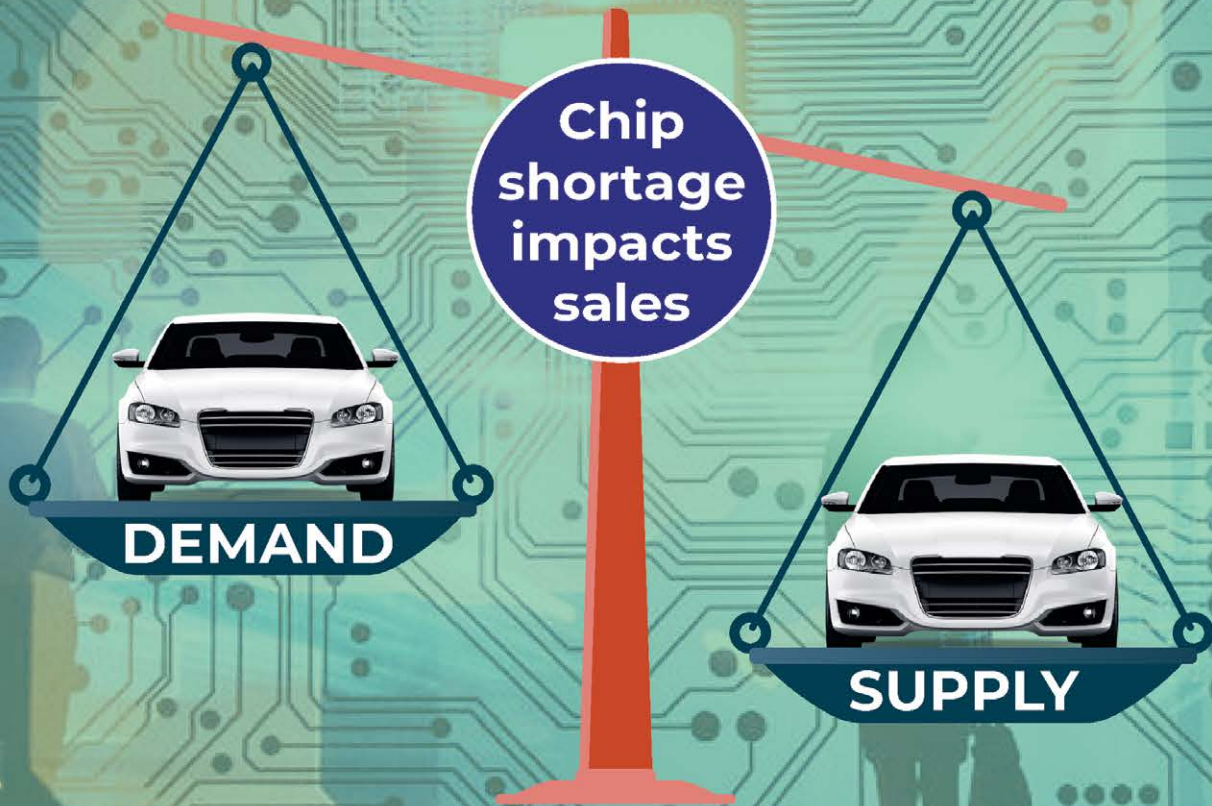


AUTOGUIDE

India's Automotive Industry & Trade Journal

56
YEARS
SINCE 1966

Supply constraints dampen festive spirit



“We are going to make flex fuels compulsory”

Mr Nitin Gadkari,
Minister of Road Transport and Highways



Scan Code For Digital Version

www.autoguideindia.com

EXCELITE

AUTOMOTIVE LIGHTING PROGRAM

**DRIVE
TO THE
TOP**

DH Lighting is leading the way of new technology changes and innovations in automotive lighting industry, meeting the demand of automotive industry technology and market changes.



DH Lighting

B-90/E, Type B, HSIIDC Industrial Estate, Sector-31,
Faridabad – 121001, Haryana
Customer care no.: 0129 – 4082806
Email: dhindia@doohee.com

PAVNA

adding value to automobile worldwide
Since 1971

PAVNA GROUP
enjoys a history of more than



of innovation, technology, manufacturing and market leadership, as the most experienced automotive part solutions company in **South Asia**.



Continuous
Quality Gold Awards Winner

High Quality Genuine Spare Parts
for Automotive Industry

Global Technical Alliance

Ultra - Modern Manufacturing Plants
in Aligarh, Pune, Waluj & Pantnagar



4 Wheeler Parts



3 Wheeler Parts



Scan & Visit
www.pavnagroup.com



+91 80064 09330



enquiry@pavnagroup.com



Vimlanchal, Harinagar, Gopalpuri
Aligarh - 202001

CONTENTS

NOVEMBER 2021

19 LAUNCHES

Maruti launches all-new Celerio

- 23 MG launches Astor
- 24 Toyota launches Legender 4X4
- 25 Skoda comes up with matte edition of Rapid
- 46 S90 and XC60, new petrol mild-hybrids from Volvo
- Volvo launches world's first vehicle using fossil-free steel



9 COVER STORY

Global chip shortage impacts festive sales



27 CARS

Audi Q5 bookings opened

- 27 Jaguar begins F-Pace deliveries
- 29 Gran Limousine Iconic Edition The long-wheelbase version of BMW 3 Series launched in India
- 30 BMW 5 Series Carbon Edition is now in India
- Skoda's upcoming mid-sized sedan is named SLAVIA
- 34 Triton showcases Model H
- 46 S90 and XC60, new petrol mild-hybrids from Volvo



21 ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Tata Motors to raise \$1 bn from TPG Rise Climate

- 32 Mahindra launches Treo electric auto in Nepal
- Godawari to venture into EV manufacturing
- 35 LEVC readies to launch TX in India
- 36 Detel EV partners Electric One
- Atum launches 10 EV charging stations in a day
- 48 Experts stress on indigenous EV mfg supply chain
- Ampere launches Magnus EX

14 ASSOCIATION NEWS

FADA pitches for legislation to protect auto dealers



41 MILESTONES

TVS HLX series crosses two-million milestone

TVS rolls out 1,00,000th unit of BMW 310cc series bike



39

AWARDS

Anand Mahindra,Venu Srinivasan conferred with Padma Bhushan



22

ACHIEVEMENTS

A hat-trick from Tata!

- 26 Hyundai placed higher in Interband global rankings
- Skoda celebrates Kushaq success



12

GOVT. INITIATIVES

We'll make flex-fuel engines compulsory, says Gadkari

31

PARTNERSHIPS

Nissan partners with Zoomcar, Orix

- 38 Kazam joins forces with BSES
- TVS partners with Bahwan Group



33

CELEBRITY NEWS

Rafael Nadal to promote Kia's EV6

Sindhu associates with Spinny



40

TWO-WHEELERS

Hero MotoCorp Launches XPulse 200 4 Valve



- 41 TVS HLX series crosses two-million milestone
- TVS rolls out 1,00,000th unit of BMW 310cc series bike
- 42 Hero launches Pleasure+ XTec
- 43 Hero MotoCorp launches Xtreme 160R Stealth Edition
- Bajaj's Dominor 400 comes in new avatar

49

INAUGURATIONS

First Jio-bp mobility station

Hero MotoCorp opens its dealership in Dubai



44

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Ashok Leyland launches upgraded e-comet Star

- 45 VECV new bus range



37

INITIATIVES

Okinawa to go 100 pc localised

Ather on expansion spree

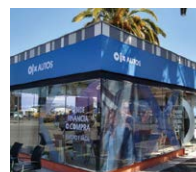


16

REPORTS

Pre-owned car market study

- 18 Urban Indians study
- 47 ICRA lowers growth forecast



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year	Two Years	Three Years	Single Copy
Rs.700	Rs.1300	Rs.1800	Rs.75

Autoguide is a monthly trade journal focused on automotive industry news published 12 times in a year.

The views and opinions expressed in the articles printed in this journal do not necessarily represent that of the Editorial Board.



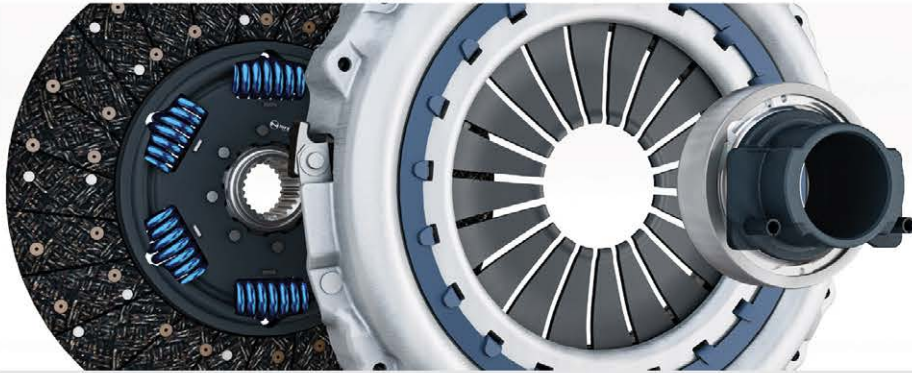
Edited, Published and owned by M.P. Malhotra.

Printed at Options Printofast, 64, Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi-110092 and Published at 608, Ansal's Imperial Tower, C-Block, Naraina Vihar,

New Delhi-110028 Phone (011) 41051000,

Website: www.autoguideindia.com E-mail: autoguide@autoguideindia.com

ENGINEERED MOBILITY SOLUTIONS



CLUTCH RELEASE
BEARING

BALL
BEARING



IDLERS
PULLEYS



DELUX[®]
B E A R I N G S

SINCE 1956

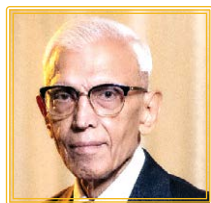
INSPIRING EVERY MOVEMENT

Corporate and Technology Centre

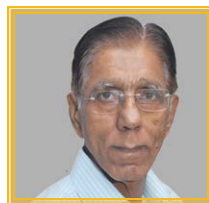
31/32, Ideal industrial Estate,
Mathuradas Mill Compound,
Lower Parel Mumbai, 400013
+91 22 40580707 | +91 22 24926660
info@deluxbearings.com
www.deluxbearings.com

O E M T E C H N O L O G Y

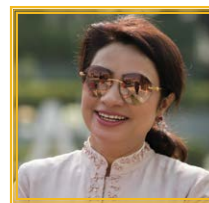
Editor's Viewpoint



LATE JOGINDER P. MALHOTRA
Founder



M.P. MALHOTRA
Chairman - Editorial board



SHILPA MALHOTRA
Executive Editor

**CONSUMER
SENTIMENTS
DURING THE
FESTIVE SEASON
WERE UPBEAT
AND THE
DEMAND ACROSS
SEGMENTS WAS
ROBUST.**

Of festive sales and flex fuels

DIWALI is gone, and so also the peak festival season. Normally a season of booming sales for automotive OEMs, the past two months yielded discouraging numbers and November figures are also unlikely to bring in much cheer. The reason, as is well known by now, is curtailed supply resulting from shortage of semiconductors. The global problem, which has been affecting the production of vehicles for quite some time, has become acute of late and is expected to persist in the coming months as well. Since it happens to be a worldwide problem and all-round efforts are on to bring an end to it, the automobile industry in the country has no option but to put up with it. But it must take solace from the fact that consumer sentiments during the festive season were upbeat and the demand across segments was robust. We touch upon all this as part of our monthly sales story and plan to do a detailed coverage of the semiconductor shortage and its aftermath in the next issue of Autoguide.

