.	17.8	6.98					Tata Motors	Indica - Xeta GL1.2	2.79	1193/4	70	12.64	16.17	10.9	15.9	
Skoda	Fabia 1.4Tdi classic	6.98	1422/3	68	15.8	14.95	14.1	18.5											

SUV, STATION WAGON & VAN																			
Chevrolet	Tavera LS - B1	7	2499/4T	80	19	24	10.6	13.7		Land Rover	Range Rover Sport 4.2 V8	NA	4198/V8S	400	56.1				
Hyundai	Tucson 2.0 CRDi	16.95	1991/4T	112	25	14.14	8.4	11.5		Land Rover	Discovery 2.7 TDV8	NA	2720/v6T	193	45.3				
Mahindra	Bolero SLX 2WD	6.6	2523/4	72.5	15.5		9.4			Volkswagen	Touareg 3.0 V6 Tdi	NA	2967/V6 T	225	51				
Mahindra	Scorpio - 2.6 LX	7.95	2609/4T	115	28.3	16.53	9.7	13.4		Volvo	XC90 3.2		3192/6	238	32.6				
Tata Motors	Sumo Granade LX	7.16	2179/4T	118	25.4	17.72	9.6	13.2		Fiat	Adventure 1.6 Sport	4.93	1596/4	100	14				
Tata Motors	Sumo Victa - LX	5.96	1948/4	68	12				Ford	Endeavour TDCi 2.5 XLT	16.08	2499/4	116	28.5	18.93	7.3	10.7		
Tata Motors	Safari Dicor LX	8.14	2179/4 T	140	32.6		8.9		Honda	CR V (MT)	18.51	1997/4	143	19.3	11.01	8.6	11.9		
Tata Motors	Marina - GLE	4.69	1405/4	85	11	13.34	8.8	13.7		Maruti Suzuki	Grand Vitara MT	14.93	1995/4	120	17.3	14.04	6.7	9.5	
Toyota	Innova - G1	7.82	1998/4	136	18.6	12.63	7.7	11.3		Maruti Suzuki	Gypsy - King ST	5.52	1298/4	81	10.6	16.39			
Porsche	Cayenne (4X4)	NA	3598/V6	290	39.2				Mitsubishi	Montero 3.2 Di-D	36.54	3198/T	165	39.1	15.27	7.3	10		
BMW	X5 4.8i	NA	4799/V8	350	48.4				Mitsubishi	Pajero 2.8CRZ	19.67	2835/4T	118.6	29.8	16.92	7.5	10.5		
BMW	X3 2.5 Si	NA	2497/6	218	25.43				Nissan	X Trail - Comfort	23.08	2184/4	136	32.01	11.9	11.5	15.1		
Land Rover	Range Rover 4.2 V8	NA	4198/V8S	400	58				Toyota	Land Cruiser Prado - VX	41.62	3956/V6	235	36.9	9.45	5	6.9		
									Maruti Suzuki	Omni - 8 Seater	2.58	796/3	35	6.1					

COUPE & CONVERTIBLE																			
Lamborghini	Gallardo	NA	4961/V10	512	52					Porsche	Cayman S	NA	3386/6	295	34.67				
Lamborghini	Murcielago	NA	6496/V12	631	67.3					Porsche	Boxter S	NA	3179/6	280	32.6	7.31	4.76	7.25	
Porsche	Carrera	NA	3596/6	325	37.7					San Engineering	Storm	5.75	1149/4	56.3	8.7	15.91	11.9	16	



FAST TRACK

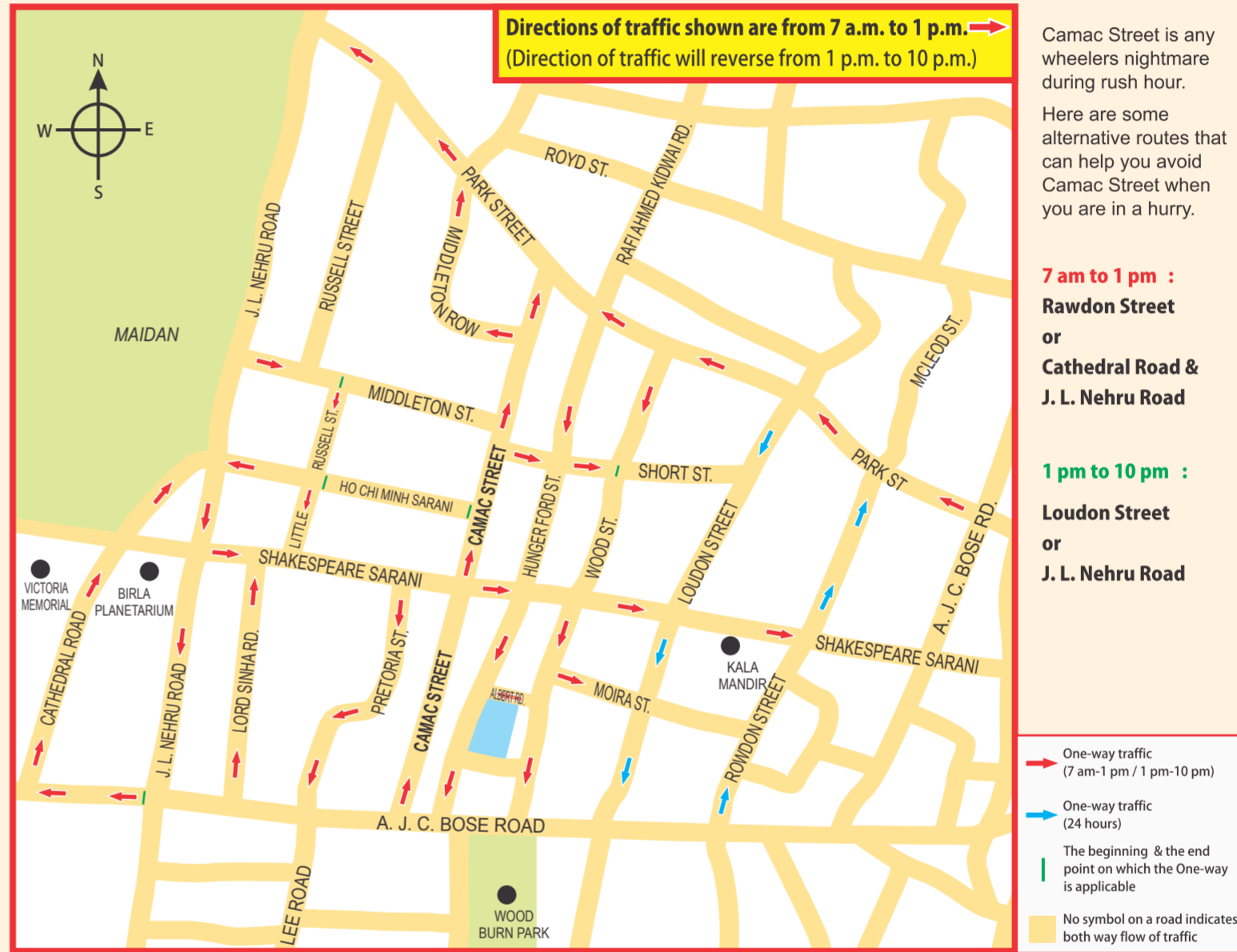
Getting around CAMAC STREET

Reaching any destination in the fastest possible time is always on a motorist's mind. But during the busy hours of traffic, it becomes a daunting task for most of us. However, it is not entirely impossible to avoid the congested roads and get to your destination in quick

time. Motorists often forget one simple theory- the shortest route to a destination is not always the fastest one. This is a very common mistake made by hundreds of motorists every single day. Often, the motorists are so pre-occupied with the thought of the shortest route that they

become completely oblivious about the fastest one. Never mind! It is time to put your brain cells to rest since **Team Wheels** has come up with just the right solution to your problems. Each month we will be educating you on how to bypass a main road

congested with heavy traffic so that you never have to apologize for being late again. In this issue we will focus on how to avoid the busy traffic of CAMAC STREET



One-Way Traffic Guide

Name of the Street	Direction	Time	Name of the Street	Direction	Time
Park Street	East to West	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.	Little Russell Street	North to South	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.
	West to East	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.		South to North	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.
Shakespeare Sarani	West to East	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.	Lord Sinha Road	South to North	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.
	East to West	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.		North to South	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.
Pretoria Street	North to South	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.	Middleton Row	Entry from Camac Street	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.
	South to North	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.		Entry from Park Street	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.
Rowdon Street	South to North	24 Hours	Short Street between Camac Street and Wood Street	West to East	7 A.M. to 10 P.M.
Loudon Street	North to South	24 Hours		A.J.C. Bose Road between J.L. Nehru Road and Cathedral Road	East to West
Hungerford Street	North to South	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.	West to East	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.	
	South to North	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.	J.L.Nehru Road between Ho-Chi-Minh Sarani and A.J.C. Bose Road	North to South	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Moiria Street	West to East	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.	South to North	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.	
	East to West	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.	Cathedral Road between A.J.C. Bose Road and J.L.Nehru Road Crossing, Cathedral Road Extension	South to North	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Wood Street and Upper Wood Street	North to South	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.	North to South	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.	
	South to North	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.	Camac Street	South to North	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Ho-Chi-Minh Sarani	East to West	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.	North to South	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.	
	West to East	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.	Albert Road	East to West	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.
Middleton Street between J.L.Nehru Road and Little Russell Street	West to East	7 A.M. to 1 P.M.	West to East	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.	
	East to West	1 P.M. to 10 P.M.			



WHAT'S IN IT?

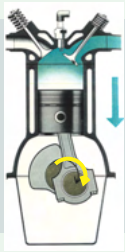
Learn about your Engine

Rahul Indrojit Sircar

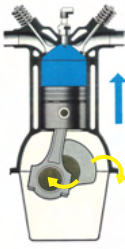
A car gets its motive power from its engine. It is within the engine that chemical energy (fuel) burns to generate heat energy, which in turn converts into mechanical energy that moves the vehicle. This process generates over 700 degrees centigrade of temperature inside the engine. While a quarter of this heat is converted into power, the rest is transferred to the cooling and exhaust mechanism. The various moving components of an engine also need to be separated by lubricating oil to reduce friction and wear and tear.

Most of the high-speed internal combustion engines (petrol and diesel) operate on what is known as a four stroke combustion cycle to convert fuel into motion. The four strokes are:

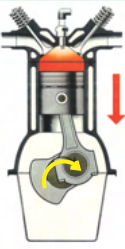
- 1 Intake stroke 2 Compression stroke 3 Combustion/Power stroke 4 Exhaust stroke



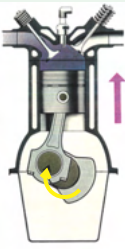
- 1 **Intake stroke:** The inlet valve is open, the exhaust valve is closed. The pistons descend inducing a flow of the air and fuel mixture into the cylinder. Soon after this stroke, the inlet valve is closed.
In case of a diesel engine, only filtered air is drawn into the cylinder through the inlet valve.



- 2 **Compression stroke:** Both inlet and exhaust valves are closed. The rising piston compresses the mixture in the combustion chamber and compression heat vaporizes the mixture.
In a diesel engine, the filtered air is compressed to much higher pressures whereby it gets heated to the flash point of diesel.



- 3 **Combustion/Power stroke:** Both valves remain closed. A spark from the spark plug ignites the compressed air-fuel mixture, resulting in expansion which drives the piston down.
In a diesel engine instead of an electrical spark, an atomized high pressure spray of diesel is introduced to the highly compressed air within the cylinder whose temperature has reached the flashpoint of diesel resulting in ignition and hence power.



- 4 **Exhaust stroke:** The exhaust valve opens. The piston rises to expel burnt gases. Then the cycle restarts.

In the petrol engine, fuel and air mixture is drawn into the cylinder during the first or the induction stroke. In a diesel engine, however, only filtered air is drawn into the cylinder.



WHEELERS' QUIZ

Q 1. Which Indian vehicle has been offered with seven different types of engines in its life history?

Q 2. Which very popular American car was lovingly called the Tin Lizzy?

