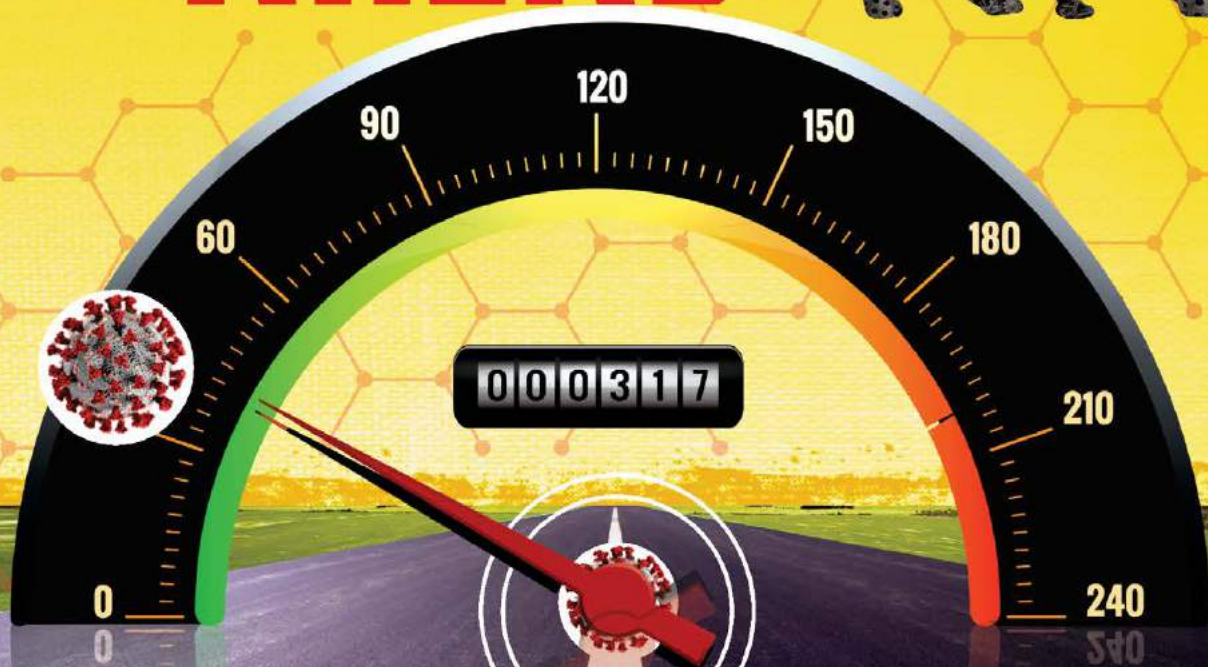


AUTOGUIDE

India's Automotive Industry & Trade Journal

55
YEARS
SINCE 1966

THE ROAD AHEAD



FAME-II changes uplift EV sentiment



jumps

START SOMETHING



- Starter Motors
- Alternators
- Dynamo Motors
- Components



JUMPS AUTO INDUSTRIES LIMITED

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Editor's Viewpoint



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Chairman - Editorial board

**THE ROAD
AHEAD IS
FRAUGHT
WITH CHALLENGES
AND THE
INDUSTRY SEEMS
FULLY GEARED
TO HANDLE
THESE**

Geared up to traverse the road ahead

Little could we imagine how serious the pandemic situation would turn out as we closed the edition in April! The second wave of coronavirus was more disastrous, and more lethal, than the first one and several state governments were compelled to implement lockdowns and restrict people's movement. Life came to a halt and businesses suffered a great deal. The automobile industry, too, battled a tough April 2021 but things started approaching normalcy towards May-end and it is back to business now, with all the necessary curbs and precautions. Let's hope and pray the difficult times are behind us, for good!

While resuming its core activity at a rapid pace, the automobile industry also gave enough display of its corporate social responsibility by joining in the Government's COVID relief efforts and providing for its workforce. Almost every company launched vaccination drives and set up medical facilities for its employees and many offered financial assistance to the families of the victims. Besides, auto majors also made large donations to the relief kitty of the states and the Centre. We acknowledge this laudable gesture by giving prominent coverage to the initiatives undertaken by various players.

The road ahead is fraught with challenges and the industry seems fully geared to handle these. Besides redrawing roadmaps and devising fresh strategies, it is hopeful of the Government coming up with all possible steps to give an impetus to the growth of the sector. A manifestation of the Government's positive intentions came when on June 12 it announced key changes to the FAME-II Scheme with a view to making it less challenging for the industry to adapt. The EV players were thrilled with the decision and many immediately slashed prices of their various models. A comprehensive story on the DHI announcement and industry feedback is going as the Cover Story in this edition. A related development on the EV front was the announcement of the 'Gujarat Electric Vehicle Policy 2021' which is set to benefit nearly two lakh buyers of electric vehicles over the next four years with subsidies of up to Rs 1.50 lakh. We carry the story along with the reactions of the top EV players.

Besides, the issue encapsulates major launches, insightful surveys and many other developments during the past few weeks.

Enjoy reading!

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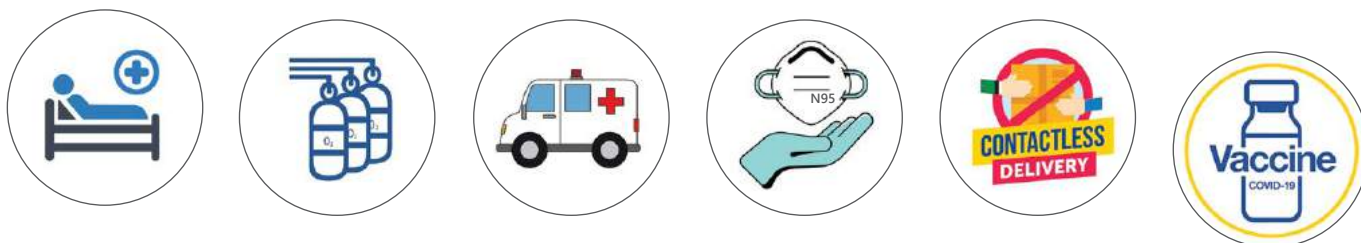


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Auto firms go all out with relief measures



As responsible corporate citizens, automobile industry stakeholders came out enthusiastically to help mitigate the pain caused by the devastating second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. While almost every company launched vaccination drives and set up medical facilities for its employees, many offered financial assistance to the families of the victims. Besides, there was generous outpouring of funds from major automobile and component manufacturers to the relief kitty of various state governments and the Centre.

Herewith we reproduce the list of initiatives undertaken by some of the automakers during these challenging times:



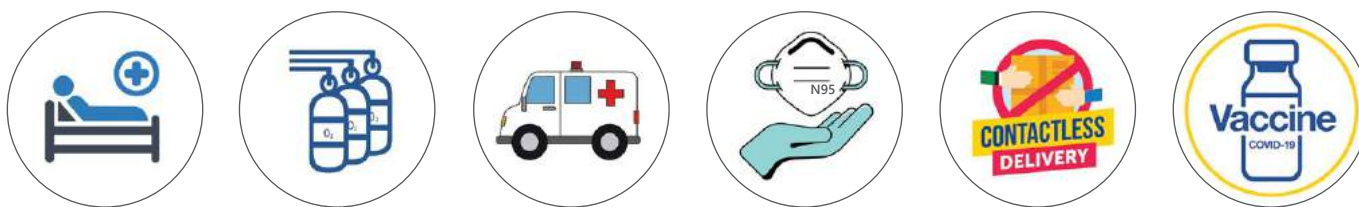
Maruti Suzuki starts a hospital in Gujarat

MARUTI Suzuki India Limited, in partnership with Zydus Hospitals, announced the opening of a multi-speciality hospital at Sitapur in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat. With a total capital expenditure of ₹126 crore, the hospital is 100 per cent funded by the Maruti Suzuki Foundation. The hospital is also assisting in taking care of COVID-19 patients and strengthening the fight against the pandemic. The hospital is expected to serve over 3.75 lakh people residing at Sitapur and adjoining villages at affordable charges.

MG dealers provide health cover to staff

MG Motor India said that its dealerships are providing their employees with an additional health cover against the COVID-19 pandemic. The automaker said the staff serving customers will be provided adequate COVID support measures for their safety and wellbeing, by the dealers. The company also announced an initiative, called MG Heathline, to help its customers by providing a platform to them for free online medical consultation with doctors. Besides, MG successfully converted its Hector Plus into a COVID-19 mobile testing unit. The vehicle is being used as Dhanvantari Rath for COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and other mobile healthcare services in Gujarat.





Hyundai provides medical equipment to Delhi Govt

HYUNDAI Motor India Foundation (HMIF), the philanthropic arm of Hyundai Motor India Ltd., handed over the 40 high-flow nasal oxygen machines, 40 BiPaP machines and 10 ventilators to Mr. Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi. Under the Hyundai Cares 3.0 Initiative, Project: 'Back to Life' ensures the expedited procurement and delivery of highly critical oxygen products to help provide immediate relief across most affected states and cities in the country.

Hyundai releases film on 'Sparsh Sanjeevani'

HYUNDAI Motor India Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Hyundai Motor India, recently released a film on its social outreach initiative 'Sparsh Sanjeevani'.

The film captures moments of Hyundai's mobile medical van as it travels through rural India to augment accessibility of healthcare services for people in these regions.

Commenting on the film, Mr. SS Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd., said, "At Hyundai, we believe in driving meaningful change for society through every initiative. Our efforts draw inspiration from our vision of Progress for Humanity, as we continue in our pursuit of bringing smiles, wellbeing, and prosperity to people across India. The film on 'Sparsh Sanjeevani' has suitably chronicled the journey of driving a greater accessibility to quality medical support and healthcare services."

A press release said the entire film is shot in the Laxmangarh block of Alwar district in Rajasthan and all characters are local residents of the village. A lifesaving Indian medicinal plant, popularly known as Sanjeevani, plays the role of a protagonist and story-teller in the film.



HYUNDAI



Toyota vaccination drive for employees

TOYOTA Kirloskar Motor has announced a vaccination drive for all its employees, their families and onsite contract members. The programme covering 16,000 people commenced in June and will continue to run through September this year to cover all its members for both doses. Besides expediting onsite vaccination at workplace, the company has also tied up with leading hospitals to facilitate vaccination camps thereby accelerating inoculation at different locations providing easy access to all eligible members.



Volvo term insurance cover for dealerships

VOLVO Car India has covered all personnel employed by its dealer network under a term insurance policy of up to ₹10 lakh. The company will bear the premium cost and has undertaken the term insurance of all personnel employed at its 25 dealerships across the country. Earlier, the company had announced a 'Contactless Program' to safeguard its dealer employees from the spread of COVID-19 and to promote online sale.

Nissan contributes to TN Disaster Relief

NISSAN India contributed ₹2.2 crore to the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Relief Fund, ₹25 lakh to the Tamil Nadu CM Relief Fund and over ₹4.3 crore for COVID-19 relief equipment, masks and PPE kits etc. Over the last few months, Nissan distributed N-95 masks, PPE kits, oxygen concentrators, portable ECG machines, X-ray machines, pulse oximeters and nasal oxygen machines in Delhi NCR and Chennai.



