

'Excited about UP GIS push to MotoGP Bharat'

MotoGP Bharat is being featured as one of the most attractive participants of the UP Global Investors Summit and is drawing visitors in hordes, across age groups. One of the top sporting properties in the world is set to make its debut in India with the MotoGP race, christened as MotoGP Bharat, in Greater Noida, in September this year. It will be the biggest sporting event to come to India since Formula 1. Fairstreet Sports, the promoters of the India race, has roped in 12-year-old bike racer **Shreyas Hareesh**, who is the current FIM MiniGP champion, to popularize racing. Talking to **Fazal Khan** on the sidelines of the Global Investors Summit, **Shreyas** speaks about his journey so far and his future plans. Excerpts:

Welcome to Lucknow. How has been your experience at the UP Global Investors Summit?

■ I met the entire Fairstreet Sports team and I am so excited to know the efforts being put in behind MotoGP Bharat. I consider myself

lucky to be here and to have taken the blessings of (Chief Minister) Yogi Adityanath ji. I thank the team behind the Global Investors Summit.

What do you have to say about MotoGP Bharat which is scheduled to be held in Greater Noida in September this year?

■ Hosting such a big event will be a matter of pride for the entire country. I can't wait for

MotoGP Bharat to come to India. I am looking forward to make my mark in the event.

When did you start your biking journey and what do you think about MotoGP?

■ I started off when I was just 7. My dad used to take me along on his Yamaha RD 350. That was the time when I developed a passion for mobikes. One day I was going with my father on his mobike when one of his friends met him. He invited us to his house saying that

he has something for me. When I reached my uncle's house, I saw a 50cc mobike that he had purchased for his son. I tried my hands on it and the experience was magical.

Tell us about your achievements.

■ I am the first Indian to represent the country in the world championship final. I am the youngest racer in the country to win a national championship in a Group D race in the MRF MMSC Indian National Championships at the age of 12.

Who is your role model?

■ Marc Márquez is my role model.

How do you face injuries and accidents during races?

■ Initially, my parents were really scared but now they believe that the harder you fall, the faster you learn. I have got multiple fractures and injuries on my hand but never had bad vibes. I only think about my dream.

How is your day different from other children of your age?

■ My day starts at 6 am. I go cycling for a couple of hours. I take my mobike on tracks and drive about 250km a day for practice. In the evening, I go to the gymnasium. I also do swimming.

What was your family's reaction to your decision?

■ My mother and my grandfather were totally against it. My father supported me and he was criticized for it. However, when I finished 9th in the world championships, my grandparents and relatives welcomed me at the airport.

What are your future plans?

■ Once I turn 15, I will be eligible to participate in The Red Bull Rookies Cup. I also want to become MotoGP champion. It is my dream to sing the national anthem with the tricolour in my hand.

Q & A



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