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INDIA
A Challenge

Mahindra
ADVENTURE

PRESENTS

NOVEMBER 8-13 2021
N.H. MEMORIAL DRIVE

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TEAM FIREFOX



Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive
of the
1981 Himalayan Route

TEAM
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**Mahindra
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PRESENTS

N. H. MEMORIAL DRIVE

7TH - 12TH NOVEMBER 2021

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Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive **of the** **1981 Himalayan Route**

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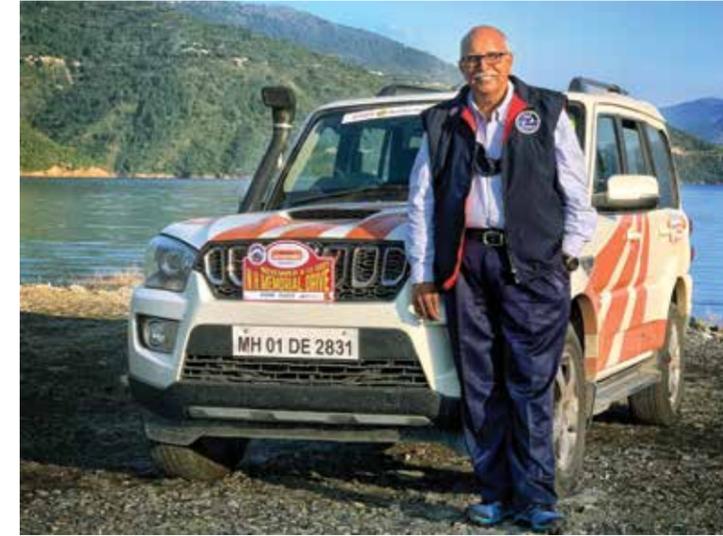


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PREFACE



Welcome to the commemorative book of the NHMD 2021. The Editorial team has put together a fabulous account of the iconic Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive of the 81 Himalayan Rally Route, 7th-13th November, 2021. NHMD was organized by Team Firefox, assisted by the core organizing group of thirty-eight people. Photographs of the event have been carefully collated to add to the nostalgia.

The event was more than a déjà vu experience for the ex-Himalayan Rally participants, taking them down memory lane.

Every evening was a social evening at all the night halts with unlimited beverages, dancing to super music by live bands and gala dinners which were a gastronomical delight.

Thank you, participants, for making the event a rocking one. We are indeed overwhelmed with your words of appreciation.

A big thank you to our Sponsors - Mahindra Adventure, Hari Darshan, Sidvin, IARC, Hella, Motul, Apollo Hospitals and our Hospitality Partners - Crowne Plaza Greater Noida, Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, The Savoy Mussoorie, Fortune Grace Mussoorie, Sanskara & Samara Lansdowne, The Ambassador Manu Allaya Manali, The Royal Tulip Kufri, Sterling Hotels Kufri & Manali, and Twin Towers Kufri.

With NHMD, we have set a benchmark of high standards for a grand Drive and are indeed overwhelmed with your words of appreciation. It is heartening to note everyone enjoyed the





Drive, let their hair down, and went back with great memories. All of us at the organizing team too had a memorable week. We enjoyed putting the event together and bringing it to you.

Any event of this magnitude is no doubt a learning curve. We have received some very good feedback on how to go a step higher and better the next time around. We had the Covid protocols in place and were prepared for any eventualities with two ambulances from Apollo Hospitals. A special word of thanks and appreciation to Apollo Hospitals who gave us all the support for the event with ambulances, doctors and staff. It was so comforting for the participants that there was a strong medical team on call. We also had a service back-up crew for any breakdowns. We are indeed very grateful that there were no hiccups or situations for alarm as we embarked on this 2,200 km drive.

Our grateful thanks to our Guests of Honour at the Memorial Dinner and to our Chief Guest General M.M. Naravane for the Flag-off ceremony. Photographs of the event have also been included.

A big shout out Neha Rastogi and her media team at WordsWork. And thanks to Faizal Khan and his talented team of photographers and videographers. Do view their work by scanning the QR code on page 22.

The Himalayan Rally of the 80s was without doubt a landmark event in the history of Indian Motorsports.

HRMD 2022 is ready to launch!!

Happy Motoring.

Rajan Syal



NAZIR HOOSEIN



Nazir Hoosein (16th October 1940 – 12 May, 2019) was an Indian racing driver and motorsport administrator. He was the President of the Motorsports Association of India, Vice-President of the FIA for Sport, chief steward of the World Rally Championship and a member of the World Motor Sport Council.

In 1980, Hoosein founded the Himalayan Rally Association and started the Himalayan Rally, run through the world's highest mountains in the north of India. He founded the Indian Automotive Racing Club as he was unhappy with the way that motorsport was organised in India, and then helped in the forming of the Federation of Motor Sport Clubs of India (FMSCI). He became President of the FMSCI in 1984.

Hoosein put India firmly on the map of world motorsports when the first of 11 Himalayan Rallies was flagged off at Mumbai on 18th October, 1980. This 4,000 km rally was based

on the Safari Rally format. The first edition received a record 30 foreign entries out of a total entry list of 90. Millions lined the streets in Mumbai to watch the flag off. Sadly, the political agitation disrupted running of the event at many legs, although he got a lot support by way of entries from the Kenyan Rallyists. Jayant Shah was one of them and he became a





household name when he won 4 editions of the same. Another popular rallyist was Ramesh Khoda who took part in 10 editions and won in 1981.

It was Nazir's dream to make the Himalayan Rally as a World Rally Championship event, though later editions were part of the Asia-Pacific Rally championship, the changing political environment and the Uttarakhand agitation which truncated the 11th edition in 1990 paid put to his ambitious plans. The Himalayan Rally carried the support of the Government and Air India who ferried the foreign cars to India for the rally.

In 1988, Hoosein organised the Great Desert-Himalaya Rally, which ran from the Thar Desert of Rajasthan through the Shivalik hills, Himachal and Ladakh. The event ended in Srinagar.

In 1993, Hoosein was elected to the World Motor Sport Council; however, in 1999 the FMSCI decided that it no longer wanted Hoosein to be their representative to the FIA. This led to Hoosein forming the Motorsports Association of India (MAI) in opposition to the FMSCI. Hoosein is an ally of FIA President Max Mosley, and assisted Mosley in gaining votes from the Asian members of the FIA throughout the 1990s. The FIA decided in 2000 that MAI should be recognised as motor sport's governing body in India. However, the Indian government refused to recognise the MAI, which meant that Hoosein was unable to represent India at the FIA. A deal was completed allowing Hoosein to be a member of the World Motor Sport Council representing People's Republic of China.

Hoosein was elected a Vice-President of the FIA for Sport in 2005 as a member of the candidacy list of Max Mosley, who was re-elected as President of the FIA. The following year he was appointed as the chief steward of the World Rally Championship. He has previously been a race steward for Formula One events.

Hoosein died on 12 May, 2019 after a prolonged battle with illness. He was 78.



HARI DARSHAN



Generations have cherished the fragrance and company of Hari Darshan products in their moment of positivity, prayer and peace. Over last few decades Hari darshan has emerged as one of the largest and most preferred brands in incense products like Dhoop, Agarbathi, Puja, Hawan Samagri, Chandan Tika, Kalawa, Gulab Jal, Puja Diya Oil, Camphor and other Spiritual and Wellness products.

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By understanding consumer needs, offering consistent quality, innovative concepts and widest assortment of devotional and wellness products, Hari Darshan has earned consumer preference, affection and accolades. It is one of those rare brands that are preferred by both centurions to millennials.

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Everything that is needed for that moment of prayer, bliss and positivity is manufactured with pride and passion by Hari Darshan.



Today the brand Hari Darshan is loved and admired for not just manufacturing these pure and auspicious products but also serving the devotion of millions of households.



In his own words, Mr. Goldy Nagdev, is an entrepreneur, Observer, Thinker, Learner, Traveler, and Motorsports Fanatic. Even though he is at the helm of a legendary consumer brand, Hari Darshan, his energy, enthusiasm and ability to take initiatives for the people and business is commendable, especially his constant motivation and guidance to young and new entrepreneurs.

Goldy Nagdev firmly believes in mutual, long term and most importantly, ethical business. The Managing Director of Hari Darshan Group, Mr Nagdev says that value is built with the passage of time and with consistent efforts and every business is about value creation and brand about value addition.

His business and management beliefs are popular amongst the team and trade partners. His simple, funny examples and ability to involve all stakeholders creates a conducive work environment and drives mutual results. He believes in ensuring that day-to-day tasks are as joyous as they are relevant.

The Managing Director of Hari Darshan Group is an avid traveller and explorer. He is passionate about motorsports and racing and is a trained pro-level racing driver. When not working, Goldy Nagdev likes to read and learn more about cars, watch motorsports or even race cars on a track.



MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA LTD

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. has a long history of building 4x4s and utility vehicles since 1947. Over the years, our vehicles have gained a reputation for being sophisticated while being tough and reliable.

Mahindra Adventure is a unique experiential marketing unit of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. It started with the first ever off-road outing in the year 1996, called the Great Escape. With the inception of Mahindra Adventure in 2011, we truly began perfecting the art of getting lost by scaling up the customer experience drives. Since then every year, we've been giving people trips of a lifetime, be it the single-day off-road adventure—Great Escape or the multi-day expeditions to the most beautiful places in India and abroad.

As an enabler to the spirit of exploration, we pioneered “the arrive and drive” concept and to help us bring you the Mahindra experience, we maintain a fleet of over 50 vehicles stationed all over the country. With multi-day expeditions spanning the length and breadth of the globe like Trans-Himalayan and Desert Escapes, India-Myanmar-Thailand, Authentic Mustang Valley, drive to the Everest Base Camp in China and all the way up to Russia, there's no driving holiday worth its salt that we haven't covered. There's something for everyone.

Great Escapes provide a platform to the Mahindra SUV owners to sample their tough yet sophisticated SUVs on the rugged trails carefully curated and executed by the Mahindra Adventure team all over the country. For those who have the competitive spirit, take part in



India's toughest, richest and largest participated off-roading trophy competition which is held alongside the Great Escapes. The national winner takes home a brand-new Mahindra Thar.

Communities are what make us feel alive. The brotherhood and the competitive spirit at mega events like the Mahindra Adventure Club Challenge and the Thar Fest. No prizes for guessing the one big binding factor—Love for the Mahindra SUVs across generations.

As authentic SUV makers, we believe in enabling people to achieve greater things in life. At Mahindra Adventure in the year 2013, we inaugurated India's first and only dedicated Off-Road Training Academy to train people in off-road driving. Located in the lush hills of Igatpuri, Maharashtra, the Mahindra Adventure Off-Road Training Academy offers people a chance to get down and dirty and learn off-road driving from the experts. Over years, the training facility has been expanded to Jaisalmer, Leh and the latest addition being the state-of-the-art SUV proving and driver training facility in Chennai. With a fleet of Mahindra Thar training vehicles at your disposal, the off-road terrain specialty courses are an off-road enthusiast's delight.

Mahindra Adventure also ran the most successful rally team in the history of Indian Motorsports. Super XUV500s / XUV300s have won 27 rallies participated out of 32 participated over years. With champion driver/navigator teams of Gaurav Gill, Musa Sherif and Amitrajit Ghosh and Ashwin Naik, Mahindra Adventure has dominated the rallying scene in India. They are the reigning champions of the INRC. The Super XUV500 has furthermore won and dominated events like the Desert Storm and Dakshin Dare.

We welcome you to the world of Mahindra Adventure experiences. Sign up. There is something for everyone.



Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive announced today

~ Commemorating the legend's birth anniversary the drive will map the iconic Himalayan Rally route ~

~ Record participation from the motorsports community ~

New Delhi, October 16: Two years into a pandemic that has brought the world to a grinding halt, nostalgia is the one thing that has endured. With systems slowly coming back to normal and sporting events slowly finding their feet in a new landscape, a desire to travel, relive and experience the great outdoors has never been more palpable. Motorsports in India is slowly getting back in gear, with events lining up for a new season and kicking things off is one that is as much rooted in the past as it is a signifier of the way ahead.

The Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive by Team Firefox was officially launched today in a virtual press conference with former winners, participants and dignitaries sharing their memories of an event and a pioneer who reshaped Indian motorsport.

“Once we saw things slowly opening up, some of us involved with the motorsport community decided that we should do a drive, something to hark back the good times,” Rajan Syal said. “That idea snowballed into doing something to commemorate Nazir Hoosein.”

Hoosein was a founder member of his club, the Indian Automotive Racing Club (IARC) and was former President of the Federation of MotorSport Clubs of India (FMSCI) in 1984/85. While his pioneering administrative work paved the way for many motorsport enthusiasts in the country, Hoosein is perhaps most fondly remembered for founding an event that reshaped Indian motorsport—the Himalayan Rally.

Hoosein's original desire, that the event showcase Indian motorsport as well as the diaspora of the country remains the driving motivation behind this memorial event too. Gaurav Gill, a multiple time FIA Asia Pacific Rally champion remembers the Himalayan Rally shaping his interest in motorsport in his formative years.

“I heard about it as a young boy and it really drove my passion for rallying. I am very happy to see this tribute to the iconic rally route in the Himalayas seeing such good participation and look forward to its great success.”

The first edition, held in 1980 was based on a safari rally format. Since then the concept stuck, with international participants supporting the format and the course itself. The Himalayan Rally would form the spine of the Indian motorscape in the 80s, and winners—most notably Jayant Shah—often turning into overnight celebrities in the country.

“Nazir was a man of vision, and the Himalayan Rally brought international rallying to India,” Farokh Commissariat said. “This year we also celebrate the 50th year of the IARC and it is fitting that the rally will allow us to pay tribute to him in a manner deserving of his stature.”

NHMD will follow the original route from the 1981 edition, with a 100 car field kicking off from Greater Noida on November 8th. The first stop will be Lansdowne (8th), followed by Mussoorie (9th) and Kufri (10th). On the 11th, drivers will tackle the iconic route of the original rally—the Jalori Pass before halting in Manali. The final day will see participants cross over the Rohtang Pass before concluding the drive in Manali. “The idea was to recreate the original route, for various reasons. In 40 years, a lot of the landscape has changed, and it will be interesting for former participants as well as fans to experience it,” Syal said.

“I am delighted to be part of this wonderful tribute to Mr Nazeer Hoosein,” Mohan Nagarajan, Chairman Sidvin Energy Engineering said. “Going back and tracing the iconic Himalayan Rally route will be a wonderful experience not just for me but for all members of the motorsports community of India.”

N.H. Memorial Drive receives extensive support from state administration of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

~ Chief of Army Staff, General MM Naravane to flag off the entourage on 8th November from Greater Noida ~

New Delhi, November 2: The Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive by Team Firefox, is set to be flagged off on November 8 from Greater Noida by the Chief of Army Staff, General MM Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC, in a huge boost for the organisers and participants alike. Since its inception, this initiative has received unconditional support from the administration of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh—the two states the route will cross through.

“When we first approached the state governments of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh about the drive, they were very excited and remembered with fondness the Himalayan Rally of the 80s,” Rajan Syal said. “The DMs of Nainital and Pauri Garhwal, SDM of Manali have promised all support for a smooth passage of the drive showcasing the beauty of the Himalayas in this amazing scenic route. We are also thankful to the Army Adventure Wing for supporting the drive and are thrilled to have a team from the Indian Army participating.”

The drive, a commemoration in honour of the legendary motorsport pioneer Nazir Hoosein, will be based on the route of the old Himalayan Rally, and in keeping with the nostalgia, will be attended by several noteworthy past winners and participants. Six-time winner, Col. SS Sekhon confirmed his participation in the drive and expressed excitement at reliving the route that galvanised India motorsport towards the modern age. Remembering his first tryst with the rally, Col. Sekhon cast his mind back to the vehicles they used form competition in the 1980s. “I took part in the rally in a Jonga, and the vehicle had a tendency to heat up,” he said, “We would improvise and hang *chaggals* (water bags made of tarpaulin and cloth) on the bumpers, and they would seep the water slowly, just enough to regulate temperature.”

NHMD will follow the original route from the 1981 edition, with a 100-car field kicking off from Greater Noida on the morning of November 8th. The first stop will be Lansdowne (8th), followed by Mussoorie (9th) and Kufri (10th). On the 11th, drivers will tackle the iconic route of the original rally—the Jalori Pass before halting in Manali. The final day will see participants cross over the Rohtang Pass before concluding the drive in Manali.

“Drives like these promote local tourism in a big way and after a tough two years, it will showcase the natural beauty of the Himalayas and hopefully encourage people to take to nature as a safe and viable option in the future,” Mr. Vijay Jogdande, DM of Pauri Garhwal said. “If the rally becomes an annual event over the years, it will be a huge opportunity to bring in local tourism and introduce them to the beauty of the Himalayas.”

WelcomHotel by ITC Hotels, The Savoy Mussoorie, a venue that has played host to many previous editions of the Himalayan Rally, will again open its doors welcoming participants for a gala evening on November 9th. “It's an honour and a moment of great pride for us to play host to the remarkable turnout of the network of Himalayan Rally ex-members, volunteers and dignitaries for the Gala Evening on 9th November 2021 to honour Indian motorsport legend Nazir Hoosein,” The Savoy Mussoorie owner Mr. Kishore Kumar Kaya said.

On 10th November 2021, the cavalcade will be flagged from the Welcomhotel The Savoy by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarkhand Pushkar Singh Dhama and renowned author Mr Ruskin Bond.

Of the 90 teams participating in the memorial drive, 40 are from Mumbai and on Saturday, October 30 they gathered at the historic Liberty Theatre in the city for a ceremonial flag-off. The Liberty Theatre was an apt choice of location for the flag-off seeing as it was owned by Nazir Hoosein himself and the hub of conceptualisation and operation for all Himalayan Rallies from 1980-1990. It also housed the office of the Indian Automotive Racing Club (IARC), which was founded by Hoosein in 1971. Gautam Singhania, Chairman and Managing Director of the Raymond Group, as well as member of the FIA and World Motor Sport Council (WMSC), was the chief guest of the event in Mumbai.

The event is sponsored by Mahindra Adventure, Hari Darshan, Sidvin, IARC, Hella, Motul and supported by Apollo Healthcare.

NM MEMORIAL DRIVE 2021 - AN OVERVIEW

The Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive in November 2021 is the most talked about iconic Drives. It traced the 1981 Himalayan Rally Route on its 40th anniversary. The Drive was a tribute to the legend, Nazir Hoosein, who put India firmly on the map of International motorsports. It was also a tribute to the participants, officials and the volunteers of the eleven Himalayan Rallies from 1980-1990. The huge community of ex-participants, volunteers, officials of The Himalayan Rally, and the fans participated in the event, fondly recalling the glory of the rallies. The Drive was open to all, not just past Himalayan Rally participants.

It was organised by Team Firefox consisting of Rajan Syal, Rajiv Rai, Subhash Goel, Harvijay Bahia, past participants and prize winners of the Himalayan Rally, ably assisted by Indrojit Sircar and Anmol Rampal. It was sponsored by Mahindra Adventure who provided the back support for the route survey and provided the organisers' vehicles.

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. has a long history of association with the Himalayan Rally, having been involved with the event right from its first edition in 1980. Taking this legacy forward, Mahindra Adventure, the experiential marketing vertical of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. came onboard as the Presenting Sponsor. As a part of the association, the All-New Mahindra Thar was a prominent SUV from the Mahindra stable in the drive. In addition, 15 Mahindra SUVs supported the execution and management of the drive.

Commenting on the association, Harish Lalchandani, Head of Marketing (PV & Pickup, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. said, "The Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive has its deep-rooted legacy in Motorsports and Adventure. With our decades of experience in building authentic and capable SUVs that encourage people to explore the impossible, we are proud to be a part of this nostalgic journey."

