

'It was long overdue'

After winning the inaugural LGB Formula 4 National Racing Championship, Mira says it is a push required for the women racers as she eyes the bigger goal: beating men in higher class races

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Mira Erda has many firsts to her credit. She is India's FIRST female Formula racer. She is the FIRST female racer to take part in the Euro JK Category of National Racing Championship. And it was no surprise when she won the newly introduced Women's Category in LGB Formula 4 in the recently held 22nd FMSCI National Racing Championship in Coimbatore.

Representing MSport, Mira won the race ahead of two drivers from India's first women racing team, Ahura Racing's Mega KS and Diana Pundole.

"It was an honour to

win the first tournament in the women's category," Mira told *Mirror*. It being another FIRST, Mira sees the tournament as one of the first steps towards promoting women drivers.

"I think it is really encouraging for the sponsors to come and support the women drivers with a new category for them," the 18-year-old ace driver from Vadodara said. "The special trophy will be a big encouragement for the up and coming women drivers in the country," she said, adding, "I believe that it will provide the much-needed push to the women drivers in the country."

Mira was honest enough to admit that her



Mira (c) with Mega and Diana

experience of racing does make her the favourite but the teenager was also looking at the bigger picture.

"I think it has been two years since I have driven a car in this category. It posed a challenge for me when I first returned to the cockpit on Friday as the specifications are different from what I have been driving in recent times,"

Mira added.

But the opportunity to race was too hard to miss as the youngster had a bigger goal in mind. "I want to win the mixed races. I want to beat the male drivers. I have done this before in the rookie category, and I want to do it in other categories too. That is my goal," she said.

Mira knew the road ahead is full of twists and turns. "The participation in the trials for the inaugural W Series was an eye-opener for me," said the youngster, who took part in the four-day evaluation process for the all-female motor racing series that was held in Austria in January.

"There is a huge difference between Indian drivers and drivers from other countries. I got to learn so many things from that experience.

"While I need to work on my physical strength, the most important aspect is that I need track time. It is because of that I have decided to take part in the upcoming races," said the 2016 Formula 4 Rookie Champion of the year.

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