BMW pledges Rs 8 cr for COVID relief work

BMW Group India has pledged a total of ₹8 crore towards the COVID-19 pandemic. An additional contribution of ₹5 crore has been made on top of the company's earlier commitment of ₹3 crore. BMW's efforts are dedicated towards augmenting healthcare infrastructure and medical services in Gurugram and Chengalpattu in Tamil Nadu.

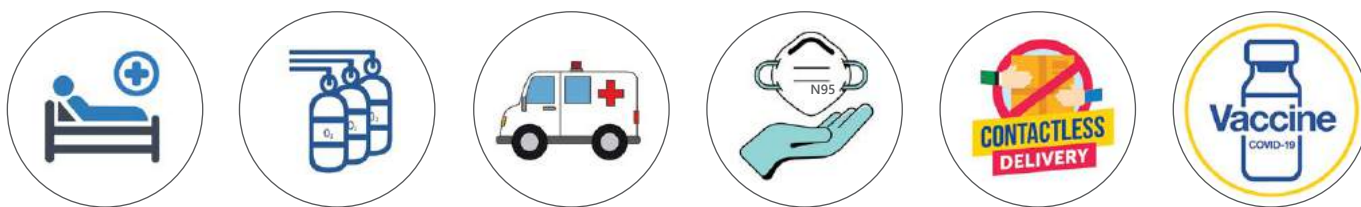
BMW's special support initiative for doctors

BMW Group India has announced a special customer support initiative for doctors who own a BMW/MINI car or a BMW Motorrad bike. The company, along with its dealers, will offer a complimentary engine oil service to them till September 30 this year.

Doctors registered with Indian Medical Association, hospitals and clinics owning a BMW or vehicle can register themselves at www.bmw-contactless.in to avail the service.

Vehicles with engine oil service due as per Condition Based Service (CBS) will be eligible to avail the complimentary service. Existing BMW or MINI Service Inclusive package holders can choose between two options in lieu of engine oil service - free sanitisation of the vehicle or a complimentary Car Care Package.





Slew of initiatives from Mercedes

MERCEDES-Benz Research and Development India (MBRDI) announced a slew of initiatives to ensure the health, safety, and holistic wellbeing of its employees and the larger community. The company collaborated with C-CAMP (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms), the German Consulate, Bengaluru, Rhenus Logistics, and Nayonika Eyecare Charitable Trust to procure 110 oxygen concentrators for hospitals in Karnataka.



Vaccination centre at DICV facility in TN

TAMIL Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated a vaccination centre at Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) manufacturing plant in Oragadam. It marked the official start of COVID-19 vaccinations for Tamil Nadu automotive industry workers aged 18-44. While DICV has already inoculated almost all employees aged 45 and over, this facility will allow the vaccination drive to be further expanded to the local community, including those under 45.

DAIMLER

Sonalika vaccinates its entire workforce

Sonalika Tractors announced a massive COVID-19 vaccination drive for 100 per cent of its workforce and in just two months, the company claimed to have achieved its mission. Under the fully-sponsored drive by the company, all Sonalika's members have been vaccinated with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Besides, the company remained connected with farmers through throughout the month of May to address their queries - be it new tractors or service related.



Bajaj to vaccinate all its employees

BAJAJ Auto is carrying out a COVID-19 vaccination drive for all its employees and their family members above 18 years of age, across all its plant locations. The company started vaccination camps at its Akurdi, Chakan and Waluj plants, where all employees, contract workers and their family members are eligible for vaccination free of cost.



EV game-changer

With a view to achieving the desired objectives of the second edition of FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India) Scheme and make it less challenging for industry players to adapt, the Government made some crucial changes to the scheme.

The revisions, issued through a notification by the Department of Heavy Industry Ministry on June 12, introduced a demand incentive of ~15,000 per KWh for electric two-wheelers with a maximum cap at 40 per cent of the vehicles' cost. This translates into a nearly double increase in the current subsidy.

The notification also said the state-owned Energy Efficiency Services (EESL) will launch an aggregate demand for 3,00,000 electric three-wheelers for across a variety of user segments.

For electric buses, the ministry noted that it will now target cities with over 4 million-population, i.e. Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai etc., with EESL aiming for aggregation of demand for the remaining e-buses on OPEX basis.

The failure of FAME-II Scheme, announced in March 2019, to achieve targeted results prompted the Government to introduce these changes and EV manufacturers are obviously thrilled by the development.

Autoguide got the reaction of various players to the Government move and that's what they had to say:

**GOVT MAKES CHANGES
IN FAME-II;
INDUSTRY GIVES A
BIG APPLAUSE**

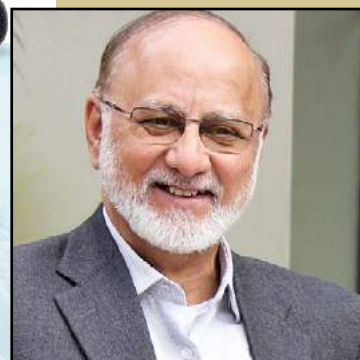


MR. SOHINDER GILL

Director General, SMEV



"It's an important and admirable decision taken by the Government, a move that will bring down the prices of electric two-wheelers nearer to the IC vehicles and remove one of the biggest blockades of the high sticker price of electric two-wheelers. A City Speed electric scooter with a range of 100km/charge will now cost less than Rs 60,000 and a high-speed scooter with a range of 80 km will come nearer to the price tag of Rs.1 lakh."





MR. NAGESH BASAVANHALLI

MD & Group CEO, Greaves Cotton

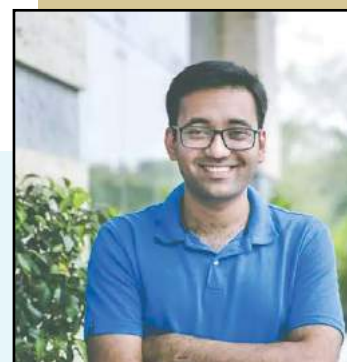
"The new and revised FAME-II incentive policy announcement by the Government is encouraging which will make electric vehicles more affordable and accessible and further boost the adoption of electric vehicles especially electric 2-wheelers and 3-wheelers in the country. With people becoming more health and environment-conscious post-pandemic and switching to personal mobility solutions, this announcement will increase the penetration level of electric scooters as well as e-rickshaws."



MR. TARUN MEHTA

CEO, Ather Energy

"The revision in the FAME policy, increasing the subsidy by 50 pc per KWh is a phenomenal move. Sales of electric two-wheelers have grown despite the pandemic and with this additional subsidy, we expect electric two-wheeler sales to disrupt the market, and clock 6 million+ units by 2025. The Government's continued support to drive adoption of EVs with a keen focus on locally built electric two-wheelers will make India the manufacturing hub of EVs."



MR. SUDARSHAN VENU

Joint MD, TVS Motor Company

We welcome the Government's continued support to EVs. Sustainable mobility solutions are very important for the future and TVS is investing significantly behind this. The improved incentives for electric two-wheelers will increase penetration. Such policy direction should lead to indigenous development of future technology."



MR. SAURAV KUMAR

Founder and CEO, Euler Motors

"The decision to extend the FAME-II scheme will be incremental to push EV adoption in the country. The FAME subsidies have helped EV manufacturers to build efficient and advanced vehicles in the last three years. However, the strict stipulations of the scheme have limited the OEMs to avail its benefits. Given the slow uptick of EVs, the relaxations and revisions in the scheme will ensure OEMs can continue to offer the vehicles at a subsidised cost and cultivate a larger market for electric vehicles."



MR. PANKAJ TIWARI

Chief Marketing Officer, Nexzu Mobility

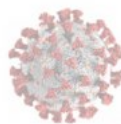


"The Government's move to increase subsidy to electric bikes and scooters by 50 pc, subject to those that meet the FAME-II criteria, is a welcome stimulus which will boost adoption and encourage R&D and innovation for enhanced customer experience. The development will surely provide a fillip to Indian EV companies to manufacture the finest, electric high-speed mobility solutions. However, we would also like to see electric bicycles fall in the ambit of the FAME-II policy with an independent incentive for two-wheelers based on some of the key features like battery power etc."

MR. KETAN MEHTA

CEO and Founder, HOP Electric

"The revision in FAME-II policy will help Indian EV companies in better development and sale of electric products amid the pandemic. This subsidy will help us to accelerate the demand of EV products and help the market to grow immensely. We also believe that it will promote the development of a strong EV ecosystem along with the goal to make our products 100 per cent 'Made in India'."



MR. BAKAR SADIK AGWAN

Senior Analyst, GlobalData

"The revisions to FAME-II scheme come as a welcome move that will drive increased adoption of EVs across the given segments. The development is indicative of the Government's aim and enhanced interest in the electrification of two-wheelers and three-wheelers which hold a major modal share in the public and private transportation. The subsequent lowering of two-wheeler and three-wheeler EV cost will result in higher sales volumes."

MR. UDAY NARANG

Chairman, Omega Seiki Mobility

"This revolutionary step by the Government to subsidise electric three-wheelers, two-wheelers, passenger vehicles and buses will provide the much-needed impetus in faster adoption, thus helping greatly in building up the ecosystem of EVs in India. We at Omega Seiki Mobility strongly support this initiative. It is a major incentive for Make-in-India local manufacturers like us, enabling us to bring more and more EVs of various segments to the country."



MR. RAHUL SHARMA

Founder, Revolt Motors

"The modification in the FAME-II scheme will prove to be a game-changer. The increase in financial incentive will further help in boosting adoption of products in the category and is a reinforcement of the Government's commitment and intent for the EV industry. Such interventions coupled with the ongoing focus on infrastructure development can accelerate the growth of the sector immensely."

MR. BHAVISH AGGARWAL

Chairman and Group CEO, Ola

"I welcome the Government's amendment to the FAME-II subsidy. The incentive of Rs.15,000 per KWH will help make electric two-wheelers affordable for many more consumers. I believe India has the potential to lead the world in sustainable mobility and become a big market as well as a global EV manufacturing hub."



MR. JEETENDER SHARMA

MD & Founder, Okinawa Autotech

"The E2W industry is once again experiencing a positive sentiment and a high level of interest from the Government of India. The revision to FAME-II subsidies is a welcome step that will only add zeal to the adoption of electric vehicles. Lowering the prices of electric scooters in the country will help to persuade more riders to switch from a combustion-engine model to an electric one."

ELECTRIC VEHICLE POLICY 2021

Gujarat to provide subsidies of up to Rs 1.50 lakh on EVs

Signaling its strong resolve towards a cleaner environment, the Gujarat Government has come up with a progressive policy that is set to benefit nearly two lakh buyers of electric vehicles over the next four years with subsidies of up to Rs 1.50 lakh.

Under the 'Gujarat Electric Vehicle Policy 2021', announced by the Chief Minister, Mr. Vijay Rupani, on June 22, the state Government will provide a subsidy of up to Rs 20,000 on electric two-wheelers, Rs 50,000 on electric three-wheelers and Rs 1,50,000 on electric four-wheelers.



