



YOUNG ACHIEVER: CHIRAG MALHOTRA

Chirag Malhotra (Class of 2010 of The Cambridge School) is revving up for his Formula racing debut in the U.K. He is going to be the only Indian at the Winter Cup 2011, which is taking place at Silverstone, in a Formula Renault 2.0 car.

Chirag started motor racing with the informal go-kart races at age 11 in Clown Town. He then went on to participate in the JK Tyre National Racing Championship in 2009 in a Formula Rolon.



Chirag's Formula Renault 2.0 is leased at GBP 50000. The car has a carbon fibre shell which is "nearly impossible to break". He has to wear a racing suit which is made up of three layers of fire-proof material. When in the UK he practices on various famous racing circuits like Brands Hatch in Kent and the Silverstone F1 circuit. According to Chirag, a Formula One racing driver needs to be at least three times more fit than a fighter pilot.

A strict diet has to be followed. Breakfast for Chirag consists of one litre of milk, four eggs and a banana. Supper at 7 p.m. is only salad and sprouts. He is not allowed carbohydrates in the evening and has to abstain completely from cigarettes and alcohol. Bedtime is usually 9 p.m. and 8 hours of good sleep is very important.

At the Formula Renault Winter Cup 2011, Chirag will be racing for Brett Parris's team, Antel Motorsports. Chirag, along with an Italian and two



British, form the team. Very wisely, Chirag has kept Motor Sport Engineering as a back-up course at the University of Hertfordshire where he now studies.



A racing driver can race for many years, but most peak at the age of 35 or so before gradually fading out. Hence, a back-up career plan is very essential.

Chirag is very grateful to his parents for all their encouragement and support. In addition, he is thankful to his present sponsor, NAVITAS, an educational service provider. NAVITAS offers affiliation to different universities in Canada, UK and the USA. Chirag got to know of NAVITAS through VIEC, Kolkata.

Chirag's message for the students of TCS: "Start going to class...it pays!"

Here's wishing Chirag all the very best at Silverstone! May he win many more races.

Pragyaditya Mukerjee