

# DH Wheels

DECCAN HERALD

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

## Motoring across the country

By M ROCHAN

With air travel becoming cheaper, there's a whole new set of holiday destinations that seem to be opening up. On the contrary, not many seem to be taking to the idea of 'driving holidays'.

The typical Indian holiday, in most cases, ends with that annoying wake-up call, on the day of departure, and the spotless white taxi that drives you to the airport or railway/ bus station. But if you are the reckless type, ready to brave the road, your list of destinations is unlimited. And your guide — 'Driving Holidays in India' by Bob Rupani.

The motorist's bible 'Driving Holidays in India', goes beyond giving you just a route map from point X to Y.

The book provides exhaustive descriptions of each city/ town/ village/ tourist spot/ mountain/ river/ jungle that Bob has traversed in due course, all first hand experience, making it a must for every driving enthusiast.

It's no big surprise that road trips are detested in our country, given the bad roads and even worse boarding-lodging facilities,

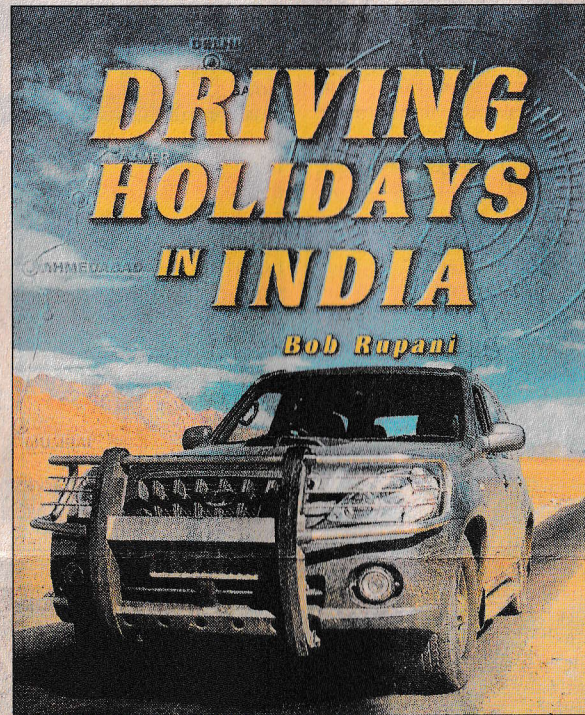
coupled with the lack of on-road breakdown services. Even after careful planning, 'driving down' to any destination might just end up being your worst trip owing to the unexpected. Like Bob puts it, "the key to motoring happily through all this is patience."

Narayan (Bob) M Rupani's love for cars and his long tryst with Indian roads have taken him to far-flung parts of the country. The book begins with an 'introduction' and 'getting started' section and goes on to describe 25 of his best drives, illustrating some well-known and some lesser-known places.

Bob adds a personal touch to each drive, talking about their historical significance, imparting the dos and don'ts, culture and practices etc. Each section also carries breathtaking pictures, most of which are Bob's camera-work.

So you could be 'High in Himachal' or drive further north, and perch yourself 'On The Roof of The World', come down to 'Corbett's Country', be 'Exploring Gujarat' or embark on a 'Southern Adventure' — the book faithfully guides you through thick and thin.

And for those of you who prefer armchair travelling to the actual thing,



the book is your window to India. At the end of each section is a 'data' spread that gives details on travel time, distance in kilometres and a route map indicating the major towns and stop-overs along the course of the drive. Bob goes on to mention the various types

of accommodation available, giving tips on what to carry, where to re-fuel etc.

So with this book by your side, get behind the wheel, start your engines and head off on your soul vacation, tracing your way through India. Safe driving!

**Publisher:** Rupani Media, Mumbai  
**Number of Pages:** 277  
**Price:** Rs 495

NEW LCV

## Eicher launches E-2 series

Eicher Motors, the leading commercial vehicle manufacturer launched the E2 series of light commercial vehicles. Eicher products have been well known for their fuel efficiency and this new series will further enhance this objective by offering the customer greater benefits and reduce total cost of ownership.

The products will be marketed under the E2 series name (BSII AND BS III). The 'E' in "E2" series, stands for Enhanced Efficiency and "2" denotes the birth of the second generation of vehicles. The series will include models from 7-11 tonne range of Eicher Motors — EICHER 10.75, Eicher 10.80, Eicher 10.90 Eicher 10.95 and Eicher 11.10. The E2 series will be priced starting from Rs 6.59 lakh (ex-showroom) for BSII and Rs 6.96 lakh (ex-showroom) for BSIII.