

AUTOGUIDE

India's Automotive Industry & Trade Journal

56
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SINCE 1966

AUTO INDUSTRY WELCOMES



BUDGET 2022



Rahul Bajaj (1938 – 2022)
A stalwart departs



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Editor's Viewpoint



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Executive Editor

**The
budget
creates an
optimistic
look to
restart the
investment
cycle.**

Auto Industry welcomes Budget 2022

This Government has now been in power for 8 years and it seems to have done its share of sectoral and social corrections. Finally the focus has come on growth and investment.

The union budget 2022-23 contains various incentives to encourage investments and to achieve the "Make in India" dream of the industry. Coming in the back of PLI, the budget contains further incentives to support the shift to electric vehicles. The tax laws for the auto industry have largely been left untouched.

The finance minister seems to be in a comfortable political space and no populist scheme has been rolled out keeping the impending elections in mind. The fiscal deficit is higher but is not an issue for the RBI, as the country climbs out of Covid.

All in all, it is growth oriented budget with a forward looking perspective and the industry has welcomed it.

Besides the special package on the reactions to the budget by the leaders of the industry, there is a long list of new cars, EV and two wheeler launches to the industry and we have tried to include as many as we could. The issue also details the initiatives being taken by the established brands to promote the electric mobility in the country.

Happy reading!!!

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Auto Industry welcomes Budget 2022

The automobile industry has given an enthusiastic response to the Union Budget 2022 presented by the Finance Minister Mrs Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on February 1. Prominent industry bodies and key stakeholders have lauded various provisions of the growth-oriented Budget.

The following is the feedback of the industry:



Union Budget 2022: What's in it for the auto sector

₹2.73 lakh crore MSP payment to boost rural vehicle demand : The government has announced a ₹2.73 lakh crore MSP payment along with other benefits to aid the farming sector. This could help improve the rural economic sentiment and eventually improve demand for vehicles in rural markets that contribute largely to the sales of two-wheelers, entry-level cars and SUVs along with small commercial vehicles and tractors. The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic hit the rural economic sentiment badly, which could be revived through this strategy.



Battery swapping policy : One of the key announcements made by the Finance Minister in Union Budget 2022 is the Battery Swapping Policy. If implemented efficiently, this can benefit the entire EV ecosystem in India. The vehicle manufacturers and EV charging infra players too will get benefit from this policy that could boost EV adoption in India. The policy is expected to drive movement to the electrification of fleets for last-mile mobility for both people and goods. Under this battery swapping policy, the government will encourage private players to take part in the process of setting up battery-swapping stations and technology. The impact of this policy will be limited to certain players in the sector and unlikely to bring any big change in the Indian electric mobility space at a quick pace.

EVs in public transport : Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that government will encourage cleantech and electric vehicles into the public transport space. This will further help the auto companies that manufacture electric buses and commercial vehicles. This strategy will also help those companies' respective supply chain partners as well. This announcement will impact certain players only, but not the whole automotive sector.



Cars, bikes, scooters won't get cheaper : While the FM Nirmala Sitharaman has made some announcements to boost the auto industry at large in India, not all the expectations of the automotive industry have been met. Key demands like incentives for new electric vehicle adoption, tax cut and revised duty structure have been left almost unchanged. Also, no major announcement was made to help the auto industry overcome the rising input costs. Hence, it is highly unlikely that the price of cars, bikes, scooters would get cheaper. Instead, continuous pressure on vehicle manufacturers could result in increased costs in the short to medium term.

Opening defence R&D to private players: The announcement of opening up defence R&D to private players could open up a new growth segment for auto component companies in India. Car manufacturers such as Tata Motors and Mahindra have been already working in the defence sector through their respective wings. They have been making vehicles for the Indian armed forces. Now, opening up the defence R&D for private players will help them with new revenue and growth area. However, this would be limited to certain players only.



Mr PB Balaji, Group CFO, Tata Motors:

"Budget 2022 is an articulation of purposeful intent enabled by a clear action plan. Building on the excellent budget of last year, the government has wisely continued on the path of prioritizing economic growth with calibrated fiscal prudence. For the Indian automobile sector, which is a significant contributor to the nation's GDP, the budget offers continuity and also additional opportunities to drive multi-year growth.

"Specifically, the robust increase in capex by 35.4% to Rs. 7.5 lakh crore and a comprehensive investment plan for infrastructure is a significant growth booster. Additionally, the launch of the well-conceived PM Gati Shakti program for multi modal transport including 100 cargo terminals and investments in 25000Kms of highways, apart from investments in ports and metros is an excellent development that will help create a world class transport infrastructure in the country. This will reduce logistics costs and transit times, increase employment and make us globally competitive with avenues for better and efficient mobility solutions. Additionally, plans to create EV charging infrastructure including national policy for battery swapping which when combined with the already announced Automotive PLI scheme, furthers the agenda for green mobility. Tata Motors welcomes this balanced, thought-through Budget."



Mr PB Balaji,
Group CFO, Tata Motors:



Mr. Satyakam Arya,
MD & CEO, Daimler India
Commercial Vehicles:

Mr. Satyakam Arya, MD & CEO, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles:

"Fundamentally, the FY 2022-23 Budget focuses on providing growth to the economy. We have already started to see some green shoots in the economic recovery and therefore a budget focused on that is a welcome step. The honorable FM has also not taken an aggressive target on reducing the fiscal deficit and, this also provides the headroom for spending and capital expenditure to enable the growth momentum on sustainable basis. Some of the highlights are 35.4% increase in CAPEX outlay to INR 7.5 lakh crore, the high-level fiscal target of 6.4% for 2022-23, a sharper focus on building road infrastructure and logistics and a bigger push towards e-mobility are big boosts for the economy."

Mr Nagesh Basavanhalli, Group CEO & MD, Greaves Cotton Limited:

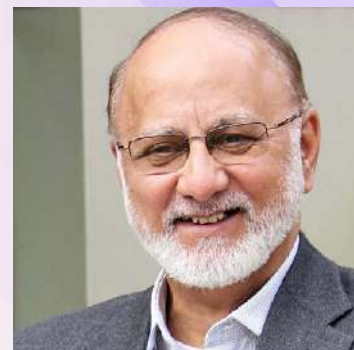
"The Union Budget 2022 has some important announcements to accelerate economic growth by focusing on four core pillars of productivity, climate action, financing investment and PM Gati Shakti Programme which will help strengthen our infrastructure and MSME sector. The expansion of the National Highway network will provide better connectivity to our towns and cities and strengthen the supply chain network. Overall, huge impetus on rural growth through various schemes and technological intervention will help create more rural jobs and thereby create more demand from rural and semi-urban areas. The production linked incentives in several sectors announced by the government will help create more employment opportunities for the people."



Mr Nagesh Basavanhalli,
Group CEO & MD,
Greaves Cotton Limited

Mr Sohinder Gill, Director General, SMEV:

"We welcome the measures announced by the honorable Finance Minister. The Budget for 2022-23 gives a huge impetus to the electric vehicle (EV) industry. Introducing the battery swapping policy and recognizing battery or energy as a service will help to develop EV infrastructure and increase the use of EVs in public transportation. It would motivate businesses engaged in delivery and car aggregation businesses to incorporate EVs into their fleet. It will create new avenues for companies to venture into the business of battery swapping. Additionally, creating special clean zones will further accelerate the adoption of EVs and spread awareness amongst the citizens. The move will benefit the whole segment, i.e E2W, E3W, E-cars, and buses."



Mr Sohinder Gill,
Director General, SMEV



Mr. Unsoo Kim,
MD, Hyundai Motors India:

Mr. Unsoo Kim, MD, Hyundai Motors India:

"Hyundai Motor India welcomes the progressive Union Budget. Government's strong approach towards accelerating infrastructure development, sustainability along with digitalisation in every-sphere of business will give strong impetus to overall economy while empowering consumerism in India. The vision for clean mobility creating electric vehicle ecosystem is a positive indicator for auto Industry and for its large supply chain. The forward looking budget will lay modular economic structure for every section of business and society in India."

Mr Venu Srinivasan, Chairman, TVS Motor Company:

"Union Budget 2022 sets the pace for the Indian economy's growth trajectory amidst the challenges brought forth by the pandemic. The big boost to capital expenditure is welcome and it would give a fillip to the Indian economy. For the automobile sector, we welcome the 'PM Gati Shakti Master Plan' focusing on building world-class infrastructure and improved connectivity for commuters. The strong push towards augmenting agricultural productivity should help enable buoyant rural demand. In the electric mobility space, we strongly support the measures undertaken by Government to promote clean and green mobility, mainly introducing the battery-swapping policy will be instrumental in supporting an efficient EV ecosystem."



Mr Venu Srinivasan,
Chairman, TVS Motor Company:

Mr. Rajesh Gupta, Founder & Director, Nupur Recyclers:

"We welcome the Government's proposal to introduce a battery swapping policy and interoperability standards for the electric vehicle sector. Consumers will be able to seamlessly switch the battery on-the-go without worrying about running out of charge, which is especially useful when out for the day. Furthermore, this policy encourages companies like ours to continue developing efficient solutions to power India's EV Revolution, as well as opens up new growth opportunities through the Energy-as-a-Service model, which is expected to explode in popularity in the coming years."



Mr. Rajesh Gupta,
Founder & Director,
Nupur Recyclers:



Mr. Amarjit Sidhu,
Executive Director, Detel

Mr. Amarjit Sidhu, Executive Director, Detel:

"The Union Budget for 2022 carries a positive message for the EV sector. More efforts than ever are being made by the government towards boosting the EV ecosystem. It's very encouraging to see this renewed dedication, and it also looks like there are some promising initiatives in store for 2022 with this budget. The Indian government's recent policy to allow the swapping of electric vehicle batteries is a step in the right direction. This new policy will help get more people to buy electric vehicles and will work to increase battery recycling, thus helping build infrastructure for electric vehicles. Turning the most expensive EV component—the battery—into an operational cost, will significantly reduce the prices of electric vehicles and promote their adoption."

Dr. Yogesh Bhatia, Managing Director & CEO, LML Electric:

"The Union Budget 2022's four key pillars of inclusive development, productivity improvement, energy transition, and climate action will undoubtedly boost the country's economic growth. Clean and sustainable mobility is critical for reducing fossil fuel dependence and combating climate change. We applaud the government's efforts in this area and look forward to seeing concrete steps taken to address the barriers to EV adoption. India's electric power is increasing! Special mobility zones with a zero-fossil-fuel policy will aid in the transition to cleaner technologies and the development of a more sustainable economy. I look forward to seeing the positive impact electric vehicles will have on India and the planet."



Dr. Yogesh Bhatia,
Managing Director & CEO, LML
Electric:

TKM spokesperson

"At Toyota Kirloskar Motor, we welcome the forward-looking Budget that has clearly outlined Government's long term objectives of focusing on growth, inclusiveness, promoting technology enabled development, productivity enhancement, energy transition & climate action. The Budget has sought to achieve a fine balance between fiscal consolidation with the need for continued public spending for nurturing economic growth with clear emphasis on sustainability and infrastructure development through public-private partnerships."



Mr. Banwari Lal Sharma,
CEO Consumer Business,
CarTrade Tech:

Mr. Banwari Lal Sharma, CEO Consumer Business, CarTrade Tech:

"The Honourable Finance Minister has proposed implementing a much-needed Battery Swapping Policy. This policy would encourage the widespread usage of batteries in mobility and eventually bring down the cost of electric vehicles (EVs), boosting consumer confidence in the nascent technology. Cities with zero-emission zones will assist in raising the prominence of EVs while also providing people an incentive to buy them, even as battery swapping availability/access will reduce range anxiety. This will furthermore provide prospects for a number of new automotive businesses and start-ups to grow and flourish in India."

