

SAARC car rally crosses Wagah border, enters Pakistan

The first SAARC car rally Wednesday crossed the Wagah joint land check-post between India and Pakistan. The rally will halt at Lahore city Wednesday night.

A total of 28 Tata Safari sports utility vehicles (SUVs) crossed the international border with great fanfare on both sides.

Participants in the car rally, which started from Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh March 14, said they were overwhelmed by the response of the common people to the event. The rallyists come from all seven member-countries of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation of SAARC.

As the cars entered Pakistan at Wagah, 25 km from here, dancers and school children gave a colourful welcome to the participants.

The rally was flagged off Wednesday morning from Chandigarh - where it had reached Tuesday evening - for its 230-km journey to Wagah.

Chandigarh is the hometown of one of the participants and former national car rally champions, Hari Singh.

'It feels great to pass through one's hometown during such an important event,' Hari Singh said.

Other participants said they were overwhelmed by the response of the people from SAARC nations.

'It shows how people from all countries are similar. Why can't we have a European Union kind of a set up where people can travel and meet freely?' said actor Priya Dias from Bangladesh.

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