These incentives will be credited directly by the state transport department to the buyer's bank account once the purchase document of the vehicle has been authenticated.

However, there is a price threshold for EVs that are eligible for this subsidy. To qualify for this incentive, the ex-factory price of an e-two-wheeler cannot exceed Rs 1.5 lakh. Similarly, the cap for e-rickshaws to be eligible is Rs 5 lakh, and for electric cars, it's Rs 15 lakh. The price cap means most electric cars on sale at present (including Hyundai Kona Electric, MG ZS EV, Mercedes-Benz EQC and Jaguar I-Pace) will not be eligible for the Gujarat state subsidy. Tata Nexon EV, which is priced from Rs 13.99 lakh onwards, will benefit from this policy.

Around 1.10 lakh electric two-wheelers, 70,000 electric three-wheelers and 20,000 electric four-wheelers will be used in the state in the next four years following the implementation of the policy, said Mr. Rupani while announcing the policy.

As part of the policy, the state Government also unveiled a four-year plan with a total outlay of Rs 870 crore to be offered as subsidy/incentive for new buyers of EVs across segments, as well as for those investing in the development of infrastructure for EVs.

According to details shared by Department of Information, Government of Gujarat, the state will furnish subsidies to EV buyers along with benefits provided by the Central government under the second phase of the FAME India scheme.

Besides, Gujarat will give double the amount of subsidy on EVs than any other state on per kWh basis. Moreover, no registration fee will be charged for registering an electric vehicle at any Gujarat RTO

The 'Gujarat Electric Vehicle Policy 2021' will help save the state Government fuel worth Rs 5 crore annually and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by six lakh tonnes every year.

On implementation of policy



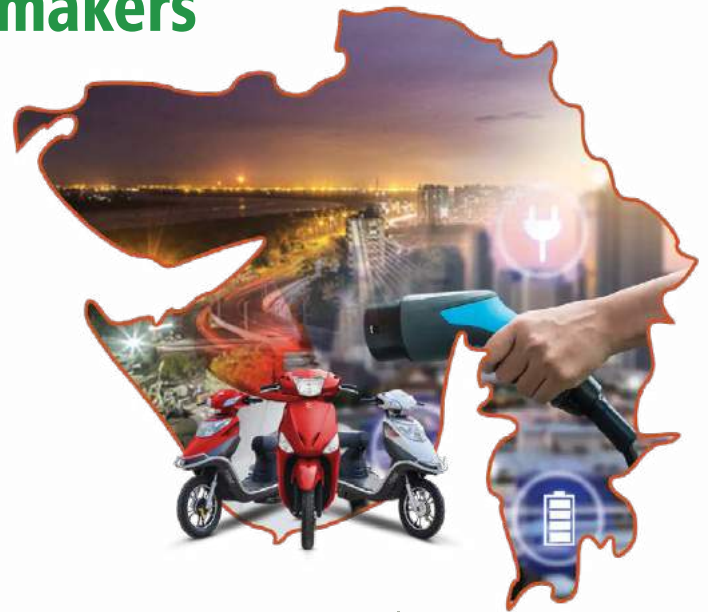
A welcome step, say EV-makers

Mr. Sohinder Gill

DG, Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles



"We thank the Government of Gujarat for announcing a promising and a bold EV policy. The policy certainly has a potential to make Gujarat an EV hub and would mobilise a rapid adoption of electric vehicles in the state. We are excited to be part of this journey and would put our all efforts towards achieving the state Government's target under the policy. The policy also gives thrust on the charging infrastructure that would address the issue of range anxiety, especially amongst the people who want to buy an electric four-wheeler."



Mr. Shailesh Chandra

President, PVBU, Tata Motors



"We welcome the move by the Gujarat Government, offering incentive support for all categories of electric vehicles. This clearly signals a strong resolve of the Government towards cleaner environment and a sustainable future for the country. Also the support extended towards charging infrastructure will accelerate the ecosystem development and bring a greater comfort for EV buyers. We compliment the Gujarat Government for introducing such a progressive policy."

Mr. Ashish Modani

V-P & Sector Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA



"As per our estimates, the recent amendment by Department of Heavy Industries as well as incentive by the Government of Gujarat could result in price reduction of about Rs. 30,000 per e2W, which is substantial and will help in achieving price parity with conventional 2W. Another key highlight is the possible price reduction of Rs. 1.5-3 lakh for electric car-buyer in Gujarat, as FAME-II policy does not provide subsidy to electric cars for personal mobility."

Mr. Tarun Mehta

CEO and Co-Founder, Ather Energy



"The new electric vehicle policy introduced by the Gujarat Government is a great move and will have a considerable impact on the adoption rate of EVs in the state. Gujarat has always taken a lead in encouraging green mobility through various progressive policies and initiatives, including the proposal to have the first EV only city, Kevadia. The Government offering double the subsidy of any other state for every kWh will make it a leading destination for electric vehicles."

Mr. Nakul Kukar

Founder and CEO, Cell Propulsion



"With the announcement of the e-vehicle policy, the Gujarat Government is enabling the inevitable transition from carbon-emitting vehicles to cleaner forms of transportation. The Gujarat Electric Vehicle Policy 2021 comes at an opportune time when both Central and state governments are taking encouraging steps to boost awareness as well as the adoption of EVs. The various incentives coming from the Government are encouraging for all the industry stakeholders and will in turn be a big step towards accelerating this transition."

Vehicle sales to rebound in 2021 after a tough May: GlobalData

THE lockdown imposed to curb the second wave of COVID-19 and the paused economic activities in India has caused the vehicle sales to decline in May 2021 compared to the previous months which were gradually increasing since January 2021. However, the full year light vehicle sales in India is expected to grow by 25.7 per cent, according to the latest sector impact analysis and base scenario forecast by GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

According to the report, May 2021 turned out to be a difficult month for the automakers as most of them witnessed a significant decline in the sales over previous month and the production and exports were also affected due to the supply chain disruptions caused due to factors such as lockdowns, temporary production shutdowns, logistic challenges, diversion of industrial oxygen for medical use and the global chip shortages.

However, on a positive note, the sales performance was much better when compared to May 2020 when India was combating the first wave of COVID-19, said the report.

Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai reported sales of 32,903 and 25,001 units respectively which was a decline of 75.8 pc & 49.0 pc respectively as compared to previous month. Tata Motors reported domestic passenger vehicle sales of 15,181 units, 39.5 pc lower than the previous month and Mahindra sales also declined by 57.4 pc to 7,748 units in May 2021.

Total sales in May reached 1,03,343 units, 63.9 pc lower compared to previous month but 182.5 pc higher when compared to May 2020.

Mr. Bakar Sadik Agwan, Senior Automotive Analyst at GlobalData, comments: "The present market



dynamics including the sluggish economic growth, poor consumer sentiments and market uncertainty over the third wave of COVID-19 indicates that the recovery to pre-COVID levels remains uncertain. But example of sales recovery post first wave of the pandemic lays positive expectations for this year as unlocking of the economic activities has already begun."

The report further said that digital retail sale is expected to emerge as a key sales channel for automakers in the near-term. Most OEMs reacted on time to reeling sales volumes and declining dealership footfalls last year due to COVID-19 restrictions and related health and hygiene concerns with the launch of end-to-end digital retail sales.

As per news reports, in 2020, online bookings contributed to 10 pc of overall booking for Maruti, nearly 20 pc for Tata and 15 pc of overall sales for Mercedes-Benz. Hyundai marked 4,300 bookings through its Click to Buy portal in 2020.

June sales see hefty growth

AFTER battling a tough April 2021 due to lockdowns induced by the second wave of coronavirus, the automobile industry witnessed growth in sales in May as things neared normalcy. The upbeat trend persisted in June as well with most carmakers reporting positive month-on-month as well year-on-year growth in sales.

In all, around 2,55,937 passenger cars were sold in June 2021, a whopping growth of 118 per cent YoY and 147 per cent MoM.

Maruti Suzuki sold 1,24,280 passenger vehicles as opposed to 51,274 units in June 2020, marking a growth of 142.38 per cent. The company sold 17,439 units of *Alto* and *S-Presso* in June 2021 as compared to 10,458 units in June last year, noting a 66.75 per cent growth. The number one market player also registered 157.9 per cent growth in the sales of other compact cars like *Dzire*, *Swift*, *Celerio*, *Baleno*, etc., from 26,696 units in June 2020 to 68,849 units last month.

Hyundai Motor, too, reported 89.9 per cent sales growth, selling 40,496 units in June 2021 as compared to 21,320 units during the same period last year. Mr. Tarun Garg, Director (Sales, Marketing and Service), Hyundai Motor India Ltd, said, "With markets opening up and improvement in customer sentiments, Hyundai is committed to deliver innovative and world-class quality products and services meeting and exceeding customers aspirations."

Mahindra & Mahindra reported a sales growth of 109 per cent, from 8,075 units in June 2020 to 16,913 units last month while Tata Motors recorded 111 per cent sales growth, 24,110 units last month as compared to 11,419 units in June 2020.

