

CHETAN WINS TITLE

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Coimbatore: Team Akshara's Chetan Shivram (with brother and co-driver Dilip Sharan) held on to his slender four-seconds overnight lead to lift the title in the Rally of Coimbatore, Round 2 of the Champions Yacht Club-FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship, here on Sunday.

In the process, the duo Chetan and Dilip added a piece of history as they became the first two brothers team to claim the INRC Rally crown. Despite some of the big names like three-time APRC champion and favourite Gaurav Gill and Round 1 winner Dean Mascarenhas bowing out of contention on Day, it was never easy for the 40-year-old Chetan. Early in the day, the overnight second-placed Suhem Kabeer too pulled out after the first stage as his car got stuck in the slush and lost six-odd minutes. However, JK Tyre driver Younus Ilyas (Harish Gowda), who finished runner-up, made the most of the opportunity as he changed gears to offer a stiff challenge to Chetan.

"Our strategy is to go flat-out in the first stage and increase the gap and then play it safe. It was unfortunate that Suhem bowed out early in the day. But it made things easy for us a bit before Younus nearly caught up with us in the final stages. We had gained nearly 23 seconds over Younus after the first stage, which allowed us to play it safe and emerge victorious," Chetan said after his triumph.

Chetan and his younger brother, 29-year-



Team Akshara's Chetan Shivram and his brother Dilip Sharan celebrate their win

old Dilip Sharan finished with a total time of 1:33:51.70s to win their first overall podium in the INRC. Younus Ilyas & Harish Gowda claimed the overall second position.

Results: INRC Overall: Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharan (1:33:51.700hr), 2. Younus Ilyas & Harish Gowda (1:33:56.300), 3. Faibid Ahmer & Sanath G (1:34:54.400). **INRC 2:** Younus Ilyas & Harish Gowda (1:33:56.300); 2. Dean Mascarenhas & Shruptha Padival (1:28:33.800), 3. Suhem Kabeer & Jeeva Rathinam (1:40:17.000). **INRC 3:** 1. Chetan Shivram & Dilip Sharan (1:33:51.700), 2. Faibid Ahmer & Sanath G (1:34:54.400), 3. Aditya Thakur & Virender Kashyap (1:35:57.700). **INRC 4:** 1. Vaibhav Marate & Arjun SSB (1:38:27.000), 2. Manoj Mohanan & Francis Sachin (1:39:36.300), 3. Rakshith Iyer & Chandrashekar (1:40:17.000). **FMSCI /SUV Challenge:** 1. Lokesh Gowda & Sudhindra B.G, 2 Gagan Karumbaiah & Thimmu Uddapanda. 3. Sanjay Agarwal & Smitha N.