



## OCEAN BLUE LASER COASTAL NATIONAL SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP 2011 STARTS TODAY

**Mumbai, India; May 9, 2011:** The Ocean Blue Laser Coastal National Sailing Championship 2011 starts today with an opening ceremony at the Army Yachting Node (AYN) in Mumbai. The event will be declared open by General Officer Commanding, Headquarters Maharashtra, Gujarat & Goa. The Championship is being hosted by the Army Yachting Node (AYN) and Royal Bombay Yacht Club (RBYC), under the burgee of Laser Class Association of India (LCAI) and Yachting Association of India (YAI).

Laser being the most popular class internationally and in the country, is now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year of glory in the country. The Laser Coastal National Championship will be touching Mumbai waters for the first time in the history of the event and already has a record number of entries for the championship. The championship runs from 8th to 14th May, with races scheduled over the next 5 days. The races will be conducted in multiple classes: Laser Standard, Laser Radial, Laser 4.7 (Youth i.e. under 18 and under 16).

The host club, Army Yachting Node (AYN) was established on 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2001 as a part of "Mission Olympics" with a clear aim of winning the Olympic medal. AYN has so far won 17 International Medals, 2 Asian Games Medals, 191 National Medals including a participation in the Beijing Olympics 2008. Subedar Major Rajesh Choudhary, VSM of AYN has been conferred 'Arjuna Award' in the sport of Sailing for the year 2010.

The co-host club, Royal Bombay Yacht Club (RBYC) was founded in 1846, it was then called the Bombay Yacht Club which was subsequently commanded to be styled 'The Royal Bombay Yacht Club' in 1876 by Queen Victoria. In 1880, the (waterfront) Club House was built. In 1894, the Commissioners of the Lord High Admiral bestowed upon the Club the Blue Ensign of Her Majesty Fleet with a Star of India surmounted by the Imperial Crown. The Royal Bombay Yacht Club is the premier civilian sailing club in India and has been in the forefront promoting the sport of sailing in India. The club has a number of National & International sailors on its roll of honor.

In the fray, will be leading institutions such as the National Sailing School (NSS), Tamil Nadu Sailing Association (TNSA), EME Sailing Club, Royal Bombay Yacht Club, Corps of Engineers Sailing Club, NDA sailing club, Royal Madras Yacht Club, INWTC, Visakhapatnam and Kochi, the EME Sailing Association and Army Yachting Node, Mumbai. Also joining them will be the champion sailors from the complete sailing fraternity of the country.



The title sponsor for the event is Ocean Blue Boating, India's largest Boating group with diverse interests across dealerships, charters, marinas and boat manufacturing. Ocean Blue has been at the forefront of promoting sailing amongst the country's sailors and has hosted various sailing championships over the last five years.

The presenting sponsor for the event is Provogue, one of India's premier fashion & lifestyle retail brands. Known for its association with a wide spectrum of sports including sailing, Provogue continues to be associated with events that epitomize the brand image it is known for.

**Annexure: Championship Schedule:**

S NO	DATE	DAYS	ACTIVITY	Venue	TIMINGS
1	9-May-11	Mon	Opening Cermony	Army Yachting Node - Pilot Bunder Road	
			(a) Practice Race		1400 hrs
			(b) Press brief and Opening Ceremony		1630 hrs
			(c) Hi – Tea		1730 hrs
2	10-13 May 11	Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri	Races	Army Yachting Node - Pilot Bunder Road	0800hrs onwards
			(a) 10 May – 2 Racesx3 classes		
			(b) 11 May – 2 Racesx3 classes		
			(c) 12 May – 2 Racesx3 classes		
			(d) 13 May – 2 Racesx3 classes		
3	14-May- 11	Sat	Races	Army Yachting Node - Pilot Bunder Road	0800hrs onwards
			Spectator & VIP Boats on water		
			Prize Distribution and Closing Ceremony		1915 hrs Onwards
			Followed by Regatta Ball Cocktails & Dinner		

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