Mahindra Adventure had two All-New Mahindra Thar at the NHMD, both in retro fitted colours of the original Himalayan Rally. The first car to be flagged off, on November 8th was the All-New Mahindra Thar driven by Col (Retd.) S.S. Sekhon, a six-time winner in the Indian Car Category of the Himalayan Rally. The second Thar was driven by Surinder Thatthi, Vice-President Sport at the FIA. Thatthi was involved in a big way with the original event in the 1980s and was India's coordinator for the Opel factory team that won the inaugural edition.

Colonel (Retd.) S.S. Sekhon, is one of the most experienced drivers in the field. He participated in nine of the eleven editions of the Himalayan Rally. Col. Sekhon won the top Indian car award thrice. He and his teammate Captain Chauhan, were revered names in the Himalayan Rally.

The drive also saw Manjeev Bhalla and Flory Roothaert in action, a major throwback to the 80s when the duo beat the Himalayan Rally. Bhalla was the first Indian co-driver to navigate a world-class rally driver when he

partnered Roothaert who had immense experience on the international stage. Roothaert's driving style won him multiple individual podiums and endeared him to Indian fans, a feeling that was mutual.

NHMD was privileged to have Army Adventure support the event with the participation of their ladies' team. The team comprised Lt. Col. Euthica and Major Tejal Parashare. Lt. Col. Euthica is regarded as one of the best women rally drivers in the Army. She led the first all-woman team of the Army in the Extreme category of the Raid de Himalaya 2018 and Desert Storm 2019. She won the Coupe de Dames in the Royal Rajasthan Rally 2019 and bagged the top place in T2 category in SJOBA 2019. The duo's association with the drive was a huge boost for the event.

Other notable drivers participating in the NHMD included Kiran Mody, Rajiv Rai, Tutu Dahawan, Alak Raju, Farad Bhathena, Farokh Commissariat, Uday Easwaran.

NHMD was also supported by Haridarshan, Sidvin, IARC, Hella, Motul, Apollo Healthcare and The Savoy Welcomhotel - Mussoorie who helped make this an iconic memorable drive of the year.

The field of 92 cars had a mix of various types of vehicles. The most popular one was undoubtedly The Mahindra Thar. TT Sidharth's heavily modified Thar stole the show with its suspension mods, reccaro seats, wheel alloy rims and off-road tyres, not forgetting the winch mounted at the front.

In 1981 the Rally from Ramnagar had gone through Corbett Park. Sadly, the Drive through these roads was not permissible any longer. The first night halt was at Lansdowne which was a regroup in the 1987 edition. Thereon from Tehri it followed the rally route giving the participants a taste of how rallying was on the public roads in the 80s.

Night halts at Lansdowne, Mussoorie, Kufri and Manali were festive, fun evenings after a long day's drive. There were live bands and DJs belting out music. There was dancing and a lot of bonhomie amongst the participants.

The field was split into four groups under various DCOCs Manjeev Bhalla, Jayesh Desai, Raj Kapoor and Hari Singh. Participants were well taken care of with mechanical assistance, route closing and ambulance teams following the field.

The route was very picturesque with nature at its splendid best. Especially the drive from Lansdowne to Mussoorie, along the Devprayag and Ganga and their sangam; the climb to Jalore Pass and the final drive via the Atal Tunnel to Sissu and Khoksar.

The NHMD Drive combined the best of the nostalgic rally route along the Himalayan roads. It met the challenge and lived up to the name of The Himalayan Rally – A challenge with the fun element thrown in. It has the participants looking forward to the 2022 Himalayan Drive.



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N.H. Memorial Drive Further Boosted by the Entry of Mahindra Adventure

~Iconic retro fitted Mahindra SUVs to be a part of the drive to aid the participants to Explore the Impossible ~

New Delhi, November 10: The Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive by Team Firefox today announced that Mahindra Adventure is the presenting sponsor of the drive. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. has a long history of association with the Himalayan Rally, having been involved with the event right from its first edition in 1980. Taking this legacy forward, Mahindra Adventure, the experiential marketing vertical of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. has come onboard as the presenting sponsor. As a part of the association, the All-New Mahindra Thar, among others, will be a prominent SUV from the Mahindra stable in the drive. In addition, 15 Mahindra SUVs will also be seen supporting the execution and management of the drive.

The event received a further boost right before its flag off, with several former winners and winners confirming their participation in the event, set to flag off on November 8th.

Commenting on the association, Harish Lalchandani, Head of Marketing, PV & Pickup, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. said, “The Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive has its deep-rooted legacy in motorsports and adventure. With our decades of experience in building authentic and capable SUVs that encourage people to explore the impossible, we are proud to be a part of this nostalgic journey.”

Mahindra Adventure will have two All-New Mahindra Thar, among others, at the NHMD, both in retro fitted colours of the original Himalayan Rally. The first car to be flagged off, on November 8th will be the All-New Mahindra Thar driven by Col (Retd.) S.S. Sekhon, a six-time winner of the Himalayan Rally. The second car will be driven by Surinder Thatthi, Vice-President Sport at the FIA. Thatthi was involved hugely with the original event in the 1980s and in fact India coordinator for the Opel factory team that won the inaugural edition.

Among the participants are Colonel (Retd) S.S. Sekhon, one of the most experienced drivers in the field, who participated in nine of the eleven editions of the Himalayan Rally. Col Sekhon won the top Indian car award thrice and with his teammate Captain Chauhan, was a household name around the Himalayan Rally.

The drive will also see Manjeet Bhalla and Flory Roothaert in action, a major throwback to the 80s when the duo were the pair to beat at the Himalayan Rally. Bhalla was the first Indian co-driver to navigate a world class rally driver at the Himalayan Rally when he partnered Roothaert—a man with immense experience on the international stage. Roothaert’s driving style won him multiple individual podiums and endeared him to Indian fans, a feeling that was mutual.

NHMD is also privileged and thankful to Army Adventure for sending their all-ladies team in support of the drive. The team will comprise Lt. Col. Euthica and Major Tejal Parashare. Lt. Col. Euthica is widely regarded as one of the best women rally drivers in the Army, leading the first all-woman team by the Army in the Extreme category of the Raid de Himalaya 2018 and Desert Storm 2019. She won the Coupe de Dames in the Royal Rajasthan Rally 2019 and bagged the top place in T2 category in SJOBA 2019. The duo’s association with the drive is a huge boost for the event.

Other notable drivers participating in the NHMD include Kiran Mody, Rajiv Rai, Tutu Dahawan, Alak Raju, Farad Bhatena, Farokh Commissariat, Uday Esawaran.

Mahindra Adventure is a title sponsor of the event, in continuation of its association at the inaugural event. Other sponsors include Haridarshan, Sidvin, IARC, Hella, Motul and supported by Apollo Healthcare.

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Scan and view the video highlights of the NHMD 2021



linktr.ee/NHMD2021



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Faisal Khan	contact@indianmotoring.com	Harshwaradhan ch.	Yash Gupta / Akash Birha
AR Brahmadathan		Aarav Satheesh	Christy Sunil / Joshua Wilson
Aispal Singh	Jitender Kumar	Vijay	





DAY 0

NAZIR HOOSEIN MEMORIAL DRIVE

DAY 0

The lawns at The Crowne Plaza Hotel welcomed the participants and guests to a very special evening. The audio-visual on Nazir Hoosein was well received after which the FIVA Team of Dr. Ravi Prakash, Gautam Sen, Harit Trivedi, Navaz Bhatena and Harshit Merchant presented an award honouring Nazir Hoosein into the FIVA Hall of Flame. Guests of Honour— Mr. Surinder Thatthi (FIA Vice-President Sport), Mr. Gopal Madhavan (COC Himalayan Rally 1981-1990), Dr. Deepa Malik (Padma Shri, Khel Ratna, Arjuna Awardee, First Indian Women Paralympic Medalist) addressed the gathering about the Himalayan Rally.



Auspicious start with a pooja ceremony



Vikash and Sangita Chudiwala with Sharda and Manoj Kasliwal



Kiran Mody and Mash Raman all set in their Ford Endeavour



Umesh Mehta and team



Guests of Honour with Vanashree Syal and Rajan Syal



Large gathering at the memorial dinner



Guest of honour, Gopal Madhavan, addressing the audience

Nazir Hoosein and Deepa Malik's very motivational and inspiring speech drew a huge round of applause. After the momento presentation to Ms. Aranka Hoosein, Guests of Honour and Sponsors, it was time to party and enjoy the fellowship and meet old friends.



Hella products display at the briefing



Mr. Goldy Nagdev of Hari Darshan receives the sponsor's momento



Team Firefox members—Indrojit, Rajiv Rai and Rajan Syal conduct the briefing meeting



Shirke brothers Santaji and Dhanaji in a VW Beetle

FIVA INDUCTS NAZIR HOOSEIN INTO THE FIVA HERITAGE HALL OF FAME



FIVA members present the trophy to Aranka Hoosein

The NH Memorial Drive coincided with FIVA's (Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens') recognition of Nazir Hoosein's contribution to Motorsports by inducting him in the FIVA Heritage Hall of Fame.

FIVA was established in 1966, as a worldwide non-profit organisation dedicated to the protection, preservation, and promotion of historic vehicles. Active in more than 80 countries, it represents millions of historic vehicle-enthusiasts around the globe.

Since 2017, FIVA has been a partner of UNESCO with consultative status, representing world motoring heritage and related culture.

Nazir Hoosein was the founder of the Himalayan Rally. In 1980 he created a bespoke foundation 'The Himalayan Rally Association' and organized the Himalayan Rallies from 1980-1990. It was India's greatest motor sporting event and probably continues to remain so.

Nazir's brainchild was a monumental success. It brought Indian motorsport firmly on to the world map.

The Himalayan Rally attracted hundreds of competitors, including world champions, lured by the thrill of rallying on some of the most challenging roads in the world. Thousands of spectators gathered along the rally route to see these men fly on the narrow, precipitous roads of the mighty Himalayas, most of which were dirt.

Nazir ran the event with exacting precision, expecting the same from his team. He involved governments from four States, engaged the help of the army, established radio communication in the impossible terrain and made the President of India the Patron of the Rally! No Motorsport event has been organized since in India on this scale and fervor.

FIVA recognized his contributions to Indian Motorsport and inducted him in their Heritage Hall of Fame.

Nazir was Chairman of the Indian Automotive Racing Club Ltd. (IARC) for many years. IARC thought it would be a good idea to coincide the Award Ceremony with the flag-off of the Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive, organized by Team Firefox, headed by Rajan Syal. The drive would have the participation of his well-wishers, friends and many competitors of the Himalayan rallies. It would be fitting to have them all celebrate his award.

The award was presented to his daughter Aranka, by Gautam Sen, FIVA's Vice-President, Communication, and Navaz Bhatena-Sandhu, a member of the Hall of Fame jury.

FIVA was represented by its Indian ANF member—the FHVI (Federation of Historic Vehicles India). Dr. Ravi Prakash, President of the Club, and Harit Trivedi, advisor to FHVI, were present on the occasion to recognize and honour the man who pulled off the unthinkable at a time when India was not even a blip on the world motorsport radar!

Harshit Merchant

N.H. Memorial Drive Flagged Off from Greater Noida

~ The first leg will see participants drive to Lansdowne ~

New Delhi, November 8: The Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive by Team Firefox flagged off today Greater Noida by the Chief of Army Staff, General MM Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC. The first car to be flagged off was a retro-fitted Mahindra Thar driven by Col (Retd) S.S. Sekhon. Mahindra Adventure are the presenting partners of the event. The drive, a tribute to the legendary motorsport pioneer Nazir Hoosein, will see over 100 participants trace the original route of the 1981 Himalayan Rally.

A second, a similarly retro-fitted car commemorating the original Himalayan Rally was driven by Surinder Thatthi, Vice President for Sport, FIA. Mahindra have also provided 15 support vehicles for the drive.

Manjeev Bhalla, a former winner along with Flory Roothaert in the original Himalayan Rally, praised the care taken to put together an event that is a 'fitting tribute to a man who revolutionised motorsport in this country'.

"The organisers and participants must be commended equally, for their zeal and determination to create this event," he said. "The level of dedication and hours it must have taken to survey roads, create easy to navigate routes, and clear all permissions, especially in a time when travel is becoming a tough thing to do, is hugely admirable."

"One of the toughest parts of organising the event was ensuring firstly that all participants felt safe to attend it. Secondly the protocols across different states needed to be negotiated, but I'm proud that everyone involved with Team Firefox has pulled together to get it going."

NHMD has put in place strict Covid-19 protocols for participants and support crews alike, in what is a first of its kind 'travelling bip-bubble'. All participants were required to produce a negative RT-PCR test regardless of their vaccination status, and only then allowed for registration. Additionally, participants will drive in groups, sequestered to ensure minimum contact with those outside of the event through the day's journey. Preceding the flag off, competitors were briefed on specific driver as well as safety protocols, followed by a gala dinner to commemorate the career of Nazir Hoosein.

At the dinner, Hoosein was inducted into the FIVA (Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens) Heritage Hall of Fame awards. Speaking on behalf of FIVA, Mr Gautam Sen said that 'there were few more deserving of an award which commemorates those who have expanded the culture of motorsport across the world.

It was a sentiment echoed by the Chief Guest for the evening, Deepa Malik, President of the Paralympic Committee of India. Malik, a Paralympic medallist, recalled her introduction motorsport because of her participation in the 2010 Raid de Himalaya—an event that was a forerunner of the Himalayan Rally—and how it opened her eyes to what she could do with sport. Malik will take part in the NH Memorial Drive and reiterated her support for the event as well as the man it commemorates by saying, "that motorsport events today are a showcase of a new India. One which is inclusive and allows for equal participation among women as well as people with disability."





DAY 1
NAZIR HOOSEIN MEMORIAL DRIVE
MONDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 2021

Delhi - Greater Noida - Meerut Bypass - Khatauli - Najibabad - Kothdwar - Lansdowne

DAY 1

The NHMD was supposed to take a route very close to the CTR but had to cancel that option and went straight to Lansdowne. The drive from Kothdwar along the Malan river valley up to Lansdowne was the highlight of the day. The group was split into five hotels, with a live band and dinner at each hotel. The day's run was 330 km.



Car No. 28 with Ananth Ganesan, Ramesh Kumar and Kalaivani Ramesh



Deven and Urmi Bhandari



Car No. 54 Munish and Geetha Dhawan



Flagging off Car No. 15, Uday Easwaran, Viraj Suvarana and Saneim Sheriff



General MM Naravane with the Army team



Welcome party for Chief Guest General MM Naravane with Deepa Malik, Rajiv Rai, Arvind Datar and Himani Datar



Presenting a memento to the Chief Guest

The drive out of Greater Noida onto the Meerut Expressway was a sheer delight, but once we were off the expressway at Khatoli, the real UP roads gave everyone a welcome, bone-jarring test. From Kotdwar the climb to Lansdowne was very picturesque.

Dinner at the various hotels with live band and bonfire made it a memorable evening.



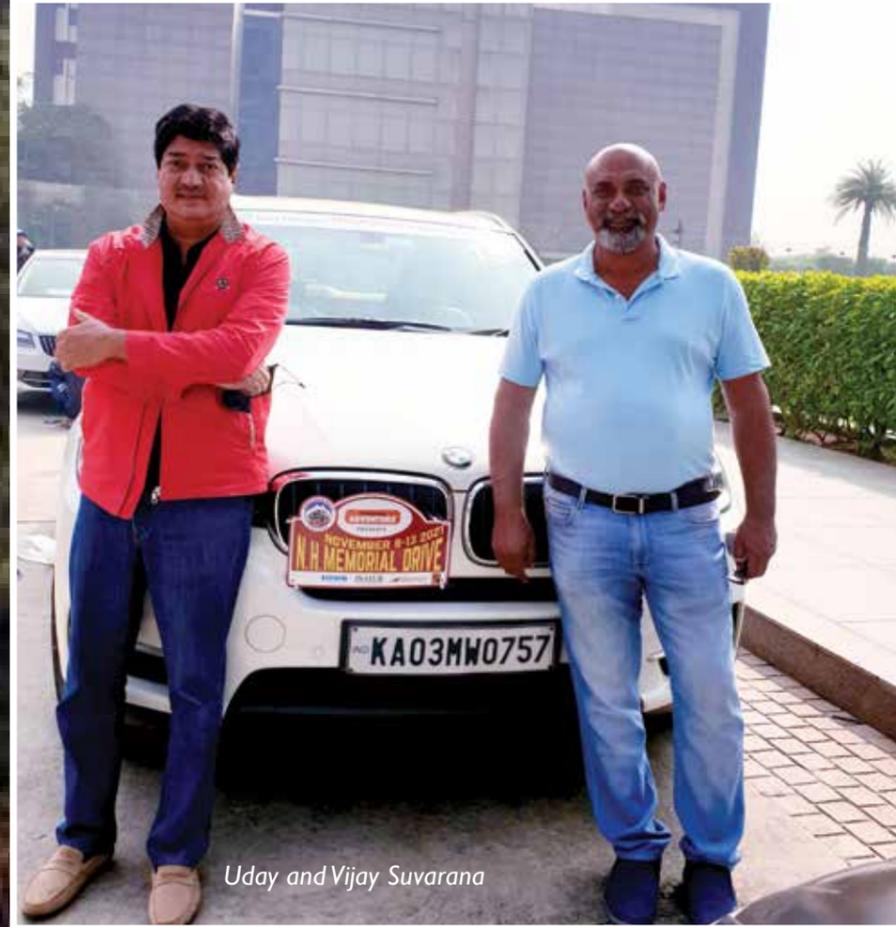








Sandeep Singh Katra with Oyajit Tanwar in Car No. 72



Uday and Vijay Suvarana



Madhusudhan Bagla with Manoj Kasliwal and Dhruv Bagla



Beena and Yatin Wadhwa





Sigi and Arun Murrugappan with Laura and Nikhil Raj in Car No. 21



Hormazd and Jay Mehta



Sujith and Hema Aradhya



N.H. Memorial Drive Day 1

New Delhi, November 9: Ask any rally driver their favourite literature and inevitably the words ‘road book’ will come out. A road book, the definitive guide to a rally, marking every curve, every bump, every crossroad is the cornerstone to a successful drive.

While technology has come a long way to help competitors and participants negotiate uncharted terrain, organisers at the Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive by Team Firefox insist the old ways serve best. Despite the non-competitive format, the organisers have made the effort to chart a road book for the event, a collectible and a ‘usable’ artefact that works to ensure participants can take in the full experience of the Himalayan Rally the event is inspired by.

Samir Suneja and Sujith Kumar, two men part of an extensive crew involved with the charting of route, insist that the road map still serves a purpose beyond just artefact. “The tech does the same thing that the road map does,” Suneja says, “But the road map adds a human eye to it. It offers a personal, humane experience, helping drivers with some localised identifiers sometimes.”

While the roads, the scenery, the environment, and the traffic itself has changed massively over the years, NHMD looks to recreate the route of the 1981 Himalayan Rally in its entirety, pitfalls, steep climbs and all. The NHMD road book is replication of the route from four decades ago.

In order to ensure participants enjoying a rally experience for the first time don’t get lost in the technicalities of the event, the organising committee, led by Rajiv Rai have also created a digital track, easily uploadable on to every smartphone.

The track guides participants through important waypoints, breaks, filling stations and stops.

“The idea is to make sure everyone gets a proper taste of what the Himalayan Rally was all about,” Sujith Kumar, Vice President, Federation Internationale De Motocyclisme Asia (FIM Asia), says. Kumar has extensive experience charting routes for rallies across the country and understands the importance of his job. “But also, technology helps when it’s available. The drive will go through areas where network issues may prevail, and then the road book will hold true. But also, it is important to remember that actually this event is also about enjoying the beauty of the Himalayas on offer. So, we have encouraged competitors to look up and out of their windows.”

