



# SMALL, BUT BIG!

TREADING A FINE LINE, THE MAHINDRA QUANTO AIMS TO PUNCH BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW ITS SEGMENT. BUT IS IT REALLY THAT GOOD?

D-SEGMENT DEVASTATION  
BORN-AGAIN HYUNDAI ELANTRA TRUMPS ITS RIVALS

MEAN GREEN FUTURE  
KAWASAKI NINJA 300 & ZX-6R 636!



**THE BOWTIE BRAND GOES SAILING**  
MUCH-AWAITED CHEVROLET SAIL UVA DRIVEN IN THE REAL WORLD



**RESURRECTED: THE PEOPLE'S CAR EVOLVES**  
MARUTI SUZUKI'S ALTO 800 DRIVEN, BUT WE CAN'T SHOW IT TO YOU JUST YET!

Last month's exclusive and exhaustive coverage of the 2012 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance saw us miss out on a great story with two young ladies in their twenties getting to grips with a 105-year-old leviathan of an automobile on the very prestigious Tour de Elegance which kicks off the festivities at what is probably one of the world's greatest celebrations for classic and vintage cars.

I am referring to Rupali and Shefali Prakash, all of 23 and 21 years young respectively, who were at the wheel of their family-owned 1907 Locomobile. Now in case it hasn't struck you yet, these two are the daughters of noted classic and vintage car collector Dr Ravi Prakash from Bangalore who had entered his ex-Maharaja Holkar 1930 Delage in the class for the Maharaja cars but he and his girls inadvertently created history of sorts when their Locomobile Type E, dating from 1907 was entered in Class A2 for large American iron, making it the first Indian entry ever to be accepted for the main event and not just a special theme class like the two Maharaja classes this year.

Not only was the large Locomobile entered for the concours but it was also allowed to enter the very popular Tour de Elegance with the two girls at the controls of what is truly a very difficult car to pass muster. Not only did Rupali and Shefali did themselves proud by driving the entire 17-mile run without hassle, they also got to lead the veteran cars on the Tour. In the process they even surprised many experts and old hands on this event at the dexterity with which they piloted the Locomobile.



## INDIAN GIRLS SHINE BRIGHT AT TOUR DE ELEGANCE

This car came into Dr Ravi Prakash's collection just a few years ago but had a fine history. The renowned collector David Uihlein chanced upon this car in a Michigan scrap yard some time during the Second World War. The car had been converted into a truck but he went out and acquired it there and then itself.

From there he set about tracing the original owner of the car, a farmer who had the good sense to have removed the original tonneau body and store it safely. Another deal was done with the farmer and said car was reunited with its original parts and from 1947 onwards the restoration process commenced. It was

almost 1963 when the Locomobile was brought back to its original glory and it was one of the stars of the Uihlein collection until it was sold in 2007 to another collector.

Thankfully this collector didn't keep it for long after which it came into Dr Ravi Prakash's collection and this was the car and its owner's crowning glory -

an entry straight into Pebble Beach! The rest as they say is history which includes the wonderful driving chapter scripted by the two young lassies. For sure the Indian classic and vintage car movement needs more youngsters to help propel the movement forward with enthusiasm.

**Adil Jal Darukhanawala**



Dropping in to meet and encourage the Prakash clan at Pebble Beach was none other than Ratan Tata, now a regular at Pebble Beach and a car aficionado par excellence.



Dr Ravi Prakash with wife Sabena and daughters Rupali and Shefali on the fabled greens at Pebble Beach along with their 1930 Delage (left) and the 1907 Locomobile.



*1924 Rolls-Royce 20hp  
Barker Tourer*

Winner of the  
**Lucius Beebe Trophy**  
2012 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance

