

City-based franchise racing league to hit Indian roads

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Mumbai: Chennai-based Indian race drivers Armaan Ebrahim and Aditya Patel – both only 29 years of age – have joined hands to commence a custom-made sports car racing league in the country that will get underway this year.

In what is expected to be an official announcement at the earliest, Ebrahim and Patel have played a mix of track and street circuits devised on the lines of a Monaco Grand Prix – in thought, not in scale – that will be held across three cities in India. TOI has learnt that it will be a franchise-based league with corporates getting involved with each of the teams going forward. The league will be called Xtreme1 Racing League (X1).

The details of the three venues and possible team owners could not be determined. Team ownership is expected to cost around Rs 6.5-7 crore per year and the investment will be inclusive of cars, drivers, team operations and running the cars.

Those in the know of things said “the proposal for the street

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race has already been sent to the FIA office in Switzerland and they will soon be in India for the final nod”. Sources further added that it will be an eight-franchise league with two cars per team and four drivers per team. In fact, it is further learnt that each team – in what is a first-of-its-kind move – will comprise one international male driver, one international female, one Indian international

driver (with five-plus years of driving international series) and one Indian domestic driver (national champions and upcoming race drivers).

The organisers of the league are said to be in talks with Formula One drivers and the league, once it sees the light of the day, will go on to be the world’s first city-based motorsports league with the sanction of the concerned governing bodies including the FMSCI. Arman’s father, Akbar Ebrahim, happens to be the president of the FMSCI while industrialist Gautam Singhania is the chairman. “The format of the race, which will be held on Saturdays and Sundays will see 8 race days, 24 races, four consecutive weekends, three races per race day, duration of each race is 45 minutes,” sources said.