

Rearview

2023 | 2024



Rotary



International Fellowship of
Motorcycling Rotarians

INDIA CHAPTER

Riding with Passion, Responsibly



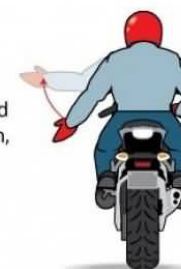
Left turn
Arm and hand
extending
left, palm
facing down



Right turn
Arm out, bent
at 90° angle,
fist clenched.



Stop
Arm extended
straight down,
palm facing
back.



Speed Up
Arm extended
straight out,
palm facing up,
swing upward.



Slow Down
Arm extended
straight out, palm
facing down,
swing down to
your side.



Follow Me
Arm extended
straight up
from shoulder,
palm forward.



You Lead/Come
Arm extended
upward 45°, palm
forward pointing
with index finger,
swing in arc from
back to front.



**Hazard in
Roadway**
On the left,
point with left
hand; on the
right, point
with right foot.



Single File
Arm and index
finger extended
straight up.



Double File
Arm with index
and middle
finger extended
straight up.



Comfort Stop
Forearm
extended, fist
clenched with
short up and
down motion.



**Refreshment
Stop**
Fingers
closed, thumb
to mouth.



Turn Signal On
Open and close
hand with
fingers and
thumb extended.



Pull Off
Arm positioned
as for right turn,
forearm swung
toward shoulder.



Cops Ahead
Tap on top of
helmet with
open palm down.



Fuel
Arm out to
side pointing
to tank with
finger
extended.

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Fellow IFMRians,

Welcome to another year of celebrating our love for the open roads. As we gather for our AGM, it's a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared together.

This past year has been filled with exiting overnight rides to Coorg and Sakleshpur, Awareness Ride for mental health in zone 7, Goodwill ride for international riders, Chartering of Ahmedabad sub chapter, Rann of Kutch Ride apart from our regular breakfast rides.

Through it all, the spirit of camaraderie and shared passion for riding has shone brightly. This book captures some of those moments, from the triumphant finishes to the scenic group rides, the camaraderie of overcoming challenges, and the friendships forged along the way.

Looking ahead, I'm filled with excitement for what the next year holds. But remember, the success of our group relies on each and every one of you. Whether you're a seasoned rider or just starting out, your participation, enthusiasm, and willingness to volunteer are what keeps us rolling.

So, as you flip through the pages, let them rekindle the memories of shared experiences and inspire you for the adventures to come. Let this 'Rear View' be a testament to the incredible community we've built together.

See you all at the AGM, and here's to another year of happy biking !

Warm regards,

Rajesh A R
President
IFMR India 2023-24



Dear IFMR'ian,

It has been a great humbling experience this year to be the Secretary of Imfr India Chapter. Extremely thankful to President Rajesh and floor members for having given me this responsibility, I have tried my level best to live up to every one's expectations.

This year's highlights are as follows:

1. 12 monthly mandatory DAY rides, with record participation.
2. 4 overnight rides.
3. Chartering of 3 sub chapters, Ahmedabad, Mysore and Thanjavur.
4. Four long rides, Awareness Ride, Rann of Kutch Ride, Goodwill International Ride and Happiness Ride to Bhutan, first ride outside India, went International.
5. Had 6 grand galas fellowship get together, started with group photo shoot, felicitation of Thrissur and Cochin riders, felicitation event of Awareness riders, Charter night celebration, AGM get together and finale today as Family Day. Had record participation in all the events.
6. Merchandise - all the new and old sub chapters were provided with their requirements of merchandise and released few new items for India Chapter, record sales of merchandise.
7. Participated in RI Convention and put up an IFMR stall, first time by IFMR INDIA.
8. One time gift to all, leather riding vest.
9. Added 15 solid riders to the membership list.
10. Managed to collect over 90% subscription for 24/25 membership renewal for next year's team.

Over all a very satisfying year in office. Thanks to one and all for your kind cooperation and support in discharging my duty as the secretary of IFMR India - 2023/24

Vinod Agarwal
Secretary
IFMR India 2023-24



Dear Fellow Rotarians and Members of IFMR India,

It is with great pride and joy that I extend my warmest greetings to all members of the IFMR India Chapter through this annual coffee table book. As the International President of IFMR and a proud member of the India Chapter, I am thrilled to see the vibrant activities and strong sense of camaraderie that our chapter embodies. The Rotary International movement, with its dedication to “Service Above Self,” aims to make a significant impact on communities worldwide.

The International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians (IFMR) perfectly blends our passion for motorcycling with Rotary’s noble ideals, fostering global understanding and peace. The India Chapter is one of the most dynamic among the 31 chapters of IFMR worldwide, spanning over 85 countries. The dedication and enthusiasm of our members make it a beacon of excellence. I want to give a big shout-out to Rajesh Ammathira, President of the India Chapter, and Vinod Agarwal, Secretary of the India Chapter, along with the entire core team, for their fantastic work this Rotary year. Their tireless efforts and innovative initiatives have significantly contributed to our chapter’s success and growth. The team has organized amazing day rides, overnight rides, and rides for causes in line with Rotary International’s focus areas. Every ride has added to the vibrancy of our chapter by involving members and fostering a sense of unity. As we look forward to another year of exciting rides, new friendships, and impactful service projects, let us continue to uphold Rotary values and strengthen the bonds of fellowship within IFMR. Together, we can achieve greater heights and make a lasting difference in the world. “Four wheels move the body, two wheels move the soul.” - Anonymous
Thank you all for your dedication and enthusiasm. Ride safe, ride proud, and keep the spirit of Rotary alive in all your endeavours.

Warm regards,
PAG Rtn. Sunil Telkar
International President 2022-25,
International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians (IFMR)



Dear Friends in Chapter India,

Warm friendly IFMR motorcycle greetings from your international secretary in Germany. I am delighted with the great development of the India chapter and the steadily growing number of members in recent years. In a figurative sense, that reminds me of Johnny Walker's advertisement: Born 1820 - still going strong. For the India chapter, the same applies: Born 2003 - still on the rise.

This is certainly also due to the fact that the responsible boards keep offering impressive international tours, of course with great support from their own members. Our fellowship talks about you and those who have ridden with you have impressive stories to tell. Keep it up, dear friends in the India chapter, you are not only on the right path, but also exemplary in the development and maintenance of Rotary friendship.

I wish you many more exciting, accident-free tours in the best Rotary sense, because at least we know: IFMR: Rotary at its best, and you are a big part of us.

Yours

Hans-Dieter
International Secretary 2022 - 25
Chapter Austria-Germany- Switzerland

Core Team



Prashant Mishra



Arun Belur



Naveen Kumar



Srikanth KP



Raghavendra Inamdar



Avani, Kolar

2 July 2023

Bangalore to Avani, Kolar - 185 kms.

Being the first ride of the year 23/24, the response to it was overwhelming, over 25 riders had joined at the start point at ITI Colony gate at 6.45 am, despite a few last minute drop out which got adjusted with last minute joiners. We were having the highest riders for any ride in the recent past as commented by IPS Prashant Mishra. Big thank you to all the riders who joined this morning for the ride. We had two surprise members coming in for the flag off, World President Rtn Sunil Telkar and Rtn Asad Hajjibhoy, it was good to see them, despite their busy schedule they came to see all of us.

President Rajesh AR had his meeting with all the riders, welcomed all to the first ride, gave a small detail of today's route and destination, requested Rtn Mandar to offer the prayer, and what best way to start first ride by invoking Lord Ganesh Mantra, for today's successful ride and everyone's safety. Riding sequence of 4 group was announced before hand with respective Lead and Sweep, accordingly each group left with a gap of 5 minutes.

The weather was perfect for a morning breakfast ride, it was overcast but no traces of rain and only cool breeze was blowing, all managed to get out of initial traffic and slowly were on a clear highway and cruising at good speed with everyone's comfort zone. Our first stop was at Highway Star for breakfast in Maiya's. All took time to have a relaxed breakfast and close to 9.15 am, left for the last 20 kms to Avani town/temple. Soon we were there, this place has a lot of historical importance, all spent over one hour visiting the temple and taking group photographs. Few opted to Trek on to the hillock nearby. Soon it was decided to leave back for Bangalore and disperse point was after Hoskote Toll plaza, after cruising for nearly one hour all were at the Toll plaza to say goodbye and thanked each other for their company. A great start to 23/24 had begun.





Felicitation of IFMR Members

14 July 2023

Invite was received from Rotary Club of Junction to IFMR India that they would like to felicitate their club members who are active members of Ifmr India on 14th July and would like other members of Ifmr India to attend the same. Despite being a Friday, week day few Ifmr India members attended the event. It was a great event, attended by all the members of Junction who were Ifmr members also.

Past Secretary Prashant Mishra was asked to speak about the activities of IFMR who is also member of Junction and all the members present were felicitated and recognised by giving a box of chocolates to all and many group pictures were taken with Ifmr members. All the members of Junction appreciated the activities of IFMR India and were awestruck with the various rides undertaken in the past. Secretary Vinod Agarwal made a presentation on how the fellowship group works in Rotary. Overall a great evening with great fellowship moments with Junction members.







Thanksgiving get-together

16 July 2023

Bangalore

Date, venue and time was fixed in advance for this party, members started arriving by 11 am and by 12 noon most of the members who had promised to attend were at the sprawling brand new bungalow of Rtn Prashanth Babu and Mrs. Shobha. All were in a relaxed mood and were enjoying the hospitality of the hosts.

Close to 1 pm, President Rtn Rajesh AR took over the centre stage and started the meeting proceedings, welcomed one and all and requested IPP Rtn Arun Belur to take over the further proceedings. IPP Arun, thanked each and every one for a great year of rides and activities in 22/23, he explained the three long rides done during the year, Unity Ride, International Ride of Rajasthan Escapade and grand finale was Spiti Valley Ride. All applauded the efforts of the outgoing team and gave a standing ovation. He then presented the completion and participation certificate of Spiti Valley Ride along specially made T Shirt to all the riders of Spiti Valley. All took many pictures of this presentation. IPP Arun Belur

requested Editor Vinod Agarwal to release the Annual copy of REARVIEW, which he did and distributed the ordered copies to members present and released the soft copy in the WhatsApp group of IFMR India. IPP Arun Belur felicitated member Devesh Agarwal for all his exploits during the year, reaching the world's highest motorable road and riding over 12k in a few rides. He was presented with a specially designed memento. IPP Arun Belur also recognised the efforts of Past Secretary Prashant Mishra during the 22/23, a special scarf and a plaque was presented to him.

After all the official ceremonies, the party was full on, non stop, all were enjoying bonding over drinks and food, entertainment incharge Rtn Raghavendra Inamdar took over as the lead Karoke singer along with ladies present, non stop music, dance continued for the next few hours. People were busy taking solo, selfie and group pictures all over, as if there was no tomorrow. The party continued till 5 pm and slowly all left. Big thanks to IPP Arun Belur and Past Secretary



Prashant Mishra for sponsoring the food and drinks and bigger thanks to Shobha ji and Prashanth Babu for hosting the party at their home. The great party ended with a lot of memories. Members who could not make it were missed, over 40 members were present.





Ride for a cause

25 July 2023

Bangalore to Bandipur - 500 kms.

Today, 6 IFMRians along with other riders of Cubbonpark did a ride to Bandipur to give away the note books and other stationery to all the kids of the Government school of Mangala village.

1. Ravish
2. Adarsh
3. Kalya
4. Srinivas Raju
5. Rajan
6. Roy

We took off at 645 am and reached Mangala village by 1130 am. After distribution of the stationery kits , we went into the forest and we were lucky to sight 7 elephants from a close range. The weather was excellent with rains when we took off from Mangala village. On an average we did close to 500 km in a single day. I will post a few pics of the ride







Ride to Rangasthala

6 August 2023

Bangalore to Rangasthala - 120 Kms

Despite back to back rides planned in a gap of the next 6 days, we had a record breaking participation today 21 Members and 6 Prospective, totalling 27 riders phew, some number to manage. All the riders had come on time, 6.45 am to the starting point. President Rtn. Rajesh AR took the centre stage, informed all about today's ride and route, guided all with the safety instructions, especially to prospective riders. Gave stress on hand signals and safety gear adherence. Secretary Vinod read out the groupings of today's ride with Lead, Sweep and riders sequence numbers, 3 groups were formed with 9 riders each and kept 2 prospective riders in each group, for better understanding of their riding skills. Rtn. S Raju was asked to offer today's prayer for the success and safety of today's ride and riders. Soon one by one the group started the ride with a gap of 5 minutes.

The weather was absolutely fantastic, it was overcast with a cool breeze, and the highway was with decent traffic to cruise at 80km. All the 3 groups covered 50 km and reached the breakfast point at Durga Sree

Grand restaurant at Chikballapur, it was our Rtn Sudhakar Reddy's find as he is a local boy of Chikballapur, thank you Sudhakar. All spent close to 45 minutes here, bonding over breakfast. The last leg of the ride was just 7 km, covered in no time, all visited the Temple of Rangasthala, offered prayers, understood the history of the temple and gathered for many group pictures around the temple. Local boy, Rtn Sudhakar Reddy and President Rtn Rajesh AR decided to wander inside the village side by covering small and scenic roads before we started our return trip. Around 10 km of village roads were covered before we headed to the Nandi hills road to exit to the main highway for a return trip. Just before Nandi Upachar, all stopped for regrouping and to disperse and say bye to all, as few wanted to go to different locations. It was great to see many members who were not seen for a very long time coming for today's ride. Overall a great ride in IFMR. Thanks to all who had joined today's ride.





Installation of IFMR Hassan Sub Chapter

8 August 2023

Bangalore to Hassan

Invite was received from Hassan Ifmr club well in advance and there was a special request from the most popular and God Father member Rtn Mohan to India Chapter members to attend the same. A total of 14 members decided to visit them, three cars were arranged and Rtn Manjunath Saligram decided to ride his bike to Hassan. All had reached sharp at 7.30 pm to the venue, Hotel Arya Mansion, a star hotel in Hassan. There were over 40 members present to receive us from Bangalore, two couple members and Rtn. Manjunath were allotted rooms in the hotel as they opted to stay overnight after the function.

The installation function started without any delay, the chief guests were PDG Nagendra Prasad and Ifmr India Chapter President Rtn Rajesh AR. A new team for 23/24 was installed by PDG, few speeches and presentations followed, many were honoured with gifts, mementos, plant saplings and specially crafted scarfs. Rtn Venky was installed as the new President of Hassan Sub Chapter for 23/24. Rtn Vijay Mane was asked to show his dancing skill on signature dance steps

on the popular tunes of Jerusalem. All just loved it and were trying to match with him on stage. After close to two hours of fun meeting all joined for a lovely dinner and bid goodbye to our hosts Hassan Sub Chapter. Best wishes to Hassan Sub Chapter for a great year.



Rotary 


CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD



INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF MOTORCYCLING ROTARIANS
IFMR HASSAN SUB CHAPTER
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3182

Installation Ceremony

Of the office Bearers for the year 2023-24

On
8th August 2023 7.30 pm

@ Hotel Aarya Mansion
H N Pura Road, Hassan

Installation Officer :

PDG B L Nagendra Prasad, Dist. 3192.

Chief Guest :

Rtn. Rajesh A R, President IFMR India, Dist. 3192.

Guest of Honor :

Rtn. A Harish Babu, Chairmen, IFCR, Hassan. Dist. 3182.

Looking forward to welcome you

Rtn. Venkatesh
President

Rtn. Mahesh
Secretary

Rtn. Dharani
Treasurer

Office Bearers and Members





Ride to Coorg

12 August 2023

Bangalore to Coorg - 600 Kms

This ride's announcement had created a big buzz among all the members, over 38 members had shown initial interest immediately after its announcement twenty days before the event itself.. Finally 36 members registered for it and 4 had to drop out due to health/personal commitment. But the final 32 itself was one of the biggest contingents of riders for an overnight ride in IFMR India.. It had 28 members from India Chapter, Bangalore and 4 riders joined from Thrissur Sub Chapter. Another unique feature in this ride was that we had 6 past and present presidents joining and icing on the cake was 11 riders from a single Rotary Club - Cubbon Park, had there been an award for highest participation from a single club award, it would have gone to them. What a great camaraderie they share.

As usual on the 12th morning all the riders were at the start point on time, President Rajesh had a briefing session, group/riders sequence was announced and prayer was recited by Secretary Vinod. Our first stop was at Dhruvtare restaurant, a clear 90 km from the start point. All the restaurants

were running packed due to heavy traffic on the highway due to an extended weekend holiday, Dhruvtare was no different but the staff were familiar with our riders and without putting us on the waitlist we were accommodated despite a houseful board outside. All enjoyed the breakfast and took an adequate break for the long journey ahead. Soon we were on the highway, weather was perfect for riding, stopped at one or two stops for refueling of petrol and tea break and reached for our lunch break at Somwarpet, an authentic vegetarian restaurant, Kalyan Bhawan, was booked before hand by President Rajesh, and ably guided by our member Dayanand Allapur who owns a huge coffee estate nearby. After a sumptuous sit down lunch all visited Dayanand's estate and kingdom. All were greeted by him and his family, he took us around his new house under construction and gave a detailed overview of his estate, after spending close to one hour and a few group pictures we started our final leg of the trip to Hodduru, Coorg. It started raining on the way and all stopped to wear their rain gears, all riders were rain compliant and without any break continued the ride. Reached our resort



and President Rajesh friend Mr Rajendra's house close to 5 pm, all were welcomed by him and all were made comfortable in their respective rooms and decided to join for evening get together at 7 pm. After a quick coffee for all, we were taken to a village temple of host Rajendra ji and President Rajesh AR nearby, it was a 500 years old temple which their family trust have given a new structure by retaining the old idols and original place, this temple is maintained by Rajendra ji family. It was good to see how people are religiously committed by donating their wealth for a good cause.

The party started sharp at 7 pm and all were enjoying the hospitality of Rajendra ji and President Rajesh, all were treated to some authentic Coorg cuisine food, drinks, dance and Masti continued till midnight as if there was no tomorrow. We were joined by 3 Rotarian Ann, including President Rajesh wife Rama ji. She too sang many songs. Amongst us we had a guest member, past president of IFMR India Chapter visiting from Kuwait, Rtn Sathykant, he was introduced to all by President Rajesh and as a token of goodwill



gesture our pin was presented to him, he had joined this ride with his son. Soon there was an act by Dipesh, Vijay and Prashanth Babu, where they roasted a few of our IFMR members with their stand up act, it was good to hear what people think of other members. Slowly all retired to their rooms.

