

# Super Weekend

We spent two days in Kochi at the superb Pete's Festival of Speed

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**A**ROUND 40 SPORTS CARS INCLUDING the BMW M4, Nissan GT-R and BMW Z4, lined up in the parking lot of a beautiful resort tucked away atop a mountain near Idduki, Kerala. These scintillating cars came from afar, covering hundreds of kilometres to kick-start the drive that led the owners to Kochi for Pete's Festival of Speed. For the novice, Pete's Automotive is a big name in the country when it comes to tuning cars and giving them the performance they deserve.

Every two years Peter K Chacko organises something called the Pete's Super Sunday. This year, however, the name was changed to Pete's Festival of Speed in association with MRF Tyres. The event was held at the CIAL Convention Centre near Kochi Airport, which is about 30 km away from the city. However, this did not keep many

enthusiasts from attending as the crowd exceeded more than 100,000 on Sunday. It was a grand event where visitors got a chance to see tuned-up supercars and sports cars at close quarters and learn more about how these beauties were tuned up for better performance.

The event kicked off when about 40 cars began their 80–90 km journey in the wee hours and raced — well, not literally — to the venue, attracting the attention of the local people on the way. Even the traffic policemen were awestruck when they saw so many exotic cars on the road zipping through the quiet state highways. There were Lamborghini Gallardos and Huracáns, a Pete's tuned 670-PS Nissan GT-R, three done-up Audi R8s, four Ford tuned-up Mustangs, numerous Porsche 911s, Cayman, Boxster, and many more cars that participated in the drive. As the cars made their >



## Feature | Pete's Festival of Speed



(Right) MRF Tyres were present in a big way as they were the main associates for the festival



way to the venue, the crowd went crazy, cheering the cars as they rolled into the convention centre.

As the show started, the spectators started to march in and soon the place was abuzz with hundreds of highly excited people who normally do not get to see such exotica every day or even every month. The super and sports cars were the star of the show. Pete's had also put up a stage where bands played throughout the day, keeping the spectators entertained.

Apart from the huge number of exotic cars, the Festival of Speed had exotic motorcycles on display as well; right from Kawasaki's supercharged H2 to BMW's gorgeous HP4, to name but two. As if this wasn't enough, there was an array of car dealers who had put up stalls displaying their products. These included brands like Lexus, Volvo, Škoda, Isuzu, Maruti Nexa, Mahindra, Land Rover, and, of course, Pete's Automotive. To give the

visitors a dose of extra adrenaline, Pete's and MRF had organised Autocross and Motocross races right across from the venue. These events were free for everyone and this attracted a large number of visitors.

Overall, the event was a brilliant gathering of exotic cars and motorcycles that clearly showcased the passion people down south have for cars and bikes. Many of these cars were done up by Pete's Automotive and it was amazing to see how much people are willing to spend to take their cars to the next level. However, one thing that was common among the crowd of owners was that they knew their cars and were more than humble when it came to describing them.

The Festival of Speed was truly a speedfest as it had all the right elements that made the event a spectacular one. We hope that Pete's continues the tradition and in the future they have many more such events not just in Kochi, but across the country. **pete**