To ensure no mishaps the drive has created groups of cars, all led by experienced rally drivers familiar with the surroundings to essentially pilot convoys through.

All participants successfully negotiated the first leg of the journey from Greater Noida to Landsdowne, to be greeted with cloudless, pollution free skies and cold mountain air. The second leg of the journey from Landsdowne to Mussoorie is the longest leg of the journey. The group will be greeted by WelcomHotel by ITC Hotels, The Savoy Mussoorie, a venue that has played host to many previous editions of the Himalayan Rally.

On 10th November 2021, the cavalcade will be flagged off by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Uttarkhand Pushkar Singh Dhami and renowned author Mr. Ruskin Bond.

HELLA



HELLA in India

HELLA is known for setting global standards for quality, customer orientation and has created a niche for itself in both international and domestic market as a supplier to leading vehicle manufacturers.

HELLA has an experience of over 50 years of its presence in Indian market. HELLA has its presence across major automobile hubs in India with five locations—two manufacturing locations in Dhankot, Gurgaon and Derabassi, near Chandigarh, one Global Electronics Development Centre in Pune, one Engineering Centre in Chennai and one Independent Aftermarket location in Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon.

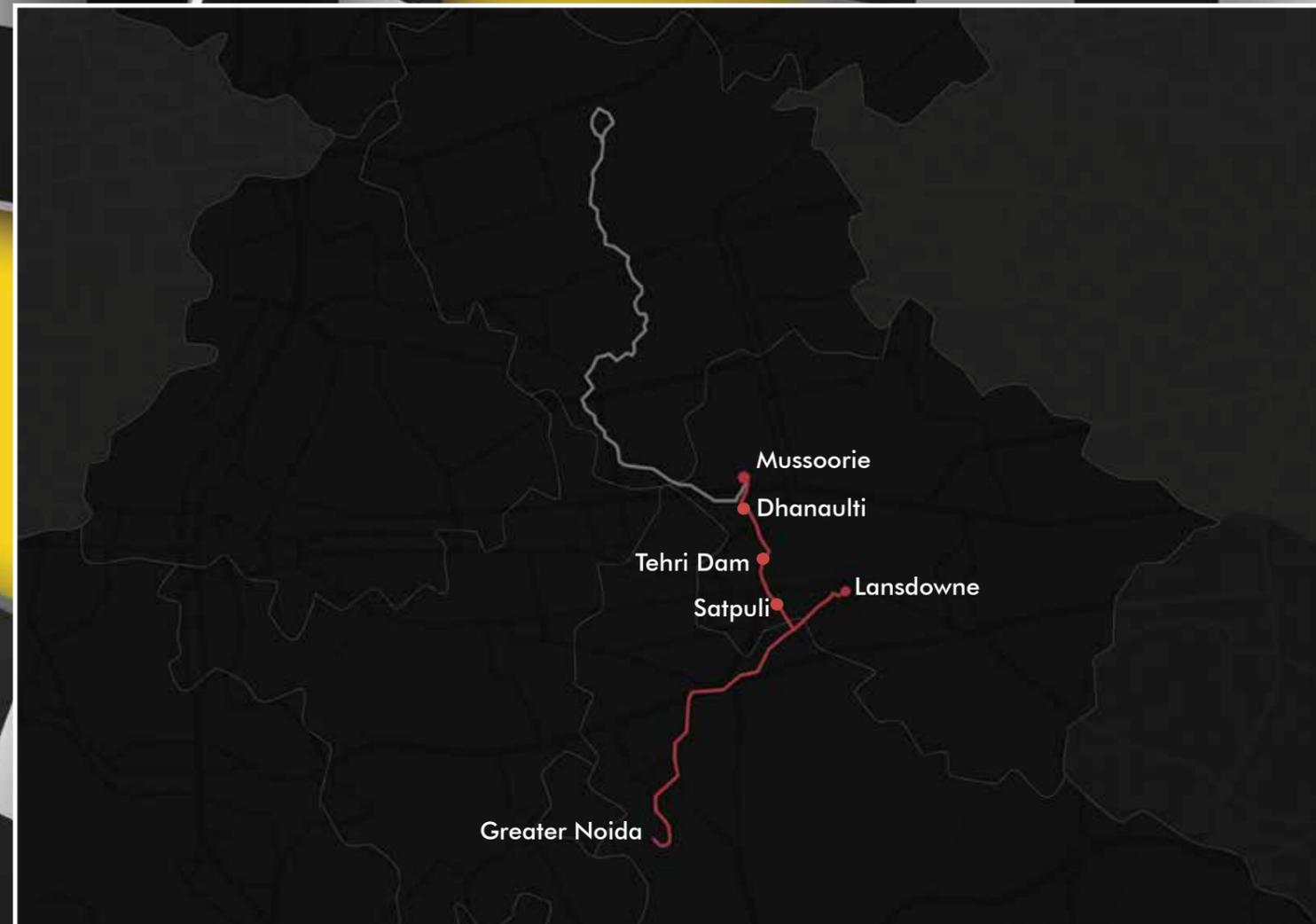
HELLA India has employee strength of over 1600 people. Hella introduces a comprehensive range of quality automotive parts and accessories, both for OEM’s and Independent Aftermarket.

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DAY 2

NAZIR HOOSEIN MEMORIAL DRIVE

TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 2021

**Lansdowne - Jaiharikhal - Gumkhal Gahar - Kulhar - Satpuli - Banghat - Palkot - Vyasghat -
Devprayag - Bhatkot - Koteshwara Dam - Tehri Dam - New Tehri Town - Dhanaulti - Mussoorie**

DAY 2

This was one of the most beautiful routes of the Drive. A short distance after Lansdowne, the panoramic view of the Himalayas left everyone spellbound.

After a brief breakfast and bio stop at the Hans Foundation Hospital at Satpuli, the road to Vyasghat via Banghot and Palkot, running alongside the Nayaar river where it meets the Ganga, was spectacular. The photo op at the Devprayag confluence of Alakananda and Bhagirathi was not to be missed. After the watersports bio stop at Tehri Dam, the road climbed to Dhanaulti which gave us a fabulous view of the Himalayas in the evening.



Car No. 11- Deepa Malik and Team at the Tehri Dam Lake



Army Adventure Team of Lt.Col. Euthica and Maj.Teja



Teams of Car Nos. 15 & 16 from Bangalore



Start of Day2, Lansdowne to Mussoorie



Car No. 28 with Ramesh Kumar, Kalaivani Ramesh and Ananth Ganesan



Car No. 74



Breakfast stop at The Hans Foundation Hospital



Getting into Mussoorie was a nightmare. Traffic jams galore. The warm welcome of the Savoy, and the fellowship over the gala evening made everyone forget their tiredness. It was party time with live band and dancing late into the night. The food was a gastronomical delight, with a counter each for any cuisine you could think of. The day's run was 222 km.



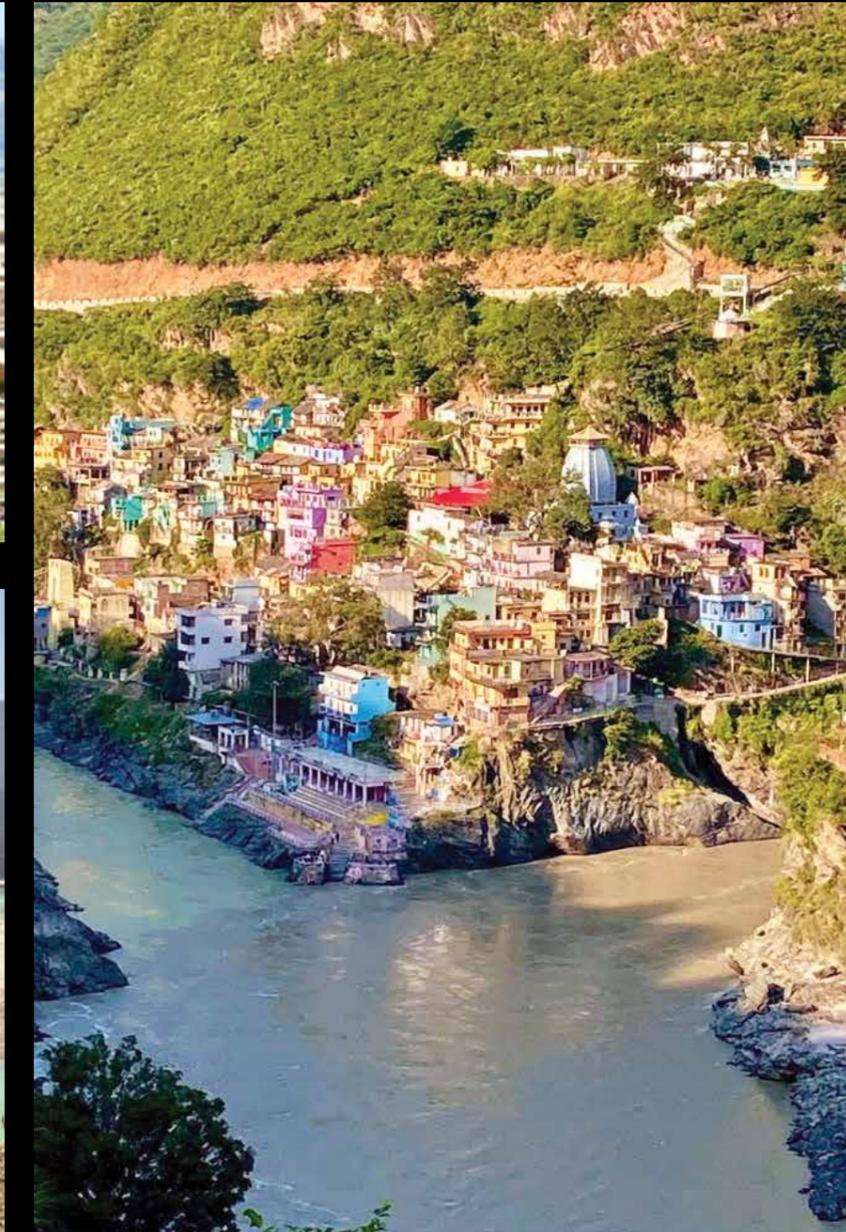
Devprayag confluence



Deval Tibrewalla, Urmi Bhandari, Srishti Tibrewalla and Darshan Sanghvi



Manish Kothari and Jigar Parmar



Different colours of the two rivers



Car No. 40 - Govindarajulu, Nandakrishnan and Balasundharam from Coimbatore Col. S.S. Sekhon (Retd.) and Rita



Rupak Ghosh and team



Meeta Arya in Car No. 56



On the way to Vyas Ghat



Naresh Arya in his Mahindra Thar



Organising team members - Neelu Sawhny, Vanashree and Bani Yadav



Urmi and Deven Bhandari



Shreesh Deodhar, Nilesh Harkare, Ameet Taylor, Kiran Mody and Mangesh Kashikar



Brijesh Soni with his team of Anshul Trivedi and Kamal Agarwal



Usha Agarwal, Meeta and Naresh Arya in their Mahindra Thar



Paresh Parihar in Car No. 84



Morning cold start

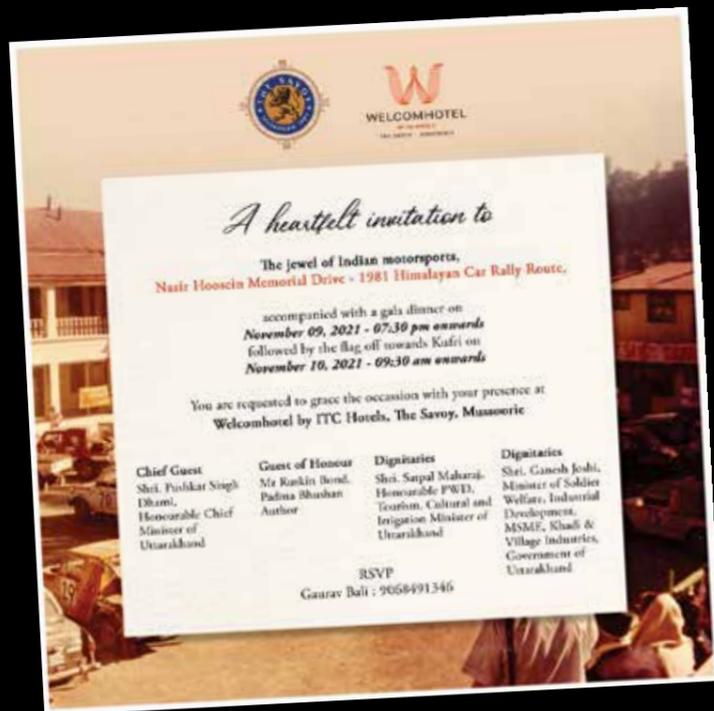


Nine-time participant of Himalayan Rally Tutu Dhawan and Ashok Khosla in a Citroen CX5



Kapil Nema, Chetan Shah with Siddharth Amin at Lansdowne





Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive: 100 participants drive off from Mussoorie

~ Ministers of Uttarakhand Shri Satpal Mahraj and Shri Ganesh Joshi flag off the event ~

New Delhi, November 10: Over 100 participants of the Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive were flagged off from Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, The Savoy Mussoorie by Shri Satpal Mahraj, Hon'ble PWD, Tourism, Culture & Irrigation Minister and Shri Ganesh Joshi, Hon'ble Minister of Soldier Welfare, Industrial Development, MSME, Khadi & Village Industries today.

Mr. Andrew Saldanha Area Manager, Welcomhotels-North stated, "The Welcomhotel Brand by ITC Hotels aims to offer guests' enriching experiences inspired by the destination. Welcomhotel The Savoy Mussoorie with its rich heritage is a one of a kind in its offerings and one of the finest in the entire region. We are honoured to welcome the remarkable turnout of Himalayan Rally ex-members, volunteers and dignitaries."

After a picturesque and memorable drive from Lansdowne to Mussoorie—one where everyone got their first glimpse of the snow-clad peaks of the Upper Himalayas—the Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive was greeted at the Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, The Savoy Inn, one of the hosts of the original Himalayan Rally forty years ago. The hotel itself is a landmark, boasting within its property one of the oldest post offices in the country.

Renowned author Mr. Ruskin Bond, joined for the gala dinner that laid the foundation for a trip down memory lane, with everyone being treated to photographs, videos, and stories aplenty from Nazir Hoosein's brainchild, the epochal Himalayan Rally.

At the dinner, renowned author Ruskin Bond recalled his memories from the Himalayan Rally when interacting with NHMD participants. He pointed out that urbanisation and large-scale development have changed many things along the route, sometimes even for the better. "In those days metalled roads were almost non-existent and therefore the rallyists were pioneers, charting new ways. Today it's different but nonetheless, for many participants it will be a novel experience. Driving in the mountains makes you appreciate the journey, not crave the destination."

The cavalcade will go from Mussoorie via Kempty Falls, Katapatthar and cross over into Himachal Pradesh to end the day's journey at Kufri.

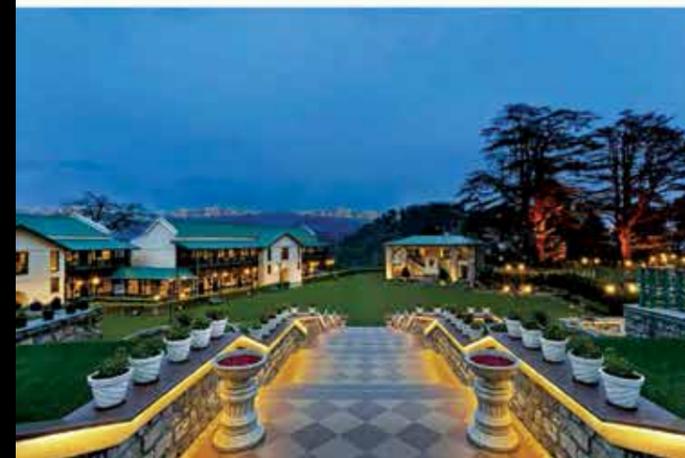
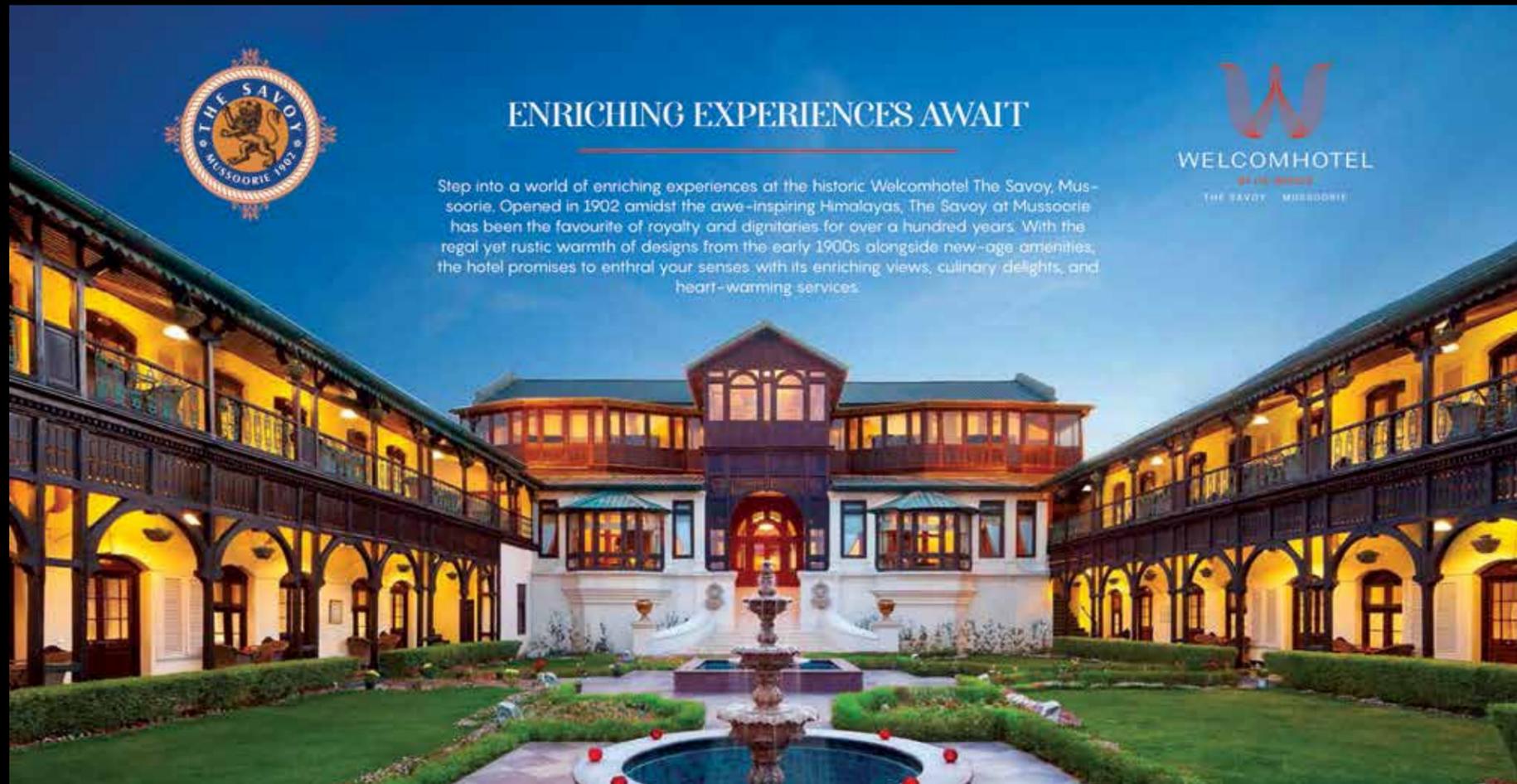
November 11 will see participants negotiate the crowning jewel of the Himalayan Rally—the Jalori Pass.





