

'Before starting a challan drive, we want to spend maximum time on creating awareness'

Chandigarh's top traffic policeman, SSP **Shashank Anand**, whose phone's ringtone is a song urging women to use helmets, tells **Chandigarh Newslines** how he is going to persuade women two-wheeler riders to observe the new rule in their own interests

How important is the latest decision to make helmets necessary for women in Chandigarh?

Certainly, it is a landmark decision keeping in view the security of women riding two-wheelers. The decision of the UT administration and the intervention by the Punjab and Haryana High Court has highlighted the issue and brought to the notice of general public. After all, the decision is for the safety of women. And I personally feel, women of Chandigarh have accepted this decision.

Is Chandigarh traffic police ready to impose this rule

strictly in the city?

First of all, I want to say that such rules cannot be imposed with a strict attitude. People follow such rules as they become aware and start understanding that this is the need of the hour. We (Chandigarh traffic police) are doing our best to educate every woman about the benefit of helmets and safety gears. We are trying to interact with more women riders on the roads to motivate them to use helmets. I believe some women of Chandigarh understand the importance of wearing helmets. Before we start a challan drive, we want to spend maximum time to create awareness.



SSP Shashank Anand

When will you begin the challan drive against women for not wearing helmets?

At present, our focus is on creating awareness. And in the process, we have decided to inform the general public well in advance about the exact date of challan drive. We do not want to leave a single chance for the public to complain that they were not informed by Chandigarh Police about the drive against women for not wearing the safety gears.

What about Sikh organisations, which have made representations against this rule?

Until now, I have not received any such representation. The latest notification, which

makes helmet necessary for women, exempts Sikh turbaned women from wearing helmets. We are interacting with people belonging to different walks of society and motivating them to wear helmets.

Panchkula police have challaned more than 1,000 women two-wheeler riders in the last one and half months and here in Chandigarh, traffic police is working on awareness drive. Why?

In Haryana, the helmet rule for women has been there for a long time. Haryana government has amended the Motor

Vehicle Act a long time back making helmet necessary for women. But here in Chandigarh, the rule has just come in. It does not look good that we immediately start the challan drive. The drive being carried out by Panchkula traffic police has had an impact. Our traffic policemen have noticed that women entering Chandigarh from Panchkula have started wearing helmets.

What kind of methods are being adopted for spreading awareness among women?

We are adopting all kind of methods. From visiting schools, colleges, government and private institutes, free hel-

metts were also distributed to women. In appreciation, women who have started wearing helmets, we have also been distributing free fuel vouchers of Rs 100. Besides these, we are also taking the assistance of actors to play the role of Yamraj and make the point about why helmets are necessary. One of our policeman, head constable (HC) Bhupinder Singh even composed a song urging women to wear helmets.

Is the present infrastructure sufficient for challaning women for not wearing helmets?

We have enough manpower in

traffic police. Head constables and ranks above can issue challans. We have sufficient number of women head constables also in the traffic police. If the need arises, we will add more personnel. We are also making a road map on how to implement this new rule through the challan drive.

Do you believe that women will follow the new rule of wearing helmet?

Why not? It is all for their safety. Chandigarh is a city of educated people and I hope women will leave behind the men in following the traffic rules and regulation, particularly, that of wearing helmets.



Car dealers, workshops inspected ahead of Independence Day

CHANDIGARH: In view of the forthcoming Independence Day, special checks were conducted by all police stations to inspect various car dealer points, workshops, mechanics, denting painting shops. A total of 16 car dealers and 62 denting-painting workshops and points were checked. This check was made to ensure all dealers working in their jurisdictions.

As per the information, the number of car dealers and the number of denting workshops checked so far in the central subdivision are 1 and 3 respectively. Whereas, in the eastern subdivision, 6 car dealers and 27 denting workshops have been inspected by the police so far. A total of 9 car dealers and 32 denting workshops have already been checked in the southern subdivision.

Apart from inspection, the ownership of the vehicles was also verified and cross-checked with the list provided by the car



City Police inspecting car dealers in Chandigarh on Sunday.

dealers, workshops, mechanics and denting painting shops. Also, the police authorities have instructed the owners and managers of these shops and workshops to provide the list of visitors and vehicles on daily basis to the respective police stations. The representatives of

these workshops have also been directed to provide information to police about any suspicious vehicle or activity if found.

Besides this, the Bomb Detection teams of Chandigarh Police have also started major checking exercise at vital installations and heavy footfall areas. Special

searches are being conducted by Chandigarh Police with the help of dog squad and bomb detection team at heavy footfall areas, vital installations which includes busy markets, ISBT's, public parking areas, Cinemas, govt. buildings, tourist places .

सुबह पार्क में पुलिस ने सुनीं जनसमस्याएं



मनीमाजरा। शनिवार सुबह 6 से 7 बजे तक थाना पुलिस के सभी मुलाजिमों ने एसएचओ रणजीत सिंह के साथ शिवालिक गार्डन में जाकर एक्सरसाइज की। इसके बाद फिर सभी पुलिस कर्मचारियों में गार्डन में आए लोगों के साथ सैर करके उनके एरिया की समस्याएं सुनीं। इस दौरान माडर्न कांप्लेक्स की एसोसिएशन के महासचिव केएल सचदेवा ने अपने एरिया और मनीमाजरा अकाली दल के नेता सुरजीत सिंह, नरेंद्र मोदी टीम के अध्यक्ष सुशील जैन ने अपने एरिया की समस्याएं बताईं। वहीं, उधर मौलीजागरा थाना प्रभारी बलजीत सिंह ने एरिया पार्श्व अनिल दुबे के साथ विकास नगर की पार्क में सैर की। इस दौरान उन्होंने लोगों की कॉमन समस्याएं सुनीं। मौलीजागरा थाना प्रभारी बलजीत सिंह ने कहा कि डीएसपी ईस्ट सतीश कुमार ने अलग तरह की योजना वर्क एंड वर्कआउट शुरू कर लोगों के साथ पुलिस को जोड़ने का प्रयास किया। इससे पुलिस का लोग के साथ ज्यादा तालमेल बढ़ेगा। इसके चलते पूरे ईस्ट डिवीजन के एसएचओ सुबह 6 से 7 बजे लोगों के साथ सैर करके उनके साथ तालमेल बढ़ा रहे हैं।