The next morning the schedule was to visit an irrigated paddy field owned by Rajendra ji, which is slushy and play all kind of games like volleyball, tug of war, running in the slush etc. All had come prepared to experience this event, unique for people living in cities. All spent close to two hours here playing and doing mud spa. After a clean wash, all had breakfast, again with Coorg cuisine preparation. President Rajesh had planned a bike ride in and around Coorg covering offbeat places after the Breakfast. All joined in this adventure trip covering 120 km. It had all the elements of fun and thrill, off roading, steep climbing and many water crossings too. Saw some beautiful rolling mountains, the hidden secrets of Coorg natures beauty, stopped at many places and took some stunning pictures. Close to 2 pm reached our venue for lunch, East End hotel, a very popular restaurant in Coorg, to our surprise our Hassan Sub Chapter riders numbering over 23 were present there, they were returning from their bike ride from Mahe, they had come in 15 bikes and two cars. It was a great bonhomie time for all. Took a few group photos with over 55 IFMR'IAN together.

Bid goodbye to them and returned to our base for our second day's fellowship in the evening, all were little exhausted but the party continued for the second evening, our Thrissur members took over the centre stage and belted out few karaoke numbers, we had a new induction of member from Thrissur Sub Chapter, Stanley, President Rajesh pinned IFMR India pin and welcomed him to the world of IFMR. The party continued till 11 pm and all had an early dinner with new delicacies of Coorg cuisine especially the non vegetarian ones. The next morning we had to return back all retired early. After an early breakfast next morning all were ready to saddle up for the return journey to Bangalore. All expressed their thanks and gratitude to our host Rajendra ji and his wife for going out of their way to give us some lifetime memorable moments. All took many group pictures with them, thanked them and bid goodbye and started our return journey to Bangalore. With few tea/lunch breaks in between, all were home by the evening with lifetime memories. Biggest thanks goes to our President Rtn Rajesh AR who had worked and planned on this trip with his friend Mr. Rajendra long ago, whatever he had thought of was executed perfectly.







Annual Group Photo

28 August 2023

Bangalore

Date was informed to all the members one month in advance so that they can schedule their travel plans. Finally we had 43 members, 3 Anns and 3 District dignitaries joining us for the photo shoot. All had come on time, all were colour coordinated with Riding Vest and Club Jersey. It was a great bonhomie time for many as few don't join for ride meets and were meeting after long time.

President Rajesh AR, welcomed all for the morning event, requested all to observe a minute silence for an ex-members sudden demise last night. After which our ace Photographer Rtn. Chandru from Rotary District took the centre stage, made everyone sit in order and started the photo shoot by taking pics in various orders, sitting, standing, without vest, Past Presidents group picture and Core Committee group picture. Many did not lose the opportunity for their solo and their close friends group photos. Soon we were joined by District members, PDG KP Nagesh, PDG Nagendra Prasad and Rtn Kiran. They all addressed us and thanked IFMR India for being the most popular, disciplined and best organised Fellowship group in Rotary.

President Rajesh AR requested our own member and DGE Mahadev Prasad to unveil new merchandise for our members, a Luggage Tag and ID acrylic cards with individual names in a set of two cards were released, first set was presented to Past Prez and Founder member Rtn Zarryl Lobo and requested others to collect their set from Secretary Vinod. This was a public image and publicity idea to spread awareness about Rotary in general and IFMR in particular and members not to lose their luggage while traveling. It was highly appreciated by one and all. All district dignitaries were given one set each.

Close to 9 am, all were asked to join for breakfast at the adjacent restaurant Brahmins Coffee and Tiffins, soon all our members had taken over the restaurant, filled with only our members, all were exchanging pleasantries and happy to have joined for the photo shoot. A great event came to a close around 10 am, all bid goodbye and left for the home.





Ride to Mysore

2 September 2023

Bangalore to Mysore - 400 Kms

Ifmr INDIA had received an invitation from Rotary Avoidable Blindness Foundation to participate in the seminar to be held in Mysore and wanted to recognise the contribution of Ifmr bikers for their regular contribution towards various causes they do in raising funds and creating awareness by taking long rides all over the country. RABF is headed by our very own IFMR member Rtn. Y C C Roy and he extended an invitation to us participate in this event which had become a big event as was supported by multi districts of Zone 7 and 6.

President Rajesh AR was too happy to support the cause and accepted the invitation, a total of 25 riders registered for the same. All gathered at the start point at 6.45am in Bangalore, after a short briefing by President Rajesh AR, teams were divided into 3 groups with riders sequence and lead and sweep of each group. Slowly all groups left, to avoid regular Mysore roads because of many speed breakers on the way, we had settled to travel via Hassan side road to Mysore. The weather was excellent, after riding

for 80km, we stopped at Halli Mane for the sumptuous breakfast of Idly/ Dosa/Vada and Coffee. After spending over an hour we started for the next 110kms ride, stopped for a tea break in between, close to 11.30 am, we were outside of Mysore. President Rajesh AR came up with a suggestion, since we were too early for lunch, why not visit KRS reservoir/dam and a world heritage temple of Lord Venugopal Swamy adjacent to the reservoir. Took a detour of 10km and we were at the beautiful temple of Lord Venugopal Swamy, a hidden secret of Mysore, this was the surprise package of this trip, spent close to one hour here and headed for a great restaurant popular for North Karnataka cuisine food, all enjoyed the lunch and around 3pm, we were in our designated Boutique hotel of Mysore, SOHO, all proceeded to their allocated rooms for some rest. We were given a special T Shirt from RBAF to be worn by all for the evening felicitation function and again for the Mysore City Ride next day morning. All were transported to the meeting venue in the evening for the meeting, it was a very good session, we met many stalwarts from Zone 6 and 7. Galaxy of DG and PDG were present,



the information on Avoidable Blindness was an eye opener for all, President Rajesh AR committed 25k towards 10 Cataract surgery from IFMR India side. Late in the evening PDG Nagendra Prasad invited all our members to Mysore Turf Club for Dinner and fellowship. It was a great bonding time for all with stalwarts and dignitaries attending the event over the next one day.

On 3rd September early morning, the RABF team had organised a blind fold walk for all the members present attending two days seminar starting from DC office to a School run by Mysore Rotary club in the vicinity and parallely we bikers were on our bike had to go for a 20 km Mysore City Ride creating awareness on avoidable blindness. Many media people had gathered to cover the event, our bikers were flagged off in 3 groups by various DG's and it took us close to 45 minutes covering the distance, which was navigated by a senior Rotarian from Mysore. It was a wonderful experience, more so because we could see the beauty of Mysore in the morning hours, and can proudly say that it is the best green and clean City of India. After the city ride, we were taken to the Rotary school venue, we met the people who had completed the blind fold walk, took few group pictures and headed back to our hotel for a lavish breakfast arranged by Rtn Roy, all enjoyed it and thanked him for an excellent time he gave us since last evening. Close to 10 am, all had checked out of their rooms and had saddled up for the return journey to Bangalore.

This was a bonus overnight ride for all, we had one just 20 days back to Coorg, back to back one more was unexpected. By 2 pm all were back home in Bangalore. A great ride came to an end. Would like to place on record sincere appreciation to Rtn Roy for all the hard work he had put in to give us a great time in Mysore.







Mental Health Awareness Drive

19 to 30th September 2023

Day 1

IFMR INDIA embarked on an ambitious ride of the year, an Awareness/Cause Ride to create more and more awareness on Mental Health, the theme of the year of Rotary International. 8 riders had signed up for this adventure ride covering four major states of India going thru Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. After all the brain storming session with DG of 3191 and 3192, we were all present at the flag off point of KLE DENTAL College gate at 5.30 am, we were welcomed by Rtn Deepak, District Secretary of RID 3191 and President of Cubbon Park Club, they took the honours of flagging off the event at the start point, before that we had customary briefing by President Rtn Rajesh about today's route and was asked Rtn Vinod to recite a prayer, which he did by reciting Gayatri Mantra for today success and safety of riders.

The weather was perfect, first 110 km till Sira was a breeze, we stopped at 7.30 am for a great breakfast at Paakshala restaurant, luckily we got the





seats immediately. All enjoyed the breakfast and started around 8.30 am for our first official stop to Chitradurga, to meet Rotary fraternity to spread awareness on Mental Health. We were welcomed by members of 3 clubs of Chitradurga. We were received at their school project run and built by them, a really impressive project. All riders were welcomed with a rose flower, made comfortable, their 3 clubs President took turns to explain their Rotary journey and gave time to President of IFMR India Rtn Rajesh AR to explain the cause behind the awareness ride being undertaken, all were very appreciative of the idea. All Rotary members present from Chitradurga took turns to take pictures with riders and their bikes. After a brief one hour stop here, we proceeded to the next stop, Davangere which was another 100km journey. It was again a smooth journey as today being the last day of the extended weekend due to Ganesha Festival traffic on the highway was minimal. We were received by Davangere Rotary club members a little ahead of their Rotary House, and were guided to the venue, again a traditional welcome with a single rose flower without plastic wrapper, an excellent concept. Meeting started with all the zest by Davangere stalwarts present like Rtn Biswajit and their AG. Spent another one hour with deliberation on Mental Health awareness. Our Club Jt. Secretary Naveen made a presentation on the cause. President Rajesh and Secretary Vinod took their turns to speak on the same.



Distributed the flyer made on the subject. The photo session started with us riders and took nearly 10 minutes as all wanted to pose with the riders.

The big wigs of Davangere took us to a traditional North Karnataka cuisine restaurant for an authentic food, where all are to take out our shoes, as a mark of respect to food, it is a custom. Enjoyed a great lunch and bid goodbye and thanked our great hosts, started for the next stop, Haveri, 80 kms ride.

Reached Haveri town close to 3.30 pm, again we were received by Rotary club members just before the meeting venue, took us to the meeting venue, school cum rotary house of the club. Treated with Tea/biscuits and traditional welcome by a single rose flower. Meeting started with great enthusiasm, President Rtn Rajesh spoke in detail about our cause and all the members of Haveri Rotary club were very appreciative of it. Took turns to take group pictures and we left for the final stop, Hubli city, another 80 km ride. Without any issue we all cruised to Hubli by 5.30 pm. It was a great feeling that we were received again at the start of Hubli city by members of 11 Rotary clubs of Hubli. A few lady members had also joined, and welcomed us with Ladoo sweets on the great occasion of the Ganesh festival, we were escorted to our night stay hotel. After a quick freshen up, took us their Rotary House



of their Hubli North Club, we were welcomed by 6 clubs of Hubli. Meeting started in a traditional style, all riders were felicitated with garland and shawl and for the first time each riders were given a good size Indian Flag made by the Khadi centre which supplies to Government of India the original flags.

A fruitful meeting lasted for 90 minutes, luckily the hosts had a guest speaker who was a specialist in Mental Health studies, and a lot of pleasantries were exchanged, all the 6 clubs President and District Secretary RID 3170 Rtn Vasuki were felicitated by IFMR India and were honoured with our signature Cap and merchandise Baggage Tag to publicise the Rotary movement. Close to 9pm the meeting was over and a few senior members took us out for a true North Karnataka dinner in a traditional restaurant. Bid goodbye to all and we were back to the hotel for good rest after riding for close to 500 kms today.

Day 2

As was decided that we will start at 7.30 am, all were ready near the bikes, our last night hosts, few members from Hubli clubs had come to flag off us. President Rajesh had a briefing with riders, their riding sequence was informed, Rtn. Jayaprakash was asked to offer the prayer, immediately after



we were flagged off by Rtn Vasuki, District Secretary from Hubli for Belgaum, around 100 km ride. It took some time to get out of Hubli but soon we had the highway and then the ride was smooth like water. Weather was great, without any stopping we had reached Belgaum close to 9.15 am. Venue was on the highway itself, Mayur Belgaum Residency Club, there was a group of 30 members from Belgium parivaar of Rotary clubs waiting to receive us with small gift for all. They jostled to take some pictures immediately with us on our bikes. As this was a breakfast meeting, all had a great buffet Breakfast arranged by them. After which we had an interactive meeting with all the members present. The purpose of the ride was explained by President Rajesh and talk on Mental health was told by Rtn Naveen. We presented our club merchandise of Baggage ID to many senior members present there.

Around 11 am, we bid goodbye to our wonderful hosts of Belgaum, led by District Officer Rtn Manoj, Zone 6 Secretary. It was a great meeting. Soon we were on the highway for our next destination, Bagalkot, clear 150 km ride. The roads were not very good initially but soon we were on smooth roads, stopped at the place after an 80 kms ride for a tea break, which was badly needed. Close to 2 pm, we entered Bagalkot town, and were received by senior Rotarians of Bagalkot club at the entry of town

itself, were guided to the Circuit House of Bagalkot, our meeting venue.

All were welcomed with a rose flower and it was decided to have lunch before the official meeting, it was again a traditional sit down North Karnataka cuisine lunch. After lunch our meeting started by exchanging pleasantries and President Rajesh explaining about the cause of our ride in detail, Rtn Naveen explained about Mental Health issues being faced by society in large and how to create an awareness about it, which is ignored in general. Again we presented our merchandise gift to few senior members of Bagalkot club. Took many group photos with our bikes as backdrop. Around 4 pm we were taken to a traffic circle of town wherein they showcased the Rotary Tower, a permanent structure, giving a great public image of Rotary movement. We thanked the members of Bagalkot and started our final leg of today's ride to Vijayapura, a clear 80 km ride. After cruising for the first 40 km, our Lead of the Day, Rtn Naveen stopped us at the bridge of Almatti on Krishna River, a huge bridge of 1km stretch. Had a few minutes of break for a group/solo photo shoot on the bridge. We reached our hotel at Vijayapura around 6.30 pm, all wanted to rest and relax, another fruitful day came to an end of this awareness ride.



Day 3

Today our saddle up time and rolling was at 7.30 am. All had come ready after having a sumptuous breakfast to the parked area of bikes for flag off, President Rtn Rajesh had a huddle meet with all riders, riding sequence was informed, Rtn. Srinivas Raju was requested to offer the prayer for today's ride success and safety, a Rotarian AG from Vijayapura had graced for the flag off. After taking a customary photo with AG we were flagged off for our next stop at Kolhapur, a clear 200 km distance.

The first 100 km of journey, condition of road was not very welcoming, since road widening work was going on, on this stretch till Athani. Speed was slow and tired us little in the process. Luckily, the weather was good, reached Kolhapur close to 1 pm, after two stops for tea breaks. The venue of our meeting was the District Office building, owned by Sunrise Club. DG Nasir Bosadwala and his entire team from Kolhapur were present to welcome us. All were ushered into a swanky meeting hall in the building and a great meeting took place, President Rajesh took time to explain the cause of our ride, Rtn Naveen made a presentation on Mental Health. DG and other



senior members of Sunrise club spoke about their activities. Pleasantries and greetings with exchange of club flags followed, we gave away mementos to DG sir and other members, many group photos were taken for remembrance.

Around 2.30 pm, all were taken to the dining area of the building for a great Vegetarian lunch, Kolhapuri Cuisine lunch. DG Nasir sir took it upon himself to serve us with a sit down lunch. It was a great humbling feeling. It was around 4 pm and we started our next stop journey for Wai. Had stopped for refueling on the way. Had managed to reach Wai close to 6.30 pm before sun set. Luckily in this stretch of 150 kms, the road conditions were good but traffic had increased. We were welcomed to Wai city by the President Rtn. Prerna Dhabole along with her team just before our hotel, were greeted with flowers and refreshments. Went to our hotel for freshen up and joined the Wai Club meeting at 8 pm. Again it was our luck that DG of 3121, was present to receive us with a few district officers. This club has 40% members as ladies, a remarkable feature, ably led Rtn Prerna ji. Meeting started with great fanfare by felicitating all our riders with a shawl and small gifts, in turn we too gave away mementos to DG and President, gave away our IFMR Club flags to them, took many pictures. President Rtn Rajesh spoke on our club activities and purpose of this ride, highlighting

the role of RID 3191 and 3192 in doing many multi-district projects. Rtn Naveen made the presentation on Mental Health in a beautiful way along with a PPT presentation. It was almost 10pm by the time the meeting was over. We were taken to a nice restaurant by Wai club hosts for a good dinner. We went back to our rooms around 11pm for a good rest and sleep.

Day 4

Today we were visiting two cities, Pune and Shirdi. Saddle up and Rolling was at 7.30 am from our hotel at Wai. All had assembled on time near our bikes at sharp 7.30 am. President Rajesh updated on routes, riding sequence and requested Rtn Ikram to offer the prayer, which he obliged. We had the DG and other officers from Wai including the presence of their club President Rtn Prerna ji for the flag off, all women team of Rotarians were present early in the morning, very heartening and encouraging for all us. We were flagged off without any delay. We were on the highway in no time, weather was great, cool Breeze from Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar were felt. All were cruising at decent speed as the road conditions were superb. Crossed 60 kms and stopped at a popular breakfast restaurant on the highway

as suggested by Wai members, at Kailash food court, all had an awesome maharashtrian breakfast of Misal and Vada Pava.

Started immediately for Pune after breakfast, soon the traffic started increasing closer to Pune City, last 30 kms ride was thru a dense smooth traffic of two wheelers coming from all directions. All navigated to their destination, IleMB college at Wakhad in Pune. Rotary club of Baner led by their President Rtn Jignesh Kaaira along with team from District were present to welcome all of us. We were greeted by over 500 students pursuing PGDM here, it was an overwhelming experience to be received by such audience for the first time, we were treated like some heroes. Many group pictures were taken, with us on our bikes and students all around us. A moment which will be itched in our memories for life time.

Soon we were ushered into the college building, an ultra modern set up, all the students greeted us while crossing them with JAI HIND, soon we realised that the management and trust running the institute is by a Rtd. Colonel Vinod Marhwah and his son Jai Marhwah and same discipline of armed forces is inculcated here too. It was a wonderful to see this, we had brief meeting with the Chairman Rtd. Colonel sir, it was again a pleasure to



meet him. Had many group pictures with him. After which we were taken to a massive auditorium where in all the students were present to listen to us and the cause of our visit. Rtn Saket Saraf, district officer along with Rtn. Jignesh Kaaيرا chaired the meeting. All the members of IFMR were felicitated and recognised with many gifts. But the icing on cake was the felicitation of our President Rajesh, he was presented with sparkling red Pagadi/headgear, popular as Puneri Topi. President Rajesh spoke on the purpose of our visit, to highlight the Mental health concerns in our world, requested Rtn Naveen to take over from him and he made an impact full presentation on same, all the students were in rapt attention while Rtn Naveen spoke. It was a goosebumps feeling for next 60 minutes with the response we received from students. Soon we were ushered into their dining area for a quick lunch. Again a totally different feeling of an army atmosphere with total discipline everywhere. Their media team interviewed few us. After another 20 minutes of many group pictures we were flagged off by Rtn Jignesh and his wife Rtn Priya ji. We were delayed by almost 90 minutes, but it was worth every seconds.