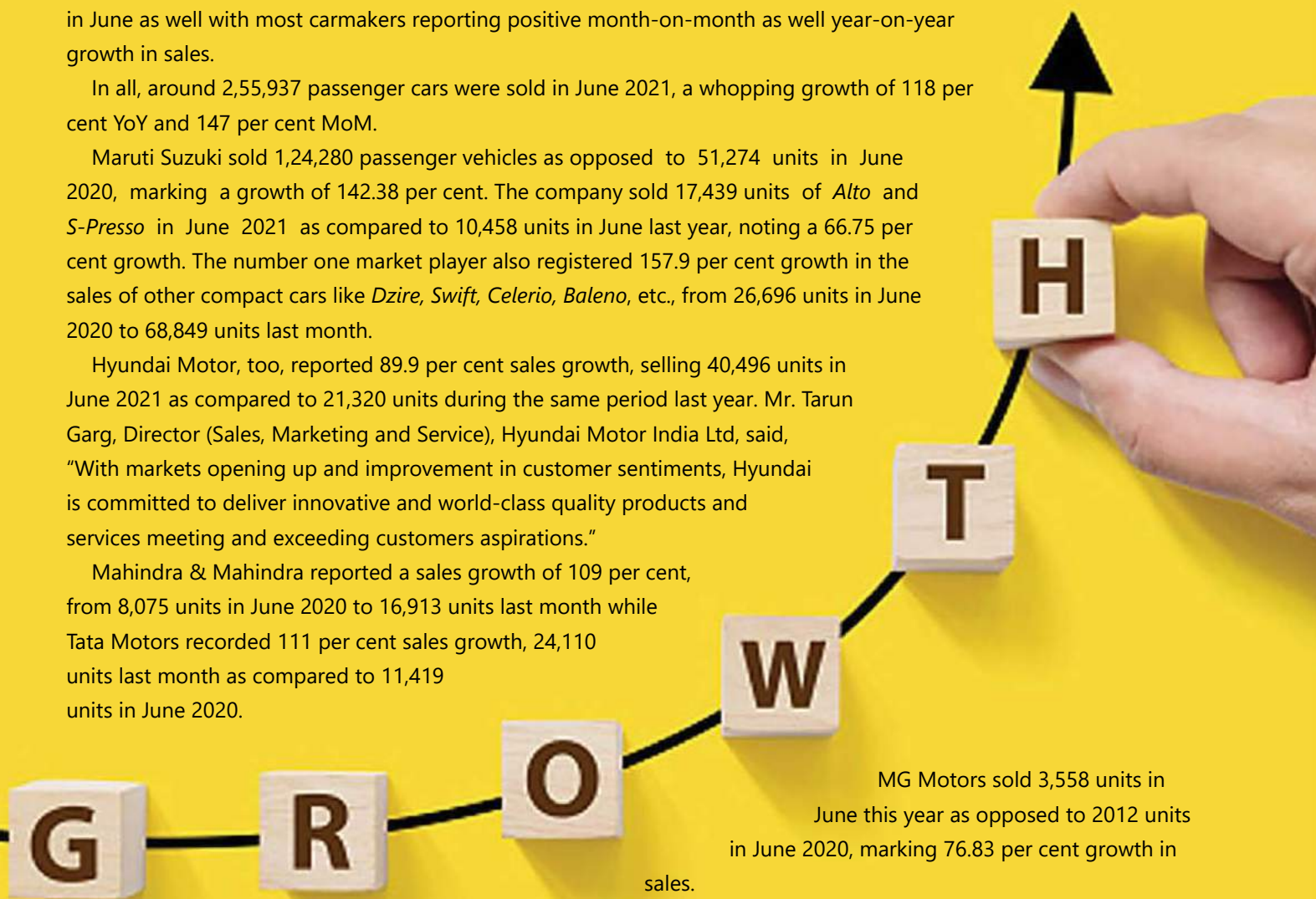
MG Motors sold 3,558 units in June this year as opposed to 1212 units in June 2020, marking 76.83 per cent growth in sales.

Kia India volumes grew 36 per cent during the month and the Korean automaker also recorded a fall of 4.8 per cent market share.

Renault sold 6,100 units of its cars in June compared to 4,634 units in the same period last year.

Ford fell behind Renault India with sales of 4,936 units.

Honda sold 4,767 units with the New *City* contributing about 54 per cent of the carmaker's OEM's sales during the month. The success of *Magnite* helped Nissan gain some traction in the market and the company sold 3,503 units in June, compared to 576 in June last year.



To optimise premium travel experiences Hyundai launches *Alcazar*

HYUNDAI Motor India on June 18 launched its premium six and seven-seater SUV, *Alcazar*. Personifying opulent and grand travel experiences, *Alcazar* is set to enthrall customers with its go-anywhere attitude, said the company.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. SS Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Limited, said, "Hyundai *Alcazar* is the personification of our customers' aspirations, giving them the ability to travel together with family and friends for a happy life and quality time.



Offering superlative performance, comfort and convenience, Hyundai *Alcazar* will fortify our leadership position in the SUV segment.”

According to a press release, the SUV has been developed to epitomise premium travel experiences while perfectly emulating Hyundai's global design identity of 'sensuous sportiness'. The bold and dynamic design of *Alcazar* personifies absolute power and premium-ness, with a confident and imposing stance.



Mr. SS Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India

Hyundai *Alcazar*, said the release, is based on six key pillars: bold exteriors, captivating interiors, comfortable and Versatile Space, advanced connectivity, athletic performance and reassuring safety.

Drawing inspiration from Spanish royal palaces and castles built during 8th to 15th century that are referred to as *Alcazar*, the new SUV is a symbol of premium-ness, power and rugged elegance. It is here to redefine benchmarks among six and seven-seater SUVs, added the release.

With muscular crease lines and an extended hood profile, the facade of Hyundai *Alcazar* creates an impressive road presence. The dark chrome exterior signature cascading grille offers a magnificent appeal while solid front skid plate boosts the rugged elegance of the SUV. *Alcazar* offers smart packaging with best-in-class wheelbase and low turning radius thereby making it highly manoeuvrable in the city and on highways.

The cockpit-Inspired interior design on Hyundai *Alcazar* delivers an immersive user experience that is in a class apart, according to the press release. Projecting a plush and opulent in car feel, the premium dual tone cognac brown interiors inspire a warm and earthy ambience while perfectly harmonising with comfortable and spacious seating, it said.

Hyundai *Alcazar* has been equipped with a variety of advanced features and fitments, which include 26.03 cm multi display digital cluster, 26.03 cm HD touchscreen system, 64 colours ambient lighting, perforated leather D-cut Steering and cockpit-inspired perforated gear knob and piano-black interior finish.

The SUV will feature a Bose premium sound system (eight-speaker) that delivers a 'theatre-like experience', said the release further. It also features a voice-enabled smart panoramic sunroof.

Alcazar offers ample seating space, legroom and headroom for all three rows of passengers. It is designed to maximise driver comfort while creating a seamless interface between humans and technology. With a unique and flexible seating configuration, *Alcazar* caters to various demands of modern SUV buyers for family travel, group outings and leisurely business travel.

The SUV has a boot space of 180 litres behind the third row and can also accommodate luggage for small family outings with flexibility of storing large amount of luggage.

To meet the needs of new age customers, *Alcazar* is offered with advanced Hyundai Blue Link with enhanced voice recognition commands and over-the-air updates.

The SUV is offered with four powerful powertrain options – 2.0 l petrol MPi engine (6AT/6MT) and 1.5 l diesel CRDi engine (6AT/6MT).

Skoda launches *Kushaq*

A made-in-India global SUV

SKODA Auto launched its SUV *Kushaq* in India at a starting price of ₹10.40 lakh (ex-showroom). The bookings opened on June 28 and the deliveries of the car were scheduled to begin on July 12

Since its world premiere in India earlier this year, *Kushaq* has made a strong presence and stands out as an entirely new Skoda that's made in India, made for India, said a press release. Yet, it's every inch a global model, added the release.

Mr. Zac Hollis, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said, "The launch of *Kushaq* is a watershed moment for Skoda Auto India as we enter one of the most exciting segments in this dynamic automotive market. *Kushaq* is made keeping in mind what really matters to our customers and is localised and tailored to suit the Indian market."

The company press release said, with a robust and muscular appearance, *Kushaq* is perfectly tailored for the taste of Indian SUV- buyers. The interiors are a perfect combination of elegance and modernity along with the brand's typical 'Simply Clever' solutions to make driving easier. The SUV also comes with numerous active and passive safety features along with ESC as standard across all variants.



Skoda Octavia comes in new avatar

SKODA Auto India on June 10 unveiled the all-new *Octavia* at an ex-showroom price of ₹25.99 lakh nationwide. The *Octavia* marked the beginning of Skoda's model offensive campaign for India two decades ago. The fourth generation, with its timeless design, exquisite interiors, class leading safety, and intelligent connectivity features, pushes the yardstick further, said a press release.

Mr. Zac Hollis, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said, " Having retained its characteristics of design, safety, technology, performance, space, and comfort, the all-new *Octavia* is a compelling combination and will continue to drive Skoda Auto's success in the Indian market."

According to the press release, *Octavia* has been completely redeveloped, it boasts of an all-new, light design which now demonstrates a more powerful and masculine character. The all - new body design not only sharpens the car's visual appearance but also enables excellent aerodynamics.



In the interior, the new *Octavia* gets premium beige suede leather upholstery, gracefully complemented by chrome highlights. The multi-level dashboard has been completely redesigned and is now characterised by an elegant finish.

The fourth generation *Octavia* features 'shift by wire' technology and electric parking brake. A rocker switch with a minimalist design, integrated into the centre console, controls and electronically conveys the gear selection to the transmission unit.

The car also hosts a plethora of the most technically advanced and intelligent connectivity features that add a practical twist to elegance, according to the release. The standard safety equipment includes a wide range of features. The all new *Octavia* is equipped with, MySkoda Connect, an intelligent solution that provides a safe, convenient and smart driving experience to stay connected.

Volkswagen launches ***Polo Comfortline TSI*** with auto transmission



VOLKSWAGEN Passenger Cars India on June 3 announced the launch of new *Comfortline* trim with automatic transmission on the *Polo* family.

It will be powered by 1.0L Turbocharged Stratified Injection (TSI) engine of Volkswagen and will be available at a starting ex-showroom price of ₹8.51 lakh.

The *Polo CL TSI AT* will come with an auto-climatronic air-conditioning feature along with a 17.7 cm Blaupunkt music system which is specific to this trim only.

Mr. Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said, "We are extremely excited to announce the introduction of new trim-line in the *Polo* family, *Comfortline TSI AT* for our discerning customers in India. The *Polo* continues to be a strong contender in the segment, and through this announcement, our endeavour is to continuously engage with customers, by offering striking enhancements on our flagship model, and provide safe and meticulously German engineered products coupled with a fun-to-drive experience."

Mercedes drives in *S-Class*

More opulent, more space, added features

LUXURY carmaker Mercedes-Benz on June 17 launched the seventh generation of its flagship limousine, the *S-Class* in India. It is priced at ₹2.17 crore for the diesel and ₹2.19 crore for the petrol model.

The 2021 *S-Class* in lower trims will be launched in the country at a later date.

The latest *S-Class* was showcased to the world in September last year and the company has wasted very little time to bring the luxury sedan to the market here.



The *S-Class* launch edition has several highlights to boast of. Looking at getting the attention of a niche segment of luxury car buyers, it not only has to compete with its direct rivals like Audi A8 and BMW 7 Series but also contend with ultra-luxury SUVs in the market.

The sedan boasts sporty AMG Line exteriors and interiors with 20-inch alloys, a first time on the *S-Class* in India. The door handles are blended to the body of the car and electrically extend and retract when a passenger approaches.

The *S-Class* S 400d engine has 330 HP on offer and 700 Nm of peak torque while the S 450 petrol motor puts out 367 HP and has 500 Nm of torque. Both engines are mated to a 9G Tronic transmission set up.

Mercedes S-Class...

It will be offered in five colour choices which include White, Black, Blue, Red and Green.

The long-wheelbase *S-Class* is now longer by 34 mm, wider by 22 mm, and taller by 12 mm. The increase of 51 mm in wheelbase promises more space for rear-seat passengers. It is also one of the most aerodynamic cars with a Cd value of 0.22

In terms of features, the 2021 *S-Class* gets a 12.8-inch main infotainment unit and a 12.3-inch driver display. The latest MBUX system too makes its way in the sedan while there is 320GB of storage and 16GB RAM, with Over-The-Air updates to be provided.



Mr Martin Schwenk, Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India

The portrait layout of the main infotainment display unit adds to the classy appeal of the new *S-Class*.

Two upholstery fits, Macchiato beige and Sienna brown nappa leather, seek to up the quotient of opulence while Burmester 4D surround sound system, 64 colour active ambient lighting, massage seats at front and rear, leg-rest for rear passenger and tablet in the central armrest at the back are also present.

