

# Phillippos, Amitrajjit start as favourites

**Leh (IANS):** The 20th edition of Raid de Himalaya gets under way here on Wednesday, with the countrys leading rallying lights lining up to battle for the ultimate prize in Indian motorsports.

Rallying titans Phillippos Matthai and Amitrajjit Ghosh of Team Mahindra, 2015 Raid winner Lhakpa Tsering and 2017 runner-up Sanjay Razdan and third-placed Sanjay Agarwal are among the over 230 competitors in fray.

**RAID DE HIMALAYA**



2015 Raid winner Lhakpa Tsering of Arunachal Pradesh pointed out that it took guts to race at such heights on such difficult roads. "Rallying is not cricket or tennis where you have 17-18 year olds becoming champions. Competitive high-altitude racing needs maturity, brains and physical fitness, and tremendous grit," the 45-year-old veteran, who has been in motorsports for 20 years, said.

Multiple rally and racing

## ICONIC BATTLE

- The rally includes 31 teams in the Xtreme cars and trucks category, 37 teams in the Xtreme motorcycles and quads, 12 bikers in the Alpine two-wheeler category, and 31 teams in Adventure Trail.
- They will all be required to show their mettle in the highest reaches of the Himalayas

champion Amitrajjit Ghost of Team Mahindra expressed his excitement, saying: "I am really excited and am looking forward to go all out and win another title for our team."

The first stage of the Raid will take the competitors on the never-before traversed section from Lama-yuru, called the moonland of Ladakh, to Photoksar.

They will then hit the newly-upgraded road that was earlier a mule track into Zanskar before crossing the Sirisir La at a height of 4805 meters above sea level.