

# Shuchi and Anu set to compete again at Raid De Himalaya 2018

**Shimla:** Delhi woman Shuchi Thakur, a St Stephen alumna and global number one in extreme cross country high-altitude motorsport racing among women, is again taking on the challenge at the 20th edition of the Raid de Himalaya.

## RAID DE HIMALAYA

The Raid will start from Leh on October 8, and will finish on October 14. Competitors at Raid 2018 will take on mountain roads, hairpin curves and dangerous drop-offs in Kargil, Zaskar and Ladakh sectors.

Shuchi Thakur, who hails from Dharamshala and now lives at Delhi, first competed in Raid de Himalaya in 2005. She has been racing at the Raid every year since then, except 2016. This makes Shuchi the only woman globally who has raced a 4X4 vehicle over one lakh kilometers.

The other major woman rallyist in the Xtreme category of the Raid is Anu Rana of Chandigarh. Anu has been competing in Xtreme motorsport racing since 2014. This is the fourth time she is competing at the Raid de Himalaya.



**BRAVE GIRL:** Anu Rana (left) with sister Poonam Rana in their white Gypsy-would be participating in the Raid De Himalaya.

In 2015, Anu was second in the T2 category at the Raid. She bagged the Coup de Dames trophy, given to the all-women team that performs best at the Raid, in 2015 and also 2016. Anu was second in the T2 category at the Dakshin Dare 2015, and first in the women's category at Dakshin Dare in 2016 and 2017.

Anu, a financial consultant, will compete at the Raid with her sister Poonam Rana as navigator. The duo have won various trophies together.

Anu says the Raid is her favourite motorsport race. "Competitive driving for long hours at high altitudes requires completely different set of

training and conditioning of your body. The terrain keeps getting steeper with every turn, and you will not know when you will be racing on loose rocks or even sand, which makes the drive tougher with distance. For a racer like me, the terrain looks tempting, but you should never forget limits of your car," said Anu, a seasoned rallyist now.

Raid de Himalaya is the flagship event of the country's premier motorsport club, Shimla-based Himalayan Motorsport. President Himalayan Motorsport Vijay Parmar said women drivers who come to the Raid are really, really tough.

