

# Agra eway safety gets ₹100 cr push

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**Lucknow:** The UP government has given its go ahead for implementing safety features listed by the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) to reduce fatal crashes across the Lucknow-Agra expressway at an estimated cost of Rs 100 crore.

The UP Expressways Industrial Authority (UPEIDA) had roped in CRRI to get a thorough audit conducted of the 302-km long expressway in 2018. Senior principal scientist and head of traffic engineering and safety division at CRRI, A Mohan Rao said, "During the safety audit of the expressway we came across a few issues that needed to be resolved. Driver fatigue on the long stretch was one issue which needs to be addressed. Access to stray animals was the second issue." The access controlled



six-lane expressway allows a passenger vehicle owner a speed of 100 km per hour. However, movement of stray dogs and cattle has caused mishaps as motorists are unable to bring the vehicle to a halt in time to avoid a crash.

Chief executive officer of

UPEIDA, Narendra Bhooshan said the objective is to ensure complete safety of commuters on the expressway. "The safety features will bring down the number of fatal crashes substantially," said Bhooshan.

The institute has asked UPIEDA to install welded

mesh fencing across both ends of the expressway to regulate the entry of stray animals. While dogs and monkeys were able to climb up to the main carriageway and cross over the crash barriers at the road sides, cattle were able to enter the expressways through entry and exit ramps, said a senior officer. The institute has suggested that cattle catchers be installed over the entry and exit ramps.

The other issue related to driver fatigue can be tackled by setting up more canteens, toilets and fuel stations. The institute has recommended setting up at least two toilet blocks and canteens on both sides of the expressway close to the two toll plazas at Lucknow and Agra ends. Rao said that rest areas shall be available at a gap of every 60 km to ensure alertness among drivers.