



MRF MMSC fmsci Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 **Round-1**

MEDIA RELEASE

- ***Chetan Surineni, Abhay Mohan top in MRF Formula race***
- ***Biren Pithawalla, Diana Pundole triumph***
- ***Viswas Vijayaraj takes pole position in Formula LGB 1300***

Chennai, February 17: Bengaluru teenagers, Chetan Surineni and Abhay Mohan emerged triumphant in the MRF Formula 2000 and MRF Formula 1600 races, respectively, to enjoy a winning start to their campaigns in the MRF MMSC fmsci Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 which commenced at the Madras International Circuit, here on Saturday.

Earlier, Mumbai's Biren Pithawalla (N1 Racing) pulled off a fine win in the premium Indian Touring Cars class while Performance Racing's Hatim Shabbir Jamnagarwalla from Chennai took the honours in the Indian Junior Touring Cars segment and Chandigarh's Angad Matharoo (Buzzing Hornet Motorsport) topped the Super Stock category.

Late in the evening, Pune's Diana Pundole won the MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) race with ease in a race interrupted by a safety car period following a three-car collision.

Meanwhile, Nellore's Viswas Vijayaraj and Arya Singh from Kolkata took the front row in that order for their team, DTS Racing, after a start-stop-start qualifying session interrupted by a red flag due an on-track incident.

The eight-lap race in the MRF Formula category witnessed some fine action. Pole-sitter 17-year-old Jaden Rahaman Pariat from Shillong looked poised to win in the F2000 class going into the last lap when disaster struck. "There was some issue with my car and I had to switch off and switch on eight times in the last lap. Luckily, I had sufficient lead and managed to finish second," said a disappointed Jaden after he gifted the win to Surineni, 17, who was trailing throughout the race. Another Bengalean, Tarun Muthaiah finished third.

In contrast, 15-year-old Abhay Mohan comfortably won in the Formula 1600 class ahead of the Mumbai pair of Zahan Commissariat and Raaj Bakhru who was docked a 20-second penalty for a jump start.

Biren, starting from pole, was off to a good start and held off Ritesh Rai (Arka Motorsport) with cousin Ananth Pithawalla (N1 Racing) running third. The position remained unchanged until the latter half of the eight-lap race when Ananth squeezed past Rai at Turn-3 with a contact between the two, and moved into P2 behind his cousin Biren. In the penultimate lap, Ananth retired when the left front tyre, that was on a slow puncture, burst, and Rai regained the second spot. By then, Biren had pulled off sufficient lead to win handily, followed by Rai and Deepak Ravikumar (Performance Racing), making his debut in this class.

The results (Provisional, all 8 laps unless mentioned):

MRF Formula 2000 (Race-1): 1. Chetan Surineni (Bengaluru) (12:49.401); 2. Jaden Rahman Pariat (Shillong) (13:20.579); 3. Tarun Muthaiah (Bengaluru) (13:58.255).

MRF Formula 1600 (Race-1): 1. Abhay Mohan (Bengaluru) (13:49.827); 2. Zahan Commissariat (Mumbai) (14:00.386); 3. Raaj Bakhru (Mumbai) (14:23.370).

Indian Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Biren Pithawala (Mumbai, Team N1) (15:21.359); 2. Ritesh Rai (Chennai, Arka Motorsports) (15:22.782); 3. Deepak Ravikumar (Chennai, Performance Racing) (15:34.211).

Indian Junior Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Hatim Shabbir Jamnagarwala (Chennai, Performance Racing) (15:35.231); 2. Srinivas Teja (Chennai, Performance Racing) (15:41.732); 3. Nikunj Vagh (Mumbai, Team N1 Racing) (15:53.915).

Super Stock (Race-1): 1. Angad Matharoo (Chandigarh, Buzzing Hornet Motorsports) (16:48.478); 2. Balaprasath (Coimbatore, DTS Racing) (16:52.781); 3. Anirudha Arvind (Chennai, Redline Racing India) (16:54.402).

MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) Race-1: 1. Diana Pundole (Pune) (18:10.588); 2. Anirudha Arvind (Chennai) (18:15.446); 3. Jai Prashanth (Coimbatore) (18:15.850).