Mr. Nishant Arya, Vice-Chairman, JBM Group:

"This is an investment focused Budget aimed at creating India@100. JBM Group welcomes the Government's move towards promoting electrification of vehicles by proposing the Battery Swapping policy which also includes the concept of Energy and Battery Storage as a Service. This is going to intensify the deployment of an extensive network of EV chargers, thereby, boosting the end-to-end EV ecosystem pan India. In fact all the 7 engines of PM Gati Shakti – Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass transport, Waterways and Logistics infra reflect positively towards the automotive and transport sector. However, bringing the EV financing under priority lending could have brought about the much needed liquidity into the EV sector, which has been missed in the budget this year".



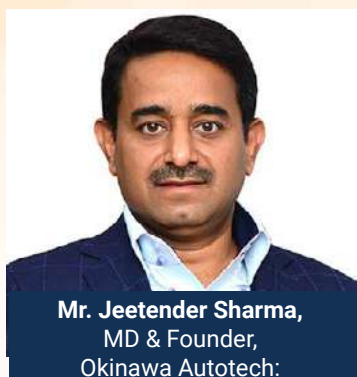
Mr. Nishant Arya,
Vice-Chairman, JBM Group:

Mr. Sanjay Thakker, Chairman & Founder, Group Landmark:

oriented and visionary Budget focused on capex. The decision to engage in major infrastructure investments with an emphasis on the rural economy will boost automobile businesses in the long run. Commercial electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers will profit from announcements such as the battery swapping policy, and this is likely to add confidence to potential passenger EV buyers too. The automobile component players will likewise get access to a new source of revenue and a completely emerging business sector where they can participate. The move to open up defence R&D to private businesses might pave the way for new development opportunities for Indian automobile component manufacturers."



Mr. Sanjay Thakker,
Chairman & Founder,
Group Landmark:



Mr. Jeetender Sharma,
MD & Founder,
Okinawa Autotech:

Mr. Jeetender Sharma MD & Founder, Okinawa Autotech:

"The Union Budget 2022-23 provides great encouragement for the EV sector. The introduction of the battery swapping policy to improve the country's EV infrastructure is a positive and progressive step that could potentially address the range anxiety issue, which is one of the impediments to a mass-market transition from internal combustion engine-based vehicles to electric vehicles. This policy will be critical in enabling a well-established EV infrastructure across the country while instilling customer confidence in riding EVs on Indian roads.

More importantly, this will boost EV adoption in the last-mile delivery space, where time constraints make instant battery swapping more viable than charging the existing battery."

Mr Anil Kumar, President & Managing Director, SEG Automotive India Private Limited:

: "We welcome the Budget announced by the Government. The focus on inclusive growth should support the Indian economy to continue to grow stronger. The announcements related to battery swapping policy highlights the focus towards sustainable mobility and can improve the demand in the growing EV segment. Offering energy as service and battery swapping can lead to new innovative business models, making electric mobility more attractive on TCO, by reducing the acquisition cost of the vehicle. The robust allocation of capital expenditure is a good sign for the infrastructure, manufacturing and commercial vehicle sector. The credit schemes for the MSME, and reduction in duties for a few commodities is a much-needed move, for the industry to stay competitive, at a time when the commodity prices are increasing."



Mr Anil Kumar,
President & Managing Director,
SEG Automotive

Mr Kenichi Ayukawa, President, SIAM:

"SIAM welcomes a growth-oriented Budget focused on building long-term strength using Investment as the growth lever while maintaining policy stability and inclusivity. The 35% increased capex outlay, major infrastructure projects like 25,000 km road construction, 100 Cargo terminals, Project GatiShakti, 5G network, optic fibre cable laying and the recent PLI schemes are major positives. Leveraging Biomass and support to ethanol blending for both environment and economy gains could unlock the power of India's rural economy. Steel price cooling off measures will help the entire manufacturing sector. Impetus to charging infrastructure and energy storage systems and Government support in R&D for clean energy, green mobility and semiconductors will help the auto sector. We welcome the message on Ease of Doing Business and look forward to this being observed in spirit by all departments."



Mr Kenichi Ayukawa,
President, SIAM



Mr Sunjay J Kapur,
President ACMA

Mr Sunjay J Kapur, President ACMA:

"The blueprint of a digitally enabled, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, coupled with measures that will drive sustainable yet inclusive growth at a rapid pace for the next twenty-five years. These are the bedrock of the proposals announced in the Union Budget 2022-23, as we redefine our economy in a post-pandemic world. Setting the direction for creation of urban fossil fuel free zones, policy for battery swapping and energy as service and incentives for creating a vibrant start-up eco system, India could soon emerge as a fore-runner of green mobility solutions for the world."

ACMA is also delighted by the measures announced for the MSMEs. The auto component industry is dominated by small players and the extension of the ECLGS (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme) and its cover, revamping and infusion of funds into the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme combined with the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program will help the MSMEs stay relevant and competitive".

Mr Vinkesh Gulati, President, FADA:

"Union Budget 2022 seeks to lay the foundation for the next 25 years, from India@75 to India@100. With PM's 'Gati Shakti National Master Plan', a Rs 100-lakh crore project for building comprehensive infrastructure in India, it will be a significant step towards path to development. The Budget has attempted to focus on each of the sectors and has also tried to stimulate the economy after the pandemic slowdown. FADA welcomes and supports the Government's efforts and initiatives towards Electric Mobility. There is a clear emphasis on creative, sustainable & innovative business models. Battery Swapping & Energy as a Service (EAAS) will surely help accelerate the transition towards Clean Mobility. The development of special mobility zones for electric vehicles and promoting clean technology for public transport validate government commitment to E-mobility, which would boost confidence in the EV industry in terms of manufacturing, sales, and create a sense of assurance among customers."



Mr Vinkesh Gulati,
President, FADA

Mr Mohal Lalbhai, CEO and Founder, Matter:

"The Union Budget 2022-23 has made a strong case for furthering clean energy, it encourages a sustainable future for India and has been drafted keeping in view of the climate change impact, as pointed out by our Honorable Prime Minister during the COP26 Summit held in Glasgow. The initiatives announced towards greater adoption of electric mobility by strengthening EV charging especially the introduction of policy for battery swapping infrastructure is encouraging. Energy being the key progress enabler, so the announcement on the energy storage system being given infrastructure status is important as it will fuel not just the electric mobility sector but will give a necessary boost to the economy as well.



Mr Mohal Lalbhai,
CEO and Founder, Matter

Another positive step by the ministry is the extension of the tax exemption for start-ups till March 2023. Summing it up, we strongly believe that the initiatives announced will boost a sustainable future for India and help the nation achieve its broader decarbonization goals with greater contributions coming from start-ups."

Mr Saurav Kumar, Founder and CEO, Euler Motors:



Mr Saurav Kumar,
Founder and CEO,
Euler Motors

: "Proud as an Indian and energised by the forward-looking mood of the Budget. The Government continues to also keep fundamentals in mind for collective progress for India to set examples for the world. The focus on clean energy is a critical measure that will benefit both citizens as well as the planet. The Budget 2022 is pragmatic that brings thrust on clean technology, encourage a shift in mobility, and achieve decarbonisation. These steps will help accelerate growth of EVs across segments."

Mr. Ketan Mehta, Founder & CEO, HOP Electric Mobility:

"Overall, this is a good Budget for electric vehicles and charging/swapping infrastructure in India. The measures under PM Gati Shakti will boost and give the necessary push to job opportunities in every sector. Policy measures announced on battery swapping will help in the wide-scale adoption of 'batteries as a service'. Will be happy to see the reduction in ownership costs of electric vehicles with this announcement. Since the cost of running electric vehicles is a practical alternate mode of mobility, the government's intent

to improve the charging ecosystem will help ease migration to EVs, which are more economical than the usage of ICE- vehicles. We see this creating opportunities for several new start-ups. We strongly believe and support the clean and green energy mission."



Mr. Ketan Mehta,
Founder & CEO, HOP Electric
Mobility:

Tata Motors' flagship SUV, the Safari joins the #DARK range

TATA Motors, one of India's leading automotive brands, announced the launch of the Safari #DARK, the latest flagship addition to the company's successful #DARK range. The Safari #DARK Edition is now open for bookings and available at dealerships nationwide starting at INR 19.05 lakhs (ex-showroom, Delhi).

The Safari #DARK will be clad in the signature Oberon Black exterior body colour, which many have now come to associate with the #DARK range. The mascots on the fender and the tailgate as well as the 18" Blackstone alloy wheels lend the exteriors the signature #DARK look. As part of the interiors, Safari #DARK offers a premium Blackstone Dark theme with exclusive touches to the key elements. Additions like the distinct dark finishes, special Blackstone Matrix dashboard & premium Dark upholstery (Nappa Granite Black colour scheme with Blue Tri Arrow Perforations and Blue Stitching) complete the insides of the Safari #DARK.

Available on the XT+/XTA+ & XZ+/XZA+ trims, the Safari #DARK will get other exclusive features such as Ventilated Seats on both 1st and 2nd Row, Air purifier and Android Auto & Apple Car Play over Wi-Fi.

Furthermore, with a high sales penetration across brands, the #DARK range has undoubtedly become

a popular choice for customers. The Harrier #DARK, which was launched as a limited edition product initially, did extremely well and on popular customer demand, became an integral part of the Harrier portfolio. It offered an exciting & unique package to the customers, which further extended with the introduction of the #DARK range. We are confident that this stylish #DARK Edition will prove to be yet another reason for car-buyers to upgrade to the magnificent Safari."

Launched last year, the Safari, has already achieved milestones of its own, completing the 10K rollout in just 6 months & 16k happy Safari owners already reclaiming their life since the launch. The #DARK is the latest treatment to be given to the legendary SUV post the introduction of its #Gold avatar, which also has been greatly loved by all.

Built on the very reliable OMEGARC architecture, which in turn is derived from Land Rover's legendary D8 platform, the Safari possesses the perfect combination of stunning design and performance, meeting the needs of today's SUV customers, who want plush and comfortable interiors, unparalleled versatility, go-anywhere experience, top-notch safety, and the most up-to-date connected car technology for a modern, multifaceted lifestyle.



Maruti Suzuki launches All-New Celerio with S-CNG Technology



MARUTI Suzuki India Limited, announced the launch of the CNG variant of stylish and urban All-New Celerio. The introduction of the All-New Celerio with S-CNG technology is aligned with the company's commitment to further strengthen its growing green vehicles portfolio in India. Powered by next-generation Dual Jet, Dual VVT K-Series 1.0L engine, the All-New Celerio with S-CNG technology delivers an incredible mileage of 35.60 km/kg* and has a CNG tank capacity of 60 litres (water filling capacity). The All-New Celerio S-CNG is factory fitted and offers optimum performance, ensuring enhanced safety, unmatched convenience, and great fuel-efficiency.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Director (Marketing & Sales), Maruti Suzuki India Limited said, "Maruti Suzuki has been a pioneer in the country to offer factory-fitted CNG cars. We have the largest portfolio of 8 green models on the road and have sold around 9,50,000 S-CNG vehicles. Owning a factory fitted S-CNG vehicle comes with standard warranty benefits and convenience of Maruti Suzuki's service network spread across India,

that our customers find very comforting. With green mobility in focus, we have witnessed 22% CAGR increase in our CNG sales in the past five years. This is a testimony to the customers accepting technologically advanced, eco-friendly, and safe CNG mobility solutions."

The All-New Celerio was launched in November'21 in petrol avatar and has received a phenomenal customer response with close to 25,000 bookings in just two months of its launch. The All-New Celerio ticks all the boxes of customer expectation with a superior driving experience, unrivalled fuel-efficiency, and a host of features that offer comfort, convenience, and safety at an attractive price. With the launch of the All-New Celerio, the cumulative sales for Celerio has crossed 6,00,000 units.