ENRICHING EXPERIENCES AWAIT

Step into a world of enriching experiences at the historic Welcomhotel The Savoy, Mussoorie. Opened in 1902 amidst the awe-inspiring Himalayas, The Savoy at Mussoorie has been the favourite of royalty and dignitaries for over a hundred years. With the regal yet rustic warmth of designs from the early 1900s alongside new-age amenities, the hotel promises to enthrall your senses with its enriching views, culinary delights, and heart-warming services.



WELCOMHOTEL THE SAVOY

Overview

Swirled in the mist of time and set against a splendid backdrop of the Garhwal Himalayan range, Welcomhotel The Savoy Mussoorie is an elegant and historic hotel, built in the style of English Gothic architecture. With a regal history spanning over a century, The Savoy has been delighting famous dignitaries and royalty from India and abroad. Today, it stands in all its glory, ready to turn the clock back in time for the connoisseurs of fine living. The hotel offers a wonderful mix of old-world charm and new-age conveniences, and promises to indulge its guests in unparalleled experiences with a deeper meaning — The Savoy Experience. We look forward to enriching your stay in the Queen of Hills.

ACCOMMODATION

70 luxurious guest rooms, including 32 Premium Rooms (12 Mountain View and 20 Valley View), 26 Superior Rooms (Mountain View) and 12 Savoy Suites, ranging from 30 sq. m. to 50 sq. m.

All accommodations offer:

- Complimentary wired and wireless standard Internet access
- 24-hour room service | • Choice of seasonal fruits
- Complimentary coffee and tea making facility
- Satellite LED TV | • In-room electronic safe
- Spacious bathroom with separate shower facility, amenities and hairdryer
- Iron & ironing board | • Speakerphone
- Daily newspaper

In addition to the above-mentioned facilities, the following features are available on a chargeable basis — mini bar, airport transfer (outsourced), laundry, extra bed, courier and travel desk services (outsourced), picnic organization and on-call doctors, in-room dining, courier and travel desk services, including ticket bookings



DINING & AFTER HOURS

THE DINING ROOM

Enjoy a lavish buffet breakfast, a la carte lunch and bespoke dinner options at this exquisite multi-cuisine restaurant from 8 AM to 11:30PM.

THE WRITER'S BAR

Named in honor of the many literary luminaries who visited or resided at The Savoy, including Rudyard Kipling, Ruskin Bond and Stephen Alter, this bar features a comprehensive list of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Enjoy a refreshing beverage that will awaken the creative wordsmith within you from 11AM to 11PM.



BUSINESS & BANQUETING

The following versatile sections are available for private meetings, conferences, weddings, parties and other private events —

Central Lawn	1,500 sq. m	up to 500 people
Beer Garden	750 sq. m	up to 250 people
Royal Ballroom	250 sq. m	up to 250 people
State Room 2	90 sq. m	up to 60 people
State Room 1	80 sq. m	up to 60 people

For Business & banqueting queries, please write to: conferences.whsavoy@itchotels.com



WELLNESS - FITNESS, RECREATION & SPA

- Accessible from 10 AM to 8 PM, stay fit at our state-of-the-art Wellness Centre, which also features a breath-taking view of Mussoorie's magnificent mountains
- Relax at Akasa Spa and indulge in eclectic massages, beauty treatments, sauna sessions and more from 10 AM to 8 PM
- Bond with friends and family over board games and arcade games at our Recreation Zone from 8 AM to 10 PM
 - City tours can be arranged upon request.



LOCATION

Surrounded by picturesque mountains, The Savoy is located in the heart of Mussoorie, at the Library end of Mall Road at Gandhi Chowk. The hotel is approximately 34 km from Dehradun Railway Station, 55 km from Jolly Grant Airport and an approximately 7-hour drive from New Delhi.

Places to visit:

Lal Tibba | Sister Bazaar | Chaar Dukkan | Landour Market | Sir George Everest House Wax Museum | Lake Mist | Mussoorie Lake | Nathala Estate | Gun Hill | Kempt Falls | Bhatta Falls | Jharipani Fall | Mossy Fall | Happy Valley
Benog Wildlife Sanctuary | Camel's Back Road | Company Garden | Cloud's End



DAY 3

NAZIR HOOSEIN MEMORIAL DRIVE

WEDNESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER, 2021

**Mussoorie - Kempty Falls - Herbertpur - Paonta Saheb - Nahan - Sarahan -
Kumarhati - Solan - Khandaghat - Chail - Kufri**

DAY 3

The flag-off ceremony at The Savoy was by the Tourism Minister of Uttarkhand, Shri Satpal Maharaj. We followed the rally route to Herbertpur through the valley alongside the river Tons. The section from Nahan to Kumarhatti is now a fast broad winding highway. The big cars opened up here, enjoying a chance to press the gas, calling it the Nuburgring Nordhschleife. Despite reaching Kufri late, the participants were ready to party hard at yet another fun evening at the Twin Towers. The day's run was 289 km.



Car No. 11 Deepa Malik flagged off by Mr Kuldeep Bhartee ITC, Shri Satpal Maharaj, Mr. Kaya and Shri Ganesh Joshi MP



Mr. Kaya owner of The Savoy with Shri Maharaj



Car No. 83 - Hrishikesh, Merwani Irani, Jagdish Thackersey and Abhimanya



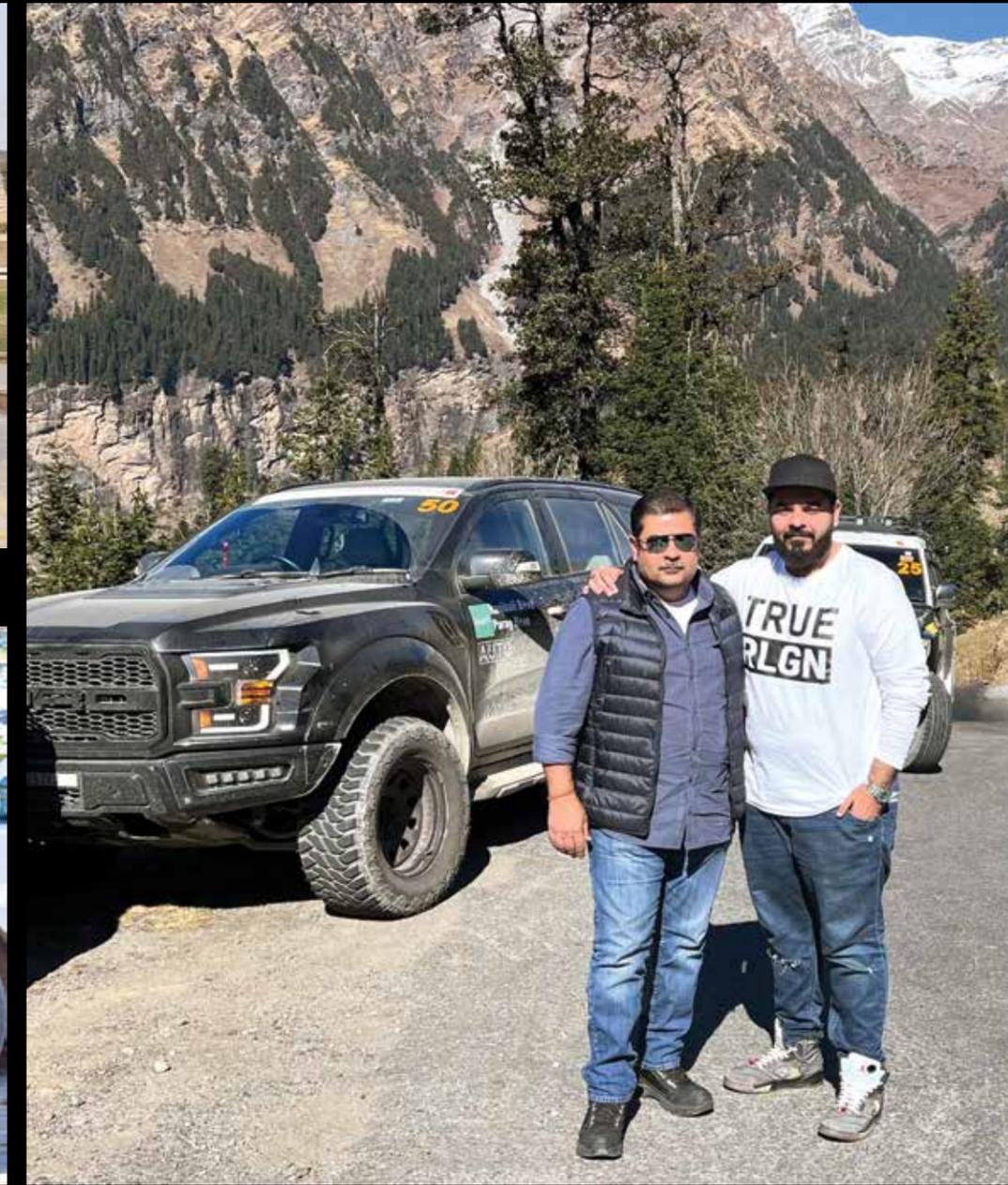
Rajiv Rai next to Shri Satpal Maharaj, Mr. Kaya and Shri Ganesh Joshi



Shri Satpal Maharaj with Rajan Syal at the flag off



Deepa Malik with Sudev and Alka Barar



Ford 50 - Raqibali Ismail and Parag Rajda



Mangul and Rasul Hussein at the hotel



Road block!



Lone Ranger Aryn Mecklai





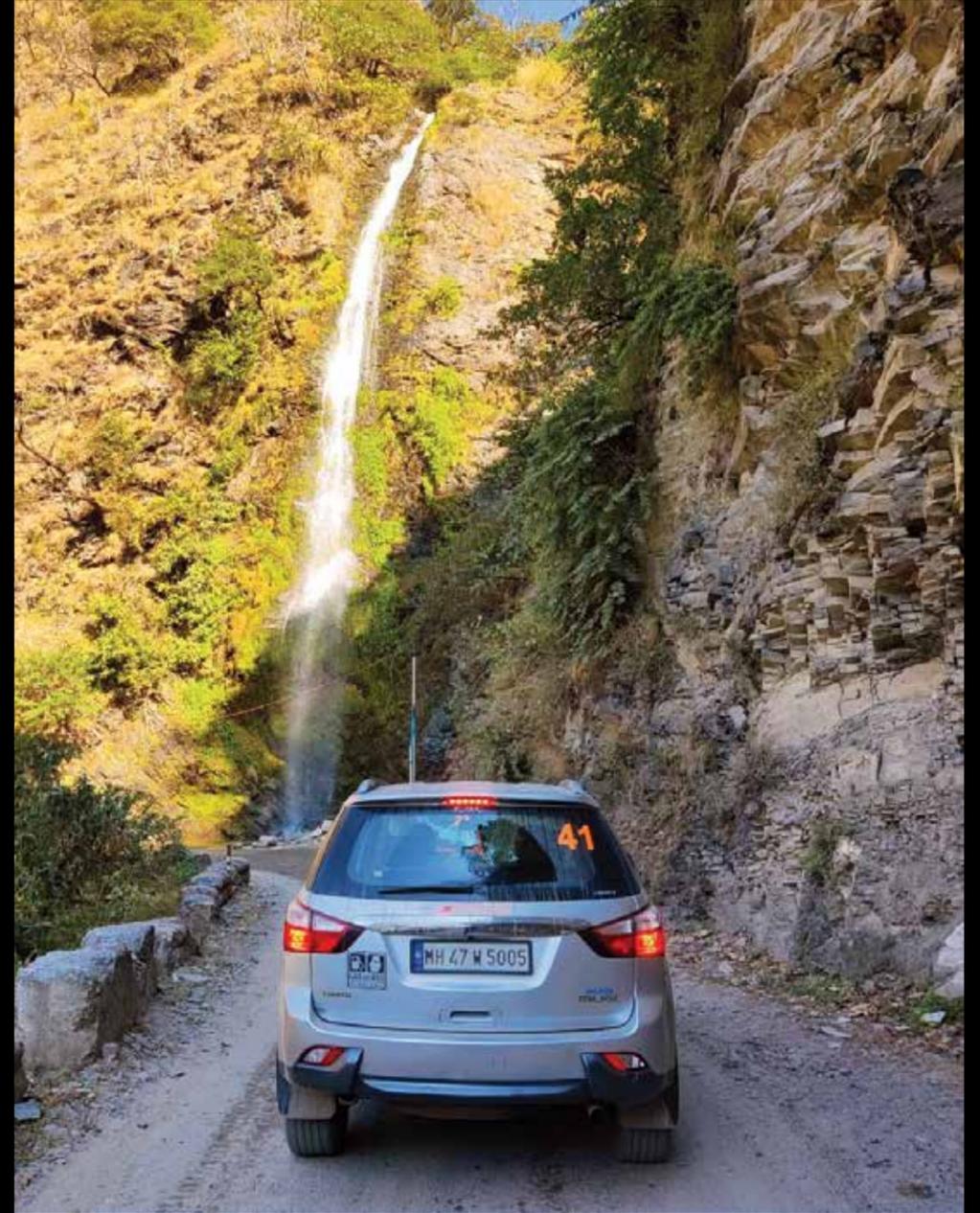
Car No. 87 - Rasul Husseini



Xerxes Master in his Skoda



Iqbal Durazzi in his Porsche



Waterfall enroute to Herbertpur



Classics all!



Anirudh Kasliwal in Car No. 75



VW 78 of Santaji and Dhanaji Shirke at The Savoy flag-off



Enroute to Kumarhatti



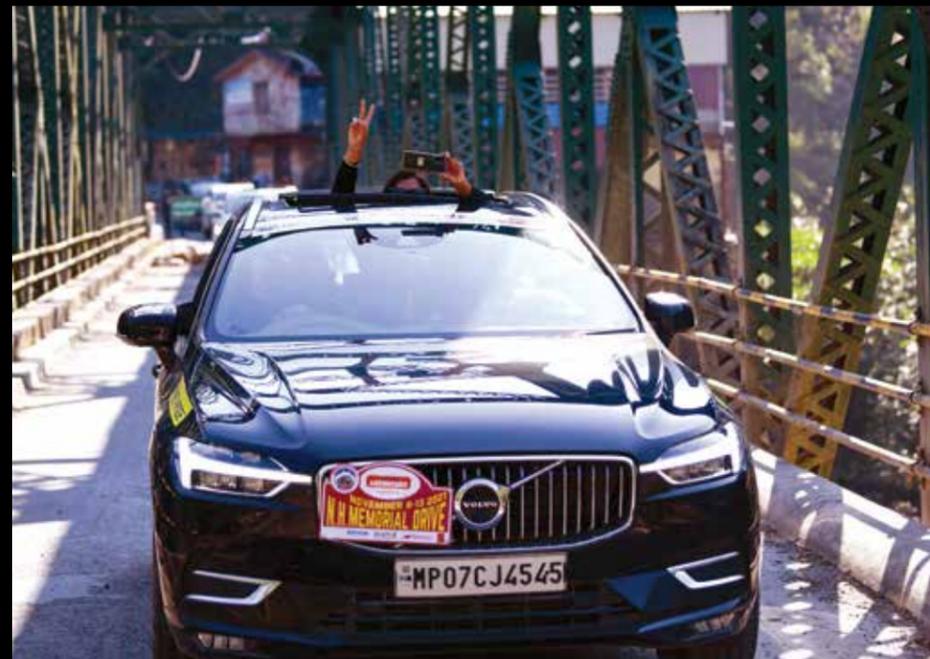
Gurtaj's Thar at the scenic Tehri Dam Reservoir



Car No. 35 - Iqbal Durazzi, Amit Goel and Ajay Kacholia



Team from Kenya with Rajan Syal



Sunil and Aparna Saboo with Sapan and Archana Shah in a Volvo

Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive Day 3: Participants got their first taste of real mountain terrain as they arrived in Kufri

New Delhi, November 11: A day of negotiating sharp curves, narrow roads and old-school rally terrain culminated in the beautiful and remote hill station of Kufri with participants of the Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive getting their first taste of real mountain terrain and suitably chastened for the journey ahead.

Flagged off from The Savoy Inn in Mussoorie, the cavalcade made their way down to Kempty Falls, via Katapatthar, Paonta Saheb and entered Himachal Pradesh. This, arguably one of the longer stretches of the drive itself would treat everyone to idyllic scenery and humbling roads.

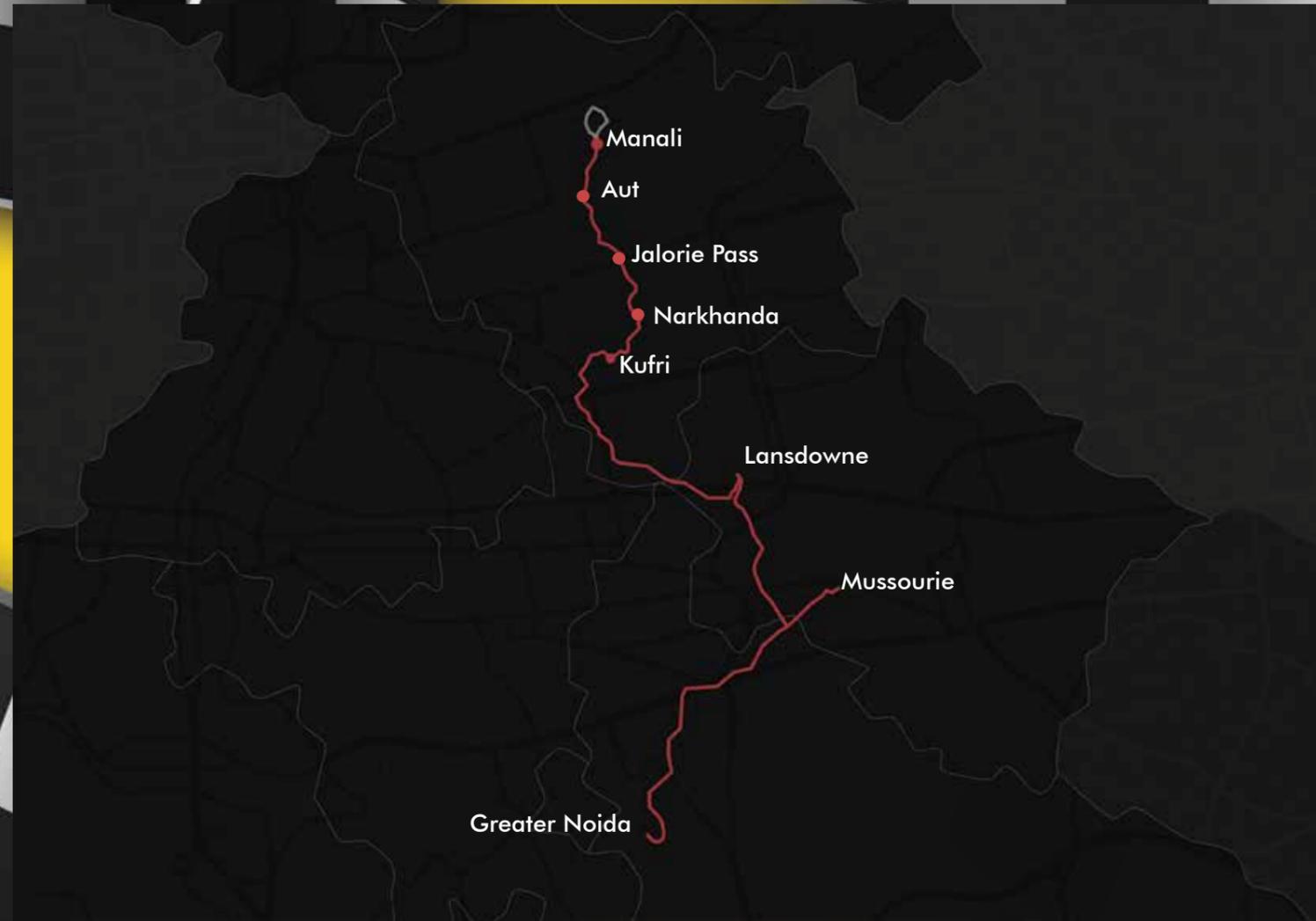
Driving through Solan, Kalaghati and Chail surrounded by beautiful Deodhar forests was a treat for sore eyes, even if at all times drivers' eyes were locked on the road. It was also a great eye opener for what lies ahead and a chance for all to get acclimated to driving in the mountains.

