

# ***Polo Cup India***



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Volkswagen India announces the 20 drivers for Polo Cup India 2011**

- **From the nearly 1,600 registrations received, 20 drivers get ready to scorch the Indian race tracks**
- **Dr. John Chacko: "It is our endeavor to nurture talent in India and equip them with tools to compete on international racing circuits with drivers from across the globe. Volkswagen is committed towards promoting Motorsports in India."**

**Pune, May 05, 2011 – Volkswagen Motorsport India today announced the starting grid of drivers for the Polo Cup India 2011, the second season of the highly acclaimed one-make touring car series. The 20 drivers will compete in six races held between June and December 2011. The first race will be flagged-off on June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore.**

"The overwhelming response and incredible success of the debut season of the Polo Cup India is a testimony to the talent pool in India and the interest in the sport. The Volkswagen Polo Cup India is set on international standards and gives young talent the best precondition to compete internationally. With second season of the Polo Cup India, we strengthen our commitment towards promoting Motorsports in India." Dr. John Chacko, Volkswagen Group Chief Representative India, President and Managing Director, Volkswagen India Private Limited, expressed.

After nearly 1,600 registrations and 2 stringent rounds of selections, 20 drivers will take their place at the start line, revving their engines as the lights countdown for the first race. The drivers for the Polo Cup India 2011 represent a mix of Polo Cup rookies and veterans. The 14 newly selected drivers are joined by 6 drivers from the last season of the Polo Cup India.

"The inaugural season of Polo Cup was a huge success and building on it this season is going to be bigger, faster and packed with a more than a few surprises. These 20 young drivers represent the cream of the Indian motorsport talent. The incredible passion and drive of these budding racers is surely going to make Polo Cup India 2011 an exciting event, cementing its place in the Indian motorsports calendar." Prithviraj Siddappa, Head of Volkswagen India Motorsport, said.

The selection process took place under the scrutiny of an expert jury consisting of Akbar Ebrahim, India's only principle instructor in racing, Rayomand Banajee, six times National Champion, Rohitaaz Kumar from JK Tyre Motorsport and Ronny Wechselberger from Volkswagen Motorsport. Volkswagen followed international standards and conducted the coaching camps to select the best young talent.

As in the debut season, the Polo Cup India 2011 will present itself with a record field of contenders. These 20 firmly registered young drivers, aged 16 to 24, will meet on track in the

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new 2011 Race Polos, as part of the JK Tyre-FMSCI Indian National Racing Championship 2011. Below is the line-up of 20 drivers selected:

Sr. No	First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	City
1.	Alisha	Abdullah	24/07/1989	Chennai
2.	Abhinav Aditya	Agarwal	30/11/1990	Faridabad
3.	Saurav	Bandyopadhyay	28/06/1989	Mumbai
4.	Prateek	Dalal	11/12/1990	Bahadurgarh
5.	Mihir	Dharkar	19/01/1988	Mumbai
6.	Avdumber	Hede	28/10/1986	Goa
7.	Vidit	Jain	24/08/1994	New Delhi
8.	Ajay	Kini	13/02/1989	Bangalore
9.	Oshan	Kothadiya	27/01/1988	Pune
10.	A. Sandeep	Kumar	09/11/1992	Chennai
11.	Angad Singh	Matharoo	08/10/1988	Chandigarh
12.	Achintya	Mehrotra	03/06/1990	New Delhi
13.	Saif	Mihir	15/06/1988	New Delhi
14.	Rahil	Noorani	01/12/1989	Mumbai
15.	Aditya Vijay	Pawar	20/07/1990	Mumbai
16.	Vishnu	Prasad	18/08/1993	Chennai
17.	Swamathia	Rayen	14/12/1991	Mumbai
18.	Munjil	Savla	11/09/1988	Mumbai
19.	Lawrence	Taur	20/07/1988	Bangalore
20.	Donovan	Vaz	26/10/1988	Goa

The drivers will compete in new and sportier Race Polos. Built with identical technology, these mean machines are centrally tuned and maintained by highly skilled Volkswagen India Factory mechanics. A fierce grill and clean lines form the perfect shell to the 1.6-liter R4 common rail diesel (CRD) engine, which can produce a top track speed of 180 km/h. An improved exhaust and bonnet air scoop, together with a new steering wheel, steering angle sensor and electronic driver drink, are some additions to the new Race Polo.

With body kits buffed and engines tuned, Volkswagen Motorsports is gearing up to kick-off an all new and fuel-injected season of the Polo Cup India this year. Soon the Race Polos' Diesel engines, the heart of these racings machines, will roar to life thrusting their young drivers towards the coveted title of the Polo Cup Champion 2011.

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,

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race updates and driver profiles. Follow Polo Cup on [www.facebook.com/vwpolocupIndia](http://www.facebook.com/vwpolocupIndia) and [www.youtube.com/user/vwpolocup](http://www.youtube.com/user/vwpolocup).

## **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 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](mailto:alexander.skibbe@volkswagen.co.in) / [pradnya.chaudhury@volkswagen.co.in](mailto:pradnya.chaudhury@volkswagen.co.in)

20:20 MSL

Contact: Atul Shah / David Vaz

Phone: +91-9960255829 / +91-9322652611

E-mail: [atul.shah@2020msl.com](mailto:atul.shah@2020msl.com) / [david.vaz@2020msl.com](mailto:david.vaz@2020msl.com)