

Essential tips for driving through waterlogged roads in Dhaka



As the monsoon season casts its relentless downpour upon the city, residents of Dhaka find themselves battling against waterlogged roads that pose numerous challenges, particularly to motorists. The increased risk of accidents and damage to vehicles demands extra caution and preventive measures. With knee-deep waters becoming an all-too-common scene, we present some comprehensive car maintenance and driving tips to help drivers navigate through the inundated roads of Dhaka safely.

Stay informed and prepared
Staying informed about the weather conditions and road situations is crucial. Tune in to local news channels, radio stations, or reliable weather apps for up-to-date information on flood-prone areas and traffic diversions. Plan your route accordingly to avoid heavily waterlogged roads whenever possible.

Avoid waterlogged roads
While it may seem tempting to drive through waterlogged roads, it is strongly advised against doing so. Even knee-deep water can pose serious risks to your vehicle's engine and electrical systems. Attempting to drive through flooded areas can cause hydro locking, which may result in severe engine damage. Additionally, flooded roads may conceal hazardous debris or open manholes, further jeopardising your safety.

Driving through water
If you must drive through waterlogged roads due to unavoidable circumstances, follow these essential tips:

Assess the water depth: Before driving through water, gauge its depth by observing other vehicles or pedestrians crossing the area. If the water level exceeds the middle of your wheels, it is safer to find an alternate route.

Slow and steady: Drive at a slow,

consistent speed to avoid creating a bow wave. Maintain a steady pace to prevent water from entering the engine bay and exhaust system.

Use low gears: Engage a low gear (such as "L" or "2") to maintain engine revs and improve control over your vehicle. This will also help prevent water from entering the exhaust pipe.

Maintain distance: Keep a safe distance from other vehicles to allow sufficient reaction time. Sudden braking or manoeuvres may lead to loss of control on wet surfaces.

After crossing the water: Gently apply the brakes a few times to dry them off and restore their effectiveness. Be cautious as wet brakes may require slightly longer stopping distances.

Maintain proper tyre pressure
Before setting off, ensure your tyres are properly inflated according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Adequate tyre pressure improves traction and reduces the risk of hydroplaning, a situation where your vehicle loses contact with the road due to excessive water on the surface. Keep a tyre pressure gauge handy and check regularly to maintain optimal tyre performance.

Check the battery
Regularly inspect your car's battery,

especially during the monsoon season. Heavy rains and waterlogged roads can lead to moisture infiltration, potentially causing corrosion and electrical issues. Periodically examine the battery terminals and ensure they are clean and dry. If necessary, apply a thin coat of petroleum jelly to prevent corrosion.

Maintain visibility
Proper visibility is vital while driving through rain-soaked roads. Ensure your windscreen wipers are in good working condition and replace them if necessary. Additionally, use your headlights, even during the daytime, to enhance your visibility and alert other drivers to your presence. In case of heavy rain, consider applying a hydrophobic windscreen treatment to repel water and enhance clarity.

Post-drive maintenance
After navigating waterlogged roads, conduct thorough post-drive maintenance. Clean your vehicle, paying extra attention to the undercarriage, tyres, and brakes. Water and debris can accumulate in these areas, leading to rust and decreased performance. Consider applying a protective coating to the undercarriage to safeguard against corrosion caused by prolonged exposure to water.



Regular servicing
During the monsoon season, it is crucial to schedule regular servicing for your vehicle. Timely maintenance checks, including engine oil and filter changes, brake inspections, and electrical system assessments, can help identify and rectify any issues before they worsen. Consult a trusted mechanic or visit authorised service centres for comprehensive vehicle care.

As Dhaka grapples with waterlogging challenges, it is essential for motorists to prioritise safety and protect their vehicles from potential damage. By following these comprehensive car maintenance and driving tips, readers can mitigate risks, ensure road safety, and extend the longevity of their vehicles in the face of Dhaka's waterlogged roads.

Unravelling the challenges behind bridging the digital healthcare gap

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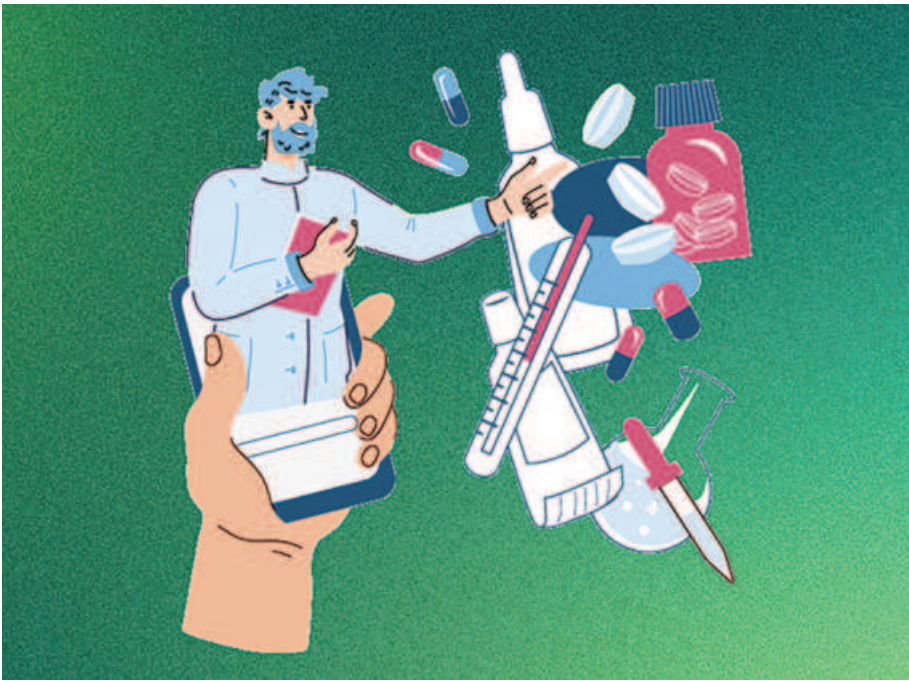
harmoniously integrates telemedicine with online pharmaceutical services.

