



The newly-built Madras International Karting Arena is set for a September launch.

— Srinivasa Krishnan

# NEW JEWEL IN MMSC CROWN

## Madras International Karting Arena set for September opening

**C. SANTHOSH KUMAR**  
CHENNAI, JUNE 15

The Madras Motor Sports Club (MMSC) is set to elevate the city's racing landscape with the inauguration of the Madras International Karting Arena (MIKA) this September. This state-of-the-art facility is a significant addition to the sprawling Madras International Circuit, the epicenter of Indian motorsport.

"Final touches are being given," said Vicky Chandhok, vice president of MMSC, as the eagerly anticipated project nears completion. Built at a cost of ₹16 crore, the 1.2km-long track will soon stand as India's first CIK (Commission Internationale de Karting) certified circuit.

Describing the Madras International Circuit as a comprehensive motorsport venue, Vicky said, "It's a complete motorsport arena with a race track, karting facility, rally course and drag racing strip. We are constantly raising the benchmark in the country."

The MMSC, as a non-profit organisation, has to reinvest all revenue generated from the facility back into the sport, ensuring sustainable growth and development.

"The MIKA facility is designed for versatility, capable of hosting night races thanks to its advanced lighting system. Vicky said MMSC is planning to host a round of the national karting championship as a test event before going for international events. "We have to check the international karting calendar and bid for a suitable event with the help of the Indian federation (FMSCI)," he added.

With FMSCI chief Akbar Ibrahim also serving as the president of the FIA-CK Karting Commission, Chennai's chances of hosting the prestigious Grand Final

of the Rotax Max Challenge are promising.

### MMSC raises safety standard

Safety remains a top priority for MMSC, especially after the tragic incident involving a teenager who wore a substandard helmet during the national racing championship last year. The club has since implemented stringent safety measures to ensure compliance with safety norms. "Apart from mandatory checks and briefings before the race, riders are now inspected at the pit exit to ensure they are wearing certified equipment," Vicky added.

Additionally, TVS Racing has set a new safety standard by requiring its riders to wear safety air vests that inflate upon impact. "We are looking at the possibility of how other teams can follow suit," Vicky said, indicating a broader initiative to enhance safety protocols across all participating teams.

### Marshals, officials

Marshals and officials were on high alert during the opening round of the 2024 national bike racing season as Saturday's action witnessed a few crashes. During the pre-mun pro-stock 301-400cc race, footage of Allwin Xavier's collision with Senthil Kumar sent shock waves through the paddock. Officials swiftly red flagged the race, halting the competition to address the situation.

As Senthil, who recovered quickly from the crash, checked on Allwin, who lay seemingly motionless on the tarmac, an ambulance rushed to the scene in no time. Allwin was quickly transported to the circuit's medical centre for first aid before being taken to the nearest hospital. The entire paddock heaved a sigh of relief when news arrived from the hospital that Allwin was doing well.



Sarthak Chavan celebrates after winning the Pro Stock 301-400cc category.

## Siblings take centre stage

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI, JUNE 15

Two sets of siblings from Chennai hogged the limelight by winning four of the nine races on Saturday at the Madras International Circuit to light up the first round of the MRF MMSC fmsci Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2024. The 15-year-old Dave twins, Rakshith and Rakshitha, took the honours in the NSF 250R and the National Championship Girls (Stock 165cc) races. It was a maiden win for both of them, in their respective categories.

"Two other siblings, 28-year-old KY Ahamed (Pro-Stock 165cc Open) and his 17-year-old brother Abdul Basim (Novice 165cc), also won a race apiece to set off celebrations in both families.

Elsewhere, Sarthak Chavan, the 17-year-old from Pune, led a 1/2 finish for TVS Racing along with Bengaluru's Chiranth Vishwanath, also 17, in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc category. The race was cut to four laps from scheduled six after a red flag stoppage following a Turn 3 crash (riders ok) and Sarthak, starting from pole, virtually destroyed the field on restart. Chiranth came in second, ahead of Hyderabad's Sairahil Pillarisetty (Gusto Racing).

Sarthak, however, had a disastrous outing in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open race as he crashed when in the lead. On his exit, Sarthak's two TVS Racing teammates, KY Ahamed and multiple National champion Jagan Kumar, were involved in a tight finish. Ahamed pipped his mentor Jagan in a photo-finish with another TVS Racing ace, Deepak Ravikumar, who had started the race from the pit lane, completing the podium. Chiranth, who was running second, also crashed, but resumed to finish fourth.

Also finishing on top step of the podium was Chennai's Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan (RACR).



Rakshitha Dave



Rakshith Dave

Castrol Power1 Ultimate) who won as he pleased in the Novice 301-400cc class that gained National championship status from this season.

Earlier, pole sitter Abdul Basim held off a strong challenge from Mysuru's Tasmal Cariappa (Motul Sparks Racing) who led briefly in the penultimate lap but conceded the advantage. Basim went on to win with Tasmal and Combatoor's Abhinav 3 (Chandra LGE Racing) finishing second and third, respectively.

Rakshitha Dave, starting from P2, moved in front by Turn 2, deftly avoiding any jostling that was happening behind her, and enjoyed a trouble-free run for a commanding win. Another Chennai rider, Jagathishwe Kumarasnan (One Racing) and Eyhana Dee (Motul Sparks Racing) settled for second and third spots, respectively while pole-sitter Ann Jennifer (Alpha Racing) came in a disappointing fourth.

Combatoor's Senthil Kumar C took the honours in the truncated Open (Apache RR 310) race that was reduced to three laps from six due to a red flag stoppage.

**National Championship - Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-1, 12 laps):** 1. Sarthak Chavan (Pune, TVS Racing) (12:05.00/secs); 2. Chiranth Vishwanath (Bengaluru, TVS Racing) (07:39.25/4); 3. Sairahil Pillarisetty (Hyderabad, Gusto Racing India) (07:41.47/0).

**Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race-1):** 1. Ahamed KY (Chennai, TVS

### RESULTS — ROUND 1

Racing) (12:04.17/8); 2. Jagan Kumar (Chennai, TVS Racing) (12:04.19/2); 3. Deepak Ravikumar (Chennai, TVS Racing) (12:14.56/9).

**Novice (Stock 165cc) Race-1:** 1. Abdul Basim RS (Chennai, Rockers Racing) (12:55.80/8); 2. Kumaresan (Chennai, One Racing) (11:03.01/2); 3. Ryhana Bee (Chennai, Motu Sparks Racing) (11:03.15/0).

**Novice (Stock 301-400cc) Race-1:** 1. Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan (Chennai, RACR Castro Power 1 Ultimate) (12:17.25/7); 2. Lokesh V (Bengaluru, Pvt.) (12:23.45/8); 3. Varun Nanjundegowda (Mysuru, Gusto Racing India) (12:27.92/7).

**Novice (Stock 165cc) Race-1 (5 laps):** 1. Rakshitha Dave (Chennai, RACR Castro Power1 Ultimate) (10:56.18/3); 2. Jagathishwe