

### WOW RIDES SPICE ROUTE ODYSSEY

### **BIG BIKING COMMUNE**

Coverage Docket

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Mangaluru, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kochi, Kanyakumari, Madurai, Trichy and Puducherry before concluding in Chennai. "The motorcy-cling culture in India is on a rise. We

torcycle. "I was coming to India with my family. I rang Deepak and asked him if we could do a biking trip and that's how this happened," he said.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5** 

ment. But 10 years ago, a dear friend didn't turn up at work and when I learnt that he'd died on the bathroom floor that morning, it hit me hard. I realised life is now, not tomorrow when I retire. Four weeks later, I was on my motorcycle. Remember, there is never a time. You will always find an excuse to not to do something. So get out and just do it even if it doesn't feel like the right time," he said.

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Karolis added, "We used to wake up at sam every day and within 30 minutes, we would be on our bike, on the road. We got to taste different Indian food every day. We also stopped by to see ancient temples, churches and historical monuments. Every evening, we met many biking enthusiasts who asked us a lot of questions." In 2017 when Deenak was leading a

Ing etiminasias who asked us a lot of questions." In 2017, when Deepak was leading a team of three and passing by the Pamir Highway in Kyrgyzstan, he bumped into beclan and invited him to visit India. Since then, they have been in touch. "Whenever I travel abroad, I invite people to visit our incredible India," he beamed. His most recent adventure was riding across the American continents, covering 59,000km in 99 days, while leading a team of three. "Back in 1994, there was no Google maps. So, the mode of communication was the sign language as we didn't speak many of the regional languages. Travelling broadens your perspective towards life," he exclaimed. Declan, who has covered 80 countries

on his motorcycle, told us, "I rode from Ireland to Alaska through all the European and central Asian countries, including Siberia, Magnolia, Russia, Ushuaa, and then through Canada. US and Mexico. I plan to ride Cape Town and then to Ireland next year and this will complete may around the world four on one motorcycle. Last year I attempted to ride across the poles in Lake Baikal. Siberia. It was a solo ride, with a 700km stretch on ice. I attempted to break the Guinness, but I failed due to bureaucratic issues in importing the motorcycle into Russia. So, I cycled across the lake. In February, I'm hoping to bring a team of international riders and attempt the record again." While Declan admitted to enjoying the scenery while travelling across the southern beit of India, he said that hefaced his sets of challenges. Th used to riding on all kinds of roads. But what stumped me here was the huge volume of traffic and the style of driving it was chaotic. But after spending a week on these roads. I picked up the Indian diving style," he concluded with a laugh, even as Simas Suminskas (from Lithuania), who travelled with these bikers to document their journey, clicked them in a happy frame.



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The adventure It is not the thrill of riding that keeps these five well-known faces in the international motorcycling community going after years spent on the saddle. It is their way of life...



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drug really", he says – McEvoy v motorcycling east into Europe wanted to go further and further v and eventually nobody would co with me because it was too far, too many strange countries. I dec

biological mode tage, of the rest highway in Tajikistan, he bumped Deepak Kamath. One of the most ular, and recognisable, faces of th dian motorcycling community, math has not strayed from motorcycle saddle for the better of 30 years.

Hardcore adventurer A former NCC cadet, Kamath is nicl named Armstrong in the communit It is easy to imagine the name's origin (it could also be that he has stron arms, and can actually attempt t shake your hand off ing ine exporter quanties. Try being min the exporter quanties. Try being there more integrates in the world = to have ridden on all sevent continents, including Artarctica. In 1994, Komath and his friend took a 'yeal 250 on a try acound the globe, covering the globe of the globe of the globe processing of the globe of the globe processing of the globe of the globe integration of the globe of the globe integration of the globe integration of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the globe of the globe of the globe of the second of the globe of the gl

labbi in 1991, there was no road. We got lost, and the Army people helped is get back on track, 'he adds. But even for a road-worn motorcylist like himself. Kamaht remarks that he Spice Route Odyssey was a chaienge, "Especially, the stretch from Sochi to Nagercoll. These were small oads, and the trucks and buses literally run on you," he says.

fandeep Kaur Merwah, a Delhi-based otorcyclist who was part of the roup, echoes his views. Mandeep, nd Veena Shetty from Bengaluru, s

> However, the perception is char ing. "There are still people who gi the looks when they spot a wom ride." Mandeep adds, "P then there are also m who give you the thum up, when they spot y



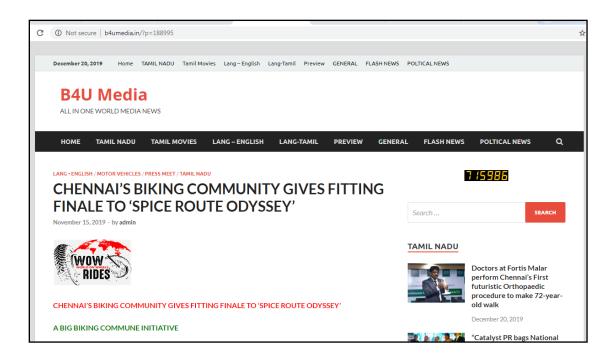
eing go. Both Mandeep and Veena have only braved the odds to be where they are

anti 48, says the restrictions placed on won men riding a motorycie bw what made here is the determined get on one. When Kamath – who is a family firstend – respectral states and the set of the set of the original states and the set of the set of the original states and the set of the set o

 Veena, who has been riding motorcycles for the last 19 years, was in college, when she convinced her father to buy her the two-stroke Yamaha a-RXI00. "I was a topper in my college," we she says. But when she broke her an ed kle attempting a wheelie, her dad responded by selling the bike.

