

# They're geared towards safe biking

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**BANGALORE:** Most road users would cringe at the sight of a flashy motorcycle rider showing off dangerous bike stunts in traffic. Now, there are avid bikers themselves who seem to be geared towards safe riding.

A rapidly growing community of 500 such bikers, the Bangalore Bikers, has a clear motto: to promote sensible, safe biking.

"Strictly no stunt riding, our main focus is safety in biking," says N.J. John, founder of The Bangalore Bikers Club.

## Spreading the word

A not-for-profit community driven by a passion for biking, the group holds awareness camps, workshops and discussions in colleges about safe riding.

The club also has a large online community of bikers who discuss and exchange information and tips. "We have an active online community that organises bike rides as well as workshops," says moderator Praful Tripathi.

## For Bangalore's own

The group started when Mr. John purchased the domain name for Bangalore Bikers in 2009. He says he was delighted at the opportunity



**SAFETY OVER STUNTS:** *The Bangalore Bikers aim to cover the entire country on their India-manufactured bikes.*

to give Bangalore its own bikers club.

A signature feature of the group is that the members use bikes manufactured in India. "Although we are open to bikers with any kind of bikes, we prefer using motorcycles that are manufactured in India," Mr. John adds.

Each year, the group celebrates Independence Day with a ride to villages across the country. Presently, a team of bikers from the club are bracing themselves for a trip to Leh, considered as one of the best biking routes.

The bikers also share a dream to cover the entire

country on two wheels. "Our country has so many beautiful places to be seen and biking to these places, interacting with the people in villages and sometimes giving free rides to children there, fills you with a happiness that you cannot buy," says Mr. John.

His advice to young bikers and their parents remains the same: safety first.

He says: "When buying a bike for children, we always tell parents to make sure they invest in good biking gear. Good quality helmets, gloves and jackets are a must for any rider."