

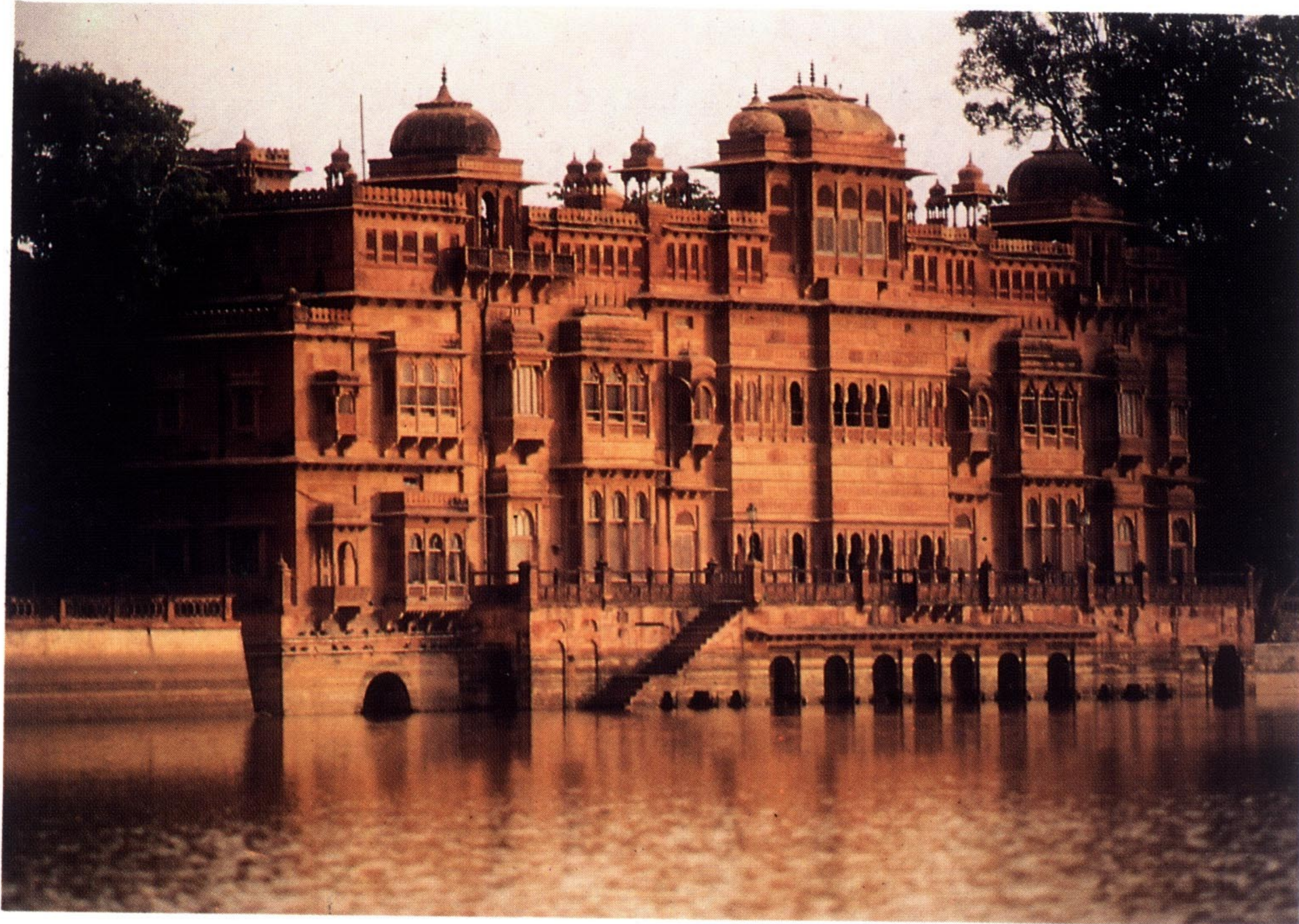


# The HRH News

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HRH Group of Hotels, City Palace, Udaipur

