



Event 216/2025-26*

Event Name: 2025-26 - 30th Aug, Saturday Ride Report Coimbatore Installation Overnight Ride

And it was a beautiful Saturday morning. We reached the start point at Yelchenanhalli metro station at 6:45. After the briefing and prayers by Sanjay Nittor, the first group led by Ajit, JP, S Raju, Sanjay, and myself.



The second group was led by Rajesh,
Mandar, Manjunath Sir, Arun, Shashidhar,
Prashanth Babu, and . We cruised along
and made it to the breakfast point in
Kanakpur at Pakashala for a sumptuous
early morning breakfast. We were joined by
our last rider Mohan in group 1.



We headed towards Kotagiri, the ride to Chamarajanagar was scenic, with lots of banana plantations and lush green paddy fields nestled amidst hillocks. It welcomed us with glee, and delight. We joined the Bangalore-ooty highway near Gundulpet and made our way towards Bandipur forest. Shortly after entering Bandipur, we were welcomed by a large herd of Gajanana. And by the time we could heave a breath of awe we spotted another herd. A little further ahead, on the left, and as if this was not sufficient, we saw the third and the fourth herd. As we cruised I saw a cute little baby elephant, immersing its entire trunk and head into a bush. I counted 18 and a half elephants.



With absolute glee and gratitude, our eyes caught lord Murugan's chauffeurs in all their purple glory, perched on a branch. Blessed!



By the time we could take all this in, we were welcomed by the spotted deers on the left and the right, and the left and the right.









As thought these abundant sightings were not sufficient, a beautiful leopard chose to cross the road just in front of Mandar.



This brief encounter was witnessed by 3 other bikers. And just like that we left the borders of Karnataka and entered the Madhu malai range of Tamil Nadu.



We rode through the forest, we had sightings of Varahas, a little family consisting of three small babies. And just like that it was time for us to stop for a well deserved butt break and lunch.





Then started the 37 hairpin bend climb to Ooty, and each one of us completely focused on navigating the curves as we took in the beautiful landscapes, all along the path.



Lush green tea gardens welcomed us and the aroma of neelgiri, unique and breathtaking, guided our way to Kotegiri.









We all made it in time and checked into Aaarasan Residency at 4pm.



Some of us freshened up and stepped out to grab a quick chai, and we were blessed to witness a 2km long Ganapathi visarjan trail.





With light drizzle, we all headed towards Marsh Cottage for the evening IFMR Coimbatore subchapter installation.





The setting itself was in a valley, neighboured by lush green tea gardens. This flat piece of lawn was nestled in the backdrop of the setting sun, filling the sky with hues of orange and gray.













The installation ceremony had friends from Thanjavur subchapter participate. Among the dignitaries were IFMR international secretary Rtn. Prashanth Babu, riders from IFMR India chapter and Thanjavur subchapter, riders and Charter chairman of the Coimbatore subchapter, Rtn. Friedrich, chairman.



The Chairman Rtn. Mahesh Prasana welcomed All and invited the incoming

chairman 25-26, Rtn. PDRR Kartikeyan, delivered his acceptance speech.



In his speech, Kartikeyan expressed his warmth in welcoming the secretary for the year 25-26, the vibrant Rtn. Indhar Manivannan. Kartikeyan shared his plan for the year, and significant among that, was his aim to recruit more vibrant members to the subchapter and to begin a disciplined fortnightly, Sunday breakfast rides to explore in and around Coimbatore. He also mentioned that the Coimbatore subchapter members look forward to joining rides conducted by India subchapter with members from Thanjavur subchapter and Coimbatore subchapter having already registered for the K2K rally.



He then invited IFMR India chapter secretary to deliver the keynote speech. Naveen in his speech, acknowledged the presence of the riders from the Thanjavur







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subchapter, Coimbatore subchapter, and India subchapter. He paid tribute to our charter president Late Rtn. Dr. Pruthvi Rawal, and reminded all riders the tenants of riding espoused by Rtn. Pruthvi Rawal, which was, safety first, discipline while riding, and timelines. He concluded by congratulating the incoming team and wished the Coimbatore subchapter a safe and adventurous year ahead.



Rtn. Kartikayan invited IFMR International secretary, Rtn. Prashanth Babu addressed the gathering in his speech Rtn. Prashanth congratulated the incoming team and wished them well and shared the focus on safe riding and the support IFMR renders riders in 53 countries it is present in. He talked about a rider from India who has been hosted by IFMR in all the places he is enroute in Europe. He said similar such support would be extended to all adventurous ones who dare these rides.









With a great sense of joy and camaraderie Rtn. Inder in his very own swag rendered the vote of thanks. The evening that followed created memories of fellowship singing by Rotarians Inder, Bharani and Mohan, the food along with supplements were in abundance to make the chilly night warm and cozy.







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We bid our farewells and headed back for rest in preparation for our ride the next day back to Bangalore.

Having participated in the installation Rtn. Prashanth Babu, Rtn. Rajesh AR and Rtn. Ajit Ram had to be in Bangalore the next morning, they adventured a night ride back to Bangalore and enroute lord Nandi blessed the three riders safe travels and rightfully so they all reached in time.



Recounting the bison sighting Rtn. Ajit expressed in awe its grandeur, girth and its casual relaxed nature under the star studded night - An experience to behold!





The next day the rest of us had breakfast in Hotel Annapurna Lakshmi and we began our journey with prayers, and this time with nine riders in one group, led by Rtn. Mandar.



We navigated the hair pin bends all the way down towards Mettupalayam and again a beautiful hair pin laddened ride up to Sathyamangala range. A first in my life stopped for a group of gleeful deer crossing as the smallest one hopped safely across to the greener side.

We all headed towards a much relief break our butts desired at the foothills of Sathyamangala range. We entered the Karnataka border along the way and saw an Army truck envoy and our salutes were returned by soldiers with a smile that flashed from across the windshield. We made quick time and our growling tummies



brought our ride to a halt at the outskirts of Kanakapura for lunch.

It is here that Rtn. Mandar chose to head back home for his much required presence. The rest of us, led by Rtn. Raju, fueled by some good biriyani, led us to Bangalore in possibly the least amount of time in the last leg of the journey. All thrilled bikes included, we assembled at the Nice road junction.



As we thought the ride ended, we were stopped by an exuberant car that tracked us all the way from Kanakpura for a photo opp. Among them was an enthusiastic thirteen year old Kanchan, who wants to be a biker.

Feeling like celebrities, and adventurers, who rode through two forest ranges, more than a hundred hair pin bends, saw elephants, peacocks, a leopard, boars, deers and bisons, with the most satisfaction we all reached our homes, with each one of us on an average clocking 625+ kms in less than 36hrs.