



Amrita University team

VROOMING TO SUCCESS

A team consisting of 24 students from Amrita University, Coimbatore, recently designed and developed a prototype car called Student Formula Vehicle (SFV) and won accolades after they showcased its racing capabilities at the Buddh International Circuit. Their effort fetched multiple awards, including the overall third place at the prestigious SUPRA 2016 event, a national level engineering contest. DC got in touch with the team captain to know more about the car and the racing club of Amrita.

"It feels overwhelming to have won the all-India Award for 'Best Appearance', apart from finishing third overall. Our team was composed of 12 third-year students, eight second-year students, and four first-years, which included two girls. Without the immense dedication of every member of the team, this pinnacle would have not been scaled," starts Khushal Bhatija, the team captain.

Speaking about Amrita Racing Club, the final year mechanical engineering student says, "Our club participates in important SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) events. The formula student wing started in 2011 by being only the second team to represent India at Formula Student Austria. Given our reputation, we were determined to succeed in this year's SUPRA event." He further adds that a few of the team members had a point to prove, after a dismal performance in the 2015 edition — "The event was not only a battering that could not be forgot-

ten, but also a learning curve for the team!"

Stating that the emphasis was given to the making of SFV, rather than just building a car for racing, Khushal says, "We split our team to focus on different aspects such as steering, suspension, design, power train, brakes, and wheels. In six months, we developed a 500cc, 5-gear petrol engine capable of a top speed of 105 kmph. The car was subjected to rigorous static tests by the judges for tilting, noise, and brakes. This was followed by dynamic testing including acceleration, skidding, endurance, and maneuvering the car in a zigzag fashion. The car was then driven on the Buddh International Circuit. Our drivers Arun and Neeraj drove a total of five laps, each lap being 4.8 km."

Khushal and the team are confident that there is no looking back for the racing club from here on — "We are looking to gain as much experience and knowledge from what is offered in India, and impart it to formula student events abroad!"

— BCR

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