

# Ashwin Datta seals Formula LGB 1300 title

## Raghul, Manav post wins in MRF F1600 races

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CHENNAI

A second-place finish saw Ashwin Datta of Momentum Motorsport emerge champion in the Formula LGB 1300 category with a race to spare in the fifth and final round of the MRF MMSC Fmsci Indian National Car Racing Championship at the MMRT, here on Saturday.

On a day of hectic scramble for points, Mamallapuram's Raghul Rangasamy eked out a two-point lead over Bengaluru teenager Sohil Shah in the premier MRF F1600 category with a win and a fifth-place finish in Saturday's two races. Faridabad's Manav Sharma was the other winner. With two more races to be run on Sunday, Rangasamy has 142 points to Shah's 140 while Mumbai's Nayan Chatterjee (121) is placed third.

Likewise, in the popular Indian Touring Cars category, Dhruv Mohite (Rayo Racing), driving the Volkswagen factory-supported Vento, moved within four points of leader Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) who retired due to a



Manav Sharma emerged winner in the second race of the MRF Formula 1600. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

freak incident (tyre deflation) in the very first lap. Mohite went on to finish second behind Volkswagen guest driver Daniel Rowe (South Africa), but earned full quota of 25 points. Balu has 148 points as against Mohite's 144 going into tomorrow's final race which will have a reverse-grid start.

Datta, who turns 21 in November, needed just one point to seal the championship going into this weekend and he managed to come in second behind teammate Deepak Ravikumar and ahead of Mohamed Ryan (M Sport) in the eight-lap race that was run behind a Safety Car in the mid-phase due to

on-track incidents involving three cars.

The result took Datta's tally to 163 points, well clear of Sohil Shah (M Sport, 95) who opted not to race in this category and concentrate on his races in the MRF F1600 class. Lying third in the championship is Chirag Ghorpade (Momentum Motorsport, 85). "It feels great to win the championship with one race to spare. I had a good race today, starting from 11th position as I could not post a time in the qualifying session due to some problems with my car. After about three laps, three cars in front of me, went off the track and later, myself and

Mohit Aryan were dicing for first and second. However, both of us went off the track under late braking in the last lap. In the process, Deepak Ravikumar capitalised and won the race ahead of me," said Datta.

**The results (Provisional, all 8 laps unless mentioned):**

**MRF F1600 (Race-1):** 1. Raghul Rangasamy (Mamallapuram) (13mins, 29.135secs); 2. Sohil Shah (Bengaluru) (13:30.653); 3. Yash Aradhya (Bengaluru) (13:34.392). **Race-2 (7 laps):** 1. Manav Sharma (Faridabad) (14:48.254); 2. Nayan Chatterjee (Mumbai) (14:48.848); 3. Vishnu Prasad (Chennai) (14:48.857).

**Indian Touring Cars (Race-1):** 1. Daniel Rowe (South Africa) (15:25.637); 2. Dhruv Shivaji Mohite (Kolhapur) (15:27.894); 3. Arjun Narendran (Coimbatore) (15:28.264).

**Formula LGB 1300 (Race-1):** 1. Deepak Ravikumar (Momentum Motorsport) (18:56.445); 2. Ashwin Datta (Momentum Motorsport) (18:57.279); 3. Mohamed Ryan (M Sport) (18:57.770).

**Volkswagen Ameo Class (Race-1):** 1. Jeffrey Kruger (South Africa) (15:36.052); 2. Tasmin Peper (South Africa) (15:38.620); 3. Saurav Bandyopadhyay (Mumbai) (15:39.554).