



NEED FOR SPEED: These grand-daddies of modern racing cars are waiting to shift to their permanent home at the country's first transport museum in Gurgaon.

A restpad in Gurgaon for ageless travellers

By Mail Today Bureau
in New Delhi

DELHIITES can soon take a ride back in time. Literally.

This March, the country's first transport museum, situated on the outskirts of Gurgaon, will throw open its doors.

The Heritage National Museum, built on a stretch of 6.5 km, will have vehicles from the earliest palanquins to American supercars of the sixties.

Tarun Thakral, the brain behind the museum, said he was first fascinated by the concept of preserving old cars during a trip to Paris about five years ago.

"I was struck by the fact that people abroad took pains to conserve old vehicles," Thakral, the managing trustee of the Heritage Transportation Trust — the body which will take charge of the museum — said.

A major attraction would be the US 'muscle' cars — most of which you come across these days only in racing simulation games. Or on a lazy winter afternoon at a vintage car rally.

The museum's collection includes a 1932 Chevrolet Phaeton, a 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air, a 1959 Plymouth Belvedere and a 1962 Pontiac Tempest. It is quite a treat to satiate the tastes of those interested in vintage and classic cars.

Even the timeless Hindustan Ambassador and the humble *phatphati* you possibly use during your daily commute find a place in the museum.

The collection also includes a grand old railway saloon!

The museum will focus on how Indians travelled through the centuries.

The collection, which Thakral has acquired from all corners of the globe, is lying at a farmhouse on the outskirts of the Capital. The museum will be its permanent home, as Thakral has donated his collection to the trust.



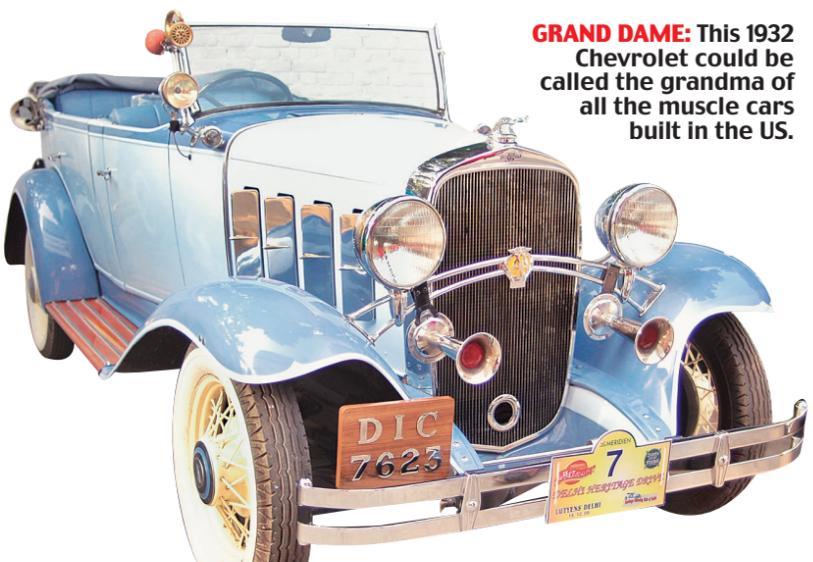
HUMBLE TOUCH: This colourful *phatphati* catered to the Indian people when the country gained Independence.



BEAUTY AND BRAUN: This 1962 Pontiac Tempest convertible, with Elvis crooning *Return to Sender* on the radio, was one of the coolest cars to drive around in the Swinging Sixties.



ROYAL LINE: We certainly knew how to travel in style. This grand saloon had all conceivable luxuries on board.



GRAND DAME: This 1932 Chevrolet could be called the grandma of all the muscle cars built in the US.