

he excitement was infectious. With only 195km to be covered through the day, starting early wasn't really necessary. But, it was just about 0800hrs and the parking bay with over 20 new white Ambassadors was already bustling with people. These weren't onlookers but the participants, who were in full strength decorating their newly bought Ambassadors, of the Karma Enduro rally - a charity event to support poor children. Some were equipped with ribbons, others with balloons and then some with stickers with interesting messages. Majority of them were also spotted wearing the Rainbow Trust tees, the charitable trust for poor kids.

This was day one of the rally that would cover 2,000km over 14 days, touching a majority of towns in southern India. The idea behind this event is of course charity for poor kids, but it was also a great opportunity for the participants, mostly from the UK and then some from Italy as well,



KARMA ENDURO RALLY

to traverse across the south of India driving a classic car.

Plus there was the diversity to contend with be it in scenery, food, speech or attire; all changing in just a few hundred kilometres. We were part of the trip for the first four days upto Coorg and in just this time it was lovely to see how everyone was enjoying our country. For instance there was a blonde lady so intrigued by an old local gentleman she clicked umpteen pictures with him. A few partakers fell in love with local habits and needed their dose of hot chai out of tiny plastic cups. And then there was the Italian father and son duo who couldn't stop taking about driving around without an aircon! The journey at the end of four days had been an enjoyable and everlasting one (in the words of the partakers) even if less eventful than what most expected, given the poor road and traffic conditions.

Pawan Dagia



When in a classic, try and be as classical as you can. This participant donned a pith helmet, reminiscent of the days of the British Raj, probably to get into the "classic" mood