Another important story in the current issue is about the Government's heightened focus on alternative fuels. Addressing a Ficci conference, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Mr Nitin Gadkari, highlighted that flex-fuel vehicles will play a crucial role to decarbonise the transport sector making it sustainable for the environment, economy, and ecology. The minister went even further and said, "We are going to make it compulsory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines that can run on more than one fuel." No doubt, the entire world is struggling with energy crisis and all countries are exploring best possible options, we only hope nothing is mandated upon the industry in a rush.

We have also included in this issue an interesting study which says that the pre-owned market in the country has been outpacing the new car market and the industry is expected to clock a healthy growth rate of 15 per cent in FY22. The study finds the prospects of the pre-owned car market bright and its size going to more than seven million vehicles by FY26, from 3.8 million units in FY21.

Besides, the November issue packs all the major developments in the automobile industry during the past four weeks.

Enjoy reading!

AUTO-LEK

A TRUSTED NAME



Igniting Dreams Since 1971



Starter Motor



Alternator



Filter



Electric Vehicle Motor

AUTO IGNITION LTD.

49th K.M. Milestone, Mathura Road, Prithla - 121102, Dist. Palwal. (HR)

Tel.: +91-1275-249200 (20 Lines), Fax: +91-1275-262043, Customer Care No.: +91-1275-249228, Email: sales@autolek.com

Website: www.autolek.com

Global chip shortage impacts festive sales

Demand-supply mismatch dips October numbers



FESTIVE season sales, which reportedly account for 40 per cent of the annual vehicle sales in the country, have not been encouraging this year. Though Diwali came right at the beginning of November and the sales numbers of the biggest Indian festival will be known later, the peak festive month of October was surely disappointing. Wholesales (sales from carmakers to dealers) were recorded at 2,58,774 units as against 3,25,965 units in October 2020, a massive drop of 21 per cent.

But that is only part of the story!



"While the shortage of electronic components continued to affect the production of vehicles during the month, the company took all possible measures to minimise the impact."

Maruti Suzuki India Limited

The full story is that sentiments remained high during the month, there was no let-up in consumer demand and automobile showrooms witnessed good footfalls. What impacted the sales volumes was curtailed supplies as OEMs continued to struggle with production issues caused by the shortage of electronic components. Though fuel price hikes, increase in input costs and the overall slowdown post-pandemic also contributed to making the festivities lackluster in term of sales, it was the global semiconductor shortage that played the real spoilsport.

Passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers were hit harder in October due to demand-supply mismatch leading to poor sales numbers in the segment. Consumers were upbeat about festive purchase but many popular car models remained on the waiting list. In fact, the demand was healthy across segments with two-wheeler wholesales growing month-on-month and CVs also seeing a recovery of sorts.

The biggest casualty of the short-supply scenario was Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL), which reported a 24 per cent decline in sales at 1,38,335 units. The largest carmaker in the country had sold 1,82,448 units in the same month last year. Its domestic sales dropped 32 per cent to 1,17,013 units as against 1,72,862 units in October 2020.

Admitting that the shortage of electronic components continued to affect the production of vehicles during the month, the company said it took "all possible measures to minimise the impact."

Hyundai Motor India, too, became a victim of chip shortage with its PV sales witnessing a 34.6 per cent decline during the month, at 37,021 units. The South Korean major had sold 56,605 units in October last year. Media reports suggested that the company was staring at high waiting periods for its best-selling models which are all electronic-intensive products.



Mr. Tae Jin Park,
MD & CEO, Kia India

"The adverse supply-chain situation has been an opportunity lost for us; however, our customers and vendors' continuous support has enabled us to maintain a healthy performance."



Mr. Veejay Nakra,
CEO, Automotive Division, M&M

"The supply-chain issues around semiconductor-related parts continue to be dynamic as we focus on managing the situation in the short term."

Bucking the trend, homegrown auto major Tata Motors registered 44 per cent 44-growth in sales. Though all the models of the company fared well in the market, its recently-launched sub-compact SUV Punch provided an added push. According to Tata Motors, it sold 32,339 units of ICE cars and 1,586 units of electric cars in October.

New models proved saviours for Mahindra, Nissan and Skoda also as all these carmakers posted sales growth during the month despite supply-chain challenges. Backed by the success of its XUV700, Mahindra saw an increase of 9.4 per cent Y-o-Y by selling 20,130 passenger vehicles.

Kia witnessed over 22-pc Y-o-Y drop in sales by dispatching 16,331 units as against the October 2020 figures of 21,021. Mr. Tae Jin Park, MD and CEO, Kia India, said, "The adverse supply-chain situation has been an opportunity lost for us; however, our customers and vendors' continuous support has enabled us to maintain a healthy performance throughout the year."

Toyota's performance in October was almost flat with dispatches standing at 12,440 units. Innova contributed to over 49 per cent of its sales during the month. While Renault sold 8,910 units, compared to 11,005 units in the same period last year, Honda could manage to sell only 8,108 units. MG's numbers for the month were recorded at 2,863 units, compared to 3,750 units in October last year.



MG Motor India

"While the global chip shortage has hampered production resulting in lower sales, the challenge to ensure timely deliveries is likely to persist through November and December."

While Skoda India's Kushaq helped the company sell 3,065 units in all, Nissan managed to sell 3,913 units riding on the success of its recently-launched Magnite.

According to Mr. Veejay Nakra, CEO, Automotive Division, M&M, "The supply-chain issues around semiconductor-related parts continue to be dynamic as we focus on managing the situation in the short term."

A statement issued by MG Motor aptly summed up the overall industry sentiment. It said while the global chip shortage has hampered production resulting in lower sales, the challenge to ensure timely deliveries is likely to persist through November and December.

In the two-wheeler segment, most OEMs reported rise in dispatches on sequential basis over the month of September. On Y-o-Y basis, however, the sales remained in the red. Acknowledging that "there are challenges like the longer-than-expected supply-chain disruption and consistent rise in input cost", Mr. Devashish Handa, Vice-President, Suzuki Motorcycles, expressed the hope that the situation will improve soon and "we shall be able to fully cater to the demand."

Commercial vehicle sales in the month under review were in the green, except for Mahindra & Mahindra, which posted a 21 per cent decline in year on-year sales. Tata Motors sold 7,644 units of M&HCVS, 5,599 units of 1&LCV, 958 units of passenger carriers, and 17,025 units of SCV cargo and pickups.

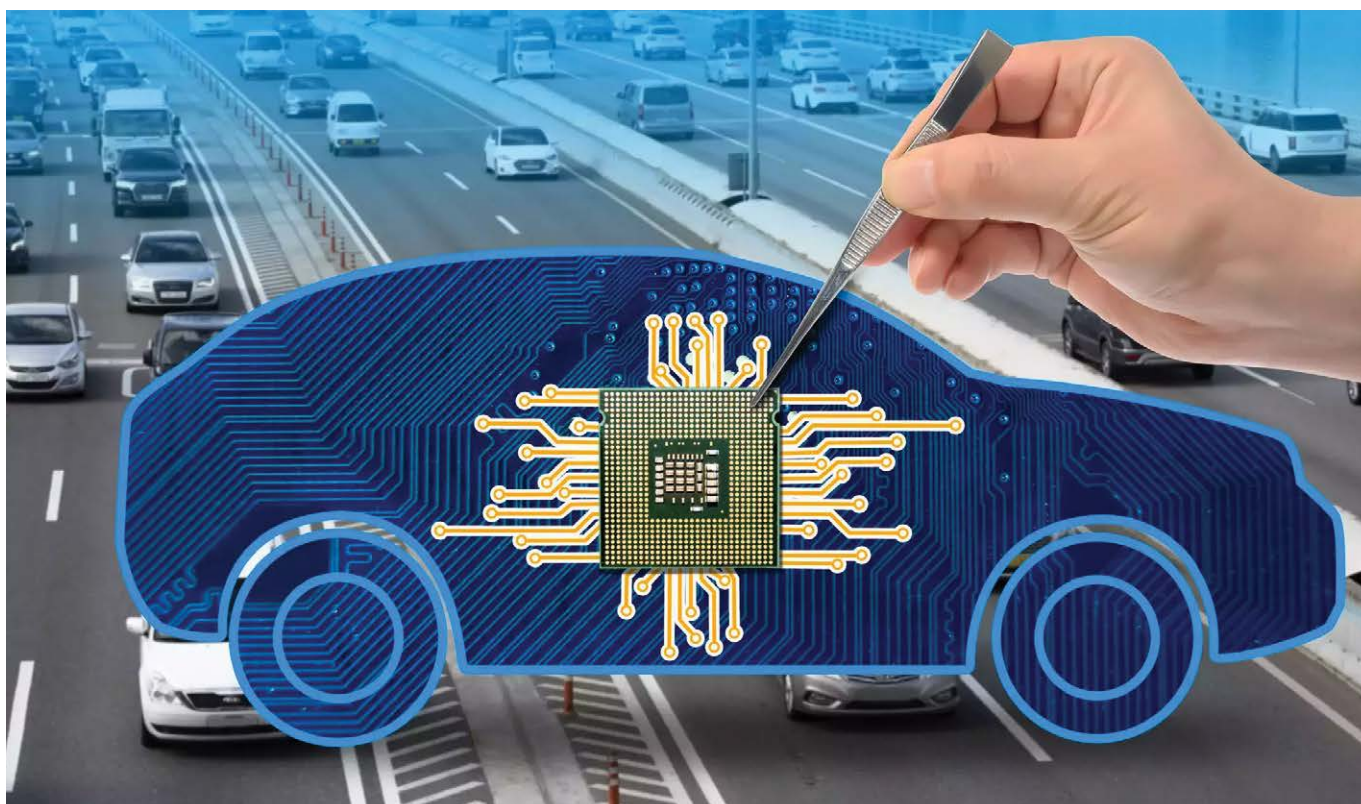
While Hinduja Group flagship Ashok Leyland's domestic sales of medium and heavy commercial vehicles were at 5,254 units as against 3,881 units in October last year, VE Commercial Vehicles reported total sales of 5,805 units. The Eicher Motors-Volvo JV had sold 4,200 units in the same month last year.



Mr. Devashish Handa

Vice-President, Suzuki Motorcycles

"There are challenges like the longer-than-expected supply chain disruption and consistent rise in input cost. We are hopeful that the situation will improve soon."



We'll make flex-fuel engines compulsory, says Gadkari

'Govt aims 30 pc EV penetration for private cars'



Mr Nitin Gadkari,
Minister of Road Transport and Highways

He also cited examples of Brazil, Canada, and the USA, where most automobile companies manufacture flex-fuel engines.

"We will tap into the strength of the agriculture sector to produce energy and power. The production of bio-CNG from agricultural waste will solve the crisis of air pollution," he said.

The minister further said that the Government intends to have electric vehicle sales penetration of 30 per cent for private cars, 70 per cent for commercial vehicles, 40 per cent for buses and 80 per cent for two and three-wheelers by 2030.

He said there is a substantial response seen in the domestic market for electric vehicles. He emphasised that, simultaneously, research on developing high-efficiency batteries and EV components is the need of the hour.

