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THIS IS VINTAGE STUFF!

Fifteen years ago when Tarun Thakral started assembling old cars and lithographs, he himself could hardly imagine that he would be the first person to build a heritage transport museum for the country



1946 Hudson



1936 Ford v8

CARS ON DISPLAY

- ▶ Vintage Carriages/Carts/Rickshaws/Palanquin/Victorias
- ▶ Vintage & Classic Cars
- ▶ Vintage & Classic Commercial Vehicles
- ▶ Vintage & Classic 2/3 wheelers
- ▶ Old Children's Tricycles & Pedal Cars
- ▶ Vintage Aircraft
- ▶ Vintage Rail Saloon
- ▶ Old Lithographs/Engravings on various modes of Transportation used in India
- ▶ Vintage Toy Vehicles made by Indian companies - Tin & Die-cast
- ▶ Vintage Vehicle Advertisements from Old Indian Dailies & Magazines
- ▶ Old Paper (Indian) - Bills Receipts, License copies, Share certificates, etc.
- ▶ Old Automobile Spare parts in original boxes
- ▶ Old Auto Memorabilia - carriage lamps, decanters, ashtrays, mementoes, etc.



Tarun Thakral

Pranab Saha | TNN

All permissions with regard to change of land use to Heritage National Museum from director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana have been obtained. The permission allows building 81,000 sq ft of museum space including exhibition galleries, library and reference center, seminar rooms, souvenir shops and restaurant facility. Already the construction work has started from last April. If everything goes well we can open the museum for the public in September this year," says a beaming Tarun Thakral.

Heritage National Museum is coming under Heritage Transportation Trust (HTT), a registered non-profit trust, founded

by Tarun Thakral and registered under the Indian Trust Act, 1882. "The main aim of HTT is to educate a diverse audience about the history of transport in India. The Heritage Transportation Trust takes pride in launching India's first Heritage Transport Museum, on international standards," informs Thakral.

What prompted him to come up with this kind of unique idea? "In fact, when I was in Paris, I saw lots of such museum. But unfortunately there is no such museum in India. You will find different modes of transport in different parts of the country. I have several hundreds of lithographs of our transport system and its gradual evolution to the present age. Today's generation travelling in the comforts of Metro should know about their past. They should have proper knowledge about from where the transport system has evolved," avers Thakral.

When all our museums are government controlled the initiative of Tarun deserves all praise. In fact, people are very appreciative of his efforts. The museum is coming up at a cost of Rs 12 crores. The ministry of culture, government of India has already sanctioned a grant of Rs 6 crores to offset the cost of construction of the museum building.

The balance amount to-

has also graciously donated his entire collection of transport history that he has collected over the years to HTT. The collection now in possession of HTT focuses on all aspects of modes of transportation that have existed in India and depicts the way Indians have travelled over the centuries.

A resident of Garden Estate, Gurgaon, Tarun is a professional from hospitality industry. Already he is having collections of his more than 78 rare cars of last two centuries.

"The unique thing is that the museum will also allow others to display their old cars for a limited period of time. People from different parts of the country who are proud of their rare collection of cars can showcase here. Lots of people like to keep their old car as a hobby. But here they can display them," he discloses.

The exhibition galleries will display about 100 historically significant modes of transport used in India — mostly one-of-a-kind — dating from the turn of the 20th century. This exhibition will be ongoing. As a centre for collection, research, preservation, education and display of Indian transport history, the Heritage Transport Museum is going to showcase evolution of transport in India over