



For safer roads

BY SOORAJ RAJMOHAN

Bangalore Bikers is an online community that seeks to go beyond brand affiliations and unite riders while promoting road safety

Photographer NI John says he has two passions – photography and motorcycling. The latter is what led him to start the Bangalore Bikers group way back in 2009. John, who was juggling multiple assignments at the time, wanted an outlet for his love for biking, and Bangalore Bikers was the perfect solution. “I wanted to have a non-commercial platform where people share a passion for motorcycle travelling, and promote safe motorcycling,” says John, who noticed that most motorcycle groups were effectively owner’s clubs for a specific make or model. “Bangalore Bikers is not about that. Anyone, whether they own a gearless vehicle, a 100cc motorcycle or something with higher displacement, is free to join.”



The group, which is around 6,000 members strong today, is tightly moderated, John explains. All join requests are personally moderated by him, and new members only gain full access to the forums after they complete an introduction post. He is also aided by three moderators who oversee the forums, which the group uses to share in-

sights, provide advice on motorcycles and safe riding gear, and plan rides. “We organise a welcome ride every month, where some of our regular riders take new members for a short ride to teach them about safety and educate them on good riding gear and group riding etiquette. Judging by the number of new members, we may have to organise

two welcome rides a month starting in the near future,” John says. The community also promotes coordination among the different cogs of the city’s motorcycling ecosystem. Seasoned riders help newer ones in selecting appropriate safety gear, and guide them to shops in the city that sell them. Besides the riding, John says the group also chips in to do



Wheels for a cause

Bangalore bikers and (right) NI John • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

their bit for the needy. “During Independence day, we try and pool some money and donate books to schools in nearby areas like Kolar and Tumkur. We prefer this to contributing to the general rush by organising Independence Day rides.” That is not to say that the group does not ride, as John explains that some members just came back from the annual monsoon ride to Maharashtra.

Bangalore Bikers is a non-commercial initiative, run by John primarily to promote safer riding. Individual members bear their own trip expenses, and the community does not seek out official partnerships with motorcycle brands. John says he is happy to keep things that way, as he is able to find time to indulge his passion for riding thanks to his company Let-



sClick Photography, through which he undertakes wedding and product shoots, besides providing photography training. “Photography and motorcycling are my passions, and LetsClick gives me the flexibility to run Bangalore Bikers,” he says, signing off with another request that everyone reading this take care to ride safely.

Bangalore Bikers can be found online at bangalorebikers.com, and on Facebook and Instagram at the handle Bangalore Bikers.

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