Speaking at the event, Mr Tarun Kapoor, Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said, "We must look at alternative fuels in a bigger way as the world is in an energy crisis. The impact of the rise of the global price of crude and L&G has affected the Indians as we are largely dependent on imports."

He further stated that the Government was trying to encourage ethanol manufacturing in the country and the motor vehicle manufacturers must be compatible with the technical requirements of ethanol. "We have set up a committee for recommending ways and means for maintaining the octane numbers even with a higher percentage of lending," said Mr Kapoor.

THE Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Mr Nitin Gadkari, has said that in order to reduce pollution levels in the country, the Government is aiming at Rs 2-lakh crore ethanol economy, from its present size of Rs 20,000 crore, as the development of an extensive ethanol industry would mean new markets for the country's biomass and agriculture sector.

He was addressing the second annual conference on 'Alternative Fuels Roadmap for India@75: Moving towards Greener Future', organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) on October 8.

Mr Gadkari highlighted that the flex-fuel vehicles will play a crucial role to decarbonise the transport sector, making it sustainable for the environment, economy, and ecology.

"We are going to make it compulsory for all vehicle manufacturers to make flex-fuel engines that can run on more than one fuel to reduce pollution," said Mr Gadkari.

Mr Amit Varadan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, said that the Ministry is committed to reducing the emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35 per cent by 2030. MoRTH, he said, has issued various regulations related to the promotion of alternative and clean fuel transportation. He mentioned that a robust regulatory framework is being drawn to foster the use of electric mobility in India.

Dr OP Agarwal, Chair, Ficci Working Group on Future of Mobility, said, issues like climate change and COVID are global problems that does not recognise boundaries and action needs to take place at a global level. "Hydrogen is becoming promising in areas where electric mobility today may not work", he said

'Alternative fuel can make India No.1 in automobile sector'

THE Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Mr Nitin Gadkari, said on October 8 that with the use of alternative fuel and technology, the Indian automobile sector can be the number one in the world.

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Mr Nitin Gadkari, said on October 8 that with the use of alternative fuel and technology, the Indian automobile sector can be the number one in the world.

"India's automobile sector can become Number 1 in the world in the next five years by using alternative fuel sources," the minister said at the India Today Conclave 2021.

Mr Gadkari further said it was his dream to make the Indian automobile sector the leader of the segment in the world. "All reputed brands from around the world are in India, and it is my dream to make the automobile sector the number one in the world," he said.

The conclave discussed whether India was on the cusp of an electric vehicle revolution and would soon see a transformation from the fossil fuel powered vehicles.

Mr Palash Roy Chowdhury, Co-Chair, Ficci Working Group on Future of Mobility, said, "We have reached the scale today where we need to urgently attract strategic investments in R&D as well as commercial manufacturing of better technology."

Mr Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General, Ficci, said petroleum is the most used fuel for transportation, and although it will remain the standard fuel for the near future, alternative energies are becoming more viable.



Tarun Kapoor
Ministry of Petroleum and
Natural Gas, India



Amit Varadan
Joint Secretary,
MORTH India



Dr. OP Agarwal
Chair, Ficci Working
Group on Future of
Mobility

Speaking on the issue of air pollution, Mr Gadkari said, "The most important problem which our country is facing is the problem related to pollution and the economy. And by using petrol and diesel we are going to generate air pollution in the country." He said, "Today, we need to save this country from air pollution, water pollution and sound pollution."



FADA pitches for legislation to protect auto dealers

Releases Policy Brief based on dealership agreements

THE Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on October 27 released a Policy Brief for the introduction of an auto dealers' protection Act in the country.

A press release by FADA said, after GM (2017), MAN Trucks (2018), UM Lohia (2019) and Harley Davidson (2020), Ford is the fifth auto OEM to stop domestic sales thus exiting a large and untapped India market. Such exits, it said, adversely impact the interests of consumers who are often left with no avenues for aftersales services and with resale value of their vehicles nose-diving.

Ultimately, this casts an unfair burden on the dealers who have to step in to ensure that their relationships with consumers are not ruined, while also facing the endless barrage of consumer complaints due to OEM's unilateral actions, according to FADA.



The analysis, said FADA, clearly shows that unlike the Indian agreements, foreign agreements often have more balanced and comprehensive clauses on termination, indemnification, repurchase obligations and afford more flexibility to the dealers.

It said the plight and suffering of dealers, however, is an everyday issue that is often dismissed by OEMs in a business-as-usual manner. Automobile dealers in India are predominantly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which are either family-owned businesses or partnerships firms and have significantly lower bargaining power in comparison to their OEMs which in-turn are large corporations. "The entrenched unethical and imbalanced power structures with OEMs have caused a great deal of anguish to automobile dealers as the existing laws are not adequate to protect their interests", said FADA.

In the light of this, FADA commissioned an in-depth analysis of the relationship between OEMs and dealers in India, through a detailed study of various dealership agreements. Through this work, a comparative analysis of foreign dealership agreements and legal protections available to automobile dealers in different countries such as the USA, Australia and South Africa was also undertaken.

The detailed findings have been incorporated into a Policy Brief, the summary of which is given below:

- Dealership agreements in India do not have a standardised term with certain agreements have tenures as low as one year. It takes anywhere between three to five years for a dealership business to break even. Short-term of agreement is detrimental to the dealers as they do not give adequate opportunity to them to recover the heavy investments.



- The dealer agreements in India also tend to have vague and broad grounds of termination that provide greater flexibility to OEMs, in comparison to dealers. This adversely impacts dealers' ability to negotiate during OEM exits, causes employment losses, and also affects consumers who are left with no recourse with respect to aftersales services.

- Absence of repurchase obligations under, which would mandate OEMs to buy back leftover stock, including vehicles, spare parts etc. in cases of termination, leads to added costs on the dealers.

- OEMs are free to open multiple dealerships in the same territory without giving any rationale to the existing dealers. This makes planning difficult and significantly affects the dealer's ability to recoup their investments.

- Dealers are often made party to consumer complaints even though the liability may lie with the OEM, due to lack of clarity in indemnity provisions.

- Dealers are not afforded the required flexibility in taking business decisions and they also have little to no role in deciding stock projections and targets in a particular financial year. There is very little consultation between the OEM and dealer in this regard, and dealers are often forced to accept the stock orders that the OEMs push them on to.

- Dealers are also often forced with procurement and selling of accessories (such as spare parts, aesthetic additions, music systems etc.) consumables (including lubricants, paints etc.), loans and insurance from the OEMs themselves or from a short list of approved vendors. This leads to increase in dealer costs, the burden of which is eventually passed on to the consumers.

FADA President Mr. Vinkesh Gulati said, "Many countries in the world recognise the inherent power imbalance between OEMs and dealers within the automobile sector and have enacted legislation to level the playing field. Unfortunately, the existing legal regime in India is inadequate to address these specific concerns of dealers. While OEM-dealer agreements are governed under the Indian Contract Act, the law does not contain any clear solutions for us."

He further said that India should also urgently consider the introduction of an automobile dealers' protection Act to make contracts more balanced and equitable. Such legislation should introduce robust contract enforcement and dispute settlement measures by incorporating a special authority with adequate representation from the Government of India, FADA and SIAM."



Mr. Vinkesh Gulati,
FADA President



Pre-owned car market continues to outpace new car market, says OLX Autos-Crisil study

OLX Autos announced the findings of the fifth edition of its study on pre-owned car market, conducted in association with rating agency Crisil. It estimates the size of the pre-owned car market in the country and examines key trends and attitudes towards the sector.

A comprehensive report on India's pre-owned car industry, the study combines OLX Autos' vast and extensive data, along with Crisil's edge in research and insights to arrive at decisive trends that are shaping the sector, said a press release.

According to the study, the pre-owned market has been outpacing the new car market, and the industry is expected to clock a healthy growth rate of 15 per cent in FY22. It said the prospects continue to be bright on the longer horizon, with a 12-14 pc CAGR expected over the next few years, taking the size of the market to more than seven million vehicles by FY26, from 3.8 million units in FY21.



In contrast, the new car market is expected to grow at a tepid 10 pc CAGR, said the study. With many people preferring socially-distanced personal mobility, during and because of the pandemic, the pre-owned car market is expected to continue to be a sunrise sector. In addition, the accelerating trend of digitalisation will lead to an increasing share of sales through digital classifieds, which will move to 25 pc from 15 pc currently. The share of organised players in the pre-owned market, including digital platform sales, will also see a 10 per cent increase, from 20 pc currently to 30 pc in five years.

Mr Amit Kumar, CEO, OLX Autos India, said, "The study brings in breakthrough insights into the pre-owned car segment. The preference for personal mobility has propelled a huge swing in favour of used-car sales that are expected to reach a phenomenal 1.5x more than that of new car sales over the next five years. The digital switch has been highly transformative, bringing in its wake increased transparency, trust and a huge choice of new-generation vehicles to the consumer."

Mr Amit Kumar,
Mr Amit Kumar, CEO, OLX Autos India,



Tailwinds | Growth triggers

- The pandemic, digitalisation, changing demographics and aspirations, first-time buyers, and availability of financing options are driving sustained growth in the pre-owned car segment.
- The pandemic, digitalisation, changing demographics and aspirations, first-time buyers, and availability of financing options are driving sustained growth in the pre-owned car segment.
- Digital platforms are gaining traction due to their wide reach, accessibility and ability to provide a variety of options.
- Apart from the digital push, the market has received a boost from first-time buyers who account for nearly half of all pre-owned cars sold in India.
- Another upcoming trend is that the share of EVs in new car sales is expected to reach 20 pc by FY31, at which point in time, the share of EVs in pre-owned car sales is expected to be around 5 per cent.
- The outbreak of COVID-19 and the subsequent shutdowns have affected the market in both ways. While in the first half of 2020, the sales were impacted by lockdowns, the market witnessed huge growth in the latter part of the year.

Reset after pandemic

- With the emergence of Ola and Uber, many customers had deferred purchasing personal vehicles, especially in metro cities. However, the pandemic brought the interest back on the need for owning personal vehicles, and this trend is unlikely to abate in the near term.
- During the first wave of the pandemic, supply crunch and increased demand impacted stock levels across regions, mainly in the South and West where inventory levels came down to 30-35 days.
- Compared to pre-COVID levels, the demand shot up 20-30 pc after the unlocking in CY2020. Demand improvement was more pronounced in the South, followed by the West.

Spotlight moves to UVs

In line with their expanding share in the new car market, share of UVs is increasing in the pre-owned car space, up from 18 pc in FY18 to 20 pc in FY21. Due to the intermittent launches, UVs are also seeing faster replacement cycles. Intermittent model launches and feature-rich competitively priced vehicles will aid the shift towards UVs in the pre-owned car space.



Urban Indians favour an increased use of personal vehicles in future: YouGov study

THE mobility industry has experienced huge disruptions due to the pandemic, impacting development trends in mobility and transportation. A recent report by YouGov highlights what companies can do in order to address evolving customer needs and behaviours.

YouGov's 'International Automotive Report 2021' is a 17-market study that examines the demographics, behaviours, and preferences of automotive consumers and how digital transformation has changed traditional car ownership and buying behaviours.

