

Rallyist to fulfill father's dream

Shimla: The 20th edition of the Raid de Himalaya will see a fair number of competitors traveling from different parts of the world to battle with the best in India. Sri Lanka's Shafraz Junaid, Britain's Suzanne Bull, Nepal's Deepak Sah and our own London-based Amitrajit Ghosh will lead the charge of the foreigners this year.

The raid will begin in Leh on October 8, traversing through Ladakh, Zaskar and Kargil, before finishing on October 14.

Sri Lanka's Shafraz Junaid, along with Akhry Ameer, have already transported their Nissan pick-up truck and are eagerly looking forward to make their presence felt in the raid.

Shafraz and Ameer are fulfilling the dream of Shafraz' father Faizal Junaid, who used to be the navigator for Sri Lanka's celebrated rallyist Cassim Wahab. For years, Junaid

Senior and Cassim had dreamt of competing in the Himalayan Rally, which ran from 1981 to 1990. Junaid Junior is now out to achieve his dad's dream.

Shafraz and Ameer have been in Leh for more than a week now, getting used to high-altitude rallying. "I started rallying more than two decades ago, and Ameer has been my navigator for long. My dad's dream of rallying in the Himalayas always stayed with me. Last year too, we tried hard to come for Raid de Himalaya but could not make it. We are elated to be here this year," Shafraz said.

— PTI