

Deccan Herald - Metrolife

EXTREME SPORT

Moving beyond fear

Fun, excitement, adventure, adrenalin rush, it has got them all. Yes, extreme sports are here in India, with Noida hosting its first ever such sporting event, last Saturday. Along with thousands of adventure enthusiasts, youth icons and actors Gul Panag and Ranvijay Singh, were also seen cheering the daredevil participants at the venue.

The event showcased breathtaking performances by world-class MX - Freestyle Moto X, BMX - Bicycle Moto X and skateboarding professionals. A team of 10 professional extreme sports stars including Skateboarding Pro and 21-time X-Games medalist, Andy MacDonald, legendary skaters Eito Yasu-



RISKY FUN Participants at a recently organised adventure sport event in Noida.



THRILLING Adventure sports are gaining popularity among Delhiites.
DH PHOTO BY CHAMAN GAUTAM

fears. "Adventure sports are gradually gaining popularity and participation in India and we are proud to provide a platform to the Indian youth to experience these sports in a safe and thrilling manner," said Ruchira Jaitly, EVP Marketing, PepsiCo India.

The event began with the energising act by the alternative rock band, The Aphids, immediately followed by jaw-dropping performances by professionals on a specially designed mega set-up. Defying the laws of gravity, the athletes gave a new dimension to the definition of adventure sporting.

Metrolife caught up with skateboarding pro Andy MacDonald to get his views on being in India for the first time: "I've been touring the world on my skateboard for 25 years. India is by far my favourite place to visit. I'm so happy to be a part of the Xtreme Tours that's bringing the message of skateboarding to India for the first time."

On his part Simon Tabron, the world's 3rd ranked BMX rider, this was a chance he has waited for all along. "I have always hoped for a chance to visit India, so this year's Xtreme Tour is literally a dream come true for me! I'm both excited and honoured to have the opportunity to showcase action sports in India and to experience some of the magic that India has to offer."

All the athletes were rather concerned about the safety of young enthusiasts, as even a small mistake can cause big damage in this format of action sport. Therefore, all the participants as well as young sports lovers were advised to wear proper safety gear and helmets before trying out these sports.

The tour inaugurates the journey of action and adventure sports in India. Though India still lacks the infrastructural facilities for such events, tours like these will definitely benefit the future of extreme adventure sports in India.

Raghav Jaitly

toko, Takeshi Yasutoko, Sandro Dias; BMX star Simon Tabron and FMX pros including Jimmie McGuire, Tommy Clowers, Dustin Nowak, Myles Richmond and Mike Mason performed to thrilled crowds. The tour started in Bangalore witnessing more than 4000 visitors and will also travel to other cities in India including Ludhiana, Jaipur and Lucknow; along with special athlete led consumer workshops in Hyderabad, Kanpur and Chandigarh.

The combo of 'adventure' plus 'can do' attitude overcomes an athlete's worst

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