Mercedes debuts ultra-luxurious Maybach in India



LUXURY carmaker Mercedes-Benz broke into the ultra-luxurious SUV segment with the introduction of the first-ever SUV in its *Maybach* range of vehicles.

The pinnacle in refinement and comfort, Mercedes-*Maybach* represents ultimate luxury in its most contemporary, purest form, said a press release. The Mercedes-*Maybach GLS 600 4MATIC* now sets a new benchmark in the luxury SUV segment in India, it said further.

All the 50+ units of the 'Mercedes-*Maybach GLS 600 4MATIC*' have been booked even before the market debut. The next set will be customised and delivered to customers by Q1 2022, added the release.

Maybach GLS 600 4MATIC prices start from ₹2.43 crore ex-showroom India.

Mercedes debuts *GLA* and *AMG GLA 35 4M* in market



LUXURY car manufacturer Mercedes-Benz on May 25 announced the availability of the all-new *GLA* and the *AMG GLA 35 4M* across India.

The *GLA*'s launch had been delayed from April to the end of May due to the disruption caused by the pandemic. However, based on increasing customer demand, to sustain the business continuity and support the economic sustenance of the retail network, the company has decided to offer these two new products for the customers in the market, said a press release.

Mr. Martin Schwenk, Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India, said, "The new *GLA* which has grown to be more aggressive, bold looking and tech-laden than ever before, has been a much-awaited product for customers. The SUV now also comes as a locally manufactured *AMG* with the *AMG GLA 35 4M*, our third *AMG* model."



Mr. Martin Schwenk, MD & CEO,
Mercedes-Benz India

FADA data for June

Retail see over 22-pc rise

Chart showing Vehicle Retail Data

All India Vehicle Retail Data for June'21

CATEGORY	JUN'21	JUN'20	YoY %	JUN'19	% Chg, JUN'19
2W	9,30,324	7,95,819	16.90%	13,38,005	-30.47%
3W	14,732	12,077	21.98%	48,815	-69.82%
PV	1,84,134	1,28,360	43.45%	2,05,213	-10.27%
TRAC	52,261	45,735	14.27%	40,937	27.66%
CV	35,700	10,619	236.19%	65,035	-45.11%
LCV	21,650	8,428	156.88%	38,876	-44.31%
MCV	2,091	78	2580.77%	4,740	-55.89%
HCV	9,575	346	2667.34%	18,880	-49.28%
Others	2,384	1,767	34.92%	2,539	-6.10%
Total	12,17,151	9,92,610	22.62%	16,98,005	-28.32%

Source: FADA Research



TOTAL vehicle retail for the month of June rose by 22.62 per cent YoY on a low base, according to the data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on July 8.

It said that on YoY basis, all categories were in green with 2W up by 17 pc, 3W up by 22 pc, PV up by 43 pc, tractor up by 14 pc and CV up by a massive 236 per cent (on a very low base due to non-availability of BS-VI vehicles).

FADA President, Mr. Vinkesh Gulati, said, "The month of June witnessed reopening for most of the states except the ones in South. Due to this, the industry

witnessed a high pent up demand which was stuck in the system because of statewide lockdowns.

"While all the categories were in green, Passenger Vehicles maintain to see good demand as customers continued to show keenness in vehicles for observing social distancing and safety of their families. Two-wheeler category, though in green, has witnessed a softer recovery as rural market is taking time to get back from post-COVID stress. Commercial vehicle segment has seen a staggering growth over last year, though on a very low base as there were product shortages due to BS-VI transition."

BMW X7 M50d 'Dark Shadow' Edition is launched in India



BMW Group India has launched *X7 M50d 'Dark Shadow' Edition* in the country. Limited units of the edition are available in India as a completely built-up unit (CBU).

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "*The BMW X7* is a statement of the luxury class - the flagship of the *X Range*. It opens up a brand-new dimension in luxurious driving pleasure and is designed to elevate every moment of the journey. With its unique BMW Individual design and equipment features, the new *BMW X7 'Dark Shadow' Edition* underlines both the bold appearance and the luxury ambience of our largest SAV."

According to a press release, the most striking feature of the model is the BMW Individual special paint finish in Frozen Arctic Grey metallic. This particularly high-quality and elaborate body finish is being used for the first time in a *BMW X* model.

Another exclusive feature is the 22-inch M light-alloy wheels in V-spoke design with a Jet-Black matt finish and fitted with mixed tyres.



The interior provides considerable spaciousness offering a pioneering interplay of exclusivity, functionality and freedom. There is comfort all the way to the third row with the six-seat configuration including two captain-style comfort seats for the second row. The driver and front passenger enjoy the superior sporty flair of a luxurious SAV with electrically adjustable comfort seats with memory function, said the release further.

Filling up the cabin with a sense of spaciousness is the large Sky Lounge Panoramic glass sunroof extending till the third row, allowing dynamic light flow throughout. The car has five-zone air conditioning with extended features.

The BMW X7 M50d is powered by 2993cc three-litre six-cylinder diesel engine which produces an output of 400 HP and a maximum torque of 760 Nm at 2,000 – 3,000 rpm.

The eight speed steptronic sport automatic transmission performs smooth, almost imperceptible gearshifts. The new BMW X7 M50d comes as standard with the *M Sport* differential and a model-specific chassis set-up to sharpen the car's agility and steering precision.

A host of BMW ConnectedDrive technologies continue to break the innovation barrier in automotive industry, added the release.

BMW safety technologies include six airbags, Attentiveness Assistance, Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) including Cornering Brake Control (CBC), electric parking brake with auto hold, side-impact protection, electronic vehicle immobiliser and crash sensor, ISOFIX child seat mounting and integrated emergency spare wheel under the load floor.



BMW 5 Series comes to India in three variants

THE new BMW 5 Series was launched in India on June 24. It is available in one petrol (BMW 530i M Sport) and two diesel variants (BMW 530d M Sport and BMW 520d Luxury Line).

A press release by the carmaker said the new BMW 5 Series is ready to strengthen its leading position with immense style and numerous updates. Enhancing its sporting appeal is the most powerful performance in the segment, it said.

Cutting-edge technology comes into play with multiple driver assistance systems such as Remote-Control Parking, BMW Head-up Display, Reversing Assistant, Parking Assistant and BMW Gesture Control. An interior brimming with luxurious refinements and added comfort make each journey a pure indulgence, added the release.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "For 50 years, the BMW 5 Series has enjoyed an unrivaled position globally and has set the benchmark in sheer driving pleasure. This iconic business athlete has now evolved to be younger and smarter. The new BMW 5 Series is an individualist within the premium executive segment."



The new BMW 5 Series is available in new exciting colours with Phytonic Blue metallic and Bernina Grey Amber effect beg offered for the first time.

The exterior design of the new BMW 5 Series is headlined by immense presence and exquisite sporting style with large, clean and tautly drawn surfaces. The new bold BMW kidney grille and new slimmer full-LED Adaptive headlights ensure a considerable visual impact from the front.

The interior blends contemporary elegance with driver-focused cockpit design. It provides the ideal environment for driving pleasure and comfortable ride over long distances. High-quality materials, bespoke upholstery and precise workmanship lend a modern, premium ambience.

According to the press release, the petrol and diesel engines meld maximum power with exemplary efficiency and offer spontaneous responsiveness even at low engine speeds, with best-in-class acceleration figures.

All-new MINI range in India

MINI India launched the all-new MINI 3-Door Hatch, MINI *Convertible* and MINI *John Cooper Works Hatch* in India on June 22.

The new MINI range will be available in petrol engines as completely built-up units (CBUs), said a press release.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India, said, "We are delighted to offer our customers in India a completely new range of MINI products with the launch of the new MINI *Countryman* in March and now the all-new MINI *3-Door Hatch*, all-new MINI *Convertible* and the all-new MINI *John Cooper Works Hatch*. This significantly strengthens the exceptional position of MINI within the premium small car segment in India."

The all-new MINI range enters the next stage of evolution with an intensive makeover, an enhanced standard profile and a simplified offer structure, said the release. They embody MINI's love for fun-filled driving as well as passion for agile handling along with a modern design.

The new generation cars also introduce MINI's new Brand Campaign 'BIG LOVE' that captures its inimitable spirit of celebrating individuality while embracing diversity, added the release.

According to the release, MINI *3-Door Hatch* and MINI *Convertible* now look better than ever with their simplified and modernised design. This new exterior design language now puts MINI's unmistakable appearance in a purist form with enhanced aesthetics.

The MINI *John Cooper Works* models, said the release, are built to thrill. They feature a new hexagonal radiator grille at the centre section and have a characteristic honeycomb pattern with a cross member at the bottom edge finished in red.

The renewed range of 17-inch (43.66 cm) light-alloy wheels are available as standard for all-new MINI *3-Door Hatch* and MINI *Convertible*.



The MINI *Convertible*



The MINI *John Cooper Works Hatch*



The MINI *3-Door Hatch*

The new multifunction steering wheel design integrates more functions yet reduces the number of control surfaces. The premium look of the hallmark central instrument has also been optimised.

The MINI Excitement Pack features LED interior and ambient lighting that illuminates the cockpit with a choice of selectable colours.



Jaguar *F-Pace* in India

JAGUAR Land Rover India has begun deliveries of the new Jaguar *F-Pace* in the country. It is available in the R-Dynamic S trim on Ingenium 2.0 l petrol and diesel powertrains, said a press release.

The 2.0 l petrol engine delivers a power of 184 kW and 365 Nm of torque and the 2.0 l diesel engine delivers a power of 150 kW and 430 Nm of torque.

F-Pace is priced at ₹69.99 lakh, ex-showroom in India.

Mr. Rohit Suri, President & Managing Director, Jaguar Land Rover India, said, "The New Jaguar *F-Pace* sets a new benchmark in aesthetic and luxury appeal. It's enhanced and stunning looks are bound to attract existing and new customers who will also get a superior connected-car experience from this iconic luxury performance SUV."

The award winning Jaguar *F-PACE* gets a complete makeover with enhanced exterior design, an all-new interior, advanced connectivity and efficient powertrains, said the press release.

The new exterior design gives it a cleaner and more assured presence that features a new sculpted bonnet with a wider power bulge. The enlarged grille features Jaguar's heritage logo-inspired 'diamond' detailing, while the side fender vents feature the iconic Leaper emblem. A new front bumper with redesigned air intakes and dark mesh details visually widen the new *F-Pace*.

The *F-Pace* has an all-new interior with heightened luxury, enhanced connectivity and greater refinement. Two new colorways have been introduced in Mars Red and Siena Tan for a unique, sporty and luxurious feel. The new cockpit design is bolder, more dynamic and with greater focus on the driver.

The other key features include row two-seat with power recline, four zone climate control, interactive driver display and panoramic roof.

Range Rover *Velar* introduced in India

JAGUAR Land Rover India on June 16 announced that it has begun deliveries of the new Range Rover *Velar* in the country. The new *Velar* is available in the R-Dynamic S trim on Ingenium 2.0 I petrol and diesel powertrains, said a press release issued by the carmaker.

