

# Mascarenhas faces stiff task

**Krishnaprasad.PV@timesgroup.com**

**Coimbatore:** First round winner Dean Mascarenhas of Mangaluru is expected to face stiff opposition from three-time APRC champion Gaurav Gill in Round 2 of the Champions Yacht Club-FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship 2019, which begins here on Saturday.

With a record 65 teams in fray — Team Champions have fielded 25 teams — the Rally of Coimbatore will prove to be a tough challenge as slushy conditions will test their skills here.

The rally will be contested over two days, covering a total distance of 141.09 km, with 119.70 km earmarked for eight special stages.

Gill and Musa Sherif spearhead Mahindra Adventure's campaign, and will look to make amends for missing out on podium in the opening round.

Dean, the INRC 2 driver (with co-driver Shruptha Padival) will need to be at his best here as Gaurav, who made a remarkable recovery after struggling with his car in the initial stages to finish third last time around is expected to come out all guns blazing for his seventh INRC title.