

The Candy

After much slithering and wailing, Debabrata Sarkar emerges sweatily from a racetrack in Coimbatore, writing love poems to a man called Peter Chacko. Er.

EVER IMAGINED YOURSELF AT YOUR favourite candy store as a kid? Well, what I got was the '18 years and over only' version of that candy store. With lots of rubber and metal and deep throbs. (Family magazine, Debu. Get a grip – Ed.) Yes, um. Burning rubber and smouldering brake pads, I mean. That's what made this candy store special as did the red-lining engines and hissing turbos. And of course to top it off with some chocolate sauce and chocolate flakes and whipped cream, this candy store was located at a little purpose-made racetrack outside Coimbatore called the Kari Motor Speedway.

The gracious host who set up this candy store for us auto hacks is Peter Chacko. Possibly the only organised performance car tuner in India, he has already finished a few stunning projects, and is looking at an almost outrageous one next. For the drive itself we were given access to about a dozen cars and despite all the fighting and quarrelling motoring journalists most of us managed to sample the cars for at least a couple of laps each.

To tell you that Peter believes every car is meant to go faster couldn't be made more evident than the fact that there were cars ranging from Innovas to Logans parked in the pit lane for our pleasure, all fitted with some sort of upgrade or other. The trademark bit is the Pete's tuning box which is the simplest and quickest way of going banzai, and suits most pockets as well. Then there were a few more extreme versions with uprated coil springs (H&R) and performance shock absorbers (Bilstein) along with hand made high performance brakes from Tarox. There were a variety of other mods too, the Green performance air filters being a common one.

And of course Pete's party trick, the Octavia RS range; upgraded to some insane power ratings – 300bhp till date, and Peter claims that he is not done with it yet, that there is still some scope for improvement. Actually, 'improvement' is too bland: a word for an extra couple of hundred bloody insane horses under the friggin' bonnet. This obviously is a lot of work, duh, and it isn't even using a new engine. The 300bhp Octavia still uses the same little 1.8-litre turbo-charged petrol engine except this one is on some serious steroids. Imagine the Hulk turning green and rapidly growing



