

Dakar Rally 2018 is underway

The tenth edition in South America engaged first gear this Saturday in Peru, with Ivecos from Petronas Team de Rooy and YPF Infinia Diesel Team de Rooy as contenders facing a route of almost 9.000 kilometers ahead of them.

The start of 2018 Dakar Rally finally arrived and Lima saw the 337 vehicles through the starting ramp in a colorful ceremony in El Pentagonito. All crews went straight to the beginning of the stage, close to the city of Pisco, where the first 31 kilometers of speed took place for the 40th edition of this historical competition.

Ton van Genugten, from the Petronas Team de Rooy, positioned himself as the best Iveco in the first special. He was more than a minute behind the leaders, placed in fourth place behind Ales Loprais, Martin van den Brink and Eduard Nikolaev.

On the other hand, Artur Ardavichus, finished the stage far behind, almost five minutes adrift from Loprais. The driver from Kazakhstan will start tomorrow from 16th place, following his position on today's special.

Federico Villagra from the YPF Infinia Diesel Team de Rooy and one of the favorites to battle the Russian's Kamaz head to head, was a bit more complicated in the first 31 kilometers. The navigation systems did not work in the proper way and the Argentine lost 16m37s in the shortest day of competition.

Although the milage today was not big, it already proved the difficulties that the crews will face in the first week of action, where they will go through the world's



highest dunes in the desert of Peru. Navigation will be one of the key points in this Dakar 2018 and co-drivers will need to master the skills all the way through.

In the second stage, the competition will do the first of three loops, starting and finishing in the city of Pisco, where the bivouac is placed this Saturday. There will be 267 timed kilometers in the middle of the desert and Peruvian dunes.

Stage 1 / Overall - Dakar Rally 2018

1. Ales Loprais (Tatra)	25m15s
2. Martin van den Brink (Renault)	+ 22s
3. Eduard Nikolaev (Kamaz)	+ 29s
4. TON VAN GENUGTEN (IVECO)	+ 1m11s
5. Anton Shibalov (Kamaz)	+ 1m18s

16. ARTUR ARDAVICHUS (IVECO)	+ 4m55s
21. FEDERICO VILLAGRA (IVECO)	+ 16m37s

For those who want to read more details about the team, vehicles and follow day by day activity, you can go to www.iveco.com/dakar.