Next destination was Shirdi, it was 170 kms, roads were ok, it had rained in patches, with few mandatory tea breaks, all were in Shirdi at 6 pm. Straight went to our hotel to freshen up. Our host Rtn Majid Bhai, president of lone

club in Shirdi was waiting to take us to their project site, a rehabilitation centre for de-addiction. Meeting and Ganesh Puja was organised here, had detailed understanding of their project being managed by a Doctor member, Rtn O P Joshi, it was a wonderful initiative. All members of IFMR were felicitated with a gift and a shawl. We exchanged the flag and gave our memento. President Rajesh and Rtn Naveen spoke in detail about the cause of the ride and gave a presentation on Mental health. Close to 8 pm, bid goodbye to them to rush for Sai Baba darshan and to have Prasad as dinner. It was a divine feeling going to The Sai Baba darshan. All retired to rooms close to 10 pm for the next day's ride.

Day 5

As usual start time for today was 7.30am, all were ready after a good Breakfast near the bikes for the flag off by Rtn Majid Bhai of Shirdi club. Today Rtn Naveen held the briefing session for riders, explained about the route and stoppages. Prayer was offered by President Rajesh. Immediately after which we were flagged off for Ahmednagar, a clear 90 km ride. We were on highway soon, the road conditions were bad, many potholes with single lane road. Took us close to 2 hours to reach Ahmednagar.



Day 6

Keeping in mind the distance to be covered and many meetings stops on the way, it was decided to start at 7.30 am with an early breakfast. President Rajesh had a huddle meet and highlighted today's program and route, asked Secretary Vinod to offer the prayer and informed the riding sequence. We had the Charter President of IFMR Solapur Sub Chapter Rtn Pavan Mondhe along with few more members to flag off today's ride. Many group pictures were taken and we were flagged off for the next destination, Kaalburgi, 120kms ride.

The weather was very good, totally overcast but no rains and but breezy. Roads were ok, in between few patches had innumerable speed breakers. Close to 10am, we were received by Rotarians of Kaalburgi on the highway itself and were escorted to the meeting venue, their Paul Harris Auditorium. DG Rtn Manik Powar was present to receive all of us along with hordes of 7 club members of city. After little refreshments, meeting started in style, all riders were felicitated. President Rtn Rajesh and Rtn Naveen spoke on the topic of mental health awareness and concerns in detail, DG spoke

about his association with our DGs of 3191 and 3192. President Rajesh gave away the mementos to DG and the club President present there. But there was a surprise from the all ladies club of the city, 7 of them came up on stage and tied Rakhi's to we riders for the safety of the riders, it was a very touching and emotional moment. Meeting was adjourned and all were ready to flag off us and have a City rally till the exit point of Kaalburgi, DG flagged off us in style with two huge flags specially made for this occasion.

The next destination was Bidar town, 110kms ride. The road was good, before 40 kms itself a surprise awaited us at Humnabad town. Few Rotarians from town were waiting for us on the highway itself, we were stopped and introduced us, they were asked by DG Manik Powar to receive us, due to paucity of time they felicitated us on the road itself, it was a humbling feeling. Bid goodbye to them, started again, rode for 30 km, spotted a group of Rotarians from Bidar waiting for us. They took us to a school on the highway itself, there was a health checkup camp by the Bidar clubs going on. Met all the members of the clubs and spent some time, President Rajesh was asked to speak on the purpose of our ride, he spoke in detail about our district involvement in various multi district programs and highlighted mental health awareness in society and how to deal with it. We were asked to join them for





lunch at a nearby restaurant, belonging to a Rotarian in Bidar. We spent close to over one hour and had a photo session with fellow Rotarians of Bidar city clubs. We were taken to a nearby Rotary Tower built by City clubs as a public image project for a photo session. Close to 5 pm we left Bidar for today's final destination, Hyderabad. Reached our hotel little after sunset and all retired to their rooms to freshen up and take complete rest, as next day is a rest day for biking but meetings were lined up in Hyderabad with city clubs.

Day 7

Today was a rest day for us, no long riding but two meetings were organised in the city of Hyderabad. As it was a rest day from riding, all woke up late, our first meeting was at a School to address the Interactors children of the Rotary club Legend of Hyderabad, led by Charter President Rtn Vamsi Mohan. After a good breakfast we were in the school as per schedule, were received by school management. Were accorded welcome and refreshments. District Secretary Rtn Tansen was present with other fellow members. All the riders were felicitated by the team with a shawl. Without wasting much of time, President Rajesh and Rtn Naveen got into the act of introducing our purpose of visit, to create awareness on Mental health. Rtn Naveen

continued his talk for almost an hour with super interactive session with the children of the school, they were mesmerized with the talk and were responding positively with their responses. After the meeting all went for a photo shoot with the bikes and for group pictures. Kids were very happy with our visit and meeting. It was almost 1pm and we left for the lunch.

Lunch was at a popular restaurant, Mehafil, known for Hyderabad Biryani. The team from Legend club joined us for the same. All had a great Biryani food and were back to hotel for some rest and to get ready for the evening meeting with Hyderabad City Rotarians.

At 6 pm, we were in the meeting hall of the hotel, close to 40 Rotarian had gathered, after the fellowship time, meeting started seriously. President Rajesh spoke on the purpose of our visit and gave details of ride and various activities of our Districts. He invited Rtn Naveen to take over the stage with his talk on Mental health Awareness presentation. Again he mesmerized all with the talk, it was made very humorous and interesting. The City clubs facilitated the visiting riders with a gift and thanked us for the visit. We also gave away our Club flag and mementos to PDG Prbhakar and few club President. The meeting lasted till 8.30 pm and all wished us



for the safety and success of rest of the journey and left us. We had our dinner in the hotel and retired to our rooms for good rest and sleep.

Day 8

Today was going to be a long day as the distance to be covered was 390 km, we decided to start at 7.30 am and have breakfast on the way. All were ready with their bikes near the start point, President Rajesh addressed all of us with today's riding sequence route/weather and road conditions. Secretary Vinod offered the prayer. Without any delay we started for our next destination.

It took almost 45 minutes to get out of Hyderabad City area, morning traffic was very heavy and choc a block everywhere, still all managed to get out of the city and hit the National Highway. After traveling for almost 60 km, we were stopped by a group of Rotarians from Bhongir town near a highway food court. We were taken inside the food court, greetings/introduction took place. Rtn. Jaganmohan, Rtn. Gyanprakash and Rtn. Laxman had arranged breakfast for us. A few more Rotarians from Bhongir joined soon. Spent close to 45 minutes here with some unique Andhra style breakfast. While having breakfast, President Rajesh

spoke about our rides purpose in detail. After which we took some group pictures and started our ride for our next destination Warangal.

Reached Warangal around 11. 30 am, we were stopped 10 km before the city by huge group of Rotarian from Warangal, they welcomed all of us with garlands and took us in a convoy with 20 cars behind and ahead us and made it as a City rally and created a public image event. It took almost 30 minutes to cover 10 km. Reached our meeting point, a nice restaurant. Four club members from Warangal were present along with PDG Rtn Sharat Babu. Took time to introduce all and all took many group pictures with our bikes. Meeting was arranged in a hall, President Rajesh spoke in detail about IFMR, our district's role in multi districts projects and finally on our purpose of this ride to create awareness on Mental health. PDG Rtn Sharat Babu expressed his gratitude and thanks to us for taking up such momentous rides to spread awareness. He also assured to be part of such programs with us in future. Few members expressed to form a sub chapter of Ifmr in Warangal. After a good working lunch we thanked our hosts and left for the final destination for today to Vijaywada.

The distance to Vijaywada was a long one, 240 km, with in between a few



stops for tea breaks, all had reached our hotel in Vijaywada at 6.30 pm. Took time to freshen up and were ready for the evening meeting with members of the Rotary Club of Amaravati. Made it to the meeting venue by 7.30 pm. All were greeted by the Club President and members of the club. The meeting took place in the conference hall of Kanakdurga Finance Ltd's office. Refreshments were provided to all of us, formal meeting took place, President Rajesh and Rtn Naveen spoke in turn and floored the members of the club with talk on mental health awareness campaign. All riders were felicitated with a shawl and we too gave away our memento to two PDG present in the meeting, PDG MC Das and PDG Sam Mova. Both were felicitated by us and they applauded our efforts of undertaking the ride to create awareness on Mental health. Around 9 pm we closed the meeting and left for the dinner at a nice upscale restaurant arranged by our fellow Rotarian from Cubbon Park club and IFMR member YC Roy thru his friends in Vijaywada. Had a good dinner and was back soon in the hotel for the rest and next day ride.

Day 9

All woke little late as the start from Vijaywada was at 9.30 am, as there was a Breakfast meet with the DG Subba Rao in our hotel arranged by

PDG MC Das. All had gathered at the meeting hall at 8 am after a good sleep after saddling their bags on bike. Met many stalwarts Rotarian who had come for the meeting, had breakfast before the meeting started at 8.30 am. DG had come on time and without wasting time, meeting was chaired by PDG MC Das sir, President Rajesh spoke in detail about our visit purpose and gave details of this awareness ride. DG spoke subsequently and highlighted his work during the year so far. We were all felicitated by PDG MC Das sir and team present there. We also gave our memento to DG sir. Meeting was over around 9.30 am and requested PDG and team to Flag off our today's ride to Vijayawada, which he agreed readily.

President Rajesh had a huddle meet with riders, explained the route, weather conditions and riding sequence. Asked Rtn Naveen to offer prayer, which he obliged. Soon PDG MC Das flagged off our today's ride.

It took some time to get out of the city due to morning traffic. Soon we were on highway but the heat of this area was little too much. Took one hour to reach our next stop, Guntur, we were escorted by Guntur Rotarian to the meeting venue and without wasting any time we started the formal meeting with them. There were close to 30 members present. President



Rajesh spoke in detail about IFMR in general and gave an overview of its working and purpose. Rtn Naveen elaborated on the Mental health awareness with his talk. All appreciated the purpose of our ride and thanked us for doing a wonderful job in this area. Close to 11.30 am we bid goodbye to them and started for today's final destination, Kurnool .

Slowly the heat was increasing, but after sometime we had entered the highway and a ghat area, it was ok. Stopped in between for lunch, authentic Andhra lunch. Had stopped few more times for tea breaks. Had the opportunity of going through the popular Nagarjun Sagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve, it was a great forest of almost 40 km ride. Colse to 6.30 pm we were in our hotel in Kurnool. After freshen up we were taken to the evening meeting venue, the roof top of a hospital, owned by President Rtn Vasu of Greater Kurnool club. Meeting lasted for 2 hours, with talk from President Rajesh and Rtn Naveen, had an interesting interactive session with over 25 members of Kurnool. Presented our club flag and mementos to both the presidents present from Kurnool city. Dinner was pre arranged for all, all of us were dropped to our hotel and we retired for the day. Another great day came to an end.

Day 10

Today was a slightly easy ride in terms of number of meetings and multiple breaks. Our start time was 8.30 am. All had a relaxing Breakfast and were ready at the start point. President Rajesh had a briefing with all riders, route, stoppages and riding sequence was informed, Rtn Naveen was asked to offer today's prayers, which he obliged. We were joined by many Rotarians from Kurnool for the flag off, after a few photo shoots with our bikes, President of Kurnool club Rtn Dr. Vasu flagged off our today's ride.

The weather was ok, our next destination was Mantralayam, a 90 km ride. Mantralayam boasts the abode of the powerful deity of God Raghavendra Swamy ji. Dr. Vasu had made our arrangements for the VIP darshan at Mantralayam. It took us 2 hrs to reach, many speed breakers and villages in the way had slowed our ride. We were told to go to the Inspection Bungalow, outside the temple and the manager will take us to Darshan. On reaching we were made comfortable and the manager of IB took us inside the temple for an awesome Darshan of Lord Raghavendra Swamy ji. It was a mind blowing temple with an open area neatly maintained. Spent close to one hour here



and were back to IB for our bikes. Thanks to Dr Vasu for all the arrangements.

Started for the next stop, Raichur, a 45 km ride. Reached the meeting venue of Rotary Club of Raichur, President Shiv Shankar and his team were waiting for us. Without wasting much time, the meeting was called to order, President Rajesh and Rtn Naveen spoke in detail about our visit purpose, explained in detail about IFMR and rides taken in the past for various causes. Rtn Naveen spoke in detail about the Mental Health challenges in our society and how to identify it and manage it. It was highly appreciated by the members present. Momentos were given to senior members present from our side. Our club flag was given. Raichur club had arranged Raichur style Cuisine food. All enjoyed the food and took some group photos and left for Lingasugur.

It took us almost 2.5 hrs to cover a distance of 100 kms, due to multiple speed breakers on the way. Reached our hotel for a night stay, and dropped our luggage. We were visiting the Hydel Power Plant of our PP IFMR Rtn Ajit. His staff Praveen was waiting for us, he guided us to the site, a clear 30 km ride. To our pleasant surprise Rtn Ajit, himself had come to receive us, great gesture by him. We were taken inside a meeting room for a meeting. Rtn Ajit chaired the meeting by introducing all riders in his unique style,

after which President Rajesh spoke, thanked the management for the welcome, spoke about IFMR and various awareness rides we undertake. Rtn Naveen spoke about Mental Health issues and was appreciated for his talk. There were over 30 employees of Kare Power attending the meeting, led by Project head Mr. Jagadish. Soon Mr Jagadish and other employees felicitated all the riders with a Rose flower/Shawl/garlands/and a packet of almonds. It was a great feeling to be felicitated in such a way. Were made to sit in order and took many group pictures with them. Thank you Ajit ji for such a welcome to your project site. After which we were taken around the same and power house, it is a great power plant, must visit for we ifmr'ians. Spent over 2 hours in understanding the entire working of the plant. Left for the hotel around 7.30. Reached our rooms to freshen up and joined Rtn Ajit and his team for a great dinner organised by them in our honour. The overall experience of Rtn Ajit and team hospitality and warmth was overwhelming, cannot be described in words but one has to experience it. Big thanks to Rtn Ajit and his team for all the arrangements. During dinner time we felicitated the senior members of Kare Power with our signed flag and ifmr merchandise of cap and baggage ID. After a great dinner and get together all retired to their rooms.



Day 11

Today again was a little easy ride in terms of stops and kms covered. Decided to leave at 10.30 am. All had a good sleep and woke up late, and had breakfast at the hotel. All were ready to leave at 10.30 am. The weather was ok. President Rajesh had the brief meet with the rider, explained the route and stopage. Requested Rtn Mohan to offer today's prayer. We were flagged off by the staff team of Kare Power, led by Mr Jagadish. Soon we were on the highway.

The road conditions were very bad, full of speed breakers en route, took virtually 150 minutes to cover a distance of 100 km to Koppal. Had reached Koppal at 1.30 pm, we were stopped near the main road itself by Rotarians of Koppal and Gangavathi for welcoming us, all riders were garlanded with thick garlands. All took many photos on the road itself with we bikers. We were escorted to a school, Bhagyanagar National Public school. All riders were made comfortable and got introduced to the local members present, without wasting time, we were taken to their roof top hall for the meeting. Already over 200 young children were present in the hall for

our talk on Mental Health awareness program. President of Koppal club chaired the meeting and introduced all the riders and President Rajesh was asked to speak, since it was late already, he kept his speech short and briefed about IFMR and the purpose of the visit. He asked Rtn Naveen to make his presentation. Rtn Naveen did a fantastic job by explaining in detail about Mental Health awareness impacting children and teen kids. Children responded to him very positively to his queries. The talk continued for almost an hour. We gave our Club flags to the President of both the club and mementos to the school head and District Secretary.

Close to 4 pm, we were taken to a nice local restaurant for an authentic north Karnataka cuisine lunch. All had a good lunch and the members present flagged off our ride to the next destination, Bellary.

Again our ordeal of bad roads with multiple speed breakers continued. Reached our hotel in Bellary just around sunset. Went to our hotel to freshen up and we have a pleasant surprise, we have our own Ifmr'ian Rtn Raghavendra Inamdaar visiting us for the last leg of the ride, thank you for Raghavendra ji. President of two clubs of Bellary had come to take us to the meeting venue hotel. We were welcomed by Bellary members and taken to



the meeting hall, to our surprise we had a big group of lady members from Inner Wheel Club of Bellary to attend our meeting and talk. After all the formal introduction, President Rajesh spoke in detail about IFMR and the purpose of the visit and asked Rtn Naveen to take over the stage. Rtn Naveen was very happy to see a large gathering of over 50 people. He mesmerized all present with his talk on Mental Health awareness, it was one of the longest presentations so far by Naveen, due to the presence of lady members who were participating very actively with many questions. After which felicitation took place by the Inner Wheel Club members, gifts were presented to the riders. We too gave away our mementos and club flag to senior members present. Many group photos were taken and finally the formal meeting was closed. A special dinner was organised by the hosts club. All enjoyed the food and we were dropped to our hotel for a good rest and sleep.

Day 12

Today was the last day of the Awareness Ride, all woke up late, start was at 9 am. After a great breakfast all were ready with their bikes, we had many Bellary Rotarians for the flag off. President Rajesh had a brief meet, thanked all for a wonderful ride so far, requested Rtn

Naveen to offer today's prayer, he obliged it. Bellary Rotarians took many group pictures along with the bikes. The riding sequence was announced and our visiting rider Rtn Raghavendra Inamdaar was made the lead to guide us back to Bangalore. After the flag off by President Rtn Suresh of the Bellary club, we were on the highway.

Fortunately the roads were very good, we were on National Highway with no frequent speed breakers, it was virtually Runway. All were cruising at good speed. Our first stop was after 60 km itself for refuel and tea break. After another 50 km ride, we stopped again for a tea break and took time off for a video shoot for all members feedback on the last 12 days experience. All signed the vest attachment square piece for getting it framed and keeping it as a memory. The task of framing it was volunteered by Rtn Mohan. Traveled for another 45 km and to our surprise we had PP IFMR Rtn Ajit coming from the opposite side to welcome us and to escort and join the last 150 km of the historic ride to Bangalore back. It was a welcome gesture. Thank you Ajit ji. Reached Sira, stopped for a great lunch. We spent over an hour here. Today was purely bonhomie and bonding time, no meetings were planned with any en route clubs. Close to 3.30 pm, we were entering Namma Bengaluru and were welcomed by fresh showers. All bid goodbye at NICE road junction, hugged and thanked each other and proceeded to our Home Sweet Home.



