

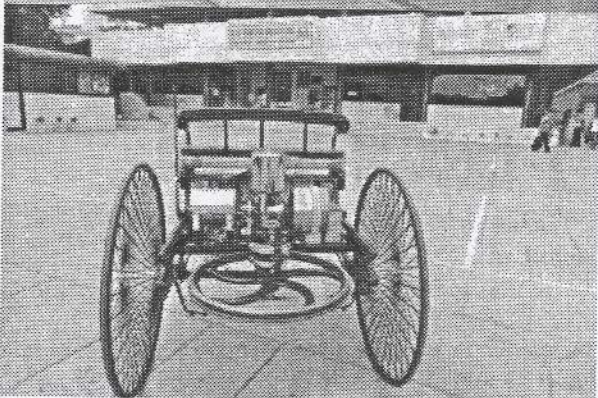
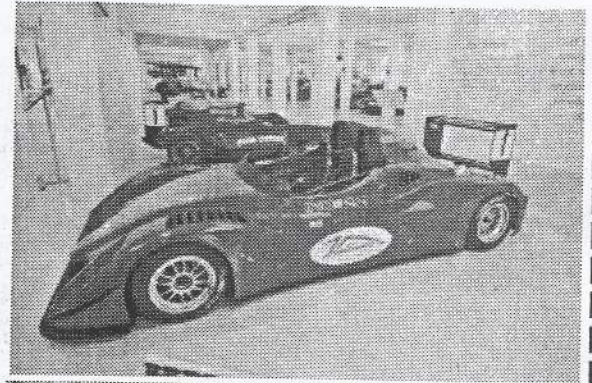
Luxury and vintage car museum inaugurated

COIMBATORE, APR 27:

A museum for showcasing vintage and luxury cars was inaugurated here today.

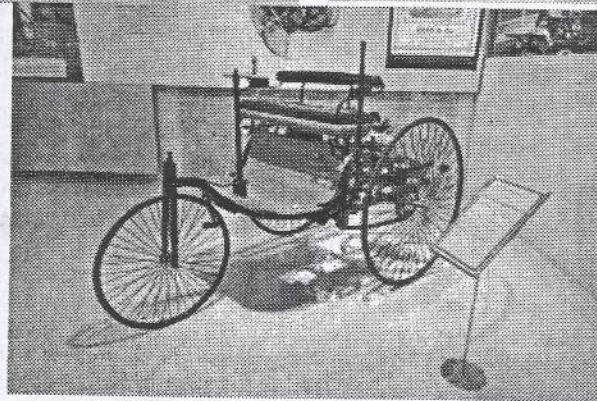
Coimbatoreans' passion for fast cars and racing is well known. From a replica of the first car in the world to recent sports cars to be on display at the Geedee Car Museum promises to be a car lover's delight.

All set for a gala opening on Monday, the museum would display more than 60 cars collected from across the world. It is named after the late GD Naidu, the well-known scientist and politician of Coimbatore, for whom such a museum had been a dream. "My father could not accomplish it. So, I created it in his memory," said his son G D Gopal Naidu. The love that Naidu senior had for cars was evident in his collection. Of the 60-odd cars that shone under bright yellow lights, almost 30 are from the G D Charitable Trust's collection. "We worked on the museum for more than two years, sourcing cars from across the world. While countries like Germany and United States are contributors, we have cars from Delhi, Kochi, Goa and Kolkata, donated by industrialists and



doctors," said museum director Akila Shanmugam.

While the owners of the museum spent more than two years to collect the exhibits, a lot of research has gone into designing the museum and arranging the exhibits. The museum is located underground in a sprawling cellar aglow with soft lighting inside the Geedee Technical Training Institute on Avinashi Road. "The cars are arranged from the oldest to the latest in sequence. This shows how technology progressed," said Chennai-based car collector and museum guide C S Ananth. There are models of Ford, Volkswagen, Cadillac, Rolls Royce, Ambassador, Fiat, Porsche and many more. As you walk down the cellar, a



Morris Bullnose Cowley catches your eye. The company produced only 1,140 cars, and one of it stands gleaming. While most of G D Naidu's collection includes vintage models, there are some recent makes too. A limousine, traditionally used by the American President, is on display. It came from Kochi, another car loving city. A

Cadillac donated by a collector in Delhi also finds place. The racing car section has the second model designed by S Karivardhan, the legendary Indian racer from Coimbatore. The McDowell 1000 was designed after the success of Formula Maruti. C S Ananth said, "We have some racing cars here because the research and development

of the automobile industry happens on race tracks. Power steering, air bags, disc brakes and several other technology came from racing." A Rolls Royce 20 owned by the Mysore Maharaja can hardly be missed. There is some trivia behind this exhibit. The Maharaja of Mysore, Krishna Raja Wodeyar IV always purchased cars in batches of seven. As for Raja Jai Singh of Alwar, the story goes that he was shooed away as he visited the showroom in London dressed in casuals. To avenge the insult, the king reportedly purchased a set of Rolls Royce 20 and used it to collect garbage in Alwar. The company later tendered an apology.