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However, this time the racing competition, kicking-off on October 8 from Leh, will miss the high-altitude terrains of Himachal Pradesh.

A total of 31 teams for Xtreme cars and trucks, 37 teams for Xtreme motorcycles and quads, 12 bikers in the Alpine two-wheeler category and 31 teams in Adventure Trail, which follows the Time-Speed-Distance format, are going to race on the highest reaches of the Himalayas.

This year's event will run its first stage on the never-before traversed section from Lamayuru, called the moonland of Ladakh, to Photokar.

Rallyists are going to race on a newly-upgraded road that was earlier a mule track into Zaskar.

Crossing the Sirsir La at a height of 4,805 metres above sea level, the 20th Raid De Himalaya is going to enter totally uncharted territories.

Raid 2018 is all set for the clash between motorsport titans Phil Mathais and Amitrajit Ghosh of Team Mahindra, Raid winner 2015 Lhakpa Tsering, Raid 2017 Runners Up Sanjay Razdan and Sanjay Agarwal, Raid 2017 third overall.

The Raid de Himalaya is going to feature Mathais and Ghosh driving the XUV 500.

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