The report reveals that driving behaviour has been drastically impacted as a result of the pandemic. Still, a majority of people who buy and drive their own vehicle expect no change in the need for a personal vehicle (59 pc). A third (32 pc) stated a lesser or no need for a personal vehicle, while 18 pc expect a slight or significantly more need for it.

Asked about their plans post-pandemic, personal vehicle was the only mode that had as many respondents saying they are likely to use it "more than before" the pandemic as the ones who said they will use it "less than before" (21 pc each).

For all other modes of transport, like public transport, taxi/cab, ride hailing apps and shared cab services, a higher number of respondents said they will use each of these modes less than more in the future.



Whether it is for convenience, safety or otherwise, people prefer a personal vehicle over other options.

At a global level, India was one of the top markets showing a net increase in intent to use a personal vehicle. One-third (33 pc) of Indian respondents said they will use their personal vehicle more in the coming year than they did in pre-pandemic times, compared to only 25 pc of respondents saying they will use it less.

This behavioural change will have an impact on companies across the transportation landscape competing for this audience's transportation expenditures, said the report.

When it comes to the use of public transportation in the next 12 months, intent is one of the lowest among urban Indians across the globe with nearly half (49 pc) saying they will use public transport less in the future.

The same is true about their future usage of ride hailing services (35 pc less vs 13 pc more). This highlights the need for work to be done to restore confidence among urban Indians in public transport and ride hailing as safe and clean transportation modes.



Maruti launches all-new Celerio

'India's most fuel-efficient petrol car'

MARUTI Suzuki India on November 10 launched its compact hatchback, Celerio, which it claimed to be the country's "most fuel-efficient petrol car". The all-new Celerio offers a mileage of 26.68 km/litre, said a press release issued by the company.

Powered by next-generation Dual Jet, Dual VVT K-Series engine with Idle Start-Stop technology, it offers a spirited drive experience, said the release. Equipped with new-age design, enhanced road presence, host of safety, and smart features, the new Celerio is all set to revolutionise the compact hatchback segment, once again.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Kenichi Ayukawa, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "As a leading car manufacturer, it is our responsibility to drive the revival of the automobile industry. With the all-new Celerio, we endeavour to boost the most important passenger vehicle segment in the country."



Mr. Kenichi Ayukawa,
Managing Director & CEO,
Maruti Suzuki India Limited



He added: "The all-new Celerio ticks all the boxes of customer expectation with an unmatched driving experience, unrivalled fuel-efficiency and a host of features that offers comfort, convenience, and safety at an attractive price."

The new Celerio exudes a dynamic stance with a 3D organic sculpted design. The stylish, vibrant and urban design will redefine the compact hatchback segment in the market, according to the release. The animated sweeping front headlamps, droplet-styled tail lamps and all-new radiant signature front grille with chrome accentuate its fresh spirited design signature.

The 15" (38.02cm) Urbane black alloy wheels and front fog lamps add to its lively style appeal. Aimed at captivate young and dynamic customers, Celerio offers unique and tasteful detailing for an inspiring style. The car is thoughtfully curated to offer an energetic and spacious cabin appeal for increased comfort. Complementing the aesthetics of the exteriors, the new Celerio offers elegant detailing comprising elements like center-focused design with sweeping character lines and organic sculpted 3D Instrument panel and trims, to enliven it further.

The twin slot center AC ventilation with bright chrome accents, bold barrel-themed side air vents add to the vivid interior design of the all-new Celerio. The new stylish gear shift lever with a light ergonomic grip in AGS variants offers an exciting drive experience and makes that everyday drive much enjoyable.

The vehicle is spacious with bigger cabin space, increased wheelbase, extended shoulder room, larger legroom, and enhanced luggage space.

Built on Suzuki's signature HEARTECT platform, all-new Celerio comes with a smooth structure for effective absorption and dispersion of impact force. The platform improves the crash, rigidity, and overall strength of the car.

The 17.78cm (7 inch) SmartPlay studio infotainment system with smartphone navigation ensures an enjoyable drive experience. Additionally, new features like first-in-segment engine push start with smart key, Pollen type AC filter, have been introduced.

The new Celerio will be available in an array of six colours including two new colours – Solid Fire Red and Speedy Blue along with Arctic White, Silky Silver, Glistening Grey, and Caffeine Brown.



SPEEDY BLUE



SILKY SILVER



SOLID FIRE RED



GLISTENING GREY



CAFFEINE BROWN



ARCTIC WHITE



For its passenger EV business, Tata Motors to raise \$1 bn from TPG Rise Climate

TATA Motors and TPG Rise Climate on October 12 entered into a binding agreement whereby TPG Rise Climate along with its co-investor ADQ, will invest in a subsidiary of Tata Motors that will be newly incorporated.

According to a press release, TPG Rise Climate along with co-investors will invest Rs 7,500 crore in compulsory convertible instruments to secure between 11 to 15 per cent stake in this company translating to an equity valuation of up to \$9.1 billion.

The new company will leverage all existing investments and capabilities of Tata Motors Ltd and will channelise the future investments into electric vehicles, dedicated BEV platforms, advanced automotive technologies and catalyse investments in charging infrastructure and battery technologies, said the release.

Over the next five years, this company will create a portfolio of 10 EVs and in association with Tata Power, catalyse the creation of a widespread charging infrastructure to facilitate rapid EV adoption in India, added the release.



Mr. N Chandrasekaran,
Chairman Tata Motors Ltd,

Mr. N Chandrasekaran, Chairman Tata Motors Ltd, said, "I am delighted to have TPG Rise Climate join us in our journey to create a market-shaping electric passenger mobility business in India. We will continue to proactively invest in exciting products that delight customers while meticulously creating a synergistic ecosystem."

Mr. Jim Coulter, Managing Partner, TPG Rise Climate and Founding partner of TPG, commented: "We are excited to partner with Tata Motors on their mission to lead the electrification of passenger mobility in India. There is significant momentum around India's EV movement, supported by the Government's vision and policies, as well as growing consumer demand for greener solutions. The investment aligns with TPG Rise Climate's focus on decarbonised transport and builds on TPG's long history in India."

It is expected that the first round of capital infusion will be completed by March 22 and the entire funds will be infused by end of 2022. Morgan Stanley and JP Morgan are the joint financial advisors to TML, while BofA Securities India Ltd is representing TPG Rise Climate for this transaction.



Mr. Jim Coulter,
Managing Partner, TPG Rise Climate and
Founding partner of TPG,

A hat-trick from Tata!

Punch too gets 5-star rating from Global NCAP

TATA Motors announced on October 14 that its recent SUV, Punch, has become a recipient of 5-star rating (16.453) for adult occupant protection and 4-star rating (40.891) for child occupant protection from Global NCAP, the foremost global car assessment programme.

The Punch is the third car of Tata Motors to receive this recognition after Altroz in January 2020 and Nexon in December 2018.

Punch, said the company, has been developed to herald the creation of an entirely new category - the sub-compact SUV, to address a growing customer need for a small in size but big on space, safety, performance and features.

Mr. Shailesh Chandra, President, Passenger Vehicles Business, Tata Motors, said, "We are proud to have delivered yet another product that will be regarded as the safest passenger vehicle on Indian roads. This landmark achievement by Tata Motors is also a testament of the fact that the automotive industry in India is capable of delivering the highest global standards of safety in vehicles."

According to Mr Rajendra Petkar, President & Chief Technology Officer, Tata Motors, "This achievement is in line with our philosophy that vehicle safety should be made accessible to all. Getting the GNCAP 5-star for vehicle programme comes as an outcome of the relentless hard work put in by cross-functional teams across the organisation, including our supplier partners."



Mr. Shailesh Chandra,
President, Passenger Vehicles Business,
Tata Motors



MG launches Astor

Mid-size SUV with contemporary look

MG Motor India has launched its mid-size SUV Astor, with personal AI assistant and Autonomous (Level 2) technology, at an introductory price of Rs. 9.78 Lakh.

With cutting-edge technology and design excellence, Astor is positioned in the premium mid-size SUV segment. Astor has a choice of variants, starting from Style, going up to Super, Smart, and the top-of-the-line Sharp.

Styled as per MG's global design philosophy of 'emotional dynamism', Astor has contemporary look that connects with consumers, said a press release.

The SUV's i-SMART technology comes with 80+ connected car features for Smart and Sharp variants. The ADAS with Autonomous Level 2 features will be available as an optional pack in the 220Turbo AT as well as in the VTI-tech CVT transmission for the Sharp variant.

According to the release, Astor comes with a standard 3-3-3 package which includes warranty of three years/unlimited kilometers, three years of roadside assistance and three labour-free periodic services.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Rajeev Chaba, President and MD, MG Motor India, said, "Astor brings personality, practicality and technology in one compelling expression of future mobility based on established brand heritage. Enriched with features and packed with technologies never seen before in this segment, we believe that Astor will set a new benchmark in the segment."



Mr. Rajeev Chaba,
President and MD, MG Motor India,





Toyota launches Legender 4X4

TOYOTA Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on October 7 unveiled a new 4X4 variant of its SUV Legender. Legender was first launched in January this year in 4X2 diesel variant together with the new Toyota Fortuner.

According to a press release, Legender is uniquely positioned as 'Powered in Style' to cater to the diverse needs of both performance enthusiasts and those seeking a luxury SUV. Its bold proportions bring to life the differentiating aspects that make it cool and futuristic.

The Catamaran elements wrapped around the corners create a strong vertical prominence and ensure a wider presence. Further, the exclusively designed headlamps comprise split quad LEDs with a waterfall LED line guide signature to ensure the best of brightness. The SUV's sharp nose creates a strong forward movement to create a sense of exclusivity with a sleek and cool theme, together with exterior features such as Catamaran style front and rear bumpers sharp and sleek front grille with piano black accents, sequential turn indicators, and 18-inch multi-layered machine cut finished alloys.

On the inside, features include dual tone (black + maroon) interior theme, contrast stitching for steering wheel and console box, interior ambient illumination and rear USB ports.

Apart from these, Legender is loaded with high-end features like kick sensor for power back door and wireless smartphone charger.

Sharing his views, Mr. V. Wiseline Sigamani, Associate General Manager (AGM), Sales and Strategic Marketing, said, "At TKM, we bring innovations and new products to the market to meet the aspirations of our customers and changing market requirements. The new Legender 4X4 AT variant is another such initiative as many customers expressed a desire for a 4X4 variant for even more enhanced performance."



TOYOTA

Skoda comes up with matte edition of Rapid

SKODA Auto has introduced a new matte edition of Rapid in the country. It will be available in an exclusive carbon steel matte colour which adds to the style statement, said a press release.

The new edition will be powered by 1.0 L TSI engine and will be available in both automatic and manual transmissions.

The matte edition, said the release, sports many new features which make the car distinctive and add dynamism to the Rapid line-up.

The new glossy black radiator grille and spoiler in the front coupled with the carbon steel matte colour enhance the emotive design. The glossy black door handle is exclusively for the matte edition and uplifts the side profile of the car. In addition, the black body side moulding also accentuates the side profile.



Mr. Zac Hollis, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said, "Since its launch, the Rapid has had an incredible success journey in India. With more than 1,00,000 customers, Rapid has seen great resonance with auto enthusiasts across the country. Taking the success story further, we are thrilled to introduce the Rapid matte edition in India. With this addition, the Rapid portfolio expands further to reach newer customers. With its distinctive style and extensive feature list, I am confident that this product will see great demand."

