

**Incredible India**  
**6<sup>th</sup> 21 GUN SALUTE**  
 International Vintage Car Rally & Concours Show

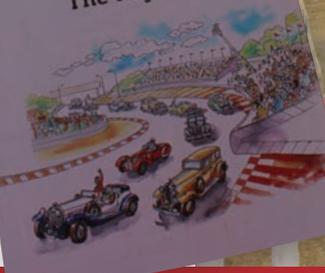
Ground Support/Logistics: **Beti Bachan Beti Padhao**

An Exotic Display of  
 Classic & Vintage Cars/Bikes  
 from India, Germany, France & UK

ENJOY CULTURAL PERFORMANCES,  
 LIVE MUSIC & AMAZING FOOD

on 7th Feb 2016 (Sunday)  
 12.00 Noon onwards  
 Buddh International  
 FI Circuit Greater Noida

Come Walk Among  
 The Royals




New Delhi  
**21 Gun Salute**  
**International Rally and**  
**Concours**  
 Marco Makaus (Italy)

1931 Barker Phantom II Continental tourer 60JS in front of the famous Red Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

India has a rich tradition of vintage automobiles, as Indian Kings and Maharajas bought them by the thousands in the period before WW II and most have been kept there ever since.



Familiar faces: P&A Wood principals Paul and Andy tending to Barker Roi de Belges 60922, "The Silver Dawn."



GCK64

There was no need to scrap them to help the war effort—as happened so often in the West—or simply to make space for something new, and therefore most of those cars, which were often at the top of the coachbuilders’ art (and sometimes over the top!) are still sitting in palace garages waiting to be put back on the road. The modern Indian State has passed some laws that recognize their value as objects of national heritage and therefore they cannot be exported, something international dealers and collectors do not particularly appreciate.

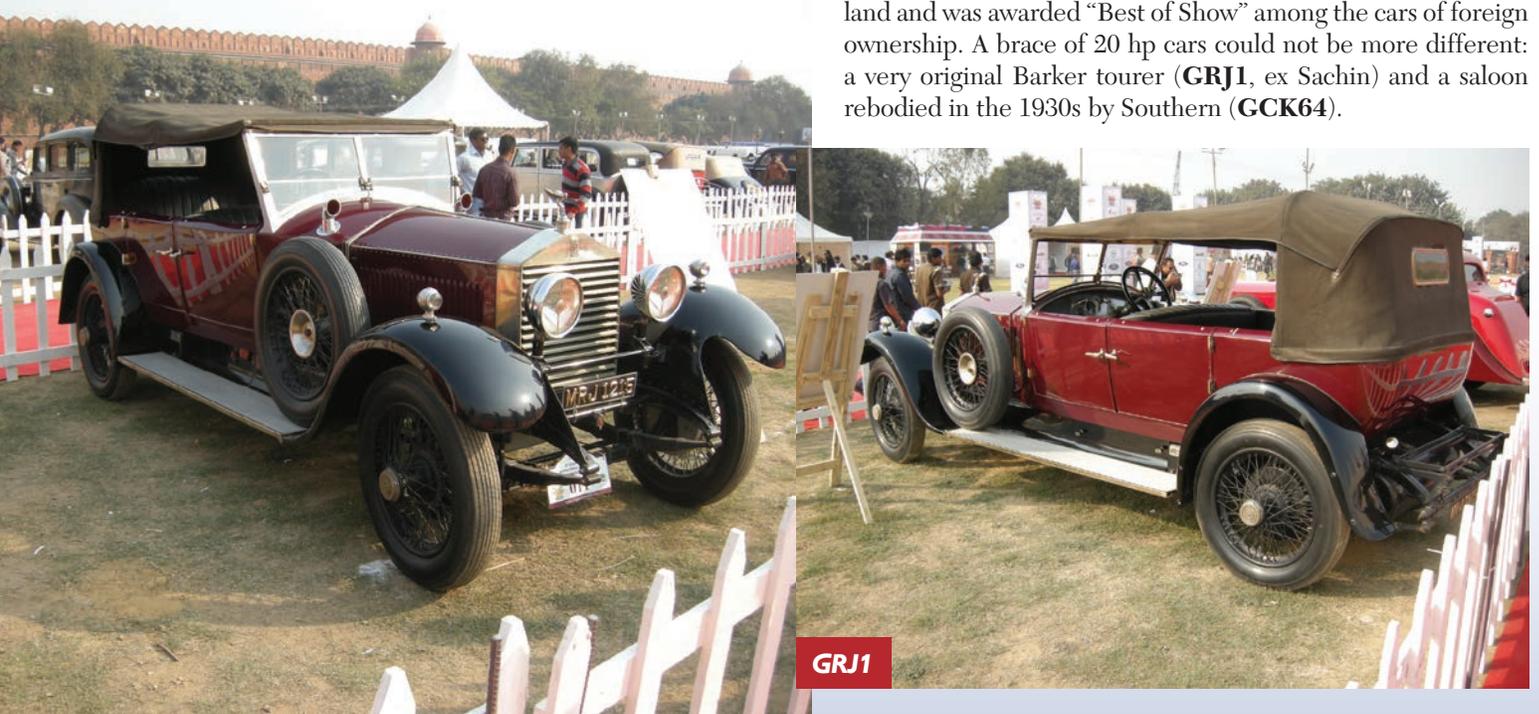
Interest for the motorcars of the past is growing in India and some of the cars have already found their way into younger hands and are being restored and shown at a number of events

