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Govt notification making helmets mandatory in Rajasthan

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TNN | Oct 30, 2015, 10.44 AM IST

JAIPUR: The state government on Wednesday issued a notification making helmets compulsory for the two-wheeler riders and pillion riders across the state.

As per Supreme Court directions, the notification was to be issued before October 31.

Presently, helmet is compulsory for riders and pillion riders in Jaipur only. In majority of the districts, it is not applicable as authorities too have been lenient towards it. After this notification, helmets have become mandatory for riders and pillion riders across the state.

The transport department is ready to enforce the rule in all 33 districts. Only people belonging to Sikh community who wear turbans would be exempted under the new law.

"Both - the rider and the pillion rider - will have to wear ISI-marked helmets," said transport commissioner Gayatri Rathore. Rajasthan is among the leading states in the country with highest number of fatalities. According to sources in the transport department, road accident records clearly show that the number of two-wheeler riders killed in the road accidents is rising.

"In most of the cases, it was found that the riders and pillion riders were not wearing helmets and in Rajasthan, wearing helmets is not taken

very seriously. Thus, the state government is now implementing the rule," said a senior officer of the transport department.

It may be recalled that wearing helmet was already compulsory in Jaipur for two-wheeler riders, and in 2012, the state government had made it compulsory for the pillion riders as well.