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Rain fails to dampen spirits of freedom riders in Gurgaon

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GURGAON: Anyone waking up in the morning would have thought that this was not a day to get on a bike. But try convincing a bunch of adventurous Sunday cyclists that.

Heavy monsoon rains threatened to leave 'Freedom Ride — 2015' the dampest of squibs but the participants turned up in their hundreds to make it a great success. Billed as India's biggest corporate cycling event, the 'Ride' was organised by The

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Atlanta Foundation, in association with The Raahgiri Foundation, Nagarro, ASF Insignia and India@75.

T L Satyaprakash, the Gurgaon deputy commissioner, who flagged off the event at 6.30 am as the rain bucketed down, was a happy man after completing the full circuit of 68km (teams of riders pedalled along a 4km route, the Raahgiri loop, and completed a total distance of 68 kilometres — marking the number of years of India's freedom).

And Satyaprakash wasn't at all surprised by the turnout. "When you run or ride, the rain doesn't matter. All along, the ride was fun and it was comfortable."

Over 1,000 riders, from more than 40 corporate organisations, took part in 'Freedom Ride — 2015'. There were bike-riding enthusiasts from (among others) Nagarro, ASF Insignia, Fidelity, Deloitte, Cyient, SBI and KPMG. Additionally, around 150 Raahgiri regulars came along for some fun in the rain.

Manas Fuloria, CEO of Nagarro, felt that all who joined in enjoyed themselves even more than they might have done otherwise. "Everyone went home thrilled. There was a lot of dancing and singing, and people were taking selfies," shared Fuloria. "And it was great that the DC was there, for it allowed him to see the potential of cycling in the city."