

Army's women power at 20th raid-de-Himalaya

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At the 20th edition of the Raid de Himalaya, two women officers of the Indian Army are riding on motor-bikes. Besides, for the first time, the Army has also fielded a women's team in Raid Xtreme (4X4), an extreme endurance event of marathon proportions. These show the Army's women power at the rally.

Raid de Himalaya, India's iconic motorsport event, will take off tomorrow from Kargil. More than 200 competitors will race to Sankoo, the bowl-shaped valley known

as Ladhak's Gulmarg (valley of flowers). The Raid will also go to Umba La, a high mountain pass at an elevation of 4,496 meters, and to Drass, called the gateway to Ladakh, all in the Kargil sector.

Maj K Renuka and Capt Prabhakaran Santheni will ride the Royal Enfield Himalayan at the Raid, in the Moto Adventure category. Major Renuka is from the Armed Service Corps, and Capt Santheni from the Army Nurse Corps (AMC). Capt Santheni is currently working at the Army's Research and Referral Hospital

in New Delhi. Maj Renuka is an experienced motorcyclist. In June 2018, she participated in the Himalayan Odyssey Women's Edition, a motorcycle trip from Delhi to Khardung La and Leh.

In Raid Xtreme (4X4), Maj Euthica of ASC will drive a Maruti Gypsy at the Raid with navigator Capt Tejal Parashare, also of ASC are participating. Maj Euthica said she and her team mates are aware of the extremities that must be endured at the Raid. Col Shakti Bajaj, Team Leader said the Army has fielded seven teams in Raid Xtreme 4X4.