

raid de himalaya

# Former champion Lhakpa bows out

## AGE CORRESPONDENT

✓ Lhakpa Tsering of Team Polaris, one of the favourites to win the title, dropped out of the 20th edition of the Raid de Himalaya with an electrical failure in Kargil on Wednesday.

Lhakpa, the winner of the Raid in 2015, saw his RZR 1000 Turbo Dynamix betray him on the opening day itself, that too in Stage 1 as he went all out in the tough Kargil sector.

The first day's stage took the over 200 competitors to Sankoo, and Umba La, one of the higher mountain passes at an elevation of 4,496 meters.

From Umba La, they all headed to Drass, the gateway to Ladakh.

For the first time in its 20-year-history, the Raid began from Kargil and will cross some of the highest stretches in the

Himalayas. A total of 75 teams are competing in the Raid Xtreme, comprising Xtreme 4X4, Xtreme Moto and Xtreme Alpine.

Sri Lanka's Sarfraz Junaid and Akhry Ameer, who were driving a Nissan pick-up truck that was shipped all the way from Colombo, also dropped out due to a mechanical failure.

In the Raid Xtreme Moto, Natraj of Team TVS is leading the bikers, with Vishwas at second spot. Jatinder Jain from Nagpur, riding a KTM 450, was placed third.

In the Alpine category for Raid Xtreme, the scooters dominated the scene. Syed Asif Ali, riding a TVS N-Torq, was leading after Day 1. The two amputee bikers, Ashok Munne of Nagpur and Vinod Rawat of Mumbai, too successfully completed the opening day.