

Volkswagen Jetta 2.0 TDI

Year of Manufacture: 2011
Odometer: 3689km
Distance this month: 979km
Service cost this month: nil
Fuel Efficiency: 14.12kpl
Happiness Index: 😊😊

We recently took the Jetta on a road trip and were richly rewarded. After loading up the Jetta, which has quite a spacious boot we left Mumbai and joined NH 17, the coastal highway. This road is sandwiched between the Arabian Sea and Western Ghats and constantly twists and turns. After we passed the Karnala Bird Sanctuary the countryside became lush green and on crossing Mahad we came to Parshuram Ghat and really enjoyed taming the sharp mountain curves. The Jetta was in its element and up to the challenge of getting around the turns smartly. The steering response and feel, the grip and handling and responsive



engine along with the precise and pleasing gear shifter, made this a really fun drive.

And just as appealing as the drive was the destination – the small town of Chiplun. It has

become an ideal getaway because of the excellent Quality Resort, 'The Riverview' (www.chiplunhotels.com). This resort is scenically situated amongst gently rolling green hills, overlooking the lazily

meandering Vashisti River and its rooms are charmingly comfortable, and equipped with most amenities. The friendly service and excellent food also help make the Riverview a great holiday destination.

Tata Indigo eCS VX

Year of Manufacture: 2011
Odometer: 734km
Distance this month: 241km
Service cost this month: nil
Fuel Efficiency: estd. 15.09kpl
Happiness Index: 😊😊

It's been a while since we have driven a Tata vehicle on such a

regular basis and as we live with it, we learn more about it. For example we now know that when you first start it up in the morning the drive belt slips on the pulley and makes a sharp shrieking sound that goes away after a minute or so. Interestingly we had noticed this problem on the Tata Indica when it was first launched in 1998. And some thirteen years later we

find that the same problem also plagues the Indigo! Wonder why Tata have not sorted this out. It has to be a fairly simple problem like faulty belt material, or some design issue with the pulley or its tensioner or bracket.

They might also be well advised to look at the NVH and overall refinement levels and also things like the audio system's volume

control. Even with the volume knob at its lowest level the volume is way too high and if you turn the knob lower the sound simply switches off. This means you either have your music playing louder than you want, or you don't have it at all. Again we wonder if this is somehow related to the overall NVH of the Indigo. Is the volume setting deliberately on the higher side to drown and conceal the otherwise higher than desired mechanical sounds.? Worth a thought, eh?

