

# Aishwarya Pissay aims for Dakar

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Aishwarya Pissay, the winner of the FIM World Cup, interacted with journalists in the city on Wednesday and felt her achievement will give hope to many women who want to make a career in the sport. She became the first-ever Indian to win a world title in the Motorsport category.

She felt overwhelmed on her success and acknowledged the people who were alongside her when she suffered an injury last year. "At the same time last year, I was in hospital making plans to race all the races this year and reflecting on what happened last year. It gave me time to think on how to achieve my goal", Aishwarya said reflecting on her time during her injury.

Talking about the preparations after her injury, she said i delayed her rehab for months. "As an athlete, you need to work differently because I could not work on my core abilities. It took two and a half months to heal the injury. I was going to hospital, again and again. I was working on different parts of my body and strengthening them in order to



**It definitely gives hope to everybody who thinks to make a career or having a dream of achieving something big outside.**

**— AISHWARYA PISSAY,  
Indian off-road racer**

make a comeback," she said

It was six months after the injury that she started riding again. "I had a tube hanging out of my body when I came back to India, Aishwarya explained.

"Championship or any other race, there is a lot of work. This particular championship had four races in which I had five women competitors and accumulated points over the races to win the championship."

"Hungary was difficult as it was enduro (a long-distance race) and I was riding a small bike. At the end of the day, it was a huge learning experience which will help me in future races," she said about the level of toughness in the races she participated.

Lack of awareness, and the poor reach of the sport are the major hindrances for its poor popu-

larity in India, Aishwarya said.

"There is some progress, of late, car and bike enthusiasts have more and more championships coming their way". All because of Gaurav Gill, CS Santosh and Aravind KP who have set high standards and are educating people.

With an eye on the Dakar rally next year, Aishwarya will participate in the Indian National Rally Championship at Coimbatore from August 24-25.