All participants arrived in Kufri by sundown and were suitably prepared for the next day's journey which would see them negotiate the epochal segment of the Himalayan a rally of old, the Jalori Pass.

"One of the highlights of a drive such as this, what makes it different from a rally is that it's not competitive and therefore offers everyone a chance to experience these segments at leisure. I encourage everyone to take it all in, enjoy the journey," Col S.S. Sekhon said. In the 80s at the original Himalayan Rally, the team of Col. (Retd.) Kulbir Singh Chauhan, VSM and Col Sekhon were the team to beat winning multiple accolades over the years."

The Jalori Pass is widely regarded as one of the most challenging roads this side of the Himalayas. It sits on the way from Khanag towards Shoja and is closed for the later months of the year, due to heavy snowfall. After Shoja, the climb to the pass itself is steep and narrow—cars will climb an elevation of 668 m in under 6 km—with driver acumen tested to the limit.

The day's journey will culminate in Manali, where participants will be flagged off to Rohtang Pass on November 12.



DAY 4

NAZIR HOOSEIN MEMORIAL DRIVE

THURSDAY 11TH NOVEMBER, 2021

**Kufri - Theog - Narkhanda - Kingel - Luri - Ani - Khanag - Jalore Pass -
Banjar - Aut - Kullu - Manali**

DAY 4

The drive tackled the infamous Jalorie Pass. It brought back memories of the cars getting stuck in the snow and slush in 1981. The well-paved tarmac track was no longer a difficult drive, but for the traffic jam at Ani coming down the other side. Many cars were stuck for hours at Khanag. The view to the top was stunning and unforgettable. The day's run was 243 km.



Waiting for the Ani traffic jam to clear



An early start for Car No. 83 from Kufri



Car No. 61 - Umesh Mehta, Suketu Trivedi and Gautam Shah



Asif and Afsan Haiderly



Capt Sachin Ogale



Kamal Agarwal, Brijesh Soni and Anshul Trivedi



Gaurav Dalal waving in the COC car on the way to Luri



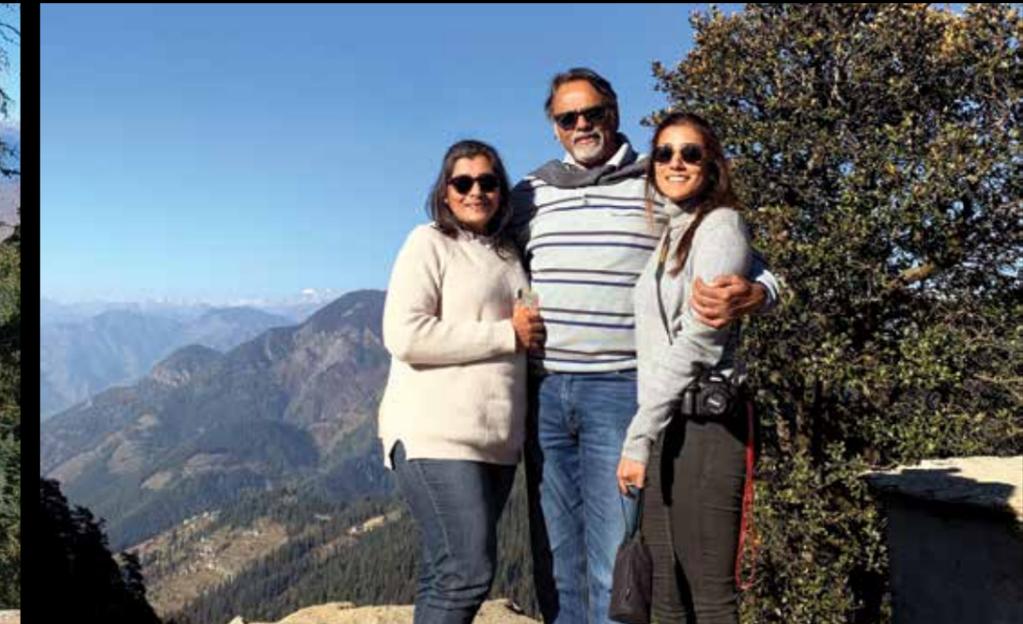
Car No. 64 - Sourajit, Darshan Sanghvi and Rupak Ghosh at Jalorie



Gauri Rajda and Shama Asnani at Jalorie Top



Jaya Bhansali, Laila Dhunjibhoy, Ava Poonawala and Shanaz Commissariat



The Amins - Neha, Siddharth and Ayushi at Jalorie Top



Xerxis in Car No. 80



Manoj Sadarangi and Nekzad made it to the top in their classic Fiat 1100



Manish Kothar in Car No. 82



LS Ravi, Shama Asnanai, Shalin Koticha, Parag Rajda, Gauree Rajda, Raqibali Ismail and Cyrus Dabhar





On the road to Jalorie Pass



Neville Poonawala, Homi Dhunjibhoy, Sunil Bhansali, Farokh Commissariat and Neville Wadia



Sandip Gandhi and Dr Patel in their Jeep



The Syals enjoying the sunshine at Jalorie

Veteran participant Colonel (Retd) Kulbir Singh Chauhan recalls The Himalayan Rally of the 1980s

~ Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive crosses Jalori Pass to reach Manali~

New Delhi, November 12: One of Col (Retd) Kulbir Singh Chauhan's most vivid memories of the great Nazir Hoosein revolves around a stage of the Himalayan Rally in 1989. Col Chauhan, a four-time winner of the Himalayan Rally was, along with co-driver Col (Retd) S.S. Sekhon, a part of the most competitive Indian team on the circuit at the time.

“The leg started from Lansdowne towards Mussoorie. I was perhaps the fifth car to flag off, and say after about 30 kilometres, I saw the cars ahead of me, driven by international rallyists, turning back,” he reminisces. “I didn't really understand why that was happening, and with a true fauji mentality, went on anyway. There was a village, with some crowd and then I reached the checkpoint, where the time controller told me my time and asked me to move ahead. I refused because it felt unsportsmanlike. I'd seen drivers ahead of me turn back, and it played on my mind.”

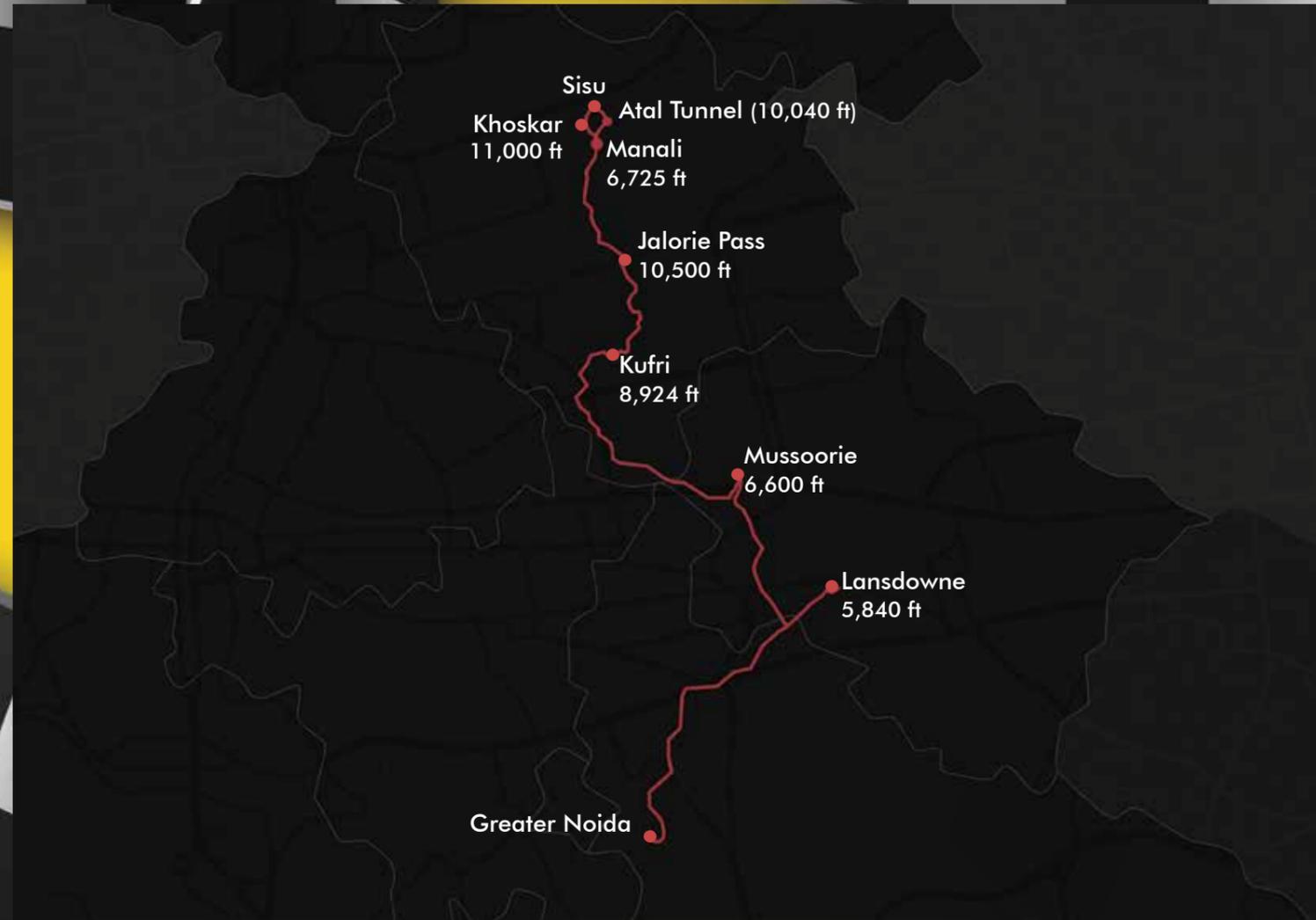
Within a few hours an announcement cancelling the leg came through. The cars turning back had been scared by the crowds gathered at the village. Col. Chauhan ended up being the only car that had braved through, even if he had refused to cross through the line and, technically, finish the stage. “Much later, when Mr. Hoosein met me, he admonished me, saying if I'd crossed the line, I'd have been the overall winner,” Col Chauhan says, “But in the same breath he also commended my sportsmanship, and in that moment, I truly understood what a great man he was—a true rallyist who understood competition but also understood motorsport.”

As the 100-car cavalcade of participants at the Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive drove through Jalori Pass yesterday, Col. Chauhan watched their progress with keen interest, regularly checking up with some friends who were taking part. Jalori offered them the best views of the Himalayas yet, with the Dhauladhar range spreading to the west and the Great Himalayas stretching off to the east, right into Tibet.

But despite the beauty that surrounds the pass, for most travellers the real joy is in driving through it—a test of mental fortitude and skill. A single, narrow, curving road is all there is and as you approach the pass, the climb gets steeper every 100m, making even the smallest mistakes cataclysmic—for the car and those inside.

“In my opinion, there were faster stages at the time in the Himalayan Rally. What made Jalori different was that you needed to have power to climb it efficiently, which few Indian cars did, at the time,” Col. Chauhan says. “If you had guts, you could do it. It is a test of your endurance more than anything else.”

The fleet of cars participating in the NH Memorial Drive reached Manali, via Auth and Kullu to take in a well-deserved break from hard mountain driving over the past few days. The drivers will proceed to Koksar, via the Atal Tunnel, before being allowed a free run to Rohtang and return to Manali, for the final day of the drive.



DAY 5
NAZIR HOOSEIN MEMORIAL DRIVE

FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER, 2021

Manali - Atal Tunnel - Sisu - Khoskar - Manali

DAY 5

The helipad at Ambassador Manu Allaya where some cars were parked, provided a stunning view of the snowcapped peaks. As Rohtang Pass was closed to normal traffic, the Drive went to Sisu and onto Khoksar for a dhaba lunch picnic, heading back by evening for the grand farewell dinner at the hotel. The participants never seemed to tire and were ever ready for fun evenings after the long drives. The day's run was 100 km.



Anu and Ushma Mehta in Car No. 53



All smiles at the Khoksar lunch; Prakash Shanware in cap and Farad Bhatena extreme right



Dr Azhar of Apollo Hospitals flags off XUV 700 of Vinod Nikkola



Dr Azhar of Apollo Healthcare with Rajan Syal



Arvind and Anand Srinivasan in Car No. 51



Car No. 17 - Bob Rupani and Sandeep Dodhiwala



Car No. 54 - Munish Dhawan



Jyotsna Sanghvi and Aditya Suchde



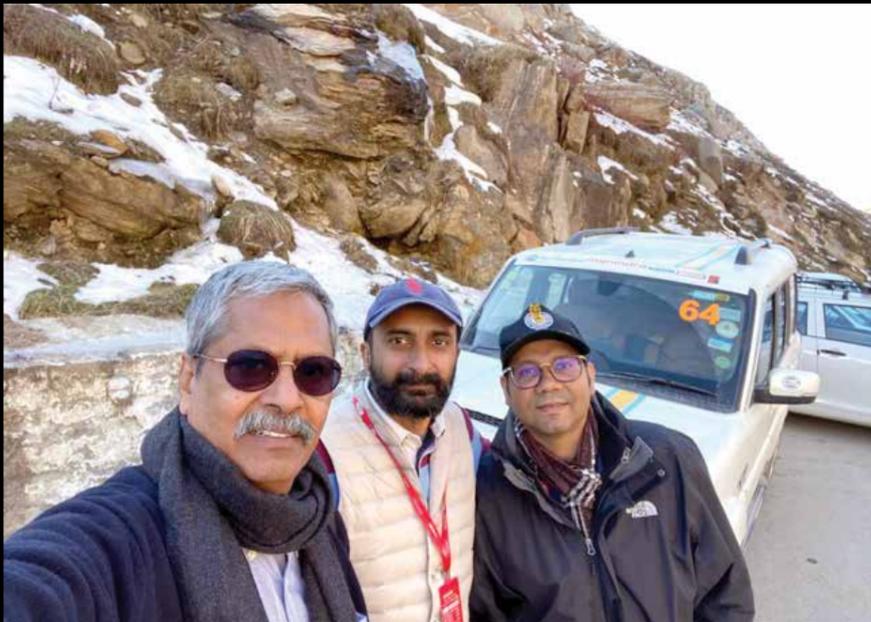
Car No. 4 with Rajiv and Rupal Rai



Erach Kotwal and Rukzen Godrej in Car No. 66



Chennai group - Ritesh Rai, Rajesh Reddy, TT Siddharth, Kiran Joseph, Adit Reddy and Sandeep Syal



Selfie stop for Car No. 64



All smiles!



A rocking farewell party



Himlayan Rally champions Flory Roothaert (centre) with Hari and Manjeev Bhalla



Mahindra ensemble at Sisu



Deval Tibrewala



The team from Hyderabad - Yashwant and Nirmala Jhabakh; Jaleel, Tamanna and Ali Rooz; Kishan and Sarita Lohiya; and Rupal and Uday Pilani



Neville and Ava Poonawalla at Sisu



Car park at the Manu Allaya helipad with a stunning backdrop



Kuber Mishka and Pankaj Malik in Car No. 69



Kuber Mishka and Pankaj Malik in Car No. 69



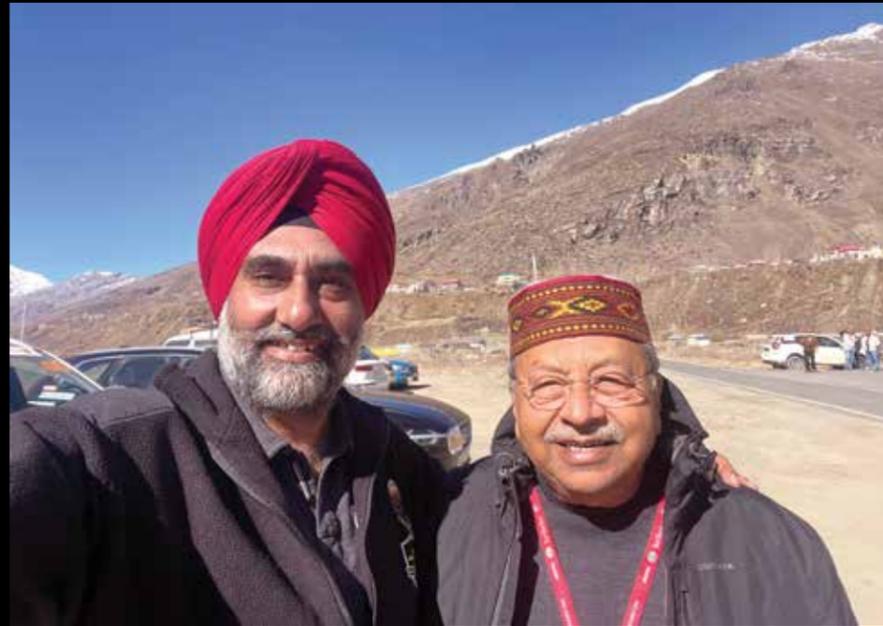
The Kasliwals and the Baglas at the Helipad in Car No. 38



