

Two vehicles ferrying schoolkids among 18 challaned for overloading

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 7

A JOINT team of State Transport Authority (STA) and Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CCPCR), during a surprise check outside DAV Model School, Sector 15, here, challaned two overloaded vehicles ferrying students on Friday. Apart from these, 16 other overloaded auto rickshaws were also challaned in Chandigarh.

An autorickshaw, carrying the students, was later impounded as the driver, Satish Kumar, failed to produce any document. Six stu-



An overloaded school van stopped by police during a drive in Chandigarh on Friday. Jaipal Singh

dents, who were in the auto, were sent home in a car of the STA.

Motor Vehicle Inspector Ravinder Singh of the STA said the

auto was already challaned for various offences. "All its documents are deposited in the district courts, Sector 43. Six students were in the auto, which is allowed to carry only five. Another Tata Magic van was carrying 15 students, while it had a capacity of merely nine persons. Both the vehicles were arranged by the parents. Sixteen other autos were also challaned for overloading, but students were not present in them," he said.

Arvind Kumar, a member of the CCPCR, said, "We appealed to the parents of some of the students not to send their wards in overcrowded autos. They should

refrain from sending their wards in autos, which already have five students. Shortly, we are going to take up this issue with different parents' associations of the private schools," he said.

Harjinder Kaur, Head of the CCPCR, said the child rights' body, along with the STA, will continue to hold surprise visits to check overcrowded school vehicles.

On Thursday, a CCPCR team visited Government Model Senior Secondary School, Manimajra, and St Soldier International Public School, Sector 28, to inspect the mode of transportation opted by the schoolchildren, in view of their safety and security.



Over 1 lakh traffic violators fined since HC's July orders

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THE TRAFFIC Police in Chandigarh has issued over one lakh challans for violations of rules between July 24 — when the Punjab and Haryana High Court issued directions to take actions against violators — and December 5 for at least 19 offences, according to an official data accessed by *Chandigarh Newslines*.

The total annual figure of challans till December 5 in five major offences — driving on cycle tracks and pedestrian paths, wrong side, violation at zebra crossing, dangerous driving and wrong parking — is 94,698 against 52,678 issued last year.

The authorities have also recommended suspension of driving licences in 7,044 cases till November 30 — 1,045 had jumped



ON THE LINE: At a zebra crossing in Chandigarh on Friday.
Jaipal Singh

red light, 2,636 for use of mobile phone, 299 for speeding and 3,064 for drunk driving. As many as 99 minor have also been found driving on roads since July 24.

The majority of the challans between July 24 and December 5 have been issued for riding without helmet (21,536), wrong park-

ing (15,352), travelling on cycle tracks or footpaths (13,634), dangerous driving (11,710), wrong-side driving or taking wrong turn (10,511), without seat belt (3,488), speeding (3,274) and others including 25,794 for miscellaneous offences, according to the record.

As many as 3,141 people were

issued challans for plying on cycle tracks or footpaths, 13,877 for wrong-side driving, 16,541 for wrong parking, 4,478 for zebra crossing violation and 808 for dangerous driving between January 1 and July 23 — which is prior to the ongoing regular monitoring by the High Court.

The current strength of traffic police in Chandigarh is 627, including four DSPs, six inspectors, 15 sub-inspectors (SIs), 16 assistant SIs, 99 head constables and 175 constables. The HC has been regularly monitoring the action being taken against the traffic violators in a case where it has taken suo motu note of the issues.

Majority of the violators for zebra crossing violation, wrong-side driving, wrong parking and driving motorcycle on cycle track or pedestrian paths have been issued postal challans, according to the figures.