At the rear, the addition of the rear diffuser, glossy black tailgate spoiler and the black trunk lip garnish gives a sporty avatar to the car. The new edition of Rapid comes with all-black alloy wheels making it a complete head-turner from the outside, added the release.

Polo, Vento in matte edition



VOLKSWAGEN Passenger Cars India on October 5 launched the limited matte edition of Polo and Vento.

The matte edition will be available in the GT variant of Polo, starting at Rs 9.99 lakh, Vento Highline AT variant at Rs 11.94 lakh and Vento Highline Plus AT variant at Rs 13.34 lakh, said a press release.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said: "Polo and Vento are our class-leading products and they have been setting new benchmarks in their respective categories since their introduction. Today, I am delighted to launch the limited matte edition models of both the carlines for our discerning customers, who want to stand out from the crowd."

Hyundai placed higher in Interbrand global rankings

HYUNDAI Motor Company on October 25 marked its steady climb in Interbrand's Best Global Brands 2021 rankings by being placed 35th overall, up one notch from 2020.

According to Interbrand's comprehensive assessment, Hyundai Motor's global brand value rose 6.3 per cent year-on-year to \$15.2 billion in 2021, its seventh straight year among the top 30-something brands.

According to a press release, Interbrand's positive appraisal of Hyundai Motor is based on the company's eco-friendly, future-oriented focus on electrification and smart mobility solutions, commitment to carbon neutrality by 2045 and creation of non-face-to-face sales channels as a preventive measure against COVID-19.



Skoda celebrates Kushaq success with special drive for NCR customers

SKODA Auto India organised a special drive for Kushaq customers in the National Capital Region (NCR) recently. It was aimed at celebrating the success of SUV Kushaq, which has raced past 10,000 bookings since its launch, according to a press release.

The convoy comprised 10 cars with four occupants each and 10 members from Skoda and the dealership. The scenic drive was held across New Delhi from DLF Cyber Hub to Neemrana Fort Palace.



Mr. Zac Hollis,
Brand Director, Skoda Auto India,

Mr. Zac Hollis, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said, "We saw 131 per cent growth in monthly sales in September led by Kushaq that has set a new benchmark with 10,000 bookings so far. We organised this drive in New Delhi capital region to celebrate the success of this wonderful SUV with our valued customers."

Audi Q5 bookings opened



Mr. Balbir Singh Dhillon,
Head of Audi India,

German luxury car manufacturer Audi commenced bookings for new Audi Q5 in India, on October 19.

The optimised Audi Q5 combines a sporty character with excellent everyday usability, and comes with a wide array of infotainment and assistance options, said a press release by the company. The Audi Q5 has always been known for its perfect blend of size, performance and equipment, it said

Mr. Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head of Audi India, said, "The new Audi Q5 is a perfect blend of features, comfort and practicality in its segment. With its new design that captivates at first glance, we are confident that it will continue to retain its leadership position in the segment and woo the existing and prospective customers."

Jaguar begins F-Pace deliveries



JAGUAR Land Rover India has started deliveries of its F-Pace SVR in the country. The vehicle is priced from Rs 1.51 crore (ex-showroom).

Mr Rohit Suri, President and Managing Director, Jaguar Land Rover India, said, "The arrival of F-Pace SVR in India is an exciting moment for us and we are sure that the customers will thoroughly enjoy its breathtaking and thrilling performance"

F-Pace is powered by a 405 kW V8 supercharged petrol engine that delivers a peak torque of 700 Nm and accelerates from 0-100 km/h in 4.0 seconds, said a press release.

The exterior features new SVR-badged grill, revised bumper design, super-slim all-LED quad headlights with 'Double J' Daytime Running Light (DRL) signatures and Adaptive Driving Beam capability.

The precision crafted interior is redesigned to include new Drive Selector, bespoke SVR split-rim steering wheel, new sporty center console, seamlessly integrated centrally-mounted 28.95 cm HD touchscreen.

NAYA RANG

NAYA JOSH

SAME PRODUCTS

SAME RELIABILITY

jumps
START SOMETHING

IS NOW

JUMPS 

JUMPS AUTO INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Email: info@jumpsindia.com Website: www.jumpsindia.com

Gran Limousine Iconic Edition

The long-wheelbase version of BMW 3 Series launched in India



Mr. Vikram Pawah,
President, BMW Group India



BMW India has launched the new BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine Iconic Edition in the country. It is available in both petrol and diesel variants.

The Iconic Edition is the long-wheelbase version of the BMW 3 Series, said a press release by the German carmaker. It has been launched in India considering the clientele's preference for long sedans.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India, said, "The 3 Series Gran Limousine has set a new standard in luxury with its elongated design, enhanced space, luxurious comfort and dynamic performance. We are delighted to present the new BMW 3 Series Gran Limousine Iconic Edition with an enhanced, unique and captivating character."

The new edition takes on the position of the longest, most spacious and comfortable car in its segment and sets a new benchmark in the class. It offers sportiness, comfort and innovations, according to the release.

Due to the extended wheelbase, there is more room to unwind, more legroom for rear passengers and a pleasant seating experience even on long journeys. The powerful engine ensures thrilling performance and acceleration.

Encompassing an exterior length of 4,819 millimeters

and a 2,961-millimetre wheelbase, the exterior dimensions of the new edition outstrip those of any other car in its class.

Creating a striking front look is the large BMW iconic glow kidney grille with single surround for the two elements and LED headlights with extended features. The interior is designed to accentuate grand cabin spaciousness with ample legroom in the rear compartment.

The petrol and diesel engines meld maximum power with exemplary efficiency and offer spontaneous responsiveness even at low engine speeds, said the release.

The eight-speed steptronic sport automatic transmission performs smooth, almost imperceptible gearshifts. At any time, in any gear, the transmission collaborates perfectly with the engine, enabling it to develop its full power and efficiency.

Modern cockpit includes 3D Navigation, a 12.3-inch digital instrument display behind the steering wheel and a 10.25 inch control display.

The safety features include six airbags, Attentiveness Assistance, Dynamic Stability Control and electric parking brake with auto hold.

BMW 5 Series' Carbon Edition is now in India

THE new BMW 5 Series M Sport Carbon Edition was launched in the country on October 21.

The new edition projects an extremely sporty appearance thanks to the integration of numerous attractive exterior elements, said a press release. The kidney grille, front attachment and splitters in dark black carbon fibre create a strong impressive front. The exterior mirror caps in carbon fibre further add to the exclusivity.

The dark theme is carried over to the side profile with 662M 18-inch jet black alloys. At the back, a carbon fibre rear spoiler completes the overall dynamic look.

The innovative petrol-powered engine offers spirited power delivery. Cutting-edge technology comes into play with multiple driver assistance systems. The vehicle includes features such as eight-speed Steptronic Sport Automatic Transmission, Auto Start-Stop, Brake-Energy Regeneration, Electronic Power Steering, 50:50 Weight Distribution and ECO PRO mode in Driving Experience Control.



The safety technologies include six airbags, Attentiveness Assistance and Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Brake Assist.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "With the new Carbon Edition, the BMW 5 Series has upped the excitement once again in its segment. The distinct dark carbon exterior elements stir the emotions of a raw, unadulterated sporty driving experience. Combined with the most dynamic petrol engine and innovative technology features of BMW 530i M Sport, it promises an unforgettable drive."



Mr. Vikram Pawah,

Skoda's upcoming mid-sized sedan is named SLAVIA

SKODA Auto India's second production model after Kushaq will be known as Slavia.

The new premium mid-size sedan has been named keeping in mind the early days of Skoda Auto, said a press release. Starting in 1896, one year after the founding of the company, Mr Václav Laurin and Mr Václav Klement successfully marketed their first, jointly developed bicycles under Slavia.

The upcoming Skoda Slavia will set out to define a new era in the Indian market. The new sedan will be launched later this year and it will complement Octavia and Superb sedans in the country, said the release.

Mr. Zac Hollis, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said, "Skoda has a rich global legacy spanning more than 125 years. The Slavia name represents the beginning of a success story that has seen Skoda become one of the most renowned carmakers."



Nissan partners with Zoomcar, Orix for its subscription plan

NISSAN India has partnered with Zoomcar and Orix to drive its platform, 'Nissan Intelligent Ownership', for Nissan and Datsun customers in the country.

The subscription plan is well-suited to Indian customers' progressive and asset-lite lifestyle, said a press release.

The 'Nissan Intelligent Ownership' model is available in Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Pune.

The plan is transparent with no hidden costs as the customer pays only a nominal refundable security deposit at the start of the subscription and subsequently pays a fixed monthly fee on the basis of selected tenure, said the release further.



Mr Rakesh Srivastava, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, said, "Customer's lifestyle is progressively evolving and this initiative by Nissan, Zoomcar and ORIX empowers the customer on being asset-lite with strong saving potential."

Mr Rakesh Srivastava,
Managing Director, Nissan
Motor India,



Greaves acquires 100 pc stake in Bestway; 26 pc in 3W-maker MLR Auto



GREAVES Electric Mobility, the e-mobility arm of Greaves Cotton, on October 22 announced 100 per cent acquisition of Bestway Agencies Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL) which sells e-rickshaws under Ele brand. On October 25, the company announced completion of its acquisition of 26 per cent stake in electric-3W manufacturer MLR Auto.

In July last year, the company had announced its intervention in Bestway with 74 pc stake and added e-rickshaw as part of its portfolio offerings.

"With this strategic acquisition, we have strengthened our position to become one of the largest players now catering to 85 pc of the last-mile mobility segment," said Mr. Nagesh A Basavanhalli, Group CEO and MD, Greaves Cotton

Mahindra launches Treo electric auto in Nepal

MAHINDRA Electric Mobility has launched its lithium-ion-powered electric three-wheeler auto, Treo, in Nepal.

Being manufactured at Mahindra's Bengaluru facility, Treo comes to Nepal through the CBU route, said a press release. Agni Energy, the EV distributor of the company, will sell Treo in Nepal.

Treo, said the release, is India's largest selling li-ion electric auto platform with sales of over 10,000 vehicles. It has covered more than 63 million kilometres since its launch in 2018.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Suman Mishra, CEO of Mahindra Electric Mobility Limited, said, "Nepal is a fast-developing economy, with eco-friendliness as well as long term sustainability on its agenda. With the Nepal government promoting electric vehicles, the time is just right for us to launch our range of electric three wheelers here."



Mr. Suman Mishra,
CEO of Mahindra Electric
Mobility Limited,

Godawari to venture into EV manufacturing

GODAWARI E-Mobility's Eblu, an e-rental model for e-rickshaw platform, is set to venture into manufacturing EVs under the platform, Godawari Motors.

The new platform will manufacture e-cycles, e-scooters, e-bikes, e-autos, e-loaders, and e-rickshaws and will operate on both retail & leasing business model, through its exclusive dealer network, said a press release.



Mr. Siddharth Agrawal, Managing Director, Godawari E-mobility Pvt. Ltd., said, "India's electric vehicle market, although witnessing steady growth, is still at a nascent stage. Godawari aims to bolster the EV segment through its first-of-its-kind leasing model. With this venture, we aim to provide self-employment to millions and enrich society with pollution-free complete vehicular transport solutions by reducing the carbon footprint."