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- ***Abhay Mohan bags Triple Crown; Jaden Rahman wins twice***
- ***Biren Pithawalla, Angad Matharoo, Diana Pundole complete double***
- ***Podium sweep by DTS Racing in Formula LGB 1300 category***

Chennai, February 18: Bengaluru's Abhay Mohan, the youngest competitor at 15 years of age, in the MRF Formula 1600 category, swept to a triple crown while another teenager, Jaden Rahman Pariat from Shillong notched a double in the MRF Formula 2000 class as the first round of the MRF MMSC fmsci Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 concluded at the Madras International Circuit here on Sunday.

Mumbai's Biren Pithawalla (Team N1 Racing) crowned himself with a grand double in the Indian Touring Cars category as did Angad Matharoo (Buzzing Hornet Motorsport) from Chandigarh in the Super Stock class.

Also notching a double was Pune's Diana Pundole, a mother of two, in the MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) category besides one P3 finish, while DTS Racing dominated the Formula LGB 1300 triple-header, with a podium sweep as Nellore's Viswas Vijayaraj won two races and team-mate Arya Singh, the other with Balaprasath finishing third in all three outings.

Jaden, the 17-year-old from Shillong, displayed impressive pace to win both the races today in the MRF F2000 category to make up for his P2 finish yesterday when he surrendered a massive lead in the last lap due to engine issues. Bengaluru's Chetan Surineni, the Race-1 winner yesterday, came in second in both the outings today.

Reviewing his performance this weekend, Jaden said: "I did some preparation by watching my onboard videos from my December race. I realised there was plenty in the car. It was a question of putting things together which I did this weekend. I feel, there is still a lot I can extract from this car. Of course, my stint in British Formula 4 helped, but the F2000 is far quicker and I felt very comfortable this weekend."

Abhay Mohan, as in the first race yesterday, was in a league of his own in both the outings today to complete a triple crown and underline his talent and potential. "My only target for this round was to be on top which I did. The car too was pretty good and so were the MRF tyres. My preparation was to get fit and learn from my Formula LGB 1300 outing last season. Yes, I feel good to have won all three races this weekend," said Abhay.

Biren, having won a close Race-1 on Saturday, started P4 on the reverse grid in today's 10-lap Race-2, but in the very first lap, seized the lead, hotly pursued by Ritesh Rai (Arka Motorsport) and, cousin and team-mate Ananth Pithawalla.

The trio quickly distanced themselves from the pack before both Rai and Ananth packed up with punctures. Rai rejoined after a visit to the pit, but it was too late. Ananth suffered yet another tyre-burst to finish the weekend without points. Meanwhile, Biren was in cruise mode and comfortably won the race ahead of pole-sitter Pratik Sonawane (Buzzing Hornet

Motorsport) and Deepak Ravikumar (Team Performance Racing).

Down the combined grid, Srinivas Teja (Team Performance Racing) edged out Race-1 winner and team-mate Hatim Shabbir Jamnagarwala in the Indian Junior Touring Cars class, while Matharoo fought his way to his second win of the weekend with a late burst in the Super Stock category.

The results (Provisional):

MRF Formula 2000 (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Jaden Rahman Pariat (Shillong) (15mins, 44.717secs); 2. Chetan Surineni (Bengaluru) (16:02.706). Tarun Muthaiah (Bengaluru) who finished third was disqualified for a black flag violation. Race-3 (8 laps): 1. Jaden Rahman Pariat (12:35.788); 2. Chetan Surineni (12:50.154); 3. Tarun Muthaiah (13:31.154).

MRF Formula 1600 (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Abhay Mohan (Bengaluru) (17:14.365); 2. Zahan Commissariat (Mumbai) (17:26.618); 3. Monith Kumaran (Chennai) (15:47.911+1 lap). Race-3 (8 laps): 1. Abhay Mohan (13:51.711); 2. Zahan Commissariat (14:00.143); 3. Raaj Bakhru (Mumbai) (14:03.179).

Indian Touring Cars (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Biren Pithawala (Mumbai, Team N1 Racing) (19:14.983); 2. Pratik Sonawane (Pune, Buzzing Hornet Motorsport) (19:35.983); 3. Deepak Ravikumar (Chennai, Performance Racing) (19:36.365).

