

Girls taking up rallying is a huge fillip to the sport

Sanjay Sharma

The 22nd consecutive year of the JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship (JKNRC) gets under way this weekend and it seems like we are starting all over again.

After nearly a decade, we have tweaked the entire event and are repackaging it to pave a sharper path for our budding talent. Our goal of nurturing future talent, we believe, will receive a greater thrust in the re-scripted composition.

We have seen that the various platforms created by us, from 4-stroke to 2-stroke karting to Indian Formula LGB 4 to the BMW-powered FIA homologated Formula cars, have already yielded the desired results and have helped various beneficiaries realise their dreams.

A huge level of interest has

been kindled among the younger generation, especially girls who are taking to the sport in big numbers. Many of them have also graduated to various international series, and are even on top of some le-

ader-boards.

In the early 2000s, few years after we launched JKNRC, we used to have barely 3 or 4 drivers on the international grid vs almost 15-20 now, which clearly signifies growth and development from the program.

After a thorough analysis, however, we felt that the num-

ber at the top is depleting and that we needed to consolidate it. At the same time, we wanted to involve the masses through talent-hunts etc. Broad-basing the entry level seemed to be the key and we realised

that we needed to plug this to safeguard the future of Indian motor racing.

This is precisely why we have relaunched 4-stroke karting, making LGB Novice Cup and LGB 4 the main platforms for youngsters. A similar approach will be followed for 2-wheelers too, with the Suzuki Gixxer Cup honing novices.

So, what's new this season? Well, we have a game-changer for you all! JKNRC will introduce the next level of international Formula cars to the country. It'll be unveiled in India's biggest platform, the Grand Finale in Delhi. You can hope to see meaner-looking and faster formula cars there.

This will redefine the racing scene in the country. Even in the two-wheeler (600 & 1000cc) Super Bikes category, we have been approached by a couple of leading bike manufacturers in the world, who'll be joining the grids.

Coming to Round 1 on July 26-28, I am extremely happy to see pan India representation in all the grids. (BVK SPORTS AND MEDIA)

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