The rocking team from Hyderabad



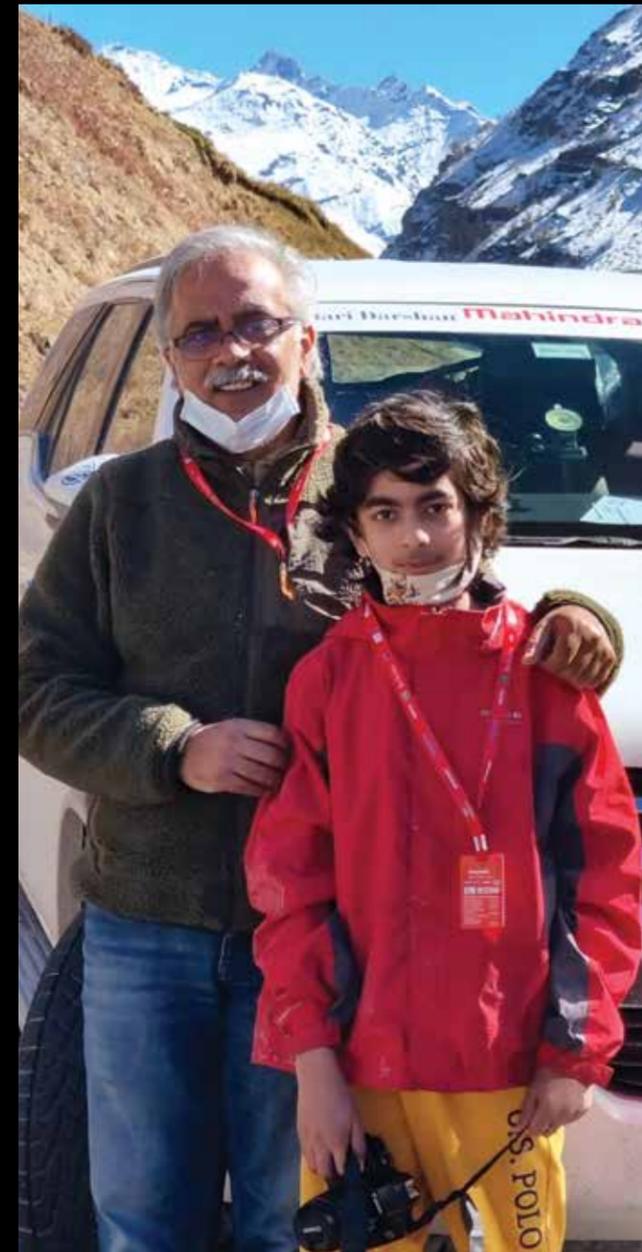
Hardial Kalsi and Surinder Thatthi



Two Rally champions Hari Singh and Kiran Mody



Lunch at Koksar - mutton curry, rajma and rice



Purujit Tanwar with his son Oyajit



On the road to Rohtang



Team Firefox in action



Ismail and Rajda



Allan Almeida, Harshil Manan, Patel, Paras Shah and Prasad Iyer



Car No. 26 with Kapil Nema and Chetan Shah



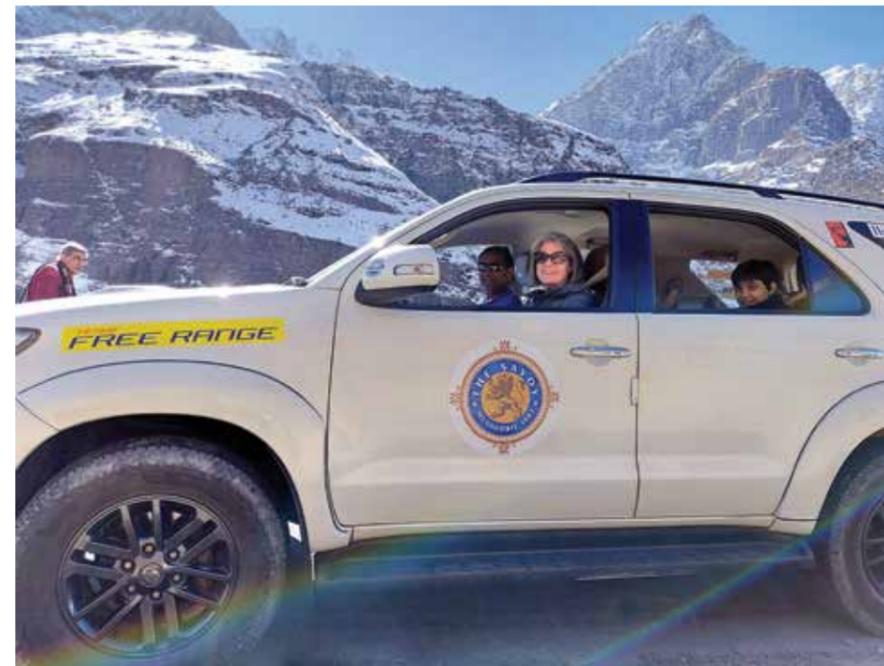
Amirali Jetha in Car No. 91



Prasad Iyer, Manan Patel and Paras Shah in Car No. 41



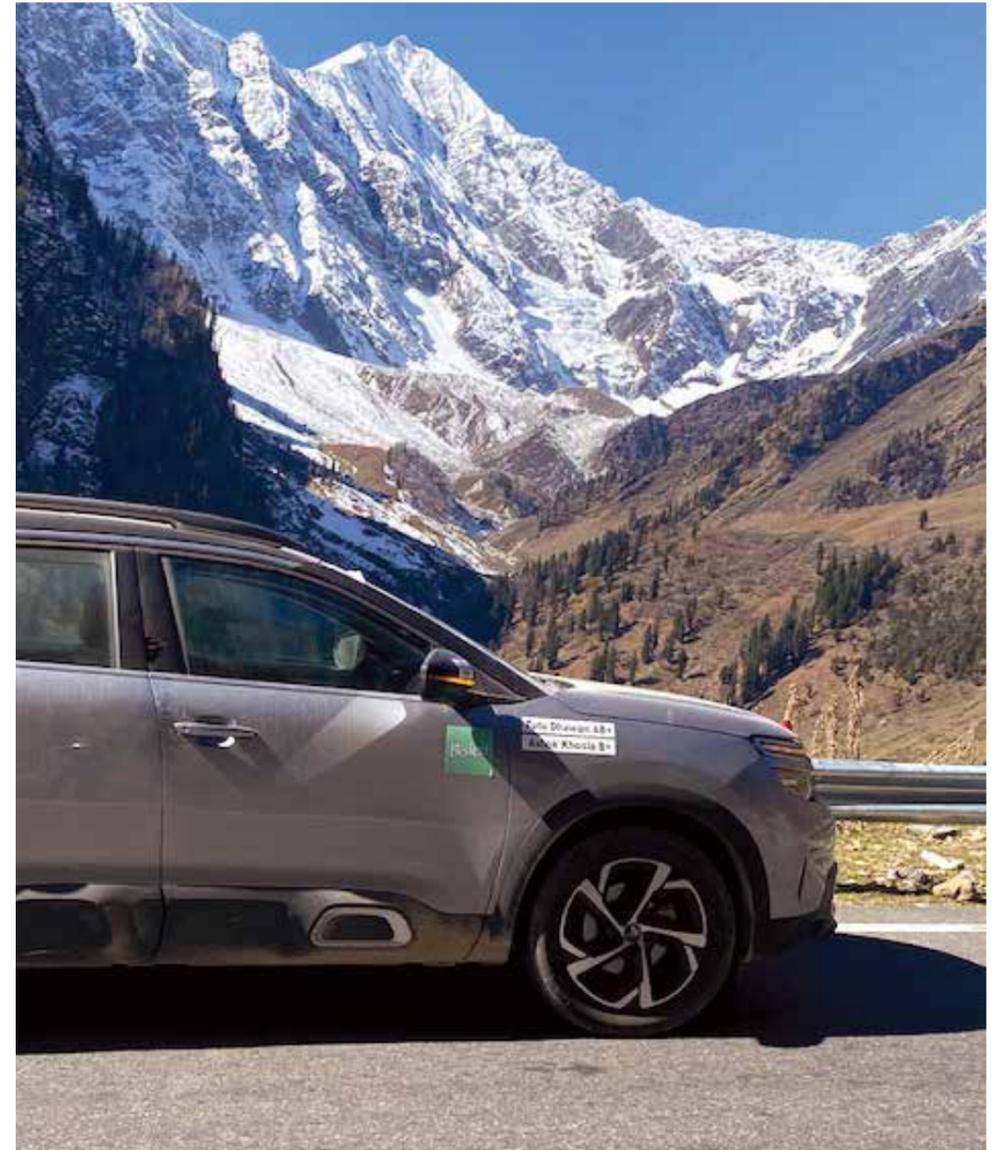
Car No. 48 at the restart—Siddharth Amin, Neha and Ayushi



Amirali Jetha, Wendy and Aliza



One of the most scenic roads in the world



Citroen SX5 of Tutu Dhawan with a stunning view



Satyajit Deshpande with his team Kamal Sharma and Manmit Sabarwal





Rajesh Mehta, Trupti Mehta and Ketan Mehta in Car No. 60



Apollo ambulances on stand by



GD Ankleswaria and team



Alak Raju & Anita Nanjappa



Opening team of Kamlesh Patel, Amita Patel and Dr Khushali



Hari Singh and Jahaan



Hassan and Rhea in Car No. 88 take a breather



The Thar can climb any rock and Ayushi agrees



Old Snawarian GS Bala flags off Samir and Bindu Choksi



Raj Kapoor, Vinod Nikkola, Veshali Kapoor with Sudev and Alka Barar extreme right



Celebration time!



Flag-off on the final day



Farewell dinner



Introducing the organising team at the farewell dinner



The classic car group is applauded for their stellar drive



Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive concludes in Manali with a memorable trip to the Atal Tunnel and Khoksar

~ Organisers - Team Firefox plan for a second edition in 2022 ~

New Delhi, November 13: The Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive culminated today here in Manali, after a five-day journey passing through Lansdowne, Mussoorie, Kufri, driving through the Jalori Pass and to Khoksar via the Atal tunnel.

On the final day of the drive, participants were allowed a free run to Khoksar via the Atal tunnel, towards Sisu, to take in the sight of snow-clad mountains and serene mountain scenery. Lunch in the valley was followed by a farewell dinner in Manali.

Speaking after the completion of the event, Rajan Syal expressed his gratitude towards everyone who participated in the event and paid special tribute to an extensive team of volunteers who helped put it together. “The overwhelming generosity witnessed in the last few days is a testament to the success of this event. We are glad to have put together something to commemorate the memory of a great man and look forward to doing it again in the coming year.”

The main theme of the drive itself has been nostalgia and in keeping with it many classic cars had registered for the event, not just for the pageantry, but the adventure itself. All five classic cars (1963 VW Beetle, 1968 VW Beetle, 1963 Fiat Select 1100, 1957 Fiat Elegant and a 1972 VW Westfalia) that registered for the event, competed the drive successfully.

Hassan Hussein, a vintage car collector who bought and restored his 1972 VW Westfalia four years back, said that from the moment he heard about the drive

he knew he wanted to test his van in the mountains. “To be honest, the van has actually never driven anywhere more than 100km at a stretch,” he grinned. “Which always used to claw at me. I think the purpose of this iconic vehicle has always been to serve its owners with long comfortable journeys, and finally I can say that having come up to the Himalayas, it has served its purpose.”

Hussein’s co-driver Rhea Suresh Rao admitted that while they hadn’t anticipated some small problems of the terrain and the journey, overall, she never doubted the car’s capability to negotiate arduous climbs. “The cold and the general lack of temperature control was a bit rough on us, but that is a great lesson for next time.”

“And hey, it’s all worth it, when we look back at what we’ve done,” Hussein quipped. “Someday I’ll tell my kids what a cool thing we did in the mountains, and we will have all these beautiful pictures shot by the organisers, to prove it.”

The successful negotiation of this sometimes-arduous event prompted not just applause but encouragement to many drivers in the fold who expressed interest in doing the same in the coming years. Darshan, a vintage car collector from Kolkata who took part in the drive with two friends, said he’d been sceptical when he saw the ‘classics’ at the starting line. “But “now I swear, it’s given me confidence. Maybe next year I’ll get my MG (Magnette, 1955) for this,” he smiled.

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THE HIMALAYAN GRAND TOUR

This was my first trip to the far north of India. I was eagerly looking forward to experiencing a real Indian winter, touch the snow and embrace the majestic Himalayas.

We were set to do 2,000 km by road in 5 days, which in terms of a regular European road trip would be quite a relaxed and easy drive. But in realms of Indian mountain rally routes, it turned into an exciting adventure, accompanied by scenic landscapes, serpentine roads, adrenaline rush, landslides, breath-taking views and improvised photoshoots, roadside tea breaks and moments of thrill and impressions exchanged with other participants. I will surely remember that for long time.

We flagged off from Delhi on 8th November. This was probably the softest part of the Drive, giving us a chance to gradually tune into the rally vibe, preparing us for bigger things.

By the afternoon we started the ascent towards Lansdowne—a beautiful hill station located 1,700 meters above sea level. We drove through Kotdwar, rocky hills and charming little valleys. We swung by the famous Corbett National Park, promising to spend a full day there on our next trip and see those leopards and tigers everyone's talking about. The views along the way did not stop to amaze us—mountain rivers with clear turquoise waters, massive dams hidden between the harsh rock tops, and the Ganges. For a moment I felt like being in a Swiss countryside. Spotting a pani puri seller on the roadside, in the blink of an eye, I was back in India. On the way we did not miss the chance to stock up on fruits. Local freshly picked apples, oranges, persimmons and plums were absolutely delicious.



We reached Lansdowne at dusk and even though we couldn't see much of landscape around, everyone was happy to take a breath of cold crisp air and gaze at thousand-star night skies while enjoying a cup of hot tea by the bonfire. The morning views did not disappoint—hilly landscapes, lush greeneries, lemon trees and bright blue sky. The friendly locals and fluffy Himalayan sheepdogs definitely set the mood for the day.

Next stop was Mussoorie—the place engulfed in British colonial period charm, which apparently is one of the popular honeymoon destinations today. And I can see why—the old architecture, churches, hotels, family cottages, even street benches and lamp posts take you back in time and create a romantic atmosphere you want to share with your loved ones. Not to mention the magnificent Savoy, which reminds one of a Victorian era castle and offers stunning panoramic views of the city and mountains. It took us a bit longer than planned as we could not resist stopping on the way to take few sunset photos above the clouds and admire those small coffee shops and restaurants literally hanging off the hill tops. Tired but happy we made it just in time for the evening entertainment program. Live music band, smiling faces of Rally participants, “dance till you drop” fun atmosphere, exceptional food and impeccable service—this dinner reception was surely one of the highlights of my NH Memorial Drive experience. Next morning started with the English breakfast tea on a terrace overlooking the Himalayas, exploring a tropical greenhouse, fabulous historical interiors and other hidden gems of Savoy.

The drive to Kufri, another quaint hill station, was through picturesque valleys and mountains of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Had to remember to keep the phone camera ready for taking photos and videos of the stunning nature around—waterfalls



appearing out of nowhere, cedar and pine forests, fast flowing waters of Tons River running through the rocky canyons of the valley.

An absolute must of a mountain drive experience is getting stuck in a heavy traffic on a one-lane serpentine road, watching local drivers maneuvering gigantic buses on the edge of a deep gorge. Truly mesmerizing!

Morning in Kufri started with refreshing 50°C temperature outside and beautiful sunrise over Himalayas, which now looked much closer and greater. After having a quick breakfast and wrapping ourselves in woollen scarfs and warm jumpers we were all set on our drive to Manali. Snowy mountain tops started showing as we were approaching Narkandha—a famous skiing and winter sports destination. And then it was a meditative drive through the tranquil dense forests and steep slopes and flocks of cute mountain goats blocking the traffic and stops for a cup of tea in roadside coffee shops. We reached Jalori pass located at an elevation of 3,223 m above the sea level in the late afternoon, briefly visited Kali Mata Mandir temple and headed to Manali.

Manali was welcoming us with thousands of lights scattered throughout the mountain slopes. Flickering hotel and restaurant signs were creating a festive atmosphere, but we were only dreaming of finding our hotel and having a hot shower. The evening was complete with having a freshly caught trout in Café 1947 on the bank of the Beas River. I think it was the best trout I have had in a long time.

Morning views from our hotel terrace left everyone speechless. Snow-covered mountain peaks looked like sugar-powdered chocolate truffles and seemed so close, I almost thought I could touch them. It was a beautiful day in Manali with blue skies, pines standing tall on the hillsides of emerald-green valleys and yellow leaf trees getting ready for the fall.



Manali has its own unique charm, amazing scenery and laid-back vibe. Despite having a reputation of an overcrowded destination, I found Manali moderately touristic. Or maybe I was just so immersed in this whole Himalayan experience, that nothing could stop me from making good memories. We took a stroll through the popular street-market stretches and roadside stalls selling woven shawls, Buddhist thangkas, silver jewellery, wooden handicrafts, fruit-wine and apple pickle. And after getting a few souvenirs we put on our new Kullu topi caps and left for the Rohtang Pass.

Sometimes it is not easy to describe the beauty of the place, you just need to see it! The drive to the Rohtang Pass was exactly like that. We drove to Koksar via the Atal Tunnel, which is the highest altitude tunnel in the world. We walked on the snow and ice, took loads of videos and photos, got acquainted with local sheepdogs, Himalayan yaks and horses. We had the most delicious open air lunch with rajma chawal and mutton biriyani, and just absorbed the greatness of the nature.

The day was concluded with the fabulous farewell dinner and local music and dance program. Energies were charged dancing to the music belted out by the DJ. Big smiles and shining eyes of participants indicated that the event was a huge success, everyone was sharing their stories, taking pictures and making plans for the next year's drive.

For me this trip was a new experience of Incredible India, which showed new facets of the country and certainly inspired me to travel more.

Looking forward to new adventures and till next time—the Majestic Himalayas!

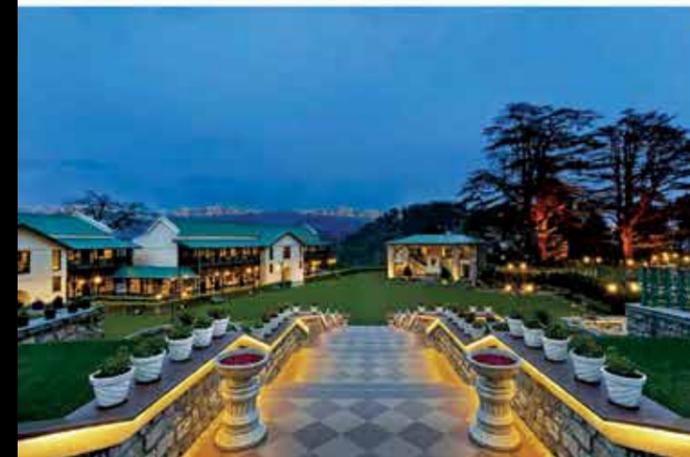
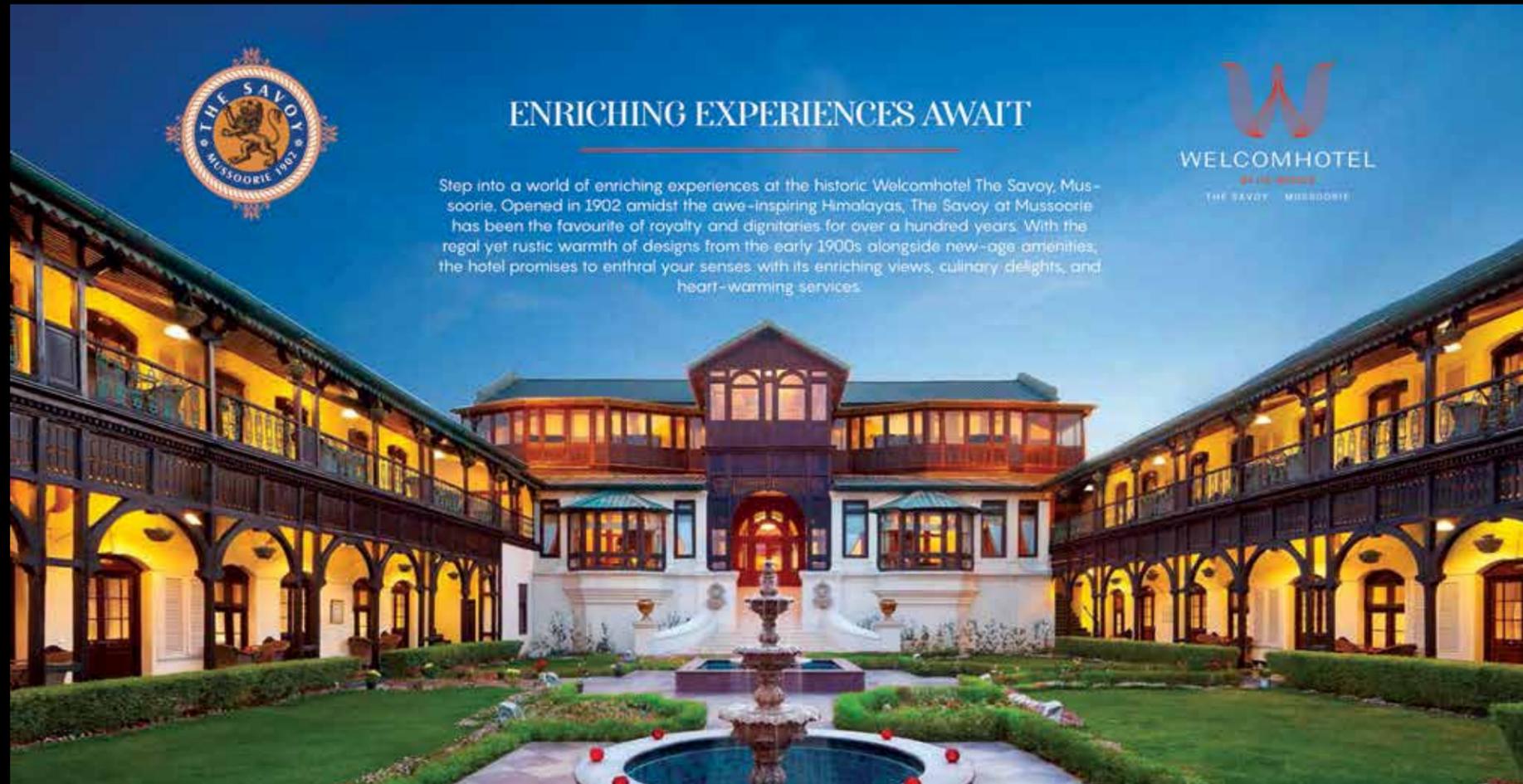
Iris Dremaine Syal





ENRICHING EXPERIENCES AWAIT

Step into a world of enriching experiences at the historic Welcomhotel The Savoy, Mussoorie. Opened in 1902 amidst the awe-inspiring Himalayas, The Savoy at Mussoorie has been the favourite of royalty and dignitaries for over a hundred years. With the regal yet rustic warmth of designs from the early 1900s alongside new-age amenities, the hotel promises to enthrall your senses with its enriching views, culinary delights, and heart-warming services.



