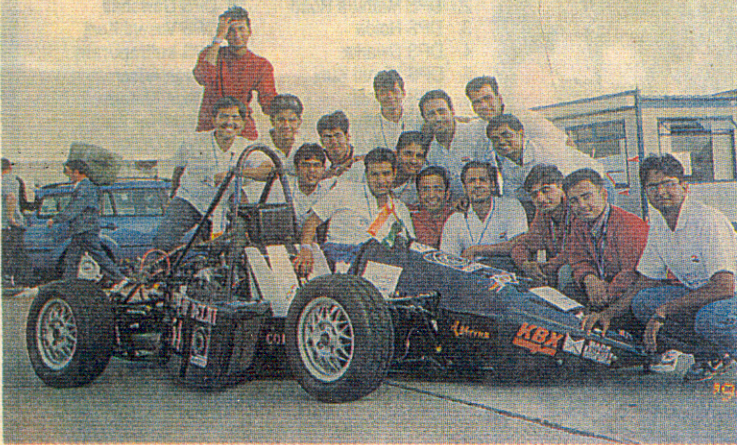# IN THE FAST LANE

TOP GEAR

Sixteen enterprising students of Delhi College of Engineering created history by participating in the prestigious World Formula Student Championship in the UK between July 4-7 with Formula Racing Car designed by them. Ruchir Aggarwal of Mayur Vihar was a part of this project which won the Best Endeavour Trophy

■ **Vinod Behl**

A BUNCH of 16 young, enterprising and defiant students of Delhi College of Engineering (DCE) have brought glory to the country by bagging a coveted prize at the Formula Student 2003, an international Formula Racing Car Design Competition held in Leicestershire, the UK, between July 4-7. These aspiring engineers were awarded the 'Best Endeavour Trophy' and a cash award of 250 pounds at the prestigious competition that involved students in conceiving, designing and fabricating single seater, formula style racer car.

The students are particularly thrilled at the design report of the competition judges. The report describes the assembling of a running car at the first attempt as a triumph of resourcefulness and ingenuity.

It was for the first time that India participated in the Formula Student Championship. In fact, the DCE team was the first from Asia to participate in the event, says Nischint Gangahar from Kailash Hills, "The judges at the competition were simply surprised that we could do a project of this magnitude in India where you do not get proper racing car components".

The engineering students had designed the Formula Car after one and half years of planning and hard work. "What was really significant was that we could pit it against the technical expertise and engineering prowess of top universities of the world", says team leader Arpit Gupta.

Adds Chiriag Taneja of Vikaspuri, "Out of 58 universities, only 38 could qualify to participate in the event. We were short listed after we cleared. We were not only cheered by the spectators and rival teams but also appreciated by the judges."

Defianz 2003, the racing car designed by the students of DCE successfully cleared the brake, noise and safety tests. "But the ultimate test was at the racing tracks. We were keeping our fingers crossed. Particularly as some people back home had said who knows this car

THE TEAM

- Ruchir Agarwal
- Himanshu Jain
- Abhishek Sabbarwal
- Aditya Duggal
- Akshay Kakar
- Anuj Chaudhary
- Apurv Agarwal
- Arpit Gupta
- Ashish Mansukhani
- Chirag Taneja
- Gaurav Mathur
- Jitesh Lohchab
- Nishchint Ganghar
- Shiva Dixit
- Sumit Balwan
- Sumit Chaudhary

would run or not", said Ruchir Agarwal of Mayur Vihar.

Adds Himanshu Jain of Noida, "Our car that weighed 490 kg was the second heaviest in the Formula Student Championship. Obviously it was a hindrance to the performance." But the moment the team leader pressed the accelerator and the car zoomed on the racing tracks at 60 km an hour, the entire team members jumped in ecstasy. For the excited bunch of these aspiring engineers, it was a dream come true, particularly after the initial challenges they faced. Lack of sponsors unavailability of car components, tepid response from the college and general skepticism somewhat dampened the spirits.

"We were particularly discouraged by the attitude of some auto companies. They told us that while they were still struggling with their car design, how could we achieve this feat," says Ruchir Agarwal. It was because of all these odds faced by the students that they named their car 'Defianze 2003'.

What really worked for the dedicated and committed bunch of students was the imported car engine and other components of the racing car. "Finance was a big problem before us. Each one of us contributed about Rs.1lakh towards manufacturing cost,

shipping of car to tournament venue, our tickets and stay," says Ruchir. Riding high on the success, the engineering students now want to utilise their prize money of 250 pounds to improve upon their car. They are also hopeful of getting sponsors. They now want to work for Student Formula 2004 and bag the top award.