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A first: BRO to take part in Raid De Himalaya

The event will begin tomorrow and conclude on the 14th

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 8
For the first time in 20 years, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will compete in the Raid De Himalaya motor sporting event on the roads made by its own men in the most difficult terrain across some highest mountain passes.

The year will witness the 20th edition of the Raid, considered among the top 10 toughest cross-country rallies of the world.

The BRO is entrusted with the onerous task of road construction and



maintenance across high mountain passes where a few dare to venture. The Raid will start on October 10 and conclude on the 14th. Col Pradeep Sharma of the BRO's Project Vijayak in Kargil is driving a Maruti Gypsy in Raid Xtreme 4X4, an extreme endurance event of marathon proportions.

His navigator is Lt Col Sanjay Rathee of the Project HIRAK from Uttarakhand. They will drive for the Team DGBR (Director General Border Roads).

Raid is the flagship event of the country's premier motorsport club, Shimla-based Himalayan Motorsport. "The BRO has been the major but

unknown stakeholder in the Raid since 1999, the year we introduced the rally. Its cooperation has always been well above the call of duty. This year, it decided to field a team and we are more than happy to welcome it here," said Vijay Parmar, president, Himalayan Motorsport. The purpose of the Raid,

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said Col Sharma, was also to get feedback from people, who will use these roads in extreme conditions. "We are champions in the road construction. We want to face the toughest conditions and get feedback from champion drivers the ways in which we can make our roads better," said Col Sharma.