Mr. Rohit Suri, President & Managing Director, Jaguar Land Rover India, said, "Range Rover *Velar* is one the most aspirational SUV's in India because of its peerless blend of avant-garde design, luxury and technology. In its latest avatar, with introduction of new technology and convenience features, the Range Rover *Velar* has become more desirable than ever"

The new Range Rover *Velar* comes with exciting new features such as 3D Surround Camera, Electronic Air Suspension, Cabin Air Ionisation with PM2.5 filter and new Pivi Pro infotainment system. It is cleaner, safer and smarter than ever before and is one of the most technologically advanced luxury SUVs in the world.

The car is priced from ₹79.87 Lakh onwards, ex-showroom.



Mahindra comes up with vehicle scrapping solution



MAHINDRA & Mahindra has signed a MoU with Mahindra MSTC Recycling Private Limited towards offering its customers end-to-end solution for scrapping of vehicles.

MMRPL is engaged in the business of acquiring used/end of life vehicles to dismantle and scrap it under the brand name of CERO.

According to a press release, the agreement will enable customers get a hassle free and transparent deal under one roof. Those intending to purchase a new Mahindra vehicle by scrapping/exchanging the old vehicle which is more than 15 years can do so at any Mahindra dealership.

Mr Veejay Ram Nakra, CEO Automotive Division, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., said, "Our agreement with MMRPL is a step towards delivering customer delight through a convenient, one-stop solution for customers who wish to scrap their old vehicle. While the scrappage policy will take effect in some time, we are ready to help the customers who intend to discard their vehicles."

Mahindra dealerships along with CERO will offer: vehicle evaluation; arrange quote for exchange/scrappage value of the vehicle; provide end-to-end services including vehicle pickup, transportation and environment friendly dismantling at CERO Scrap yards. Post this, the a Certificate of Deposit/Destruction (COD) will be issued by CERO, which will enable customer to claim eligible benefits under the scrappage policy.



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

Mercedes shifts to ROTF, direct to customer model



MERCEDES-Benz India has announced a transition in its retail business in the country by shifting to the futuristic and more customer-centric 'direct to customer' model, called 'Retail of the Future' (ROTF).

According to this new business model, Mercedes-Benz India will own the entire stock of cars, sell them via appointed Franchise Partners, invoice the new cars to the customers directly, process the order and fulfill them, offering one transparent price and purchasing experience for customers.

A press release by the company said, the primary roles and responsibilities of the Franchise Partners include establishing and maintaining of customer contacts, development of the market and facilitating the sale of Mercedes-Benz cars.

Announcing this industry first 'direct to customer' model in India, Mr. Martin Schwenk, Managing Director and CEO, Mercedes-Benz India, said, "Reimagine Excellence is our motto for 2021, and a key reason for

introducing Retail of the Future is to create an enhanced luxury buying experience for our customers. This long-term strategic move will strengthen our customer focus by introducing a fundamental transition in the retail business in the market. It also will deliver a win-win solution for both customers and Franchise Partners, underscoring our clear vision for a future which is sustainable, empowering and digital. The advent of new sales channel has brought sweeping changes in customers' aspirations and requirements, and being a customer obsessed brand, we have adapted our current business models to meet our customers' aspirations and needs. Retail of the Future is yet another pioneering effort from Mercedes-Benz for Indian customers."

"Introducing Retail of the Future is a firm step towards establishing an ecosystem that is customer obsessed. It empowers customers to have a hassle-free and completely transparent customer journey, experienced never before", added Mr. Schwenk.

Toyota's Akio Toyoda is 2021 World Car Person of the Year



Mr. Akio Toyoda, President & CEO, Toyota

NINETY-three international journalists on the World Car Awards jury panel have voted Toyota President & CEO Mr. Akio Toyoda as the 2021 World Car Person of the Year.

There were five finalists for this award that was created in 2018 to acknowledge and celebrate an individual who has made a significant contribution to the global automotive industry during the period January 1 to December 31, 2020. That contribution could include a significant impact to their brand or company or a significant safety, engineering, design or technical advancement.

Apart from Mr. Toyoda, the finalists rest were Mr. Pratap Bose of Tata Motors; Mr. Euisun Chung and Mr. Luc Donckerwolke of Hyundai; and Mr. Tomiko Takeuchi of Mazda.

"On behalf of all 3,60,000 Toyota Team members around the world, thank you for this tremendous honour," said Mr. Toyoda.

"If you don't mind, however, I would like to change this award from car 'person' of the year, to car 'people' of the year... because it's the collective effort of all our global employees, retailers and suppliers that has truly made Toyota what it is today. And I, for one, couldn't be a luckier... or a more grateful CEO."

Mr. Toyoda has spent years remaking his company. In 2020, Toyota remained profitable, despite COVID-19. He has maintained Toyota's pace of steady development for the Connected, Autonomous, Shared and Electric era, and he has kicked off the construction of Woven City, a real-life prototype city of the future. He is also active in motorsports as a driver himself.

Toyota MoU with ACMA for training components-makers



TOYOTA Kirloskar Motor on June 23 announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA).

As per the MoU, TKM through its training arm, Toyota Learning and Development India (TLDI), will share its best practices like people development and lean management principles with the industry members of ACMA.

As per the MoU, TKM will impart 131 training programmes focusing on principles of lean manufacturing, automobile and electrified vehicle technologies, industrial safety, environmental management systems, quality and supply chain management and trades such as automobile welding, car painting, mechatronics, automation and robotics.

The training programmes will be conducted either at the TKM manufacturing plant or at the premises of the ACMA member companies.

TKM will deploy trainers who are certified by the Toyota Motor

Corporation (TMC), Japan and Toyota's Asia-Pacific Global Production Center (AP-GPC), Thailand.

Commenting on the joint initiative, Mr. Vinnie Mehta, Director General, ACMA, said, "The MoU between ACMA and Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) for people's development is a step in the right direction to prepare our human resources for the future. It will not only benefit ACMA member companies but will also help India to become a world-class automotive manufacturing hub through the deployment of efficient, agile, and best-in-class practices."

Mr. G. Shankara, Vice-President, Human Resources and Services, TKM, said, "We are happy to share Toyota's knowhow and contribute to the human development of the auto components industry. We are hopeful that our association with ACMA in facilitating skill-upgradation for the components manufacturers will go a long way in creating a sustainable, robust and future-ready automotive supply chain in the country."

Minda Industries to acquire 51-pc stake in Uzbek's UZ Chasys



Mr. NK Minda, Minda Industries

MINDA Industries Limited (MIL) has announced that it has won bid to acquire 51 per cent stake in leading automotive lighting manufacture UZ Chasys LLC (UZ Chasys) in Uzbekistan for a purchase consideration of 83.1 billion Soms equivalent to approx. ₹58 crore.

Uzbekistan Government, said an MIL press release, is moving toward liberalisation of economy and divesting its stake in some of the Government-controlled entities. As part of this process, it is divesting 51-pc stake in UZ Chasys through auction process.

UZ Chasys, said the release, specialises in manufacturing of automobile headlights and lamps and is a leading Supplier to OEMs in Uzbekistan and has significant exports.

Uzbekistan automotive market, it said further, is expected to grow significantly in coming years along with introduction of new models which will benefit UZ Chasys. The acquisition will further expand the company's geographical footprints, added the release.

TOTAL shareholders on May 29 approved a resolution to change the company's name from Total to TotalEnergies. In tandem with this name change, TotalEnergies is adopting a new visual identity.

"Energy is reinventing itself, and this energy journey is ours. Our ambition is to be a world-class player in the energy transition. That is why Total is transforming and becoming TotalEnergies," said Mr. Patrick Pouyanné, Chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies.

The new name and visual identity embody the course TotalEnergies has charted for itself: that of a broad energy company committed to producing and providing energies that are ever more affordable, reliable and clean, said a press release.

Total is now TotalEnergies



Mr. Patrick Pouyanné,
Chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies



Apollo unveils new identity



Mr. Neeraj Kanwar, Vice-Chairman & MD, Apollo Tyres Ltd

APOLLO Tyres on June 18 unveiled its new corporate identity and vision, 'Driving Progress, Together'.

A press release by the company said, Apollo is committed to bringing together a global community and fostering a diverse and inclusive culture that powers innovation to transport, both its business and society forward.

This vision, it said, is supported by the organisation's purpose, 'Enabling Excellence', a belief that excellence should be universally accessible, and the company's role is to connect people globally to the tyres, tools and support they need to reach their potential.

Mr. Neeraj Kanwar, Vice-Chairman & MD, Apollo Tyres Ltd, said "Our industry is going through a sea-change, and with the increasing rate of transformation in key areas of our business, it is time for us to embrace that change."

Our ambition is brought to life in our new identity. A company which has been built on strong foundations, relies on the creativity and energy within the organisation to forge ahead."

CII honours JK Tyre with multiple awards

JK Tyre & Industries has been recognised by industry body CII for its enriching manufacturing practices at the '4th CII National Kaizen Circle Competition 2021' and '5th Edition CII National Energy Efficiency Circle Competition' respectively.

These competitions recognise the efforts of member companies that adopt Kaizens –upgrading of processes in manufacturing, engineering, supporting business processes, and energy management, said a press release.

The awards honored JK Tyre's adoption of Kaizen in its sustainable journey across quality, productivity, cost reduction, and digitisation.

The fourth edition witnessed participation from a total of 167 teams across various industries including 18 JK Tyre teams showcasing the best-implemented

kaizen. The fifth edition saw participation from 180 teams exhibiting the best practices on energy efficiency including 17 teams from JK Tyre in nine categories across five locations.



Mr. Anil Makkar, Manufacturing Director, JK Tyre & Industries, said, "Being recognised by such esteemed awards is an honor for JK Tyre as it showcases our longstanding commitment towards maintaining world-class sustainable manufacturing standards."

Manav Kapur figures in Times 40-Under-40 List



Mr Manav Kapur, Executive Director, Steelbird International

MR Manav Kapur, Executive Director, Steelbird International, has been named in the 'Times 40-Under-40' List for 2021, a virtual event organised by Optimal Media Solutions, the brand solutions arm of the Times of India Group.

According to a press release, the event aims to celebrate the success and recognise individuals from various walks of life who have stood out in extraordinary times and have excelled their way up through sheer intellect and prudence in doing path-breaking changes in the society and economy at large.

The list, said the release, is one of the most prestigious and well-known recognitions for young achievers. A host of past recipients have gone on to achieve great heights, it added.

Issigonis Trophy for Hyundai chief Chung

HYUNDAI Motor Group Chairman Euisun Chung was honoured with the Issigonis Trophy at the 2021 Autocar Awards ceremony.

Named in honor of legendary car designer Sir Alec Issigonis, the trophy is Autocar's highest accolade. Each year it is presented to a stand-out individual within the global automotive industry, whom Autocar judges deem to have delivered an exceptional level of success.

