

**India on track with first F1 race**

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Jaypee Sports International Chairman, Manoj Gaur, with Managing Director Sameer Gaur, left, and Federation of Motorsports Clubs of India President Vicky Chandok.  
Picture: Manish Swarup *Source: AP*

**ORGANISERS of the inaugural Indian Grand Prix have promised a glitch-free event, saying the track is ready.**

India is due to hold a Formula One race on October 30 at a new \$326 million, 5.14-kilometre circuit designed by German architect Hermann Tilke, on the outskirts of New Delhi.

The circuit is part of an ambitious sports complex being built by the Jaypee group that will include an international-standard cricket stadium.

"Our and our country's reputation is on (the) line. We are responsible people and we

will deliver a successful race," Manoj Gaur, executive chairman of the Jaypee group, told reporters.

"The track is ready and the homologation (approval by F1 officials) of the facility will be done in July as per the timetable of the FIA (international body)."

Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone, inspected the circuit site in October last year and dismissed concerns that preparations for the race could mirror the chaotic build-up to the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

Formula One has been followed closely in cricket-crazy India since local driver Narain Karthikeyan raced for the now defunct Jordan team in 2005.

Karthikeyan returned to the circuit this year following a deal with the Spanish Hispania racing team.

Another Indian, Karun Chandhok, drove last year for Hispania, which finished 11th out of 12 in its inaugural year.

Samir Gaur, managing director of Jaypee Group, said tickets for the Indian GP would go on sale in June.

"We can't disclose the pricing but it would be moderate. It is in the final stages and it will start from 2500 rupees (\$52)," he said.