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**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

# Cops to rope in IIT, JU experts to ease Maa traffic

May 6, 2023, 08.10 AM IST

Kolkata: The Kolkata Traffic Police has decided to rope in premier technical research institutes to tackle challenges on Maa Flyover, the primary problem being congestions that follow a vehicular breakdown on the elevated corridor or a jam on the road below, blocking the flyover's ends. Police are also looking for ways to check speeding on Basanti Highway.

A Lalbazar officer said on Friday they had decided to approach experts at IIT-Kharagpur and Jadavpur University and that they had identified areas for which they would seek opinion from IIT. Preliminary talks have been held with traffic experts, including Bharghab Maitra from IIT. "We have identified multiple areas of cooperation," said DC (traffic) Surya Pratap Yadav.

Over 600 vehicles use Maa flyover per minute in peak office hours. The traffic police has been trying to manage on its own. As a first step, they are ensuring the two flanks, one leading towards Science City and the other towards the Metropolitan crossing, remain decongested, so that the Bypass is not clogged. "We are looking at models based on traffic volume," said an officer. Police also wish to push more vehicles to the Park Circus connector to reduce pressure on Maa Flyover. "We will need advanced planning for better use of the Park Circus Connector, officially the fastest corridor in the city now. We plan to use real-time data to display the possible travel time on the flyover and that on the Park Circus connector. Motorists can choose between the two," said an officer.

On Basanti Highway, where 26 deaths were reported in the past two years, is showing slight improvement after police intervention. "But speeding is still a concern, especially owing to absence of a median divider. We are looking at experts' advice, particularly for night," said an officer. So far, police have drawn thick, white edge lines to demarcate the road space. Yellow raised pavement markers have been fixed at 1ft gaps for enhanced reflection. Right-turn arrows have been painted and retro-reflective signage and convex mirrors installed.