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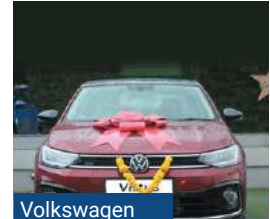
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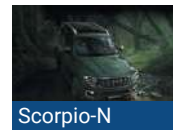
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Editor's Viewpoint



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SHILPA MALHOTRA
Executive Editor

For safer roads and cleaner air

The setting up of Bharat NCAP will encourage manufacturers to incorporate higher safety levels in new car models

Two recent moves by the Government, both having major implications for the automobile industry, the consumers and the nation on the whole, have generated huge buzz all around. The first is the Union Transport Minister, Mr Nitin Gadkari's approval to the draft notification for introduction of India's very own New Car Assessment Programme, to be called Bharat NCAP. This laudable development is the Cover Story of this month. The setting up of Bharat NCAP will encourage manufacturers to incorporate higher safety levels in new car models and help buyers to make informed decision for their car purchase, says our story. Road fatalities have always been a matter of concern in the country and having our own car assessment programme will surely help in mitigating these to an extent. Also, the decision will give a fillip to the *aatmanirbharta* (self-reliance) of the domestic auto industry, emphasises our report. Apart from the Global NCAP, several regions around the globe have their own NCAPs and the need to have such an agency of its own was felt in India for long. By finally clearing the way for it, the Government has done a commendable job and the industry is now eagerly waiting for April 1, 2023, the likely date for Bharat NCAP rollout.

The other important development we cover in this issue is the Government's proposal to make it mandatory for light, medium and heavy duty motor vehicles to comply with fuel consumption standards. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued a notification in this regard on July 1 and it will come into force from next April. The decision to expand the ambit of vehicles for compliance with FCS has been taken with a view to reducing pollution and introducing more fuel-efficient vehicles and all sections of the industry have given thumbs up to it.

Besides the two positive announcements by the Government, the issue comprises the monthly sales report which gives an indication of the gradual improvement the industry has been witnessing. The last month saw most segments registering positive growth on M-o-M basis while the year-on-year performance also remained in green.

Apart from these, the issue encapsulates all the major news developments of the past month relating to various segments of the domestic and global automobile industry.

Enjoy reading!

SAFETY FIRST!

Bharat NCAP on way

Cars in India to get Star Ratings based on their performance in crash tests

In a further boost to road safety in the country and a fresh push towards *aatmanirbharta* of the automobile industry, India is set to have its own car assessment programme – Bharat NCAP, wherein vehicles will be accorded 'Star Ratings' based on their performance in crash tests

An indication of the proposed move, which has created big buzz in the industry, came from a recent tweet by the Union Transport Minister, Mr Nitin Gadkari. The minister wrote: "I have now approved the Draft GSR Notification to

introduce Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Program), wherein automobiles in India shall be accorded Star Ratings based upon their performance in Crash Tests". In a series of tweets on the issue, the minister further said, "Bharat NCAP will serve as a consumer-centric platform allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their star-ratings, while promoting a healthy competition among OEMs in India to manufacture safer vehicles."



Though no date has been officially announced, some media reports suggest that Bharat NCAP programme will be rolled out from April 1, 2023. The programme the Government plans to introduce will be similar to Euro NCAP and Global NCAP, said these reports.

According to Mr Gadkari, the Bharat NCAP will prove to be a critical instrument in making the automobile industry *aatmanirbhar* with the mission of making India the Number 1 automobile hub in the world.

The testing protocol of Bharat NCAP, he said, will be aligned with global crash-test protocols factoring in the existing Indian regulations, allowing OEMs to get their vehicles tested at India's own in-house testing facilities. It will be a voluntary programme under which the cost of new car for the purpose of assessment shall be borne by the respective vehicle manufacturer or importer.

"Bharat NCAP will serve as a consumer-centric platform allowing customers to opt for safer cars based upon their star-ratings, while promoting a healthy competition among OEMs in India to manufacture safer vehicles"



Union Transport Minister, Mr Nitin Gadkari

Bharat NCAP will encourage manufacturers to incorporate higher safety levels in new car models. The proposed assessment will allocate Star Ratings from 1 to 5.

The Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP) serves as a platform for cooperation among new car assessment programmes worldwide and promotes the universal adoption of the United Nation's most important motor vehicle safety standards worldwide.

