

Match race sailing from today

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MUMBAI: Twelve sailing teams will fight it out for match racing supremacy in the waters off the Girgaum beach from November 1 to 5. Match Racing Association of India (MRAI) chief Farokh Tarapore said the ISS Mumbai International Match Race was a Grade 2 event, a rung lower than the big money events which generally offer euros 55,000 (approx. Rs 38 lakh) in prize money.

MRAI had offered \$10,000 (approx Rs 4.6 lakhs) for its inaugural event in 2007 when it was a grade 3 level competition, but there is no prize money on offer for the present event because of the financial strains it went through hosting the event 2008 event which was postponed to the January this year

after the 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai. "This event is a grade two competition as per the norms set by the International Sailing Federation," said Tarapore.

Five Indian teams – including an all women's outfit – would be up against the seven international entries from Estonia, Sweden, Korea, Bahrain, France, Ireland and Thailand. Russia, which had been originally included in the fray, dropped out because of visa issues.

The competition would be played on league-cum-knock-out basis.

India's challenge is expected to be spearheaded by Mahesh Ramachandran, an immensely experienced sailor from the Indian Navy, Farokh Tarapore, who has been world champion twice and the Mongia brothers Aashim and Nitin.