The launch of Maruti Suzuki's S-CNG vehicle range is aligned to and complements the Government of India's vision of reducing oil import and enhancing the share of natural gas in the country's primary energy mix from 6.2% now to 15% by 2030. The Government is working to rapidly increase the CNG fuel pumps network in the country.

JBM Auto arm acquires 51% stake in JBM Green Energy (P) Ltd.

JBM Auto Ltd., India's leading automotive company (BSE: 532605 & NSE Code: JBMA), has announced the acquisition of 51% stake in JBM Green Energy Systems (P) Ltd. and JBM EV Industries (P) Ltd. through its subsidiary JBM Electric Vehicles (P) Ltd. Post this stake acquisition, JBM Green Energy Systems (P) Ltd. and JBM EV Industries (P) Ltd. have become the indirect subsidiary companies of JBM Auto Ltd.

JBM Green Energy is engaged in manufacturing complete lithium-ion battery packs for electric vehicles, thereby working towards setting new benchmarks of localisation for manufacturing of electric vehicles as outlined in various government policy initiatives. With the same objective of enhancing indigenization, JBM EV industries manufactures key aggregates and auto systems for electric vehicles.

Commenting on the stake acquisition, Mr. Nishant Arya, Vice Chairman & MD, JBM Auto Ltd., said, "This stake acquisition is a true testimony to the fact that JBM Auto is committed towards its mission of commissioning the end-to-end e-mobility ecosystem completely localised in India. As a company, we started working towards this mission since the announcement of FAME 1 and have, since then, developed synergies between our various businesses in critical e-mobility domains such as electric buses, battery technology, charging infrastructure and other aggregates".

"With a long-term commitment towards zero emission technologies, JBM is consistently creating opportunity in the EV domain. We already have more than 25 local vendors for different EV products across India. With the apt support from the government to the sector in the form of various policies, we are value for all stakeholders with every upcoming at the right cusp of consolidating all our synergies to provide a one stop e-mobility solution. We have already deployed our e-mobility platform solution



in various states of India that has been tailored to provide optimum cost of ownership to the customer", Mr. Arya further added.

JBM Auto's 100% electric buses ECOLIFE have been already operating in various states such as Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi-NCR region, Maharashtra, Andaman & Nicobar, etc. Infact, the recent flag-off of JBM ECOLIFE electric buses in Karnataka marks the first ever rollout of electric buses in the state.

The company provides complete e-mobility ecosystem right from electric vehicles, charging infra, power infra to maintenance and support, thereby, providing optimum value to its customers.

JBM Auto Ltd. had registered a 22.74 % increase in net profit to Rs. 25.19 crore in Q2FY22 as compared to Rs. 20.52 crore in Q2FY21. Sales including other operating income stood at Rs. 752.72 crore compared to Rs.517.35 crore in Q2FY21, an increase of 45.50%. The company recorded a profit before tax of Rs 42.14 crore in Q2FY22 as compared to Rs. 31.51 crore in the second quarter in the previous year, an increase of 33.74%.

Nexzu launches Bazinga the much awaited E- cycle

NEXZU Mobility, India's leading homegrown e-mobility brand, has unveiled a new game-changing addition to its growing portfolio of E cycles in India, with the launch of its much-awaited long-range daily commuter's e-cycle - Bazinga.

The production launch ceremony was organized at the brand's manufacturing plant at Chakan with active participation from all the team members across India through a live Zoom meeting. The event also witnessed in-depth explanation of all the features that these cycles (Bazinga e-cycle priced at Rs. ₹49,445 and Bazinga Cargo e-cycle priced at Rs ₹51,525) come equipped with. It included a lamp lighting ceremony followed by ribbon cutting and the bicycle roll out from the production conveyor belt.

Transforming the EV experience for customers, an in-



house designed and developed unisex e-cycle Bazinga comes with an extended range of 100km with a single detachable Li-ion battery. It also boasts a solid and sturdy designed new cargo carriage with a 15 kg load

capacity. The e-cycle is ergonomically designed for effortless hop-in and hop-out for riders, while the excellent aesthetics with digitally designed decals give it a new feel and look.

FedEx Express Tests Electric Vehicles in India

FEDEx Express, a subsidiary of FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) and the world's largest express transportation company, announced the start of electric vehicle (EV) trials in India as part of its global goal to achieve carbon neutral operations by 2040.

The trial of the electric vehicle, which is expected to conclude in a month in Bangalore, will test the vehicle technology within FedEx Express operations, assessing the vehicles' operational effectiveness on a standard route fully loaded with packages. Following positive trial results, FedEx Express will extend the trial to Delhi.

With last-mile delivery burgeoning thanks to rapid e-commerce growth, each new electric vehicle added to the FedEx delivery fleet in India can reduce fuel consumption and emissions equivalent to five passenger cars.

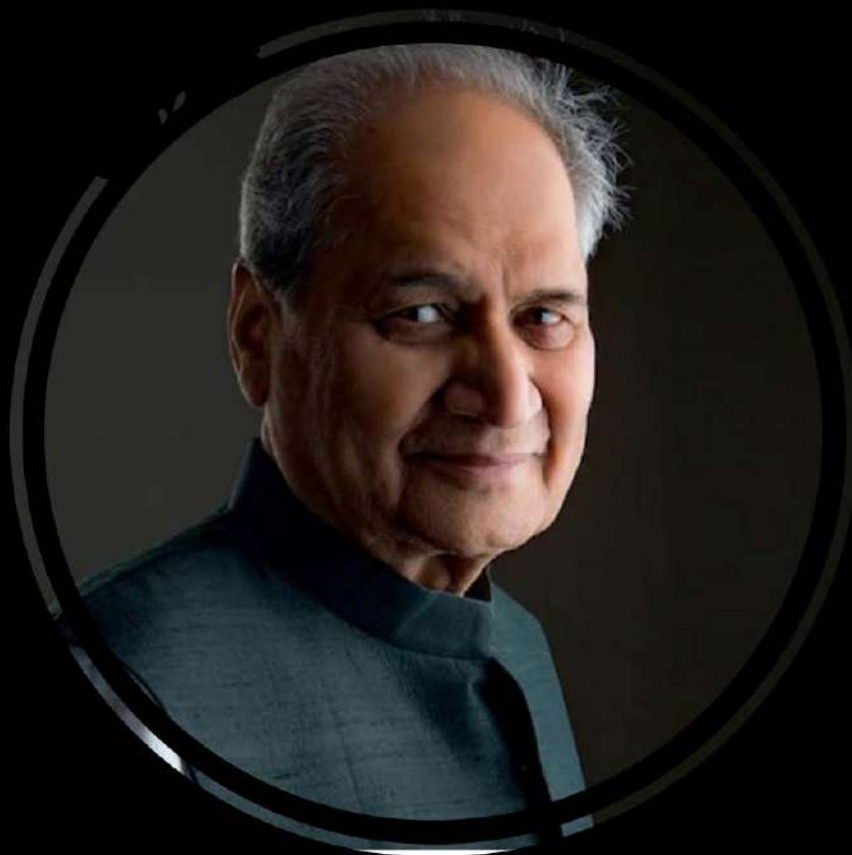
Vehicle electrification is one of the key areas in FedEx's journey toward reaching its carbon neutral operations goal. By 2040, it is intended that the



entire FedEx global parcel pickup and delivery (PUD) fleet will be zero-emission electric vehicles. This vehicle electrification goal is being approached through phased programs to replace existing vehicles. The aim is for 50% of FedEx Express global PUD vehicle purchases to be electric vehicles by 2025, rising to 100% by 2030.

"The trial is a critical part of the integration of electric vehicle technology across our operations. Finding the right technology to serve our business, our customers, and our team members will play a key role in the successful integration of electric vehicles into the FedEx Express fleet," Sayegh said.

Rahul Bajaj passes away at 83



Industrialist Rahul Bajaj, former Chairman of Bajaj Group, passed away on Saturday (February 12, 2022) in Pune. He was 83. In 2001, Rahul Bajaj was conferred with the third-highest civilian award Padma Bhushan. He had also served as a Rajya Sabha MP.

A statement from Bajaj Group said "It is with deep sorrow that I inform you about the passing away of Shri Rahul Bajaj, husband of the late Rupa Bajaj and father of Rajiv/Deepa, Sanjiv/Shefali and Sunaina/Manish. He passed away on the afternoon of 12th February 2022 in the presence of his closest family members."

Bajaj was not keeping well for quite some time and passed away at around 2.30 pm on Saturday, a Bajaj group official said. His last rites will be held on Sunday. He is survived by two sons, Rajiv Bajaj and Sanjiv Bajaj, and a daughter Sunaina Kejriwal.

Born on June 10, 1938, Rahul Bajaj held a Bachelors degree in economics, a law degree from Mumbai University and an MBA from Harvard.

He resigned from his position of Non-Executive Director and Chairman at Bajaj Auto on April 30 last year. Dr Parvez Grant, chief cardiologist and managing trustee of Ruby Hall Clinic, said he was admitted to the hospital for the last one month. "He died due to age-related and heart and lung-related ailments," Grant added.

Hero Electric and Mahindra & Mahindra Announce Strategic Partnership in Electric Mobility

HERO Electric, India's No.1 EV company and the Mahindra Group announced their collaborative intent as part of Hero's growth and expansion plans to cater to the ever-growing demand for EVs in the country. The strategic partnership will create multiple synergies to help drive adoption across the country.

As part of the partnership, Mahindra Group will manufacture Hero Electric's most popular electric bikes – Optima & NYX at their Pitampur plant to meet the growing demands of the market. With this collaboration along with the expansion of their existing Ludhiana facility, Hero will be able to meet its demand of manufacturing over 1 million EVs per year by 2022. This will further enable them to drive adoption of a cleaner mode of transport.

Speaking on the announcement, Mr. Naveen Munjal, MD, Hero Electric said, "Hero Electric has been leading the Electric two-wheeler sector in the country. To further deepen its roots and strengthen the leadership, Hero Electric has announced a partnership with the Mahindra Group, which is leading the EV transition in the electric three and four wheelers space. This coming together of two industry leaders is to further enhance the manufacturing capabilities to meet demand and utilize Mahindra Group's robust supply chain to reach newer centers in the country. The long-term partnership will also see both the companies make the most out of each other's deep knowledge of EVs and drive new product development in the next few years.

We look forward to creating more synergies with them in the near future."

The joint development efforts will also be a key factor in developing the platform approach to help electrification of the Peugeot Motorcycles' portfolio. This is expected to bring significant value to both parties through optimization of costs, timelines, and shared knowledge in this dynamic, fast growing global EV environment.

Sharing his thoughts on the partnership, Rajesh Jejurikar, Executive Director, Auto & Farm Sectors, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., said, "Peugeot Motorcycles has ambitious plans in the EV mobility space in several regions of the world and particularly in Europe. This strategic partnership will bolster these efforts through joint development and a platform sharing approach leveraging the combined strengths of the two businesses. Our R&D Centre in India will be integral to this arrangement as will the manufacturing facility at Pitampur, that already supplies Peugeot with EV products. I see significant value creation on a mutually beneficial basis and look forward to this partnership delivering on its obvious promise."

The two companies will create a seamless channel of communication to aid knowledge sharing among the R&D teams to build new products and technologies. This will be done keeping the Indian and global markets in mind that will not just further the growth of electric vehicles, but also go on to set benchmarks for faster adoption in the industry.



HEROelectric
The smart move




Mahindra

Voltrix Mobility Launches E- cycle TRESOR



WITH a vision to contribute its part towards India's fight against the global climate change and lifestyle related issues, Voltrix Mobility, founded by a team of young and dynamic people, commenced its operations in the electric-powered mobility segment with the launch of their first product line exclusively designed for urban commute - aptly named the TRESOR.