In recognizing the visionary leadership of Chairman Chung on the presentation of the Issigonis Award, Autocar editor-in-chief Steve Cropley said: "In the last decade the Hyundai Motor Group has grown into one of the world's leading car firms, and Chairman Euisun Chung has been key to that transformation. We're proud to award him this year's Issigonis Trophy to recognise his achievements."

On receiving the Issigonis Trophy, Chairman Chung commented: "It's a true honour to receive this prestigious award today from Autocar and I must thank all my colleagues for their contribution in securing this accolade."



Mr Euisun Chung, Chairman, Hyundai Motor Group



India's largest solar carport at Tata Motor's Pune plant

TATA Motors and Tata Power jointly inaugurated the country's largest grid-synchronised, behind-the-meter solar carport at Tata Motors' car plant at Chikhali in Pune.

The 6.2 MWp solar carport deployed by Tata Power will generate 86.4 lakh kWh of electricity per year and is estimated to reduce 7,000 tonnes of carbon emissions annually and 1.6 lakh tonnes over its lifecycle.

Spanning over 30,000 square meters, this carport will not only generate green power, but will also provide covered parking for finished cars in the plant, said a press release.

Envisioned as part of its net zero carbon goal for 2039, Tata Motors had entered into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Tata Power on August 31, 2020. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, both companies

successfully managed to develop this massive carport infrastructure in a record time of 9.5 months, added the release.

Mr. Shailesh Chandra, President, Passenger Vehicle Business Unit, Tata Motors, said, "We have always been conscious of the need to conserve energy and are committed towards achieving 100 pc renewable energy source for all our operations. Our partnership with Tata Power to deploy India's largest solar carport at our car plant in Pune is a step in that direction."

Dr. Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD, Tata Power, said: "As One Tata initiative, we are proud to partner with Tata Motors and inaugurate India's largest solar carport. Our partnership is a testament to our collective efforts to lower the carbon footprint and provide innovative and future-focused green energy solutions."

Tata Motors rolls out 2,00,000th Nexon



(L-R) Mr. Mohan Savarkar, Vice-President, Product Line Head and Mr. Rajesh Khatri, Vice-President – Operations, PVB, Tata Motors, on the occasion of the 2,00,000th rollout of the Tata Nexon from the company's Ranjangaon facility in Pune

TATA Motors rolled out the 2,00,000th *Nexon* from its Ranjangaon facility in Pune on June 10.

Since the 150K rollout in November 2020, the last 50K units have been recorded in less than six months, with demand outpacing supply and production limited due to the pandemic, said a press release by the leading automotive brand.

The *Nexon* is among the top three highest selling compact SUVs in India and the company celebrates a new milestone in the brand's journey as it grows in its popularity every month, the release said further.

The *Nexon* is the first car in India to receive a full 5-star adult safety rating by Global NCAP, an internationally renowned automotive safety accreditation body and is much acclaimed for its class-leading safety, design and driving pleasure.

Customer bookings have been growing and in March 2021, *Nexon* sales set a new record of 8,683 units in a month.

Since its launch in 2017, Tata Motors has constantly upgraded *Nexon* for safety, GNCAP certification, design, regulations, emissions, aspirational and segment defining feature additions. It is now available in 20 variants, 12 in petrol and eight in diesel with automatic and manual transmission options.

Diesel variant not discounted

SQUASHING rumors about discontinuation of *Nexon* diesel range, Tata Motors has clarified that *Nexon* is among the most popular compact SUVs in India and its diesel variant is very popular with a growing demand and a loyal following. To simplify the choices for its customers, Tata Motors has opted to discontinue select variants and introduced updates in others, the carmaker said in a statement.

For recycling of EV batteries, MG joins hands with Attero

MG Motor India has joined hands with Attero, the country's largest electronic asset management company and clean-tech provider. The partnership is aimed at reusing and recycling the Li-ion batteries of EVs after their end-of-life.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rajeev Chaba, President and Managing Director, MG Motor India, said, "We have been continuously working on expanding the ecosystem in the EV space, as one of the first entrants in the segment. The partnership with Attero gives our customers more confidence with respect to the battery's end-of-life



usage. The move will assist in responsible recycling and will further minimise the carbon footprint of ZS EV users while supporting the local economy."

Mr Nitin Gupta, Attero's Chief Executive Officer, said, "We are delighted to join hands with MG and feel that Attero is the best match to the high-performance batteries provided in its vehicles."

CESL to procure 300 EV's from Tata Motors



THE Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), has placed an order to procure 300 electric cars from Tata Motors.

Ms. Mahua Acharya, CEO & MD, CESL, said, "Electric vehicles are the future. I am so pleased that more and more Government entities in India are switching over to electric transport. Our association with Tata Motors is a good development for the future of mobility in India. Convergence is committed to developing a flourishing electric vehicles ecosystem in the country."

Nexzu to launch e-cycles

AFTER introducing a range of e-scooters, Nexzu Mobility is set to launch a range of e-cycles, including step-through cycles, cargo version cycles, and new long-range swappable battery cycles.

The company will introduce e-cycles with a higher load-carrying capacity, premium cell-made batteries, additional safety features, and a app-based interface with the cycles, said a press release.

Mr. Rahul Shonak, COO, Nexzu Mobility, said, "Exciting



times lie ahead for Nexzu Mobility. After months of extensive R&D, we are excited to unveil our future plans. With our new offerings, we will strengthen our product portfolio by putting forth a solution for every customer need."

Hyundai's fastest 10-millionth



Mr Thiru MK Stalin Honorable Chief Minister of Tamilnadu and Mr S S Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd at the rollout of 10 millionth car at Hyundai Manufacturing Plant

HYUNDAI Motor India has achieved a milestone of rolling out the fastest 10 million cars from its manufacturing facility near Chennai.

Alcazar became the 10-millionth car to roll out of the production line at HMIL's plant in Sriperumbudur. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. MK Stalin signed on the car bonnet to mark the occasion.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. SS Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd., said, "This historic milestone of the 10 millionth car rollout is a testimony of Hyundai's commitment towards 'Make in India' initiative. Furthermore, it also showcases our vision of boosting the socio-economic development in the state of Tamil Nadu and making the country more self-reliant."

The company also announced community-centric social value initiatives for Tamil Nadu on the occasion.

Mr. Stalin announced the social value initiatives and handed over the project certificates to beneficiaries.

Lexus milestone: two million EV sales globally



LUXURY brand Lexus eclipsed the milestone of 2 million global sales of electrified vehicles at the end of April 2021.

Since the launch of the *RX400h* in 2005, Lexus has been a pioneer of electrification in the luxury market, and the Lexus model lineup continues to evolve on the mission of balancing excellent driving performance with environmental sensitivity, said a press release.

Lexus now sells nine electrified models, including

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) and Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs), in over 90 countries and regions around the world.

Globally, Lexus electrified vehicles accounted for one third of Lexus sales in 2020. Currently, across the eight markets in Asia, electrified vehicles accounted for over 20 pc of regional sales in 2020.

The company now plans to introduce its first luxury PHEV model in 2021 and an all-new BEV model in 2022.



ICRA report Component suppliers to see over 70 pc dip in Q1 profits

AUTO component suppliers are set to witness over 70 per cent decline in operating profits in Q1 FY2022 due to COVID 2.0 lockdown restrictions, said a latest report by rating agency ICRA.

However, it said, adequate liquidity across most auto component suppliers will help them to tide over the lockdown restrictions; exports provided the much-needed support.

For ICRA's rated portfolio, the median FoS (with three months of nil revenues) was healthy, indicating sufficient liquidity to tide over the current crisis.

In line with the swift recovery in automobile demand in H2 FY2021, earnings of auto component manufacturers also started improving. Most auto component suppliers registered their highest ever revenues during Q4 FY2021. The improved liquidity profile across auto component suppliers was also evident from the fact that none of the ICRA-rated

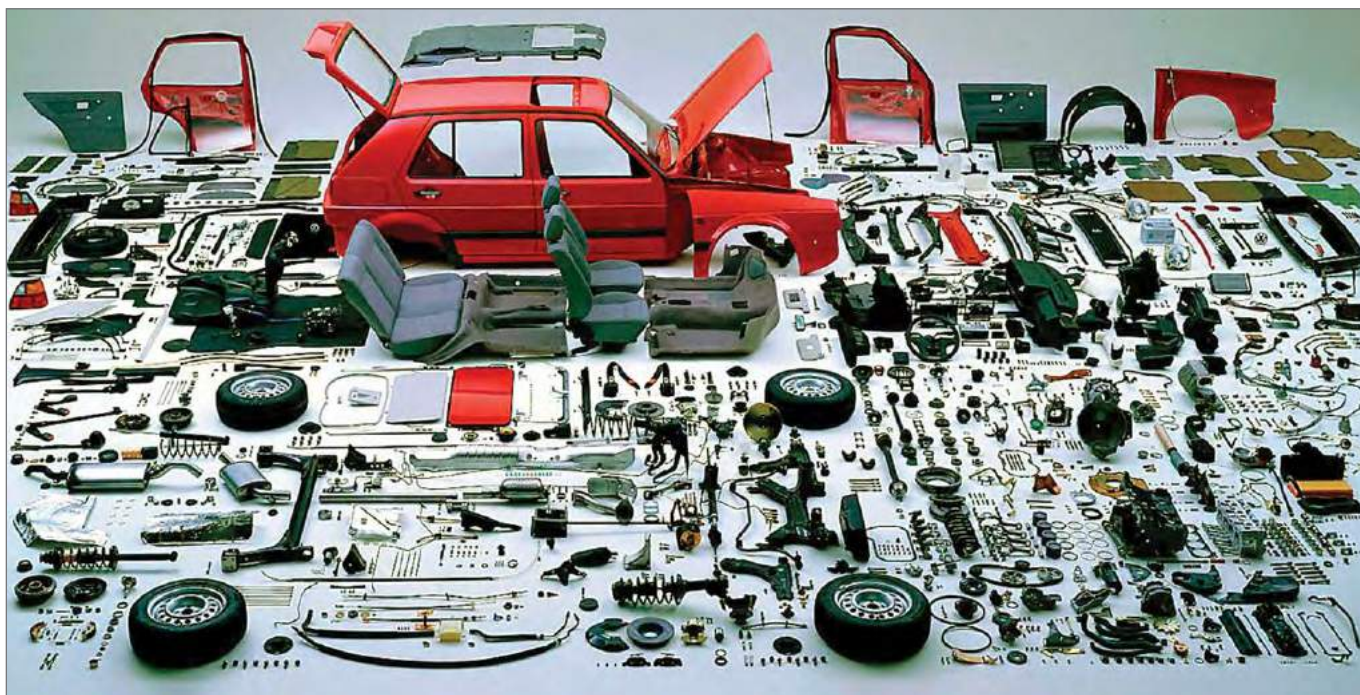
investment grade auto component suppliers opted for restructuring in Q3 FY2021.

The recent disruption caused by COVID is likely to derail the momentum owing to disruption in operations, starting from April 2021. The challenges for component manufacturers will be further compounded by the sharp increase in commodity prices, which are generally passed through to OEMs with a lag of three to six months. However, adequate liquidity across most of our rated investment grade auto component suppliers should help them to tide over pandemic-related headwinds.

