

PRESS RELEASE

Rahil Noorani wins the First race of Round Two of the JK Tyre Volkswagen Polo R Cup 2011

- **Rahil Noorani clinches his first Polo R Cup Race of Round Two of Season 2**
- **Vishnu Prasad puts up a tough fight to reach the third position after starting ninth**

Coimbatore, July 17, 2011 – Rahil Noorani, the 21-year old rookie driver from Mumbai, won an action-packed race at the JK Tyre Volkswagen Polo R Cup 2011, at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore. The talented racer completed the 15-lap race in total time of 19:28.757. Bangalore lad Ajay Kini in the #15 car finished in second place, followed closely by championship leader Vishnu Prasad.

Rahil in #20 car had a great start and led into the first corner followed by Ajay and Avdumber Hede. Oshan Kothadiya from Pune got past Avdumber on lap 2, before battling with Ajay for the rest of the race. Vishnu in the #22 car fought his way from ninth on the grid to get past Oshan on the second last lap to grab the final podium position. With all cars battling behind him, Rahil cruised to his first ever victory in the Polo R Cup.

First time winner Rahil Noorani said, "It feels great to win. I qualified on pole and the only thing on my mind was to lead into the first corner and take it from there. Ajay gave me a hard time but the most important thing is consistency so I stayed focussed, which helped me to win the race. I am overjoyed to win my first race."

Ajay Kini, driving in his first Polo R Cup Race said, "This is my first ever Polo R Cup Race. It is a completely different experience. The technicians and driver coaches of Volkswagen were amazing and helped me a lot. It was a little difficult to adjust to the car but I managed it well. Volkswagen Polo R Cup is a great learning experience and I am thankful to Volkswagen and JK Tyre for giving me this opportunity."

Dr. Chacko, Volkswagen Group Chief Representative India, President and Managing Director, Volkswagen India Private Limited said, "I would like to congratulate Rahil Noorani, Ajay Kini and Vishnu Prasad, the podium winners of the JK Tyre Volkswagen Polo R Cup 2011 today. I believe, we have with us here, some of the finest driving talent in the country and their performance today proves that they have a great career ahead of them in the field of motorsports. The popularity and success of the Polo R Cup is helping the Volkswagen Polo to gain momentum in the Indian market. I am glad to see the tremendous response, not only in terms of people interested in participating, but also the motorsport enthusiasts who are following the Polo R Cup."

"Another great race to start off round 2. It was an action packed race and it was good to see different winners on the podium today. It is great to see drivers giving more attention in analysing their data to see where they can improve. This shows the drivers are enthusiastic and determined to do well in this championship. The Polo Race cars are performing great

Polo R Cup ***India 2011***



and we are very happy with the performance and efficiency of their engines.” Prithviraj Siddappa, Head of Volkswagen Motorsport India, expressed.

Position	Car Number	Driver	Total Time
1.	20	Rahil Noorani	19:28.757
2.	15	Ajay Kini	19:32.136
3.	22	Vishnu Prasad	19:32.509
4.	14	Oshan Kothadiya	19:32.846
5.	02	Avdumber Hede	19:33.736
6.	19	Mihir Dharkar	19:36.319
7.	12	Donovan Vaz	19:44.529
8.	17	Abhinav Aditya Agarwal	19:45.021
9.	18	Saif Mir	19:48.945
10.	11	Pratek Dalal	19:49.230
11.	03	Achintya Mehrotra	19:57.225
12.	05	Lawrence Taur	19:57.571
13.	08	Swamthia Rayen	19:58.491
14.	06	Munjhal Savla	20:01.289
15.	01	Vidit Jain	20:03.731
16.	07	Aditya Pawar	20:23.549
17.	21	Angad Singh Matharoo	20:25.104
18.	16	Alisha Abdullah	20:35.358
19.	04	Sourav Bandopadhyay	DNF

Thanks to its proven concept of promoting young talent abroad, the Polo Cup enjoys the reputation of being an ideal stepping stone to enter professional racing. Building on its success with the debut Polo Cup India last year, Volkswagen Motorsport will continue to make Polo R Cup the premier touring car championship in the country.

Motor sports enthusiasts interested in getting further information can log on to the website, www.polocup.in. This website displays information about Polo R Cup format, race updates and driver profiles. Follow Polo R Cup on www.facebook.com/vwpolocupIndia

About Volkswagen Motorsport

Volkswagen is committed to broad-scale motor sport as in internationally staged cross-country rally racing programmes in countries including Germany, Europe and the United States apart from other countries in Asia and has a long tradition of promoting young talent. 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. In 1983, the second-generation Polo followed as the cup vehicle – initially using the 88-hp normally aspirated engine version and, from 1986, the 112-hp compressor engine. 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.

Polo R Cup India 2011



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.

The commitment encompasses the internationally renowned Dakar Rally. Diesel and bio natural gas powered as eco-conscious alternatives to conventional spark ignition engines and clever down--sizing are the core elements of this strategy. Volkswagen is already in the process of putting the aims of eco-conscious motorsport of the future into action. Bio natural gas engines in the Scirocco R-Cup and at the Nürburgring 24 Hours have already proved that eco-consciousness and top-calibre racing. Volkswagen consistently banks on production-based technology and the conservation of resources. In an overall assessment of racing operations and logistics for the Scirocco R-Cup Volkswagen has achieved a reduction of CO₂ emissions by 80 per cent.

Volkswagen Group India Communications

Contact: Alexander Skibbe / Pradnya Joshi Chaudhury

Phone: +91-9765404647 / +91-9764999349

E-mail: alexander.skibbe@volkswagen.co.in / pradnya.chaudhury@volkswagen.co.in

20:20 MSL

Contact: Atul Shah / David Vaz

Phone: +91-9960255829 / +91-9322652611

E-mail: atul.shah@2020msl.com / david.vaz@2020msl.com