

City's Anu, Sarah eye glory



ZOOMING PAST THE REST: Sarah Kashyap

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Shimla: Chandigarh's Anu Rana, Sarah Kashyap and Dharamshala's Shuchi Thakur are three ladies who promise to set the Raid de Himalaya on fire.

Shuchi Thakur, who is regarded as one of the world's leading cross-country high-altitude racers among women and she has competed in the

RAID DE HIMALAYA

Raid an astounding 12 times.

Sarah Kashyap is also an accomplished rider as she was the first Indian woman to finish the Xtreme Moto Category at the Raid de Himalaya in 2015. The only other woman biker to finish Raid Xtreme Moto has been the Austrian, Klaudia Honeder, who achieved the feat in 2008.

In the Desert Storm 2017, she added another feather in her cap by becoming the first Indian woman to complete the race. Sarah finished eighth overall in Xtreme Moto.

Meanwhile, Anu has no hesitation in saying that the Raid is her favourite motor-

sport event. "I love the challenge of driving for long hours at high altitudes. It requires a completely different set of training and conditioning of your body," she said.

"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 the limits of your car," she added.

In 2015, Anu finished 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 2016. Anu was second in the T2 category at the Dakshin Dare 2015 too, 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 has won various trophies together.

Shuchi Thakur, who hails from Dharamshala, first competed in the Raid de Himalaya in 2005. She has been racing every year in it since then, except in 2016.

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