Finally a great ride came to an end. Thank you all the riders for a great camaraderie and togetherness who all rallied with each other in making this a spot less ride with no breakdown/puncture of bikes of any sort. Would like to place on record our sincere appreciation and thanks to PP Rtn Prashanth Babu, PP Rtn Ajit Ram, PP Rtn. Arun Belur and Rtn. Raghavendra Inamdaar for working behind the scene in arranging all the possible logistics, be it booking of rooms, sending reinforcement of required stuff and transferring finances for the successful ride with no stoppage of any sort anywhere en route. These friends were not present physically but present mentally and spiritually. Without their cooperation we could not have attained the success. It will be unfair not to thank Rtn Vijay Mane and Rtn Srinivas Kalya for their timely help in getting sponsorships. Thank you Vijay and Kalya ji. Finally big thanks to the entire Ifmr'ian for all their love, motivation and support in making this a grand successful cause ride.

We would like to record our sincere appreciation to our sponsors of this ride, NITTE Meenakshi College, Bangalore Mid night Marathon, Doberman Security, Kare Power and Rtn Srinivas Kalya.



Ride to Mandargiri

1 October 2023

Bangalore to Mandargiri

As much as IFMR believes in “more the merrier” it also follows “the show must go on”. Although there were just 8 riders today we in the true IFMR spirit had a wonderful disciplined ride to Mandargiri some 53 kms from KLE DENTAL Yeshwanthpur . The riders as usual gathered on a wonderful overcast Sunday morning. After briefing by Mandar Dixit and the customary prayer by Shirish Nene we started our trip. The weather was great but the traffic on NH 4 was predictably high. The distance was quickly covered in less than 1 hr and after a cup of hot tea we visited the Jain temple atop the hill. The Jain temple we were told is over 1200 yrs old and was recently renovated. The members who visited the place 4 yrs back will find the place changed. The view from the top of the hill was quite breathtaking, there was a strong breeze Flowing which made the experience awesome. After the usual sightseeing we started our return journey having a sumptuous breakfast at “Namaste Bangalore” . Most of us were back Home by 12 noon.





World Mental Health Day

10 October 2023

Bangalore

After completing our Awareness bike ride last month for 12 days in spreading the message of Mental Health Matters. We were invited to join the District 3192 event on World Mental Health Day at Orion Mall by none other than the DG Rtn Srinivas Murthy ji. Out of 8 riders only 4 could attend as the rest 4 were traveling. It was a grand meeting with over 200 people attending it. Many programs were organised by the Mental Health Chair Rtn Rashmi Tankshali. All the riders present were introduced and were recognised, DG spoke in length about our ride. IFMR INDIA President Rajesh AR was asked to share the experience of the 12 day ride, covering 4 states, 4000 km, 10 Districts and 28 cities. He spoke in detail about the same, thanking each and every District official in making our ride a very meaningful one. It was a 100% successful mission. Thank you District 3192 for the felicitation.



All Biking Community

15 October 2023

Bangalore

All Biking Community India, federation of biking club in Karnataka had organised an After Party event on the successfully organising The World Motorcycle Day on 25th June, with 86 club and over 5000 riders participating in it. To celebrate the success of it and to recognise the member clubs participation in it, they invited the admin members of each club to an afternoon get together at The Big Pitcher on 15th October at 12.30 pm. Our club was represented by two ex-committee members of ABC from IFMR India, Rtn Vijay Mane, Rtn Prashanth Babu and the current Secretary of IFMR India, Rtn Vinod Agarwal attended the event.

It was a grand party with over 150 riders enjoying the hospitality of ABC India. We received our participation plaque, photo and mic time. It was a wonderful event. Thanks to Trilok of ABC India for organising a grand gala event.





Cause Ride By Thrissur and Cochin Chapter

20 October 2023

Bangalore

Our IFMR Sub Chapters from Cochin/Thrissur were on a Cause Ride to southern states of India, covering 2.5k km, with 12 riders. Their scheduled arrival to Bangalore was 19th October coming from Cochin. It was the turn of IFMR India Chapter to host our biking friends from Kerala for the first time. As per our culture and tradition of Bharat, Athithi Devo Bhava, a small team of 7 members was formed to organise a good stay, lavish dinner and felicitation was planned. Unfortunately 3 of the senior members from IFMR India, including the President Rajesh AR were unavailable due to the prior travel schedule but they ensured that nothing was left to chance.

The venue for the stay and Dinner party for Kerala riders was The Century Club. Invite was sent to all the members of IFMR India Chapter well in advance to join the event. Both our DG from 3191 and 3192 were invited to join the meeting and understand the cause for which this ride was organised by Kerala riders. Already DG from Kerala were in touch with our DG's. Around 8 pm all the riders reached the venue, got delayed due to back to

back club meetings on their way to Bangalore en route. After 15 minutes of refreshments, the meeting started, it was chaired by Secretary Rtn Vinod Agarwal and assisted by Treasurer Rtn Raghvendra Inamdar. Rtn Shyam and Rtn Rajesh from Kerala made an excellent presentation on their cause of helping rural areas with a medical kit costing 25k which reduces the mortality rates of pregnant mothers while delivering babies. Instantly over 5 to 6 kit commitments were received from the members present. Rotary Junction promised to support 2 kit and Past President of Lakeside Rtn Prassanna Kumari promised to support one kit. A few more commitments were received. Both DG's Rtn Srinivas Murthy and Rtn Uday Bhaskar were asked to speak and both lauded the efforts of Kerala riders. Both promised to do their best for the cause. Soon it was time for felicitation by Ifmr INDIA CHAPTER to all our Kerala riders. Chairman of the evening Rtn Vinod Agarwal, requested all the PP present in the hall, Rtn Ramdas Pai, Rtn Jayaprakash, Rtn Prashanth Babu and Rtn Arun Belur along with both DG's to do the honours of felicitating each of 12 Kerala riders, with a world famous Kannada flag colors scarf and



a goodie bag with our merchandise items. Rtn Punit had organised these beautiful scarves, thanks to him. The flag exchange took place between both the chapters. IFMR INDIA CHAPTER also felicitated the DG's too in a similar way of giving scarves and presented a hand crafted special pin, they had received from Pune Baner club. Soon it was a photo opportunity time for all, many group and solo pictures were taken. Rtn Raghvendra Inamdar proposed the vote of thanks and profusely thanked each and every member for coming to the meeting and people who worked behind the scene to make this event a grand and memorable one. The meeting was adjourned and the dinner party started soon, it was a great bonding and bonhomie time for all.

It was decided to flag off the riders the next morning at 6 am, Rtn Punit, Rtn Raghvendra Inamdar and Rtn Vinod Agarwal had come at 6 am to give a send off to our Kerala riders. After a few group photos, all riders were flagged off by Rtn Vinod Agarwal. Rtn Punit and Rtn Raghvendra Inamdar joined them for a good 40 km ride up to Chikballapur.





World Polio Day Rally

28 October 2023

Bangalore

On a pleasant Saturday morning Around 15 IFMRians gathered at the Town Hall to participate in the Ride to celebrate World Polio Day. Eradication of Polio is a crusade which is very close to the IFMRian's heart and undertake bike ride/rally for spreading awareness about Polio Eradication on any given opportunity. The ride was flagged off by my Karnataka Minister Sh. Dinesh Gundurao and the IFMR riders in their took off from the TownHall , the route went thru Chamarajpet, gandhi bazar where we had a short Coffee break at SLV abd proceeded to the culmination point at Lal Bagh Main Gate thru Minerva Circle. The event was attended by well over 400 rotractors and rotarians. Post the customary photographs and acknowledgements the participants were served sumptuous breakfast.







Ride to Shivgange

5 November 2023

Bangalore

There were 16 riders on time at 6.45 am at the starting point of KLE DENTAL College Gate, Secretary Vinod took charge of today's ride in the absence of President Rajesh AR. Had a briefing with all riders, extended warm greetings from President to all, explained today's destination and route, to be precise it was one of the shortest rides covering 45 km one way from the start point. Explained the concept of maintaining distance among each other and following closely the front and rear riders without overtaking anyone. Grouping with riders sequence with Lead and Sweep was informed. Requested Karate to offer the prayer for the success and safety of today's ride and riders respectively. Soon each group started their ride with a gap of 5 minutes.

Weather was very good, totally overcast but no rains and traffic was high but moving one at high speed, in 45 minutes our first stop was at Sree Ratna Cafe near Dobbaspeth highway, close to 36 km from the start point. All had a relaxed breakfast, took time to bond over Breakfast and exchanged pleasantries. All the 3 new prospective members were mixing very well with





seniors. The breakfast was sponsored by Babbana and Vinay on their newly acquired bikes. All thanked and congratulated them. Soon we started for the final leg of the trip, in another 9 km we were in Shivagange, few wanted to go to the top of the hillock and temple and the rest wanted to return back. After a few customary group pictures, most of us started our return journey. People started reaching home after 10 am. It was a short and sweet ride.



Mental Health Awareness Drive Felicitation

17 November 2023

Bangalore

Both the DG from 3191 and 3192 along with PDG Nagendra Prasad had organised a felicitation function for the 8 Awareness Riders who had undertaken a 4k trip on motor bikes to Zone 7 of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka to spread the awareness on Mental Health in the 28 cities by visiting many Rotary Clubs from 19th September to 30th September. The venue was the Terrace Lounge of Century Club, at 6 pm.

Over 35 members had joined the program, we had 5 members from Hassan Sub Chapter led by Rtn D Mohan. The meeting was conducted by IPP Rtn Arun Belur. After a brief speech by President Rajesh on the ride details, he thanked each and every person who had sponsored the ride, both DG's Uday Bhaskar and Srinivas Murthy spoke, thanking IFMR for all the rides undertaken in past by IFMR for various causes and thanked the current team for having agreed to their plan of this ride on Mental Health. Soon it was time for felicitation of 8 riders, each rider was called individually to a centre chair and was presented a





certificate along with a beautiful memento which was Gear part of a motorcycle enclosed in a glass along with a digital watch. Very apt for a motorcycle fellowship group. Many pictures were taken with each rider.

The Awareness rider team also gave a special plaque gift along with the special T shirt which was made for the ride to all 3 DG/PDG. The team also gave plaque to 3 past presidents of IFMR, Rtn Ajit, Rtn Arun Belur and Rtn. Prashanth Babu who had worked behind the scene to make the ride a grand success. The team also recognised two important sponsors present in the meeting, Rtn Ritesh from IT Corridor and Rtn Srinivas Kalya for their monetary contribution towards the ride, they were also presented a plaque gift. Secretary Vinod didn't want to lose the golden opportunity of getting two new members inducted by DG's, Rtn Anand and Annette Akash were pinned by DG's and were inducted into IFMR India Chapter formally. After the vote of thanks all were asked to join for a cake cutting for the November born members. The meeting was adjourned and it was time for group pictures. After which all joined for dinner and fellowship. It was a great get together party.



Ride to Kotilingeswar Temple

3 December 2023

Bangalore to Kotilingeswar - 200 Kms

The weather was totally overcast due to neighbouring states Cyclonic conditions, we had 7 riders at the assembly point of ITI Colony gate in K R Puram. The riders were, Mandar, BK Krishnamurthy, Jayaprakash, Manjunath Saligram, Rajesh Rao, Vinod and prospective Rtn. Raghu from Rotary Kalyan. As there was a Ride to Kutch starting at same time from Yeshwantpur, where 4 riders were starting from Bangalore and few had gone to flag of them, we had little low turnout but as people say that show must go on, we decided to go ahead as per original plan. In the absence of President Rajesh, who was riding to Gujarat, Secretary Vinod took over today's ride management. He addressed all the riders, welcomed them and briefed about the rules of IFMR and thanked Raghu for joining the ride. Mandar was made the Lead and Jayaprakash was today's Sweep, riding sequence was informed and Manjunath Saligram offered today's prayer for safety and success of today's ride. Sharp at 6.45am, we started the ride, there was not much traffic and all were out on the highway in no time. All were cruising at good speed and were maintaining the momentum, reached our breakfast point at Swathi



restaurant after a distance of 50km. It looked like a favourite breakfast stop for bike riders, hordes of bikers were already present with their beast. In fact bike blogger Bulu Patnaik was present too. All had a relaxed breakfast of mini thali options but it turned out to be a little heavy. Had good interaction over food table, exchanged a lot of current topics on bikes, new launches etc

Today's breakfast was sponsored by Jayaprakash and Manjunath on getting their new toys, Triumph 400 CC bikes. Thank you sir ji. Keep buying new bikes and keep treating us. As we were about to saddle up and taking few group pictures, a gentleman came and introduced himself as Madhu Atre from Bangalore and said he is one of early member of IFMR India and mentioned few charter member names including our Charter President Prithvi Raval, it was a pleasant surprise to meet him, took few photos with him and bid good bye. We started our final leg of the next 40 km to the destination. Reached Kotilingeswar Temple by around 9.45am and went straight inside temple, went around all the

deities temple inside the complex and were out by 11.15am, without wasting all decided to leave for Bangalore. Around 1 pm we regrouped near Hoskote Toll, had tea and decided to end the ride and thanked each other and bid goodbye to all. Another good ride came to an end.



IFMR India Meet and Charter of Ahmedabad Sub Chapter

3 to 6 December 2023

Ifmr INDIA had planned an ambitious program for 5th December at Ahmedabad. As our Rotarian Biker friends from Ahmedabad had shown their desire to start a new Sub Chapter in Gujarat and with over two months of meetings and orientation with them, they had fixed the date of Chartering them as 5th December, keeping in mind the same Imfr India Chapter decided to hold Annual All Chapter meet along with it, it also planned a Rann of Kutch Ride for 8 days starting from Ahmedabad on 7th December till 14th December, covering all important places in Gujarat.

Accordingly 4 riders - President Rajesh AR, Past President Ajit, Core Committee member Srikanth and member Vinay decided to ride from Bangalore to Ahmedabad by road on their bikes covering a distance of 1500 km over next two days and participate in Rann of Kutch ride, 4 other members had decided to fly to Ahmedabad on 5th December and join the same on 7th December on hired bikes from Ahmedabad.





Day 1

We grouped up at the KLE Dental College Gates on Tumkur road at 6:15am and we had Rtn.Prashanth Babu, Prashanth Mishra and Puneet Bajaj who came in early in the morning just to send us off , a big thank you to them, soon after best wishes and warm hugs we started the ride towards Ahmedabad, The ride till Ilkal where we had our lunch was for lack of a better word, climate controlled, overcast sky and smooth open roads we couldn't ask for more. We tasted the local dishes of the north Karnataka region and the taste was amazing in Hotel Prashant a few kms after Ilkal.

Then we proceeded towards Sholapur and reached our destination just before sunset. As we were taking breaks regularly in-between for every 100km we were in a good shape for the evening at Sholapur where we enjoyed the taste of street food right outside the hotel center point.

Day 2

We started our journey early this morning when it was still dark at around 6AM. On route we were accompanied by Rtn. Abhay Raje from Ahmednagar



before joining us we were welcomed warmly by him and his wife with an “Aukshan Ceremony(Aarti)” at their residence in Ahmed Nagar for good luck and success and eventually we achieved our set target to Surat in the state of Gujarat. On route we passed through the Dang State Forest and boy was it “Dang”. Gujrat welcomed us with fountains to this road in the hilly town of Saputara. The roads through this forest area were the most enjoyable and a stark contrast from the harsh conditions in rural Maharashtra that we had previously left behind. My motorcycle also showed a range of 440kms for the first time since it was bought when riding in this region. When we reached Surat, we rode across huge industrial complexes and funny smelling air due to various industries spewed all around the national highway. We finally found the place of our stay in Raj Hans Belleza and a humongous dwelling unit built in roman style. Even the main road design of this region gave the Las Vegas vibes. Post dinner we slept deeply as we needed it badly.

Day 3

We left Surat after having Poha ordered from swiggy, we took close to 2 hrs reaching the NH48 as we were staying close to the coast in Surat, onroute while crossing a bridge we found 100s of seagulls flying around as people

were feeding them. After these beautiful early sights we were welcomed by heavy duty dumpers and commercial truck traffic all through the highway till Ahmedabad, we stopped for lunch en route and finally reached our hotel Radisson Blue, tired but still looking forward to the evening program. The 5 star hotel did help reduce our fatigue with assured hygiene measures.

Finally the D day arrived for All Chapters meet and Chartering of Ahmedabad Sub Chapter. 5 members flew from Bangalore, two from Varanasi, one from Thrissur, two from Cochin and one from Hassan, one from Solapur. Six chapters/sub chapters were represented for the meet and to attend Charter of Ahmedabad Sub Chapter. Total 16 members had reached Ahmedabad including 4 riders who had started from Bangalore on 3rd and one from Solapur who joined them on 4th.

All were received by our hosts Ahmedabad members and the program was scheduled for the evening in the ball room of Double Tree by Hilton hotel, a grand venue. All had reached the venue at 5 pm after freshening up and rest. A galaxy of media people were arranged by Ahmedabad Sub Chapter members represented by PDG Shashank Rathore and Sub Chapter Elect President Praveen Saxena and team. President Rajesh AR and



Secretary Vinod Agarwal attended the press meet for almost 45 minutes, giving sound bites and explaining about IFMR and the purpose of today's meeting. From 6 pm, it was fellowship time, over 150 people joined us, including 37 new members from Ahmedabad Sub Chapter. Around 7 pm, PDG Shashank Rathore took over the centre stage and asked Ahmedabad Metro President Hardik Sompura to call the meeting to order, followed by introduction of President Rajesh AR speech, he explained in detail about IFMR INDIA and International and the activities of it. Secretary Vinod was asked to speak, he wished the new club best wishes and read out the messages of IFMR International Prez Sunil Telkar and Secretary Hans Reiter's, our India Sub Chapter Chair Prashant Mishra presented in detail the functioning of IFMR India with a ppt AV. Soon MC had asked all the different sub Chapter Chair who had come from different places to speak on their yearly activities, Rtn Mohan D, Rtn Ajay, Rtn Shyam Mohan, Rtn Sreekumar and Rtn Sachin spoke in short about their yearly activities.

Soon DG Mehul Rathod and President Rajesh AR were invited and were requested to present Charter Certificate to Charter President of Ahmedabad Sub Chapter, Rtn Praveen Saxena, he then joined by each new member for pinning and all 37 were inducted to the wonderful world of IFMR family. Many



photos were taken. DG Mehul Rathod spoke in details and congratulated the new team and was delighted to have this Fellowship group in his District. He elaborated how it had started two months back, the idea to have a Sub Chapter of IFMR in Ahmedabad. New Secretary Rashmin Bhai proposed the vote of thanks and invited all to join for the gala dinner. It was a lavish spread of food and all enjoyed it with the next one hour of bonhomie and friendship time for all the new members of Ahmedabad Sub Chapter. No one missed the photo opportunity and took plenty of photos with visiting members.