prestigious enough to attract participants from elsewhere in the world.

One of the most important, in its sixth year now, is the curiously named “21 Gun Salute Rally.” Eager to internationalize the event, the organizers this year invited a number of cars from Europe and created a jury of renowned international experts. Among them are Pebble Beach chairperson Sandra Button and Paul Wood, restaurateur extraordinaire. They must have been short on foreign names as they invited yours truly too.

As was to be expected, cars shown were mostly of British origin, and those produced by Rolls-Royce were particularly well represented, both in quantity and quality.

An early Silver Ghost (60922) came all the way from England and was awarded “Best of Show” among the cars of foreign ownership. A brace of 20 hp cars could not be more different: a very original Barker tourer (GRJ1, ex Sachin) and a saloon rebodied in the 1930s by Southern (GCK64).



GRJ1



Two or three 20/25s, mostly with formal coachwork, and seemingly frequently used on the road, carried happy families having a grand time (**GAE3**, ex Baroda). Best of Show for indigenous cars was awarded to **62UK** (ex Jodhpur), a splendid P II Continental Coupé by Gurney Nutting. This was one of GN's best designs and was also used on a few Derby Bentleys. But even on this much larger P II chassis, the old designer motto "the longer the car, the easier to make it look good" seems very apt as such a personal sporting body looks fantastic on a limousine-size chassis. A very interesting comparison can be made with Freestone & Webb's **42PY** (Lord Bamford's P II coupé which we have shown here many times; see for instance 2015 RREC Annual Rally coverage). To my eyes, 42PY is more immediately attractive but 62UK is better resolved, more modern, and surely a more practical motorcar. Its color scheme, though probably perfectly acceptable in its era and surroundings, looks rather extreme.



On the Bentley front, a very interesting 3½L was shown, **B24BN** (ex Talcher). Ordered new by André Embiricos, who knew a thing or two about Derby Bentleys, it received a very elegant body by Antem of Paris. It was a rare treat to see it, so far from Derby, or Paris.

The Concours took place near the Red Fort in Delhi, and on the Sunday the cars drove to the Buddh Circuit some forty miles out of town, a Formula One-sanctioned race track where these elegant carriages were somewhat out of place.

℞



**B24BN**



Two of the International participants, 60JS and 60922 on India's F1 track. Recognize the face on the left? (Pebble Beach chief Sandra Button)



**B95EJ**