

Force Gurkha is an outright winner in RFC India



From Left to Right: Mr David Metcalf, Mr. Tan Eng Joo, Mr. Prasan Firodia MD Force Motors, Navigator Mr. Tan Choon Hong, Mr. Luis J Wee Founder Rainforest Challenge, and Mr. Ashish Gupta Founder Cougar Motorsports

In its very first participation in an off-road event of the toughest nature, Pune-based Force Motors' Team Gurkha bagged the first two positions. The event, truly the mother of all off-road events in the world, the Rain Forest Challenge India 2014, saw Force Motors participating for the first time with three of its souped up '4X4X4' Force Gurkha vehicles. The event held in Goa from August 8 to 14, 2014, was the first edition of the internationally acclaimed Rain Forest Challenge (RFC).

Gurkha No. 120 driven by Tan Eng Joo and navigator Tan Choon Hong claimed overall victory with 1877 points after six days of extremely tough action in the natural terrain around Goa. Gurkha No. 107 with Mervyn Wei Shiong at the helm and navigator Abdul Hamizan Hamid were edged out for the win by a solitary point and had to rest content with 1876 points for second overall. Both the winning Gurkha vehicles were neck to neck throughout the six day event which had a total of 23 cars coming under starter's orders. The third Gurkha vehicle No. 121 with Sanjiv Singh and navigator Jay Shridhar could only go on to bag 8th position overall.

The three participating Force Gurkha vehicles for the RFC were specially modified to meet the demands of top notch off roading given that the Rain Forest Challenge is ranked among the world's ten toughest motoring events. Powered by the Mercedes-Benz licensed power train of 2.2 FMTech Common Rail Direct Injection engine and the G-32/5 gearbox, front rigid axle, long travel heavy duty shock absorbers, hydraulic steering adapted from the Balwan agricultural tractors from the Force Motors stable, these vehicles managed the toughest terrains with great ease.

In fact, every major driveline aggregate was from within the Force Motors portfolio and was put in place by the engineering prowess and proven reliability of the Force Motors R&D team.

Prasan Firodia, Managing Director of Force Motors said that he was extremely delighted with the results. "This was a first of its kind event for Force Motors, we wanted to prove the off-roading capabilities of the Force Gurkha; we have not only achieved that but have also secured the top 2 positions. While a large part of this success goes to our drivers, it would not have been possible without the hard work and relentless efforts of all our team members. We are proud of the results achieved," he said.

The Rain Forest Challenge was first launched in Malaysia in 1997 and at present has a presence in seven countries including Italy, Russia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Tunisia, China and Australia.