The first NCAP was created in 1978 by the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Since then, a number of similar programmes were started across various regions such as Australasian NCAP in 1993, Japan NCAP in 1995, Euro NCAP in 1997, Asean NCAP in 2011, China NCAP, Korean NCAP and Latin NCAP. In 2011, a UK-based charity Towards Zero Foundation formed the Global NCAP to enhance cooperation among the various NCAPs.

All these NCAPs follow their own protocol to crash-test and score cars. While the Euro NCAP conducts full frontal, front offset, side impact and side pole tests, the Global NCAP tests front offset crash alone. In the Global NCAP test, the car is driven at 64 kmph and with 40 per cent overlap into a deformable barrier which is the equivalent of a crash between two cars of the same weight, both moving at 50 kmph.

NCAPs award stars based on a car's performance in a variety of crash test assessments with 'five stars' representing a high score. The rating itself is based on the Adult Occupant Protection and Child Occupant Protection scores resulting from the crash test.

The United Nations has stipulated minimum standards for protection of occupants in an offset frontal crash test (hitting part of the front of the car) (Regulation 94) and a lateral crash test (hitting the side of the car) (Regulation 95). Most NCAPs use the same front and side impact crash tests as the UN regulations. However, in the frontal impact usually a higher test speed of 64 kmph is applied.

India had no crash test standards till 2015 when the Government announced that the UN equivalent crash test standards for front and side impact will be applied for new models from October 2017 and for all cars from October 2019.

The first NCAP was created in 1978 by the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Since then, a number of similar programmes were started across various regions such as Australasian NCAP in 1993, Japan NCAP in 1995, Euro NCAP in 1997, Asean NCAP in 2011, China NCAP, Korean NCAP and Latin NCAP

The Central Motor Vehicle Rules mandate a safety and performance assessment, including a basic conformity crash test when vehicles go in for type approvals. However, this does not involve a crash test rating. The car crash test as per Global NCAP is voluntary assessments and there is no provision under the rules for compliance to these Global NCAP test protocols.

The mandatory crash tests performed in India are offset frontal collision test and lateral collision test. These tests are performed at the National Automotive Test Tracks in Indore, Automotive Research Association of India (Pune), International Centre for Automotive Technology (Manesar) and the Global Automotive Research Centre in Chennai.

The front offset test in India is conducted at 56 kmph, which is lower than the Global NCAP test speed, but is in line with the UN regulation.

Global NCAP ratings for India-made cars

THE crash tests conducted by the Global NCAP can be credited to a large extent with being the genesis of the automotive safety movement in India. Released in January 2014, the results of the first crash tests by the agency on five made-in-India and made-for-India cars made headlines and brought the topic of the automotive safety to the fore. During last few years, the agency has tested a number of new models and most Indian cars have been performing well.

The following are the latest ratings of some of the Indian cars as per Global NCAP: Kia Carens (3 stars), Toyota Urban Cruiser (4 stars), Hyundai i20 (3 stars), Honda City 4th Gen (4 stars), Nissan Magnite (4 stars), Mahindra XUV700 (5 stars), Tata Punch (5 stars), Mahindra Thar (4 stars), Maruti Suzuki s-Presso (0 star), Hyundai Grand i10 Nios (2 stars) and Maruti Suzuki Ertiga (3 stars).



Fuel consumption standards for all vehicles from April '23

Govt issues notification to make these mandatory

WITH a view to reducing pollution and introducing more fuel-efficient vehicles, the Government has proposed to make it mandatory for light, medium and heavy duty motor vehicles of various categories to comply with fuel consumption standards from April 2023, according to an official statement.

The statement said the continued compliance to fuel consumption standards shall be verified as per the procedure of conformity of production, outlined in the Automotive Industry Standard 149.

"The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued a notification dated 1st July 2022, amending Rule 115 G of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR) 1989, to include compliance with Fuel Consumption Standards (FCS), for light, medium and heavy duty motor vehicles of various categories, manufactured in, or imported by, India," it said.

Prior to this notification, the statement said, compliance with annual fuel consumption standard was applicable to vehicles of M1 category (motor vehicle used for carriage of passengers, comprising not more than 8 seats, in addition to the driver's seat) with Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) up to 3.5 tonnes.

The MoRTH, in a statement, said the aim of this notification is to expand the ambit of vehicles for compliance with FCS, and hence introduce more fuel efficient vehicles.

It further said that the date of applicability of this notification is April 1, 2023 and comments have been invited from all stakeholders within 30 days from the date of the notification.



June sees further improvement

Industry posts second-highest sales volume

MOST segments of the automobile industry witnessed an improvement in month-on-month sales in June while the year-on-year performance also remained in green, barring that of tractors.