A perfect blend of elegance and ergonomics, TRESOR is the best looking pedal-assisted electric bicycle which has been engineered with a 250 watt motor that makes for a smart, efficient and enjoyable ride. What makes TRESOR truly a one-of-a-kind is its removable integrated lithium ion battery that eliminates the need for charging stations and offers an impressive range of 60 - 80 km per charge and reaches a top speed of 25 kmph. The bicycle also comes with five levels of pedal assist, throttle-only (like a conventional bike), and manual pedaling mode.

Commenting on the brand launch, Mr. Viveak M Palanivasan, "Founder & CEO", Voltrix Mobility said, "According to WHO, physical inactivity is a leading cause for diseases and disability. Sedentary lifestyle

increases the risk of having diabetes and obesity. Research suggests that the majority of these diseases are inherited to the future generations as well. When you ride a pedal-assisted electric bicycle like TRESOR, you give yourself a safe and effective cardiovascular exercise that's high enough to make a significant positive impact on your health. And this, I

believe, is very critical in today's urban-lifestyle where technology brings everything to one's doorstep, leading to inactive, sedentary lifestyle diseases. The electric-powered bicycles are much needed for our country to be a healthy 'young India', the way it used to be till the early 90s', and I am confident that Voltrix will become a brand new alternative for safe, enjoyable and healthy transportation for the urban population."

Commenting on the TRESOR, Sakthivigneshwar R, TRESOR electric "SuperCycle", starts at Rs.55,999/- (Early bird offer) and it can be booked right now at Rs.999/-. Easy financing options are also available. It is integrated with the latest technologies and best of the safety features needed for office-goers to truly enjoy their everyday office ride. Delivery starts from the 2nd week of January, 2022.

Tata Motors launches its much coveted New Forever range of passenger vehicles in Bhutan

TATA Motors, a globally renowned automotive manufacturer, has launched its New Forever range of passenger vehicles in Bhutan. In association with Samden Vehicles Pvt. Ltd., an authorized distributor of passenger vehicles in the country, Tata Motors will retail its latest range of passenger vehicles - the new generation Tiago, Tigor, Altroz, Nexon, Harrier and the flagship SUV, the Safari.

The New Forever range of Tata Motors passenger vehicles have been designed under the 'Impact 2.0' design language, with best-in class safety standards, offering superlative performance. The new range are feature-rich backed by superior technology offering a delightful ownership experience.

On the occasion, Mr. Mayank Baldi, Head – International Business, Passenger Vehicles, Tata Motors, said, "Bhutan is a an important market for our growth strategy. With the launch of our new generation of BS-6 passenger vehicles, we are all geared to claim our rightful place in the market. Engineered on three main pillars – design, safety and driving pleasure, the New Forever range comes with

best-in-class features and latest tech. Nexon has been" India's first 5-star GNCAP rated car, while Altroz is the only hatchback in its segment with a 5-star GNCAP safety. Tiago and Tigor with 4-star GNCAP safety ratings are safest in their categories. With the support and commitment of our esteemed partners, Samden Vehicles Pvt. Ltd., we promise to deliver a superior sales and after sales experience to our customers.

Announcing the launch of this much-anticipated New Forever Range of products in the Bhutanese market, Mr. Ronrig Mutusang, Chairman of the Samden Vehicles Pvt. Ltd said, "We are proudly representing Tata Motors Ltd for its Passenger Vehicles range for last 14 years. New Forever Range from Tata Motors is truly the industry best offering in terms of superior styling, unmatched safety standards and value for money. With BS-6 emission it complies with the environment friendly emission norm. We strongly believe that these New Forever Range of vehicles will gain wider popularity in Bhutanese market."



The Fearless: The all-new BMW M4 Competition Coupé launched in India.

BEST-in-class: Six-cylinder in-line engine delivers standout performance, 0-100 in 3.5 seconds Bold and visually striking appearance with large BMW kidney grille, M gills and M exclusive packages. Ergonomically flawless M specific interiors with carbon trims exude intense M feeling.



BMW Group India has launched the new BMW M4 Competition Coupé today. The pace-setting high-performance sports car is available at shop.bmw.in as a completely built-up unit (CBU). Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "For the last 50 years, BMW M has stood for those who enjoy high performance and supremacy of excellence. The all-new BMW M4 Competition Coupe delivers an uncompromised track and street experience at a whole new level with distinctive combinations. Superior engineering promises unparalleled driving dynamics, adrenaline-fueled body styling, head-turning road presence, while still holding the famous legacy of its motorsport lineage."

The all-new BMW M4 Competition is available in a petrol variant at ex-showroom price of - The BMW M4 Competition Coupé M xDrive: INR 1,43,90,000.

The all-new BMW M4 Competition Coupé The distinctive body design of the all-new BMW M4 Competition Coupé sends out a bolder statement than ever of its performance supremacy and emotionally engaging driving experience at hand. Visually striking exterior includes the M-specific version of the large,

vertical BMW kidney grille with hallmark double bars in a horizontal design, the powerfully sculpted wheel arches with eye-catching M gills, and the prominently extended side sills with attachment parts for the front and rear aprons. Adaptive LED Headlights with BMW Laserlight are specified as standard. The M-specific exterior mirrors have aerodynamically optimized contouring and are painted in High-gloss Black as standard. The car also sports aerodynamically optimized fins, a rear spoiler and two pairs of exhaust tailpipes finished in Black Chrome.

The Fearless: The all-new BMW M4 Competition Coupé launched in India.

The interior has clearly structured surfaces and an ergonomically impeccable cockpit design that ensures the driver's focus remains one hundred per cent on the intense driving experience. The electrically adjustable M sport seats and M Leather 'Merino' with extended contents upholstery with Carbon fiber trim come as standard. Exclusive functions such as M Seat belts, Multifunction for steering wheel, seat heating with lumbar support (driver and front passenger), electrical seat adjustment with memory function, and automatic anti-dazzle function in all mirrors add a further sporty touch to the interior. Extremely lightweight high-tech Carbon Fibre Reinforced Polymer (CFRP) sunroof lowers the centre of gravity and enhances its agility. Ambient Lighting creates an atmosphere for every mood while Automatic 3 zone A/C further enhances the in-cabin experience. The car is equipped with Adaptive M-Specific Suspension, M Sport Differential, M high performance compound brakes and 19"/20" M forged wheels Double-spoke style 826 M Bicolour Black in the standard profile. Customers can add more equipment to enhance the overall experience through optional offerings such as Active seat ventilation, M Racetrack package, M Carbon Exterior package, M Drive professional, M Compound Break red high gloss and 19"/20" 825 M double-spoke wheels in polished Orbit Grey and Bicolor black.

The new 3.0-litre straight-six unit combines the hallmark high-revving character of BMW M GmbH engines with the latest version of M TwinPower Turbo technology. The petrol engine of the BMW M4 produces an output of 510 hp and a maximum torque of 650 Nm at 2,750-5,500 rpm. The car accelerates from 0 -100 km / hr in just 3.5 seconds.

The eight speed M Steptronic transmission enables extraordinary short shift times and fast, precise responses to every nudge of the accelerator. The driver can access three clearly distinct setups in both automatic and manual mode – comfort oriented, sports focused, or track optimized. The Setup button on the centre console provides direct access to the settings options for the engine, chassis, steering and braking system, plus traction control.

EFFICIENT, SPORT and SPORT PLUS settings can be engaged to modify the engine's characteristics, while selecting the COMFORT, SPORT or SPORT PLUS chassis mode provides access to the three settings for the electronically controlled dampers.

The all-new BMW M4 Competition delivers maximum driving pleasure coupled with an outstanding performance and fuel consumption ratio thanks to BMW EfficientDynamics measures such as intelligent lightweight design, Brake Energy Regeneration, Auto Start-Stop function, electric power steering, differential and transfer case with optimised warm-up.



Kia India launches Carens in India

special introductory price starts from INR 8.99 Lakhs



Kia India, the fastest-growing carmaker in the country, announced the launch of its fourth and latest 'Made-for-India' offering, the three-row recreational vehicle, Carens. The Carens' Premium Smartstream 1.5 Petrol 6MT variant is priced competitively at INR 8.99 Lakhs (ex-showroom, pan-India). The Carens is offered in 19 variants with prices ranging from INR 8.99 to 16.99 Lakhs (ex-showroom, pan-India). This highly anticipated model is available in 5 trims, 3 engine and 3 transmission options. With a comprehensive list of features and a strong emphasis on safety, the Kia Carens is designed to be one of the safest cars in the country and the most compelling value proposition for modern Indian families, packing the sophistication of a family mover and the sportiness of an SUV in one. So far, the company has received 19,089 bookings for the car in just over 1 month since the bookings opened on 14th Jan, 2022.

The Kia Carens is available in five trim levels: Premium, Prestige, Prestige Plus, Luxury, and Luxury Plus. The vehicle comes in seven-seater configurations from Premium to Luxury trims, with the Luxury Plus trim offering both 6- and 7-seater configurations. The Robust 10 Hi-safety package, which includes 6 airbags, DBC, VSM, HAC, ESC and All-Wheel Disc Brakes, to name a few, comes standard on all five trim levels, making the Kia Carens one of the safest

family movers. The Kia Carens is offered with three engine options: Smartstream 1.5 Petrol, Smartstream 1.4 T-GDi Petrol, and 1.5 CRDi VGT Diesel, mated with three transmissions - 6MT, 7DCT, or 6AT.

Low Maintenance Cost

In addition to the exciting pricing, the Carens also offers maintenance cost as low as 37 Paise per kilometre. The company continues to personalise the vehicle servicing process for its customers and offer a competitive maintenance cost for all its models in the country.

Commenting on the occasion, Tae-Jin Park, Managing Director and CEO, Kia India, said, "Since inception, we have remained focused on adding value to Indian customers' driving experiences through our ground-breaking vehicles and services. The Carens is a true Kia, offering Best in Class features, immaculate design and practicality, a wide range of variant choices at a compelling price point. The pricing offers us an opportunity to cater to an even more diverse set of our customer. We will enhance our production to meet this increased demand."

He further added: "We are confident also that our customers will have a wonderful ownership experience of the Carens, which incurs maintenance cost starting from as low as 37 paise per kilometre. The value proposition offered would make this a vehicle of choice for modern Indian families."

Tata Motors introduces advanced CNG technology in the Tiago and Tigor

TATA Motors, India's leading automobile brand, launched the advanced iCNG technology in its ever popular brands – Tiago and Tigor. iCNG powered vehicles offer a delightful customer experience with incredible performance, offer best in class safety and come with an impressive array of features including segment-first technologies and promising hassle-free ownership.

With this launch, Tata Motors plans to strengthen its position in the CNG market, empowering customers to drive in style and experience an advanced CNG technology, without any compromise. In line with the CNG markets in India, the new iCNG range from Tata Motors, will be available at the company's authorised sales outlets at a starting price of INR 6,09,900, ex-showroom Delhi, for the Tiago iCNG.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd., and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "The demand for both economical personal mobility as well as greener, emission friendly mobility is rapidly rising. With this foray in the fast growing segment of

CNG powered vehicles, we are offering more choice to our discerning customers. Our iCNG range offers a delightful experience with incredible performance, a wide range of premium features, upmarket interiors and uncompromised safety. Developed on the 4-pillars of Design, Performance, Safety and Technology, the feature rich iCNG technology will further expand the appeal of our popular 'New Forever' range of cars and SUVs to open new vistas for growth."

The new Tiago iCNG and Tigor iCNG are powered by the Revotron 1.2L BS6 engine which produces maximum power of 73PS – the highest for any CNG car in this segment. The iCNG cars come in with best-in-class technology and features, programmed to deliver optimum performance and seamless shifting of fuel modes from Petrol to CNG and vice versa, providing a no-compromise experience for their customers. In an endeavour to provide the CNG customers with a range of options to choose from, Tata Motors has introduced its iCNG vehicles across trim levels of the Tiago and the Tigor.