Prize for the first correct entry at: reply@guideindiapublication.com

Answers in next issue



STAR TRACK

"I am crazy about my cars"

This lovely lady loves to be in control. That's why she drives her own car. "No, chauffeurs please! I am totally self-driven," she quips. Hear actress June croon over her cars and voice her views about the auto aspect of our city in an interview to *Rajeswari Sen*.

● **We heard you have two cars that are a quite a couple?**

- Oh yes! They are a stark contrast but a cute pair so far as size and colours go. The first is a flaming red Getz and the other is a blue and mauve Scorpio.

● **What's your first love in car colours?**

- I am obsessed with the color red and red will remain closest to my heart. I can think about a new car brand but never a new color. For me it's always, "Gimme red!"

● **What's your crush?**

- Hope, you mean cars? Well, I am passionate about a Red Ferrari. It's fast and furious and I love speed. And as I said, I see 'red' all the time. (Laughs)

● **Where do you drive to during weekends?**

- Tolly Club is my getaway on weekends. I generally take my children along. Even when my kids are not around, I love to unwind over a drink at the club. Winter Sunday afternoons are all the more special for these solitary sessions at Tolly. This apart, my kids and me almost regularly drive down to Sharma Dhaba on Ballygunge Circular Road and enjoy a warm cuppa and dinner inside the car.

● **Are you passionate about long drives?**

- Long drives refresh me. Recently, we - my kids, mom, cousins and aunt - packed ourselves into my Scorpio, while I took to the wheels and headed for Bolpur. It was a great drive with good roads, the cool morning breeze (we started off early) and a cozy family affair.

● **Tell us about a bad car day?**

- It was 1 pm at night, after 14 hours of hard work, that I discovered a flat tyre. Thank God, I was at the studio and had a colleague drop me.

● **Name some roads you would dread to tread and those with smooth drives?**

- Red Road and the Vidyasagar Setu are my joy rides. North Kolkata is somewhat bumpy and broken.

● **Any special moments with your car?**

- Every moment with my car is special. My cars are my constant companion.

● **Are car-related events your cup of tea?**

- Car rallies are simply thrilling. The latest that I participated in, was a rally organized by Tata sometime last year. More car rallies for me, please!

● **Recount a rainy day in your car?**

- That was one day I thought I would surely drown. I had hit the road after work and when I was in front of Priya Cinema I could feel the water swelling and I had at least another 200 kms to drive. Thankfully, my car didn't drown me and I was safely home.

● **Are you a night rider?**

- I was a regular night crawler a few years back. I have sobered down now. I do drive back home late from work, but that's it.

● **Are the Kolkata Traffic Police doing a good job?**

- Our traffic is any day better compared to Bangalore and Mumbai. Traffic jams are certainly lesser. Maybe, shorter distances help in traffic management here. But, I must say, kudos to Kolkata Police for the job they do during the Pujas and cricket matches at the Eden Gardens. I also appreciate the assistance booths they have set up. They make me feel so secure when I drive back late from work.

● **How would you rate Kolkata roads?**

- (Moans) Simply, sad. The potholes are a perennial problem, while the speed breakers crop up out of nowhere. I think they could be painted white or some other light shade for better visibility. And then there is the KMC that scoops out roads every other day. This always makes our city roads look like 'kutcha' tracks as in rural areas. It's pathetic considering the fact that Kolkata is a leading metropolis.

● **Message to Kolkata motorists?**

- Stop the mindless honking.

*lots of love
Smile Always!!
June*

Actress June with her flaming red Getz

Your City. Your Life. Your Car.



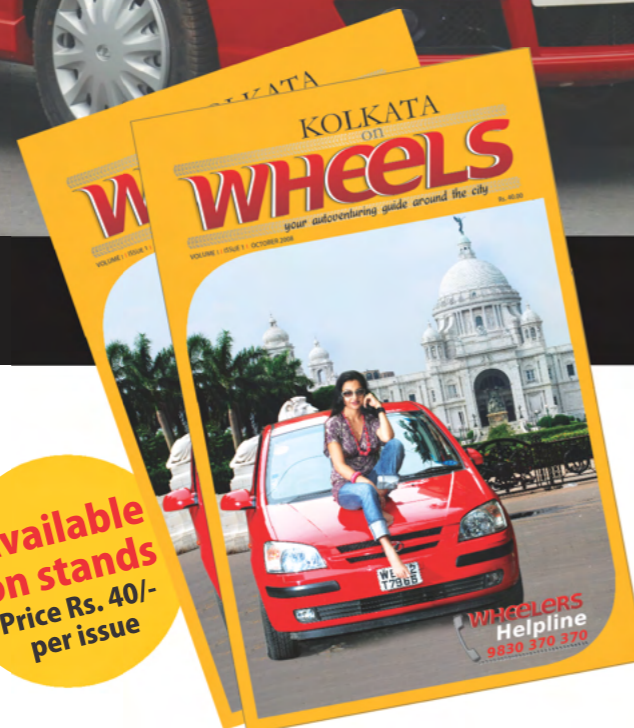
The first city centric monthly magazine in India

For the first time, the city of Kolkata zooms into the pages of a monthly magazine and that too on WHEELS!

'Kolkata on Wheels' promises to encompass the happening city of Kolkata for its enthusiastic car owners and all city lovers. It fills a huge void in motoring in and around the city as the only choice for the new generation car owners who seek the best for themselves.

Interesting relevant local content on the city, along with a dollop of fun-filled activities round off the exploration of 'Kolkata on Wheels'.

Available on stands
Price Rs. 40/- per issue



KOLKATA
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BETTER DRIVING

PESKY PEDESTRIANS

Driving a car is a lot about keeping your nerves. And when pedestrians simply don't want to stick to the sidewalks, how can a wheeler keep his cool. So, it's best to be extra careful about jaywalkers on our city roads. Here is some insight :

Flying Machine

He is always seen in a flash. One minute he is there and then he's vanished into the busy traffic. He will never stop, expecting you to slow down every time. He's every wheeler's nightmare.



Chatterbox

A busy road is the best place to catch up with a lot of chatting for these people. While they are busy yakking away, they almost always forget the traffic. Bring them back to reality with some honking!



Pop-up

Every time you drive past a stationary or a slow moving vehicle, watch out for him. For he will pop out even before either of you have spotted each other. He comes in various forms. Sometimes he could be someone in a hurry to cross the road,



someone suddenly emerging from behind a big vehicle or someone sticking his/her head out of a bus. So, it's safest to reduce driving speed while passing stationary vehicles and be cautious.

Batman

This man is the night crawler. He fogs headlights as he turns into a phantom of sorts, while he ambles past the night traffic. Make sure you slow down well within your reach of visibility. For he may be too elusive for you to dodge at the last minute.



Wiggly Wiggly

Whenever there is bumper-to-bumper traffic you will see this overconfident individual squeezing his way out somehow. He's always capable of wriggling his way out. Make sure you don't squash him.



Kiddy Chaos

Kids are always mischief makers, and so they are on the roads as well. You just wouldn't want to turn their cry of delight into a moan. Be on high-alert for them, while they run around chasing their football or flying a kite, oblivious of the traffic.



INDUSTRY NEWS

India-only! Cars we can call our own

Pradeep Gooptu, resident editor of Business Standard, speaks on some forthcoming launches in an interview to Joydip Sur

I think all of us would like to know what new cars we can expect to come on sale in the next few months, but only those which have been developed in and for India.

The vehicle arousing the most curiosity is without doubt the Tata Motors' Nano, irrespective of whether it comes out of Singur or not!

Priced at an incredible Rs 1 lakh (around \$2,500), the cheapest ever in the world, it is being compared to cars such as the Ford Model T and Volkswagen Beetle.

Only the standard variant without air-conditioning and power steering will have ex-dealer price of Rs 1 lakh with value-added tax and logistics cost from the factory extra.

The four-door, 5-seater car will be 20 per cent more spacious internally than the M800 externally, so it will be like an Alto.

It would meet frontal crash test norms mandatory in India, the offset and side impact crash test norms required overseas and in emission, be Bharat Stage 3/ Euro 4 compatible.

Mileage will be 20 km per litre without air conditioner, and the AC version will have a 60cc AC to minimize strain on the engine but be priced higher, while a diesel Nano will follow soon.

The petrol engine is a 623cc, two-cylinder, MPFI engine with single-balancer shaft and four-speed manual transmission, offering top speed of around 105 km per hour through a rear-engine package designed to increase interior space and lower cost.

A unique sales and distribution strategy will help cut Nano on-

road prices further, so it may be sold only from the factory gate, or at supermarkets!

Another India-only car from Tata will be the Indicruz, based on the existing Safari platform. Indicruz could compete with Toyota Innova and would possibly replace the Safari.

Tata Motors is not alone: Suzuki Motor Corporation will launch its global car 'A-Star' concept, manufactured only in India, possibly at its new plant in Manesar near Delhi by 2008-09, initially for only the Indian market, but to be exported later. As market leader Maruti will launch one model in India every year, expect more surprises.

Not to be left behind, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) is aiming to plug the price gap between the Bolero and the Scorpio. M&M will launch a premium SUV by 2009 but more interestingly, it

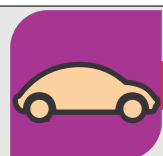


will bring to showrooms its Ingenio MUV positioned between Bolero and Scorpio by this year.

Ingenio may be built at its Nashik plant and will be exported but pricing is still a secret. The rumour: around Rs 6 lakh.

Ingenio will have a diesel engine, a petrol one and automatic transmission option.

M&M's range at the entry level includes the soft-top jeep, the Commander and Max, followed by Bolero and the Camper, and topped by the Scorpio.



CAR CARE

Check your Brake

Team Wheels

The condition of the brake of a car depends on its maintenance. This becomes all the more important during the monsoons. Here are a few tips to keep the braking system ship-shape during the showers:

BRAKE CARE

It is advisable to check the braking system post monsoon or before taking a long drive. The hydraulic fluid must be replaced post monsoon and the entire system flushed out. Hydraulic fluid being highly hydroscopic, the fluid in the brake reservoir gets contaminated with water

droplets due to high ambient moisture during the monsoon. Worn-out components e.g. brake shoes and brake pads, must be replaced. It is also advisable to replace the rubber components of the braking system at this stage.

BRAKE CHECK

Having to top-up the brake fluid often indicates a leakage in the system

If there is a great deal of pedal movement before the brakes begin to operate, the brakes need adjustment

If the pedal feels soft and spongy and the braking lacks sharpness, this indicates air in

the system and the hydraulic system needs to be purged

Pump the brake until the pressure builds up and the pedal becomes rigid. Press the pedal, feel for any loss in the pressure. If the pedal starts to depress, it is an indication of a leakage in the hydraulic system.

Pull on the handbrake. If it takes more than a few clicks before it holds the car on a gradient, the cable or rear brake shoes need to be adjusted.

If there is a problem, avoid using your car until you have it repaired from a service center and are satisfied with the overall condition of the braking system.

BRAKING TIPS

- Always buy good branded hydraulic fluid from an established shop
- Don't mix different types of hydraulic fluids
- Use branded and genuine brake components, do not go for the cheapest
- If water gets into the drums, brake performance may be hampered and unpredictable. After driving through water or washing the chassis of the vehicle, test the brakes while driving at a slow speed. If they are less effective than normal, dry them by repeatedly applying the brakes while continuing to drive slowly until normal effectiveness has been regained.



TREASURE HUNT

Want to add some speed to your dull weekends?

'Kolkata on Wheels' gives you a fabulous opportunity to enjoy your weekends and holidays with your family and friends. Just take your car and hunt around the city. Yes! The ride will guarantee you pleasure and treasure!!!!

Welcome to the Treasure Hunt of 'Kolkata on Wheels'. Every issue, we will give 2 clues to check your funda on Kolkata. The first 2 correct entries will get 2 bumper gifts!

Here are your two keys to the treasure for this month-

- Netaji's great escape obviously reminds you of his "Wanderer" car in which he traveled till Gomoh. What was the number of the car? (Clue: The car is on display at his Elgin Road house)
- Swami Vivekananda wrote a book at the age of 24, which was published by Arjya Pustakalaya. Can you name the book? (Clue: You can find the book in his ancestral house at Simla Street. Refer to 'Past Perfect' section on page no. 25)



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Rush your replies to: reply@guideindiapublication.com

Hurry! Your time starts ... now!





