



AHOY! HYDERABAD SAILING WEEK IS HERE



Pics: T. Mallikarjun

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As the overcast skies painted the waters of Hussain Sagar in surreal early morning monsoon grey and the winds began to blow at 15 knots gusting up to 17 knots, the best sailors in the country set sail in bright hued sailboards — white, pink, yellow, blue — to vie for top honours at the 32nd Hyderabad Sailing Week, which kicked off in picture perfect fashion on Tuesday morning. And with a record 239 sailors taking part this year, the annual multi-class sailing championship promises to cement Hyderabad's status as the host of the most sought-after sailing championship in India.

"We received a total of 201 entries

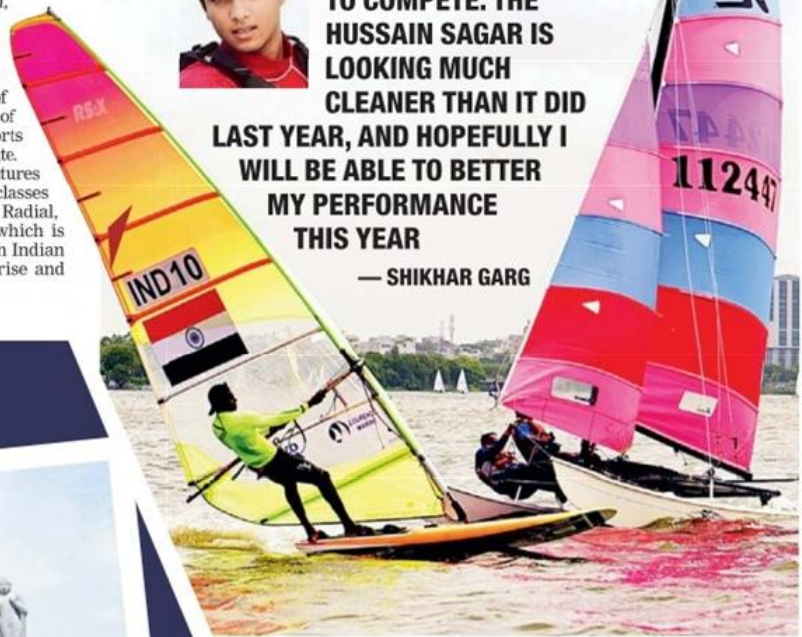
from sailing clubs across the country for this year's championship. It's a new record, bettering last year's mark off," said Lt Gen KK Aggarwal, SM, VSM, Commodore, EME Sailing Association, which is hosting the event along with Secunderabad Sailing Club under the aegis of Laser Class Association of India supported by Sports Authority of Telangana State.

The marquee event features five of the eight Olympic classes — Laser (Standard), Laser Radial, 470, RS:X and the Finn, which is sailing for the first time in Indian waters — besides Enterprise and Laser 4.7 classes.



IT'S ALWAYS SPECIAL TO COME TO HYDERABAD TO COMPETE. THE HUSSAIN SAGAR IS LOOKING MUCH CLEANER THAN IT DID LAST YEAR, AND HOPEFULLY I WILL BE ABLE TO BETTER MY PERFORMANCE THIS YEAR

— SHIKHAR GARG



THE FINN MAKES ITS DEBUT IN INDIA



The marquee boat of this year's Hyderabad Sailing Week is undoubtedly the Finn. Known as the 'big-beast' of single handler sailing, the Finn, is going to sail in Indian waters for the first time. Designed by Swedish canoe designer Rickard Sarby in 1949, the iconic dinghy debuted at 1952 Summer Olympics in Helsinki and has been a fixture in every Summer Olympics ever since, earning the distinction of becoming the longest serving dinghy in the Olympic Regatta. "The Finn is the toughest dinghy to manoeuvre and demands extreme strength and agility. You need at least 10 knot winds to get it going. Only sailors who weigh over 90 kgs are allowed to compete in the Finn class," informs Major Sahil Dua.



Registration by female sailors sees sharp rise this year

Pict: T Mallikarjun



ALL SET: A record 239 sailors are taking part in this year's Hyderabad Sailing Week

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Interestingly this year's event also registered the highest number of women sailors. "We have 17 women participating this year, which is a new record," added Lt Gen KK Aggarwal. And seven sailors from Telangana are competing in the event, the youngest of the lot being 12-year-old Hyderabad girl Kiriti. "A total of 12 races will be held in the championship where many coveted trophies are at stake — Late Lt Cdr Kelly S Rao Trophy, Rolling Trophy by Secunderabad Club, YAI Katari Bowl," said Major Sahil Dua, a member of the organis-

ing committee. Bhopal's Tanu Bisen, who won the gold medal in 2015 and a bronze last year, in the Laser Radial class, is hopeful of clinching the gold this year. "The weather is perfect for sailing during this time of the year in Hyderabad. I've trained hard and am aiming to take home the gold medal this time," she says. Her colleague, Shikhar Garg, who won the silver medal in Laser Radial class, in the under-19 category is hoping to do one better this year. "It's always special to come to Hyderabad to compete at this event. The Hussain Sagar is looking much cleaner than it did last year, and hopefully I will be able to better my performance this year," he says.

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—Tanu Bisen, a participant from Bhopal

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— Lt Gen KK Aggarwal, SM, VSM, Commodore, EME Sailing Association

HISTORY BEHIND HYDERABAD SAILING WEEK

FOUNDED IN 1964 WITH THE AIM OF PROMOTING SAILING IN THE COUNTRY, THE EME SAILING ASSOCIATION HAS PRODUCED A NUMBER OF SAILORS WHO HAVE WON LAURELS AT BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. THE LASER CLUB ASSOCIATION OF INDIA WAS FORMED IN 1986 TO PROMOTE SAILING IN INDIA. THAT'S HOW THE HYDERABAD SAILING WEEK WAS BORN.