Throwing more light, Ms. Vinutaa S, Assistant Vice-President and Sector Head, ICRA Limited, said, "We carried out a liquidity assessment using 'Factor of Safety' analysis, which reflects the company's ability to service its liabilities and fixed expenses through existing resources without generating any revenues for three

months. The median FoS for 125 ICRA-rated Auto component suppliers is close to six months, indicating sufficient liquidity in the industry to tide over the current crisis. For entities in the AAA, AA, A and BBB categories in ICRA's rated portfolio, the FoS stood at 19.6 times, 8.7 times, 6.4 times and 3.5 times respectively. Further, relatively strong capitalisation in the higher rating categories provides companies with flexibility to increase leverage should there be a need."

While the production volumes were stable in April 2021, retail sales declined sharply during the last two months indicating inventory build-up in the system. Industry volumes are expected to remain muted in June 2021 as well, with many OEMs and suppliers currently operating in single shifts. The industry is also witnessing pressure on the raw materials front, impacted by the record-high commodity prices. Commodity prices are expected to remain elevated in H1 FY2022, before softening in H2 FY2022. However, the current year's average commodity prices are expected to be at a multi-year high.



ICRA report

2Ws and 3Ws to lead India's EV journey

THE global automobile industry is witnessing major technological transitions, with a shift from conventional powertrains to the electric powertrain. This transition will not only impact OEMs and their vendors within the auto industry but other stakeholders like oil producers, refineries, financiers, and others, said a report by rating agency ICRA.

While global automotive demand declined during CY2020 due to COVID -19 related impact, EVs remained the bright spot with approximately 40 per cent growth over the previous years.

Globally, it said, EVs now account for 4.4 pc of new car sales during CY2020 and their share is likely to cross 5 pc-level in CY2021. ICRA believes that while the transition to EVs is inevitable, the pace of penetration will be relatively gradual in India unlike global markets like China, Europe, and USA.

Giving more insights, Mr. Shamsheer Dewan, Vice-President & Group Head – Corporate Sector Ratings, ICRA, said, "It is heartening to see positive and proactive policy measures taken by Government of India as well as various state governments to accelerate EV transition in India. However, affordability and range anxiety continue to remain key challenges, especially in the passenger



car and truck segment and penetration levels are likely to remain low over the medium term. The absence of local supplier ecosystem and high dependency on imports make things tougher. Nonetheless, segments like scooters, 3W and SCVs have already achieved TCO parity with conventional vehicles due to the low operating cost and attractive subsidy support, and are thereby expected to become early adopters of EVs in India. We expect share of EVs to reach about 8-10% level in two wheelers, and over 30% in 3W by 2025. The penetration levels in cars and trucks are likely to remain low in the medium term."

Furthermore, operating cost metrics continue to favour electric 2W and 3W for commercial operations, in-fact e3W over life of the vehicle will be much more cost economical than its CNG counterparts. India can capitalize on its vast 2W and 3W segment, to emerge as leading manufacturer of e2W and e3W, globally; however, it will continue to lag in electric car segment.

Unlike other markets, especially China, which has taken a significant lead in public charging infrastructure, and it will take several years for India to reach at that level of charging infrastructure penetration. Hence, India could focus on 2W, 3W and buses where requirement of public charging infrastructure is limited.





70 pc buyers unaware of car subscription services

Maruti leads awareness campaign, says survey

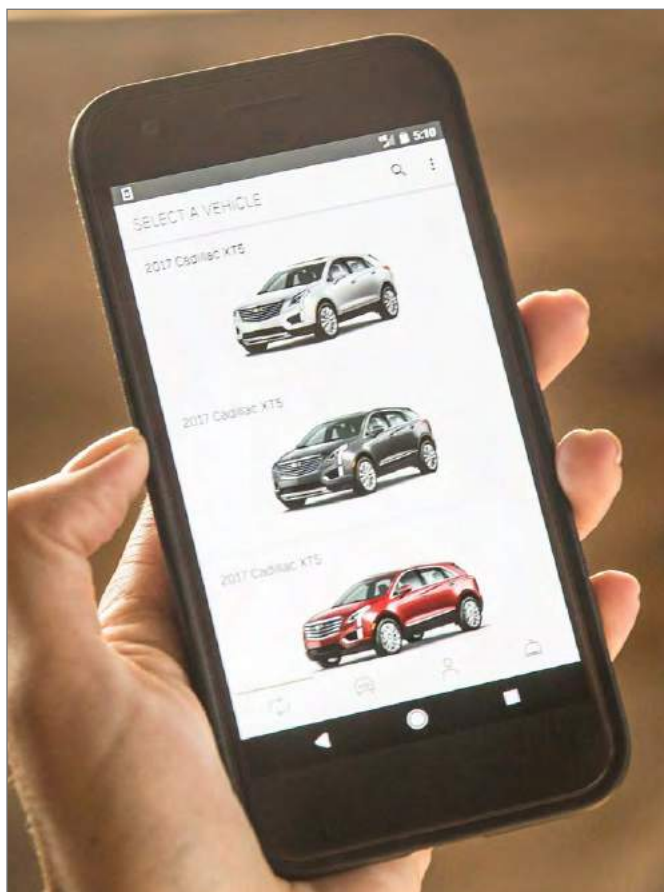
CAR subscription is at a nascent stage in the country primarily because of lack of awareness of the service/facility among customers, said a consumer survey conducted by CarDekho.

Close to 70 per cent respondents in the survey are unaware of car subscription service offered by brands like Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai Motor India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Toyota Motor India, ZoomCars, Revv, Myles, and others, said a press release issued by the auto-tech company.

The survey was conducted with a broad objective of understanding the current state of consumer awareness, interest, acceptability and apprehensions related to subscription services, it said further.

Owing to COVID-19, people prefer personal mobility since travelling by public transport is not considered safe in these times. Besides, economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic, customers are wary and inclined to save their financial resources. This is true with young millennials who are averse to buying a product that requires a long-term financial commitment.





The car leasing and subscription business currently has a penetration of less than 1 per cent in India compared to 30 per cent in developed markets such as the US, UK and Germany. However, as per GlobalData, vehicle leasing and subscription in India will reach a penetration level of 3-5 per cent within the next 5 years.

According to the CarDekho survey, 76 pc of respondents in the 18-24 age group are not aware of such services, while 70 pc of those above 44 years denied any such knowledge. Nearly 66 pc of respondents in the age group of 25-45 years showed lack of awareness about car subscription services.

Another finding was that 61 pc of respondents across age groups prefer a mix of car finance and down payment while purchasing a car and, on average, 18 pc of respondents prefer to make full payment. The survey also reveals that there is a serious need for an awareness campaign by manufacturers about subscription services since over 15 pc of consumer showed a willingness to explore vehicle subscription services.

On given a condition of a hassle-free, no resale risk, no upfront commitment to own a car, were they ok with the car not being in their name, a surprising 39 pc of respondents were open to the idea.

Further, among those who selected car subscription, 57 pc preferred zero down payment as the key reason that could compel them to explore this option. Economic uncertainty has impacted consumer confidence, hence they don't want to tie themselves to any long-term commitment that is likely to impact their savings or investments.

Some industry prominent brands have been operational in the subscription business such as Maruti Suzuki, Zoom Cars, Hyundai Motor India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Revv and others. However, Maruti remains the leader, with 78 pc awareness about subscription service among the consumers.

Sixty-two per cent of the respondents believe that the current vehicle subscription pricing model offered in the market is either too high or needs correction and 47 pc saying, 12 months would be the best lock-in tenure.



Organised platforms to contribute 45 pc to the pre-owned car market by FY2025, says study

VOLKSWAGEN Passenger Cars India, through its pre-owned car business Das WeltAuto (DWA), on June 16 disclosed growth trends related to India's used car market, customer buying patterns and the opportunities to further develop the market.

In the 'Indian Pre-owned Car Market Study', Frost & Sullivan deployed the PESTEL analysis approach covering political, economic, social, technological, environment and legal elements that influence used car buying decisions among potential and existing customers.

The study revealed the market outlook wherein organised platforms would contribute 45 pc to the total pre-owned car market by FY2025.

Today, easy and affordable mobility solutions with financing options, are some of the significant elements considered by customers in Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities

for vehicle ownership. As pre-owned cars are gaining momentum among customers, the industry outlook estimates the used car market to touch 8.2 million units by FY25 from 3.8 million units of FY21.

The demand for pre-owned vehicles is constantly growing and the ratio of used cars compared to new car is expected to become 2.1x by FY25. Further, there has been a substantial rise in demand across organized sector of pre-owned passenger vehicles business.

According to the study desire for car ownership is the primary driver for purchasing a used car, whether it's an upgrade from a two-wheeler to four-wheeler, old car to new car or purchase of their first car.

The desired model/vehicle is compelled by price amongst current and intended customers followed by other factors such as comfort, features and maintenance required.



Mr. Pratap Bose,
Executive V-P,
Chief Design Officer



Bose to lead Mahindra's Global Design organisation

THE Mahindra Group on June 11 announced the appointment of Mr. Pratap Bose as the Executive Vice-President and Chief Design Officer to lead its newly-formed Global Design organisation.

Mr. Bose is an alumnus of Royal College of Art, London and National Institute of Design, India. He brings with him over 20 years of global automotive design experience. His last assignment has been with Tata Motors in UK where he spent 14 years. Earlier he had worked in Piaggio, Italy and Daimler Chrysler, Japan.

Pratekk Agarwaal is on Advisory Board of PumPumPum

FINTech mobility company PumPumPum has named veteran startup advisor and fintech industry leader, Mr. Pratekk Agarwaal, as an Advisor to its Board of Directors.

A former CBO at BharatPe, Mr. Agarwaal he comes with enormous experience in building organisations such as Bajaj Finserv/Bajaj Finance, Fullerton, IndoStar Capital and ftcash. He has also served as Director for the NBFC licence process with RBI at BharatPe, said a press release.



Mr. Pratekk Agarwaal,
Advisor, Board of Directors



OBITUARY Manohar Valecha (1956-2021)



MR Manohar Valecha, a prominent name in the auto component industry and two-time President of Delhi Scooter Traders Association (DSTA), passed away recently at the age of 66.

After completing his graduation, Mr. Valecha started Asia Auto Agency in 1976 and ten year later, launched Pick Up Auto Agency. Moving from retail to wholesale, he ventured into manufacturing with the launch of Mayank Hydraulics, at Bahadurgarh near Delhi, in the year 2002. A seasoned player in the auto parts industry, Mr. Valecha was also an exporter and OEM supplier.

Besides being known for his business acumen in the industry circles, Mr Valecha was actively involved in social activities and was the Senior Vice-President of Multan Welfare Society and General Secretary of Jan Kalyan Trust.

A humble, loving and a generous human being, Mr Valecha was always eager to help others. He was highly admired and appreciated by all for his exceptional leadership skills and his zeal to fulfill his duties, be it on the family, work or community fronts.

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