CLEAN CHIT

Who are the culprits?

Are private vehicles the main reason for emission lapses? No, says a recent study that points fingers at commercial vehicles

Debjani Bandyopadhyay

By now private vehicles owners know that they just can't do without their Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate. For they know, without one they wouldn't be spared the rod.

But what they don't know is that commercial vehicles are much bigger polluters than private ones. Yet, private vehicle owners bear the brunt of not having a PUC certificate. This came up in a recent study carried out across the nation.

The reason is simple. Private vehicle owners are soft targets for enforcing agencies like Public Vehicles Dept. or the police. The private vehicles owners are individuals without the backing of any of the unions. So, there is none to create a ruckus for the private car owners. On the other hand, buses, taxis, autos and various other types of commercial vehicles have strong politically-backed unions taking up arms for them at the drop of the hat. So, law-enforcing agencies think twice before catching a bus or a taxi on the wrong foot even on emission issues.

Auto-rickshaws, which, without any doubt, are the worst polluters among automobiles, are clearly considered 'untouchables' by law-enforcing agencies. These black smoke belching, loud honking, riskily racing traffic menace are quite a nuisance on city roads; and they hardly ever have their pollution cards in order. But since they come under the umbrella of major unions, they wriggle out of any situation, just like they do on busy roads.

Auto-rickshaws being the most militant can, in fact, easily arm-twist agencies. "So it is always a better idea for the authorities to bring the private vehicles to book. For they know that this will hardly cause any commotion," says Auto-Emission Tester Association general secretary Asim Banerjee.

What's more, the National Auto Fuel Policy and High Court orders for phasing out of polluting vehicles are specifically meant for commercial vehicles only, since they are the main polluters. A recent Calcutta High Court order has also placed a ban on pre-1993 commercial vehicles and all two stroke auto-rickshaws. The order insists that all auto-rickshaws must run on cleaner fuels — LPG or CNG.

"If you take a close look at the city's automobile scenario, you would find that private vehicles are the major chunk among all categories of vehicles that have switched to the LPG mode. The response from other sectors is rather cold," says Sharad Jhavar, secretary of Greater Calcutta Auto Gas-kit Suppliers' Association.

Moreover, most private cars undergo regular servicing, while commercial vehicles look worn out and crying for some care. "It is a fact, that most commercial vehicles generally pollute more because



Smoke spewing buses are one of the biggest polluters

of poor maintenance," says auto-emission consultant S.M. Ghosh. "In a city where less than 20 per cent vehicles go for PUC certificates in a year what is the point in targeting only private vehicles? A majority of this 20 per cent are private vehicles only. The rest do not care about conforming to emission standards, however stringent they are," said Asim Banerjee. Moreover, Auto Emission Testing Centres (AETC) in the city has upgraded their mono-gas analysers to multi-gas analysers with a lot of money. But the return is very less due to poor turn out.

"If the government suddenly wakes up and decides to clamp down on polluting vehicles, we become the easy targets. Despite having valid PUCs, the cops got my vehicle tested. As was expected, my car, which passed the test of the emission centre with élan, failed to pass the test conducted by cops. So they asked me to bring back the car after necessary rectification. I got my car tested on that very evening from a different AETC; again the car easily passed the test even before any rectification was made," said Kollol Mukherjee, a senior executive of a multi-national company.

That's just one voice of so many others like Kollol.

Though cops crack down on private cars for emission checks, it's the commercial vehicles that are the main polluters

Rule Book

If a motorist fails to show a valid PUC, he or she would be penalized under clause 7 of section 115 of Central Motor Vehicles Act. The fine is Rs 1,500 for this offence.

Court says

Phase out diesel commercial vehicles mainly, since they are the biggest polluters

All pre-1993 commercial vehicles must go off the roads

All two stroke auto-rickshaws are banned

Auto-rickshaws must run on cleaner fuels - LPG or CNG



VOICE-IT-OUT

Voices of Motorists

For the wheelers, By the wheelers, Of the wheelers

Kolkata wheelers, here is a shoulder to lean on. Since, car owners in Kolkata have no organized forum to voice their problems we have dedicated a section of this magazine to try and unburden at least some of their woes. Here, our magazine will highlight some of the problems faced by Kolkata motorists.

Every problem that we focus on will be divided into four interactive steps spanning four subsequent months corresponding to our magazine issues. Once a problem is concluded, we will take up another new one that will again include four steps carried over the next four subsequent months and so on.

The four steps are elucidated here :

Month 1: Our Voice

We will highlight a problem from our end and invite readers' feedbacks

Month 2: Your Voice

We will publish readers' feedback

Month 3: As We Sow

'Forum 4 wheelers' (formed by the subscribers of 'Kolkata on Wheels') will take an initiative to redress the problem with the help of the concerned authorities

Month 4: Shall We Reap

The outcome of the initiative taken will be published

Month 1: Our Voice

Topic for our first issue:

PARKING PROBLEMS



In this edition we are highlighting two issues.

- 1 Parking rates
- 2 The fractional division of Parking rates

Read on for the details.

ISSUE 1:

PARKING RATES

Do you feel the parking rate of Kolkata is high in comparison with the other metro cities?

Here is the parking fee chart for four wheelers in Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi for you to compare.

KOLKATA

Timing for Day Parking: 8 am to 10 pm

Parking Zone Categories Rate for the first hour

Zone Category A	Rs 7/-
Zone Category B	Rs 6/-
Zone Category C	Rs 5/-

Additional charge of ½ the rate will be levied for every additional 30 minutes after the 1st hour.

MUMBAI

Here is the exhaustive list of parking charges for four wheelers:

Up to 1 Hour	Rs 5/-	Up to 9 Hours	Rs 29/-
Up to 2 Hours	Rs 8/-	Up to 10 Hours	Rs 32/-
Up to 3 Hours	Rs 11/-	Up to 11 Hours	Rs 37/-
Up to 4 Hours	Rs 14/-	Up to 12 Hours	Rs 42/-
Up to 5 Hours	Rs 17/-	Up to 13 Hours	Rs 47/-
Up to 6 Hours	Rs 20/-	Up to 14 Hours	Rs 52/-
Up to 7 Hours	Rs 23/-	Up to 15 Hours	Rs 57/-
Up to 8 Hours	Rs 26/-		

DELHI

In places like Conaught Place, New Delhi Railway Station, Karol Bagh, Raja Garden Janakpuri, Bikhaji Cama Place and Nehru Place you are required to pay Rs 10/- up to the first four hours and Rs 30/- beyond four hours.

BLDNO. CATEGORY DAY PARKING	TYPE OF VEHICLE (RATE PER HOUR OR PART THEREOF)		
	TWO WHEELER MOTORIZED	CAR/VAN	LORRIES BUSES
1 CATEGORY A	3	7	14
TYPE OF VEHICLE (RATE PER MONTH)			
TWO WHEELER MOTORIZED	CAR/VAN	LORRIES	BUSES
500.00	1000.00	1200.00	

ISSUE 2:

THE FRACTIONAL DIVISION OF PARKING RATE IS NOT EFFECTIVE IN KOLKATA

The fractional division of parking rate is not effective in Kolkata. e.g. if you have parked your car in Zone B for 1 hour and 15 minutes, you are supposed to pay Rs 9/- (Rs 6/- for the 1st hour and Rs 3/- for 15 minutes, since half the rate should be levied for every additional 30 minutes after the 1st hour).

In many places, however, you are compelled to pay the charge for two hours i.e. Rs 12/- (Rs 6/- x 2) or Rs 14/- (Rs 7/- x 2) etc., as soon as the 1st hour comes to an end. The fractional division in the KMC fare chart is being rampantly violated by the collecting agents of the parking cooperatives.

How long will you remain a victim of this malpractice? Readers are invited to send their views at reply@guideindiapublication.com

Did you know?

■ If you are compelled to pay more than what is determined by K.M.C, you can also report to:

Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Parking)
Parking Department
5, S.N. Banerjee Road
Kolkata 700003
Phone: 22861000, Ext 2600

At the time KMC receives a parking complaint, they take name, address, nature of complaint etc. from citizens. KMC believes that it is very important to deal with complainants. Once KMC has resolved the parking issues, it ensures that a letter is sent to the address provided.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A SWEET SENSATION Rasagolla



Team Wheels

Squeeze it or not, when the white ball starts romancing with your taste buds, there are bits and pieces of paradise left in your mouth. This explains why Bengalis have the Rasagolla at the top of their sweet chart and no ceremonial treat is complete without its syrupy blessings.

Though Nabin Chandra Das is fondly remembered as the founder of the Rasagolla, this unique taste actually belongs to our neighbouring state of Orissa. In nineteenth century Bengal, when the conventional taste of the sandesh was the king of sweets, Nabin Chandra brought about a sweet sensation in the form of the Rasagolla.

The name is self explanatory: telling a lot about its juicy nature (rasa) and the round shape (golla). It is he who first observed that the dry taste of the sandesh was becoming too monotonous. Initially it was difficult to drown the tight, round mass in sugar syrup, while keeping its taste intact. But kudos to his unrelenting efforts the Rasagolla finally formed its shape and texture and added inexhaustible sweetness to our dishes.

But never think that its evolution was as smooth as it melts in our mouth, rather the orthodox society was initially quite apathetic to it. A sweet, prepared by boiling was not supposed to be served to God! Most every Bengali sweet connoisseur was fully won.

for worship. Yet, gradually, within six to seven years after it first indulged our sweet tooth in 1868, the heart of almost every Bengali sweet connoisseur was fully won.

Down mishti lane, another name that comes to the forefront is that of Bhagwandas Bagla, a wealthy businessman. He inspired the Rasagolla revolution like none other. In fact, some say he and his son were the first to have tasted Nabin Chandra's glorious gollas. As the story goes, one day Bhagwandas stopped in front of Chandra's Bagbazar shop, when his child felt thirsty. Along with a glass of water, the boy was offered a special Rasagolla and his thirst was delightfully quenched. There was no stopping the sweet saga after that.

Nabin Chandra's Bagbazar shop, when his child felt thirsty. Along with a glass of water, the boy was offered a special Rasagolla and his thirst was delightfully quenched. There was no stopping the sweet saga after that.

The Das family went on experimenting and enriching its Rasagolla family by introducing variants like the Rasamalai, Kamala Bhog, Rajbhog and what not. With each passing day there were more choices to choose from. Today there are many more flavours and let's hope posterity will keep this sweet spirit alive.



TAKE YOUR PICK

Name	Location	Phone no.
BALARAM	Bhowanipore	24869490
CHITTARANJAN	Shyambazar	25556025
GANGURAM	Manicktala	23503359
K. C. DAS	Esplanade	22485920
MITHAI	Beckbagan	22873590
MOUCHAK	Golpark	24405420



ROADSCAPE

The Street that Never Sleeps

Team Wheels

Going down memory lane, in the year 1767, the official burial ground within the St. Jones Church premises was facing a severe space crunch. It was on the 25th of August, 1767, when a new burial ground (now known as South Park Street Cemetery) was built on Circular Road. Since then, the connecting road came to be known as the 'Road to Burial Ground'. And when we see Park Street today in the light and shade of ebullience, it is hardly believable that it was once nothing more than just the 'Ghorustan Ka Rustah'.

The name 'Park Street' owes its origin to the deer park of Sir Elijah Impey, the first Chief Justice (appointed in 1773) of the New Supreme Court, then at Calcutta. It was this 'park' that made the discarded, uninhabited 'rustah' succumb to today's peppy, dazzling and high on life Park Street. Very recently Park Street has again been rechristened as Mother Teresa Sarani. But for the millions who call Kolkata their home, it still remains the good old 'Park Street'.

Geographically, Park Street runs from Jawahar Lal Nehru Road in the west to Park Circus in the east. This stretch that also runs through Mullick Bazaar has been

one of the city's main attractions for decades.

The street itself exudes an aura of perennial celebration. The night life on Park Street is the most enjoyable part, owing to the dazzling presence of the city's cynosure discos, pubs and bars. Whether at the peak hours of noon or late at night, the jazzy street is always on the move.

This is also the shoppers' paradise. Numerous shops dot both the sidewalks of Park Street conferring a busy look upon it. While the city droops to slumber,

Park Street wakes up to the tune of life. Walking through the street one can feel the inexhaustible flow of elixir sweeping the entire area.

