



Gulf Monsoon Scooter Rally - Post Event Release

Navi Mumbai, July 10th, 2016:

Syed Asif Ali of Team TVS Racing thwarted Shamim Khan's bid for a record fifth crown in the Gulf Monsoon Scooter Rally on Sunday.

The Bangalore rider, astride a TVS We go, won the 27th edition of the popular rally, sponsored by Gulf Oil Lubricants India Limited, and organized by Sportscraft, with 32.43 seconds in penalties. Khan, of Team Mahindra, astride a Mahindra Gusto, placed second, with 33.36 seconds in penalties, while Erimal Shekharan from Navi Mumbai, astride a Yamaha Alpha, of Ceat Team was third in 34.18 seconds.

The event was flagged off from K-Star Navi Mumbai by Radio Jockey Mr. Siddhu at 09:00 am. How tough the rally, incidentally Sportscraft's 351st event, was this time can be gauged by the fact that former champions Rustom Patel, Manjeet Singh Bassan and Avtar Singh did not even place among the top five finishers.

In a field of 53 riders, and on a course one would dread taking his two or four-wheeler through, Syed Asif Ali proved a class above, beating Khan in the third and last stage of the rally with judicious riding over the water-logged stretches along the backwoods of Navi Mumbai.

Syed Asif Ali produced the right bursts of speed to pip Khan by 1.33 seconds.

Seshraj Yadav, astride a Yamaha Alpha, and Bhopal's Muzaffar Ali of Ceat Team, also astride a TVS Wego, were fourth and fifth respectively.

Syed Asif Ali, Shamim Khan and Erimal Shekharan finish in that order in the class for FSG upto 160cc four stroke.

"This time the course was really tough. In addition to the slushy areas forcing us to slow down. It did not rain heavily during the race, but, still it was challenging," said Syed Asif Ali after the event.

Heavy rain over the last few days made riding on the gravel-laden, winding course dicey. Under the circumstances, riders had to exercise extreme control while negotiating the steep inclines, hairpin bends and water-logged stretches they encountered. Some of them took a tumble or two, some even damaged their scooters and had to even withdraw.

Like last year, Nidhi Shukla of Team Ceat, astride a Honda Activa, was the best lady rider, completing the course in 45.20 seconds.

Former champion Manjeet Singh Bassan of Ceat Team, though failing to finish among the top five riders, however, won Class S2 for scooters 111cc upto 160 2 stroke in 37.14 seconds.

Special mention must be made about the first-timers who went through the motions with aplomb. Mohsin Mehboob Khan, astride a Yamaha Alpha, was the best of the lot, finishing in 37.18 seconds. For his gallant efforts he was awarded the late Firdosh Vajifdar trophy.

Despite the grueling challenge, the riders applauded Sportscraft's organisation of the rally. Some wondered how they found terrain, which even utility vehicles would have found difficult to negotiate.

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