

# Polo Cup India



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Parth Ghorpade emerges as the new leader of the Championship standings after 5 Rounds of the Polo Cup India 2010**

**Overtakes Sailesh Bolisetti by just 26 points / Prithviraj Siddappa, Head of Volkswagen Motorsports India: "Championship will only get decided at the season finale"**

**Chennai, December 1, 2010 – After 5 rounds of the Polo Cup, and with only one round remaining, every win makes a difference to the young Polo Cup drivers. Displaying some fantastic driving skills Parth Ghorpade, the young lad from Kolhapur, earned an amazing 108 points this weekend to become the new leader in the Championship standings with a total of 359 points. Former leader Sailesh Bolisetti and, Chennai Hero Vishnu Prasad, complete the top 3 with 333 and 277 points, respectively.**

Spectators at the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the Polo Cup were witness to two very exciting and close races. The top 5 drivers showcased remarkable talent while battling it out for the crucial podium places. The current Championship leader, Parth Ghorpade, won the first race of the day, beating Sahil Shelar by 0.481s. The second race of the day had the drivers starting on a reverse-grid. Chennai's own Vishnu Prasad raced hard from 6<sup>th</sup> position to win the Race 2 of Round 5

The 17-year old Parth Ghorpade has been the silent contender throughout the Polo Cup season. Through hard work and consistent wins, he has steadily worked his way up to lead the championship standings. Starting from the 6<sup>th</sup> position in the championship standings after the first 2 rounds of the Polo Cup, Parth has overtaken Sailesh Bolisetti, who was leading the championship for the last two rounds.

A minor setback during the 4<sup>th</sup> Round cost Vishnu Prasad a chance to earn some crucial championship points. Eager to make up for the last round, the Chennai boy, raced hard to place 3<sup>rd</sup> in Race 1 and win Race 2. His efforts paid off as he earned the points need to move from the 5<sup>th</sup> position into the top 3.

Championship leader, Parth Ghorpade, commented on his position, "At this point in the season, being the leader of the pack is very exciting. The last few races have been very successful for me and I hope I can keep the momentum going right till the end of the final round."

The first season of Polo Cup has been an exhilarating series so far, for both the drivers and their fans. With only one round to go, audiences can be assured to see a fight to finish line. With a difference of only 26 points between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place and an even smaller difference of 7 points between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place, the results of the Championship will all come down to the final races of Round 6 of the Polo Cup; a race that will have the drivers on the top of their game and fans on the edge of their seats as the winning Race Polo crosses the finish line on December 19, 2010 in Chennai.

**Prithviraj Siddappa, Head of Motorsports, Volkswagen India** said, "This is very exciting time for us at Volkswagen Motorsports as we are nearing the end of the season. With only one round remaining, the competition among the drivers has reached a critical stage. It is now time for the drivers to really step-on-the-gas and use all the skills they have learnt over these few months and reach for coveted title of Champion of the first ever Polo Cup India."

Please find below the latest Championship standings after Round 5 of Polo Cup India 2010, as well as the podium results from the 2 races:

### ***Championship standings after Round 5 of Polo Cup India 2010***

<b>Position</b>	<b>Driver</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Points</b>
1.	Parth Ghorpade	Kolhapur	359
2.	Sailesh Bolisetti	Vishakapatnam	333
3.	Vishnu Prasad	Chennai	277
4.	Sahil Shelar	Pune	270
5.	Mohd Fahad Kutty	Mumbai	241
6.	Gurniaz Mann	Mumbai	195
7.	Imran Majid	Mumbai	187
8.	Karthik Shankar	Hyderabad	184
9.	Anthony George	Kochi	171
10.	Alisha Abdullah	Chennai	158
11.	Vikash Anand	Chennai	149
12.	Oshan Kothadiya	Pune	145
13.	Munjal Savla	Mumbai	139
14.	*Gokul Krishna	Chennai	136
15.	*Samyak Shah	Mumbai	93
16.	Saurav Bandhopadhyaya	Mumbai	91
17.	**Prateek Dalal	Bahadurgarh	84
18.	**Suraj Bhagat	Ahmednagar	64
19.	**Shrivatsa Sinha	Pune	44
20.	*Ameya Bafna	Mumbai	42
21.	**Sneha Sharma	Mumbai	40
22.	*Saran Vikram	Chennai	31
23.	*Jayprashant Venkat	Coimbatore	15

\* No longer competing in the Polo Cup India 2010

\*\*New drivers on the grid

The final race of Polo Cup 2010 will be held at Irungattukottai Race Track, Chennai on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of December, 2010. All that drivers have learnt over the past 5 races will be put to the test as they battle it out in the final round for the coveted title of Polo Cup India Champion.

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.*

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