## Jewel of India Classic Car Rally

24<sup>th</sup> January 1999 to 17<sup>th</sup> February 1999



*The Jewel of India Vintage car rally attracted some of the most enthusiastic car aficionados from around the world. There were classic machines and adventurous spirits driving them. The 'Jewel of India', or the J.O.I as it is referred to, was not intended to be a pure speed race. It was more of a conglomeration of driving, stamina, enjoyment, sightseeing and determination aimed at making it an unforgettable passage through the heartland which every one who participated will not forget.*



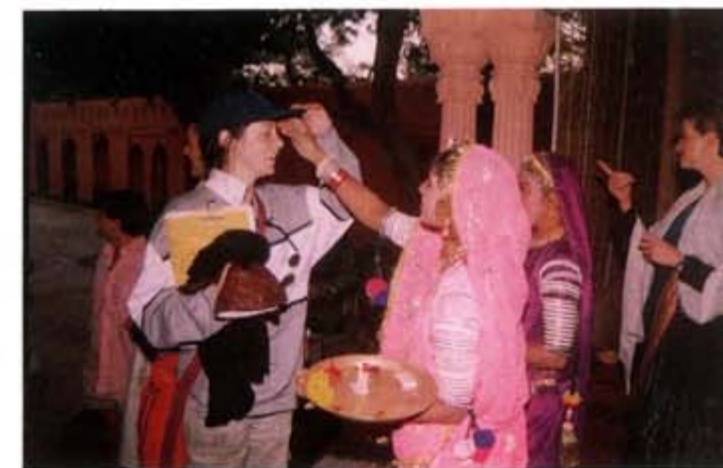
The 7,000 K.M. of Jewel of India Classic Rally is the longest annual motoring event in the world. It started at the Gateway of India in Mumbai on 24 January 1999 and ended in Chennai on 17 February 1999. It was one of the most gruelling route through India, which saw the cars visit points West, North and South of the sub continent.

The Nine Classic cars that took part in the event were all built before 1973, with the oldest car, a 1928 Bentley, crossing the finishing post in the first place. This was driven by Christopher Wray and his wife Jill from London.

The rally arrived in Udaipur during their first week and Shriji Arvind Shingji Mewar kindly hosted cocktails at Sambhu Niwas Palace. They were all entranced at the magical setting of the terrace overlooking the Lake Palace Hotel.



After a few jump starts, the cars left early in the morning for Jodhpur. They arrived in Gajner Palace two days late and went straight for the bar for a well deserved drink. Dinner was served outside surrounded by blazing bonfires after which the Rajasthani dancers kept everyone entertained. The guest then became the entertainers themselves by trying, not very successfully, to balance pots on their heads. Dancing continued well into the small hours of the night.



Early the next morning, the guests had a chance to overcome their hangovers with the opportunity to ride a camel. They were still in the party spirit and a few races took place. However, the speed was slightly slower than the pace that they left Gajner in after swapping the camels for their beautiful motor cars.

HRH Group of Hotels then hosted a polo match for the rally at Ramgarh Resort and Polo Complex on the following day. Some of the guests were given a lesson of polo much to the amusements of the spectators. Unfortunately, due to the day being used to fine-tune the cars and sort out mechanical problems that had arisen during the first week, only four cars made the journey to Ramgarh. Shriji Arvind Singh ji Mewar's W.W. II jeep led the car parade around the polo field for the spectators to the view that culminated in a photographic line up.





*The polo match then began between 'HRH Group of Hotels, Udaipur' and 'Jewel of India'. This was a huge success, which every one wholly enjoyed, especially when 'Jewel of India' won. The match was open to outsiders and quite a gathering turned up for the afternoon.*

*Two elephants then provided entertainment for the remaining part of the afternoon as all the guests managed to mount the animals in a variety of different ways. One or two of the guests climbed up the trunk and very nearly fell off in the process.*

*The HRH hospitality did not stop there. Cocktails and a barbecue dinner were then served in the clubhouse and the last guest departed at around midnight. Everyone of the guest commented on how much they enjoyed the day and was overwhelmed by the generosity of the HRH Group of Hotels.*

*Promoted as the last great motoring event of the millennium, the rally certainly did leave an impression .*



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TO  
 HIS HIGHNESS ARVIND SINGH MEWAR  
 Thank you for your generous help  
 and support on the first  
 Jewel of India Classic Rally



Received with grateful  
thanks to all participants,  
members, organisers and back  
up crew.

Howard L Mawar  
MAY 99