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# Sethu crowned champion

BENGALURU, DHNS

Though he was denied a ninth-straight win, Rajiv Sethu, the 25-year-old from Chennai, crowned himself champion in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category on debut as the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSI fmsci Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship concluded at the Madras International Circuit in Chennai on Sunday.

Also clinching the National titles were Hyderabad's Vignesh Goud of Race'ists Motorcycle Club (Novice - Stock 165cc) and Puducherry's Lani Zena Fernandez of RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate (Girls - Stock 165cc). The championship standings in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open category were not declared pending settlement of a disputed result in Round 4.

Even as Sethu, nursing an injured left shoulder, delivered a third-straight rider championship to his team, RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate, in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category, it was young Sarthak Chavan, the 16-year-old from Pune from the Petronas TVS Racing stable who scripted a stirring win after starting from P17.

He passed a flagging Sethu on the last lap for the biggest victory of his blossoming National championship career.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru's Savion Sabu gave a rousing



Rajiv Sethu strikes a pose after claiming the championship in the premier Pro-stock Open category.

finish to his season by achieving a double in the Novice (Stock 165cc) race, but his winning burst did not stop Vignesh Goud from clinching the championship in this category.

**Provisional results (all 8 laps unless mentioned): National Championship - Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-2):** 1. Sarthak Chavan (Pune, Petronas TVS Racing) (14mins, 59.041sec); 2. Rahul Pillarsetty (Hyderabad, KTM Gusto Racing) (14:59.566); 3. Rajiv Sethu (Chennai, RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) (14:59.656).

**Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race-2, 5 laps):** 1. Rajiv Sethu (Chennai, RACR Castrol Power 1 Ultimate) (09:55.075); 2. Sarthak Chavan (Pune, Petronas TVS Racing) (09:56.286); 3. Chiranth Vishwanath (Bengaluru, Petronas TVS Racing) (09:57.533). Rider champion: Not declared pending enquiry. Team champions: Not declared pending enquiry.

**Novice (Stock 165cc, Race-2, 6 laps):** 1. Savion Sabu (Bengaluru, Axor Sparks Racing) (12:56.237); 2. Kaushik Subblah Ganesan (Chennai,

AS Motorsports) (12:56.400); 3. Aadit Shah (Madodara, Axor Sparks Racing) (12:56.667).

**Girls (Stock 165cc) 3 laps:** 1. Lani Zena Fernandez (Puducherry, RACR Castrol Power1 Ultimate) (06:40.083); 2. Nadine Faith Baijal (Chennai, Alpha Racing) (06:54.558); 3. Adlin Seles (Chennai, Alpha Racing) (07:00.642).

**Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup - NSF 250R Open (Race-2):** 1. Kavin Quintal (Chennai) (15:09.312); 2. Johann Reeves Emmanuel (Chennai) (15:14.912); 3. Mohsin P (Mallapuram) (15:14.974).

**Petronas TVS One-Make Championship: Open (301-400cc, RR 310) Race-2 (6 laps):** 1. Chiranth Vishwanath (Bengaluru) (11:39.641); 2. Romario John (Chennai) (11:40.117); 3. G Baijal (Chennai) (11:40.157).

**Media (Apache RTR) Race-1 (5 laps):** 1. Joel Kolathoor Raju (Thane) (11:19.208); 2. Aishin K Thomas (Pune) (11:19.312); 3. Ananya Awasthi (Pune) (11:19.646). Race-2 (5 laps): 1. Aishin K Thomas (Pune) (11:15.520); 2. Joel Kolathoor Raju (Thane) (11:15.642); 3. Punya Prashun Sharma (11:21.399).