



Gulf Foster A Child Rally

Mumbai : 15-16 November 2002

It was a rally of a different kind. There was no speed, no racing involved. It was all about mind over matter. But more than anything, it was children's day out on Sunday as around 180 motor sports enthusiasts in 39 vehicles gave the underprivileged kids of Snehasadan, a home for homeless children, moments to cherish as they went through the motions in the Gulf Foster A Child Rally. The event was co-sponsored and supported by In Mumbai and Red FM Asli Mirchi.



On the occasion of world communications day, it did not matter who won the event; it was all about reaching out to the gems on Mumbai's streets. And, needless to say, the children, who got into different cars, had a time of their life as the rally weaved its way through the by-lanes and flyovers of Mumbai.

After Jimmy Bhada, Senior Marketing executive Gulf Oil, flagged off the rally from Snehasadan in Andheri, the participants had to use all their ingenuity to come to grips with the tulip chart prepared by organizers Sportscraft, as they wound their way to Golden Swan Country Club in Yeoor Hills in Thane.

Many of the drivers lost their way as they tried to follow the tulip. Some tried to follow the vehicle in front of them and paid the price, while many dashed off to

the next time control, not realizing they would be checking too early, and lost vital points in the process.

Sure anyone would get lost. The course plotted in the tulip meant that you had to drive from Andheri to Juhu Vile Parle Scheme to Bandra to Mahim to Dharavi to Dadar Parsee Colony – Five Gardens and via Chembur to Thane. Wasn't it tricky. Knowing that the finish was at Thane, quite a few drove straight to Thane after checking in at a few time controls. They did not expect a course that was back and forth.

And the one to come out trumps in this exercise was none other than Renuka Kriplani and Zoru Bhatena, both experienced campaigners in the business of rallying.

In second place was Homi Commissariat and Jagdish Thackersey, while the trio of Saranji Viridi, Sanjay Thakkar and Mehwaran Kelkar finished third.

There were seven all-ladies teams, and best among them was the quartet of Deepa Damadoran, Anila Likhite, Premila Damodaran and Anmol Hiranandani. Mehwaran Kelkar, who was part of the team which finished first, was all praise for the event. ***“The route was interesting, twisty with red herrings along the way. We thoroughly enjoyed. Any way it was for a cause,”*** he said.

Most of the participants were content by just going through the motions to reach out to the underprivileged children of the city.

And like the children, who hoped for a similar event again, they said they would return the next time it is held.

Ramesh Rao, CEO Gulf Oil Ltd and other Gulf officials gave away the prizes.

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