

# Polo Cup India



## PRESS RELEASE

---

### **Karthik Shankar leads Championship standings after 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup India 2010**

**Karthik Shankar only 7 Points ahead of Vishnu Prasad / With a difference of 5-10 points between each of the top 6 racers exciting competition is expected for the next Race on August 29 in Coimbatore / K K Swamy, Vice President and Managing Director Volkswagen India: "It is really thrilling to see a car made of the street performing in a race"**

**Coimbatore, July 20, 2010 – After two rounds and four races of Polo Cup India 2010, Karthik Shankar from Hyderabad emerged as the leader in the Championship standings. The commercial pilot from Hyderabad displayed some amazing skills in all the races, both on the street track in Pune and the race track in Coimbatore, earning him Championship leader positions with 94 points after 2 rounds of the Polo Cup.**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Polo Cup India 2010 at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore was witness to two thrilling races on Sunday. The racers Vishnu Prasad and Karthik Shankar had some incredible moments in both races that entertained the crowds at the race track and helped them to clinch podium positions for themselves in both races. While Vishnu Prasad, the young lad from Chennai, won top honours in the 1<sup>st</sup> race, Karthik Shankar, the 23-year pilot, won top honours in a nail-biting finish in the 2<sup>nd</sup> race.

Karthik Shankar has clearly displayed his skill as a racer to lead the pack with total of 94 points. Not to be out-done, Vishnu Prasad is close behind with a total of 87 points. With an average difference of 7 points between the top 6 drivers, the next race in Coimbatore is sure to be an exhilarating one, with all the drivers battling for top honors. The 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Polo Cup India 2010 will be held in August, with the qualifying round on August 28 and Race day (2 races) on August 29 at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore.

Please find below the latest Championship standings after Round 2 of Polo Cup India 2010, as well as the podium results from the 2 races:

#### ***Championship standings after Round 2 of Polo Cup India 2010***

<b>Position</b>	<b>Driver</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Points</b>
1	Karthik Shankar	Hyderabad	94
2	Vishnu Prasad	Chennai	87
3	Sailesh Bolisetti	Vishakhapatnam	80
4	Sahil Shelar	Pune	70
5	Mohammed Fahad Kutty	Mumbai	65
6	Parth Ghorpade	Kolhapur	59
7	Oshan Kothadiya	Pune	49

8	Gokul Krishna	Chennai	46
9	Munjil Savla	Mumbai	45
10	Imran Majid	Mumbai	41
11	Gurniaz Maan	Mumbai	41
12	Alisha Abdullah	Chennai	40
13	Anthony George	Kochi	39
14	Samyak Shah	Pune	33
15	Saran Vikram	Chennai	31
16	Saurav Bandhopadhyay	Mumbai	21
17	Jayprashant Venkat	Coimbatore	15
18	Vikash Anand	Chennai	13
19	Ameya Bafna	Mumbai	4
20	Suraj Bhagat	Ahmednagar	0
21			

#### ***Podium Positions for Race 1 of Round 2***

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Total time</b>	<b>Best Lap time</b>
1	Vishnu Prasad	00:27:57.043	1:16:554
2	Sahil Shelar	00:27:58.893	1:16:774
3	Karthik Shankar	00:27:59.608	1:17:008

#### ***Podium Positions Race 2 of Round 2***

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Total time</b>	<b>Best Lap time</b>
1	Karthik Shankar	00:26:00.310	1:17:021
2	Vishnu Prasad	00:26:00.512	1:16:597
3	Parth Ghorpade	00:26:05.601	1:16:918

Given below are some comments about the Championship from dignitaries present during the Polo Cup India 2010 championship rounds in Pune and Coimbatore:

**Mr K K Swamy, Vice-President and Managing Director, Volkswagen India Private Limited**, commented, "After the successful inaugural race in Pune, the hometown of Volkswagen India, we were really happy to be in Coimbatore for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Polo Cup India 2010. This race was special as it was the first time that a race of the Polo Cup India took place on a race track. The Polo Cup India acts as a bridge between the Volkswagen customer and the race driver of tomorrow. It is really thrilling to see a car made of the street performing in a race."