Around 3,20,609 passenger cars were sold during the month, an increase of over 25 per cent over June last year. The industry also recorded its second-highest monthly volume in the month of June. The dispatches of all OEMs were on a positive side apart from the market leader Maruti Suzuki.

The market leader reported a drop of 1.3 per cent in domestic passenger vehicle sales to 1,22,685 units. The company had sold 1,24,280 units in June last year. Maruti's mini category cars (Alto, S-Presso) and utility vehicle (Brezza, Ertiga, S-Cross, XL6) sales decreased year-on-year, however it witnessed a rise in compact car sales (Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift, Tour S, WagonR) as compared to June last year.

Hyundai dispatched a total of 49,001 units, up 21 per cent from June 2021's 40,496 units. While Creta continues to power its numbers, the company is seeing fresh traction for its new Venue facelift. Mr. Tarun Garg, Director (Sales, Marketing and Service), Hyundai Motor India, said, "With the semiconductor situation showing signs of easing out, the sales numbers have again started showing a positive trend."

Tata Motors recorded sales of 41,690 ICE PVs and 3,507 electric PVs in June 2022. Nexon EV sold 3,507 units, up 433 per cent on the 658 units in June 2021 and a two per cent increase over May 2022. Mr. Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility said, "Going forward, we expect the supply side, including that of critical electronic components to progressively improve."





Mahindra & Mahindra continued to record strong growth, with the company dispatching 26,620 units in June 2022, an increase of 59 per cent over June 2021's 16,913 units. However, month on month, June sales for the company were down by 0.08 per cent.

Kia India said June 2022 sales were its highest ever sales in a month, led by Seltos and Carens with 8,388 and 7,895 units sold, respectively, followed by Sonet with 7,455 units and Carnival with 285 units sold.

Toyota (TKM) sold a total of 16,500 units in June 2022, thereby registering a growth of 87 per cent over June 2021. The company also clocked a 26 per cent growth in cumulative sales from January to June 2022, when compared to the corresponding period last year.

The launch Slavia sedan and Kushaq SUV helped Skoda Auto increase its sales by a whopping 721 per cent over the same period last year. The Czech carmaker sold 6,023 units in June 2022. June numbers set a new monthly sales record for Skoda in the country.

MG Motors recorded sales of 4,503 units, up 26.56 per cent, with Hector and ZS EV drawing monthly bookings of over 4,000 and 1,000 units, respectively.

The two wheeler industry touched an eight-year low

volume of about 18 million units in FY2022, led by the decadal low domestic market sales. While rural sentiment improvement led to gradual recovery in volumes for Hero, subdued sales of the entry-level bike segment have been impacting the sales of its overall bike portfolio since the past few months.

According to TVS, the shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of premium two wheelers; however some improvement has been seen this month.

In the commercial vehicles segment, market leader Tata Motors reported highest sales for the SCV cargo and pickup category at 16,632 units, followed by M&HCV sales at 9,191 units, I&LCV sales at 4,718 units and passenger carriers at 3,868 units.

Mahindra reported highest sales in the LCV of 2 T - 3.5 T category at 16,405 units, followed by three-wheeler sales at 4,008 units, LCVs of less than 2T at 3410 units and LCVs over 3.5 T along with M&HCVs at 616 units.

Sales for the tractor maker witnessed an uptick on a month-on-month basis. However, due to the high base of last year, they remained in the red on a yearly basis.



Hyundai drives in new Venue

Geared to 'redefine' customer experience



Mr. Unsoo Kim
MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd.

HYUNDAI Motor on June 16 launched the new Venue, which it claimed is geared to redefine customer experience with its bold design, power-packed performance, space, comfort, advanced technologies and connectivity.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Unsoo Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd., said, "The new Hyundai Venue has been developed to personify the aspirations of our beloved customers. With a keen focus on design, technology, functionality and space, the new Hyundai Venue is here to elevate customer experiences and amplify the Hyundai SUV Life."

A press release by the carmaker said the new Venue will supersede expectations through its bold and futuristic design, spacious interiors, comfort, style and safety. It is based on five key pillars: vibrant design, exceptional comfort & convenience, next-level technology & connectivity, uncompromised safety and exciting performance.

Based on Hyundai's Global Design Language of Sensuous Sportiness, the new Hyundai Venue exhibits confident body forms, delivering the perfect representation of a sporty, dynamic and powerful design. With big and bold contours, the new Hyundai VENUE creates an unmistakable road presence while also delivering a futuristic appeal.