Finally close to 10 pm, the event ended up and all left, what a gala program for the Charter of IFMR Sub Chapter Ahmedabad, truly a memorable evening, over 150 people attending it. Congratulations to the newest baby of IFMR India, Ahmedabad Sub Chapter and welcome to Ifmr India and International, we are all one among equal now.

Day 4

Today was a complete rest day and sight seeing of historical places of Ahmedabad for 16 visiting rider members from different chapters. As the newest baby of IFMR India, our Ahmedabad Sub Chapter led by Charter





President Rtn Praveen Saxena and team had planned a morning short ride to the Administrative Capital of Gujarat, Gandhinagar with visiting riders. At 6.30 am, 10 riders from Ahmedabad and visiting riders joined the ride to Gandhinagar, it took us close to 1.5 hrs to visit Gandhinagar and come back. We took many pictures on the highway and at Gandhinagar. Shared our experiences of past group rides with each other. After an early morning ride, all were back to the hotel for the sumptuous breakfast and getting ready for sightseeing of Ahmedabad. Our hosts members of Ahmedabad had arranged a 5 star bus to take us around the following places

Sabarmati Ashram
Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium
Adalaj ne Vav

All visiting riders joined for the bus trip and completed seeing of all the above places and had lunch in an upscale popular restaurant Swati snacks, all were back to the hotel around 4 pm. Host members had arranged a private dinner hosted by PDG Shashank Rathod at his sprawling bungalow, all

joined for it and had a wonderful time meeting the members of Ahmedabad sub chapter on one to one basis and enjoyed the hospitality of large hearted PDG Rtn Shashank Rathod and his family. All bid goodbye to hosts around 10 pm and were back to the hotel for retirement to bed.





Rann of Kutch Ride

7 to 14 December 2023

Ahmedabad to Kutch

Day 1

8 riders started their main ride today for what they had come from Bangalore, the Rann of Kutch Ride. We left from the Radisson Blu hotel accompanied by an Isuzu V cross as a backup vehicle given to us by Dr.Praveen Saxena of Ahmedabad Sub Chapter. While crossing the city of Ahmedabad We noticed that the colors of all the big buildings are earthy in nature nothing blaring or gaudy. It had a soothing effect on us. Pretty soon we were in the highway and were heading east, the first stop was the sun temple at modhera, it was a beautiful highly detailed monument, there were a lot of tourists even though it was a week day, next we started towards rann of kutch region, Pretty soon 4 lane highways became 10 feet wide village roads thanks to the creative directions by Google maps, eventually after seeking directions the traditional way by the locals we were off in the right direction, 1st there were bushes with thorns on the sides of the road, and then several "beri ka peds", few school girls were picking them, this made





me reminisce my school days in Gujrat, very soon we were now seeing flatter plain lands and straighter roads, eventually it got so plane that we were like awestruck, being from a hilly and treed region of south India this was mesmerizing to us, soon we found plain desert lands with the horizon line blending into the sky, we stopped several times to take pictures for posterity, as were w were going we reached the road to heaven, it was indeed it was heaven and we reached right at the time to watch the sunset.

Here we were welcomed by Mr.Anil Goyal from the Gujrat tourism Department, who accompanied us for the evening and told us so many interesting things about this region, soon we reached out resort in Dhordo, the huts were made up of clay mud, and were very comfortable, the temperature had dropped to 19 centigrade and was quite comfortable, we settled in for the day and after a scrumptious dinner at the cafeteria.

Day 2

We started the day with a simple masala puri and poha breakfast made by the resorters and we followed Mr.Goyal towards white Rann, this is where it was pure white and we could walk in the salt flat, after some photography



we followed Mr.Goyal to the BSF camp where we visited a Hanuman Ji temple that has an extensive history behind it and was relocated by the BSF solders after the indo pak war. Shortly we were served rotis, daal, palak paneer and rice the menu might seem simple but it was the most delicious meal of the whole trip yet. post lunch we visited the India Pakistan Border, this was to get a feel of the international borders and dwell into philosophy of human constructs like Borders. After this we came back to the Rann utsav area and had tea and bhelpuris, then we decided to call it a day and had dinner eventually. A day well spent soaking in the Rann region of Gujarat.

Day 3

We started the ride towards Dwarka at 6 am while it was still dark, this morning was a bit colder at 14°C. As soon as we reached the main highway Srikanth's front tyre lost all the air due to a rim bend, every one gave suggestions and each of it was tried, but one that worked was getting a puncher mechanic who's shop was nearby to remove the whole wheel and using a commercial air compressor to inflate it back, although it was still loosing air slowly, it was at least manageable to ride it with constant monitoring, hence we continued the ride throughout





arid landscapes and plane roads. after lunch we stopped at a mc Donald's for some refreshments opposite to reliance jamnagar refinery, the world's largest private refinery, and continued. We reached our resort hotel by evening and checked into the comfortable rooms.

Day 4

Today we set out to explore the Ancient Coastal City of Dwarka, A City with a rich cultural and religious history related to Lord Krishna. After a heavy buffet breakfast at the resort our 1st visit was to Mahadev Temple with a big statue of Lord Mahadev in its courtyard. There were a lot of cows, pilgrims, pigeons, houseflies and one cute barn owl noticed by us in this visit to this ancient temple. After the Darshan we headed to Bet Dwarka, an island where the current and only mode of transport to and fro was indigenously made fishing trawlers used for people transport, when we reached the jetty we could see both the blue Arabian ocean and the colorful human ocean of which we were also a part of, waiting to travel to Bet Dwarka, usually used to personal space in metropolitan cities, we for once enjoyed being a part of this chaos. In Bet we visited a temple know to be the residence of Lord Krishna and the one and only temple in the world with Lord Hanuman and his son, according



to legend i heard from the driver of our rickshaw, although Hanuman ji was a Brahmachari, his son was manifested from the droplets of his perspiration. Then we left Bet Dwarka basking in the intense sun rays which we Banglorians found a bit on the intensive side. Our next and final visit was to the main lord Krishna temple in the heart of Dwarka. Onroute we had lunch at a dhaba with some finger licking good masalas and daals and also had a chance to sneak peak a beach onroute that had some many people enjoying the water sports, although a bit less orderly than benches of Goa still it was good to see people enjoy it to the hilt. There was an infections enthusiasm in the air so as to say. Once we parked close to the main temple, to get to the temple we had to again swim through the ocean of people from all over our Incredible India, this is where our IFMR vests came in handy as were were able to stick as a group in a crowd. Here we were guided by one of Mr.Goyal's contacts who was a guide and explained the history of this temple. After a fulfilling Darshan of all the deities of the temple we exited and drank hot masala doodh from the street, most of our phone batteries were dead due to heavy usage during the day. We returned back to the resort and settled down after an amazing day of feeling the pulse of our great country found in it's people, in its soil, in it's air, in it's cities, in it's forests, in it's flora and fauna.





Day 5

Today was day 2 of the temple run in Gujarat, we started in the morning and on route 1st stop was the visit to the birth place of MK Gandhi in Porbandar, there were a lot of rare photographs of Gandhi ji on display in one of the rooms of his birthplace residence. Next we visited the famous Somnath Temple we had to keep all our electronic items including phones with the temple cloak room services.

There was cool sea breeze blowing from the ocean at the back of the temple as we headed there while also noticing a few women fighting over collecting water from the Sanctum Santorum just when we were thinking that the best way to travel in India was on a motorcycle, we saw a sedan car from kerala where it only had the driver's seat and rest was converted into a living quarters with space with a bed. We now were quite close to our resort in Sasan Gir, after a short drive through small towns we finally reached the resort. Its was one of the shortest rides of the entire program. We enjoyed evening with some bon fire arranged by the resort.



Day 6

We woke up leisurely as one would on a vacation for the first time today and headed to the GIR wildlife sanctuary, the reception was a buzz with activities resembling a fish market, all this inspite of it being a weekday, we were assigned a car each for 4 in each and a guide and a driver accompanied us, our guide was an African Indian and told us the story of their origins in India via the Portuguese trade visits. He also explained how govt policies got the once endangered around 120 lions to the current 600+ of them.

The route we were on took us through several teak trees and several other types of them and an occasional ghost tree, it had a very soothing affect on us, most of our blood pressures were normalized, we finally spotted a pride feasting on a sambar deer kill and also saw a crocodile, a pair of mongoose and several owls our guide and driver were excellent spotters. Soon we returned to the reception area and did some souvenir shopping and went back to the resort. As it was pretty hot, we even took a siesta after lunch, the evening was spent playing rummy and then packing for the ride tommoro which would start at 4.30am as we had a long way to go towards the statue of unity.

Day 7

Today morning we started from Gir at 5:00 am , president briefed us on the ride and the importance to keep pace , Ajit offered prayers and we had Srikanth leading and Ajit at the sweep , we covered good 150 kms by about 7:00 am and had our first stop, the roads were good and weather pleasant so all of us rode nonstop and stopped for lunch at about 8:00 am, had the local breakfast and tea, next stop for lunch was at Vadodara, we reached by 1:30 PM, where we had local thali and started to Statue of Unity (SOU), we reached SOU by 3:30pm , we checked in freshened up and started to the SOU, we have to park our bikes and take the bus shuttle to the SOU, we went up to the chest level in an elevator, view from the top is good. We had some good fun and the laser show started at 7:00 pm, it was really fun, we had some coffee and local snacks, then we headed back to the room, where we all relaxed and exchanged banters of the ride.

Day 8

Today morning we started from statue of unity (SOU) at 9:30 am , since it was the last day and we all wanted to rest up, we decided to start



leisurely, president briefed us on the ride, Ashok offered the prayers and we had Mahadev Dambal leading us for the day, it was a three hour ride to Ahmedabad with quick stops for tea and the next stop at Inder Residency, where we were staying the night, everyone reached the place by about 1:30 pm and we all settled down in the room and relaxed, later at 6:30 President Praveen of the Newly Founded sub chapter at Ahmedabad visited us, We thanked him for his support for the ride by offering us his personal vehicle as our back up for the entire trip. All of us had a relaxed day and we retired for the day. Untill next ride, see you soon..





Ride to Thimmappana Betta

7 January 2024

Bangalore to Thimmappana - 140 Kms

The first ride of the year saw a huge turnout on a comfortably chilly January morning. The meeting point at Panchamukhi Ganesha on Mysore was as usual full of energy as the IFMRians were meeting each other for the first time in 2024. After the new year wishes were exchanged the president briefed the 20 riders (16 members and 4 prospective) about today's ride to kootagallu thimmappana betta some 55 kms away in Ramnagaram. Three groups were formed to make the ride more manageable. After Manunath sir recited the prayer the first group left followed by 2 groups in 5-7 min interval.

The route was mostly along side the new mysore expressway. The last 5 kms was a picturesque winding village road up to the summit. It took all but 45 minutes to traverse this distance. Once the bikes were neatly parked the team walked up the hillock to a breathtaking view. 4 of the "more" adventurous riders took their machines to the very top. After the customary group photos and capturing the view in the cameras we started our return journey.

There was no argument on where the breakfast point would be. Renuka Tatte idly was the chosen location. It's run by a Rotarian mr. Suresh from Bidadi. After loads of tatte idly, masala dosa, udin vada and daal Wada were relished we dispersed. The breakfast was graciously sponsored by Rtn. Anand Kulkarni. The ODO on most bikes read 140kms. Excellent start to a wonderful New Year





Ride to Gudibande Fort

4 February 2024

Bangalore to Gudibande - 170 Kms

Had formed 3 groups of 8/9 riders in each with Lead and Sweep. President Rajesh AR addressed the gathering and explained about today's route and importance of giving hand signals and following the sequence of each rider in a group. Requested Ajit to offer the prayer for success and safety of today's ride. Each group was allowed to leave with a 5 minute interval. One by one each group started the ride. It was light foggy and cold, perfect for the end of the winter season ride. Traffic was not much, our first stop was for breakfast at a distance of 60 km from the starting point, identified by Rtn Sudershan Reddy, a local hero of the Chikkaballapur area. After cruising for an hour all had reached the restaurant Pranav on the highway. All had a good breakfast of Idly/Vada/Dosa/Pongal/Kesari Baath and filter coffee, favourite menu of all the Ifmr'ian. Spent close to one hour here, bonding time. Today's breakfast was sponsored by three riders on the happy occasion of getting their new bikes, Naveen, Karate and S Raju, thanks to all three for their large hearted gesture. Close to 9 am, we started for the final leg of the ride to Gudibande Fort, on the way

found a huge lake and all stopped for taking a few pictures. Mandar/Dipesh/ Raghu/Ajit and Naveen got busy with their photography skills. Reached the fort close to 10 am. All had fresh lime soda and tender coconut water.

Few didn't want to Trek to the fort and they took permission from President Rajesh to leave for Bangalore and the rest joined him for the Trek to the top. All spent another one and half hours at the top of the fort, took some breath taking pictures and came down close to 12.15 pm. Slowly all decided to leave for Bangalore. All had reached their homes before 2.30 pm. Another great ride came to an end. Thanks to all riders for their participation and special thanks to leads and sweeps for their important roles.





Rotary Goodwill Ride

17 to 29 February 2024

Day 0

All the 4 riders, 2 each from UK and Italy reached Cochin on 16th February, they were duly received by the Ride Team headed by Rtn Ajit and Rtn Prashanth Babu from Cochin airport and were shifted to a beautiful hotel to unwind and get rid of the jet lag.

Day 1

Today we boarded the houseboat, and as we sailed through the vast lake of Vennambad we saw the local sights and the daily life of villagers living on the banks of the lake. In the evening we visited the beach for sunset. And returned to the boat for dinner and rest.





9:59 PM

Day 2

Today, after a great overnight stay in a Houseboat in the back waters of Kumarakom, all moved to the historical city of Cochin for sightseeing and exploring the Kerala culture of Kathakali performance. Towards evening IFMR INDIA's sub chapters of Thrissur and Cochin had organised a felicitation and dinner program for all the participants, all were felicitated in a traditional way with gifts and angavastram, a stole, soon all had a pleasant surprise, IFMR INDIA Chapter's President Rtn Rajesh AR had travelled from Bangalore to join the team for the entire ride starting next morning, he had come in his motor bike. The Himalayan bikes were given to all the 4 international riders, who tried their hands to get the first hand feel of these rugged machines. It was a very event full day.

Day 3

Route - Cochin to Thekkady

Today we rode from our hotel to the flag off point. We were greeted by members of IFMR Kochi sub chapter and Thrissur sub chapter. Flagged off by DGN, 11 riders from the IFMR subchapters joined us to Thekkady.





En route stopped at Aji Jose residence for a butt break. We reached Thekkady and had a Kerala lunch hosted by the sub chapters. Then proceeded for a boat safari at Periyar tiger sanctuary. Returned back to the resort for overnight. The riders rode the bikes for the first day and enjoyed the scenic route.

Day 4
Route - Thekkady to Thanjavur, approx 320 kms.

Today after the breakfast we started our ride to meet the Ifmriains from Kochi and Thirssur and had a flag exchange between our international riders and the sub chapters. Then we started our ride to Thanjavur. The ride to the bottom of the hills was enjoyable and scenic. We covered good distance as there was less traffic and roads were in good condition. We reached Tirucharapalli for lunch. After a sumptuous lunch we started to Thanjavur and reached by 4:30 pm. The international riders enjoyed the topography and the roads. For some it was the first time riding outside their country. In all it was a satisfying day of riding.





Day 5

Today was a rest day for all and no riding of bikes, all were relaxed and went around the historical city of Thanjavur, famous for its Southern India Architecture Designed Temple and monuments. All had a great time visiting the fascinating town of Thanjavur.

Day 6

Route - Thanjavur to Mysore.

Left Thanjavur at 6.30 am, had breakfast at Trichy around 8 am. Reached Gobichettipalayam with 2 brakes en route close to 1.30 pm, stopped for lunch. Travelled through Sathyamangalam Forest, wild elephant were spotted in the forest. Reached Mysore close to 7 pm to the beautiful hotel Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden. The hotel manager hosted cocktails to all riders. All retired to their respective rooms by 10.30 pm. A long day but well spent. Tomorrow is a total rest day with no biking, only sightseeing in the Royal City of Mysore.

Day 7



After a good breakfast all left the hotel for the local sightseeing, historic Chamundi Hills and iconic Mysore Palace. At 1 pm we had a meeting & lunch with members of Ifmr Mysore and other clubs. DG Keshav also attended the lunch and Flags were exchanged. After lunch left for Srirangapatna for the sightseeing. At 5 pm were back to the hotel for rest and fellowship.

Day 8
Route - Mysore to Hassan

The team left for Mysore after breakfast and reached Shravanabelagola close to 10 am. After a little break all started climbing the mountain barefoot to see Gomateshwara, which most of the international riders were not used to walking barefoot. Came down from the hill satisfactorily with many photos taken from Shravanabelagola and started for Hassan, reached Hassan during lunch time. Checked into the hotel.

Our IFMR INDIA sub chapter of Hassan under the able leadership of Mohan D and Shayla all were received and welcomed the riders in their traditional way. After lunch checked into the room and headed to Belur in a Tempo Traveller for sight seeing, Rotary Belur Club had arranged for a guide and





coffee at a local hotel. Close to 6 pm all were done with sightseeing, took many group pictures and thanked the members of Rotary Belur club and special thanks to Rtn Vinod Chavda for his great hospitality arrangements. It was a mixed day of riding and sightseeing, after a hearty dinner all retired to the rooms for complete rest.

Day 9

Route - Hassan to Hallibeedu.

Around 8.30 started from Hotel on motor bikes with Hasan sub chapter riders to Pushpagiri hills and Halebeedu, Sub chapter led the group with Dharnendra as lead. Spent close to 3 hours exploring the monuments of Hallibeedu. On return to Hassan, visited Hassan's Sub Chapter President Venkys bakery, international riders were offered with special delicacies by Rtn. Venky, Chocolate bun, Egg Puffs and Chocolate cakes which was a hit. Reached the Hotel close to 1.30 pm for rest as there was a grand fellowship meet in the evening.



Day 10

Route - Hassan to Hampi

After a grand late night fellowship party, all were fresh for today's ride to Hampi, close to 180 km from Hassan. Started from Hasan at 8 am, today's prayer was offered by Craig Robert for the safety and success of today's ride. For the flag off Hasan chapter members had joined and rode with us for about 15 km. Craig Robert was given the opportunity to lead the ride en route to Hampi. Stopped for the first break in Hiriyur, international riders rode continuously which showed their adaptability and resilience on Indian roads, a wonderful experience for them. Reached Hampi around lunch time at 2 pm and after lunch all retired to the room for afternoon siesta. In the evening all went for the light and sound show of Vijaynagar Palace, a must see in Hampi. After a good dinner all retired to room for a good sleep. A day well spent, had bike riding and sightseeing too.