Lexus india opens pre-bookings for the all-new lexus nx 350h

LEXUS India, announced the opening of pre-bookings for its much refined, bold & edgy SUV, the all-new Lexus NX 350h in India. Ushering in a new era of luxury, Lexus is embracing intuitive technology, performance, design, and electrification through this model. The all-new 2022 Lexus NX 350h embodies a design that signifies the next generation of Lexus, combining dynamism with purposeful technology enhancements to thrill your enchanting everyday drive. The NX will be a hallmark for future Lexus models incorporating the Tazuna concept, the Lexus driving signature, amongst many more.

The Lexus NX was first launched in India in 2018 showcasing a bold design and exhilarating performance. In 2020, the NX portfolio was further expanded with the launch of the new variant, the NX 300h Exquisite.

Naveen Soni, President Lexus India, said "The Lexus NX, because of its agility, spacious functionalities, and sportiness, has been one of the most loved models by



our guests in India. We are eager to launch this new NX at the earliest and are confident that the NX is sure to set a new benchmark in the luxury market. The all-new NX will come with class-leading innovations in driving dynamics, styling, and much refined environment-friendly hybrid technology. Our guests are at the core of everything we do, and we will endeavor to offer them amazing experiences. We strongly believe that this will further reinforce Lexus's presence in the luxury car market in India".

MG Motor announces the 3rd season of its Developer Program and Grant with

MG Motor India, along with the consortium members, is back with the third season of the MG Developer Program & Grant – the annual flagship innovation program, supported by Startup India and Invest India. The initiative aims to encourage tech start-ups to build new, technologically advanced applications and experiences to strengthen India's mobility space.

The theme for Season 3.0 of MG Developer Program & Grant is centered on Car as a Platform (CaaP), a future of mobility concept that makes cars safer and smarter. To further propagate this new-age innovation, MG Motor India has also unveiled an in-depth white paper on CaaP to illustrate the game-changing applications of this futuristic technology. The consortium partners are Jio, SAP, Adobe, KoineArth,



L&T Technology Services, MapmyIndia, and Bosch amongst others.

Mr. Deepak Bagla – MD & CEO Invest India said, "India is the 4th largest vehicle market in the world and is expected to be the world's third-largest automotive market in terms of volume by 2026. This program is a crucial step towards nurturing innovation in India's automobile sector, for continued strength in the global economy."

GLOBAL EYE



Hybrid system from Schaeffler subsidiary Compact Dynamics revolutionizes World Rally Championship

THE hybrid era is beginning in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) this week at the Monte Carlo Rally (January 20–23). Through its subsidiary Compact Dynamics, the automotive and industrial supplier Schaeffler is once again playing a pioneering role and is equipping all the vehicles with an innovative hybrid system. By introducing new technical

regulations, the International Automobile Federation FIA is not only ensuring more safety and equal opportunities, but is also driving forward the further development of sustainable drives through this popular championship, which will be held for the 50th time this year. "For Schaeffler and Compact Dynamics, motor sport has played an important role in

the development of innovative technologies for volume production solutions in the field of e-mobility for many years", says Dr. Jochen Schröder, head of the E-Mobility business division at Schaeffler



Renault, Nissan & Mitsubishi Motors announce common roadmap

PARIS, Tokyo, Yokohama – January 27th, 2022 - Renault Group, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. and Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, the members of one of the world's leading automotive alliances, announced common projects and actions to accelerate and to shape their shared future towards 2030, focusing on the mobility value chain.

The Alliance has defined a

common 2030 roadmap on pure-EV and Intelligent & Connected mobility, sharing investments for the benefits of its three-member companies and their customers.

The Alliance members have developed a "smart differentiation" methodology that defines the desired level of commonality for each vehicle, integrating several parameters of possible pooling, such as

platforms, production plants, powertrains or vehicle segment. This is supplemented and enhanced by a stricter approach to design and upper-body differentiation. For example, the common platform for the C and D segment will carry five models from three brands of the Alliance (Nissan Qashqai and X-Trail, Mitsubishi Outlander, Renault Austral and an upcoming seven-seater SUV).

LML forms strategic alliance with former Harley Davidson Manufacturing Facility in India

LM L Electric is laying the groundwork for a long-term future in the EV business in India and around the world, and it's doing so in style. The company announced a strategic partnership with Saera Electric Auto, one of the largest auto two-wheeler producers formerly manufacturing for global major – Harley Davidson. Saera's state-of-the-art facility strategically located in the auto hub of Bawal in Haryana is now set to produce the most disruptive range of the upcoming LML Electric vehicles. The highly advanced and innovative infrastructure of Saera, backed by its historical competence in manufacturing will now be leveraged to develop the much talked about and an anticipated EV range of products from the LML electric stable.

LML intends to build a future-ready manufacturing facility using Saera's cutting-edge technology and processes. This is the first of many steps for LML to transition into a 100% 'Make in India' company by end of 2025. The manufacturing plant, which spans 2,17,800 square feet and has a capacity of 18,000 units per month, is equipped with best-in-class infrastructure. Its prior excellence in manufacturing for global behemoths would offer a distinct edge in streamlining, scaling up and providing world-class quality assurance to LML, making this a very promising collaboration.

As LML gears up to enter the exponentially growing EV industry, it is being approached by a wide array of design and engineering firms from Europe to Japan. Dr. Yogesh Bhatia, MD & CEO of LML along with his core team has been in talks with global manufacturing entities seeking futuristic collaborations in product design and engineering innovations.

Commenting on the partnership, Dr. Yogesh Bhatia, CEO of LML, says, "We are very pleased to announce this important collaboration with one of the most reputed manufacturing names in the two-wheeler and auto segment. Saera was our first choice because the company holds unparalleled expertise and reputation with some of the world's premier auto brands.

At LML, we hold a strong vision with this alliance as we aspire to create a brand that is 100% localized and has an impeccable quality assurance that is world-class."

"We foresee an immediate need for automakers to reduce their dependence on imports and build an infrastructure that is designed and capable to address the rapidly growing demand in India and the world over. We are confident that this partnership will be a stepping stone in our vision to redefine and reimagine the future of EV manufacturing in India to bring the country at par with global manufacturing standards.", he further added.



Yamaha Launches Refreshed FZS-Fi Models



WITH the aim to stimulate more excitement and sportiness in the Indian two-wheeler market under 'The Call of the Blue' initiative, India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt Ltd. launched the FZS-Fi model with refreshed styling along with a new variant, the FZS-Fi Dlx. The models will be available at all the authorized Yamaha Dealerships from second week of January 2022.

The FZS-Fi continues to retain the masculine design proportions seen on the 3rd generation of the FZ-Fi model range, and is powered by the same Blue Core, 149 cc engine producing 12.4 PS of peak power @ 7,250 rpm and 13.3 Nm of peak torque @ 5500 rpm.

For 2022, both the FZS-Fi models showcase LED tail lights, with the addition of LED flashers on the FZS-Fi Dlx variant. The FZS-Fi Dlx variant also features 3 new colours (Metallic Black, Metallic Deep Red and Solid Gray), with rich graphics, coloured alloy wheels, a two-level single seat with dual tone colours*, all of which impart the premium appeal of the motorcycle.

Both the FZS-Fi models are powered by Yamaha's revolutionary Bluetooth Enabled Connect-X App that provides a host of convenient features that include

Answer Back, Locate my Vehicle, Parking Record & Hazard, and Riding History. Apart from this, the 3rd Generation FZ-Fi and FZS-Fi model range showcase all of the existing set of features. These include a single channel ABS in the front with a rear disc brake, Multi-function LCD instrument cluster, an LED headlight, a tyre hugging rear mudguard, lower engine guard.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Eishin Chihana, Chairman, Yamaha Motor India Group of Companies said, "Under The Call of the Blue initiative, we will continue to reach out to our customers and upgrade our product range to meet their evolving needs. One such upgrade is the launch of FZS-Fi Dlx model which is based on our customer's feedback. The 3rd generation of the FZ 150 cc range has witnessed huge success as it proves to be the perfect combination of style and performance for the Indian youth. The launch of the FZS-Fi Dlx variant will enhance the premium appeal of the FZ model range further as the all-LED lighting setup makes the FZS-Fi Dlx & FZS-Fi more modern, and the striking colour combinations on the FZS-Fi Dlx with Led Flashers truly reflect the global spirit of Yamaha Racing."

Hyundai Releases ALCAZAR Campaign Featuring Shah Rukh Khan and Four Indian Cricketers - Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Taniyaa Bhatia and Shafali Verma



HYUNDAI Motor India Ltd. (HMIL), country's First Smart Mobility Solutions provider and the largest exporter since inception, recently announced its new campaign with the 6- and 7-Seater SUV – ALCAZAR, featuring Shah Rukh Khan and the 4 Indian Women Cricketers - Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Taniyaa Bhatia and Shafali Verma. Under the aegis of 'Beyond Mobility', the TVC captures premium quality, versatility, and space of the ALCAZAR, while portraying an interesting journey of Smriti, Jemimah, Taniyaa and Shafali with Shah Rukh Khan joining them on an exhilarating drive experience.

Commenting on the launch of the new campaign, Mr. Tarun Garg, Director (Sales, Marketing & Service), Hyundai Motor India Limited, said "As a brand that is driven by the vision of 'Progress for Humanity', Hyundai has transcended different dimensions to give customers meaningful and innovative messages, be it for our products, services or new initiatives. As India's leading SUV brand of 2021, our products offer customers experiences that go 'Beyond Mobility', exceeding their aspirations through Intelligent Technology, Innovation and Sustainability. With our latest campaign, Hyundai has engaged its young and inspiring Corporate Brand Ambassadors – Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Taniyaa Bhatia and Shafali Verma along with Shah Rukh Khan, to showcase the many unique and aspirational elements of ALCAZAR in thought-provoking series of events. As a youth centric brand, the new campaign showcases millennial preference for innovative new age technology and Hyundai's commitment to deliver the best through its world-class products."

The commercial showcases Hyundai ALCAZAR at the core of its communication and delves into a fun-filled conversation between the women cricketers & Shah Rukh Khan showcasing the intelligent, advanced, and future ready technologies in ALCAZAR along with the extravagance it offers. Completely awe struck around the unexpected presence of Shah Rukh Khan, the women cricketers are captured personifying their sporty spirit to action while exploring the SUV's elegance from every angle:

World's largest women only factory



OLA Electric, India's leading manufacturer of EVs, recently announced it has raised over \$200 million from Tekne Private Ventures, Alpine Opportunity Fund, Edelweiss and others. The latest round values the company at \$5 billion.

Over the last 12 months Ola Electric has built the Futurefactory, the world's largest 2W manufacturing facility, Ola S1 - the best scooter ever made and an entirely new and disruptive direct to consumer model with fully digital purchase coupled with home test rides and doorstep delivery and after sales service.

Over the last 12 months Ola Electric has built the Futurefactory, the world's largest 2W manufacturing

facility, Ola S1 - the best scooter ever made and an entirely new and disruptive direct to consumer model with fully digital purchase coupled with home test rides and doorstep delivery and after sales service.

Ola Futurefactory which will employ over 10,000 women at full capacity, will be the world's largest women only factory and the only all-women automotive manufacturing facility globally. Ola Electric is accelerating the world's transition to sustainable mobility by replacing the archaic systems with vehicles which are smart, affordable, and good for the planet.

Quiklyz to Offer Widest Range of Electric Vehicles (EVs) for Leasing and Subscription in India



Mahindra eVerito

₹ 21,399 /month



Tata Tigor EV

₹ 28,399 /month



Tata Nexon EV

₹ 31,599 /month

QUIKLYZ, the vehicle leasing and subscription business vertical of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (Mahindra Finance/MMFSL), announced that it will offer the widest range of electric vehicles (EVs) for leasing and subscription to potential customers. Quiklyz is a new-age digital born vehicle leasing and subscription platform that offers great convenience, flexibility, and choice to customers across Indian cities.

