

Indore and Bhopal Implement "No Helmet, No Fuel" Policy to Boost Road Safety



In a decisive move to enhance road safety and curb traffic violations, the district administrations of Bhopal and Indore have implemented a "no helmet, no fuel" policy starting August 1. This new directive, which prohibits petrol and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) pumps from serving two-wheeler riders who are not wearing a helmet is a response to rising concerns over road fatalities and is mandated by a recent order from the Supreme Court's Road Safety Committee. The initiative aims to enforce compliance with existing traffic laws and promote a culture of safety among the large population of two-wheeler users in both cities.

The order, issued under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Adhiniyam, 2023, targets a significant challenge faced by traffic authorities: the low rate of helmet usage despite legal mandates. With an estimated 10 lakh (one million) two-wheelers on the roads of Indore alone, officials have noted that more than 70% of riders frequently forgo wearing a helmet. This new rule seeks to address the issue directly at the point of refueling, a necessary action for every rider, thereby creating a strong incentive for compliance.

According to Indore District Magistrate Asheesh Singh, the measure is intended to be a powerful deterrent. "This is not just about penalties; it's about saving lives," he stated, emphasizing the link between helmet use and the reduction of serious injuries in accidents. Petrol pump operators have been instructed to strictly adhere to the order, with violations

potentially leading to legal action, including imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to Rs 5,000.

The policy follows a similar campaign launched in other parts of the country and is a continuation of a broader effort to tighten traffic discipline. It also aligns with directives from the Madhya Pradesh High Court, which has previously expressed displeasure over the rampant violation of traffic rules in the region. While some residents have welcomed the initiative as a necessary step for public safety, others have voiced concerns about its practicality and potential inconvenience. The rule will initially be in effect until September 29, 2025, during which time the administration will monitor its effectiveness and public response. This period will be crucial for determining the long-term impact of the policy on traffic safety.