Indian Junior Touring Cars (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Srinivas Teja ((Chennai, Performance Racing) (19:43.845); 2. Hatim Shabbir Jamnagarwala (Chennai, Performance Racing) (19:44.608); 3. Yug Italiya (Mumbai, Team N1 Racing) (19:54.746).

Super Stock (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Angad Matharoo (Chandigarh, Buzzing Hornet MS) (21:03.892); 2. Manan Patel (Mumbai, Redline Racing) (21:04.737); 3. Anirudha Arvind (Chennai, Redline Racing India) (21:13.128).

MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Anirudha Arvind (Chennai, Redline Racing) (20:47.868); 2. Jai Prashanth Venkat (Coimbatore, Redline Racing) (20:54.145); 3. Diana Pundole (Pune, Redline Racing) (20:54.735). Race-3 (8 laps): 1. Diana Pundole (16:31.795); 2. Anirudha Arvind (16:33.562); 3. Kesara Godage (Sri Lanka, Redline Racing) (16:43.645);

Formula LGB 1300 (Race-1, 8 laps): 1. Viswas Vijayaraj (Nellore, DTS Racing) (14:57.600); 2. Arya Singh (Kolkata, DTS Racing) (15:00.136); 3. Balaprasath (Coimbatore, DTS Racing) (15:14.379). Race-2 (8 laps): 1. Arya Singh (15:07.040); 2. Viswas Vijayaraj (15:11.098); 3. Balaprasath (15:15.423). Race-3 (8 laps): 1. Viswas Vijayaraj (14:56.286); 2. Arya Singh (15:01.417); 3. Balaprasath (15:06.693).

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MEDIA RELEASE

- ***Stage set for National 4W Racing Championship 2024***
- ***50 drivers in fray for Round 1 at the MIC***

Chennai, February 16: The 2024 season of the MRF MMSC fmsci Indian National Car Racing Championship kicks off this weekend with the Madras International Circuit hosting the first round on February 17 and 18.

With 50 entries spread across five categories – the MRF Formula 2000, MRF Formula 1600, Formula LGB 1300, the Touring Cars and MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) – the card of 11 races is expected to dish out exciting wheel-to-wheel competition as in the seasons gone by.

The ever popular Touring Cars category comprises three classes – the premium Indian Touring Cars (ITC), Indian Junior Touring Cars (IJTC) and the Super Stock – that will be run from a combined grid.

The MRF Formula 2000 headlines the weekend card along with the MRF Formula 1600, and will have three races that also will be run from a combined grid. Bengaluru's 20-year-old Chetan Surineni, winner of the F1600 title last season, has moved up to the F2000 for the 2024 championship with the promising teenager from Shillong, Jaden Rahman Pariat for company.

The MRF F1600 grid has another Bengalurean, Abhaykumar M, the youngest driver in the category at 15, and his performance will be closely watched.

The ITC field is brimming with experience. Chennai's Ritesh Rai (Arka Motorsports) along with Mumbai's Biren Pithawalla (Team N1 Racing) who finished second and third, respectively, in the 2023 championship, are expected to be strong title contenders. One of the new faces in this category is Chennai's Deepak Ravikumar, the 2023 IJTC champion, who is spearheading the Team Performance Racing's challenge.

The Formula LGB 1300 grid is a mix of youth and experience, and as in the past, extremely competitive.

The MRF Saloons category boasts of a clutch of female drivers headed by the experienced Diana Pundole, a mother of two from Pune, and the talented teenager from Delhi, Muskaan Jubbal besides Chikkamagaluru's Tarushi Vikram and Rekha Murugappa (Chennai).

The field also includes two Sri Lankan drivers, Kalim Iqbal and Adeesha Kasun Kithwith besides last year's championship runner-up Jaiprashanth Venkat from Coimbatore.

MMSC president Ajit Thomas, looking ahead to the new season, said: "As promoters, the MMSC welcomes all the competitors, teams and the Media to the 2024 season

which we look forward to with heightened expectations of unearthing new talent. Our long-time sponsors, MRF Tyres, continue their association with us for which we are thankful.”

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