Park Street has several notable buildings such as The Geological Survey of India, the Asiatic Society, St. Xavier's College, Seventh-day Adventist Church and the South Park Street Cemetery which has cenotaphs and tombs of prominent figures in population.

from the British Raj era and Kolkata's Armenian population.

Park Street remains Kolkata's foremost dining district with noted restaurants and pubs such as Trincas, Flury's, Bar BQ, Oasis, Moulin Rouge, Silver Grill, Peping, Olypub and many others. Then there is the five-star Park Hotel, famous for its in-house restaurants and night club, Tantra. The hotel is also

Past six in the evening and Park Street drowns in a 1,000 watt smile of revelry. But, it has not always been the case. A lot of 'jhalhuri' paper wraps have flown in the Maidan since 'Ghorustan Ka Rustah' or 'Road to Burial Ground' days.

home to Someplace Else, the Mecca of live music of Kolkata. This resto-pub has witnessed performances by the finest musicians of the city.

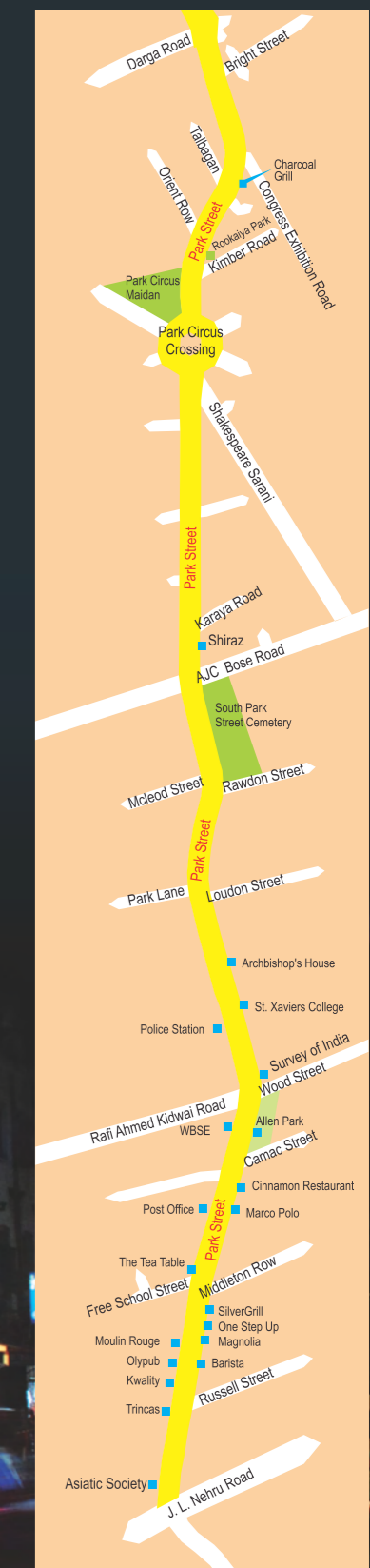
Kolkata's nightlife revolves around

Park Street's nightclubs, pubs and coffee houses. Landmark coffee shops of the likes of The Atrium (The Park), Café Coffee Day and Barista make Park Street a hub of school and college goers. Little wonder then, Park Street is also referred to as the 'Food Street'.

Any gloomy day can turn vibrant if you browse through a book stalls and feel the wave of life. t life. Park Street remains the

Crisscrossed by history, this street continues to live up to the emerging trend of glitz and glamour. It explains why it is the arterial hub of our social and night life. Park Street remains the recreation zone for the people of Kolkata since the British era. A visit to Kolkata is deemed incomplete without a visit to pulsating Park Street.

PARK STREET





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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The name is self explanatory: telling a lot about its juicy nature (*rasa*) and the round shape (*golla*). It is he who first observed that the dry taste of the *sandesh* was becoming too monotonous. Initially it was difficult to drown the tight, round mass in sugar syrup, while keeping its taste intact. But kudos to his unrelenting efforts the *Rasagolla* finally formed its shape and texture and added inexhaustible sweetness to our dishes.

But never think that its evolution was as smooth as it melts in our mouth, rather the orthodox society was initially quite apathetic to it. A sweet, prepared by boiling was not supposed to be served to God! Most every Bengali sweet connoisseur was fully won.

for worship. Yet, gradually, within six to seven years after it first indulged our sweet tooth in 1868, the heart of almost every Bengali sweet connoisseur was fully won.

Down *mishiti* lane, another name that comes to the forefront is that of Bhagwandas Bagla, a wealthy businessman. He inspired the *Rasagolla* revolution like none other. In fact, some say he and his son were the first to have tasted Nabin Chandra's glorious gollas. As the story goes, one day Bhagwandas stopped in front of Chandra's Bagbazar shop, when his child felt thirsty. Along with a glass of water, the boy was offered a special *Rasagolla* and his thirst was delightfully quenched.

Nabin Chandra's Bagbazar shop, when his child felt thirsty. Along with a glass of water, the boy was offered a special *Rasagolla* and his thirst was delightfully quenched. There was no stopping the sweet saga after that.

The Das family went on experimenting and enriching its *Rasagolla* family by introducing variants like the *Rasamalai*, *Kamala Bhog*, *Rajbhog* and what not. With each passing day there were more choices to choose from. Today there are many more flavours and let's hope posterity will keep this sweet spirit alive.



TAKE YOUR PICK

Name	Location	Phone no.
BALARAM	Bhowanipore	24869490
CHITTARANJAN	Shyambazar	25556025
GANGURAM	Manicktala	23503359
K. C. DAS	Esplanade	22485920
MITHAI	Beckbagan	22873590
MOUCHAK	Golpark	24405420



ROADSCAPE

The Street that Never Sleeps

Team Wheels

Going down memory lane, in the year 1767, the official burial ground within the St. Jones Church premises was facing a severe space crunch. It was on the 25th of August, 1767, when a new burial ground (now known as South Park Street Cemetery) was built on Circular Road. Since then, the connecting road came to be known as the '*Road to Burial Ground*'. And when we see Park Street today in the light and shade of ebullience, it is hardly believable that it was once nothing more than just the '*Ghorustan Ka Rustah*'.

The name '*Park Street*' owes its origin to the deer park of Sir Elijah Impey, the first Chief Justice (appointed in 1773) of the New Supreme Court, then at Calcutta. It was this 'park' that made the discarded, uninhabited '*rustah*' succumb to today's peppy, dazzling and high on life Park Street. Very recently Park Street has again been rechristened as Mother Teresa Sarani. But for the millions who call Kolkata their home, it still remains the good old '*Park Street*'.

Geographically, Park Street runs from Jawahar Lal Nehru Road in the west to Park Circus in the east. This stretch that also runs through Mullick Bazaar has been

one of the city's main attractions for decades.

The street itself exudes an aura of perennial celebration. The night life on Park Street is the most enjoyable part, owing to the dazzling presence of the city's cynosure discos, pubs and bars. Whether at the peak hours of noon or late at night, the jazzy street is always on the move.

This is also the shoppers' paradise. Numerous shops dot both the sidewalks of Park Street conferring a busy look upon it.

While the city droops to slumber, Park Street wakes up to the tune of life. Walking through the street one can feel the inexhaustible flow of elixir sweeping the entire area.

Park Street has several notable buildings such as The Geological Survey of India, the Asiatic Society, St. Xavier's College, Seventh-day Adventist Church and the South Park Street Cemetery which has cenotaphs and tombs of prominent figures' population.

from the British Raj era and Kolkata's Armenian population.

Park Street remains Kolkata's foremost dining district with noted restaurants and pubs such as Trincas, Flury's, Bar BQ, Oasis, Moulin Rouge, Silver Grill, Peping, Olypub and many others. Then there is the five-star Park Hotel, famous for its in-house restaurants and night club, Tantra. The hotel is also home to Someplace Else, the Mecca of live music of Kolkata. This restaurant has witnessed performances

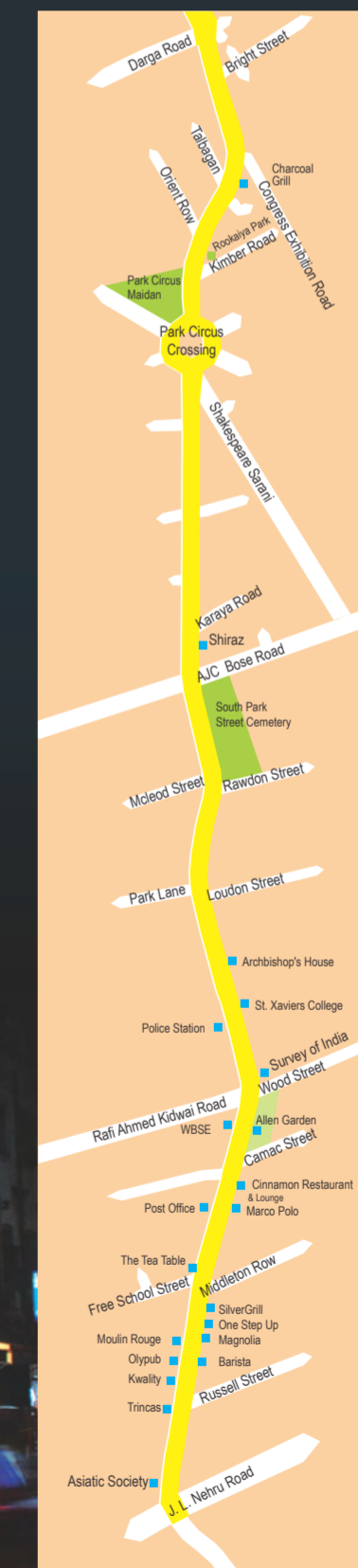
Past six in the evening and Park Street drowns in a 1,000 watt smile of revelry. But, it has not always been the case. A lot of 'j'halhuri' paper wraps have flown in the Maidan since 'Ghorustan Ka Rustah' or 'Road to Burial Ground' days.

by the finest musicians of the city.

Kolkata's nightlife revolves around Park Street's nightclubs, pubs and coffee houses. Landmark coffee shops of the likes of The Atrium (The Park), Café Coffee Day and Barista make Park Street a hub of school and college goers. Little wonder then, Park Street is also referred to as the '*Food Street*'.

Any gloomy day can turn vibrant if you browse through a book from Park Street's pavement stalls and feel the wave of life. Park Street remains the recreation zone for the people of Kolkata since the British era. A visit to Kolkata is deemed incomplete without a visit to pulsating Park Street.

PARK STREET





TEST DRIVE

The New Indigo in Town



Indrajit Dutta and Barkha Sharda
(With views from Jayati Sengupta Choudhury,
automobile trainer)

Tata's latest launch Indigo Compact Sedan (Indigo CS) is making headlines as the world's first sub four meter sedan. And it also lives up to its name with its compactness, which is intended to target the city's young professionals.

This is a sturdy car, with an easy turning ratio of 5 meters. This, along with a smart design, also makes the car easy to handle and park, thus ensuring that it is tailor-made for big city traffic.

The car looks smart in its aerodynamic getup, with great space as its USP. The Indigo CS can accommodate five people and has a large 380 litre boot. This apart, the car interior fits in focused reading lights.

It's facade is attractive and with many refurbished features. Some of the features donning a new look are a set of rear tail lights, front grille, headlamps and a trimmer rear bumper, each of which adds more to its appeal. Functionally, the addition of extended windows has improved visibility for rear passengers.

The car offers both petrol and diesel versions. The high end models, LS (Diesel) and GLS (Petrol) provide a power steering, leather-encased gears and encased steering wheels shaped in the form of a smart, sporty T. Other differences are that the petrol version has a multi point injection with a 32-bit processor and power of 65 PS@5200 rpm. The diesel model on the other hand fits in a turbo interchanged intercooler engine with power of 70 PS @ 4500 rpm.

Essential safety features includes anti-submarine front seats and child safety locks on back doors. The dashboard showcases a fuel gauge, speedometer, a digital clock, clear and easy-to-read black and white instrumentation and the AC controls. The AC is not too fuel guzzling.

