

About those tiresome tyres

You may be extra careful about your expensive vehicle. But did you know tyres also require constant care? Here's more on tyres. Just read on...

Q: Is wear and tear of tyres more on concrete roads?

A: Accidents have been reported due to tyre bursts which can either be due to excessive speed or due to excessive wear and tear on the concrete surface. Wear and tear is compounded by overloading and by the use of old worn out tyres. It is therefore important for vehicle owners to examine the condition of the tyres on the vehicle, particularly, when plying on high speed express-ways.

Q: What about tyre quality standards. Do they have

to be changed in view of higher vehicle speed?

A: Every type of tyre is designed for a particular load and a particular top speed. Both the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Automotive Industry Standards require a specific high speed test to be conducted. Some additional tests like Plunger test to evaluate the strength of the tyre for Indian roads have also been introduced. Tyres made in the US, Europe, Japan etc have more synthetic rubber (SBR) content when compared to Indian-made tyres which have more natural rubber. There is a

view that a higher SBR content gives the tyre more strength and reduces the wear and tear.

Also, tubeless tyres have a major advantage. They do not burst and since deflation is very slow in case of a puncture, it enables the driver to run on a punctured tyre for a considerable distance. Slow deflation also protects the rim from any damage.

Q: What about retreaded tyres?

A: It is quite common in India for vehicle users to get their tyres retreaded. At present there are no standards for

retreaded tyres. At high speeds it is dangerous to use retreaded tyres, unless they adhere to standards.

Q: Maximum speed limit prescribed by government.

A: The maximum speed limit on highways is 80 kmph. Also, If you speed high on a weak tyre, there is every chance of a tyre burst. It is also essential to have wheel balancing done and the wheels aligned.

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