

Blade Runner *Munne to compete in* Raid de Himalaya

■ Sports Reporter

AFTER scaling Mount Everest, city's internationally famed amputee athlete Ashok Munne has set his sights on another adventurous road.

Come October 8, Munne will compete in the world's highest cross-country rally, the Raid de Himalaya, the toughest category at the Raid - Xtreme Moto.

Munne will be racing motorcycles at high-altitude roads and mountain, a task few can accomplish.

Another Indian, Mumbaikar Vinod Rawat, who is also an amputee, will also be participating in the event. It will take off from Leh on October 8 and finish on October 14.

Over 200 competitors participating in Raid de Himalaya 2018 will race over some of the most challenging roads in the Kargil, Zaskar and Ladakh sectors, speeding over rocks, gravel and



dust.

Munne is a para-athlete whose achievements can dazzle any able-bodied individual.

The 34-year-old is a mountaineer, an expert para glider, a scuba diver, a marathon runner, a black belt in martial arts, a



skilled gymnast and kayaker, yoga expert and ace swimmer.

Munne climbed the Everest Peak in Nepal, at a height of 6476 meters, without oxygen. In 2013, he drove 3,000 kilometers through Ladakh on his motorcycle.

He is ecstatic to be fulfilling his dream of participating in the Raid de Himalaya. "I was 24 when I lost my leg in a train mishap. People said my life was over. I proved to people that I can and will do everything in life.

"There is no physical limitation. I will live my life the way I want to," said Munne.

Munne uses a blade leg. He is brand ambassador for two mul-

ti-national artificial limbs companies. He climbed the Mera Peak in Nepal, at a height of 6476 meters, without oxygen.

In 2013, he drove 3,000 kilometers through Ladakh on his motorcycle.

He is ecstatic to be fulfilling his dream of participating in the Raid de Himalaya.

"Now, everything is a surprise in life. Everything is a new joy. It feels so wonderful that I am competing in the Raid this year. I had never thought I would live such an exciting life," said Munne. On September 29, Munne started a crowd-funding initiative for his Raid competition and collected 11,000 in a day.