Day 11

After breakfast the team from hotel to Hampi in a tempo Traveller with a guide. It was a whole day sightseeing, visited Veerupaksha Temple,





Krishna Temple, Hemakunta, Laxmi Narasimha statue, Lotus Mahal and elephant stable. Had lunch in Mango Tree restaurant near the site. After lunch we visited the Stone Chariot and Sangeet Mahal, before returning to the hotel at 5 PM. Had dinner and briefing for tomorrow's ride starting at 6:30 AM to Bangalore, last day of the Goodwill Ride

Day 12

Route - Hospet to Bangalore.

The saddle up and start was at 6.45 am, left for Bangalore from Hospet Hotel, today's prayer was offered by Pinnela. Stopped at Hiriyur for breakfast, riders took time to write messages on the back fabric patch for remembrance for each other. Stopped at Dobaspet for a quick bite and briefing about traffic in Bangalore, feedback of the ride from the riders while waiting for the back up vehicle to join the group. Around 2 pm all had reached the Chancery Pavilion hotel and got the international riders checked in and Indian riders moved to their houses. Around 4 pm, all were taken for 3 hours of sightseeing in Bangalore City. All joined for the Gala Dinner at Royal Orchid at 7 pm.

Day 13

Today was reserved for the complete rest and sightseeing of Bangalore. The first half of the day, the team was taken around Bangalore for sightseeing and post lunch they were brought to the Big Event of Rotaract, Rotasias's 25th edition celebration in Bangalore. All the riders were felicitated by the Rotasias's team and were given gifts to take back. In the evening international riders went shopping in Bangalore and finally went back to the hotel for the final night stay in India. They all were flying by different flights the next day.

Finally the curtains came down to a great International Ride organised by IFMR INDIA. Thanks to one and all who were connected and contributed to the success of this ride.

See you soon with our next ride.



Dinner at Hassan with International Riders

25 February 2024

Hassan

The Don of Hassan Sub Chapter Rtn. Mohan D had planned a grand gala fellowship event for its members, international riders visiting them, and his fellow riders who had participated in Mental Health Awareness Ride in September 2023.

Venue was a great hotel Arya Mansion in Hassan, over 100 guests had attended the event, close to 15 members from Bangalore had joined along with 4 international riders, he had invited members from Music and Cricket fellowship groups. All the 4 international riders were felicitated by their PDG, with garland, shawl and traditional petta. All the 8 riders from Awareness Ride were felicitated with a great frame having the signed square patch of ride. Rtn. Ikram Ahmed Khan of India Chapter was felicitated with garland and shawl for his yeomen service during COVID time, a great gesture for his selfless service during the time of crisis. There was a special cake cutting for our PP Prashanth Babu, whose birthday was next day, 26th February. Awesome timing.





Our own Rtn Srikanth K P was the D J for the evening and he belted out some great dance numbers, making the entire house dance to his music. Heading the Music Fellowship group was our own Ifmr'ian Raghvendra Inamdaar, who did a fabulous job in getting the best music talent for the evening apart from his great singing. Great food and drinks were arranged and all enjoyed till the end. Great show Rtn. MOHAN D.



Charter Day Of IFMR India

28 February 2024

Bangalore

As our Charter Day of IFMR India coincides with Rotary Foundation Day on 23rd February every year, it is celebrated in a grand way. This year it so happened that the date was clashing with our ongoing Goodwill International Ride, so it was rescheduled with their arrival to Bangalore on 28th February and host it along with a Gala Dinner for International Riders.

As the event had become big due to various reasons, one was hosting a Gala Dinner for international riders and second was that we had completed 21 years of IFMR India formation and Core had decided to celebrate the same in a big way. Venue for it was the ROYAL ORCHID CENTRAL HOTEL, roof top restaurant. All the arrangements were made in advance, menu finalisation, drinks selection, gifts for international riders, gifts for Charter members and Past Presidents, ordering of a cake. A special T-shirt for all was released.

On the due day, everything went like a precision clock, attendance of members was almost House full, many districts guests were present.

Sharing the photograph from the fellowship event that tells all the story. Thanks to each and every member who attended and made the evening a special one. Thanks to our Core Committee members for their 100% support and cooperation in making the event super successful.





Ride to Sakleshpur

9 and 10 March 2024

Bangalore to Sakleshpur - 550 Kms

The day the event itinerary was announced, the very next day all the 35 slots were booked, we had to stop taking fresh registration. There were 27 IFMR INDIA members, 3 Prospective members and 5 ladies, better halves of 5 IFMR members.

As per the schedule of 6.30 am on Saturday, 9th March 2024, all were present at KLE DENTAL College gate. President Rajesh took the centre stage, gave a brief of the overnight ride, explained all the stoppages, requested PP Babbana to offer the prayer for the safety and success of the ride. 3 groups were formed and with rider sequence, Lead and Sweep. There were three cars going along with the riders, two had ladies with members/drivers and one had three members, who opted to travel by car to give company to our youngest/founder member of IFMR India, Rtn Ramdas Pai.

Our first stop was after 80 kms ride for breakfast at Dhruvthare, the most sought after eatery on the highway to Hassan, Rtn Ramdas Pai had made





the prior booking for all 35 riders with his connection in Dhruvthare, big thanks to him, we were given one floor exclusively for our group, for the first time they served on Banana plantain leaf, traditional way of having food in Southern India, and on top of it it was unlimited food, we were all treated in royal style by the management, the breakfast was top class, all took time to take many solo and group photos, the owners of restaurant too joined for group pic. Big thanks to TV Rajan, Rajesh AR, Ravish and Karate to sponsor breakfast. Close to 9.30 we started for the next leg of the ride, i.e Hanbal Chikki Factory and Outlet, one of its kind in this part of Karnataka.

All rode for the next 120 km with one stop for tender coconut water break, all had reached Hanbal Chikki Factory, it was first time experience for all to see such a beautiful outlet and factory where 30 varieties of Chikki's were made and sold fresh from their machine, all spent over 30 minutes, tasting the sample and then buying in bulk for their family, probably we purchased over 20k worth of Chikki's. We were 35 kms from our resort and soon all left for the final destination GRK Nature Resort.

On reaching the resort, it was a Jungle mein Mangal kind of resort, all facilities available in the midst of a thick forest except mobile network, some



kind of mobile detox for all. All settled down in their allotted rooms and soon came out in their shorts and T-shirt after discarding heavy riding gears to chill with Beer, which we had bought on the way. It was banter and leg pulling time for all, all were unwinding, laughing, making fun, taking pictures and relaxing. Around 2 pm all joined for a gastronomic fair, an elaborate lunch, there were 6 different items of Chicken. Lunch continued till 3 pm. There was a trekking program from the resort for a 10 km trek, many joined the Trek, rest went for an afternoon siesta. All were informed to assemble by 6.30 for high tea/snacks and evening party time. After having high tea, all came to an exclusive outdoor area arranged by resort with bonfire and music equipment, speakers, karaoke and sound mixers. Soon our singers took over the centre stage and the party/dancing/singing continued till 10.30 pm with time limit in forest reserves, all had dinner and retired to their rooms.

The next morning all woke up at their own pace, few had gone for Trek and nature's walk and slowly all gathered for breakfast at 9 am. We were joined by Rtn Mohan D and his group of riders with their family members from IFMR Hassan Sub for breakfast, they combined our visit with their Breakfast ride, it was a great bonhomie and bonding time over breakfast, there were around 20 members from Hassan





joining for the breakfast, great gesture by them, special thanks to Rtn Mohan D. All were busy taking many solo/group pictures. It was time to depart, around 10.30 am all of us left together for the return journey.

But picture abhi baaki hai doston, Hassan members wanted to visit the Chikki Factory and our lady's too had missed visiting it the previous day. The first stop was at Chikki Factory, this time the ladies of both groups were busy shopping, and it was virtually ransacking of the outlet, probably another 25k of sales for the outlet. We were 35 kms away from Hassan and as usual Mohan D never loses any opportunity to showcase his hospitality and generosity, our lunch was organised by the Hassan Sub Chapter at a star hotel, all reached Hotel Pearl in Hassan and joined for the lunch, before that Rtn Mohan D had arranged a cake from their President Venky's bakery to celebrate the belated Women's Day in honour of over 12 ladies from Bangalore and Hassan present for lunch. After cake cutting by ladies all joined for an excellent light lunch to suit post lunch riding condition. All thanked and bid good bye to members of Hassan Sub Chapter and started our return to Bangalore. By 5 pm, all were back home. Another great ride came to an end with life time memories.



Ride to Kolar

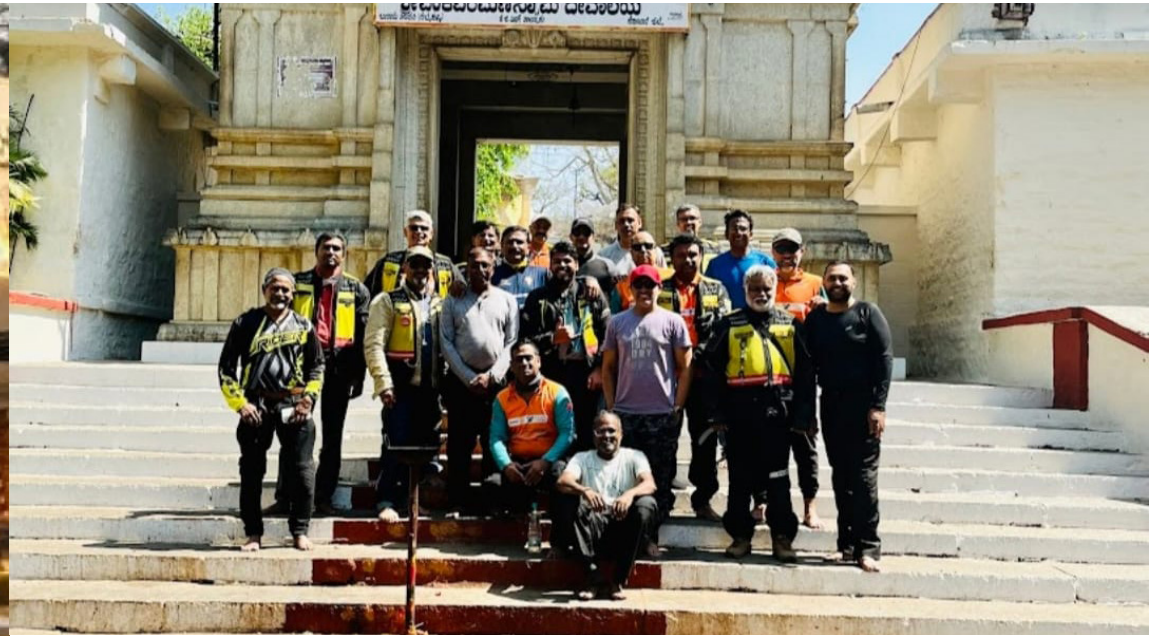
7 April 2024

Bangalore to Kolar - 200 kms

24 riders had registered for the ride including 3 prospective members. All had gathered near the ITI Colony gate in K R Puram. Grouping, riders sequence with lead and sweep was informed before hand. Without further delay, President Rajesh AR addressed everyone explaining about today's ride destination and its importance. As Prashant Mishra had joined today's ride, all congratulated him on getting elected as next year's IFMR President, he announced as a goodwill gesture to treat everyone by sponsoring the breakfast cost today. Big thanks to Prashant Mishra, President Rajesh requested Babbana to offer the prayer, which he obliged. Soon each group was flagged off.

First few km was jam packed traffic, as our start point is in the midst of early morning vegetable/fruit market area. Soon all were out of it and heaved a sigh of relief. Traffic was smooth and little breezy in the morning hours. Our first stop was at Aaradhya Grand after a 65 km ride, an upscale restaurant, famous for Mulbagal Dosa, a speciality made in this part of





Karnataka. True to its popularity, the Dosa was melting in the mouth, full of ghee, the outer crust was crispy and inside was soft, a different preparation. All enjoyed the generosity of President Elect Prashant Mishra, few ordering extra Dosa's. All 24 riders together was a riot of bonding and camaraderie, President Rajesh was following everyone's requirements. We spent over one hour here, our final destination was another 40 kms ahead. Reached the Bangaru Thirupati Temple, all decided to go inside and take Lord Venkateswara Swamy's blessings. It was pure bliss to have darshan and to get blessings from a most powerful diety.

Soon all returned to their bikes and after having a round of tender coconut water all decided to leave for Bangalore, the heat was increasing. It was a non stop ride till our dispersion point, all thanked each other and all left for their homes. A wonderful ride.



Charter of Mysore Sub Chapter

20 April 2024

Mysore

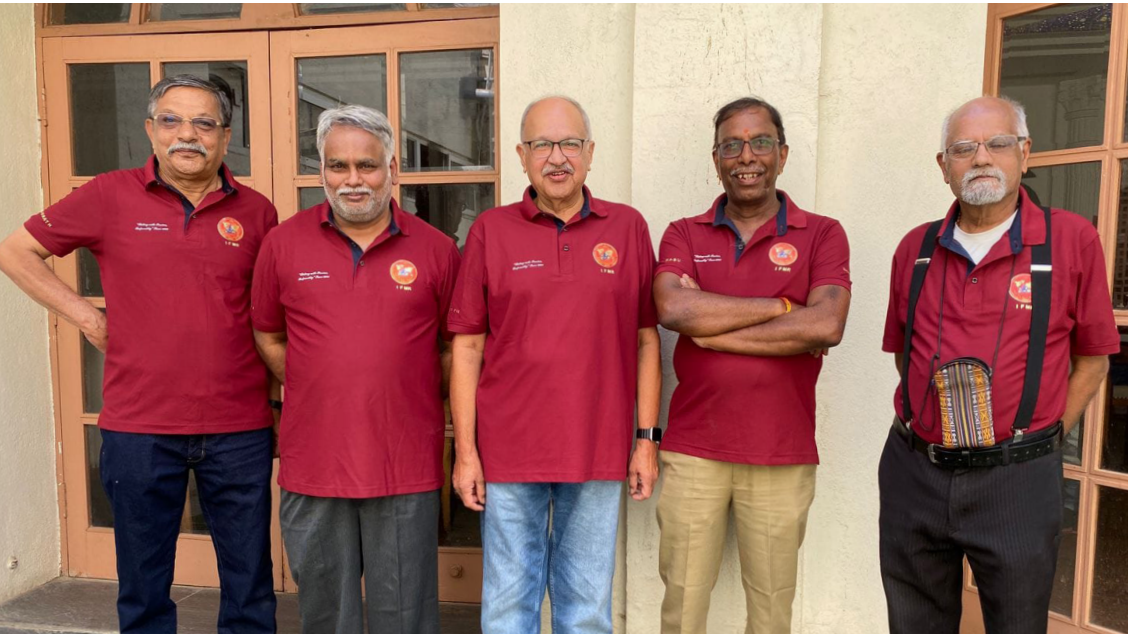
After two months of constant contact meetings with our Mysore biker Rotarian, the date was frozen for the Charter Ceremony of IFMR Mysore Sub Chapter. The new team led by Rtn Subramaniam decided to host the event at Kushalnagar, 90 km away from Mysore in a beautiful back water resort, Coorg Lagoon, owned by a member, Rtn Rajeev. As per schedule and program, 8 members from India Chapter had started from Bangalore early in the morning to reach Mysore on time at 10.30 am for the flag off of entire team by DGN Rtn Ramki of District 3182. Everyone were present at the Phoenix International Academy, a school project of Rotary Mysore, Bangalore team had reached before time to avoid summer heat. After a small talk by DGN and distribution of Riding vest to all the Mysore riders, we were flagged off at 10.30 am and slowly a group of over 35 riders had taken over the street and highways of Mysore, all sporting our riders vest in yellow colour. Close to 1 pm, all had reached the resort, a fabulous property, on the banks of back water, in the midst of jungle, setting could not have been better.





All were allotted rooms and soon all joined for the fantastic lunch at the venue, soon we were surprised to see 8 members from Hassan Sub Chapter led by omnipresent Rtn Mohan joining the event. Two of India Chapter members, Ajit and Vijay too joined us. All retired to their rooms for some rest. Close to 7 pm all started joining for the Charter Ceremony. Meeting was started and handled by the God father of Mysore biker group, Rtn Raghavendra Yaraganal, Charter Chairman Rtn Subramaniam chaired the meeting, after few speeches and greetings, finally the Charter Certificate was presented by Secretary of IFMR India Chapter Rtn Vinod Agarwal to Rtn Subramaniam. India Chapter had carried many small gifts, they were presented by their members to Mysore team. Mysore team wanted to felicitate few of their strong personality, Raghavendra Yaraganal, Rajeev and Lady Biker Ashwini, all were felicitated one by one. Soon Charter Chairman Subramaniam, inducted all the 28 new members of Mysore Sub Chapter by pinning the Lapel Pin, he announced his team for 24-25.

It was a wonderful meeting with no long speeches, it was purely IFMR related action item. The new Secretary of Mysore Sub Chapter gave the vote of thanks and the meeting was closed after the singing of the National Anthem. After the formal meeting, the fellowship started in true spirit of biking brotherhood. The setting for party was just mind-blowing, tables and chairs were put at the edge of back water, with decorative lights and music in the background, the food and drinks were top notch. It was free for all, all were enjoying the hospitality of Mysore team and specially of Rtn Rajeev, owner of Coorg Lagoon. Party continued till the wee hours, as if there is no tomorrow. A fitting evening for the Charter Ceremony. Big thanks to the Mysore team for the entire arrangements.



21st AGM of IFMR INDIA Chapter

28 April 2024

Bangalore

With advance notice of 21 days and all bye laws compliance with sending previous AGM Minutes, Accounts, Agenda and Motions if any were circulated in time.

Members had come in great numbers that too on time at Century Club, meeting was started on time at sharp 11 am by President Rajesh AR with welcome speech and basic updation. Soon Secretary Vinod took over to present his annual report, it was virtually 30 minutes of report, due to constant power fluctuations, ppt could not be shown. It was an exhaustive report without missing any event. Treasurer Rtn Raghavendra Inamdar presented the accounts for 2023/24, which got passed in no time.

Our Co founder Rtn Zarry Lobo had asked for a slot for him to speak, he was asked to speak and he elaborated that when ever we have pure fellowship event of IFMR members, we should not involve others in it, few other senior members echoed the same views.





Point was well taken and assured, will be more careful in future. Next agenda item was the adoption of motions proposed by Rtn Ramdas Pai, he was asked to speak on same and was made to explain on suggested changes. After a lengthy discussion on each point, 4 of them were cleared unanimously, one was not cleared by the floor.