Both paint and panels are of superior quality. Seat fabrics and door textures suitably compliment the interiors. A major drawback is a loosely mounted horn knob. Moreover, what the

Price in Kolkata (ex-showroom)	Tyres
Petrol (CS GLE) - Rs 3,74,789/-	Type-Radial Tube
Diesel (CS LE) - Rs 4,14,369/-	Tyre Size-(LS DiCOR/LS/GLS): 175/ 65 R 14
Dimensions	Tyre Size-(LE/GLE): 165/ 65 R 14
Length-3988 mm	Fuel Tank
Width-1620 mm	Capacity-42 litres
Height-1540 mm	Trunk Capacity-380 litres
Wheelbase-2450 mm	Seating Capacity - Five
Ground Clearance-165 mm	Suspension
Kerb Weight-1065 kg	Front - Independent, Lower Wish Bone, McPherson Strut with Coil Spring
Gross Vehicle Weight-1510 kg	Rear - Independent, Semi trailing arm with Coil Spring mounted on shock absorber
Steering	Colours for both versions
Type - Rack and pinion type with collapsible steering column	Scarlet red
Turning Radius-5.0 m	Sparkling gold
Brakes	Arctic silver
Type-Vacuum assisted dual circuit, diagonal split hydraulic brakes through tandem master cylinder	Mica grey
Front Brakes-Ventilated Disc	Cosmic blue
Rear Brakes-Drum	Interiors
	Petrol: beige
	Diesel: black

car badly misses are cubby holes and bottle holders. But we can say that this car is certainly not one for frills, rather it highlights compactness to the tee.



CONNOISSEURS' CORNER

"The Auburn was ours just for a pot of Raabri"

The gates of this mansion open to a majestic marquee. Antique is too less a word to describe Bose Nilay, its artefacts and its priceless anthology of legendary cars. The nine vintage and classic cars are the Bose family's fetish. Partha Sadhan Bose, a champion rallyist and businessman, developed a passion for these wonder wheelies sometime in 1983. *Rajeswari Sen* spoke to his son Deborshi, also an avid rallyist and his wife Shinjini, about their most prized possession, the Auburn Tourer.

● How did you procure the Auburn?

- The car was lying under the hot sun at the Sovabazar Rajbari. We got to know about it from a friend in 1996. It was waiting for us to rescue it. The erstwhile owners of the car were not willing to put a price to it, while we were not ready to take it without our show of gratitude. The cost of the car finally boiled down to a pot of Raabri (a famous Bengali sweet).



Deborshi and Shinjini

● What was the condition of the car?

- It was a ghost of a car when we discovered it: rusty, damaged and with motorcycle rims. Thankfully, we got many spare parts from a garage that was a part of the Rajbari escapade.

● How did you restore the car?

- The car came in bits and pieces in four trucks. It was put together like a jigsaw puzzle. We start the restoration after we get details about a car and its parts from reliable sources, preferably from the company if it exists or antique automobile clubs that we are



The man and his majestic machine

members of. Same goes for the Auburn. Even the orange and black colour is from a reference sent to us from Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum. In fact, after the restoration, my father was invited to Auburn for an honorary membership of the same museum.

● What are the honours won by the Auburn?

- This car was first showcased in *The Statesman Rally* in 1998, when it won the Best Maintained and the Best Restored car awards. Since then it has never returned with anything less than two trophies. Car rallies are a greater occasion for us than the Durga Puja.

● What does the Auburn mean to your family?

- Once a car enters our premises, it becomes a part of our family. We are almost sleepless till a car is restored. I start my day with a glance at my supercars from my balcony. I have a soft spot for the Auburn, nobody else drives it.

● How would your vintage cars fare on Kolkata roads?

- Kolkata traffic is yet to accept vintage cars. I hardly take out the cars; I can't see them get grazed or dented.

Shinjini says...

"I have a first love," *Deborshi* said before marriage "my grand old ladies," he chuckled, as he flaunted his collector cars. "Thank God, it's not a woman I have to compete with." I too love the cars. My father-in-law has given me an ultimatum to drive them by next year. As of now I navigate during rallies.

AUBURN TOURER 1926

This Auburn is a four-seater convertible with a big six engine. It is the only one in Asia. Even the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum showcases the salon but not the convertible.

A unique feature is the car fabric, which is a denim-like material called Mohair. It was preferred over conventional leather due to its insulation properties that kept passengers warm in the winters.

Other special features:

- Glass-fitted windows that can be rolled up
- A picnic box-cum-tool kit as the boot
- Tail lights with Buicelite (brand name) etched on it
- Number plate that reads BLB 1818, of undivided Bengal



Golden Oldie : The Auburn Tourer

LET'S GO FOR A DRIVE

Mandarmoni: Your search

Are you free this weekend and wondering what to do? Are you tired of shopping at sprawling malls, eating out at swanky restaurants and wanting to do something different this weekend? Then we have just the right weekend plan for you.

Team Destination

Along the coast of the Bay of Bengal and shaded with casuarinas, this is a getaway that seems to be more of an illusion than reality. This is destination Mandarmoni. Fresh, pure and almost perfect; glittering virgin beaches not yet drowned in teeming millions; an adolescent sea not yet drenched in showers of smog; that's the USP of the place.

Mandarmoni is truly a space very much your own. Forget those crowded beach holidays where you had to size up yourself between your neighbours on the beach. Here is one of the few places that offers a combination of a pleasurable drive, a small budget and refreshing tranquility. So if a weekend trip is on your mind, then don't think twice before servicing your car, packing your bags and heading to the most desired destination of beach lovers.

Situated in the southern part of West Bengal, Mandarmoni is a beautiful beach in Purba Midnapore district. Almost 180 kms away from Kolkata, this beach is best reached by road.

Jump into your car and hit the road that will lead you to the Vidyasagar Setu. After crossing the bridge, clear the toll tax and cruise down the Kona Expressway. (Refer to the maps) Though the expressway is dotted with numerous industrial plants on both sides, there are also patches of refreshing greenery. The traffic is usually smooth with rare exceptions on certain occasions.

The drive along the National Highway 6 is extremely pleasurable. While you are zooming past the landscape, after some time wafts of aroma from the typical roadside dhabas is sure to tingle your taste buds. There are plenty of breakfast options along the stretch of NH6. Take your pick of lip smacking delicacies like *alu paratha*, *kachori*, *muli ka paratha*, mixed *sabzi*, chicken *reshmi kabab* from the Azad Hind Dhaba or the Sher-e-Punjab. Do not forget to quench your thirst with a glass of 'special *lassi*'.

for solitude ends here

The greenery along the stretch of the road is a welcome relief for the urbane crowd. You will pass by numerous small stops like Kolaghat, Nanda Kumar, Chandipur and Contai, which will add to the experience of your rural rendezvous. Once you reach Chaulkhola, take left and drive on to the rough roads. Move slowly and be a bit careful while driving on this stretch.

The road will lead you to the beach where a 5 kms long heavenly beach drive awaits you with open arms with the sky and the earth embracing you on either side. Words will fail to do justice in expressing the excitement and exhilaration you would feel while driving down this long stretch of motorable beach. With the wind ruffling your hair as you look towards the sea, you will be immediately transported to a world of fantasies.

Stay in any of the luxurious resorts, which will deliver all the modern amenities that a city bred soul would not want missing amidst the bounty of nature. (Check list of accommodation) Indulge yourself with a delectable choice of seafood at the resort. The fried shrimp cocktails, the grilled pomfret and the steamed hilsa will leave your taste buds craving for more.

Take a romantic walk on the beach with your beloved against the backdrop of the setting sun, bathe in the adolescent sea, try your luck at fishing, or simply sit on the beach and sip on some fresh coconut water. Some of the resorts provide indoor and outdoor games facilities to the guests. You could try your hand at beach volleyball or showcase your skills on the table tennis board.

When the night sets in and this beautiful beach resort plunges into darkness just sit back and enjoy the sound of silence.

TURNS	DISTANCE (km)	DIRECTIONS	LOCATION	BRIEF
0	0.0	↑	VIDYASAGAR SETU (TOLL TAX POINT)	SET TRIP METER TO '0' Pay toll tax Rs.10/- & enter Kona Expressway Lane.
	3.2	↕	Kona expressway	Go on to the bridge
	4.3	↕	Kona expressway	Santragachi Railway Station on left
	5.7	↕	Kona expressway	Go on to the bridge
1	7.7	↖	Flyover ahead	Do not take the fly-over. Follow the left lane connecting NH - 6.
	8.1	↖	On to NH - 6	Take soft left and meet NH - 6. Be alert for high speed traffic.
	13.7	+	NH - 6	Andul crossing
	17.3	○	Toll tax point NH - 6	Pay toll tax of Rs.30/-
	32.2	+	NH - 6	Uluberia E.S.I. hospital on right
	35.8	+	NH - 6	Azad Hind Dhaba and petrol pump on left
	47.1	+	NH - 6	Bagnan crossing
	55.4	↕	NH - 6	Kolaghat bridge
	57.9	+	NH - 6	Sher Punjab Dhaba on right
2	58.4	↖	Leaving NH - 6	Turn left. Do not go straight under the bridge
	60.9	↑	Kolaghat thermal power station on left.	Follow all the road diversion and drive carefully.

TURNS	DISTANCE (km)	DIRECTIONS	LOCATION	BRIEF
3	87.9	+	Nanda Kumar Island	Take the third left turn towards DIGHA
	94.4	↕	Toll tax point	Pay toll tax Rs.4 /- and on to Matangini Bridge on Haldi River.
	97.2	+	Railway Crossing	Go straight
	100.8	↑	Cross Chandipur Market	Go straight
	123.2	○	Kaipur toll tax point	Pay toll tax Rs.4 /- and proceed straight
	128.6	↑	Nachinda temple on left	Go straight
4	139.3	+	Enter Contai Bypass	Take right turn. Don't enter Contai Main Town which goes straight. Take Contai Bypass.
	141	+	Contai Bypass	Go straight
	141.6	↑	Contai Bus Stand on left	Proceed straight
5	142.6	+	'T' Junction	Turn right from the 'T' junction
6	154.2	+	CHAULKHOLA	Take left turn from Chaulkhola. Be careful of the broken road. 8 kms approx. Proceed straight.
7	162	+	Electrical transformer	Enter right lane into non-metal road. Drive for 1.3 Kms
8	163.3	+	Ma Mansa Temple	Take left turn towards sea (100 Mts.)
9	163.4	+	Road meets sea beach.	Hit the sea beach and turn right and follow the sea beach straight. Hotels are on the right
	168.7	●	MANDARMONI (Sana Beach)	The drive ends



BY THE WAY

Petrol Pumps				Petrol Pumps				Food Joints		Hospitals		Service Centres		Police Stations	
1.80 km	I.B.P.	35.80 km	B.P.	15.70 km	H.P.	107.25 km	H.P.	10.20 km	Ludhiana	32.20 km	E. S. I.	19.40 km	TATA Motors	5.70 km	Jagacha
5.10 km	H.P.	61.10 km	I.O.C.	18.80 km	I.O.C.	114.00 km	I.B.P.	16.60 km	Motel Midway	49.00 km	Bidhan Ch. Seva Sadan	33.20 km	Apsara	100.10 km	Chandipore
6.70 km	I.B.P.	80.20 km	I.O.C.	20.80 km	I.O.C.	122.40 km	I.O.C.	35.80 km	Azad Hind			35.30 km	Kuntia	131.20 km	Morishda
8.60 km	H.P.	87.75 km	B.P.	22.20 km	I.O.C.	137.30 km	I.B.P.	58.20 km	Sher-e-Punjab	61.30 km	Nursing Home	61.10 km	Bhandari		
9.30 km	I.B.P.	93.10 km	H.P.	24.40 km	I.O.C.	138.60 km	H.P.	63.00 km	Star Hotel			86.90 km	TATA Motors		
10.50 km	I.O.C.	96.00 km	I.O.C.	25.10 km	I.O.C.	139.40 km	I.O.C.					140.20 km	TATA Motors		
12.20 km	B.P.	101.40 km	I.B.P.	34.70 km	I.B.P.	140.50 km	I.O.C.								