Rafael Nadal to promote Kia's new crossover EV6

TENNIS legend Rafael Nadal on October 22 signaled his commitment to promote eco-friendly mobility by increasing the use of Kia's first dedicated EV, the new EV6 crossover, at a handover ceremony at the Rafa Nadal Academy in his Spanish hometown of Manacor, Mallorca.

At the event, Nadal was provided with a customised EV6 GT-Line. The ceremony followed the European launch of the EV6 crossover, said a press release issued by the carmaker.

In line with the commitment, Nadal will actively use the EV6 crossover for his personal mobility in Mallorca as well as at major tennis tournaments. Furthermore, he has expressed his interest to convert all vehicles used at the Rafa Nadal Academy and Rafa Nadal Foundation to electric vehicles by 2022, said the release further.

He added: "I feel lucky to have the support of Kia and the new EV6 that will help drive my commitment. I would like to encourage others to join me in driving these kinds of vehicles wherever possible."



The ceremony was illuminated by a tennis court, dubbed the 'EV6 Court', whose lighting system was electrically powered by a customised EV6 GT-Line. The first dedicated electrified crossover vehicle by Kia boasts an advanced V2L (vehicle-to-load) function and serves as a portable, self-generating power supply.

"We at Kia strongly believe in our ethos that movement inspires ideas. The EV6 is the model that embodies this new brand ethos of ours, and we feel privileged to have Rafa on our team as our global brand ambassador for the past 15 years," said Mr. Artur Martins, Senior Vice- President and Head of Kia's Global Brand and Customer Experience Division.



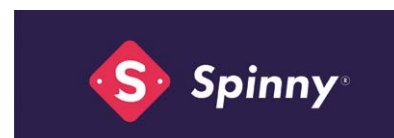
Sindhu associates with Spinny

SPINNY, a full-stack retail platform for buying and selling used cars, on October 26 announced the association of badminton icon PV Sindhu as one of the captains of Squad Spinny.

With this association, Spinny aims to strengthen its brand vision of helping young Indians realise their dreams and aspirations, by providing a simple and delightful car buying and selling experience, said a press release.

Spinny is a great brand to be associated with and I am pleased to be on board as one of the captains of Squad Spinny," said Sindhu.

Welcoming Sindhu on board, Mr. Niraj Singh, Founder and CEO, Spinny, said, "Her grit and resilience are mirrored with our own, as we strive to serve an unparalleled car buying and selling experience. We are delighted with this association."



Triton showcases Model H 'SUV of India's next-gen EV success story'



TRITON EV showcased its Model H SUV in front of a select audience, in Hyderabad recently.

Mr Himanshu B Patel, Founder and Managing Director of Triton EV, explained the key features of the SUV and the company's plans for Model H to those present.

Model H is the first car from the company's portfolio to be launched in India. It comes in seven colour options.

It is backed by a set of 200 kWh batteries, which Triton said was its proprietary technology. The SUV has a range of approx 1200 kilometres when fully charged and can get hyper-charged in two hours.

Calling Model H the SUV of India's next-gen EV success story, Mr Patel said, "India remains a very important market and activity centre for Triton EV. We are introducing a complete 'Make in India' electric vehicle from Zahirabad, Telangana factory. This manufacturing facility is Triton EV's biggest in the world after the United States."

Mr Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Government of Telangana, was also present at the occasion. Welcoming Triton EV's Model H, he said, "We are very happy to witness the first Triton EV's Model H SUV here in Telangana's capital city. We are excited to be part of India's great success story in EV space. This EV is all the more special for us as it is going to be manufactured from Telangana state."



Mr Jayesh Ranjan,
Principal Secretary, Industries and
Commerce, Government of Telangana,



LEVC readies to launch TX in India, names dealership



Mr. Satya Bagla,
Managing Director, Exclusive
Motors

LONDON EV Company Limited (LEVC) has partnered with Exclusive Motors dealership in New Delhi to make its electric model TX available in the country.

Not only will LEVC create significant employment opportunities in India, the e-city vehicle will also support a green future for the country with its innovative range extender, said a press release.

Mr. Alan Gemmell, Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for South Asia, said: "I am pleased that LEVC's innovative future mobility solutions is embracing the opportunities in India's dynamic and growing electric vehicle market. The UK and India have ambitious plans to deepen our trade and investment partnership and bring benefits to both economies, and this is a great example of what we can do together."

LEVC's history began in 1908 when the first dedicated black cab was specially designed and commissioned for use in London. With its unmistakable silhouette and classic design cues, this iconic British vehicle has defined the company for over a century. In 2018, LEVC introduced its latest model, the electric TX.

Mr. Satya Bagla, Managing Director, Exclusive Motors, said: "We are glad to have partnered with an iconic brand like LEVC. India is an emerging market for the electric vehicles, and there could not be a better time for LEVC to make its foray into the country."

TX is powered by LEVC's eCity technology, zero emissions capable for 101 km yet with a flexible range of over 510 km. Featuring a spacious passenger environment with six passenger seats, wheelchair accessibility and a purpose-built partition separating the driver from occupants, combined a class leading 8.45m turning circle, TX is the perfect vehicle for city mobility and suburban flexibility, said the company's release.



Mr. Alan Gemmell,
Her Majesty's Trade
Commissioner for South Asia

Detel EV partners Electric One



At the introduction of Easy Plus, its flagship electric bike in Gurugram on October 6, Detel EV joined hands with Electric One, a multi-brand platform offering two- and three-wheeler electric vehicles.

The tie-up will help Detel to reach one more step closer to its customers and strengthen its foothold in Delhi-NCR and Gurugram, said a press release.

Priced at Rs 39,999 Easy Plus is the most affordable electric vehicle in the country with a lithium-ion battery, it said further. The EV is equipped with state-of-the-art technology that provides the best of performance and sustainability, added the release.

Dr Yogesh Bhatia, Founder & CEO, Detel EV said, "We see this partnership with Electric One as a long-term strategic tie-up. Electric One is renowned for its efficiency and expertise in bringing highly innovative products equipped with the best technology from the best of brands. With this association, we aim to expand its foothold across metros as well as in Tier-2, 3, 4 and 5 cities."

Atum launches 10 EV charging stations in a day



Atum Charge launched 10 solar-powered EV charging stations across the country on October 5.

These stations were launched in Pune, Nagpur, Vijayawada, Rae Bareilly, Jhajjar, Sambalpur, Tumkur, Midnapore, Paramathi and Miryalguda, said a press release by the company.

The locations, it said, were specifically chosen keeping in mind the company's strategy of targeting Tier-1 and Tier-2 towns and cities as well as encouraging the rate of adoption of EVs in these states.

Vamsi Gaddam, Founder of Atum Charge, said, "With the launch of 10 EV charging Stations, we have renewed our pledge to support the EV ecosystem in India."

A T U M
CHARGE

Okinawa to go 100-pc localised by fiscal-end

ELECTRIC two-wheeler manufacturer Okinawa Autotech is set to go 100 per cent localised by the end of this fiscal year.

According to a press release, the company is investing Rs 200-250 crore in its manufacturing plant at Bhiwadi in Rajasthan, for this purpose.

Mr Jeetender Sharma, MD and Founder, Okinawa Autotech, said, "At present, Okinawa is over 92 per cent localised and we are aiming to go for 100 per cent localised components by the end of this year. We are working rigorously with our suppliers to fill in such gaps and reduce our dependence on imports."



Mr Jeetender Sharma,
MD and Founder, Okinawa
Autotech,

Ather on expansion spree; opens four retail outlets



AS part of its expansion drive, electric scooter manufacturer Ather Energy opened two more retail outlets in New Delhi on October 20. Earlier, it opened two outlets, one each in Siliguri, West Bengal and Raipur in Chattisgarh.

Within three months of operations from its first experience centre in Lajpat Nagar, the company inaugurated two more, one in Janakpuri and the other in Gujranwala Town, in the national Capital. Ather has partnered with PPS Group for both these experience centers.

On April 13, the company had opened its retail outlet at Jai Stambh Chowk, Raipur, in association with Ralas Autocorp.

Its Siliguri experience centre, the first in West Bengal, was opened on October 9 at Sevoke Road, in association with SRIRS E-Ventures.

According to a press release, the outlets are geared to provide a unique ownership experience along with complete service and support to customers. They will also get an opportunity to learn about every aspect of the Ather vehicles and a complete overview of their various parts with a stripped-bare unit on display.

To install EV charging stations in Delhi Kazam joins forces with BSES

KAZAM, an IoT-enabled charging station startup, has joined hands with BSES in a tender for an EV charging station network.

The announcement, said a press release, is in line with Kazam's commitment to provide smart and affordable charging solutions to help the country overcome its charging infrastructure challenges. In the past few months, it has installed over 600 charging stations in 11 states.

Kazam's appointment by Delhi DISCOMs, namely BSES Rajdhani, BSES Yamuna, and Tata Power DDL, for the installation of subsidised electric vehicle charging stations will be for three years through a tender that was released in July this year.

For the first 30,000 charging stations, the Government of NCT of Delhi would provide a subsidy of up to 100 per cent of the cost of the slow chargers and up to Rs 6,000 per charging point. The subsidy will be given



Mr. Akshay Shekhar,
Co-founder of Kazam,



to the first 30,000 charging stations sold under this scheme. It will be applicable to semi-public locations such as malls, workplaces, hospitals, and shops, as well as private property owners such as bungalows and apartments.

Mr. Akshay Shekhar, Co-founder of Kazam, said, "Kazam is on a quest to develop an ecosystem for electric vehicle charging networks using cutting-edge hardware and software solutions. We are elated to have been chosen by BSES and this association will allow us to realise our goal of making electric mobility accessible to all."



TVS partners with Bahwan Group

TVS Motor Company has signed a tri-party arrangement with Bahwan International Group, according to which Arata International FZC, a subsidiary of Bahwan, will be its new distributor.

Building on this partnership, the groups will also explore other avenues of cooperation in Oman and India, said a press release.

The signing ceremony was held in Muscat between Sheikh Ahmed Bahwan, Chairman, Bahwan International Group, and Mr. Sudarshan Venu, Joint Managing Director, TVS Motor Company.

Arata, said the release, is registered in the UAE and has a strong presence in the MENA region. Bahwan International Group and its channel partners plan to operate more than 30 dealerships for TVS Motor Company. The dealerships will include state-of-the-art 3S dealership facilities in all the major cities of Iraq.

Mr. Sudarshan Venu, Joint Managing Director, TVS Motor Company, said, "We are delighted to partner with a reputed group like 'BIG', to strengthen our presence in the MENA region."



Anand Mahindra, Venu Srinivasan conferred with Padma Bhushan

MR Venu Srinivasan, Chairman of TVS Group and Mr Anand Mahindra, Chairman of Mahindra Group, were conferred with Padma Bhushan awards by the President, Mr Rama Nath Kovind, at a ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan on November 8.

It was part of the Civil Investiture Ceremony-II in which three Padma Vibhushan, eight Padma Bhushan and 61 Padma Shri Awards for the year 2020 were awarded. The Vice-President, Mr M Venkaiah Naidu, the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, Union Minister for Home Affairs, Mr Amit Shah, and other dignitaries were also present at the ceremony. .