It was time for various felicitations which were lined up

1. Three new members were pinned with the Ifmr lapel pin and were officially inducted into ifmr. They were, Raghu Rajappa, Sai Prasad and Ranga.
2. Ifmr India recognised 5 top riders for the year, who had participated in maximum rides during the year, all were given a gift with a certificate, they were, Punit Bajaj, Mandar Dixit, Manjunath, Anand Kulkarni and Dipesh.
3. Ifmr India released a life size photo of our group pic taken during club photo shoot in August last year. All members were asked to collect their copies.
4. President Rajesh wanted to recognise the efforts of Core members and gave away a personalised hat and a gold sticker to all 9 members.
5. A felicitation of team who were part of Goodwill International Ride was due, a special frame with signed flag of riders who had joined for the goodwill ride were presented. All the felicitations were done by our senior members, Zarryly Lobo and Ramdas Pai.

The next item on Agenda was to inform the new President for 24/25, Rtn Arun Belur, who was the returning officer for same, informed that only one valid nomination of Rtn Prashant Mishra has come and is declared elected. All congratulated Prashant Mishra and he was asked to announce his team and unveil his yearly plans. Which he did with great energy. It was appreciated by all. As no more pending issues were left, the meeting was closed and fellowship started with full on. Rtn Vijay Mane who was our F & B incharge for the day, took good care of all the members. Party continued till 4.30 pm. All were in a very relaxed and happy mood with the AGM and thanked the admins and left.



Charter of Thanjavur Sub Chapter

3 May 2024

Bangalore to Kumbakonam - 870 Km

After 3 months of serious discussion with Thanjavur Biker Rotarians, it was decided to do a Charter presentation of Thanjavur Sub Chapter on 4th May, Saturday in Kumbakonam. Invites were sent to other Sub Chapters and to India Chapter members. Since it was clashing with the India Chapter's regular monthly ride, the Core committee had decided to convert it into an overnight ride keeping in mind the distance to be covered. From India Chapter, 7 members had registered for it, Hassan Sub Chapter had 11 members joining and one member from Coimbatore Sub Chapter. 19 members going for a Charter presentation was a great number.

All the background work of the hotel booking was done by our Thanjavur members led by Rtn. Baraneedaran and his team. During this time of the year Kumbakonam city temperature goes up to 42°, as such it was decided by both Bangalore riders and Hassan riders to start at 4.30 am from respective cities. Fortunately this was a great decision and Bangalore riders had reached Kumbakonam hotel close to 12.45 pm on 3rd May.





All were received by the Thanjavur team in the traditional way with roses and kumkum/chandan tilak. It was a wonderful feeling of welcome. Rtn Baraneedaran took good care of all the riders from Bangalore in settling them in their rooms. All decided to freshen up and join over lunch and after which took some rest. Close to 4.30 pm Hassan team too joined all in the hotel. Rtn. Mahesh Prassanna from Coimbatore Sub Chapter had joined the Bangalore team mid way to Kumbakonam and had come to the hotel. In the evening at 7 pm, our hosts from Thanjavur had organised an informal get together just to understand each other and prepare for next day's function.

It was also decided that Kumbakonam is a Temple town with over 2k temple around it and few with powerful diety, many wanted to visit atleast 2 to 3 big temples. Hosts Baraneedaran and his team gladly accepted our request to take us around Kumbakonam the next morning at 7 am. After a lavish dinner and fellowship all retired to their rooms. On 4th morning all had woken up early and after bath all were ready for the first round of Temple visit. Rtn Baraneedaran and Rtn Arunrajavel took all the visiting Ifmr'ian to a popular temple and it took virtually more than one hour to complete the special darshan of diety. Soon we were back to hotel for Breakfast and a joint meeting organised by Rtn Mohan of Hassan Sub Chapter with various Rotary clubs of Kumbakonam. All attended the same by 11 am, it was over. Many of visiting riders wanted to explore few more temple, again we were out and this time saw a huge ASI maintained Temple. By 1.30 pm, all were back to hotel, Hassan team decided to go ahead for some shopping in Kumbakonam, famous for Brass ware and Silk.

The Charter Ceremony was scheduled for 7 pm in the evening, all had gathered for the grand event, over 25 new members from Thanjavur, few Club President and over 19 visiting Ifmr'ian were present, hall was packed. Soon we were joined by PDG Ramesh Babu of Thanjavur District, who is also representing Zone 5 in RI, chief guest for the evening. The Charter Ceremony started on time by IFMR India Chapter President Rajesh AR, he gave a brief introduction about the history of it and it's working.

PDG Ramesh Babu did the honor on presenting the Charter Certificate to the Charter Chairman of Thanjavur Sub Chapter. All the new members were inducted by pinning lapel pins of IFMR INDIA. Lot of felicitation took place, all the visiting Ifmr'ian were recognised by Thanjavur team. In return small gifts were presented to new members of Thanjavur Sub Chapter. Charter Chairman Baraneedaran gave his acceptance speech,





PDG Ramesh Babu assured 100% support to the new sub Chapter from his side, was very positive about its future. Soon the grand function came to an end and all joined for dinner with fellowship time. A highly energetic evening came to an end on a very positive note that few members from new Sub Chapter will ride with visiting team of IFMR'IAN when they leave early morning for Bangalore/Hassan for some distance. The commitment and enthusiasm of Thanjavur Sub Chapter members was visible and next day morning all visiting Ifmr'ian left Kumbakonam, again at 4.30am to beat the heat, few Thanjavur Sub Chapter members did join the ride for 40km distance. Highly satisfied Sub Chapter Charter came to a close.



IFMR India Chapter Stall at ICGF

11 May 2024

Bangalore

We were approached by the organising team of ICGF of RID 3192 on International Service to put up a stall and our team agreed to go ahead, it was a great opportunity to showcase our activities and impress the visiting Rotarian and attract few of them to join our fellowship group. Secretary Rtn Vinod and MC member Rtn Naveen were at the forefront in managing the stall of IFMR and had attracted quite a few curious Rotarians, as a token of our appreciation and goodwill gesture, we gave away few of our IFMR stickers and key chains to them. The biggest takeaway was the interest shown by Major/IAS officer Rtn Manivannan from Engage India club. There were over 10 ifmr members who visited our stall, DG Srinivas Murthy too visited our stall. Secretary Rtn Vinod got an opportunity to make an announcement during the session of ICGF and informed that IFMR India is going truly International by undertaking a bike ride to Bhutan in June, 2024 and planning to meet Rotarian from Bhutan.







Ride to Adiyogi Shiva Statue

12 May 2024

Bangalore to Chikkaballapur

Originally it was felt that after an over night ride to Kumbakonam last Sunday we may skip the monthly day ride, but on popular demand scheduled the above ride and it turned out to be blockbuster with 25 riders joining in the morning of Sunday at 6.15 am. Time was rescheduled due to increased traffic all over, still all were on time. In the absence of Prez Rajesh AR, Secretary Vinod Agarwal took over the centre stage, welcomed all to the beautiful morning, reminded of IFMR group riding norms, informed the riders sequence with respective groups, Rtn Rajasekhar Patil offered today's prayer for safety and success of the ride. Soon each group was on the highway.

With constant speed and non stop ride all of us were in the next one hour to Adiyogi, a place which never tires you ever and every visit sees new changes and surprises. Looked amazing. There was hassle free parking, shoes management and carpet till the statue. All spent over 30 minutes here, taking blessings of lord Shiva and clicking photos with two ace photographers in the group, Raghu Rajappa and Mandar Dixit. While coming out of the





place, saw a proper restaurant in the complex and decided to have breakfast instead of saddling and going to a new restaurant in Devanahalli, all liked the idea and a common option was the Mini Tiffin Meal, which consisted of all the options. Spend another 30 minutes relishing the food and spending quality time with each other. Thanks to Sudershan, Ranga and Manjunath sir for sponsoring breakfast on the occasion of getting their new bikes last week. May their tribe keep growing. Few wanted to go in various different directions from here and few wanted to photoshoot with their bikes, it was felt we will disperse from here itself and bid goodbye and another memorable ride came to an end. All messaged after reaching home safely.



IFMR INDIA at the RI convention Singapore

25 May 2024

Singapore

IFMR India was given an opportunity to man the International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians (IFMR) booth at the RI Convention in Singapore.

5 members of IFMR India volunteered to man the booth. Discussions and preparations for this was done over a period of 2 months. IFMR India collected the articles from various Chapters of from across the world. The 5 volunteers, Rajesh A.R., Ajit S.R., Srikanth K.P., Mohan D. and Prashanth Babu embarked to Singapore on the 24th of May. The dedication of these volunteers was such that they proceeded to the House of Friendship directly from the Airport. With the set up done of the booth it was time to showcase IFMR fellowship at the RI convention.

Over the next 3 days we had over 200 visitors to our booth. It was a very good exposure to IFMRians from India. The visitors to our booth were amazed to know that IFMR was such a vibrant fellowship. There were a lot of IFMRians from across the world who visited the stall. And,





for some to see their photographs displayed was a sense of pride.

We had many PDG's visit our stall from many different countries. The exchange of flags was one interesting aspect. This also was a great opportunity to showcase IFMR India's rides and achievements over the 3 days. And it was a proud moment for all of us. And like the saying 'a picture says a thousand words' I leave you with thousands of words.



Ride to Chanrayapatna

2 June 2024

Bangalore to Chanrayapatna

Over 27 riders had registered for this ride but previous night's heavy rains made few of them shaky and finally we had 17 riders at the start time. Secretary Vinod took the centre stage and addressed the riders, stress on traffic rules and hand signals were made. He made it very clear about zero tolerance to the riding safety gears, no compromise on it. Riding groups were reworked with few last minute dropouts and new groups and riding sequence were announced with 17 riders. Past President Srinivas Babu offered prayers for the safety and success of the ride. Thank you sir ji. Soon all were on the highway, it was a cold morning with last night showers in the city.

All rode for 80 km to our breakfast stop at Dhruvtaare. All had the best South Indian breakfast of Idly/Vada/Dosa/Kesari Bhath/Pongal/Upma and strong filter coffee. Soon Vijay Mane and Ramanathan announced that they will sponsor breakfast on the happy occasion of getting their new bikes of Himalayan 450. Thank you thank you thank you.





Four riders decided to return back to Bangalore after breakfast due to important meetings to be attended. Rest 13 moved on for the next destination - Mavanuru Shri Bettada Malleshwara Gudi at Chanrayapatna. It was another 70 km ride for all. We were on top of the temple spot, it was a mesmerizing experience to witness huge wind mill turbines in straight lines from very close quarters fixed around the temple. One could hear the sound of big blades of windmill while rotating. As we were at a height the windmills were seen at our height itself. All visited the temple and offered their prayers and took time to take a few photographs. It was a very satisfying place with not much of a crowd and traffic, but were happy that other biker groups were also present.

It was close to 10 am, we started our return journey to Bangalore and all had reached home by 1 pm, with few stops in between for refuel and tea break.



Ceat Tyres promotion with IFMR India

11 June 2024

Bangalore

We were approached by Ceat Tyres to join them for the experiencing of their recently launched Steel Radial Tyres for Motor Bikes. They had launched these for a few bike specs and we had zeroed in to the bike of our Rtn Sudhakar Paul's BMW 310. Sharing the pics of the fitment from the event. It was a detailed introduction session on the new launch of their Sport Rad Tyres, it was very informative and useful. We were given a set of these tyres for experiencing them on the bike, free of cost. Great initiative by Ceat to launch a product. The brand manager Sameera was aware of the product in detail and explained the benefits of these tyres.







Happiness Ride to Bhutan

11 June 2024

Bangalore

After all the excitement built up for the last two months the D day had arrived, all 24 riders, 18 from Bangalore and 6 from 4 different sub chapters were looking forward to this first ever ride in a different country. Two riders had reached Bagdogra the previous day itself and the rest 22 had gathered at the Bangalore airport on Thursday early morning. All were greeted by Ride Captain Ajit and Tour Captain Prashanth Babu, all were handed over various goodies by Prashanth Babu at the airport. Many group pictures were taken and all were in the same aircraft to Bagdogra from Bangalore.

All landed at Bagdogra on time, one of the busiest airports in the country at 11 am. We were connected to our bus operators and after checkout all boarded two mini buses for Phuetsholing, the first entry city to Bhutan. After two stops for lunch and tea we were in Phuetsholing by 5.30 pm. A stark difference between India border town of Jaigaon and Bhutan's Phuetsholing. A neat and clean city, well mannered people. The tour operator from the Bhutan side welcomed us and took us through the small immigration pass for tonight's





stay in Phuetsholing. All walked up to the hotel from the immigration office and settled down to the allotted rooms for rest and break. All gathered at the dining area for tour brief and tomorrow's paper work at immigration office for the 7 days permit. All joined and listened patiently to our leader Budha, tour guide. Handed over our passports and SDF fees to him. After which all joined for the grand dinner. Ride Captain Ajit gave his instructions for tomorrow's ride. All slowly retired to their respective rooms. Few ventured out of the hotel to see the night life of Bhutan. A wonderful day came to an end.

Day 2

The distance covered 150 km. Route - Phuetsholing to Thimphu.

Last night our Ride Captain Ajit had informed us that we will start from our Hotel to the Immigration office at 8 am after breakfast for doing the paper work for the 7 days permit. Our tour operator guides had collected all the required documents from us last night itself. All were ready after breakfast to collect their respective bikes to visit the Immigration office. It was a little long process to complete individually all the 24 riders paper work. Returned back to the hotel and collected our bikes, loaded our bags in the support vehicle. The next stop was at the RTO of Bhutan to get permits for our bikes. Another formality to be done. It was a bit of a lengthy process, it took more than an hour. By the time we completed the paper and inspection of our bikes and driving licence it was over 11 am. Finally around 11.30 am, we kicked off for Thimpu on our bikes.

The Ride Captain had shared the grouping and riders sequence last night itself. All joined their respective groups, briefing was done and prayers were recited by YC Roy and Asad for today's safety and success. Finally both the group of 12 riders each left from RTO office to Thimpu, Capital of Bhutan. Encountered two more transit check points immediately after leaving Phuetsholing, completing those formalities. Finally we were riding in the beautiful country of Bhutan.

All were rain compliant due to overcast conditions and soon we were entering dense fog on the roads, it was totally curvy roads with thick forest all around, fog had become too thick that visibility had dropped to almost zero, with emergency flasher lights ON on each bike we were riding slowly. But it took quite some time to come out of the foggy condition. After covering 50 km, it was lunch time, all stopped at a roadside restaurant.





We spent over an hour at the restaurant and had a sumptuous meal, all were bonding and taking pictures of each other. Soon after lunch we left for Thimpu, climbing and foggy conditions had made us slow down, it was taking time. Stopped in between for more photo ops. Bhutan is a truly blessed country, neat, clean and green, people are totally disciplined, no honking, no traffic lights anywhere, all respect each other, no littering of trash anywhere. Traffic protocols are followed by each and every person. We were in our beautiful hotel, Forest Boutique after 6 pm. All were asked to freshen up in the next 20 minutes for attending a scheduled Rotary meeting with the solo Rotary Club of Bhutan. By the time we reached the city centre of Thimpu for the meeting at 7 pm, we were late but few members had waited for us for the meeting. As per standard protocol all the members introduced themselves, understood the working of Bhutan's club, did flag exchange and gave away small goodies to each member of Bhutan club present there. Bid goodbye to them after spending quality time with them. Since the meeting was in the city centre all decided to be on their own to explore the night life of Thimpu. Few decided to head back to our hotel. It was truly a great day traveling in Bhutan and exploring their culture and people. Feel envious of the blessed people of Bhutan. Being the capital of Bhutan, Thimpu, saw many beautiful structures like, Parliament House, Supreme Court etc. A great country called Bhutan.

Day 3

Route Today - Thimphu to Punakha via Dochula Pass - 80 Km.

Today's distance was a little less and a relaxed ride to the old capital of Bhutan, Punakha from the new capital Thimphu. Ride Captain Ajit had informed us that we will saddle up and roll by 9 am. Despite that all were ready with breakfast but were delayed by 30 minutes. Briefing was done by ride Captain, today's group sequence was changed, group B was asked to go first with the same riders sequence and group A will follow them. Vinay recited the prayer for today's rides success. Our tour led by guide Buddha informed that today we will spend two hours in Thimphu itself seeing popular monuments and then leave for Punakha. Our first stop after checkout was at Viewpoint of Thimphu, we had reached on top of Thimphu city from where we could have a good view of the entire city covering the major attractions, we saw, Parliament House, Supreme court and Kings Palace. They were in close vicinity and were looking great, totally made with Bhutan style of architecture. Great view, all spent some time to take





pictures as these monuments as a back drop. Next we headed to the tallest Buddha statue, located on a hill, it was a challenge to ride to the top of the hill with many hairpin bends, reached slowly but was worth it. A giant statue of bronze and gold was sitting on a huge gold plated structure with a museum inside it. Spent over one hour and took many pictures, it was a beautiful statue, not to be missed. Slowly we started for our next stop, Dochula Pass, a pass from ancient times connecting Thimphu and Punakha valleys. The road to Dochula was amazing and the scenic one. We spent over an hour here and had tea break as well. Took many group pictures on bikes etc. Slowly we moved towards Punakha valley, it was a 50 km ride, took one hour, reached our hotel, a beautiful property of our tour guide Buddha, all were in time for a good lunch. Since today was a relaxed day, it was informed that Punakha is popular for White River Rafting, whoever is interested can join for the same and can go ahead. 15 members opted for the same, we were taken to the start point of the rafting site, it was almost 20 km from the hotel, all enjoyed a good rafting experience for next one hour, reached the end point, had a tea break and our vehicle were ready to take us back to hotel.

Our tour guide and owner of the hotel, Budha had organised a gala dinner party for all, a great gesture from his side, a down to earth and humble person with a large heart, a true sign of happy people. All had gathered for the wonderful evening. Music and dance went on for the next three hours and close to 10 pm, we ended the party and joined for dinner and subsequent retirement to the rooms. A day well spent seeing Bhutan and experiencing people's hospitality. God keeps blessing this wonderful country.

Day 4

Route - Punakha to Phobjikha Valley. Distance 150 km two ways.

Today was a relaxed day with sightseeing in and around Punakha valley. The start time was 10.15 am. Today we went to the Switzerland of Bhutan, Phobjikha Valley, close to 75 km from the hotel. Our tour guide, Buddha who is the owner of the hotel here in Punakha where we were staying had decided to take us on a picnic to Phobjikha Valley, he had organised cooked lunch, along with table/chairs and full support staff to come in separate vehicle to the picnic spot. It was a great curvy comfortable ride to the valley, it was one of the most beautiful valleys with a huge stretch of green cover with cattle grazing around. It was just a mind blowing sight to witness on reaching the valley, it was a heavenly place, soon all were running around





and taking pictures like any Yash Raj movies shot in Switzerland. Support staff had started laying the table and chairs and made arrangements for a sumptuous buffet lunch. It was worth every penny spent on the trip, it was a royalty lunch of different levels with the setting of the place. The next two hours were spent clicking over a few thousand pictures by all. Soon it was time to pack up and head to the next stop, Gangtey Monastery.