* Official distance calculated from Vidyasagar Setu

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LET'S GO FOR A DRIVE

Travel Tips

- 1 Leave early if you want to avoid the highway traffic.
- 2 Set your car's trip meter to '0' (zero) at the Vidyasagar Setu toll plaza and follow the given tulip/map from there.
- 3 Be careful while driving on the highway, obey the traffic rules.
- 4 Mandarmoni is very close to Digha. In case you lose your way, ask for Kathi or Chaulkhola on way to Digha, from where you have to turn left.
- 5 Don't forget to carry your beach wear and a sun-screen lotion.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Name	Booking Address	Phone	Delux (Double Bed)	AC (Double Bed)	Non AC (Double Bed)	Car Parking	Driver's Accommodation	Restau-rant	Generator	Rating
Sana Beach Resort	—	03220 217252	3150/-	2850/-	1500/-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	A
Rose Valley Resort and Entertainment Ltd	—	98314 99988	4000/-	3000/-	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	A
Masara Beach Resort	4, Chowringhee Lane, Kolkata-16 Flat 3A & 3B,	99038 61999 98310 43210	3000/-	2000/-	1500/-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	B+
Debraj Beach Resort	Merchantile Building 9A Lalbazar St. 2nd Floor Room 60	2231 0909 2231 0910	2800/-	1800/-	1200/-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	B
Hotel Dreamland Pvt Ltd	77/1 B Park St. Kolkata-16	2217 5584	—	2000/-	1200/-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	B
Hotel Sonar Bangla	Chatterjee International 18th Floor Room 10 Kolkata - 71	03200 5943 4006 0787	2500/-	1500/-	—	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	B
Diganto	—	98310 43365	—	2250/-	1200/-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	B
Samundra Bilas	28, B.B.Ganguly St. Kolkata-1	4007 8135	—	—	350/-	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	C



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ARE YOU FIT FOR THE ROADS?

Get psyched for the driver

Prof. (Dr.) Nilanjana Sanyal
Professor, Department of Psychology,
Calcutta University

The traffic menace on Kolkata roads is the product of multiple psychosocial factors. The road is meant for smooth commuting, but its effects on the "psyche" of commuters -drivers,

passengers and pedestrians - are varied. Here is an overview of the main reasons for road stress:

- Unruly drivers, with a mad mania to be in control of their mean machines, have an unknown, unconscious contribution to road stress.
- Untrained drivers without valid license (or fake ones), lack of road education and under-age drivers make matters worse.
- Pollution - both air and sound - is another grave problem. Excessive honking is a social menace, while the thick, black fumes that old vehicles belch pose a serious health hazard. These obnoxious fumes cause eye-blinding irritation, respiratory congestion and suffocation. This in turn, disturbs one's mental health, thus affecting the quality of driving.
- Traffic jams are another mind-body irritant, made worse by the humid climate.
- Jaywalkers are a stress to drivers.
- Drunk or smoking drivers can be a serious threat.
- Undetected stressors in drivers such as extreme fatigue due to lack of sleep, lack of nutrients, impaired vision or auditory impairment can cause major road hazards.
- Mental problem in drivers include intense impulsiveness, frustration and lack of tolerance.
- Erratic and impulsive bus conductors and their assistants are a constant menace.



If these be the long list of problems, what are the solutions? Here are a few suggestions:

- Awareness to reduce unnecessary honking.
- Educating drivers about the ill effects of driving in a hungry, sleepy and unclean state.
- Some kind of psychological assessment should be done before issuing licenses.
- Drivers should be educated to co-operate and not compete with each other.
- A stringent license system.
- The sensory state of drivers must be checked from time to time.

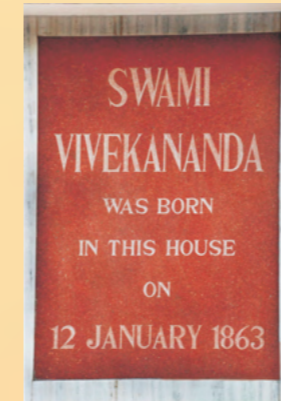
In a nutshell, a sense of wellbeing, a self-saving attitude and a little concern for civic conditions can bring about a major change on our roads.



PAST PERFECT

History revisited: Swami Vivekananda's house

Poulomi Ghosh



No matter how hip Kolkata tends to become with every passing day, the heritage houses of the city never get withered of their charm and glory. The ancestral house of Swami Vivekananda at Simla Street, a must visit for all proud Kolkatans, bears testimony to this glorified past.

The Ramakrishna Mission initiative to restore the original birthplace materialized on 1st of October, 2004, while the then President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam inaugurated the house along with a cultural centre and a library for the public.

Obviously the revamp has deleted many flavours of the past like the garden surrounding the 30 kothah land, but the architectural features are intact. This is the very same place where Swami Vivekananda was born on the 12th of January, 1863, to Bishwanath Dutta and Bhubaneshwari Devi. And it is the same premises that witnessed the childhood of the great religious preacher.

The front gate opens to a tranquil world where Swamiji comes alive in all his portraits. The marble stairs lead you to an exquisite album, which narrates the tale of the leader in the making. The red arrows guiding the way gradually make you explore layers of history, so carefully rescued from the ravages of time.

While at Swami Vivekananda's house do not miss:

- The ancestry of Swami Vivekananda with the engraved pictorial representation of seven sages
- The Dutta family tree
- The clock which stopped at 5 minutes to 7, beside the place where Swamiji was born
- The Shiva Lingam, which is the exact replica of Varanasi Vireswar
- Clay model of Swami Vivekananda engrossed in meditation, oblivious of a snake
- Swami Vivekananda's boxing gloves, horse riding stirrup etc, depicting ample instances of his interest in boxing, rowing, horse riding and fencing.
- The original relics of his dresses
- The clay model of Swamiji at his studies, enthralled by the vision of Sri Chaitanya
- The room from where Swamiji used to give alms to the poor
- A series of 'hookahs' from Swamiji's father's times
- The portrait of Sri Ramakrishna by the Austrian painter Frank Dvorak, inspired by a dream vision also exudes an aesthetic charm.

Do not forget to browse the little notes added to every artifact showcased in the house. Each note tells a tale of those times.

Fine Points

Address: 3 Gourmohan Street, Kolkata 700006
(Near Bethune School/ Hedua Park on Bidhan Sarani)

Museum Timing:

April to September	October to March
10 am - 12 noon	10 am - 12 Noon
3 pm - 6 pm	2.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Meditation:

6 am - 8 am	6 am - 8 am
6.30 pm - 8 pm	6 pm - 8 pm

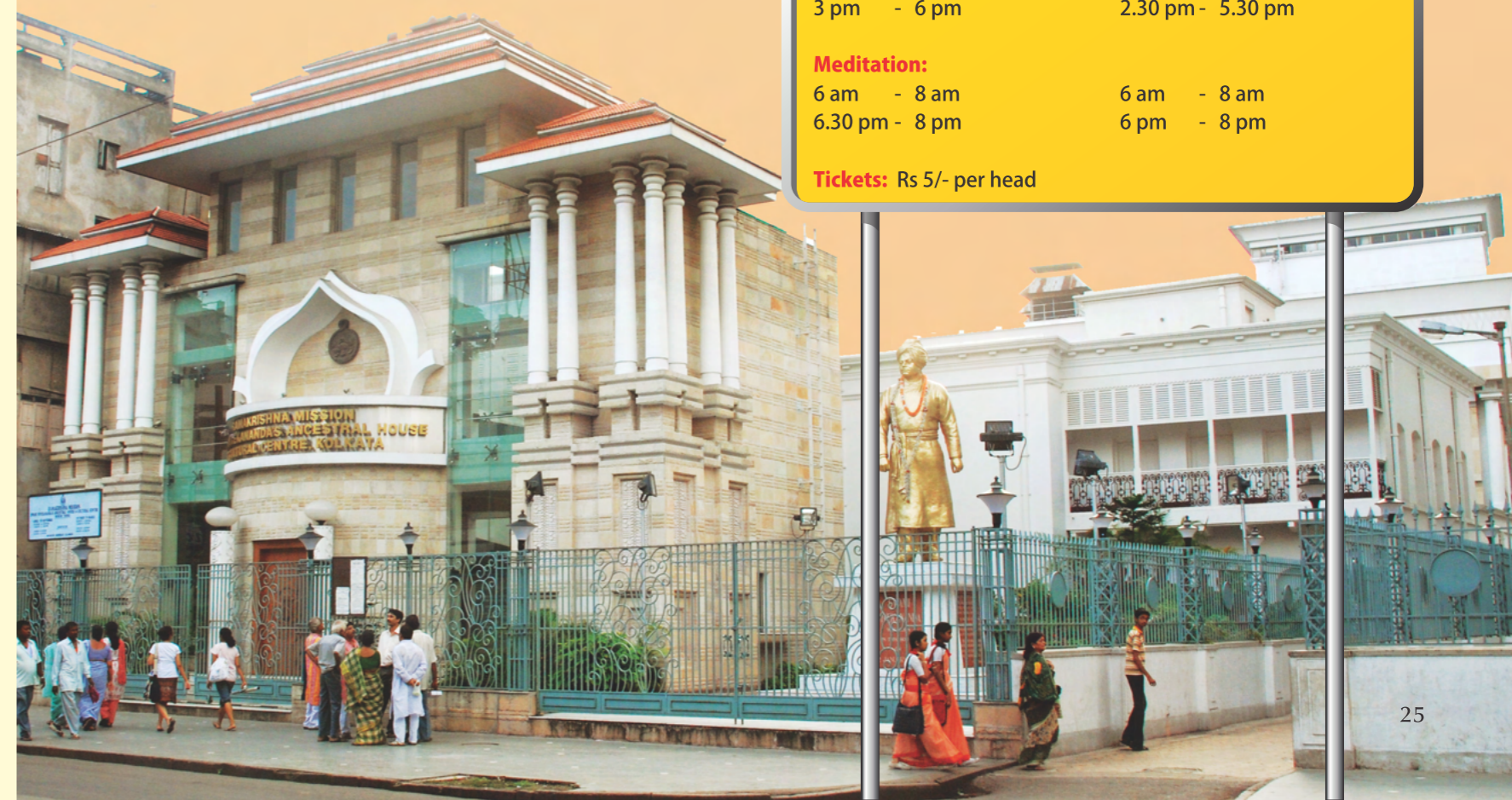
Tickets: Rs 5/- per head



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There's more. Read on.....

Next issue onwards you can also showcase your photographic skills in this space. Just send us interesting photos about cars and Kolkata that you have clicked and we will publish the worthiest one with your byline.

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NIGHT OUT

Where's the party tonight?

Joydip Sur

If you are the boogie-woogie kind, this night haunt surely tops your hotspot charts. So when it's time to tango, you know that Tantra offers one of the finest clubbing experiences in Kolkata. This 5,000 sq feet nightclub is a high-energy party den in all its forms. This premier discotheque-cum-bar is located at The Park.

Tantra is one of the hip and happening nightspots in the city. This is one disco, which offers ample space to glide, groove and discover. Spread over two split-levels with distinctive personalities, the club is home to two bars, a pulsating dance floor, and a hangout lounge area called The Santra Room.

There is a 450 sq ft dance floor, a wine and beer bar called the Onyx Room, and a ramp, which is often used for fashion shows. The Bodhi Bar, which is only open to members, serves the choicest cigars, cognacs and single malts.



Theme nights with celebrities, both national and international, booming DJ beats and special Sunday jam sessions make it the city's busiest address for party animals.

Home to many colourful and musical nights, Tantra is a popular place for college students, young executives and people from the fashion and entertainment fraternity. This place boasts of a guest



list second to none other in town.

Step into Tantra and you will enter into a world of fantasy done up in splashes of peacock green, vibrant pink, sizzling orange and saffron, which will transport you into a world of trance.

With its Indian theme décor - cushions with embroidery and beadwork, jute items, dhurries (rugs), Rajasthani chairs, scroll paintings, saris for drapes and silk hangings, this chill-out den is the perfect fortress of party lovers.

Fast Facts

Address: Park Hotel, 17 Park Street, Kolkata 16

Phone: 2249-7336 / 3121

Membership fee:
General - Rs. 12,000 and
Bodhi Bar - Rs. 20,000

Car Parking Facility:
Valet Parking (first come basis)

Entry Fees: Varies according to the event.