Mr Srinivasan and Mr Mahindra were honoured for their 'distinguished service in the field of trade and industry'. This is the second such honour for the two automotive industry stalwarts. In 2010, both were conferred with Padma Shri awards.

Mr Srinivasan is known to be passionate about his commitment to society through a unique model of village development in South India. The TVS Group, which he heads, includes Sundaram-Clayton and TVS Motor Company, one of the country's leading two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturers.

Mr Mahindra's tenure has seen the Mahindra Group expand domestically and internationally into a range of major industrial sectors from automobiles and agriculture to IT and aerospace. He is also the Executive Chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra and the Non-Executive Chairman of Tech Mahindra.

Hero MotoCorp augments its premium portfolio

Launches *XPulse 200* 4 Valve

HERO MotoCorp on October 7 launched an all-new XPulse 200 4 Valve.

According to a press release, XPulse, the country's first 200cc adventure motorcycle, has captivated the youth with its on-road-off-road readiness, cutting-edge technology, and differentiated styling. The new XPulse 200 4 Valve is a powerful addition to the well-rounded X-range of premium portfolio of Hero MotoCorp, said the release.

Building on its DNA of high-tech adventure experience, the new motorcycle comes with the 200cc BSVI 4 Valve Oil Cooled Engine, that offers 6 per cent more power and 5 per cent added torque, thereby ensuring a relaxed and stress-free ride at high speeds.

This, along with an updated oil cooling system, improved seat profile and upgraded LED headlights, makes the motorcycle a perfect ride companion while discovering the unknown terrains, said the release further

Mr Malo Le Masson, Head of Strategy and Global Product Planning, Hero MotoCorp, said, "The XPulse is leading Hero MotoCorp's aggressive growth strategy in the premium motorcycle segment that is performance-led, tech-enabled and youth-focused. Within no time, the XPulse managed to create an important customer fan base across the world. With the new XPulse 200 4V, we are bringing more power and enhancing further its off-road, touring and commuting capabilities for the most thrilling riding experience."

Mr Naveen Chauhan, Head – Sales, After Sales & Parts, Hero MotoCorp, said, "We are delighted to bring the new XPulse 200 4V for our customers this festive season. It is surely going to add to the popularity of XPulse brand in its powerful and stylish avatar."



TVS HLX series crosses two-million milestone

TVS Motor Company announced on October 1 that its HLX series has crossed the sales milestone of two million units globally.

In 2019, the TVS HLX series crossed a sales milestone of one million globally and doubled the same in two years.

Launched in 2013, TVS HLX series has stayed true to the brand's promise of being a sturdy product that is highly reliable across rugged terrains, said a press release. The motorcycle has been providing last-mile connectivity for commercial taxis and delivery segments in rural and urban regions across Africa, the Middle East and LATAM, it said.

Mr. KN Radhakrishnan, Director and CEO, TVS Motor Company, said, "We are delighted that our leading global brand TVS HLX has achieved a sales milestone of 2 million units across global markets. TVS HLX series is a testimony to our customer experience and quality.



We continue to set a benchmark and strive to be the most admired brand for its durability, reliability and extensive service & spare-parts support across the globe."

Mr. KN Radhakrishnan,
Director and CEO, TVS Motor Company,



TVS rolls out 1,00,000th unit of BMW 310cc series bike

TVS Motor Company recently announced the rollout of 1,00,000th unit of BMW Motorrad's 310cc series of motorcycles.

The motorcycle was rolled out from the TVS Motor's Hosur facility by Mr. KN Radhakrishnan, Director & CEO, TVS Motor Company, and Mr. Rainer Baumel, Head of Products, BMW Motorrad.

In 2013, TVS Motor Company and BMW Motorrad signed a cooperation agreement to develop and produce sub-500cc motorcycles for the global market. This strategic partnership has introduced three products on the 310cc platform, namely BMW G 310 R, BMW



310 GS and TVS Motor Company's TVS Apache RR 310. All three products are manufactured at the TVS Motor Company's Hosur facility.

Mr. Radhakrishnan said, "We are delighted to achieve a historic milestone in our journey with BMW Motorrad today. This achievement is a strong testimony to the success of our eight-year partnership, which has created a common learning platform for both companies."

Mr. Markus Schramm, Head of BMW Motorrad, said, "Our strong synergies with TVS Motor Company have led to the development of impressive offerings in the sub-500cc segment."

Hero launches *Pleasure+ XTec*

HERO MotoCorp added to its Pleasure brand of scooters by launching a new Pleasure+ XTec recently.

The new LED projector headlamp - a first-ever feature in the 110cc segment - enhanced aesthetics and a new vibrant paint in Jubilant Yellow bring a fresh appeal to the scooter, said a press release.

With its enhanced technology features, the rider can master any driving situation with confidence, added the release.

Mr. Malo Le Masson, Head of Strategy and Global Product Planning, Hero MotoCorp, said, The Pleasure+ 110 is a trendsetter and is quickly becoming one of the country's most admired and popular scooter. The XTec model brings more charm with elegant elements inspired from the Platinum



edition, more durability with the front metal fender, more comfort with a branded seat backrest and a boost of technology with the projector LED headlamp, Bluetooth connectivity, and Hero's patented i3S technology for enhanced fuel-efficiency. The Pleasure+ 110 has just become even more desirable."

BMW Motorrad debuts in midsize scooter segment with launch of *C 400 GT*

BMW Motorrad India has launched its premium midsize scooter C 400 GT in the country. It will be available as a completely built-up unit.

According to a press release, the modern and future-oriented looks of all-new BMW C 400 GT reflect the BMW Motorrad design philosophy perfectly. The scooter is designed for excellent comfort, dynamic performance, and enhanced touring capability.

The front is aerodynamically designed with twin LED headlight with the distinctive design of the LED daytime running light. The integrated turn indicators clearly set the scooter apart in its segment, said the release.

The scooter is fitted with a newly-developed, water-cooled single-cylinder four-stroke engine with a displacement of 350 cc. It generates a peak output of 34 hp (25 kW) at 7500 rpm and a maximum torque of 35 Nm at 5750 rpm.



The multifunctional instrument cluster with 6.5-inch full-colour TFT screen of C 400 GT offers an unrivalled level of quality in terms of display and information in its segment, added the release.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "The launch of all-new BMW C 400 GT heralds a new era in the urban mobility

segment in India. This progressive and agile midsize scooter is designed to conquer the city and long-touring destinations with ease."

Hero MotoCorp launches Xtreme 160R Stealth Edition

HERO MotoCorp on October 14 launched the new Xtreme 160R Stealth Edition. The premium and stylish Stealth packs a host of new elements that add to the ever-growing appeal of the iconic Xtreme brand, said a press release issued by the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters.

A modern street-fighter tuned for the city streets, the Xtreme brand caters to today's smart generation that is looking for both character and comfort, it said.

The Stealth Edition offers a premium appeal with its matte black avatar. Apart from features like LED winkers and side stand engine cut-off, the Stealth Edition brings several additional features such as integrated USB charger and LCD brightness adjustment. It also gets a new gear indicator feature on the speedometer.



The new motorcycle offers an enhanced riding experience with these exciting features and a premium appeal with the new 3D emblem branding and the 'Stealth' badge, added the release.

Mr. Malo Le Masson, Head of Strategy and Global Product Planning, Hero MotoCorp, said, "The Xtreme is the sporty and urban brand in Hero MotoCorp's X-range of premium motorcycles. The new Xtreme 160R Stealth edition is bringing further class-leading technology and a mysterious darker style that will excite the customers in their everyday ride."

Bajaj's Dominar 400 comes in new avatar



BAJAJ Auto has launched an upgrade of Dominar 400. The Sports Tourer now gets factory-fitted touring accessories and is tailor-made for riders who prefer strong touring essentials, said a press release.

In its new avatar, Dominar 400 has a more distinctive front end with an angular and stylish tall visor. Developed with cutting edge CFD technology, the tall visor is designed to offer good wind-blast protection thus improving rider comfort. It also features aerodynamically sculpted fighter jet-inspired hand guard with flexi-winglets for maximum wind protection.

Its touring-friendly features also include a purposeful and stylish engine bash plate with integrated metal skid plate, which offers good impact protection. It also comes equipped with a neatly integrated navigation stay that allows riders to attach a navigation device.

All the accessories, apart from saddle stay, will come as standard on Dominar 400, added the release.

Mr. Narayan Sundararaman, Head of Marketing, Bajaj Auto Ltd., said "Basis interactions with Dominar riders, we have thoughtfully designed and smartly handpicked the touring accessories that don't just accentuate the style and tour-worthiness of the motorcycle but also ramp up the rider's safety."

Ashok Leyland launches upgraded e-comet Star

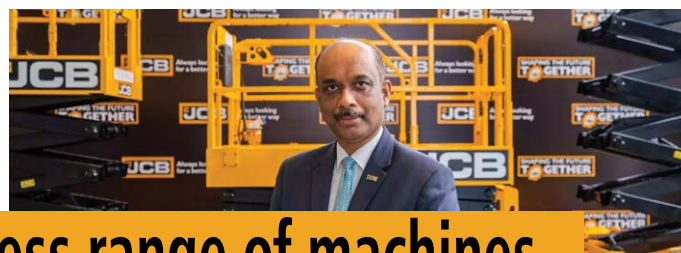


ASHOK Leyland on October 11 launched e-comet Star, upgraded with additional features, in the intermediate commercial vehicle (ICV) segment. It will cater 11T to 16T GVW ICV segments, according to a press release by the company.

The e-comet Star comes with new stylish looks to meet the new-age customer expectations. It provides higher fluid efficiency, better tyre life, longer service intervals and overall lower maintenance cost with enhanced Turnaround Time, said the release.

The e-comet platform, said the release, supports multiple applications such as e-commerce, parcel & courier, agri-perishable, poultry, white goods, FMCG, auto parts and reefer, among others.

Sanjay Saraswat, President - MHCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "The e-comet Star is a differentiated product which reduces the turnaround time for the logistics sector and has features that improve driver safety. The e-comet Star delivers a better turnaround time for the fleet-owner thereby resulting in best-in-class total cost of ownership (TCO)."



JCB launches Access range of machines

JCB India on October 14 launched its Access range of equipment that includes four electric scissor models S1930E, S2632E, S3246E, and S4046E, and come with working heights of 7.71m, 9.92m, 11.7m, and 13.9m.

These four models are a part of the full range of machines including articulated and telescopic boom machines and will be manufactured at JCB India's facility at Jaipur.

With the launch of these Electric Scissors, JCB is entering into a new era of environment-friendly products and technologies, said a press release.

Mr. Deepak Shetty, JCB India CEO and Managing

Director, said, "With this new product category, we will address a critical requirement of having a safer option to work at heights. Our scissor lifts have distinct advantages due to their several sensors and control systems like tilt sensing, load sensing, pothole protection and intuitive control system which make them inherently safe."

Self-propelled electric scissors provide much safer access to personnel and equipment required to carry out tasks at Heights. These lifts can handle any application that would normally require a ladder, a tower or scaffolding, added the company's release.

VECV launches new bus range

Coach & Sleeper models for luxury travel



VE Commercial Vehicles on October 12 launched a new coach & sleeper bus range.

The buses, designed and built in Volvo Buses factory at Hosakote, on high-performance, front-engine Eicher 6016 R LPO 12.4 m chassis, set a new benchmark for bus travel in India with their future-ready design and luxurious interiors, said a press release.

