

Night ride to Hyderabad

September 23, 2003

Hero

Hi guys! I had been waiting long, for this day. The day I'd take my Royal Enfield Bullet for a long ride. It's been almost seven months now that I've got my 'Bull' with me, a shiny RE 500. Seven months has been a really long wait. My college was on strike, and the days were getting very boring. I wasn't sure when it would reopen again. It was Thursday night, when it struck me that its high time I went for a long ride on my Bull. This was my one chance and I just couldn't wait to set off for the highways.

But where was I to go?

Hyderabad! At only 480 odd km's from Nagpur, it was just the right kind of weekend ride for my Bull and me. That's it! I was decided and never gave a second thought to the destination I'd chosen. I couldn't wait till morning, so I planned to leave right away. It was 22.30 hrs. I came back to my place, and packed a pair of clothes, picked up some spares and tools, fixed rear view mirrors to my Bull and set off. Filling her up on my way, I was all set for the highways. It wasn't long before I'd left Nagpur behind.

It felt great to be on the highway all alone, without a soul in sight!

A good 200 km's from Nagpur, I took my first halt at a gas station to fill her up, grab some grub and check the air pressure. I was more than shocked after topping up gas; my RE 500 gave a mileage of 44 kmpl! Pretty good ugh?! I rode all night down stretches of marvellous highway. Like I said before it's such a great feeling to be hitting the highways at night when every other person would be snoring snug in bed, taking in the vast open spaces.

By dawn my legs and rear were paining bad, but my hands never wanted to let go off the throttle and brake for another halt. At around 08.00 hrs, I stopped at a roadside dhaba for a coke. Finishing my coke, I thought I'd just lie down for a while on one of the "khattia's" and promptly fell asleep! But I was up after about 30 minutes or so and I soon set off covering the last 100 km's to Hyderabad.

On reaching Secunderabad, I enquired about my cousin sister's residence. It took me sometime, but I finally found the place. She was very surprised to see me so early, because she never expected that I'd be riding overnight! After a long refreshing shower and a filling breakfast, I hit the sack, waking up only at 15.00 hrs! A wash later, I went looking around Hyderabad, searching for a Royal Enfield Authorised Service Point where I got all the nuts and bolts on my bike tightened. They asked me to come over the next day for a further check up.

After getting my Bull worked upon the next day, I planned to leave for Nagpur, early on Sunday morning. As usual I ended up sleeping on till late in the morning and woke up only at 07.30 hrs. I was all set to go back by 08.00 hrs, though. I bid my cousin sister and brother-in-law good-bye, and set off for Nagpur on my Bull. This time I was a little more confident with the route, and so I opened up the throttle to speeds in 3 digits.

Since I was travelling in the daytime, I could enjoy the scenic beauty around. Before long, my Bull's speedometer read 130+ kmph. With my feet placed firmly but lightly on the leg guard, I felt totally relaxed cruising at these speeds. There was hardly any traffic on the road and it took me only about eight hours to ride back to Nagpur.

That was a good ride and it ended well. It was quite an experience and I loved every moment of it. The only thing I missed out on this trip was a short detour to Vikarabad with the "Wanderers". I just couldn't make it since I was held up at the Royal Enfield service point. There's one thing I'm sure of. It won't be long before I hit the highways again, and I won't rest till I've thumped all around this marvellous country.