



ALL SET Gaurav Gill and Musa Sherif, representing Mahindra, during the ceremonial flag-off of the K-1000 rally. DH PHOTO

Veteran Gaurav Gill sets sights on fifth INRC crown

BENGALURU: Ace driver Gaurav Gill of Team Mahindra will look to claim his fifth crown when the 43rd K-1000 rally, the sixth and the final round of the MRF FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship (INRC), starts here on Sunday.

Gill, sitting comfortably on 75 points, is ahead of Dean Mascarenhas (63 points), who has already won the INRC-3

championship driving a Volkswagen Polo. The young driver can still clinch the overall title if he wins this round and Gill finishes no higher than 11th place.

“It’s very good to be a part of this legendary rally. There is a lot of history behind this rally. We’ve won it several times, so it’s great to be back. We’ve some new stages this year, which are very fast and technical. I am really looking forward

to it,” said Gill, who has Musa Sherif as his co-driver.

The race will take place near the Kadavigere gate, in Tumakuru, and features two special stages of 14.9 km and 8.9 km. The teams will run through the two special stages thrice, adding up to roughly 72 km of special stages. Defending champion Karna Kadur and Nikhil Vittal Pai are fourth with 43 points.

In INRC 2, Rahul Kanthraj and Vivek Y Bhatt (79 points) are favourites to take the championship but must finish ahead of Younus Ilyas and Harish KN, who with 58 points, can still pip them. In the overall team championship, Mahindra Adventure leads Arka Motorsports by 35 points.

Meanwhile, Gill revealed he might take part the World Rally Championship (WRC)

this year. He also gave details of his driving academy.

“My Academy (The Gaurav Gill Advance Driving Academy) is getting ready and we will launch it in the first week of February in Delhi. You can hire a car, you can drive with me. I’ll have five instructors there. They will teach you to drive and rally. We’ll have motorcycles and buggies,” he added.

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