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## Before stepping on road, learn to drive

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KOLKATA: Next time you wish to drive down to Kalimpong, Kurseong, Darjeeling or Gangtok but feel unsure about your driving aptitude in foggy and snowy weather in Kolkata before setting off on the journey.

Now, car enthusiasts can learn to drive in a range of terrains and climates without being pitted in adverse situations a simulator at Automobile Association of Eastern India (AAEI) on Ballygunge Circular Road and refresh your driving ski

Introduced in eastern India for the first time, the simulator promises to set new benchmarks in driving training by imple Designed to look like a prototype of a car with brake, accelerator, steering, clutch and gear in place, the contraption o adverse conditions.

While the visual experience is offered by three LCDs placed before the trainee driver, stereophonic representation of messages provide a high degree of realism.

Configured with an instruction station for continuous monitoring of the trainee's driving, it points out mistakes and issu at the end of each session.

"Give the ever-increasing density of road traffic, development of cognitive skills for hazard recognition becomes esse train raw drivers, conduct periodic tests for efficiency checks and provide advance training in various degrees of diffic additional CP (IV) K Harirajan.

Transport principal secretary Sumantra Chowdhury felt the simulator would help drivers adopt technically correct and would reduce chances of accidents. Right now, people who acquire licence hardly have proper knowledge about driv

Pointing out that while cars had become more sophisticated, driving training had not kept pace, AAEI secretary genei introduction of the simulator would change the way youngsters learn to drive.

"Till now, hand, feet and eye coordination at the wheel and driving in day-time was all that was taught. The simulator the day and night and make the trainee aware of traffic rules. If he violates any rule, it will be flashed no the screen," I

For novices, AAEI proposes to charge Rs 3,500 for the entire course that includes eight sessions of 40 minutes each lessons on Kolkata roads and the final test before licence is issued. For those who have driving licence and want to e simulator will cost Rs 1,000. Chowdhury said the transport department will soon set up driving schools in association training schools for light and heavy motor vehicles will be at CSTC depots.

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