Gangtey Monastery is over 500 yrs old Budha Monastery, belongs to a particular sect of Buddhism, different from Tibet. It was a huge monastery with a heavy flow of devotees. Spent some time seeing the monastery and to our luck had the opportunity to personally meet the spiritual leader of this particular sect of Buddhism. Spoke to him in detail, a very humble person, he thanked our country for all the support, Bhutan getting from India. Took group pictures and after many left, he introduced the child incarnation of the next spiritual leader, took special pictures with him and blessings. The tour would have been incomplete without meeting him.

Close to 4 pm, we started back for the hotel, we were in the hotel around 6.30 pm. All were in a relaxed mood and joined for dinner at 8 pm and slowly all retired for early sleep, tomorrow being a busy riding day.

Day 5

Today's route - Punakha - Dochula Pass - Thimphu - Paro. Distance - 150 km.

Today we were going to Paro. The saddle and roll time was 9 am. All had got up in a relaxed mode, after a wonderful breakfast of Aloo Paratha and usual stuff was a blessing in a different country. All enjoyed the sumptuous breakfast. All were on time to start. Ride Captain Ajit had shared the riders sequence with grouping. He briefed today's route and gave riding instructions. Requested Manjunath sir to offer the prayer for today's success.

Slowly both the groups left with our tour lead and sweeps, it was decided to visit two important sightseeing spots of Punakha before we left Punakha. The first stop was after 20 km at the famous Punakha Fort. All wanted to visit it inside and bought tickets. We had our guide who explained the importance and significance of the fort. The fort is not an abandoned one or not in use, it is used by Buddhist monks on a daily basis. All took many pictures and spent over an hour at the fort. The next stop was at the popular suspension bridge of Bhutan. It was a great feeling walking on the bridge,



great tourist spots in Bhutan. Again all got busy taking many pictures and slowly all were back on the bikes for Paro. Immediately after that it had started raining and few who were not wearing rain gears stopped for putting their rain gears. The next 30 km to Dachula Pass was foggy and raining. All wanted to take a tea break at the Cafe in Dachula Pass and stopped for the same. Close to 1 pm, started for the final leg of the next 70 km to Paro bypassing Thimphu City. Slowly and steadily our convoy of 23 bikes reached the beautiful city of Paro, could see the Paro Airport from the highway itself, very scenic and beautiful. As we entered the city, all stopped at an upscale restaurant in Paro, close to our hotel. All had a great lunch and shifted to the hotel around 5 pm. All went to rooms to rest and freshen up. Fortunately our hotel for the next two days in Paro is in the City centre, all decided to laze around the shopping area for buying a few Bhutanese Souvenirs. All were back at the hotel for an early dinner around 8.30 pm due to tomorrow's program for Trek to Tiger Nest Monastery in the early morning. All retired to their rooms for a good rest and sleep.

Day 6

Route : Paro - sightseeing and rest day.

The biggest reason for anyone coming to Bhutan is to visit Tiger Nest, a monastery built in the 16th century at a height of 10300 ft, with 6.5 km trek both ways, last leg has over 1000 steps and takes 6.5 hrs to complete it.

Only 14 riders opted to go for the trek, few had health issues, few had already done it in the past. Accordingly, 14 trekkers decided to leave the hotel for the start point of the trek at 7.30 am and try to be back by 2.30 pm. The rest of the 10 members were told to do local sightseeing and window shopping and laze around the city of Paro. All the 14 trekkers came back to the hotel in two batches after successfully completing the trek to Paro Taktsang, a beautiful monastery perched on top of the mountain.

All were told to enjoy lunch of their choice in Paro's upscale restaurant today due to different programs of all. Later in the evening, the team had arranged a beautiful cultural dance of Bhutan in the hotel for the members exclusively.

The Bhutanese cultural program was the icing on the cake of the trip, Bhutanese have preserved their culture and are proud of it, a truly blessed country, no wonder they believe in happiness more than





anything else, they are very happy in every aspect of their life. Their music, dance and drama truly reflects their rich cultural heritage.

Day 7

Route - Paro to Phuentsholing - 140 km.

Today was our last day of ride and we were leaving from Paro for Phuentsholing. The distance looks small but in terms of hours it takes much longer. Keeping in mind the terrain and weather, it was decided to leave Paro by 9 am. All were ready after a good breakfast to leave. Ride Captain Ajit addressed all and briefed about today's route and ride plan. The grouping and rider sequence was read out and prayers were recited, it was a Buddhist prayer done by our support rider, Bhim. Soon all were on the highway

Slowly we left Paro and were cruising steadily towards Phuentsholing. The first 50 km was a smooth curvy ride, encountering a few slushy stretches of roads, all managed to cross them. We stopped for a tea break close to 12 pm, and moved ahead, but the next 70 km was a total horror, totally foggy and visibility dropping to zero at various places, added to it, it had started drizzling, sunlight was very less. With all the bikes flashers On, and slow speed managed to reach Phuentsholing around 3 pm. The tour guide took us directly to the Immigration office for closing the permit work and other paper formalities.

After which we were taken to our hotel for tonight's stay in Phuentsholing, all shifted to respective rooms for freshening up and went out for late lunch and final round of shopping. All were back to the hotel by 7.30 pm for an early dinner, as we have to leave for Bagdogra airport next day early morning to catch our flight to Bangalore and Chennai in the afternoon on 20th June.

Finally the Happiness ride to Bhutan has come to an end successfully without any incident with a group of 24 riders. Thanks to all the riders for their cooperation and rallying around each other to complete the ride. Thanks to Ride Captain Ajit and Tour Captain Prashanth Babu for coordinating everything. Missed our President Rajesh, it was his dream plan for a ride outside India for the first time in IFMR INDIA Chapter. Thanks to him for all the planning. Maybe something better is planned for him. See you all soon. With this ride we conclude the Rotary Year of IFMR India 2023-24. Thank you thank you thank you.



Rider Log 1

Ifmr'an Anil Goyal of Ahmedabad Sub Chapter is in Australia and riding there with Ifmr Australia members, 300 km ride from Adelaide to Blanch town.

My bike trip in Australia in Adelaide to blanch town approx 300 km with the support of ifmr Australia. I would like to thank Mr Rajesh president IFMR India, Dr Pravin president IFMR Ahmedabad Sub Chapter and Dr Shashank rathod, who accepted me as an IFMR member.

As a rider in year 2022 I had covered 21000 km all India on my royal Enfield, 29 states, six international boarder, six union territory under Freedom Moto ride sponsored by Prime Minister of India on 75 freedom anniversary called Amrut Mahotsav. We were 75 riders including 10 women, in 75 days covered the distance.

As on Feb 24, I had planned my trip to Australia for a month to Sydney, Melbourne, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Tasmania, and Adelaide. On my request a letter from ifmr India was mailed to ifmr Australia president. Mr Bill Ivory president IFMR Australia had arranged a bike ride as per my schedule in Adelaide a bike ride with pub lunch at blanch town





was organised on 16 march, which was approx 300 km to and fro from Adelaide. On arrival on 14 march, Mr Claus Weber came to meet me and assured me that he will give one of his bikes with riding gears and he will accompany me on another bike to blanch town. On 16th March he offered me a 750 cc Suzuki bike and he himself was on Triumph tiger. From his house we started at 10.30 to blanch town and reached 12.50 PM where other ifmr Australia members were waiting to meet me.

At blanch town we all had cheers with a glass of beer and followed by lunch. After the introduction session I was honoured with a jacket, badge and an ifmr Australia sticker. After lunch we had a small photography session and then we all left for a small ride around the lake in a single row in blanch town for an hour. At 3 PM we all got dispersed for our own destination.

I would like to thank each and every ifmr members for making my dream come true of riding in Australia. Special thanks to team IFMR India and IFMR Australia for all the support and hosting. Looking forward to receive ifmr Australia members visit India.

Thanks to all.



Conquering the Iron Butt Challenge: A Journey of Endurance and Camaraderie

A moment of insanity ignited a spirit of adventure among three passionate riders: Ganesh Swaminathan, Prashanth Babu, and myself. We set our sights on riding from Bangalore to Kanyakumari and back in a day. But, had kept our option of attempting the the famed Iron Butt Challenge, Iron butt ride is a test of endurance that would see us covering 1600 kilometers within 24 hours.

Our spirits high and our bikes ready, we assembled at 4:15AM near Electronic City, under the cover of darkness ready to embark on an epic journey.

At 4:30AM, the engines roared to life, and we hit the road. The early morning chill was a welcome companion as we swiftly covered the first 200 kilometers in just 2.5 hours. Our first stop came after Salem, where the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and a hearty breakfast greeted us. Energized and eager to continue, we remounted our bikes and resumed our ride, adopting a rhythm of taking breaks every 250 kilometers to refuel and refresh with more coffee.

By 12:30 PM, we reached the southern tip of India, Kanyakumari. The sight of the meeting point of three oceans was as invigorating as the lunch we enjoyed there. After a 50-minute break, we were back on the road,





We were forced to slow down by a sudden shower. But, this was only for a brief period. The sun beginning its descent as we rode northwards.

We reached Salem again by 7:00 PM and here over refreshing fresh juice we decided to go for the iron butt challenge. We push on to Krishnagiri for dinner. Navigating through the heavy peak-time traffic of Salem was a test of our patience and skill. We managed to reach Krishnagiri by 9 PM. After an energising dinner we were back on our bikes, heading towards Vellore.

Crossing Vellore, we rode a few kilometers further before turning back, our goal drawing closer with each kilometer. We reached Krishnagiri once more and turned towards Bangalore. After a short coffee break, our final push began.

The clock struck 2 AM as we rolled into Electronic City, completing our incredible 1600-kilometer journey within the allotted 24 hours. We parted ways, each heading to our respective homes, the exhaustion overshadowed by a profound sense of accomplishment.

The Iron Butt Challenge had tested our limits as riders, but it also brought us closer together as friends and fellow adventurers. It was a satisfying experience, one that will forever be etched in our memories, reminding us of the sheer joy of riding and the unbreakable bond of camaraderie.

And this accomplishment has lead to another challenge of riding from Bangalore to Delhi in 36 hours. Which we hope to undertake sometime soon.

Prashant Mishra
IFMR -India



A Trip through Himalayas

June-July 1991

Dedicated to my 3 friends who are no more
Amal Raj, Tony S and Ramachander Pai.

Circa 1990, a bunch of friends were sitting in a tea joint and suddenly one of us said 'hey how about visiting Ibrahim in Trivandrum' with this started the discussion on how to get to Trivandrum which eventually narrowed down to go with our bikes. Then from going to Trivandrum it became a South India trip. We visited Coimbatore, Trivandrum, Kanniyakumari, Thekkady, Kodaikanal during this ride. Done with this ride we felt we had achieved something big and we had to do something bigger next year. This was the bud which bloomed into North India ride and, eventually the highest motorable road in the world 'Kardungla pass" at 18380 feet above sea level. From our friends who had done it to Leh earlier we got some inputs and also we realized that it will cost us a lot of money. Some of us started to work part time for almost a year to meet the expenses of the trip. Almost a year later we 3 friends who had planned the trip for the whole year were joined by 1 more. So here we were 4 guys on 3 bikes ie is 2 RX 100 and 1 Road king all set to go to visit the Himalayas. But just a few days before

our journey from Bangalore our former PM Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated and my family asked me to put off the trip. But, my other 3 friends were not ready to do that, and left as scheduled. In the interim of 10 to 12 days 2 more of our friends jumped in to join. So here was the scenario 3 guys with 2 bikes already at Manali and 3 guys with 1 bike heading to Manali to meet the others.

So the deal was that 2 guys ride the bike from Delhi to Manali and 1 guys takes other mode of transportation to reach Manali. On our way from Simla to Manali we had a fall and my knee was scraped but, with the jeans pant being tight I had to disinfect the wound in the small hole the pant had due to the fall. After a few days in train and on road we all finally meet up in Manali. When we reached Manali the news was, the road to Rothang pass and beyond was not cleared of snow. So all 6 of us Amal Raj, Vivek Dhanraj, Tony S, Monterio, Ramchandra Pai and myself Prashanth Babu stay put in Manali for another 12 to 13 days for the road to open. After a long wait we came to know the road to Rothang had opened and as ignorant and stupid as we were, we felt we should reach Rothang that day and set off on our bike late in the afternoon (little did we know that Rothang was just a pass and no shelter was available). Anyways we reached



Rothang after it was dark and found a place in the corridor of a BRO shed and slept in the open. From there our journey was very eventful and we stated with the army in Baralacha la, Sarchu, Pang and Leh. We encounter a lot of stream crossing on our route and after freezing our selves with our limited warm clothing we did make to LEH. When in Leh my friend and me had a fall and when we get up we heard that 2 more bikers were also there in Leh and it happened to be our friends from Bangalore who had taken the Srinagar route what a co incidence. We all met it their hotel room and had a drink or two, again stupidity got the better of us as we decided to have dinner and rode out to find a dinner place. This is where I had a lucky escape as ITBP guy asked us to stop and literally fired on me as I was not able to stop my bike immediately this was my lucky escape number 1. Once in Leh we had to get our permits to go to Kardungla and it took as a 2 days to get the permits. With permits in hand the next day we rode to Kardungla Pass (the highest motorable road in the world) on the 5th of July 1991. Reaching the highest motorable road in the world. What a joy and sense of pride it was. The next leg we rode back to Manali over the next 5 days and on to Delhi.

On our way from Manali to Delhi we thought we could reach Delhi late in the night but, suddenly decided that we will sleepover in a village in Punjab, so we rode in with our bikes into a village and realized all were asleep and then we came over to the open fields and set up our tent to sleep. In the middle of the night we were woken up by a few people who asked us who we were and what we were doing there (remember this was during the time when terrorism in Punjab was at its peak). After the enquiry they left. Only in the morning did we know the gravity of the episode. We were told that the villages thought we were terrorist and some were advocating to beat us up but, I guess the almighty saved us from certain death. Lucky escape number 2. After an eventful 34 day we reached Delhi after our successful completion of our endeavour. Little did we know if was a Guinness Record ie 2 people on a 100 cc motorcycle to ride to Kardungla pass. How we came to know that is a story for another time.



A bikers take

Let's accept it, we are all creatures of habits and not perfect in any which ways. Motorcycle riding is one such lifeskill that most of us learn some time in our life time and then it is more or less baked in as our signature style of riding. Just like our handwriting our motorcycle riding style is also unique. The way we brake, and how many times we brake, the way we accelerate and the volume of throttle, obstacle avoidance, lean angles etc etc are very individualistic. Some times we learn the hard way with accidents and falls that don't kill us or injure us and then there are opportunities to improve upon your skills voluntarily.

I did the latter but enrolling myself to the bronze certification organized by KTM India. The bronze certification is a off-road focused training for KTM adventure motorcycle owners, in this series they taught us the basics of body positioning for maximum control and comfort, throttle control and braking control in slippery conditions, body positioning during approaching and exiting an obstacle, turning in low grip and traction situations and various other techniques were taught to us practically, i realized during this training that i as an individual was doing certain things right which I had naturally learnt and also certain things i had learnt naturally and

was doing in wrong and a much better way of doing it was possible. This training really did broaden my horizon, and taught me how to improve my motorcycle riding skills. This was held at the big rock dirt park near kolar and in the end we were allowed to use the motocross track too which was really fun, I felt like a kid on a roller-coaster, except this time i was in control of my wagon. It was addictive to say the least.



My tryst with my Bike

SK Manjunath's journey on two wheels began at 8, mastering cycling in Mysuru's Vani Villas Water Works area. By 12, he was navigating his father's Lambretta scooter, showcasing his resourcefulness during mechanical mishaps. At 14, he embarked on a 300-kilometer intercity ride on his uncle's Jawa. Despite parting with his scooter in 1975, his passion for riding never waned. In 1980, he undertook a daring 950-kilometer journey from Mysuru to Madras and back in just two days. In 1984, he acquired his first motorcycle, a Yezdi Classic 250, igniting a lifelong love affair with motorcycles. From routine customer visits to technical support expeditions, Manjunath's riding adventures expanded across Karnataka.

His pleasure riding officially began in 2003 with the purchase of a Honda CBR 600 F4i, leading to exhilarating weekend adventures with the "Red Roosters" super bike group. As a Charter member of IFMR, he embarked on monthly and quarterly rides across long distances. With 56 years of riding, including 20 years of pleasure riding, Manjunath's journey continues, fueled by the joy of riding and the quest for new adventures on two wheels.





Tales from Nepal

Firstly let me be clear that, i am a motorcyclist 1st and a driver 2nd, the main purpose of this reconnaissance trip to Nepal with fellow ifmr Member Vinay was to strategically plan and help plan a motorcycling trip to Nepal in the near future.

Having announced that we are happy to help fellow members on the routes taken we set out on our trip which covered approx 10,000 kms on my 4x4 Suzuki Jimny, we covered around 500kms a day till we reached Pokhara, all the while discovering the hinterlands of India by visiting various historical places onroute like Nagpur, Jabbalpur, Prayagraj and Ayodhya, at only one place in Jabbalpur did i feel that one might need some connections in the Armed forces is to visit AOC (Army Ordinance Corp) museum, because due to us being only two people we were denied entry. We should be able to visit this without fail with proper planing and permissions next time when on our motorcycles and do justice to that place.

The international border crossing into nepal was full of learnings and we are happy to share with anyone interested in the same. The road to Shree Muthinath temple in Lowermustang is one of the most picturesque road

i have ever driven in in my life and i hope to ride on it soon too. While in Nepal we also had the opportunity to meet the DG of Rotary Nepal at his hotel. Thats it for now and I shall just let the pictures do the talking.



Club 100

Happy to report that Rtn Devesh Agarwal has entered the exclusive Club 100. A recognition instituted by Harley Davidson wherein a proud owner of Harley bike is added to the club membership on completion of 1 lac km riding. Amazing moment for IFMR, a founding and charter member getting this recognition. Sharing some of his ride pictures taken from all over India showrooms of Harley Davidson on touching base with them. He recently participated in the HOG Rally for Northern India, from Chandigarh to Jim Corbett, he was joined by his better half Anjali ji as a pillion on his HD bike. During this rare feat he had travelled to Umling la Pass in Ladakh, the highest motorable road in the world, above 19000 feet. Currently from 19th June 2024, he is on an International Bike tour organised by IFMR Romania, a first from IFMR India to join another Chapter Country ride. Awesome passion and determination Devesh ji. Proud of you.