Essentially, the lack of a one-stop shop for digital health services also appears to be a key deterrent. Yet, it's not all a bleak forecast for digital health. Despite these challenges, Mashroor acknowledged the immense untapped potential in this sector, not just within national boundaries but also internationally. "There is a huge untapped potential in digital healthcare in our nation. There are also opportunities

help build trust amid the population." Accreditation programs, certifications, and rigorous quality control processes can instil confidence in patients, assuring them that the platform adheres to the highest standards of medical practice with transparency to minimise digital health safety concerns.

Pharm-evolution: Exploring the digital pharmacy frontier

The ease of ordering medications from the comfort of one's home, assurance of



to go beyond the national level and incorporate foreign doctors in the system so international healthcare can be easily accessible to all of us," he stated.

These insights paint a promising picture of tremendous potential, suggesting the presence of not disinterest but rather a challenge to inspire trust, bring reputed healthcare professionals aboard, and deliver a comprehensive solution that unites various elements of healthcare into a singular, accessible digital platform.

Establishing trust: The lighthouse in digital health fog

As digital health ecosystems evolve, the trust question emerges from the fog like a lighthouse for users - can they entrust their health to virtual platforms?

Addressing this concern, digital health providers must build their fort on a bedrock of credibility. According to a recent study by IBM, the healthcare industry experiences the highest average cost of data breaches compared to any other sector, at a staggering \$10.10 million in 2022, raising protection issues.

To eliminate the safety concerns, Rosina Mazumder, The CEO and Co-Founder of Arogga, notes, "Implementing robust verification processes, ensuring the authenticity of medications, and maintaining secure transactions can

authenticity, and cost-effective solutions supplement the growth of telemedicine services and reposition pharmacies within the digital healthcare ecosystem.

"With online pharmacy at Arogga, we have seen an increased acceptance and a change in customer behaviours when ordering medicines online due to the convenience of medicines being delivered to your door, ensuring genuine medicine and an affordable price," shares Rosina Mazumder. Her insight illuminates the myriad advantages online pharmacies offer, steadily gaining traction among consumers.

The digital health revolution, therefore, is not just about telemedicine or online pharmacies alone; it is about an integrated digital health ecosystem that caters to the diverse needs of Bangladesh's population.

Forging ahead: Innovative solutions and new initiatives

Challenges notwithstanding, the future of telemedicine in Bangladesh is anything but gloomy. Adopting agile regulations that encourage striking a balance between privacy and progress and providing clear guidelines will enable entrepreneurs to develop groundbreaking solutions without compromising patient safety and data protection.

The journey ahead is challenging, but the potential for transformative change

is palpable with initiatives to enhance digital literacy in rural areas, bolstered by the right partnerships between NGOs, technology companies, and government bodies.

With a focus on proper guidelines and clarity, our nation can navigate the digital health revolution with resilience and determination, paving the way for a future where technology breaks down barriers and transforms healthcare for all.

Weaving the healthtech matrix: Framing an ecosystem

In the spectrum of tomorrow's healthcare, a connected digital ecosystem pulsates with potential, with telemedicine poised to be its beating heart. The trinity of startups, governmental bodies, and NGOs is at the helm, each playing a unique, indispensable role in nurturing an ecosystem conducive to the exponential growth of telemedicine.

Kazi Ashikur Rasul articulates telemedicine's heightened relevance and indispensability in our post-pandemic world. "Covid-19 has already shown us the importance of remote healthcare services, and this importance will only grow in the future," he observes. His insight points to a future where physical distance is no longer a barrier to accessing quality healthcare.

Envisioning an integrated, synergistic digital health platform that blends online pharmacies with telemedicine could be the panacea for many healthcare challenges Bangladesh faces today. This seamless virtual hub of health services would address present needs and build resilience against future health crises, shaping a more accessible, inclusive healthcare landscape for all.

Pioneering health equity: The trail towards inclusivity

As we voyage through the transformative seas of healthcare delivery, digital health looms as a beacon of promise. This technological tide is revolutionising patient access to medical care, washing over urban skyscrapers and remote rural locales with equal fervour.

Yet, like any great exploration, this journey toward universal digital healthcare is not without its share of challenges and choppy waters. It is a voyage marked by gradual progress, studded with obstacles to overcome. But the destination—a connected, inclusive, and effective healthcare ecosystem in Bangladesh—is not merely a distant dream but a tangible reality waiting on the horizon.

The relentless spirit of Bangladesh surges forth, propelling its digital health sector with unwavering momentum, proving that technology is the enigmatic key to a healthier nation. This vibrant energy resonates with an underlying conviction; a world where healthcare is not a privilege but a universal right, attainable by all, irrespective of location or circumstances. It's the dawn of a new era in healthcare, a future gleaming with promise and worth striving for.