

TAS Ikshvaku Racing: A Student Team That Turned Setbacks into Success



Members of TAS Ikshvaku Racing, the Formula Student team of The National Institute of Engineering, Mysore, at the Formula Bharat competition held at Kari Motor Speedway, Coimbatore, where the team secured All India Rank 3.

TAS Ikshvaku Racing from **The National Institute of Engineering, Mysore**, delivered a standout performance at **Formula Bharat**, securing **All India Rank 3 (AIR 3)** in the **Combustion Vehicle Overall** category. The result marked one of the team's strongest finishes to date at the national-level Formula Student competition and stood as the primary highlight of the season.

The team competed at Formula Bharat held at the **Kari Motor Speedway, Coimbatore**, from **January 21 to 26, 2026**. The event brought together teams from engineering institutions across India, including leading IITs such as Bombay and Roorkee, making the competition both intense and highly competitive.

While the final rankings tell part of the story, the team's journey through the event was shaped by repeated challenges and recovery. After clearing initial inspections, the team faced unexpected mechanical and compliance issues that threatened to halt progress. Engine-related irregularities and a clutch-related fault affected system stability, forcing the team to work through multiple nights under strict time constraints.

With no margin for error and deadlines approaching, the car was repeatedly inspected, repaired, and validated to meet competition requirements. The most critical phase came on the final day, which marked the deadline for clearing all mandatory inspections. Drawing on experience from previous seasons, the team approached the situation methodically, resolving remaining issues and securing clearance to enter the dynamic events. This recovery proved decisive, allowing the car to perform reliably in Autocross and Endurance, where consistency and durability were tested over extended runs.

In addition to the overall AIR 3 finish, the team delivered consistent performances across events, securing **AIR 2 in Overall Dynamics, Endurance, Autocross, and Efficiency**, along with **AIR 4 in Overall Statics and Cost and Manufacturing**. The spread of results reflected not just speed on track, but strength in engineering design, manufacturing planning, and reliability under sustained testing.

The team's effort was supported by companies from across India, along with local support from Mysuru. **TAS** served as the title sponsor for the season. The campaign was guided by faculty advisors **Dr. Sharath Chandra N** and **Dr. Vikram Athreya V**, Professors in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at NIE, whose academic and technical support played a key role throughout the preparation and competition phases.

Reflecting on the season, team captain **Ansh** said the achievement would not have been possible without the collective dedication of the entire team, emphasizing that every subsystem and every member contributed to the final result.

Founded in **2015**, TAS Ikshvaku Racing was initiated under the guidance of **Late Dr. Sunil S.R. Gaekwad** with the aim of giving students a platform to apply classroom learning to real-world engineering challenges. Over the years, the team has grown into a multidisciplinary student initiative, bringing together members from various engineering branches. Women students are an integral part of the team and currently lead several major subsystems, reflecting the team's inclusive and responsibility-driven culture.

Looking ahead, TAS Ikshvaku Racing aims to build on this momentum in the coming years. Alongside continued participation in Formula Student competitions, the team plans to work towards a **transition into electric vehicle (EV) categories**, aligning its future direction with the evolving automotive industry.



