

# Mikail lights up day's proceedings

## Grabs pole with a blistering lap

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Fifteen-year old Md. Mikail from Chennai lit up the fourth and penultimate round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National motorcycle racing championship by setting a record of sorts at the MMRT here on Friday and grabbed pole position in the Honda NSF 250R category while TVS Racing's ace rider Jagan Kumar qualified first in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc category.

Also qualifying for pole positions in their respective National championship categories were Ann Jennifer of Sparks Racing (girls, Stock 165cc), Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing's Anish Shetty (Pro-Stock 201-300cc) and Venkatesan I (novice, Stock 165cc) of Team Motomaniac.

Mikail, riding the FIM Moto3-spec NSF 250R bike in the Idemitsu Honda Talent Cup one-make championship, clocked a blistering lap of 1minute, 47.887secs around the 3.717-km MMRT circuit in the qualifying session.

It was the fastest lap ever



**Red hot:** Md. Mikail raced the fastest lap ever in a National championship for bikes up to 250cc. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in a National championship event for bikes up to 250cc.

Second behind Mikahil, who is full time into racing and studies from home, was another Chennai teenager, Varoon Sadasivam (1:49.327) with Pune's 12-year-old Sarthak Shrikant Chavan (1:51.342) qualifying third.

### Happy

"I am very happy with my qualifying session, but I am working hard to do even better," said Mikail, who is leading the championship in his category.

Earlier, international Ra-

jiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda Ten10 Racing), leading the championship in the Pro-Stock 165cc class, put the hammer down by topping the free practice session with a lap time of 1:59.115s, pipping his closest rival, TVS Racing's Jagan Kumar (1:59.239). Sethu's teammate Sarath Kumar, also in the championship reckoning and trailing Jagan by just one point, was third quickest in 02:00.103, ahead of TVS Racing's Kevin Kannan (02:01.102). The qualifying session is scheduled for Saturday.