Quiklyz currently has the largest portfolio of EVs on the subscription platform. The portfolio spans across electric 4W from the leading OEMs offering electric vehicles including Mahindra, Tata Motors, Mercedes-Benz, MG Motors, Audi, and Jaguar as well as electric 3W load vehicles from Mahindra and Piaggio for e-commerce fleet operators.

Customers will have the flexibility to upgrade their vehicle in 2-3 years keeping in tune with ever increasing technology features in newer EV launches going forward.

The EVs on-road price is currently higher than petrol and diesel vehicles, although the running cost is much lower. The customers intending to purchase EV vehicles through bank loans therefore must pay very high down payment. However, with Quiklyz there is no requirement for down payment, and monthly subscription charges for EV 4W starts from as low as INR 21,399 / per month.



MG ZS EV

₹ 55,799 /month



Audi e-tron

₹ 233,599 /month



Mercedes-Benz EQC

₹ 239,599 /month

Komaki EV launches the much awaited Ranger & Venice



INDIA'S trusted EV manufacturer, Komaki Electric Vehicles has finally launched its much-awaited models – Ranger and Venice. Ranger holds the distinction of being India's first-ever electric cruiser. With IC engine cruisers like Indian Motorcycle, Harley Davidson and Royal Enfield already setting a high benchmark, this first-ever electric cruiser is ready to stun the market. The unique cruiser features big grosser wheels, illustrious chrome exteriors, and a fine paint job. Most importantly though, it has got a smooth ride sitting tight at its heart. That is precisely what the Ranger has been designed for.

On the other hand, Venice is a stylish new scooter that features iconic looks, better drivability, power, performance, and comfort. It has 3kw motor, battery pack of 2.9kw and will enter the market in 9 poppy colors.

The Indian two-wheeler market has been in the need of a revolution for a while and Ranger and Venice could be the perfect spark to start the fire. These vehicles feature cutting-edge modern technology and also bring with themselves that classic elegance and trust that every bike rider desires.

Featuring a 4 kW battery pack, which is the largest pack in a two-wheeler in India, Ranger will offer a range of 180-220 km in a single charge. This is an absolute treat for motorcycle enthusiasts. The Ranger is powered by a 4000-watt motor that'll help the bike scale roads flawlessly and smoothly. It will be made available to customers in three different colors – namely Garnet Red, Deep Blue, and Jet Black. This stunning model is equipped with Bluetooth sound system, side stand sensor, cruise control feature, anti-theft lock system and all inclusive accessories with dual storage box.

Venice is going to be a treat for customers of all age groups. Komaki has paired quintessential design with modern technology while developing scooter. Equipped with self-diagnosis system, mobile charging point, reverse assist, additional storage box and geared with a full body guard, this beauty is perfect for Indian roads.

These two new launches from Komaki are ready to change the auto industry. Ranger has tremendous potential to attract wanderers who are in search of a trusted travel companion. The comfortable seating and triple head lamps coupled with great mileage make it a real steal.

SPREADING WINGS



Ampere inaugurates one-of-a-kind Experience Centre at Ranipet Greaves Electric Mobility begins 2022 with a promising note

GREAVES Electric Mobility, a wholly owned electric mobility subsidiary of Greaves Cotton Ltd, begins new year 2022 on a promising note with Ampere inaugurating its first one-of-a-kind Experience Centre at Ranipet, Tamil Nadu.

The new Experience Centre of Ampere, Greaves Electric Mobility's two-wheeler arm, located at the newly launched mega EV facility in Ranipet, is uniquely designed with digital interventions that can enable the customer to understand & experience smart new age Ampere electric vehicles.

This launch reflects strong confidence displayed by multiple

stakeholders, customers, channel partners, suppliers and more in the brand. Ampere, as one of the fastest growing EV brands and part of Greaves Electric Mobility, like its parent brand, is investing significantly in people, technology and infrastructure. The company is moving ahead with an aim to provide a phygital experience wherein discerning buyers can check out the latest products, understand the world of EV & Ampere, interact with EV experts, engage through digital interfaces for simple & easy understanding of EV technology. Millennials are attracted towards new age mobility & freedom, passionate to talk



about auto tech and EV in their social circles over a cup of coffee. This unique experience center is another cozy & cool center wherein smart-tech integrated next-gen automotive

Pre-owned luxury car dealership Boys and Machines expand inventory

PRE-OWNED luxury car dealership Boys and Machines announced the addition of four new luxury cars to its inventory. These luxury vehicles have been added over the past one week. The key additions to the inventory are one unit each of Mercedes

G Wagon (G 63 AMG), Bentley GT, Mini Cooper, and Porsche Macan. The G 63 AMG is priced at rupees 1.01 crore, Bentley GT is to be sold at rupees 1.21 crore whereas Mini cooper and Porsche Macan (white) are available for rupees 21 lacs and 53 lacs respectively.



Logistics, TCS, and RC transfer cost are to be charged extra.

All the cars are stationed at Boys and Machines Gurugram studio and can be purchased pan India. The company has cars available from Rs 25 lacs to 3 crores from brands such as Mercedes, Audi, Volvo, Range Rover, Rolls Royce, BMW to name a few.

Mr. Akash Chaturvedi, CEO, Boys and Machines

HOP Electric Mobility expands footprint to 54 cities in India; inaugurates Ten new Experience Centres on Republic Day

MAKING far-fetching changes in the existing Indian e-mobility space by leveraging cutting-edge automobile technology and comprehensive Research & Development, HOP Electric has become India's leading electric vehicle manufacturer.

Reinforcing its commitment to Atma Nirbhar Bharat, HOP Electric has come up with a remarkable Republic Day present. In addition to announcing soon-to-be-launched HOP OXO, an indigenous

hi-speed electric motorcycle; HOP's generation upgrade of LYF (internally named LYF2.0) has completed development cycle and launch date will be announced soon.

Further, with the addition of 10 new exclusive cities, HOP now has 54 exclusive experience centres in 12 states across India, the brand is planning to further expand its footprint across India and have retail presence in more than 300 cities in 2022.



New Launches – OXO and a High-Speed Electric Scooter.

Maruti Suzuki to make Sonipat unit its largest production base in India

THE country's largest carmaker Maruti NSE 2.53 % Suzuki will shortly commence work on its new manufacturing facility in Sonipat, Haryana. It could emerge as the largest production base for Maruti in India.

Maruti Suzuki chairman R C Bhargava told ET that construction work will begin soon at the unit, which will be commissioned by 2025. "We are waiting for the clearances and will begin construction shortly. The first assembly line at the unit will be commissioned within three years," Bhargava said.

The Sonipat facility could have a total installed capacity of about a million units. Bhargava, "Unlike Gurugram and Manesar, there is land available to set up a fourth assembly line at Sonipat."

The company has three assembly lines each operational at its facilities in Gurugram and Manesar, with combined production capacity of around 1.5 million units. The company additionally sources vehicles from parent Suzuki Motor Corporation's (SMC) facility in Gujarat.



Overall, Maruti Suzuki will invest ₹18,000 crore on the facility at Sonipat, which will replace the Gurugram factory that faces issues of traffic and congestion as it is located near residential areas. The Gurugram unit is the first manufacturing facility the company made operational in 1983. The Gurugram unit rolled out the first model in its line-up - the iconic Maruti 800.

Maruti Suzuki's sales (domestic and exports) declined 6.7% to 1,457,861 units due to the impact of the nationwide lockdown imposed to check the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in the last financial year. Demand in the local market has revived on a fast clip post the second wave of covid, however, supply shortage of semiconductors continue to affect production across automakers. In the first nine months of the ongoing financial year, Maruti Suzuki's sales rose 20.5% to 1,163,823 units. The com ..

Spinny outlook 2022 - expansion with extra care initiatives

THE automotive consumer behaviour is increasingly being altered by the ongoing pandemic. As health and hygiene concerns take prominence amongst consumers, there is a significant change towards personal mobility & buyers shifting to the digital world. Spinny, a full stack used car buying platform focuses on providing a safe & smooth used car buying & selling experience with its #WithExtraCare initiative. Nothing exemplifies this better than the growing number of buyers who've got a used car delivered to their home with a complete online transaction.

With a significant growth journey in 2021, Spinny – the full-stack online-to-offline used car retail platform aims to expand to more than 30 cities by the end of 2022 and will strengthen its online deliveries to simplify the used car buying process for consumers. The Company will bring more technological advancement and modern solutions with contactless home deliveries this year in line with increasing consumer shift towards safety, convenience, and



environment-friendly personal mobility. Presently, Spinny is in 22 cities, including Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Indore, Kochi and Coimbatore. With SellRight by Spinny®, the brand facilitates hassle free selling experience from the seller's home. They are already active in the cities connected with the bigger cities such as Hubli, Mangalore, Mysore, Ambala and Karnal.

Spinny acquires AI-powered car connectivity solutions' startup, Scouto

Pre-owned car retailing platform Spinny has acquired a 100% stake in AI-powered Connected Car startup Scouto. The deal will mark one of the first consolidations in the AI-powered used car solutions segment where Spinny is gunning big to emerge as the market leader.

Founded by ex-racecar driver Akshay Gupta (CEO) & Shubham Sharma (CTO), Scouto has built an end-to-end Connected Car technology suite that provides detailed intelligence on car's health & performance, connects the vehicle owner to automotive service providers (e.g., insurers, Fast Tag players etc.) and improves the overall car ownership experience

significantly. The company is focused on the consumer car industry and caters to the various startups in the Automotive Aftermarket & used car space in India. In FY22, Scouto clocked approx INR 5 crores in revenue.

Niraj Singh, Founder & CEO of Spinny said "as part of the acquisition, Scouto's founders will become an integral part of Spinny & help build and drive our connected car offerings forward. We are very excited about the integration & the synergies of Scouto with Spinny. By augmenting each other's capabilities, we can accelerate towards building the country's largest and the most trusted used car brand"

Hyundai CRETA Becomes India's No. 1 Exported SUV

HYUNDAI Motor India Ltd., India's first smart mobility solutions provider and the largest exporter since inception, exported 32 799 units of the CRETA SUV in CY 2021, making it the most exported SUV in India and registering a growth of 26.17 % YoY. In total, Hyundai Motor India Limited exported 42 238 SUVs. Hyundai exported 25 995 units of the CRETA in CY 2020.

Along with maintaining SUV leadership in the domestic market for CY 2021, the CRETA is a shining example of committing to government of India's 'Make-in-India, made for the world' model. With this landmark achievement, Hyundai continues to be India's most preferred SUV brand and a strong and active participant in the government of India's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' Mission. Commenting on CRETA becoming the highest exported SUV from India, Mr. Un Soo Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Limited, said, "In line with Government's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', HMIL is committed to 'Make-In-India', for the world and continue its legacy of having SUV leadership in the country. Ever since its global debut,

CRETA has been a runaway success in domestic & international markets alike. It has been successful in evoking aspirations & has stood test of time by retaining customer appreciation, thereby playing a strategic role in Hyundai's Global SUV portfolio. With the CRETA being the most exported SUV from India, it makes Hyundai one of the most loved SUV brands within our overseas markets as well. The same is evident by the fact that HMIL is one of the leading SUV exporters in India with over 2.62 lakh units sent overseas with the CRETA contributing to over 93% of the total SUV exports, along with the VENUE.

Overall, HMIL registered cumulative exports of 1 30 380 units in CY 2021, achieving significant growth of 31.8 % over CY 2020 despite the constraints of global semi-conductor crisis and intermittent lockdown in various global markets. HMIL saw a remarkable growth of 91 % in its export orders owing to the brand's immense popularity and substantial pent-up demand. HMIL also added 4 new markets in its list of export countries – Dominica, Chad, Ghana and Laos.