WELCOMHOTEL THE SAVOY

Overview

Swirled in the mist of time and set against a splendid backdrop of the Garhwal Himalayan range, Welcomhotel The Savoy Mussoorie is an elegant and historic hotel, built in the style of English Gothic architecture. With a regal history spanning over a century, The Savoy has been delighting famous dignitaries and royalty from India and abroad. Today, it stands in all its glory, ready to turn the clock back in time for the connoisseurs of fine living. The hotel offers a wonderful mix of old-world charm and new-age conveniences, and promises to indulge its guests in unparalleled experiences with a deeper meaning — The Savoy Experience. We look forward to enriching your stay in the Queen of Hills.

ACCOMMODATION

70 luxurious guest rooms, including 32 Premium Rooms (12 Mountain View and 20 Valley View), 26 Superior Rooms (Mountain View) and 12 Savoy Suites, ranging from 30 sq. m. to 50 sq. m.

All accommodations offer:

- Complimentary wired and wireless standard Internet access
- 24-hour room service | - Choice of seasonal fruits
- Complimentary coffee and tea making facility
- Satellite LED TV | - In-room electronic safe
- Spacious bathroom with separate shower facility, amenities and hairdryer
- Iron & ironing board | - Speakerphone
- Daily newspaper

In addition to the above-mentioned facilities, the following features are available on a chargeable basis — mini bar, airport transfer (outsourced), laundry, extra bed, courier and travel desk services (outsourced), picnic organization and on-call doctors, in-room dining, courier and travel desk services, including ticket bookings



DINING & AFTER HOURS

THE DINING ROOM

Enjoy a lavish buffet breakfast, a la carte lunch and bespoke dinner options at this exquisite multi-cuisine restaurant from 8 AM to 11:30PM.

THE WRITER'S BAR

Named in honor of the many literary luminaries who visited or resided at The Savoy, including Rudyard Kipling, Ruskin Bond and Stephen Alter, this bar features a comprehensive list of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Enjoy a refreshing beverage that will awaken the creative wordsmith within you from 11AM to 11PM.



BUSINESS & BANQUETING

The following versatile sections are available for private meetings, conferences, weddings, parties and other private events —

Central Lawn	1,500 sq. m	up to 500 people
Beer Garden	750 sq. m	up to 250 people
Royal Ballroom	250 sq. m	up to 250 people
State Room 2	90 sq. m	up to 60 people
State Room 1	80 sq. m	up to 60 people

For Business & banqueting queries, please write to: conferences.whsavoy@itshotels.com



WELLNESS - FITNESS, RECREATION & SPA

- Accessible from 10 AM to 8 PM, stay fit at our state-of-the-art Wellness Centre, which also features a breath-taking view of Mussoorie's magnificent mountains
- Relax at Akasa Spa and indulge in eclectic massages, beauty treatments, sauna sessions and more from 10 AM to 8 PM
- Bond with friends and family over board games and arcade games at our Recreation Zone from 8 AM to 10 PM
 - City tours can be arranged upon request.



LOCATION

Surrounded by picturesque mountains, The Savoy is located in the heart of Mussoorie, at the Library end of Mall Road at Gandhi Chowk. The hotel is approximately 34 km from Dehradun Railway Station, 55 km from Jolly Grant Airport and an approximately 7-hour drive from New Delhi.

Places to visit:

Lal Tibba | Sister Bazaar | Chaar Dukkan | Landour Market | Sir George Everest House Wax Museum | Lake Mist | Mussoorie Lake | Nathala Estate | Gun Hill | Kempty Falls | Bhatta Falls | Jharipani Fall | Mossy Fall | Happy Valley
Benog Wildlife Sanctuary | Camel's Back Road | Company Garden | Cloud's End

“

“Thank you so much for this incredible experience. Though these places weren't new for us, but this time we viewed it with absolutely different eyes and perspective, and it was fabulous. Every part of the rally was enjoyable.

We appreciate the detailing with which your team has worked.

Thank you so much for making us a part of it. This experience will always be special to us. Meeting all the veterans of Rally fraternity was a proud moment. This event gave us the opportunity to meet people from various fields which added memories to our lives. Thank you, Rajan sir, and your team once again.”

Regards

Lt. Col. Euthica

“

“Thank you so much for your warm email dear Rajan. It is us, on the contrary, who need to thank you, honestly, for the amazing adventure you took us on.

We meet a lot of interesting people, sharing the same passion as us, not to mention the incredible organization, to the T and smallest detail. Congratulations for a highly successful rally, I am sure Nazir felt your and our love and respect.

Concerning a constructive criticism, the rally could have been shorter or another route to insure fewer driving hours a day.

Seema Pal Roothaert

“

“Just wanted to take a moment to thank you for the fantastic event Rajan. It truly was a wonderful experience. The amount of driving was a lot more intense than I expected but the only ones complaining about that were my passengers!”

Amir Jetha

“

“First of all, kudos to your team and you for a very well-executed adventure packed rally. One could see the time, effort and energy put in to make this a grand success. However, there are a few pointers I would like to point out in all honesty as this could become an annual affair. Hope the constructive criticism is taken in the right spirit!!

Xerrxes Master

“

“Thank you so much for putting together a memorable drive and event. The fact that it went off safely and smoothly on all fronts is a testimony and due reward for your hard work, planning and efforts over the last several months.

Unfortunately, I could not spend much time getting to know you a lot better—as a person as well as a rally driver with a great history. My loss.

*Warm regards,
Byram Dhallia*

PRESS COVERAGE



Deccan Chronicle



Auto Car India

columns



HORMAZD SORABJEE

sunday drive |

Five days of déjà vu

The Nazir Hoosein Memorial Drive, which retraced the original route of the Himalayan Rally, was a joyful get-together of rally veterans.



THE TOUGH ONE
As the last Himalayan Rally, 37 years ago, the vehicle of choice was the economical Gypsy

There has never been a rally like the Himalayan Rally, and there never will be another. Thirty-one years since the last edition, it remains unmatched in its scale and stature. The Himalayan Rally, which ran from 1980 to 1986, was the pinnacle of Indian motorsport and one that put India on the world stage. This annual mega event, which ran over a week in the foothills of the Himalayan ranges, was way, way ahead of its time.

It's hard to fathom how the rally could regularly attract over a hundred cricketers and several World Rally Championship drivers when the auto industry, as we know it today, didn't exist.

When the Himalayan Rally was conceived, Premier Ministers and Ambassadors were the only cars you could buy in India and Maruti Udyog (the harbinger of the modern Indian car industry) wouldn't be born until three years later! Rally-pop and brightly liveried cars like the Mercedes-Benz 450 SLC, Toyota Celica, Opel Manta, Nissan 240Z and the legendary Audi Quattro looked like extra-terrestrial machines amidst a sea of Palminut and Ambassador. These international car brands made their way into India only 10-20 years later—that's how far ahead of its time the Himalayan Rally was!

Glory days

The Himalayan Rally was the vision of one man—Naze Hoosein—who sadly passed away in May 2015. Hoosein was a pioneering force in Indian motorsport and saw the potential India had for a world-class rally. In fact, India is rally country, with its breathtaking mountains

This point SUV is essentially a sports car on wheels and on these tinuous mountain air tracks, it felt phenomenally quick and agile. The drive to Manicore via Tehri dam and then to Kathiwa, Nahan, Sarhanah and Chul brought back a flood of memories. These roads were dirt tracks then, and today they are all tarmac. What hasn't changed are the corners of the road and the rapid succession of bends and corners that bring out the rally driver in you. The drive finally ended in Manali, but I pedaled off a day earlier from Kathi.

The RS-Qi was a great companion, no doubt, but the real friends were those I met after 30 years, though it felt like it was just yesterday. That was the beauty of the Himalayan Rally. It was satisfying love for all motorsport lovers across the country. Naze Hoosein must be smiling from far up above.

The views expressed by the columnist are personal

Auto Car

HIMALAYAN PINNACLE



The legendary Himalayan Rally is all set to be retraced as a tribute to Indian motorsport pioneer Nazir Hoosein. Hormazd Sorabjee recalls the glorious decade of cracks, pops and high-altitude action.

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Auto Car India

HIMALAYAN RALLY TRIBUTE | FEATURE



With several WRC drivers and semi-works machines participating, the Himalayan Rally was way ahead of its time!

Without Air India, the rally would never have attained the international status it enjoyed. A high profile event like the Himalayan Rally can be a double-edged sword and it was the perfect stage for political parties seeking easy publicity. The inaugural event in 1980 ran into serious trouble when the late George Fernandes, a renowned politician, staged an unruly demonstration which resulted in violence and forced the organisers to close the rally and the event. It was a "victim of premature proof", but the rock throwing and damage to rally cars had been so di with Fernandes' his political foe and then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who apologetically said at the prize distribution that in the next year, "it would be worse all the way".

By re-tracing the route where you might have missed it in the past, a prize winner of India would be the prize distributor? Can you imagine this happening in any motor sport event today? In fact, one year did see 700 cars for any of the three years of the short lived Indian Grand Prix and remember that it is the absolute pinnacle of motorsport in the world. This year in particular the Himalayan Rally was the highlight, which actually had the president of India as its patron who would stand the flag off and the prize distribution ceremony for most of the year's run.

The prize, however, there is a chance to win that trophy when you win, but you can't win it unless you win. The Himalayan Rally was a unique event in India, with its international status and its high profile. It was a unique event in India, with its international status and its high profile. It was a unique event in India, with its international status and its high profile.

Dainik Jagran

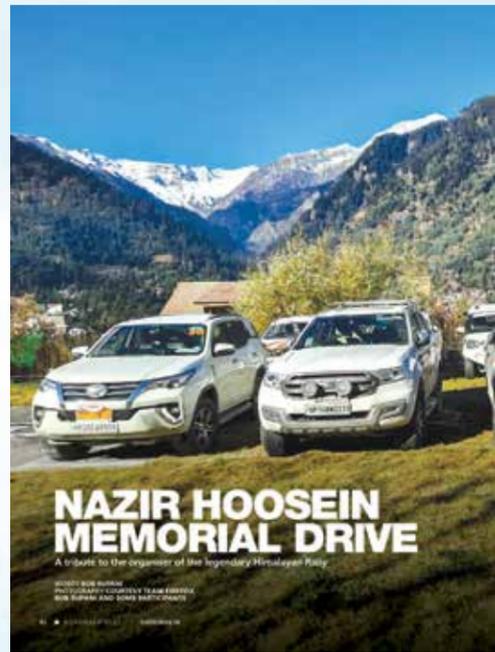
1981 की यादें ताजा कर कुफरी रवाना हुई ड्राइव



मसूरी स्थित हिल्टल सवाय से नाज़िर हुसैन मेमोरियल ड्राइव को झंझी दिखाकर कुफरी के लिए रवाना करते (दाएं से) कैबिनेट मंत्री गणेश जोशी, सवाय हिल्टल के प्रबंधक किशोर काय, पर्यटन मंत्री सतपाल महाराज व अन्य • जयदत्त

जयप्रकाश सहायदाता, देहरादून : नाज़िर हुसैन मेमोरियल ड्राइव 1981 की कर रेली की यादें ताजा कर बुधवार सुबह उत्तराखंड के मसूरी से हिमाचल प्रदेश के कुफरी के लिए रवाना हुई। प्रतिभागियों ने उत्तराखंड की वादियों व सौंदर्य का भरपूर लुफ्त उठाया। बुधवार सुबह 10 बजे नाज़िर हुसैन मेमोरियल ड्राइव मसूरी के सवाय हिल्टल से कुफरी के लिए रवाना हुई। उत्तराखंड के पर्यटन मंत्री सतपाल महाराज व सैनिक कल्याण मंत्री गणेश जोशी ने झंझी दिखाकर ड्राइव में शामिल गाड़ियों को रवाना किया। इससे पूर्व टीम फायरफ़ायर के सदस्य राजीव राय ने पत्रकारों से बातचीत में बताया कि ड्राइव मसूरी से कैम्पटी फ़ाल, हरबटपुर, पांवटा सहित, नाहन, सोलन, कंडापाट होते हुए 290 किमी का सफ़र तय कर शाम सव्हे छह बजे के करीब कुफरी पहुंचेगी। कर ड्राइव का रुट वर्ष 1981 वाला ही रखा गया है, जिससे प्रतिभागियों की 1981 की यादें ताजा हो गईं। ड्राइव में 45 ऐसे प्रतिभागी शामिल हैं, जिनमें 1981 की रेली में हिस्सा लिया था। यह रुट अब और भी खूबसूरत हो गया है। उन्होंने बताया कि अगले वर्ष इस रेली का आयोजन सिर्फ उत्तराखंड में कराया जाएगा। रेली देहरादून से शुरू होगी और उत्तराखंड का भ्रमण कर वापस देहरादून पहुंचकर ही खरत होगी। इसके रुट में राजजी नेशनल पार्क, टाउगर रिजर्व आदि शामिल किए जाएंगे।

Dainik Jagran



NAZIR HOOSAIN MEMORIAL DRIVE

A tribute to the organizer of the legendary Himalayan Rally

On 15th November, the late Nazir Hoosain Memorial Drive was held in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, and the rally was organized by the Nazir Hoosain Memorial Drive Trust, Mussoorie. The rally was held in the form of a drive from Mussoorie to Dehra Dun and back, covering a distance of 100 km. The rally was held in the form of a drive from Mussoorie to Dehra Dun and back, covering a distance of 100 km. The rally was held in the form of a drive from Mussoorie to Dehra Dun and back, covering a distance of 100 km.

REMEMBERING NAZIR

The Nazir Hoosain Memorial Drive pays homage to the visionary motorsport organizer who was responsible for the legendary Himalayan Rally

REMEMBERING NAZIR

The Nazir Hoosain Memorial Drive pays homage to the visionary motorsport organizer who was responsible for the legendary Himalayan Rally

Himalayan car rally in Mussoorie after almost 40 years; 90 vehicles flagged off

Anmol Jain | New

Mussoorie: Mussoorie witnessed a Himalayan Car Rally after a gap of four decades, with 90 motorists from across the country participating. Dubbed the Nazir Hoosain Memorial Drive after the founder member of the Indian Automotive Racing Club, the rally started from Greater Noida on November 8 and will be following the same route as the Himalayan Car Rally of the 1960s.

The rally set off from Mussoorie for its next leg on Wednesday. Motorists were flagged off by Uttarakhand tourism minister, Satpal Maharaj, from Welcomhotel The Savoy at Gandhi Chowk. The last rally that he had witnessed was in the early 1960s. "We are glad that this rally is back on track after 40 years. It will go a long way in promoting tourism in the state. Our government will extend all possible support to ensure that this rally is a regular feature," Maharaj said. A few motorists who had been associated with the rally 40 years back and are also a part of the current drive nostalgically remembered the experience of being in Mussoorie. "I was here for the rally in 1961. Although I could not partici-

cars from across the country converging at The Savoy during the 80s. Paralympian Deepa Malik, a member of Women in Motorsport Commission of India, who is also participating in the drive, said, "I am participating in this drive to celebrate the legacy of the Himalayan rally that was organised here 40 years ago. I am also here to encourage women to explore career options in motorsports."

Motorists will be following the same route as that of the 1960s rally. They had their first stopover at Lansdowne, Mussoorie, and Dehra Dun.

DÉJÀ VU

The Nazir Hoosain Memorial Drive was a chance for rally veterans to relive the Himalayan Rally and pay homage to the man who started it all. Hormazd Sorabjee who took part in the 1986 event couldn't stay away.

For rally drivers and motorsports enthusiasts of my generation, the Nazir Hoosain Memorial Drive was our massive reunion, a chance to meet old friends and relive the iconic Himalayan Rally, first organised in 1960. More than celebrating a belated 40th birthday (impeded by a year due to COVID-19), this drive, as the title suggests, pays homage to the late Nazir Hoosain, the founder and driving force of the Himalayan Rally. The Himalayan Rally was the epitome of Indian motorsport when it ran from 1960 to 1966, and during this decade, it touched the lives of all those interested in motorsport at the time. I was in my 20s back then and was involved in the Himalayas, first as a photographer, then as a participant (1965) and an organiser (from 1966 till, well, of course, as a journalist, right till the last event).

It's been 33 years since the last Himalayas, but sometimes of this nature of all rallies, which cemented all of us involved for the better part of a month each year, and still fresh. Hence, the Nazir Hoosain Memorial Drive paying the original rally runner was five days ago.

Back then, Mussoorie was just before the vehicle of choice on this rough mountainous terrain was the iconic Austin Mini. There was no other choice but I think I would be driving the same route as an Audi RS Q8.

The response to this 2,200km drive was overwhelming, with 90 cars being flagged off. Many were SUVs, but you had some lesser participants bringing old Fiat and Dacia to go back to time for a more authentic experience. A bunch of the veterans had nothing to do with Himalayas, but just saw this event as a chance to be part of a historic drive celebrating a historic event. The Himalayan Rally was traditionally flagged off from a jam-packed Lansdowne Hotel in Dehra Dun, but in the absence of an event space in the city, which has grown exponentially (especially the traffic) since the days of the Himalayas, starting from Greater Noida was a more practical option. We cut across the plains via Meerut and Noida and picked up the original route at the foothills before Lansdowne. This meant that some of the rally veterans, like the late Hormazd Sorabjee, who was one of the star names at the annual drive, was an intrinsic part of the Himalayan Rally and this occasion played a key role in assisting the Himalayan Rally organizers with logistic support. Driving through the clean and orderly atmosphere, I am reminded of how deeply involved the drive was with the Himalayas, both as organizers and as participants. In fact, Hormazd's father, a multiple time champion in the Himalayas, was one of the star names at the annual drive.

After six hours of logging it out as a fun-filled, busy road on the plains and driving through through mountainous terrain, the last 40km up to Lansdowne made up for everything. The narrow, twisty mountain road devoid of rally was just what the doctor ordered after a long, stressful day. We were now properly in rally country. And that's how it would be for the next few days.