The profile of the new Hyundai Venue lends a bold appeal of the SUV with bridge-type roof rails that add a dash of sporty panache, while the dual tone finish enhances the overall appeal.

The striking interiors of the new Venue, said the release, create a premium and exciting appeal, while seamlessly blending innovative and advanced technologies for an unmatched in-car experience. It personifies a superlative experience, utilising ingenious technologies to deliver superior comfort and convenience.

According to the release, the new Venue will feature first-in-segment power drive seat with four-way seat adjustment and two-step rear reclining

Seat that offers customers a choice of their preferred seating posture.

The new Hyundai Venue delivers a sportier, futuristic and progressive appeal that is further accentuated by hi-tech convenience and advanced features.

With Advanced Bluelink technology, the new Venue offers customers 60+ connected features, creating a new dimension of connected car experience with heightened convenience and comfort. The vehicle has also been equipped with Drive Mode Select for a versatile driving performance with the choice of Normal, Eco and Sport modes.

The new Hyundai Venue ensures safety with superior structural strength and an array of safety features. Further, with 30+ safety features, the SUV ensures a confident and reassuring experience.

Equipped with powerful engine options and a choice of multiple transmissions, the new Hyundai VENUE will offer an exhilarating drive experience to customers. They can choose from a choice of three engines – Kappa 1.2 MPi Petrol, Kappa 1.0 Turbo GDi Petrol, U2 1.5 CRDi Diesel. Further, with multiple design enhancements the new Hyundai Venue also offers a superior aerodynamic performance.

The new Venue comes in seven colour options (Polar White, Typhoon Silver, Phantom Black, Denim Blue, Titan Grey, Fiery Red), including one Dual Tone (Fiery Red with Black Roof) option.



Volkswagen launches Virtus

Longest car in the midsize sedan segment



VOLKSWAGEN India on June 9 launched its new global sedan, the all-new Virtus, for the Indian market. It will be available at an introductory price of Rs 11.21 lakh, ex-showroom, India.

With the launch of Virtus, Volkswagen India has fulfilled its commitment of launching two new products under the Group's India 2.0 project, said a press release.

Developed on the globally renowned MQB A0 IN platform, Virtus is manufactured at the Chakan plant in Pune and comes with up to 95 per cent localisation levels. The flexibility of the platform has enabled the new Virtus to be the longest car in the segment (4,561 mm) providing ample cabin and boot space (521 litres) to customers.

The German-engineered sedan is an embodiment of the brand's core DNA of superior build quality, safety, and a fun-to-drive experience, added the release. As a true Volkswagen, Virtus represents a global sedan lineage of the brand and is specifically designed to meet the mobility needs of the aspirational Indian customers in the segment. The sedan is the latest entrant and is all set to redefine the premium midsize segment in India, it said further.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said, "We are delighted by the admiration that is pouring in for the Virtus and are very eager to see it on the Indian roads. The product is a complete package built on the legacy and heritage of Volkswagen sedans.



Mr. Ashish Gupta
Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India,

We are confident that the Virtus with its best-in-class features, driving dynamics, and outstanding personality will reignite the love for sedans among customers and reenergize the segment."

According to the release, Virtus comes with a distinctive and striking design that not only makes it a sight to behold but also a treat to drive. Crafted for the thrill of driving, it is a head-turner. The sedan is equipped with standard LED head lights, signature chrome grille, R16 'Razor' alloys, chrome window strips and chrome door handles that accentuate the striking look of this sedan.

Along with the striking exteriors, Virtus offers a stylishly confident, versatile, and modern interior layout, offering a world-class experience of connectivity, and technology with a human and elegant touch.

Virtus is also offered in the GT Plus variant and the elements include: 'Razor' black alloys, the GT badge, red brake calipers in front, carbon steel grey roof and door mirror caps, black spoiler, aluminum pedals amongst others, that reflect decades of legendary Volkswagen performance and technology, with a stunning design.

The new Volkswagen sedan is powered by its globally acclaimed TSI technology and is available in two engine and three transmission options: 1.5l TSI EVO engine with Active Cylinder Technology (ACT) that comes with 7-speed DSG transmission, delivering peak power of 110 kW (150PS) from 5000 to 6000 rpm range and peak torque of 250Nm at 1600 to 3500 rpm. Whereas the 1.0l TSI engine is mated to six-speed manual and six-speed automatic torque converter, delivering 85kW (115PS) power ranging from 5000 to 5500 rpm and 178 Nm of torque at 1750 to 4500 rpm.