Land rover opens bookings for new range rover SV



LAND Rover opened bookings for New Range Rover SV in India with a choice of exclusive design themes, details and material choices from Special Vehicle Operations. The Range Rover SV features a refined new 4.4 l Twin Turbo petrol which delivers a power of 390 kW and torque of 750 Nm and the efficient 3.0 l straight-six diesel which delivers a power of 258 kW and torque of 700 Nm. It will be available in both Standard and Long Wheelbase body designs, including a five-seat LWB configuration for the first time. LWB customers also have the option of specifying the four-seat SV Signature Suite with electrically deployable Club Table and integrated refrigerator.

Rohit Suri, President and Managing Director, Jaguar Land Rover India, said: "The New Range Rover SV adds more luxury and personalisation options thus enabling

our clients to create a truly individual Range Rover that embodies their own character and personality."

The New Range Rover SV is distinguished by carefully crafted enhancements that showcase and complement New Range Rover's modernist design. Exclusive front bumper and five-bar grille designs set the new flagship model apart, with the lower aperture featuring five precisely executed full-width metal-plated blades. Exquisite materials chosen for their tactility include smooth ceramics, sustainably sourced woods and lustrous plated metals, highlighting Special Vehicle Operations' passion for quality and uncompromising attention to detail.

Additionally, Range Rover SV models are available with 33.27 cm (13.1) Rear Seat Entertainment screens, which are the largest ever fitted to a Range Rover and the optimum size for comfort.

PEOPLE



LM, making strides in the e-mobility solutions industry globally, today announced the appointment of Mr. Partha Choudhary, a seasoned leader as its Chief Operating Officer (COO). Mr. Choudhary, who holds a track record of driving transformative growth across geographies, joins the league with Dr. Yogesh Bhatia, the CEO & MD, LML, accompanying his strong vision to turnaround the brand personality as well as the perception of EVs amongst users worldwide.



Mr. Partha Choudhary



Mr. MyungSik Sohn

Kia India appoints MyungSik Sohn as Chief Sales Officer

KIA India, the fastest-growing carmaker in the country, announced the appointment of Mr. MyungSik Sohn as Chief Sales Officer (CSO) with effect from Jan, 2022. In his new role, Mr. Sohn will oversee the planning and execution of sales strategies aimed at driving growth. He will also collaborate with Kia India's current leadership to expand the brand's reach in tier 3, 4, and upcountry markets.

Mr. Sohn has been associated with Kia Corporation for 27 years, and during his last position, he served as General Manager in the China. Throughout his illustrious career with Kia Corporation, he has held various leadership positions in China, Mexico, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, Korea, and Europe.

Autobot Academy Appoints Rajeev Sharma as Head, Learning and Development

INDIA'S first and leading EV learning company, has appointed Mr Rajeev Sharma as the Head, Autobot Academy Learning and Development (L&D) division. Mr Rajeev is a prominent automotive professional and corporate trainer with over 34 years of industry experience in areas such as After Sales, Field Service, Customer Relation, Automotive Technical and Behavioural Training, Profit Centre Operations and Sales and Distribution Management etc.

Mr Rajeev Sharma is a veteran of the automobile industry. He is highly qualified as well as experienced in global standard training and development of personnel, quality management, customer relations, and business development arenas. Over the years, he has displayed his leadership abilities across multidisciplinary and cross-functional roles in leading automobile brands in India. In spearheading Autobot Academy L&D, he would be endeavouring to put the company on the world map of EV learning.



Rajeev Sharma
Head Learning And
Development At
Autobot Academy

Nissan's new India-built compact SUV sees rapid expansion overseas

BUILT on the philosophy of "Make in India, Make for the World" Nissan has expanded the number of export markets for its highly popular Magnite compact SUV to 15 in total, following an incredibly successful first year on sale.

Magnite, produced at Nissan's Chennai plant in Tamil Nadu, was launched in December 2020 and has since gone on to achieve 78,000 cumulative customer bookings in India alone, with a further 6,344 shipped overseas.

Following the successful introduction of Magnite in South Africa and Indonesia last year, the award-winning car is now also available to customers in Nepal; Bhutan; Bangladesh; Sri Lanka; Brunei; Uganda; Kenya; Seychelles; Mozambique; Zambia; Mauritius, Tanzania and Malawi.

Magnite was the first global product to launch under the Nissan NEXT transformation plan, shifting the company's focus towards high-demand products that deliver lasting value to the business and to customers.

Since launching, more than 42,000 Magnites have been produced in Chennai, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing semiconductor shortage. This achievement earned Nissan India Operations the company's Global President's Award.

Nissan chairperson for the Africa, Middle East, India, Europe and Oceania region, Guillaume Cartier

said: "Magnite is an exceptional car and a fantastic showcase for Nissan design and engineering, as well as the strength and expertise of Indian manufacturing.

"I'm excited that customers in many more markets will be able to experience Magnite. It is a great example of Nissan's innovative approach in bringing engaging products, with a strong and uniquely 'Nissan' identity, to our customers.

The Nissan Magnite has already won a number of high-profile automotive awards in India, including from BBC Top Gear India, Car & Bike and Autocar India, and was recently named The Race Monkey Car of the Year 2021.

Sinan Ozkok, President, Nissan Motor India, said: "Nissan Magnite is a true reflection of Nissan's philosophy of 'Make in India, Make for the World'. We are proud to export the 'Big, Bold and Beautiful' Nissan Magnite to 15 markets across the globe. It demonstrates the universal appeal of great design, performance and value."

Biju Balendran, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Renault Nissan Automotive Private Ltd, (RNAIPL) said: It's a great testament - both to the car itself as well as our India team - that within just a year of launch, we are now exporting Magnite to an increasing number of overseas markets."



Australian-Indian Joint Venture to Supply Hydrogen Powered Products and Vehicles



AUSTRALIAN Vehicle and Powered Products Manufacturer H2X Global Ltd. and Indian Manufacturing and Development Company ADVIK Hi-Tech Pvt. Ltd. announced a joint venture for products and components for Hydrogen Vehicles and Powered products for India and for Global Market.

The vehicles and components have been designed and developed by the H2X Global design team and production is scheduled to start immediately to cater for the rapidly growing demand for hydrogen powered equipment and vehicles in India.

H2X is driven by a team with over 20 years of experience in Europe and Asia with the development of Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Vehicles and Power Systems and currently developing several customer delivery programs for Fixed Power Generation and vehicles in Europe, Australia, South East Asia, Africa and South America.

ADVIK is a global leader of Automotive components with a leading position in the Passenger car, Commercial Vehicle and Two-Wheeler production chain as a core supplier of high technology components to almost all major OEMs and over \$100 million in annual revenues. ADVIK is a leader in high technology low weight application and together with



H2X will take a leading position in the development and production of solutions for Hydrogen Power and Hydrogen Mobility in India.

Launching immediately H2X and ADVIK will begin production of H2X's Series of Fuel Cell Powered Generators. H2X currently has several of these units in deployment in Australia. The first generators manufactured by the joint venture will be put into service with a large-scale power system providing emission-free power for ADVIK's state of the art Research and Development Centre located in Pune, India.

"India is destined to be a leader in the Hydrogen Industry with strong support from Government and Industry. As a company which has always been ahead of the curve, we are aggressively pushing into the Hydrogen space as a core growth area for our company and as a leader of this movement in the country," says Aditya Bhartia, Managing Director for ADVIK Hi-Tech. "We have great confidence in the product range from H2X as being one with several key opportunities to support to the deployment of Hydrogen in the Indian Market and together with our local knowledge and expertise we see great opportunity to develop this for the acceleration of the Indian Clean Energy movement."

Over the past year, the two companies have been working together to explore opportunities for Hydrogen in the Indian market and as the dawn of the Green Hydrogen Revolution comes upon the country the Joint Venture is launched to position H2X and ADVIK as key players within that.

Apollo Tyres partners with Tata Power to deploy EV charging stations at its Commercial & Passenger Vehicle Zones across India



With their commitment towards Green Mobility and to #DoGreen, Tata Power, one of India's largest integrated power companies, and Apollo Tyres Ltd, the leading tyre manufacturer in India, have announced a strategic partnership for the deployment of public charging stations across India.

These charging stations will be deployed at Apollo Tyres' Commercial and Passenger Vehicle Zones spread across the country. Tata Power has a presence across all the segments of the EV charging ecosystem and has deployed all types of chargers – DC 001, AC, Type2, Fast DC chargers up to 50kwh and up to 240kwh chargers for buses. Based on location, this classification of chargers will support EV charging for two-wheelers & four-wheelers, respectively.

As per the agreement between Apollo Tyres and Tata Power, the latter will set up Charging Stations at 150 branded retail outlets – CV and PV Zones – of Apollo Tyres initially. In addition to the customers visiting these tyre retail outlets, the charging stations would also be open for use by the general public as well, throughout the year.

Dr Praveer Sinha, CEO and MD of Tata Power, stated, "We are glad to partner with Apollo Tyres

for the deployment of EV charging stations across their commercial & passenger vehicle zones. This partnership reflects our commitment to developing and expanding the electric vehicle ecosystem in the country."

Commenting on this move, Satish Sharma, President, Asia Pacific, Middle East & Africa, Apollo Tyres Ltd said, "This is another of the several first moves that we have taken in the tyre and auto component space in India. The setting up of EV Charging Infrastructure at our Business Partner's premises mobility in the country. With Tata Powers' hug strengthen our resolve towards promoting green e service network, we are assured of the availability of uninterrupted charging infrastructure across locations."

Tata Power has deployed an extensive EV charging infrastructure with over 1000 + EV charging points across 200 different cities under the EZ Charge brand along with a digital platform to facilitate an easy and smooth customer experience. This network of public EV charging stations provides innovative and seamless EV charging experiences for customers across Offices, Malls, Hotels, Retail Outlets, and places of public access, enabling clean mobility and freedom from range anxiety.

The Future of Mobility in India is Electric:

Deloitte Global Automotive Consumer Study 2022

Deloitte's Global Automotive Consumer Study 2022 demonstrates a shift in mobility trends. More than a third of Indian consumers have expressed interest in electrified and hybrid vehicles, as the segment sets steam with India's focus on environment friendly, self-manufactured, and sustainable solutions post pandemic.

According to the study, 59% Indian consumers are concerned about climate change, pollution levels and gasoline/diesel vehicles emissions, indicating that consumers interest in EVs is due to the perception of lower fuel costs, environmental consciousness, and a better driving experience.

Complimenting these efforts are also the latest policy developments announced in this year's Union Budget on battery swapping and charging infrastructure. These developments are likely to boost consumer confidence and enable a way to address the challenges around adoption.

Commenting on the launch of the report, Rajeev Singh, Partner and Automotive Leader, Deloitte India said, "Riding on the crest of evolving customer needs and disruptive innovations, the Indian automotive industry is going to witness a new era of growth. Our latest study delves deep into the changing consumer perceptions indicating a significant increase in the number of consumers who are evaluating alternate power train options and this is likely to drive growth of EVs (especially two and three wheelers) in the country

Additionally, we have also witnessed the growth of a latent need for subscription-based models to cater to the ever-evolving needs of millennials and GenZs with its flexible ownership ability."

Subscription of services provided by various auto brands helps Indian consumers attain a variety of vehicle ownership option without actually buying it. Consumers have got used to rental services (chauffeur



and self-driven) and are now looking for long-term solutions that are convenient and cost-effective.

The Indian government also recently revised the rules for the EV charging infrastructure and allowed the respective owners to charge their EVs using the existing electricity connections at homes or offices. This effort will give an additional push to Indians for adopting EVs in the near future.

