

# Dual airbags in new models are mandatory from April 1

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**In news :** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has mandated that all new passenger vehicles should have dual airbags from April 1, 2021

## Key updates

- The ministry had proposed to make airbags compulsory for the passenger seated in the front next to the driver in December 2020.
- As per the current safety standards, passenger cars sold in India are required to provide only one airbag (only the driver's seat).
- Since July 2019, airbags for the driver's seat in the front row have been mandatory.
- The Ministry has now made it mandatory for cars to have an airbag installed for the passenger side as well.
- Compliance date: For the existing models, the compliance date has been set at August 31 2021.
- The proposed mandate is based on the suggestions of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety.
- The new proposal is aimed at making cars more safer but the new rule also comes at a price

## Impact

This move is expected to increase car prices in the range of Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 on average

## Airbags

Airbags inflate extremely quickly upon collision and then deflate, cushioning the blow to passengers if the vehicle suddenly comes to a stop. Airbags are known to increase the

chances of survival during accidents.

**The Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety.**

It was headed by former apex court judge Justice K S P Radhakrishnan(later by retired judges, Justice A M Sapre)