



Coimbatore put on global car museum map

GEDEE opens museum for vintage cars

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A boon to car lovers to have a peek at a wide range of vintage cars kept on display at 'GEDEE Car Museum' that was inaugurated yesterday at the spacious campus of G D Naidu Charities on Avinashi Road in the city. Claimed to be an exclusive one where such vintage cars cannot be seen anywhere across the country, G D Gopal, managing trustee of G D Naidu Charities said that the sole aim of setting up the museum is to highlight the technological innovations and progress right from the birth of the car to the present hitech era. And the purpose is bring to the fore the inventions and the inventors for the benefit of the younger generation.

Interestingly, the car museum is the private collection of G D Naidu Charities, a social trust founded by G D Naidu, who was a renowned inventor, educationalist and philanthropist. The collection includes cars (pre 1939), showing

the evolution of the automobile, with the first ever automobile made in world 1886 Benz Patent Motorwagen and several pre-war classics and unique vintage cars, totalling about 70.

The cars on display includes Volkswagen Beetle, Morris Mini, Morris Cowley, Austin 7, Wolseley 8, Rolls Royce from British, BMW Isetta, BMW 700, Clas Goggomobile, Benz 1705, Porsche Boxer from German section, Subaru Rex, Mazda Rx8 and Toyota from Japanese cars section.

Moreover, the idea behind establishing a permanent car museum was a long felt dream of G D Naidu Charities managing trustee which became a reality with the opening of the car museum which would open for public from Tuesday to Saturday between 9 am to 5 pm and on Sunday between 10 am to 6 pm. Of course, an entry fee of Rs 50 will be charged for the visitors while children under 12 would be allowed free.

Noteworthy to mention

that among the vintage cars displayed at the museum is the personal vehicle used by Periyar E V Ramasamy which according to Radhika Sarathkumar, it was donated by her father M R Radha to Periyar during his 75th birthday and the vehicle was designed by Simpson. Yet another vehicle kept on display is the one which used to transport devotees from Coimbatore to Palani which was driven by 'Edison of India' G D Naidu himself.

Shedding more light on automobile, G D Gopal said that the history automobile centered mainly around four extraordinary persons, who played a pivotal role in the development of cars in the past 130 years. All of these inventors, did not have formal education, but were highly motivated and challenged themselves and brought about a revolutionary idea, which created history and left a mark on the development of automobile.

Pointing out that five unique cars that made an impact in the

automobile industry were Benz Motorwagen invented in 1886 by Karl Benz of Germany which was patented and is the birth certificate of the automobile. Ford T - 1908: The first mass produced car. In 1908, Henry Ford of America introduced the Ford T colloquially known as the "Tin Lizzie", which was generally regarded as the first affordable automobile. Volkswagen Beetle - 1939: The people's car. In 1933, Adolf Hitler of Germany, assigned Ferdinand Porsche to design a basic vehicle; capable of transporting two adults and two children at 100 km/hr and the "People's Car" should be available for the German Citizen for 1000 Marks (Rs. 935) about the price of a Motorcycle. The Volkswagen Beetle was built and presented to Hitler in 1938.

Citroen 2 CV - 1948: Umbrella on wheels. In 1936, Pierre-Jules Boulanger of France the Vice President of Citroen set a brief to his team, to design a car that can carry four people and 50

kg of potatoes at 60 km/hr, while consuming just 3 litres of fuel for 100 km and travel with comfort over rough rural roads. And to carry a basket of eggs without breakage, across a ploughed field and the Citroen 2 CV was born.

Mini - 1959 :The Minimus (smallest) Car. In 1956, the Suez Canal problems led to an international fuel crisis, Britain had to introduce petrol rationing, car sales plummeted. Sir Lord Leonard, Chairman of Morris Motors, Britain identified a remarkably creative engineer, Alec Issigonis, who was handed over the project to develop a low cost, low fuel consumption car, which was small and light weight and the Mini was born. All these cars are showcased in the 'unique car' section in the Gedee Car Museum.

Others who were present at the inaugural of GEDEE Car Museum includes B K Krishnaraj Vanavarayan, chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and V Sumantran, chairman, Celeris Technologies.