



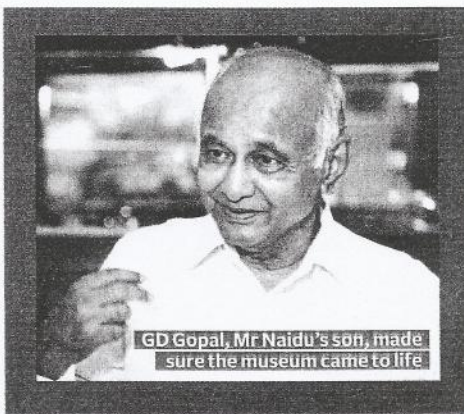
# A DIFFERENT KIND OF STASH

There may be several fascinating collections of cars of varying vintages across India, but there is none as unique as the assortment of classics at Coimbatore's Gedee Car Museum

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If you were to drive past the Gedee Technical Training Institute, in Coimbatore, you probably wouldn't give it a second look. The ordinary-looking two-storey structure is for those hell-bent on making a name for themselves in the auto engineering biz. I wouldn't, either, but I'm here for a good reason.

I was told that the place was home to a range of old cars, most of which belonged to a man named Gopalswamy Doraiswamy Naidu. Don't know who he was? You should. GD Naidu, a school dropout, went on to become the man who made the first electric motor in the country, who



GD Gopal, Mr Naidu's son, made sure the museum came to life

found a way to make papayas sweeter, invented super-thin shaving blades, and he is believed to have built India's first motor car which never reached production. He was, to put it rather simply, a bit of a genius.

GD was enchanted by motor vehicles. It all began when he saw a Britisher trying to fix his motorcycle outside his farmhouse. Only 17 then, GD was so enamoured by the 1912 Rudge Multi that he ended up asking the British official how much it had cost him. 300 rupees was the answer. So, GD found himself a job at a restaurant, where he waited tables for six months, and saved 300 rupees. The 1912 Rudge