

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Vishnu Prasad Regains Championship Leader Position After Round Five of Polo R Cup 2011**

- **Rahil Noorani clinches third win in the Polo R Cup 2011**
- **Guest driver, Gaurav Dalal wins second race of Round Five to become the first guest driver to win a Polo R Cup 2011 race**

Chennai, October 19, 2011 – The excitement is mounting with every round of the JK Tyre Volkswagen Polo R Cup 2011. The minimal points difference after Round Five has left the Championship wide open with the top 4 drivers having a clear shot at being the Champion. Noorani and guest driver, Gaurav Dalal, emerged as the winners of Race One and Race Two respectively. Vishnu Prasad, who was leading the championship till Round Three is back on the leadership position with 320 points. Vishnu is followed by Rahil with 315 points and Oshan Kothadiya with 288 points. Fourth and fifth positions are taken up by Avdumber Hede (277 points) and Mihir Dharkar (235 points) respectively.

In Race One, Oshan in car # 14 could not take advantage of his pole position due to extra wheel spin of his car. This incident gave Rahil the opportunity to take the lead into the first corner. He held the lead from there on and went on to win the race with Oshan right behind him. Avdumber in car # 2 started fifth on the grid and quickly overtook Munjal Savla. He maintained his fourth position till the eighth lap, where he overtook Mihir Dharkar in car # 19 to grab the final podium position. Vishnu, who had the second best time in qualifying, started the race from the 10th position owing to the previous round's penalty. He finished 5th to grab 32 points from Race One.

In Race Two, Guest Driver Gaurav Dalal in car # 10, took advantage of starting second on the grid and went around the outside of pole sitter, Vidit Jain in the first corner. Vishnu in car # 22 who also had a great start, got past Vidit on lap two and stayed in second place for the rest of the race. Race One winner, Rahil Noorani had a dismal race after spinning out of fourth position and finally finished down in thirteenth position. Mihir who was in third place was followed by Munjal and Oshan in fourth and fifth position respectively. Vishnu was able to grab 60 points in this race as Gaurav was a guest driver and was not entitled to any championship points.

The Championship standings after Round Five of JK Tyre Volkswagen Polo R Cup 2011, as well as the podium results from the two races:

SR NO	DRIVER NAME	RD 1 - RACE 1	RD 1 - RACE 2	RD 2 - RACE 1	RD 2 - RACE 2	RD 3 - RACE 1	RD 3 - RACE 2	RD 4 - RACE 1	RD 4 - RACE 2	RD 5 - RACE 1	RD 5 - RACE 2	TOTAL
1	Vishnu Prasad	30	30	20	30	60	EX	32	26	32	60	320
2	Rahil Noorani	17	3	30	15	40	30	40	60	60	20	315
3	Oshan Kothadiya	16	15	17	24	34	40	60	DNF	48	34	288
4	Avdumber Hede	15	16	16	12	32	60	34	40	40	12	277
5	Mihir Dharkar	24	24	15	14	24	10	24	18	34	48	235
6	Munjal Savla	14	17	7	8	22	26	48	DNF	30	40	212
7	Alisha Abdullah	13	20	3	16	28	28	16	30	20	14	188
8	Angad Singh Matharoo	8	4	4	3	18	24	14	48	26	32	181
9	Vidit Jain	5	5	6	10	26	34	30	20	28	10	174
10	Abhinav Aditya Agarwal	11	13	13	11	10	14	26	34	12	24	168
11	Aditya Pawar	9	12	5	4	8	20	20	28	24	28	158
12	Sourav Bandyopadhyay	10	8	DNF	6	20	22	28	22	14	16	146
13	Achintya Mehrotra	7	11	10	9	16	18	12	16	16	18	133
14	Swamathia Rayen	4	6	8	DNF	12	16	18	32	10	22	128
15	Ajay Kini	DNP	DNP	24	20	48	32	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	124
16	Donovan Vaz	6	10	14	5	14	12	6	DNS	22	30	119
17	Lawrence Taur	DNF	7	9	7	DNP	DNP	22	24	18	26	113
18	Prateek Dalal	DNF	DNF	11	17	30	48	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	106
19	Sayeed Shaikh	12	9	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	21
20	Abhisekh Jaiswal	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP	8	12	DNP	DNP	20

DNF: Did Not Finish

DNP: Did Not Participate

EX: Excluded from the race

#### Podium Positions for Race One of Round Five

Position	Car Number	Driver	City	Total Time
1.	20	Rahil Noorani	Mumbai	20:46.700
2.	14	Oshan Kothadiya	Pune	20:49.075
3.	2	Avdumber Hede	Goa	20:51.552

#### Podium Positions for Race Two of Round Five

Position	Car Number	Driver	City	Total Time
1.	10	Gaurav Dalal	Chennai	20:43.175
2.	22	Vishnu Prasad	Chennai	20:48.082
3.	19	Mihir Dharkar	Mumbai	20:52.651

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](http://www.polocup.in). This website displays information about the format of Polo R Cup, race updates and driver profiles. Follow Polo R Cup on [www.facebook.com/vwpolocupIndia](https://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.*

*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 downsizing 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80 per cent.*

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