"We are extremely happy and proud to launch Polo Cup for the first time in India. This moment is the true definition of happiness and contentment for us and I hope the motor sports enthusiast in India feel the same adrenaline rush as we do. Volkswagen has been associated with races and rallies all over the world and we are proud that we are creating history in India. Volkswagen has always encouraged young talent in motor sports. The drivers of the Polo Cup today will be the foundation of the Indian motor sports scenario tomorrow", said **Kris Nissen, Volkswagen Motorsport Director**.

**Mr. Rick Bond, Managing Director, Lear Corporation – a sponsor of Polo Cup India 2010**, who was present at the races in Coimbatore expressed, "The Polo Cup India 2010 provides a tremendous opportunity for the young talent in India to gain some exposure the in world of motor sport. Lear Corporation has a long standing global relationship with Volkswagen to provide the automotive seating and electronics. This was the first time I have witnessed a Polo

Cup race and I must admit it was an exhilarating experience. I feel proud to support Volkswagen with the parts needed to build the incredible Polo and we look forward to working with together on future projects similar to the Polo Cup.”

“We have been the Volkswagen dealers for Coimbatore since 2009. The launch of the Polo Cup has created tremendous response among customers for the new Volkswagen Polo. The Polo Cup provides a fantastic opportunity to build the brand. In fact we have had enquiries from 8 to 10 customers who wanted to purchase the Race Polo”, said **Mr. Sashikumar, Chief Executive Officer, Ramani Cars Private Limited – the dealership for Volkswagen Coimbatore** at the racetrack in Coimbatore.

**Mr. Lalit Sardana, Vice-President – Business Development, Krishna Group – a sponsor of Polo Cup India 2010** shared, “The Polo Cup India is truly a unique and one-of-a-kind event. This is the first time in India that a manufacturer has taken an initiative like this. We have a lot invested in the Polo and the success of the Polo Cup will boost the Polo brand immensely. We look forward to a great Polo Cup season and wish the drivers the best of luck.”

“The goal of the Volkswagen through the Polo Cup India is to nurture talent from India. This is the first time in the history of Indian motor sport that a diesel engine will be used in a racing car. The winners of the Polo Cup India will get an opportunity to participate in other one-make series of Volkswagen across the world,” added **Mr. Prithviraj Siddappa, Head of Volkswagen Motorsports India.**

Motor sports enthusiasts interested in getting further information can log on to the website, [www.polocup.in](http://www.polocup.in). This website will display information about the format of The Polo Cup India, race updates and driver profiles.

#### **About Volkswagen Motorsport**

*Volkswagen is committed to broad-scale motor sport and its activities include Dakar Rally, F3 Euro Series, German F3 Cup and 24-hours of Nuerburgring. The Volkswagen Cup races are successfully installed in the US, in South Africa, in China, and from 2010 onwards in India.*

*Following the legendary Formula V as of 1966 the brand, in 1976, sponsored a one-make touring car cup for the first time. Among others, the Scirocco Cup produced drivers like the subsequent Formula 1 racer Manfred Winkelhock. In 1977 the first-generation Golf GTI replaced the Scirocco as the cup vehicle and remained the popular competition car for a generation of young racers up to 1982. At the relaunch in 1998, Volkswagen presented the Lupo, which offered top-class sport at fair prices, as well as the Volkswagen New Beetle Cup.*

*The year of 1998 stands for an all-new concept in the world of racing. To this day, this new concept featuring centrally fielded vehicles and car swapping among the drivers guarantees maximum equality of opportunity. In 2004 the 150-hp Polo replaced the small Lupo as the cup vehicle and the concept was subjected to further refinement. The Polo Cup's success story is closely linked to the DTM-Deutsche Tourenwagen Meisterschaft. The premier league of touring car racing has evolved into a real crowd-puller and is envisaged as a concrete career goal by many junior racers.*

#### **Volkswagen Group Communications**

Contact: Kurt Rippholz  
Phone: +91/9930455597  
E-mail: [kurt.rippholz@volkswagen.co.in](mailto:kurt.rippholz@volkswagen.co.in)

#### **20:20 Media**

Contact:	Nishant Maller	David Vaz
Phone:	+91/9840070444	+91/9322652611
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:nishant@2020india.com">nishant@2020india.com</a>	<a href="mailto:david@2020india.com">david@2020india.com</a>