Stag Entry: Varies according to the event.



PARKING SPOTS

Where to park around AC Market?

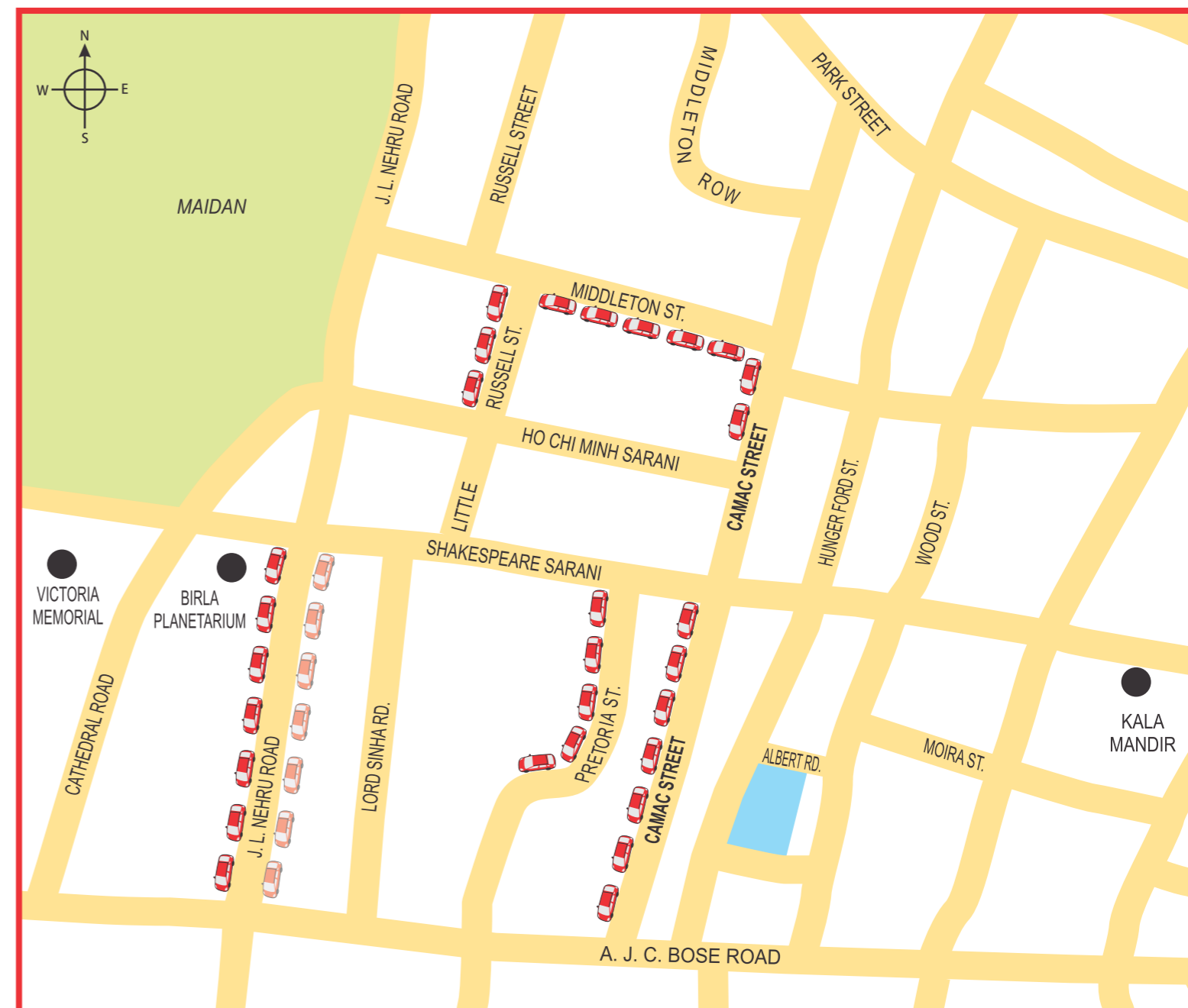
Parking problems drive car owners up the wall. Often people fail to find a parking space within the close proximity of the place they visit.

Believe it or not: there are some people who have stopped going to certain places due to lack of adequate parking facilities. Remember the time when you were running late for that important meeting and you couldn't find a parking space quickly? How about last Saturday when

you reached late for lunch because of the time wasted just looking for a parking space?

Irritating isn't it? But don't worry. Each month *Team Wheels* will inform you about the parking options in and around a particular area.

In this issue we will mark the viable parking spots around AC Market on Shakespeare Sarani (Theatre Road).



Parking spots around Shakespeare Sarani AC Market

Name of the Road	Stretch of the Road	Side of the Road
Little Russell Street	Between Ho Chi Minh Sarani and Middleton Street	Western side
J. L. Nehru Road	Between Shakespeare Sarani and A.J.C. Bose Road	Western side (between 7 am - 1 pm) Eastern side (between 1 pm - 10 pm)
Camac Street	1) Opposite Pantaloon 2) Between A.J.C. Bose Road and Shakespeare Sarani	1) Western side 2) Both sides
Middleton Street	Full stretch	Southern side
Pretoria Street	Full stretch	Western side

DRIVING RULES

BUCKLE UP.... NOW

Joydip Sur

Car accident casualties have reached alarming proportions worldwide. It is also the leading killer of people under thirty. Now take note: A large percentage of accident victims were not wearing seat belts.

When we spoke to our denizens, they had their very own take on the issue of wearing (or not wearing) a seat belt. Here are the highlights, with our words of wisdom.

Complaint: "Seat belts are stuffy and uncomfortable," says Naresh Batra (27), a software professional.

Advice: This is not about comfort; it's about safety. Besides,

seatbelts in modern cars are quite comfortable.

Over-confidence: "Accident? I'm a good driver," asserts Sanjay Das (32), an investment banker.

Advice: It's often not your fault but your accident.

Fuss: Homemaker Nilanjana Sen (29), avoids the seat belt because it causes creases on her crisp clothes.

Advice: Creased clothing is any day better than broken bones.

Excuse: "There aren't any traffic police around," comments businessman Ravi Agarwal (31).

Advice: We don't wear seat belts to avoid fines, but for safety.

Fear: "The belt will trap me in the car in case of a fire," says Ratan Saha (24), a student.

Advice: If you're thrown out of the car, you're 25 times more likely to die.

Myth: "Why a belt? There's an airbag," believes Mr. Jiten Agarwal (33), a CA.

Advice: Air bags increase the effectiveness of a belt by 40 per cent, but never a substitute.

SHOCKING! ISN'T IT? It's amazing how people forget the main reason behind wearing a seat belt: safety. Seat belts can prevent death in about 80 percent of accidents. So just buckle up before it's too late, ultimately it's your life!

RULE BOOK

As per the provisions of sub-rule (3) of Rule 138 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, 'in a motor vehicle, in which seat-belts have been provided under sub-rule (1) or sub-rule (1A) of rule 125 or rule 125A, as the case may be, it shall be ensured that the driver, and the person seated in the front seat or the persons occupying front facing rear seats, as the case may be, wear the seat belts while the vehicle is in motion.



The moment of impact between two cars



The passenger is seen breaking out through the windshield



Though the driver had his seatbelts on, the passenger had not



Seatbelts are meant to save your life not your penalties



PRE-OWNED CARS

Don't get conned

Rahul Indrojit Sircar

If you are buying a pre-owned car, it's vital that you know how to go about it. Not only is it important to know how to select a car, a buyer must also be sure of the budget at hand. Though it is advisable to seek the assistance of an expert, we from our end can equip you with a few handy tips.

FIRST IMPRESSION

- Here we will first have a look at the vehicle inside out.
- In the car interiors - inspect the carpets, upholstery, door trims and the plastic panels. They should not look worn out and dirty.
- Check the brake and clutch pedal rubber pads as well. If they are excessively scrubbed it is an indication of substantial usage of the vehicle. Also check the window winder machines/power windows.
- So far as the car's exterior goes, have a good look in daylight and

observe for any apparent variations of shade and lustre on the different body panels.

- Any variations would indicate that the panel has been worked upon and repainted. Uneven or wavy panels are a clear indication that the car has been re-worked upon due to some kind of body damage.
- The gap between the panels i.e. between the doors and side pillars, should be more or less even. Yawning gaps or tight fits is another indication of repair jobs. Also inspect the front and rear bumpers for any apparent damage or misalignment.
- Accessories like the alloy wheels, music system, central locking, should also be checked.
- Lastly, run a check on the general look and the age of the battery.

To be continued in the next issue



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TOGETHER WE DRIVE



Automobile Association of Eastern India (AAEI)

13, Promothesh Barua Sarani, Kolkata 700019
Phone: 2486 5131/2/3 Telefax: 2486 6012 E-mail: info@aaei.info Website: www.aaei.info

The Automobile Association of Eastern India (AAEI) is the largest association of car owners in Eastern India. The AAEI in its endeavour to make life easier behind the wheels offers several services to its members.

Insurance Premium

The AAEI provides discount on insurance premium to its members both individual and corporate @ 5% or Rs. 200/- whichever is lower for 4 wheelers and 5% or Rs. 50/- whichever is lower for 2 wheelers. There will be an additional discount of Rs. 500/- for members who have installed an anti-theft device in their cars as certified by AAEI.

Round the clock road breakdown service

In case of a car breakdown, AAEI provides round the clock breakdown services to its members.

Assistance for renewal of tax token, driving license, transfer of ownership, certificate of fitness, etc.

AAEI provides technical assistance to its members on renewal of tax token, driving license, transfer of ownership, certificate of fitness and many others. This helps the members to escape the trouble of complex paper work and standing in long queues.

Legal assistance (traffic cases)

Traffic cases bring with them numerous legal complications and intricacies. AAEI provides its members with legal assistance with regard to informing them about the correct rules and regulations of the traffic rules and making them aware of their offences and the penalties to be paid thereafter.

Service and minor repair of cars at nominal rates

Given the rising cost of repairs of your automobiles, AAEI gives you some much-needed concessions. These services include general check-up, minor tweaking, garage rounds, oil checks, road testing, etc.

Touring and Travel Services

A large number of itinerary strips containing comprehensive information, maps and sketches, have been issued to members on holidays and specific tours within and outside the country. "Motoring Guide of India" published by AAEI provides detailed information with comprehensive data on accommodation, transport, hotels, petrol pumps, road directions and many others.

Club and Bar facilities

AAEI provides for its members various facilities through its club. Leisure amenities and bar facilities are available to the members.

Car Parking Attendant Services

AAEI provides on demand car parking attendants to its members. Members can call for car parking attendants at the convenience.

Introduction and allotment of casual car drivers

AAEI provides casual drivers to its members on their demand.

Driving tests

AAEI conducts driving tests under expert guidance for its members.

Issue of International Driving Permits

The members of AAEI do not have to queue up for days to get their international driving permits. The association issues the same without causing any hassles to its members.

Issue of Carnet-De-Passage

AAEI also issues documents such as the carnet-de-passage guaranteed by the constituents of Alliance Internationale De Tourisme (AIT) are used and accepted today enabling travelers to safely take their vehicles from one country to another country.

Ambulance Services

AAEI has been maintaining and running round the clock ambulance service with requisite first-aid equipments and other essential items by courtesy of Calcutta Park Street Round Table No.34.

Petrol Pump

Services through AAEI's petrol pump continue to run satisfactorily.

Computerized PUC Certificates

AAEI is also authorized to issue computerized PUC Certificates to its members.

Car examination

AAEI is an approved organization to issue inspection and evaluation certificate of cars and reports about the condition and ascertain probable problem which may arise in the future.

Worldwide reciprocal arrangements

Over the years AAEI has maintained its reciprocal relationship with the following international and national bodies:-

- Alliance Internationale De Tourisme (AIT)
- Federation Internationale De L'Automobile (FIA)
- The Federation of Indian Automobile Associations

Online booking of forest lodges of West Bengal Forest Development Corporation

A counter has been functioning at the registered office of the association to facilitate the online booking of nature lodges owned by the West Bengal Forest Development Corporation.

AAEI has dedicated itself to motoring organizations and motor car owners. Join the AAEI today and become a part of the privileged group of car owners and automobile drivers. The overall functions of AAEI are to be responsible for all matters related to motorists such as road safety, environment and consumer protection. Being a part of AAEI ensures you a safe, happy, interesting and enjoyable journey on the road of life as well as behind your wheels.



