



Mandatory ABS and Helmets for Two-Wheelers from 2026 – Key Points

Best Practices in news

Effective Date:

From January 1, 2026, all new two-wheelers sold in India (scooters and motorcycles) must be equipped with Anti-lock Braking Systems (ABS) regardless of engine capacity.

Helmet Provision:

Manufacturers and dealers must provide two BIS-certified helmets at the time of sale (currently only one is mandatory).

Reason for the Move:

Two-wheeler riders constitute nearly 44% of road fatalities in India.

Major causes: Head injuries and lack of proper safety gear.

Vehicles below 125cc (currently exempt from mandatory ABS) account for 40–45% of sales but are capable of speeds above 70 kmph.

Benefits of ABS:

Prevents wheel lock during sudden braking.

Enhances vehicle control and reduces stopping distance.

Especially effective on wet or slippery roads.



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Studies show ABS can reduce accidents by 35% to 45%.

Impact of Two-Helmet Rule:

Aims to ensure helmet usage by both rider and pillion, thereby reducing head injury-related deaths.