Virtus comes with a host of technology, entertainment, and connectivity features and is equipped with intuitive, clever, and easy-to-use range of smart features.

The new Virtus has 40+ active and passive safety features that offer protection to both the driver and the occupants. It is available in six colours – Wild Cherry Red, Carbon Steel Grey, Reflex Silver, Curcuma Yellow, Candy White and Rising Blue.

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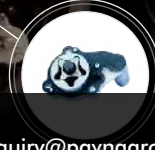
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Toyota forays into B-SUV segment with Urban Cruiser Hyryder launch

TOYOTA Kirloskar Motor on July 1 unveiled the new Urban Cruiser Hyryder, its first self-charging hybrid electric SUV.

As one of Toyota's sustainable mobility offerings, Urban Cruiser Hyryder inherits Toyota's global SUV lineage with its bold and sophisticated styling and advanced tech features, making it a perfect choice in the B-SUV segment, said a press release by the company.

The new model delivers top performance and best-in-class fuel efficiency along with a luxurious quiet cabin, it said.

Powered by e-drive transmission with 2WD and being a self-charging strong hybrid electric vehicle, Urban Cruiser Hyryder is capable of running 40 per cent of distance and 60 per cent of time on electric (EV) or zero-emission mode. The new model is also available with a 1.5-liter K-series engine with Neo Drive (ISG), five-speed manual transmission and six-speed automatic transmission with 2WD and 4WD options.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Vikram Kirloskar, Vice-Chairman, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "We are very happy to introduce the Urban Cruiser Hyryder, which will give a substantial boost to 'Make in India' and 'Mass Electrification' initiatives and thereby, provide further impetus to 'Atamanirbhar Bharat'."

Mr. Masakazu Yoshimura, Managing Director, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "The Urban Cruiser Hyryder offers a self-charging strong hybrid electric powertrain which truly reflects Toyota's advanced

green technology. For the first time as a part of Toyota's global alliance with Suzuki, this model will be manufactured at TKM's plant in Karnataka."

According to the release, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder boasts of LED project headlamp, twin LED daytime running lamp, side turn Indicator, sporty rear skid plate, wide Trapezoidal lower grille, dual tone body colour, unique crystal acrylic upper grille with chrome garnish, sleek and dynamic R17 alloy wheels and LED tail-lamp. The vehicle will be available in seven monotone and four dual tone colours.

The interiors are beautifully crafted to perfectly suit the bespoke experience offered by Toyota, said the release.

The front interior features come with 9" smart play cast audio, drive mode switch, wireless charging, leather seats with ventilation, 360-degree camera and view, ambient light, head-up display, cruise control, tilt and telescopic steering, Hello Google & Hey Siri voice assistant and a soft-touch instrument panel with premium switch.



From left- Mr. Venugopal P B, Vice president, TKM; Mr. Masakazu Yoshimura, M TKM, Mr. Vikram Kirloskar, Vice Chairman, TKM; Mr. Tadashi Asazuma-Executive Vice President, Sales & Customer Service, TKM

Mahindra disrupts SUV segment with the launch of Scorpio-N

Takes forward game-changer legacy of the brand



Mahindra & Mahindra on June 27 launched all-new Scorpio-N, which is poised to take forward the 'game-changer' legacy of the Scorpio brand. The vehicle is designed, engineered and built to disrupt the SUV segment with its class-leading attributes, features and capabilities, said a press release.

Scorpio-N, said the release, is completely new ground-up, with no carryover components of the existing Scorpio. It is truly a global product, added the release.

The development and engineering of the all-new Scorpio-N is the outcome of an overall investment of Rs 1,600 Crore which includes setting up a world class highly automated manufacturing line.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Veejay Nakra, President, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd, said, "The all-new Scorpio-N has been designed, engineered and built to be a game-changer. With its unmissable design, sophisticated ride and handling, thrilling performance, advanced technology, reassuring safety and of course, its terrain-conquering abilities, the all-new Scorpio-N takes forward the unbeatable Mahindra legacy of building authentic, desirable and tough yet sophisticated SUVs."

Speaking on the development of Scorpio-N, Mr. R. Velusamy, President, Automotive Technology and Product Development, M&M Ltd, said, "We started the development of the all-new Scorpio-N on a clean slate with no carryover from the existing Scorpio, which gave us the opportunity to not just raise existing benchmarks but set new category standards."