Having something like the RS Q8 was both exhilarating and stressful. This potent SUV is essentially a sports car on wheels and on these mountainous tracks, it felt phenomenally quick and agile. In the hands of a pro, I am sure the 600hp RS Q8 with its quattro system would be quicker than the legendary rally car Audi Quattro that topped the Himalayan Rally in 1966. However, on these tight roads, I am reminded of how wide the RS Q8 is every time I have to overtake or maneuver for oncoming traffic. The trickiest bit was dropping those rubber head profile 200x18 22.5 tyres off the jagged shoulders and watching out for stones. With no spare tyre, the last thing I wanted was a flat, which would have left me stranded far away from any help!

NAZIR HOOSAIN MEMORIAL DRIVE

From 1960 to 1990, the Himalayan Rally was the epicentre of Indian motorsport.

The drive to Mussoorie via Jolly Choke and then to Kailash via Nahan, Sorabjee and Chaudhary were part of the rally. The RS Q8 was a great companion, but the real fun was in the mountains. It was a qualifying time for all motorsport lovers across the country.

RS Q8 in its element in the mountains. Half rough tracks, required caution to prevent 25 profile tyres.

RS Q8 in its element in the mountains. Half rough tracks, required caution to prevent 25 profile tyres.

IARC



The *Daily Express* 1968 London-Sydney Marathon rekindled the motorsport spark for enthusiasts in Bombay (now Mumbai). Leading long-distance drivers of the world at that time were taking part, and the overland run from London ended at Bombay, from where the cars were shipped to Perth, Australia. This gave the participants (who were also the Carnet Holders for the cars) three full days in the city prior to their departure. The inevitable interactions and dinners followed, which were memorable.

A direct result of this interaction was the coming together of some Indian motorsport stalwarts of that time to form a club that would begin the promotion of motorsport in Bombay. These included Ajaypat Singhania, His Highness the Maharaja of Gondal, Nazir Hoosein, Mohinder Lalwani and Kishan Rao to name a few. The IARC was then formed as a Section 25 non-profit Public Limited Company limited by guarantee.

With the support of Ajaypat and the ground availability of JK Gram in Thane, numerous gymkhanas for cars and scrambles for motorcycles followed. Hill climbs were held in quarries where the quarry owner was happy to smoothen the road and join in the fun of a Sunday morning excursion. Hill Climbs extended far and wide and the Sinhagad Fort climb near Pune became an annual feature, which was always extremely well attended. Since it was possible to close the roads in that era, it made for a memorable and superb event.

Serious navigation rallies were also a feature at that time. One of the members, Ravi Kumar, owned a restaurant called the Bullock Cart at Kala Ghoda. He would provide a dinner

for the participating members after which, at around midnight the event started. It was a complicated navigational rally within the city of Bombay with participants returning in the morning for breakfast.

There soon arose a need for an all-India body and the IARC played its part as one of the founding members of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), which later became the ASN (representative organization) of the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile—the world body for motorsport and mobility) in India and is so today.

Unfortunately, as the years passed, the holding of events became more difficult in and around the city of Bombay and consequently, the number of events began to dwindle with the sole exception being the annual Car Rally for the Blind, which runs to this day. The commencement of the Himalayan Rally in 1980 took many of the active organizers of the IARC into its fold and this also added to the reduction of events.

With circumstances having changed today and cars and motorcycles now being easily available, a new breed of young men and women has come forward to run events which include Drag Racing, Navigational Rallies, Autocrosses and Auto Gymkhanas and to also revive the Vintage Register, which assists in the restoration and running of old cars and motorcycles.

About Our Late Chairman

When Nazir Hoosein former motorsport administrator and vice-president of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) passed away at the age of 78 on May 12th 2019, the Indian motorsport fraternity lost a legend. Nazir was bitten by the motorsport bug early on in his life, and the fascination for all things automotive grew steadily from there. On his 16th birthday, he was presented with his father's Jaguar XK120, a car that had raced and won trophies at the Juhu Races in Mumbai. Soon after this, he, along with his friend Mohinder



'Chubi' Lalwani, opened the Alpha Garage. And, not too long after that, their racing team—Double Barrels Team Alpha—took to competition.

Nazir administered through India the second London-Sydney Marathon which ran in 1977, as also the last London-Sydney Marathon which ran in 1993. Being a talented racer himself, he won the 1970 Tehran Dakar Rally with Mohinder 'Chubi' Lalwani and Suresh Naik, the first Indian team to win an international event among numerous other wins. Known for his meticulousness and attention to details, he prepared many race and rally-winning cars in his garage Alpha Motors under Mumbai's Liberty Cinema, of which he was the owner.

Considered the doyen of Indian motorsport, Nazir put Indian motorsport on the world stage even before India opened up to foreign players. Amongst his greatest achievements was undoubtedly The Himalayan Rally (1980-1990), an international rally unparalleled in scale and stature. He also conceived the Great Desert Himalayan Rally—the longest rally India has held at 4,000 kms! Nazir played an important role on the global motorsport stage, being a member of the World Motor Sport Council, the Chief Steward in the World Rally Championship, and also one of four permanent F1 stewards for many years. It is safe to say that in his day, no Indian has ever enjoyed the same stature in the highest echelons of motorsport.

- Formula 1 Steward from 1993 to 2008
- One of the four permanent chief stewards for Formula 1 for 8 years during this time
- One of the four permanent stewards for the World Rally Championship, culminating in his being the sole Chief Steward for the entire WRC from 2006 to 2008
- As the President of the FIA Asian Zone for a number of years was responsible for the promotion



MOTUL

MOTUL

Recognized worldwide as 'The specialist in synthetic lubricants', Motul is a French company specialized in manufacturing and marketing of high-quality performance products. For more than 150 years, Motul has been synonymous with quality, innovation, racing and performance.

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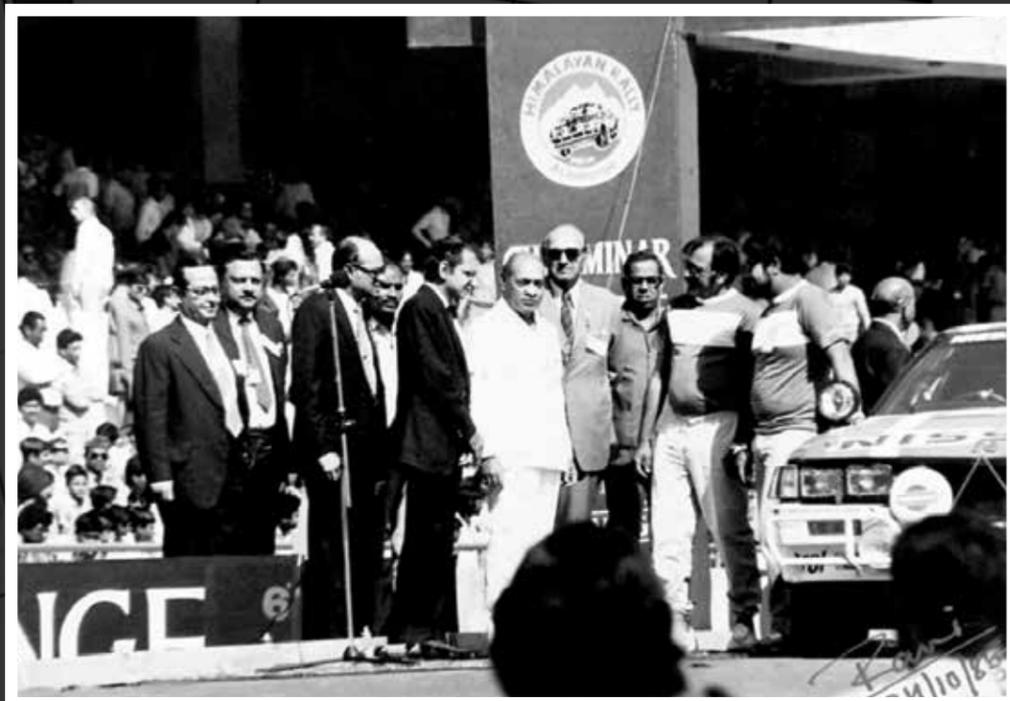
Motul in India

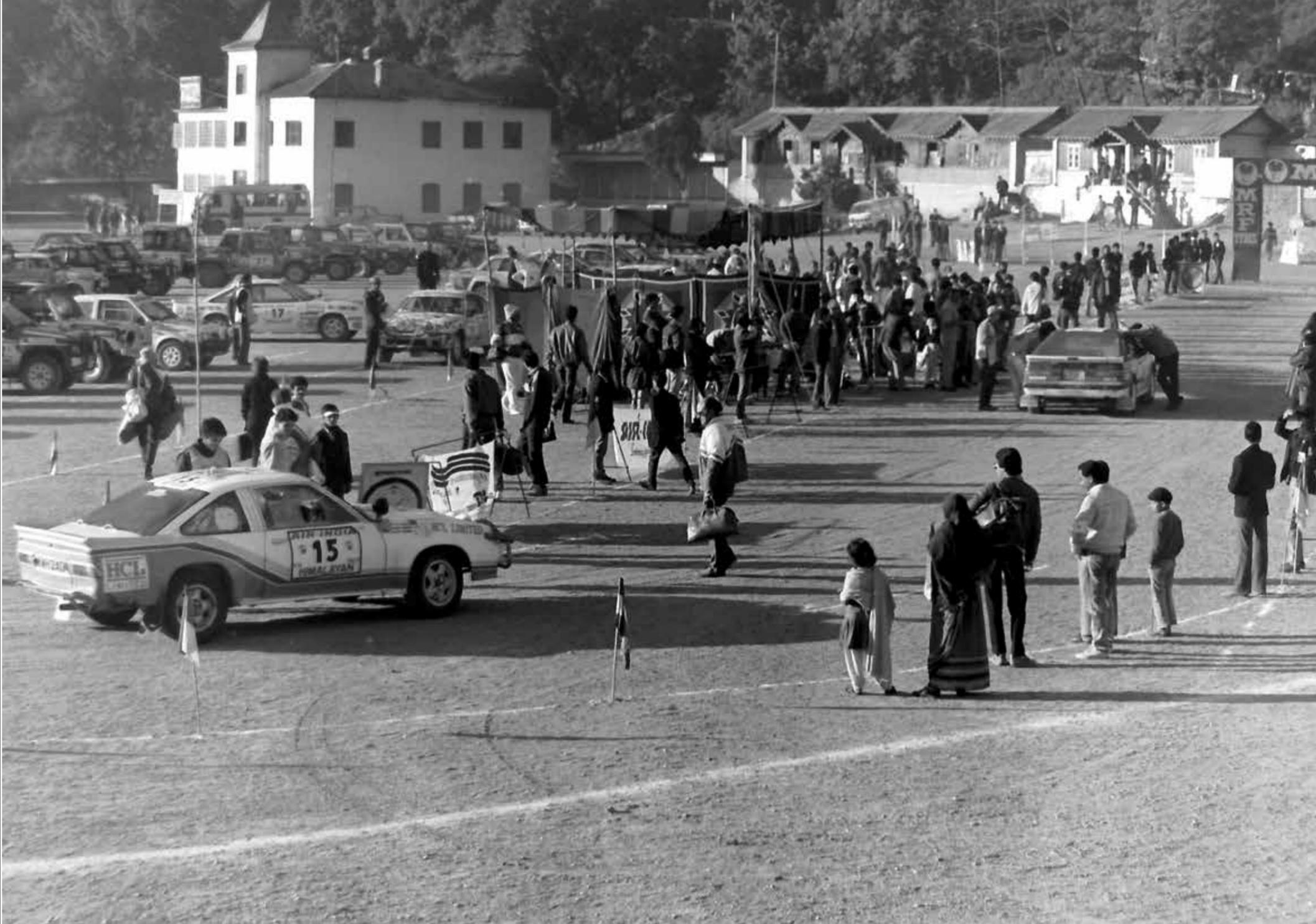
Motul has been operating in India since the year 2003 as JV Partner of Atlantic Lubricants and Specialties Pvt. Ltd. for the Indian subcontinent comprising of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan.

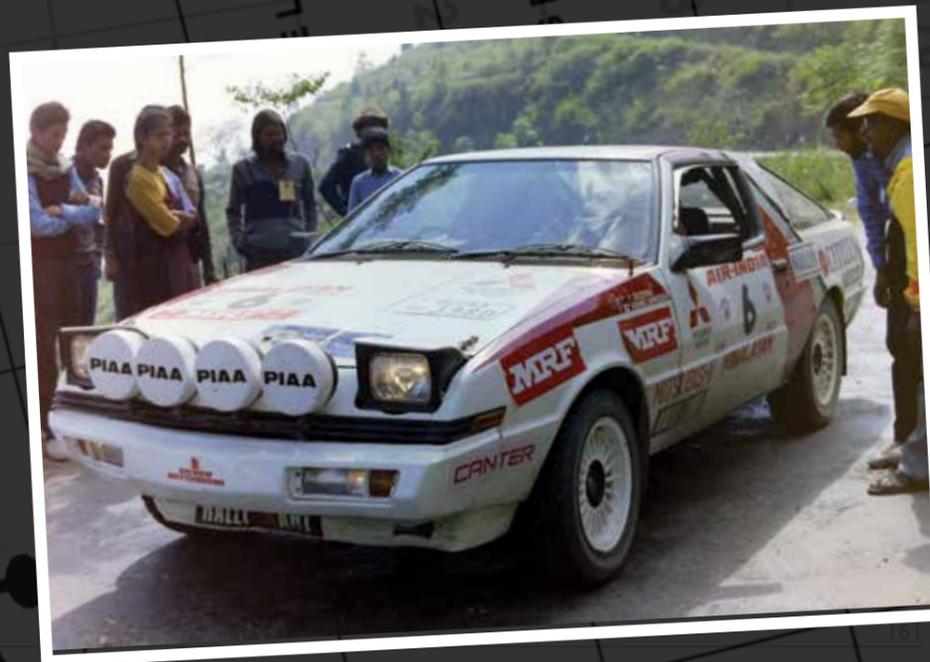
Motul has a full-fledged in-house manufacturing plant at Silvassa, near Mumbai, with a nationwide distribution network consisting of consignment stock points, distributors and dealers. Over the last few years, Motul has established itself in India as a preferred and leading performance brand in the motorcycle oil and the passenger car oil segments.



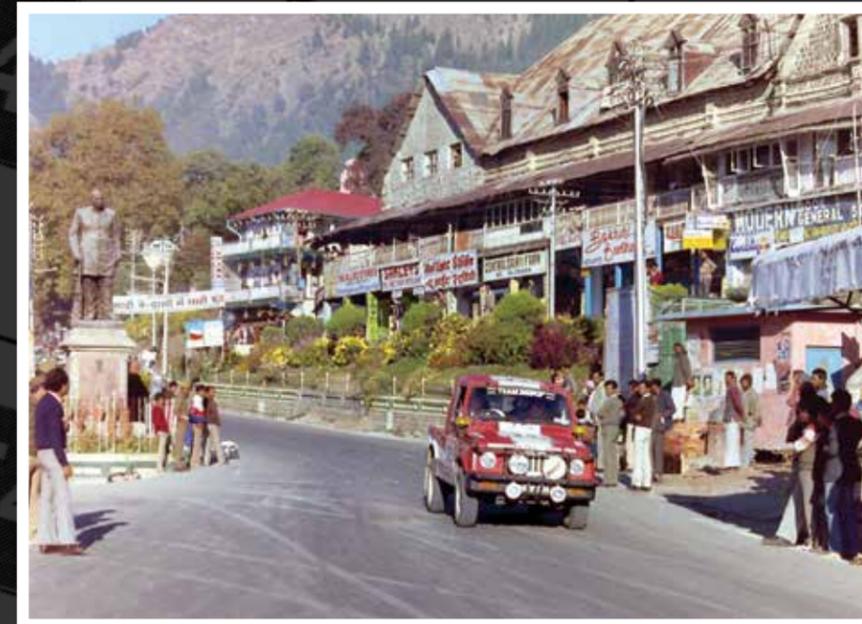
NOSTALGIA... HIMALAYAN RALLIES OF THE 80s















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Information

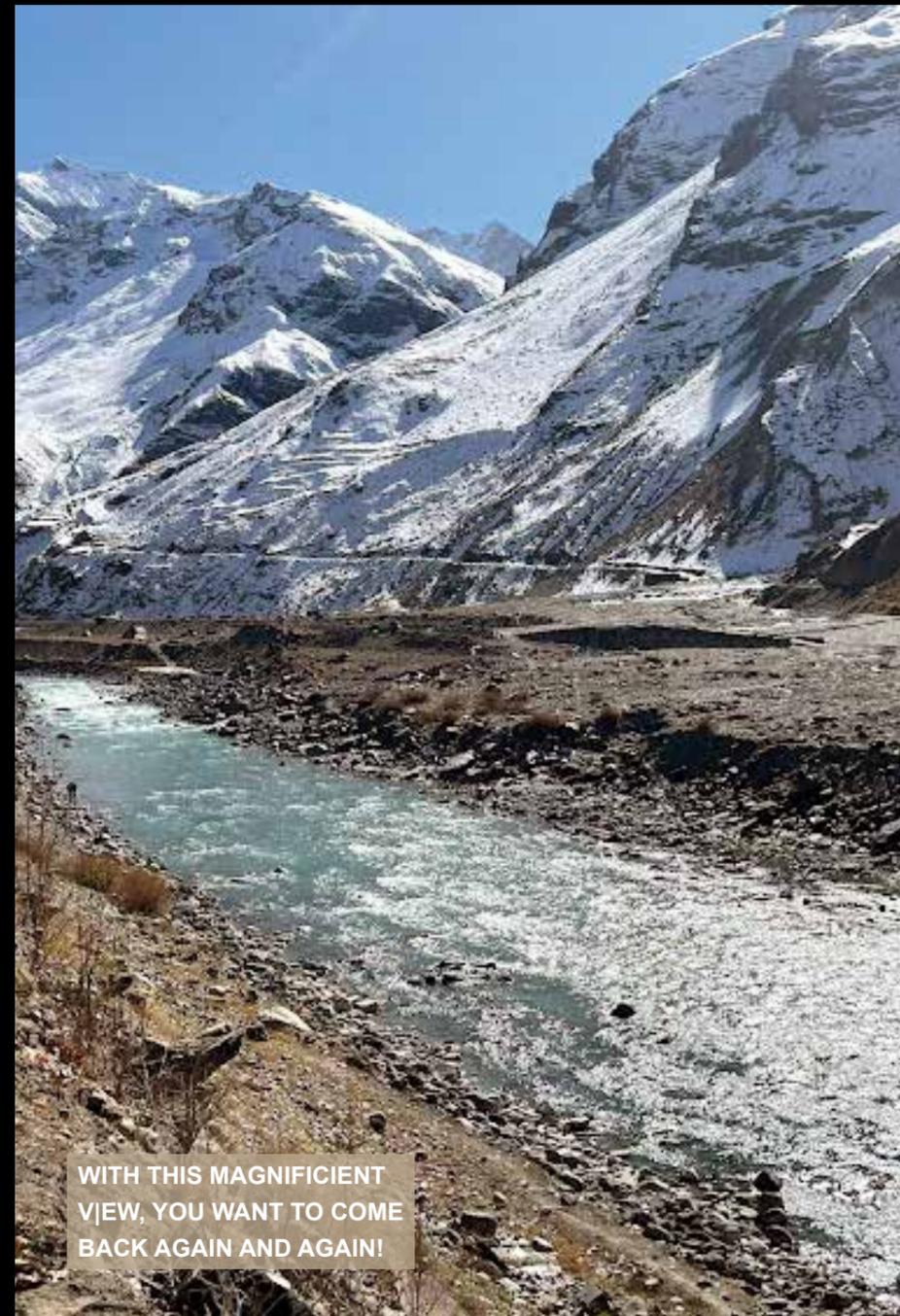
37







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