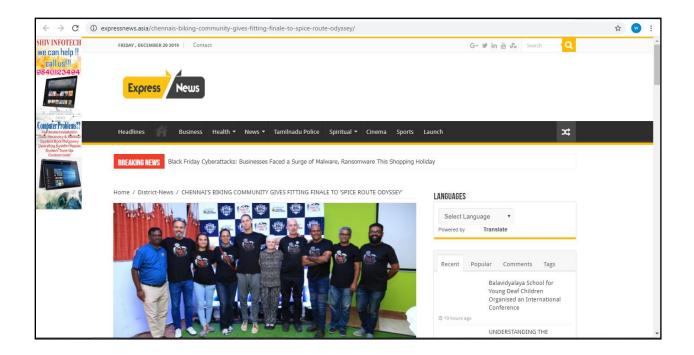
#### Online:B4U

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#### **Online:Express News Asia**

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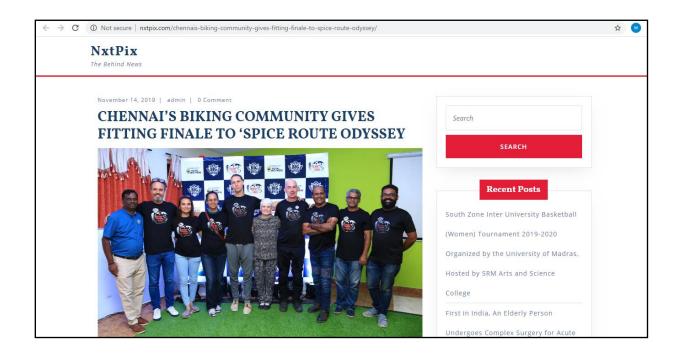
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**Link:** <u>http://slsonline.news/2019/11/14/chennais-biking-community-gives-fitting-finale-to-spice-route-odyssey/</u>



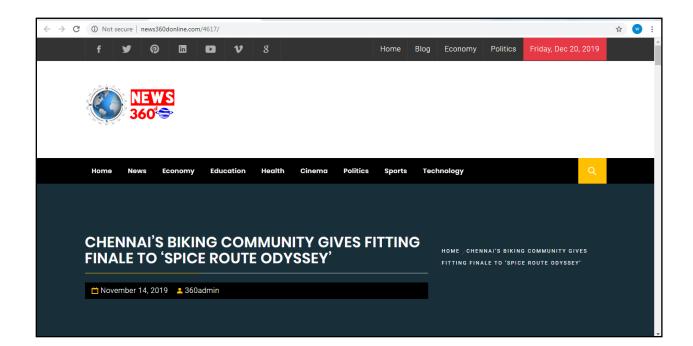
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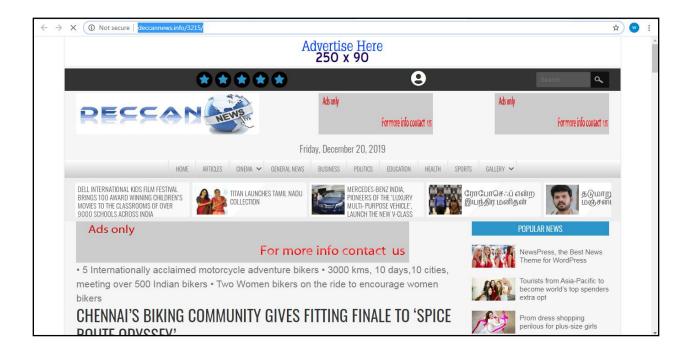
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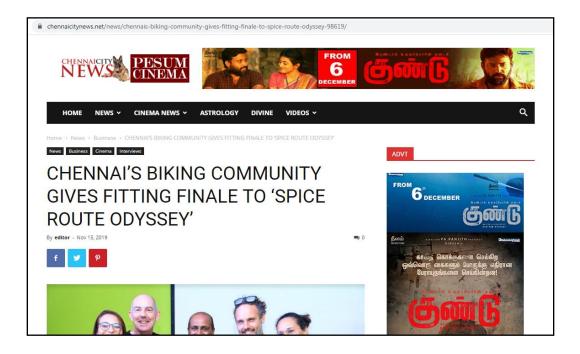
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