Beyond being a sustainable solution to the consumers, EVs are also cost effective.

With the rising demand, many auto manufacturers and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) have started getting into strategic partnerships to drive adoption across the country. These positive developments have led to an array of investors already showing interest in capitalising on this opportunity.

India's safest hatchback, Tata ALTROZ, turns two Adds ALTROZ XT and XZ+ (diesel) to its DARK range

KEEPING the New Forever brand promise, Tata Motors, India's leading automotive brand, celebrated the 2nd anniversary of its premium hatchback – The ALTROZ, by extending the #DARK edition to its XT and XZ+ (diesel) trims. Since launch in July 2021, the ALTROZ #DARK has received an overwhelming response and there have been consumer requests to extend to additional trims. This extension is aimed at expanding its customer base and introducing premium styling & popular features. With bookings starting today, the ALTROZ #DARK XT will be available at authorized Tata Motors dealership at an introductory price of INR 7.96 lakhs (ex-showroom Delhi).

Commenting on this occasion, Mr. Rajan Amba, Vice President, Sales, Marketing and Customer Care, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. said, "The ALTROZ has created its own mark in the premium hatchback market with more than 1.2 lakh happy owners. With over 20% market share (YTD)

in its segment, it has been very popular amongst customers. The addition of the #DARK to its portfolio last year further enhanced its style quotient. The ALTROZ offers true international standards of safety, design and performance and has played an important role in enhancing our New Forever range. We would like to celebrate the brand's 2nd anniversary with our customers with these product extensions, making it more accessible and offering exciting feature updates. With increasing recognition from Indian consumers and earning incremental market share year on year, we are confident that ALTROZ is poised for more success in the future."



Volvo Cars reports all-time high revenue and profitability for 2021

VOLVO Cars today reported an all-time high revenue and profitability for the full year 2021. The demand for the company's cars remained strong with growing unit sales, despite persistent component supply shortages in the auto industry.

The company's revenue for 2021 amounted to SEK 282 bn, up from SEK 262.8 bn in 2020. It reported an operating income of SEK 20.3 bn for the year, up from SEK 8.5 bn in Covid-19 affected 2020. The operating margin for the period was 7.2 per cent.

"2021 was a year to be proud of for Volvo Cars. Despite persistent component supply shortages in the auto industry, we increased market share globally and delivered all-time high revenue and profitability," said Håkan Samuelsson, chief executive Volvo Cars.



MG Motor marks Two Years of ZS EV



MG has raced to become the second largest EV manufacturer in India, taking 27% market share in the segment. ZS EV continues to attract customers' interest in India as MG averages 700 bookings per month. ZS EV's success in the market marks the beginning of a truly collaborative ecosystem-building approach to electric vehicles in India. The year 2021 was eventful for MG, as the brand recorded a growth of 145% in sales for ZS EV, at 2798 in the year 2021, when compared to the year 2020. MG Motor India offers the most value-for-money electric vehicle – MG ZS EV, based on the global popular platform from their home country, the UK that has a certified range of 419 Kms in one full-charge, the longest range offered compared to any EV in India. The car comes with a best-in-class 44.5 kWh Hi-Tech battery. Equipped with new 215/55/R17 tyres, the vehicle and battery-pack ground clearances have been increased to 177 mm and 205 mm, respectively. ZS EV comes in two variants, Excite and Exclusive, with price starting from Rs. 21.49 Lac.

The shift to EVs is most visible among MG owners. Nitin Agarwal from Pune, an owner of Hector Smart

Diesel upgraded to an MG ZS EV. Another customer, Deepak Singh from Mumbai has upgraded from Hector 2019 to ZS EV in 2021. Apart from the loyal MG customers making the shift to ZS EVs, owners of other brands are also seeing value in exchanging their ICEs with MG ZS EV. Seema Rawal from Rohini New Delhi, a customer of Jeep wanted to move to an EV. She decided to exchange her Jeep for the ZS EV.

The MG ZS EV comes with 143 PS power and 350 Nm torque and can reach from 0 to 100 kmph in 8.5 seconds. It is available in two variants – Excite & Exclusive. As India's first pure electric internet SUV, it adopts MG signature global design cues and comes loaded with features such as a panoramic sunroof, 17-inch diamond-cut alloy wheels, PM 2.5 Filter, and more. Along with the ZS EV, MG extends its customers a 5-way charging ecosystem including free-of-cost AC fast-charger at residences/offices, portable in-car charging cable, DC superfast charging stations at dealerships, 24x7 charge-on-the-go facility (in 5 cities), and charging stations in satellite cities and tourist hubs.

Nissan India launches initiative to sustain the environment



NISSAN India is launching a major initiative at its plant in Chennai to support nearby villages in conserving natural water bodies, reducing pollution and raising living conditions.

The initiative will create more greenery around the lakes and strengthen bunds through a program of Miyawaki tree planting around the village of Vallakottai. In addition, Nissan will decompose garbage through specialised equipment, which will reduce the volume of garbage in the area by a factor of 300.

Through this initiative, Nissan will also be supporting the villagers to solve the issue of water shortages during summers. The company will recharge ground water and contribute towards building-up of the water table, which will enhance water conservation and enable the growth of flora and fauna. This is all with support from the local authorities, District Collector and their team.

Sinan Ozkok, President, Nissan Motor India said, "Globally, Nissan is committed to becoming an increasingly sustainable company. As part of this we understand fully the need to sustain and protect the environment. In addition to directly supporting villages close our Chennai plant, this program will highlight the need for a comprehensive and collaborative approach to protecting our natural habitats."

Apollo Tyres deploys EVs for last mile deliveries



BEING the leaders in the Indian market, Apollo Tyres, has taken the first step towards reducing

its carbon footprint across its value chain. The company has kicked-off a pilot initiative by deploying Electric Vehicles (EVs) for the delivery of tyres from its regional distribution centre (RDC) to multiple Business Partners in Bengaluru, in the southern part of India.

This initiative, while on one hand, shall address the concern of growing environment pollution, it will also help in providing solution to mitigate impacts of climate change. Using of EVs for last mile delivery falls under Scope 3 or Value Chain Emissions, which refers to the reduction of carbon emissions emanating out of the value chain of any entity including its upstream and downstream set of activities. Tyre manufacturing has a fairly large value chain and the emissions resulting out of its activities contribute to its overall carbon footprint.

CarTrade Tech targets 200 'CarWale abSure' outlets in the next 2 years

CARTRADE Tech Ltd, one of India's leading automotive platforms, launched "CarWale abSure" in its quest to revolutionise the way cars are purchased and sold in India and it has now opened its 22nd outlet. The company's vision is to ensure that customers can confidently purchase a used car from the comfort of their home with the click of a button. These cars are then delivered from the CarWale abSure outlets. The company plans to have 200+ CarWale abSure outlets across the country in the next 2 years so that customers will be able to select from thousands of CarWale abSure cars. These CarWale abSure outlets have been launched in partnership with large dealers in the country such as Shaman, Classic Automotive, Kolkata Car Bazaar etc,

CarWale abSure, an abbreviation for 'Absolutely Sure', focuses on customer trust, peace of mind, and ease. CarWale abSure is designed to facilitate the end-to-end customer online buying journey, which includes researching and selecting from a wide range of high-quality certified used cars, understanding pricing, obtaining a pre-approved loan, and finally having the desired car delivered to one's doorstep.



Speaking about CarWale abSure, Mr. Vinay Sanghi, Founder and Chairman - CarTrade Tech said, "We aim to completely digitalize the process of buying and selling cars in India. With the launch of CarWale abSure, we've made it simpler for customers to buy a used car from the comfort of their own homes. It is a key initiative of our organization, and we are committing substantial investments to digitalize the buying and selling journey by collaborating with dealers, manufacturers, and banks. In the next two years, we will strive to expand our presence across the length and width of India, with over 200 outlets."

The CarWale abSure brand is built on its 4S promise "Sure, Safe, Secure, Smart" to enable a seamless used car purchase and to make the journey smooth, reliable and gratifying for all parties concerned.

- **Be Absolutely Sure:** Peace of mind 7 Day money back guarantee with no questions asked if customers are not satisfied with the car purchased.
- **Be Absolutely Safe:** Excellent condition cars with zero accident and no tamper assurance.
- **Be Absolutely Secure:** High quality cars that have passed a rigorous 167-point certification before purchase.
- **Be Absolutely Smart:** All CarWale abSure 4S cars have a one-year or 15,000 km comprehensive warranty cover as standard, along with a year of free on-road assistance across India.

With its comprehensive offering, CarWale abSure is set to be a disruptor in the used car segment and transform the way consumers buy and sell used cars.



Jeep® India announces their new 7-seater SUV for India as the Jeep Meridian

JEEP® India announced the name of their most anticipated offering for the Indian market, a 7-seater SUV - the Jeep Meridian. The name has been carefully chosen for the customer's sensibilities, keeping in mind the relevance and importance of this model for the Indian market. The Jeep Meridian encapsulates the core DNA of the Jeep brand, an innate need to travel and make new adventures possible.

For Jeep, the name of the vehicle was the first step. A list of 70 different names were studied including a few global Jeep names. However, for an SUV that is completely 'Made in India' - a name with strong relevance and resonance to the market was required. The name is inspired by the line which passes through the length of India connecting some of the most beautiful states and cultures.

The 'Made in India' Jeep Meridian will be the first 7-seater SUV for Indian customers and fulfils an important commitment to the Indian market. The Jeep Meridian will be a combination of refinement, sophistication, class-leading performance, and unmatched capability.

Roland Bouchara, CEO & Managing Director,

Stellantis India, said on the occasion, "Jeep is an iconic brand, globally recognized for its capable SUVs. The Jeep brand's journey in India has been legendary and we hope to build on this, with another equally legendary SUV - the Jeep Meridian. Developed specifically for the Indian customer, we have delivered a sophisticated and capable SUV ready to harness a unique segment opportunity.

Our product offensive for 2022 and beyond will continue to illustrate our commitment to India as we work towards strengthening our market presence. The Jeep Meridian will further push the brand's attractiveness and transform the product portfolio for the Indian market."

Sharing his excitement on the announcement, Mr. Nipun J Mahajan, Head of Jeep India said, "The Jeep Meridian is our latest offering for the Indian market as part of our 2022 product strategy. We wanted to announce the name with an innovative activation and the K2K drive through the length of India is in line with the name of our new model. We tested the SUV on every kind of terrain India has to offer - by taking it on a challenging journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari."



MG Motor India and ACMA forge an alliance to promote skill development in the EV component industry

MG Motor India has joined hands with the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) with a vision to educate and foster skill development in the EV component industry.

ACMA will conduct a study on ZS EV to promote skill development in the component segment, syncing with the alliance's objective of supporting the development of the EV ecosystem. It will work in tandem with IIT Sonipat to further its research on the deployment of electric vehicles in urban India.

Commenting on the announcement, Rajeev Chaba, MG Motor India (President and MD), said, "MG Motor and ACMA will collaboratively add value to the EV component industry by imparting education and skill development to create a future-ready workforce. The alliance is also aligned with MG's vision of CASE mobility, learning & skill development, and overall commitment to strengthening the EV ecosystem."

Sunjay J Kapur, President, ACMA said "We are grateful to MG Motor for providing us with this opportunity. A future-ready workforce for manufacturing electric vehicles is the need of



the hour and this collaboration will help the auto component makers in upskilling themselves and remaining relevant."

The association is in line with MG's vision to support and develop the ecosystem for the electric vehicle. Previously, MG had formed an alliance with IIT Delhi – Centre for Automotive Research and Tribology (CART) for similar research.

more than 90% of the auto component industry's turnover in the organized sector. ACMA is an ISO 9001:2015 Certified Association.



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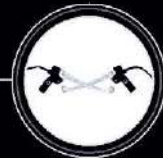
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