"A year ago, we announced the formation of a bus division within VECV with the clear aim to shape the developments in the Indian bus industry. Today I am proud to launch a new range that synergises Eicher brand's extensive local presence and expertise in value engineering with Volvo Buses India's competence in premium bus segment. This product truly combines the 'best-of-the-both-worlds' said Mr. Vinod Aggarwal, MD & CEO, VE Commercial Vehicles.

Mr. Akash Passey, President, Bus Division, VECV added: "This is the first milestone in our drive to offer a complete range of market-adapted economy, mid-premium and premium buses across all market segments."

The fully air-conditioned coach seats 43 passengers with best-in-class 11.3-cubic meter luggage space. The sleeper version offers 30 luxurious berths that maximise comfort and safety and offers 6.5 cu.m of luggage space. Berths are separated by full-height partitions to ensure privacy and security in the air-conditioned environment.



Mr. Akash Passey
President, Bus Division, VECV

S90 and XC60, new petrol mild-hybrids from Volvo



VOLVO Car India on October 19 launched two new petrol mild-hybrid models- the luxury sedan S90 and the Volvo's best-selling mid-size luxury SUV XC60.

These launches are in line with the company's aim to a complete petrol portfolio by end of 2021, said a press release.

Volvo launches world's first vehicle using fossil-free steel

In a world first, Volvo Group revealed a vehicle made of fossil-free steel produced by SSAB. The machine, a load carrier for use in mining and quarrying, was unveiled at an event in Gothenburg on October 13.

During the green steel collaboration event, it was also announced that more vehicles will follow in 2022 in what will be a series of concept vehicles and components using fossil-free steel from SSAB.



Priced at Rs. 61,90,000 (ex-showroom), both these models come with advanced features that enhance the Volvo driving experience, it said.

The S90 is Volvo's premium 4-door, 5-seat flagship sedan. It is built on the Scalable Product Architecture (SPA), Volvo's advanced modular vehicle platform. Winner of the 'World Car of the Year' title in 2018, the XC60 has now advanced safety upgrades, according to the release.

"Volvo has always been at the forefront of innovation. With the launch of these cars incorporating some of the best technologies and features we just set the bar higher," said Mr. Jyoti Malhotra, Managing Director, Volvo Car India.

The event, which was broadcast online, provided an opportunity to the attendees to see the world's first machine made of fossil-free steel. In addition, insights about yet another ground-breaking sustainable steel collaboration were shared.

Mr. Thierry Breton, EU Commissioner for Internal Market, and the Swedish Minister of Enterprise and Innovation, Mr. Ibrahim Baylan, also joined the event.

"This initiative with SSAB sets the benchmark for a fossil-free future. Just as the nations of the world come together at COP26 to address climate change, so too must organisations and industries work in collaboration to develop innovative new solutions for a greenhouse gas emission free future," said Mr. Martin Lundstedt, President and CEO Volvo Group.

Mr. Martin Lindqvist, President and CEO at SSAB, said, "Having the world's first actual vehicle made using SSAB's fossil-free steel is a true milestone. Our collaboration with Volvo Group shows that green transition is possible and brings results."

ICRA lowers FY22 growth forecast for component sector by 300 bps

Credit profile to stay stable despite short-term challenges



RATINGS agency ICRA expects a 17-20 per cent revenue growth for the domestic auto component sector in FY2022, driven by domestic OEM, replacement, export volumes and pass-through of commodity prices.

The healthy volume growth would, however, come on a low base of FY2021.

The growth forecasts have been revised downward by 300 bps from the earlier estimates due to the impact of semi-conductor shortage on domestic OEM and export revenues.

The operating profit margin of auto ancillaries (ex-tyres) will remain lower than normal levels (FY2020). The industry's exceptionally weak performance during Q1 FY2021 due to the strict lockdown, dragged last year's profit margins.



Ms. Vinutaa S,
Assistant Vice-President, ICRA Limited,

Ms. Vinutaa S, Assistant Vice-President, ICRA Limited, said, "The underlying demand remains strong, though near-term challenges on supply-chain and commodity inflation persist. While sequential moderation is likely, most domestic OE segments are expected to witness healthy demand in FY2022, with preference for personal mobility and pick-up in infra activity being the growth drivers. Pent-up demand and increase in economic activity will support aftermarket revenues. Part of the revenue growth would also come in from commodity pass-through."

She said the export order-book, both to the US and Europe, remains healthy but continuation of the trend remains to be seen, given the semiconductor shortage.

ICRA expects operating margins to sequentially improve in Q2 FY2022, post the loss of revenues in Q1 FY2022 and negative operating leverage which dented operating profits.

In the near-term, semi-conductor shortages and related supply disruptions remain a challenge. ICRA said its interaction with industry participants indicates that semiconductor shortage is likely to continue at least till the end of CY2021.

Experts stress on indigenous EV manufacturing supply chain



EXPERTS from EV industry emphasised that the need for indigenous EV manufacturing supply chain is being felt stronger than before.

They were speaking at a session on 'EV Supply Chain – Seizing Opportunities', held on the second day of Digielec Bharat 2021, a virtual exhibition organised by the Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) from October 20 to 26.

Mr Guruprasad Mudlapur, Regional President & Managing Director, Bosch Auto, said, "Power electronics provides a lot of opportunities in India with local high quality manufacturing and recycling of batteries for mobility and storage use. What attracts the customer in EV is sustainable transportation, low cost of

maintenance and certainty driven through connected world."

Mr S. Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer, Celsius 100, stated, "The signs are here –\$5,000 crore of investment in 2-3 wheelers with massive consumer acceptance!"

Mr Rajanish Saxena, Head Engineering, Sun Mobility, presented a different perspective. He said, "The Government is working on standardisation but as an industry we have not done anything in terms of design and standardising. The need of the hour is collaboration between companies to diffuse risks and manage uncertainties while developing new technologies and manufacturing processes."

Mr Anil Shrivastav, former Director General, NITI Aayog, concluded, "The surge in start-ups will not only help in laying down the ecosystem of drivetrains and related components but will also promote new innovations in design, technology, and production of EVs."

Earlier in the day, Mrs Sumita Dawra, Additional Secretary DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, said "The Indian industry must move up the value chain by building globally-recognised brands. At the same time the products need to be energy-efficient and price-competitive too to be globally acceptable."

Ampere launches *Magnus EX*

AMPERE Electric has expanded its Magnus range with the launch of Magnus EX.

This large family e-scooter epitomises best-in-class comfort and functionally superior performance with a host of improved & innovative features, said a press release. With a mileage of 121 km per charge as per ARAI, Magnus EX comes at Rs 68,999 (ex-showroom Pune). With additional state Government incentives, the overall price will further go down, said the release.



Mr. Roy Kurian, COO, Ampere Electric, said, "Magnus EX with its long distance per charge enables users to do multiple trips and complete their work and life goals easily."

First Jio-bp mobility station comes up in Navi Mumbai

Reliance BP Mobility Limited, a joint venture between Reliance Industries and BP, launched its first Jio-bp branded mobility station at Navde in Navi Mumbai, on October 26.

Jio-bp will bring a network of world-class mobility stations offering multiple fuelling choices to the customers, said a press release. The existing network of over 1,400 fuel pumps will be rebranded as Jio-bp, presenting a new range of customer value propositions over the coming months, it said further.

Jio-bp mobility stations will bring together a range of services for consumers on the move, including additivised fuels, EV charging, refreshments and food, and plan to offer more low carbon solutions over time, added the release.

Instead of regular fuels, Jio-bp mobility stations will offer additivised fuel at no extra cost. The JV will also set up a network of EV charging and battery swap stations at these mobility stations. The heart of the convenience offering will be making refreshments available to the customers, through Wild Bean Café.



Hero MotoCorp opens its dealership in Dubai

STRENGTHENING its presence in the UAE further, Hero MotoCorp inaugurated a dealership in Dubai.

While the new showroom is located in Jumeirah 1, Dubai, the workshop, enabling 3S operations, is at Al Quoz Industrial Area III, said a press release.

The showroom, spread over 625 sq. ft., displays the range of Hero MotoCorp motorcycles and scooters while the workshop, with two service bays, provides the best-in-class aftersales services and spare parts to customers, added the release.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjay Bhan, Head – Global Business, Hero MotoCorp, said, “The Gulf region is a strategically important part of our aggressive global expansion plans. Our aim is to bring world-class products and services to customers here and excite the market. We are focusing on providing extensive after-sales support to our customers and keep expanding in this market.”

Having forayed into the UAE in 2018, Hero MotoCorp caters to its customers through a network of over 10 touch-points, including six dealerships and service centers and four spare part outlets across five countries in the region.



Mr. Sanjay Bhan,
Head – Global Business, Hero
MotoCorp,



2W-finance platform OTO enters Delhi



Mr Sumit Chhazed,
Co-founder, OTO

OTO, the two-wheeler buying and financing platform, on October 7 announced its launch in Delhi to provide a seamless digital buying experience to customers in the city.

It provides financing options for all major brands of two-wheelers and has already partnered with 38 dealerships in the Capital, said a press release.

Some of the dealerships OTO has partnered with include Binsar Automobiles, Aman Motors and Bagga Bajaj among others.

Mr Sumit Chhazed, Co-founder, OTO said, "Delhi is a crucial market for two-wheelers with the highest number of registered vehicles across India. We are excited to venture into a new market and launch our offerings in the city."



Maruti launches S-Assist, an AI-based virtual car assistant



MARUTI Suzuki India on September 30 launched an AI-based 24x7 virtual car assistant app, called 'S-Assist', for its Nexa customers.

The scan and voice-enabled virtual car assistant optimises the application of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to provide an immersive online post-purchase experience to customers, said a press release by the company.

Launching the S-Assist, Mr. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Director, Service, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "S-Assist is a complimentary service which offers quick access to vehicle features, troubleshooting and driving tips on customers' smartphone. It brings real-time information to customers for their vehicle-related queries."

Nexa customers will be able to access S-Assist through 'Maruti Suzuki Rewards' mobile app available on both iOS and Android devices. It is available free of cost to these customers.

SANSERA Engineering

Engineering led integrated
**manufacturer of forged and
machined components**



Strong Engineering Expertise

Integrating innovation with our engineering and product manufacturing processes is our forte.

Our capabilities:

- Product Design
- Process Design
- Fixture Design
- Automation
- Machine Building
- Advanced Engineering



DAIMLER



SANSERA
FOUNDATION
charities@work

- Committed for development of society
- Sustainable manufacturing to protect our environment



Maximizing Safety, Minimizing Fatalities. **MAKING IT POSSIBLE.**

In India, 1.37 lakh people die in road accidents every year;
70% fatal accidents occur at night.

Through advancements in Auto Lighting Technology with LED's,
we are lighting the road ahead, bringing safety to the fore-front.



NEOLITE

advantage:

- One of the largest OEM suppliers in India.
- Customer-base of over 30 prestigious OEM's.
- Exporting to over 80 countries worldwide.
- State-of-the-art infrastructure with modern facilities.
- Experienced work-force and dedicated R&D team



Neolite ZKW Lightings Pvt. Ltd.

Board Line: +91-1276-350001, E-mail: info@neolitezkw.com


NEOLITE
AUTOMOBILE LIGHTING