TOGETHER WE DRIVE



Bengal Motor Sports Club

36B, Paddapukur Road, Kolkata 700020
Telephone: 24863262
Email: bmsckolkata@gmail.com

Bengal Motor Sports Club extends its heartiest congratulations to Guide India Publication for taking up this unique endeavour to dedicate a magazine to the cause of the motoring fraternity of Kolkata. We are proud to be associated with this project and we wish all the success in popularizing 'Kolkata on Wheels' in days to come.

Please look out for this space in the magazine for our future activities and we feel the readers will be happy about BMSC's achievements and announcements of future events and activities regularly.

Wish you a Happy Motoring 2008.

For Bengal Motor Sports Club:

Kunal Banerjee

Hony. Secretary General



Calcutta Motor Dealers' Association

8, Bow Street, Kolkata 700012
Phone: 2211 2168/302

The Calcutta Motor Dealers' Association (CMDA) is one of the well-known trade associations in the country. Over the past six decades CMDA has dedicated itself in the services of Auto Spare Parts Trade and the Road Transport Industry. With a humble beginning with just fifty members, it has now grown into a family of around seven hundred members.

TRADE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO MEMBERS BY CMDA: -

- Passing timely information, updating Members regarding their obligations is one of the prime jobs of the Association. Members are kept informed by sending regular circulars.
- Disseminating important and relevant information on all types of Tax Laws like Value Added Tax, Central Sales Tax, Income Tax, Fringe Benefit Tax, Service Tax, Shops & Establishment Act., Packaged Commodities Act, Premises Tenancy Act, Professional Tax, KMC matters etc.
- Circulating Govt. Notifications, Circulars, Clarifications etc. issued by various Govt. Departments.
- Educating members about their obligations under different Central and State legislations.
- Organizing interactive sessions with various Govt. authorities.
- Reminding the members about important legal dates.
- Assisting Members in understanding the legal provisions in easy to understand language.
- Submitting pre Budget and post Budget memorandums to the State and Central Governments for remedial action.
- Providing moral support to members and co-operation to Department officials at the time of their visit at members' places.
- Representing the grievances of the trade before various authorities.
- Updating members about current developments in trade and commerce.
- Informing members about market potential within the country and abroad.
- Impressing upon the members to follow fair business practice and ethics in carrying out their business.
- Organizing seminars, conferences, and exhibitions for the improvement of the trade.
- Settling disputes amongst the members.
- Conducting business and pleasure trips to abroad.
- Circulating current news of interest to the members.

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free **Forum 4 WHEELERS** ■ **Membership to Forum 4 Wheelers**

Free membership for 'Forum 4 Wheelers' for the subscribers of 'Kolkata on Wheels'. Forum 4 Wheelers is an interactive platform for the motorists of Kolkata featuring various events and programmes for subscribers of 'Kolkata on Wheels'.

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SPEED DIALS

Overhead	Number	Overhead	Number	Overhead	Number
WHEELERS HELPLINE	9830 370 370	POLICE	100	Jorashako	22697279
24 HOURS ON ROAD SERVICE		Bengal Police Control Room	24799223/9883	Kalighat	24540177/24550100
International Auto Work (East)	9339382289 / 9831146319	Lalbazur	22145000-3	Karaya	22871715
Speed Auto Service (North)	9830698301 / 9331215197	OC Control	22143024	Lake	24292353
TOWING		Traffic Control	22143644/1475	Maidan	22232462/22480100
M. M. Crane Service (East)	22877973 / 9831160302	To Give Any Information To The Police	1090	Maniktala	23605681/6100
Speed Auto Service (North)	9830698301/9331215197	To Give Any Information Relating To Traffic	1073	Muchipara	22278430/22837100
Lift & Shift (South)	9433025607 / 9830950056	Police Stations		Narkeldanga	23605710
HOSPITALS		Alipore	24791021/24080100	New Alipore	24002943/24095100
AMRI Hospital	24612526	Amherst Street	23605714/100	New Market	22177397
Anandalok	23592931/2/3	Ballugunge	24543179/2100	North Port	22431183
Apollo Gleneagles	23202002/-6/3040	Behala	24787350	Park Street	22268321/22832100
Bangur Institute of Neurology	22232235/2768	Belehata	23536433 23631100	Phoolbagan	23200920/23215100
Belle Vue Clinic	22872321/7473	Beniapukur	22844770/24840100	Posta	22595606
BM Birla Heart Research Centre	24567890/7777	Bidhannagar (East)	23590849	Shakespeare Sarani	22812541
Calcutta Medical Research Institute	24567700	Bidhannagar (North)	23373343/49	Shyampukur	25557585
Calcutta Medical College & Hospital	22414901/2	Bidhannagar(South)	23351047	Sinthee	25325383
Calcutta National Medial College & Hospital	22897122/-3	Bhowanipore	24558092/24541100	Sonarapore	24349296/4775
Kothari Medical Centre	24567050/-5	Bowbazar	22114813/22155100	South Port	24593556
Peerless Hospital	24622394/24620071	Burrabazar	22687554/22680100	Talla	25300850
Ramkrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan	24753636/8-9	Burtola	2557599/25336100	Taltala	22277784
RG Kar Medical College & Hospital	25557676/8838	Charu Market	24249900/5100	Tangra	23296769
Ruby General Hospital	24420291/6091	Chetla	24486642/24099119	Taratata	24011881/24092100
Sri Aurobindo Seva Kendra	24733601/5413	Chitpur	25566141	Tollygunge	24642765/22654100
SSKM Hospital	22233300/6242	Cossipore	25566434/25432100	Topsia	22814268
Woodlands Hospital	24567075-89	Ekbalpore	24492135	Ultadanga	23566263/64
AMBULANCE		Entally	22275892/24848100	Watgunge	24593298
Calcutta Medical Centre	22402053/1337	Garden Reach	24696569	West Port	24393617/24096100
Lifeline Nursing Home	22478083/6301	Gariahat	24863702	FIRE STATION HEADQUARTERS	2253101/22440173
Wockhardt	24754320/4096	Girish Park	22198041/9100	CARS ON CALL	
Jana Seva	98314-17001 / 9831622990	Hare Street	22118760	Infinity Enterprise	6568-6029 / 9231561861
Jana Seva	98314-17001 / 9831622990	Hastings	22230716	Speed Travels	2360- 8800, 2351-5306
South End Poly Clinic	2466-2433 / 3419,	Jadavpur	24730146	Infinity Enterprise	2282-3890 / 8336
		Jorabagan	22184094/22700100		



WHEEL DEALS

	Dealer's Name	Showroom Address	Showroom Number	Workshop Address	Workshop Number		Dealer's Name	Showroom Address	Showroom Number	Workshop Address	Workshop Number	
BMW	OSL PRESTIGE	5, J. B. S. Haldane Avenue Kolkata -105 (Near- ITC Sonar Bangla)	2251-7010 98748-17731	Budge-Budge Trunk Road Kolkata-700143, Sarkarpool, P.O. Gopalpur.	2401-4470	MARUTI	JALAN DISRTIBUTORS	AA- 45, V.I.P. Road. Kol- 59 (Near-Baghuaiati Big Bazaar)	2570-7427 2570-7428	- 138B, Beliaghata Road, Barafkal, Kol- 15 -23K, Radha Madhav Dutta Garden Lane Kol-10	- 2251-5715/ 98366-84902 -2370-8303/7650	
							JALAN DISRTIBUTORS	27/1A, CIT Road, MoulaliKol-14 Near- Corporation Building and Ganerwala Petrol Pump	2244-5502 2227-7103 2216-2005	- 138B, Beliaghata Road, Barafkal, Kol- 15 -23K, Radha Madhav Dutta Garden Lane Kol-10	- 2251-5715 98366-84902 -2370-8303/7650	
MACHINO TECHNO SALES.	8A, Alipore Road, Kol- 27. (Near- Command Hospital)	2456-7733 2479-2127	21/1A/2, Darga Road Kol- 17 48-A, Taratala Road, Kol- 66	- 30285315/16/17 24913755 /6535-9991								
DEEWARS GARAGE	4, Council House Street, Kol-1 (Near- Raj Bhavan)	2242-0442 0445/0473	14, British Indian Street Kol-69	2248-3397 2210-4215/16								
DEEWARS GARAGE	83/1, Topsia Road, Kol - 46. (Near - Steel Junction)	2343-5290 22855287/88	14, British Indian Street Kol-69	2248-3397 2210-4215/16								
MERCEDES BENZ	INTRAKRAFTS	17/1A, Alipore Road, Kol- 27 (Near- SBI Alipore Branch)	2448-3894	B4/B3, Ric Behala Ind. Estate, Upen Banerjee Road, Behala Parnasree, Kol- 60.	2407-8286/8821		MAHINDRA	MOHAN MOTORS	55, Chowringhee Road Kol- 71 (Near- Nehru Museum)	2282-1404 /05/06/07	- Mohan Garden, Arupota, E.M. Bypass Kol- 105 - Budge-Budge Trunk Road Kol-141	- 6521-8444 /8445/8446 -2492-8328 /29
								MOHAN MOTORS	Budge-Budge Trunk Rd Kol- 141, Jalkal, Maheshatala (Near- 13C Bus Stand)	2492-8328 /29	Budge-Budge Trunk Rd Kol- 141	2492-8328/29
HONDA	PINNACLE HONDA	739, Anandapur E.M.Bypass. Chandrani. (Near Ruby Hospital)	4000-4444 97484 57141 97484 57143.	Chandrani Towers, 739 Anandapur, E.M.Bypass, Kol- 107	4000-4444 9748457148		SKODA	TOPAZ MOTORS	234/3A, AJC Bose Road, Kol-20	2289-3345/ 46	P-51, Hide Rd Kol- 88	2456-5277/78/79
								ROYAL MOTORS	135A, S.P. Mukherjee Road, Kol- 26 (OPP- Tollygunge Police Station)	3255-6822/6823/ 9830031619	Jagatipota, Kalikapur, E.M.Bypass, Garia, Kol- 99	3255-6826/27/ 28
HYUNDAI	SAINI HYUNDAI	199, Block -J, New Alipore Kol- 53. (Near- New Alipore Triangular Park)	2400-9611 /12/13	11/A, Braun Feld Row, Kol- 27	2448-6846/1611/ -2350-0416 2354-2788 -2638-9501/9491		TATA	LEXUS MOTORS LTD.	209, A.J.C. Bose Road Kol- 17 (Near- La Matiniere for Girl's School)	2280-9460/ 61	- Budge-Budge Trunk Road, Rampur Kol-141 - Moina Guri, PO-Nowapara, Barasat, 24Prig (N) -16, Sonarpur Road, Hide Road. Kol- 88	- 4011-4400 - 4011-5500 -2439-3458/9
						K. B. MOTORS		62/7, Ballygunge Circular Road, Kol-19 (Near-Durga Mandir)	4002-2700 (30 lines)	7A, Rameshwar Shaw Rd, Kol- 14	2289-7591 / 7662 3290-3979/77	
						R. D. MOTORS		Regent Sagar, VIP Road RaghunathpurNorth Kol - 59 (Near- Baghuaiati, Loknath Mandir)	6613-7700-03	Rajarhat Road, Dashadrone Check post PO-Golapur Kol- 136.	2573-5211 5791 /5792 /5539	
						R. D. MOTORS		149, B. T. Road Post Office- Kamarhati. Kol- 58.	6613-7750 /51/53/58 98305 53349	149 B.T Road Post Office-Kamarhati. Kol- 58.	2563-9893 /0877/0888	
MARUTI	AUTO HITECH PVT. LTD	97A, Southern Avenue. Near- AMRI Clinic	2465-1265 /68/71	34A, C,N Roy Rd. Kol- 39	2344-6801 / 02	TOYOTA	TOPSEL TOYOTA	522 / 524 Budge Budge Trunk Road, Maheshatala Kol- 141. (Near- 13C Bus Stand)	2492-8335/6	522/524 Budge Budge, Trunk Road, Maheshatala Kol- 141	2492-8334-36 98740-27705 98315-33091	