



## Samir Thapar wins South India rally

SAMIR THAPAR ALONG with co-driver Gurinder Mann have won the AVT Premium South India Rally, round three of the FMSCI Indian Rally Championship. Driving a Mitsubishi Evo X, Thapar finished ahead of championship leader Gaurav Gill (co-driver Musa Sherif) of Team Mahindra Adventure.

The wide, fast and flowing stages let Thapar open up a sizeable overnight lead over Gill at the end of day one. He continued the run on the next day, winning all four stages, including the Spectator Super

Special run at the Madras Circuit, with plenty to spare.

Thapar, 50, had last won a national championship in 1997 before quitting the sport, while for 49-year-old Mann, a multiple Indian champion in his heydays, it was his first success since winning the Asia

Zone in 2000.

Delhi-based Thapar commented, "It is a great moment for us oldies and winning an event after such a long time is just fantastic. The stages, the organising and just about everything here was perfect."

### RESULTS

Pos	Drivers	Team/Car	Time/Gap
1.	S Thapar / G Mann	JCT Rally, Evo X	1h37m45.6s
2.	G Gill / M Sherif	Mahindra Adventure, +2m56s	XUV 500
3.	A PG / K Ramaswamy	REA PGA Motorsport, +3m71s	Evo 6

## Latvala claims home win

JARI-MATTI LATVALA resisted huge pressure from Volkswagen team-mate Sebastien Ogier to clinch the second Rally Finland victory of his World Rally Championship career.

The Finn dominated his home event early on, escaping from the chasing Ogier and Kris Meeke and establishing a 31-second lead halfway through the rally.

In the final leg, Latvala brought his lead back up to 5.0secs before Ogier took 1.3secs back on the next stage.

Ogier was faster by one-tenth on the Powerstage to claim maximum bonus points, but Latvala had the huge satisfaction of taking the first home win on Rally Finland since his own 2010 triumph, as he won by a final margin of just 3.6secs.

### RESULTS

Pos	Drivers	Team/Car	Time/Gap
1.	Jari-Matti Latvala	VW	2h57m23.2s
2.	Sebastien Ogier	VW	+3.6s
3.	Kris Meeke	Citroen	+50.6s

## 6th Dakshin Dare ends

THE 6TH EDITION of Maruti Suzuki Dakshin Dare was flagged off from Bangalore, scheduled to cover around 2000km in a span of five days. The end of the first day saw defending winner Amanpreet Ahluwalia (co-driver Sudeep Halder) lead the rally, followed by the duo of Sandeep Sharma and Varun Davessar.

Day two saw leader Ahluwalia get a stop-and-go penalty and slip to eighth spot, which promoted Sharma into overall lead. Next day, Sharma

extended his lead over second-placed rival Sanjay Agarwal. Suresh Rans was third and Ahluwalia climbed up to fifth. Day four saw all these drivers hold their positions. Agarwal on second was just about 30secs behind leader Sharma.

On the fifth and final day, Sharma used his overnight lead of over a minute to hold off his Maruti team-mate Sanjay Agarwal. Defending champion Ahluwalia took third spot. All three teams were driving the Maruti Gypsy.

### RESULTS

Pos	Drivers	Time/Gap
1.	Sandeep Sharma/Varun Davessar	3h41m26s
2.	Sanjay Agarwal/Venu Ramesh Kumar	+1m23s
3.	Amanpreet Ahluwalia/Sudeep Halder	+3m3s



## 1st Force Gurkha RFC India ends



THE FIRST FORCE Gurkha RFC India challenge underway in Goa has ended.

Malaysia's Tang Eng Joo finished in first place along with co-driver Tan Choon Hong. They were closely followed by Mervyn Lim (co-driver Hamizan Bin Abdul Hamid); both teams were representing Force Motors.

Indian team Kabir Waraich and Gagan Sachdeva of Gerrari Off-roaders Chandigarh finished third.

### RESULTS

Drivers	Team
Tang Eng Joo	Force
Mervyn Lim	Force
Kabir Waraich	Gerrari

## MEXICO TO RETURN TO F1 CALENDER IN 2015

Mexico will return to the F1 calendar from next year after a 23-year absence, organisers have said. The circuit had featured on the 2014 provisional calendar, but the final schedule was decided sans the circuit after authorities failed to get the track updates ready in time. Next year, the event will take place at the 2.747-mile Mexico city circuit. Bernie Ecclestone has said that he's delighted the country was getting F1 back.

