

Pari/Road Safety/2019/p

Date – 11th July, 2019

Honourable Chief Minister,
Maharashtra Government,
Mumbai.



Dear Sir,

Expressing displeasure about directing Police to stop on-road enforcement of helmet rule

We the undersigned, would like to express disappointment over your recent statement about implementing the helmet rule in Pune. By directing the Police not to stop helmetless riders on the road and instead fine the violators by monitoring CCTV footage will prove very ineffective. Your direction to Police personnel weakens their ability to enforce this critical road safety law and is in violation of the spirit of the directives issued regarding this by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

We would like to bring into your notice that Maharashtra had 13,085 road crash fatalities in 2018 of which 32% were two-wheeler users.

As per section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, every person driving or riding is required to wear a helmet. The Supreme Court appointed Committee on Road Safety (CoRS) has instructed all State Governments to comply strictly with the helmet rule and to set a target of reducing fatalities and injuries by 10% each year. The Bombay High Court has also directed the Maharashtra Government to strictly implement Section of 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act in the entire state of Maharashtra. This order was issued in 2005.

Police across Maharashtra have been implementing compulsory helmet rule which has saved many lives. It is an evident fact that two-wheeler riders have responded well to enforcement drive and helmet compliance has gone up. Before enforcement, Parisar conducted a survey which showed 28% helmet compliance; after enforcement the police have reported it went up to more than 60%.

Road Safety experts believe that a police officer standing on the road and nabbing traffic violators (visible enforcement) is a much more effective deterrent compared to enforcement by way of CCTV cameras. It is also pertinent to note that there is no robust mechanism to make sure that traffic violators will abide traffic rules through CCTV monitoring system as payment of fine is not ensured. A challan is issued to owner of the vehicle not to the rider in CCTV monitoring system which has no basis in the Motor Vehicles Act.

On behalf of Road Safety Network, we urge you to re-consider your decision and give a free hand to the police to carry out on-ground enforcement.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of Road Safety Network
Ranjit Gadgil

Reply to – C/O Parisar, "Yamuna", I.C.S. Colony, Ganeshkhind road, Pune – 411007

Signed by

Parisar
Ranjit Gadgil

CEE
Amar Karan

Save Pune Traffic Movement
Rajendra Sidhaye

Safe Road Foundation
Samaiirah

Aurangabad First
Hemant Landge

Victim
Sanjaykumar Gupta

Hardikar hospital
Sharad Hardikar (Orthopaedic Surgeon)

Nobel Hospital
Vishal Chaudhary (Orthopaedic Surgeon)

Citizens

Akash Puri
Ajit Barje
Anup Kumar
Hardik Patel
Rajesh Vidup
Jayalakshmi Nair
Tikeshwar Sharma
Subodh Kulkarni
Shruti Chaurasia
Abhijit Shitole
Rajendra Ambekar
Satyabrath Pande

The Road Safety Network is a coalition of road safety organizations promoting safe roads in India.

Cc – Chairperson of Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety
Shri Gadkari, Minister MoRTH,
DGP, Mumbai, Maharashtra,
Transport Commissioner, Mumbai.
Commissioner of Police, Pune & Commissioner of Police, PCMC
Regional Transport Office, Pune.
Members of District Road Safety Committee