



### **Joaquim Rodrigues holds steady, C.S. Santosh makes impressive gains**

**Tupiza, Bolivia, January 5, 2017:** After yesterday's mixed fortunes for the team, there was no let up for the riders in the 416-km fourth competitive stage of the 2017 Dakar Rally that ran from San Salvador Jujuy to Tupiza in Bolivia. The first part of the special, with a mix of very soft sand and a deep layer of fine dust, made riding a challenge of skill and mental fortitude.

But despite the hard riding conditions, made even tougher by the altitude, both Hero MotoSports Team Rally riders, Joaquim Rodrigues and C.S. Santosh showed ample amount of grit and skills to improve upon their overnight positions.



Rodrigues also displayed exemplary sportsmanship when he stopped twice to call in the medical evacuation helicopter to the rescue of two crashed riders on the stage. Though, it affected his rhythm, still the Portuguese rider completed the stage with a time of 5 hour 37 minute 48 seconds that put him in 27<sup>th</sup> place for the day and 18<sup>th</sup> in the provisional overall general classification.

*“Today’s stage was complicated beginning with a sand section with dunes. I had a hard time passing the section because the sand was very soft. So, I struggled, got stuck and lost a lot of time in there. Then when I got on my way again, unfortunately I had to stop twice because of two accidents right in front of me, and I had to call the helicopter. I am happy to arrive at the finish injury free and I am ready for tomorrow,”* said Rodrigues at the finish of the special stage.

After a forgettable third stage, Santosh had his task cut out. The one hour time penalty for missing a waypoint had put him way back down the starting order. It meant that he had to fight his way ahead through the blinding dust kicked up by the riders ahead of him. The extremely soft sandy sections in the first part of the special didn’t make things any easier for him. Learning from his yesterday’s experience he held his ride together with patience and persistence. Santosh completed the timed special in 6 hour 41 minute 43 seconds that put him in 71<sup>st</sup> place, which is a recovery of 33 places over his starting position of 104.

*“In the first bit there was a lot of navigation and dunes. And as I came up to this point, it was incredibly hard. I also got lost, and it took a while to find the track but I made sure that I collected all the waypoints today, unlike yesterday. I also crashed a few times, and it took a lot of effort to pick up the bike because I was going out of breath at this height. After that once I was on the piste, it was really nice and fast and flowing. The kind of track that I like. I am happy with my ride today and hope to continue with the good job tomorrow,”* said Santosh.

The fifth stage from Tupiza to Oruro will take the participants on a run of 692 km, out of which the timed section of 447 km will test the riders with a wide variety of terrain and more than a handful of navigational challenges.

#### **Provisional Stage 4 General Classification**

1 Matthias Walkner	Red Bull KTM Factory Rally	KTM	4:57:22
2. Joan Barreda Brot	Monster Energy Honda Team	Honda	4:59:24
2. Michael Metge	Monster Energy Honda Team	Honda	5:00:40
<b>27. Joaquim Rodrigues</b>	<b>Hero Motosports Team Rally</b>	<b>Hero Speedbrain</b>	<b>5:37:48</b>
<b>71. C.S. Santosh</b>	<b>Hero Motosports Team Rally</b>	<b>Hero Speedbrain</b>	<b>6:41:43</b>

#### **Provisional Overall General Classification**

1 Joan Barreda Brot	Monster Energy Honda Team	Honda	12:35:43
2. Pablo Quintanilla	Husqvarna Factory Rally	Husqvarna	12:54:02
3. Matthias Walkner	Red Bull KTM Factory Rally	KTM	12:56:01
<b>18. Joaquim Rodrigues</b>	<b>Hero Motosports Team Rally</b>	<b>Hero Speedbrain</b>	<b>13:58:55</b>
<b>81. C.S. Santosh</b>	<b>Hero Motosports Team Rally</b>	<b>Hero Speedbrain</b>	<b>17:41:20</b>

---

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.heromotosports.com](http://www.heromotosports.com)

FB: /HeroMotoSports

Twitter: @Hero\_MotoSports

**Press contact Hero MotoSports Team Rally**

e-Mail: [motosports@heromotosports.com](mailto:motosports@heromotosports.com)

**Download for media use:**

<http://www.heromotosports.com/media-kit/>

