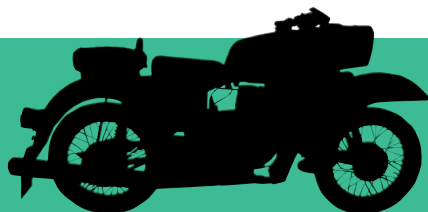




NEW PASSION FOR SUPERBIKES

With enthusiasts increasingly seeking that tantalising rush of adrenaline, passion for bikes and adventure is growing day-by-day. Know more about these superbikes and their riders...

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ARJUN MITRA BELIEVES THAT IT IS ALMOST SPIRITUAL TO GET ON TO HIS BIKE AND RIDE OFF INTO THE SUNSET. IF HE NEEDS TO CONNECT WITH HIMSELF, HE DOES A SOLO TRIP. WHILE ON THE ROAD, HE CONNECTS WITH NATURE AND HIS MACHINE.



that it is because this ride is like a meditation—pure concentration!”

Arjun Mitra or ‘Dai’ (means ‘big brother’ in Nepali) is one of the older riders and is quite comfortable being ‘big brother’ to the group of riders. He used to ride a Harley Davidson earlier and did a lot of solo trips around the country. Now, that he has a BMW GS 1200 all terrain bike, he thinks that it ‘understands Indian roads better’.

A DREAM COME TRUE

Sanjai R Pahujaa, 41, bought his first Super Bike, a Suzuki GSX R 600cc in 2009. It was a four cylinder bike and the first time when he revved the throttle of that machine, it was a feeling similar to ‘First

Capt Ravee (retd), 44, has just got back from a motor bike ride to Nawalgarh on the Rajasthan border, approximately 120 kms from Delhi. His friend ‘Dai’ Arjun Mitra, rode on his superbike while Capt Ravee’s 19-year-old son, Abhinav, rode pillion with his father on the BMW 1200 GS. They are tired but exhilarated!

Capt Ravee was just 21 when he first saw Tom Cruise riding a Ducati in Top Gun

When he spotted the Yamaha superbike at a showroom in Delhi in 2006, he realised that it was way beyond his reach. A few years later, in 2009, he bought the Suzuki Superbike, the Intruder and since then loved every ride on it.

According to him, “Riding a superbike is like riding a horse. The relationship between a man and his machine is the same as that between his horse and him. I have been a horse rider since childhood, but ever since I started riding this motorbike, my horses have taken a back seat. The greatest thing about riding a superbike is that even after riding for almost 10 hours at a stretch and covering 600 plus kms, you are not tired. And I do believe



Captain Ravee on his BMW 1200 GS

BIKE BLOG

Arvy says, “I strongly believe that bikers are the nomads of yesteryears, flamboyant like gypsies, who want to go their own way, to connect with nature and thus, unknowingly understand themselves. For me, biking is about going places and picking up the vibes of local surroundings and while experiencing these special moments, trying to work out the puzzle called ‘life’.”

A favourite quote: “Sometimes it takes a tankful of fuel before you can think straight!”



Left: Abhinav (L), Ravee (C), Arjun (R) - Morning Ride on DND
Below: Sanjai Pahuja - Suzuki Hayabusa



love’. In 1984, a few companies had launched the 100cc motorbikes in India. But then, the 11-year old Sanjai knew it was not his cup of tea—he wanted something more powerful. Sanjai recalls, “At the age of 20, I was the proud owner of 350cc Yamaha Double Induction—the look, the sound and the feel of that engine were awesome!”

Today, Sanjai is a proud owner of a Suzuki Hayabusa 1300 R and a Suzuki Intruder 1800 M109R Limited Edition. Whenever he is on the road, people start clicking pictures of his bike from their cars. Some of them encourage with gestures.

A RIDER AND A BLOGGER

YV Arvind, aka Arvy, 39, is a passionate biker and blogs soulfully about his passion.

The first time Arvy actually hopped onto a motorised 2-wheeler was on his Dad’s ‘Vijay Super (Mk-II)’, way back in 1985, when he was 11 years old. One day, Arvy pushed it in neutral and jumped onto it, putting it into 1st gear... and the scooter rattled off. The feeling was one of exhilaration! He had graduated...from the cycle to the motorcycle!

Arvy’s first bike was the ‘Bullet A350 Machismo’ in 2002, although

A BIKER’S BIKE



Capt Ravee feels, “Bike is a living being and all beings have spirit. She responds to my thoughts, take turns when I think and even stops as soon as I give a mental signal with very little of the physical action. She has a full fledged brain and I trust it completely since I know that I can make a mistake but it won’t.”



Arvind Reddy
- Harley
Davidson 883
R Sportster

Points to remember

Sanjai says, “I respect my bike, and when I am riding, I wear proper safety apparel and no stunts! I feel that my bike and I are one soul and we are facing each moment together---- whether enjoying the beautiful clean highways or the pain of traffic, the heat or the cold or rainy season. When we stop to eat, I prefer a good eatery which has a clean and safe parking place for my bike. I look out for gas stations which sell clean fuels, check tyre pressures and clean my bike also.”

he rode a ‘Hero Puch’ for almost 7 years, before that! “Superbikes didn’t exist in that time frame, in my ‘world’. I was very happy with my Machismo and still am, as I ride it to office everyday, 9 years on. It’s been my loyal work-horse and we have covered a lot of ground together (80,000 kms), since then! It has been an integral part of my career-growth. Talking about loyalty, it has stood by me in the coldest of Delhi’s winters (3-4 am) returning from relentless nights of work and during the hottest of summers, for almost 4 years while I was working on the Delhi Tube.”

Arvy’s weekday ride is the 500 Machismo – yes, he has upgraded the A350 and on the weekends, he rides the Harley Davidson 883 Roadster. Since Aug 2010, he has clocked around 7000+ kms on his weekly rides on the HD.

THE BOTTOM-LINE

The truth be told, these guys are actually living out their dreams. What I admire about these four young men is that none of them

are smokers or drinkers. They are health conscious and take their health regimes quite seriously—not an ounce of extra fat on them.

But above all, they have done their duties by their families. Except for Dai, all others are married and have kids, and their wives are quite okay with this passion in their husbands’ lives. Having said this, I have to quote what one young wife told me, “It is better my husband has an affair with a superbike than with another woman!” All these guys are like small boys with their new toys; they are happy with their passion. ■

