



**FMSCI  
National Racing  
Championship  
2003**



## **6th JK Tyre National Racing Championship - Chennai enthralled to witness the Speed -**

New Delhi: The 6th JK Tyre National Racing Championship is entering its second half this weekend at the Sriperumbudur Race track in Chennai. The championship that runs for Single-Seater Formula Maruti's and Saloon car Maruti Esteems has been the breeding ground for India's International racing stars including Parthiv Sureshwaran (1998 Champion) and the teen Formula 3 star Karun Chandhok (2000 JK Tyre National Racing Champion). The Championship comprises of 8 races, (4 Legs with 2 Rounds per leg), and points are scored in every round.

The season started off back on the 19th of October with Rounds 3 and 4 following on the 2nd of November. The racing has been closer than ever before in both classes, with drivers all desperate to win the Maruti Alto (for the Formula Maruti winner) and the Maruti Esteem (for the Esteem class winner) that are up for grabs.

In the Esteem Category, reigning champion Ayub Khan has been the man to beat. Ayub has won 3 out of the 4 races and has been on the podium in the other one. The only man to beat Ayub to the top spot this year has been JD Madan. The other contenders include former Champion Radha Selvaraj, B.Vijayakumar from Coimbatore and KE Hari. The Esteem class also has the only lady racing driver, Sarika Sherawat, who has been embarrassing some of the boys by running in the mid-field.

The Formula Maruti class has been a fantastic three way fight between reigning Champion Sarosh Hataria, local boy Gaurav Dalal and the ex-motocrosser and Rally driver Gaurav Gill who is in his first year of racing. Behind the top three the racing has been fiercely competitive with several graduates of the JK Tyre National Karting championship making the step up. These include last year's Karting champion, Aman Ahluwalia as well as finalists like Rayomand Banajee and Amol Patel. Drivers this year have come from across the country including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Kolhapur, Pune, Bangalore, Coimbatore and Chennai, making it a truly National Championship.

The final two legs of the Championship sees the integration of the JK Tyre National Racing Championship with the newly built Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore as the new Formula LGB cars will have their first ever races this Sunday. With eleven cars on the grid, and a new even platform for all the drivers, it promises to be an exciting closely fought contest.

Sanjay Sharma, the head of JK Tyre Motorsport said that he was “very happy to see drivers coming from all across the country this year. It shows that the structure that we have put in place over the last few years with Karting and Racing is doing its job by producing drivers who are able to graduate up the ladder to Formula Maruti and do a good job. The races have been clean and very closely fought and we are now looking forward to crowning the new National Champion who may follow in the steps of Narain and Karun.”

To sum up we go to India’s teen sensation Karun Chandhok, who is the official driver coach for all the drivers in the championship; “The JK Tyre Racing Championship is where I started my career back in 2000. I was able to use it as a successful launch pad for my international career and there’s no doubt that with the support JK Tyre is putting in to drivers today we are going to see more international drivers emerging from this championship.”

The final two legs of the championship are being held on the 7th and the 21st of December.

### **Championship positions -**

#### **Formula Maruti -**

- |    |                |           |
|----|----------------|-----------|
| 1. | Sarosh Hataria | 39 points |
| 2. | Gaurav Dalal   | 32        |
| 3. | Gaurav Gill    | 23        |

#### **Maruti Esteem -**

- |    |                  |           |
|----|------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Ayub Khan        | 42 points |
| 2. | JD Madan         | 28        |
| 3. | Sivaramakrishnan | 21        |

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