

Gaurav Gill (Driver) and Musa Sherif (Co-Driver) of Team Mahindra Adventure masters the tarmac stages of Nashik to win the MRF Rally of Maharashtra – Round 2 of the MRF FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship 2016

Nashik, 28th August '16: Gaurav Gill and Musa Sherif of Team Mahindra Adventure stormed to victory at Round 2 of the MRF FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) - the MRF Rally of Maharashtra while Abhilash PG and Srikanth Gowda bagged top honors in the MRF FMSCI Indian Rally Championship (IRC). At the glittering podium ceremony followed by champagne shower held here in Nashik, the winners were awarded the trophies by honorable Madhav Nene, Senior General Manager, Marketing, Mahindra and Mahindra and Mr Bijoy Kumar, Chief of Mahindra Adventure, along with a prize money of Rs 50,000/-, in the presence of Mr. Arindam Ghosh, Director, Ramakrishna Race Performance Management (RRPM) – the promoters of the 2016 MRF FMSCI INRC and IRC.



Gaurav Gill (Driver) and Musa Sherif (Co-Driver) of Team Mahindra Adventure masters the tarmac stages of Nashik to win the MRF Rally of Maharashtra

MRF Rally of Maharashtra being the only tarmac event in INRC and IRC 2016 was indeed a super-fast event, which was made all the more challenging by the rain god. The slippery roads made Dean Mascarenhas and Ahmer topple their cars while Sameer Thapar slid off the road and got his car stuck in a mud bank. The slippery tracks did not even let Bopaiah K.M finish the rally as the lower arm of his car broke. On the other hand in spite of losing a lot of time due to 3 punctures in stage 1, 3 and 4, Amitrajit Ghosh of Team Mahindra Adventure managed to bag the 3rd position in INRC.

The team of Gaurav Gill and Musa Sherif won the rally with an overall time of 52 minutes 08 seconds followed by Arjun Rao and Satish Rajagopal as the first runners-up (53:12) and Amitrajit Ghosh and Ashwin Naik, also from Team Mahindra Adventure as the second runners-up (53:59) at the exhilarating MRF Rally of Maharashtra which was organized by the Western India Sports Association. Bikku Babu and George Milen won the INRC 2000cc category with a time of 54:33, while K J Jacob and Manoj Mohanan won the FMSCI Cup.

Abhilash PG and Srikanth Gowda, entered in the **MRF FMSCI Indian Rally Championship (IRC)** won their category with a time of 55:20 which ran **concurrently** with the **INRC**. Indian drivers in Indian cars were eligible for the **INRC** while Indian or Foreign drivers in Indian or Foreign cars were eligible for the **IRC**.

It must be noted that the **INRC** and **IRC** are two **separate championships** and their results are **not clubbed** together or **compared** as they run distinctively different vehicles, most importantly, the **INRC** is for **two wheel drive Indian** vehicles only while the **four wheel drive foreign** vehicles are allowed in the **IRC**.

The prizes for the different categories are as follows:

| Position | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| INRC Overall | Gaurav Gill and Musa Sherif Team Mahindra Adventure Rs 50,000/- + Trophies | Arjun Rao and Satish Rajagopal Rs 30,000/- + Trophies | Amittrajit Ghosh and Ashwin Naik Rs 20,000/- + Trophies |
| IRC | Abhilash PG and Srikanth Gowda Rs 50,000/- + Trophies | Suraj Kute and Shamim Khan Rs 30,000/- + Trophies | Amol Satoskar and S Dinesh Rs 20,000/- + Trophies |
| INRC 2000 cc | Bikku Babu and Milen George Rs 50,000/- + Trophies | Karna Kadur and Nikhil Pai Rs 30,000/- + Trophies | Younus Ilyas and Suraj Prasad Rs 20,000/- + Trophies |
| FMSCI Cup | K J Jacob and Manoj Mohanan Rs 40,000/- + Trophies | Yashas Nayaka M and Uday Kumar D Rs 30,000/- + Trophies | Ganapathi Michu and Ramesh Kumar Venu Rs 20,000/- + Trophies |

The **MRF Rally of Maharashtra**, which is the 2nd round of the **MRF FMSCI INRC** and **IRC** 2016 season, zipped through the 6 stages covering about 75 kms. of tarmac roads around Bhandardara on the outskirts of Nashik. **32** teams from all over the country competed in this super exciting rally.

Mr. Arindam Ghosh, Director, RRPM said, "I want to thank **MRF Tyres, Mahindra Adventure, Polaris** and **Pincon** for sponsoring the 2016 **INRC** and **IRC** championships. I also congratulate all winners and the entire team of Western India Sports Association."

The winning driver of the **MRF Rally of Maharashtra (INRC)**, Gaurav Gill said "It was a very challenging weekend with weather playing spoilt sport and Nashik terrain being even more demanding but we got a great set up thanks to Mahindra Adventure and MRF."

The second placed driver Arjun Rao said, "On the whole the rally was very good, finishing 2nd overall is a good start to the championship considering that I did not finish in Coimbatore. Stages were very fast, technical and needed 100% accuracy in terms of both driving and navigation. Thanks to my sponsors Mandavi Motors, MRF, Castrol and VW."

Finishing third was Amitrajit Ghosh who said "Finishing 3rd even after three punctures in 6 stages feels as good as a win. Plus we leave round 2 still leading the championship. Not our day but that's rallying. Thanks to the team as always for their hard work in getting us to the finish."

The winner of the **IRC**, Abhilash PG said "Happy to take home maximum points from IRC in spite of two punctures as the tyre choice went wrong in the first loop. Two wins in IRC this year and a good start for the season."

The INRC 2000cc winner, Bikku Babu said "We have been having a bit of bad luck in the last few rallies so the idea was to have a trouble free rally. Even though the stages especially the 1st stage was very tricky, and we had a bit of issues with our car ultimately we are happy to end as no 1 in 2000cc."

About RRPM:

Ramakrishna Race Performance Management Pvt. Ltd. (RRPM) is a company formed with the sole intention of promoting "Professional Motorsports" in India and provides all kinds of technical assistance and information required to be at par with the National Level.

RRPM was started in 2003 by Mr. Arindam Ghosh, an icon in his own rights with rallying and organizational experience of over 40 years. **RRPM** is proud to be a part of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India, which is the apex body of India.

The schedule of the **MRF FMSCI INRC** (Indian National Rally Championship) & the **MRF FMSCI IRC** (Indian Rally Championship) 2016 is as follows –

| DATE | LOCATION |
|--|-------------|
| 23 rd & 24 th July 2016 | Coimbatore |
| 27 th & 28 th August 2016 | Nashik |
| 17 th & 18 th September 2016 | Gurgaon |
| 26 th & 27 th November 2016 | Bengaluru |
| 3 rd to 5 th December 2016 | Chikmagalur |

Please do visit - www.INRCINDIA.com and www.RRPM.co

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