M&M is simultaneously unveiling the Scorpio-N in South Africa and Nepal, alongside the India launch. Additionally, it plans to introduce the new Scorpio-N in Australia and New Zealand and will announce the details shortly.

Bigger, bolder, more powerful, sophisticated, and laden with safety and technology, the Scorpio-N nomenclature was chosen to represent the fact that it raises the game to the power of N. said the company release.

The Scorpio-N is powered by a TGD i mStallion (Petrol) engine with 149.14 kW (200 PS) of power and 380 Nm of torque, and mHawk (Diesel) engine with 128.6kW

(175PS) of power and 400 Nm torque, offered in both 6-speed Manual and Automatic Transmissions, and 4X4 as option.

The signature wheel arches of the vehicle have been made even more muscular taking inspiration from the sinewy silhouette of a swimmer. A metallic Scorpio tail element is seamlessly integrated into the beltline, swinging all the way to the top of the window, giving the Scorpio-N more of a sting.

The all-new Scorpio-N greets passengers with top notch craftsmanship – rich coffee-black leatherette upholstery, best-in-class command seating position, centre console encased in robust metal finished dual rails, advanced infotainment system and more.

The Scorpio-N is designed to rule all terrains with the 4XPLORE, an intelligent terrain management technology. With a mere touch, the electric shift-on-the-fly 4Wheel Drive System transforms Scorpio-N from 2WD mode into a 4WD beast. The Scorpio-N also gets three drive modes to match the driver's mood.

The vehicle scores high on technology, offering an unmatched value proposition for urban and tech-savvy customers looking for engaging with their SUV to the next level. Powered by AdrenoX intelligence for an immersive and intuitive driving experience, it is laden with 70+ apps, Android Auto and Apple Car Play, and built-in Alexa functionality enabling hands-free access to entertainment, information and vehicle controls.



Mr. Veejay Nakra
President, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd

Brezza comes in new avatar



MARUTI Suzuki on June 30 launched an all-new, feature-packed avatar of its compact SUV Brezza.

The hot and techy Brezza is equipped with a bouquet of cutting-edge technologies along with next-gen comfort and convenience features, said a press release. Taking a major leap forward, this city-bred SUV offers a stylish and exciting new design, powerful performance and is packed with advanced safety features, it said further.

It is loaded with hi-tech features that come really handy for all city adventures. It also gets a hot new exterior design, which makes the SUV stand out even on the busiest of roads, added the release.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director and CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "With the objective of extending 'Joy of Mobility' to the aspirational customers, today, we are delighted to present the all-new hot and techy Brezza with energetic new design, packed with next-gen features and superior performance, that will surely surpass customer expectations."



Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi
Managing Director and CEO,
Maruti Suzuki India Limited

Jaguar now comes up with F-Pace SVR Edition 1988

AN exclusive F-Pace SVR Edition 1988 is the first limited edition of Jaguar's high-performance SUV, created by the personalisation experts at SV Bespoke.

An emotive specification, inspired by Jaguar's rich racing heritage, includes specially formulated Midnight Amethyst Gloss paintwork, an optional Champagne Gold Satin 55.88 cm (22) forged alloy wheels, Sunset Gold Satin exterior and interior detailing, plus a 'One of 394' SV Bespoke commissioning graphic.

The Edition 1988 name pays tribute to the racing success of the World Sports-Prototype Championship-winning XJR-9 in 1988.

Mr. Mark Turner, Commercial Director of Special Vehicle Operations, Jaguar, said: "Since its introduction in 2019, the Jaguar F-Pace SVR has established itself as a highly characterful and rewarding high-performance car. Pairing these qualities with a level of SV Bespoke personalisation and exclusivity never offered before on F-PACE makes Edition 1988 an even more captivating proposition."

Midnight Amethyst Gloss paintwork is a new colour that will only be offered to Jaguar F-Pace SVR Edition 1988 customers.

Mr. Richard Woolley, Special Vehicle Operations Creative Director, Jaguar, said: "The design of the F-Pace SVR Edition 1988 is inspired by legendary Jaguar endurance racing cars. The Midnight Amethyst Gloss paintwork appears black until its amethyst undertones are revealed in bright sunshine, emphasising the SVR's dynamic exterior."

Edition 1988 is also unique in featuring a Sunset Gold Satin Jaguar leaper and script on the tailgate. A laser-etched Edition 1988 logo is applied to each front wing panel.

Further enhancing the refined and luxurious interior of F-Pace SVR, Edition 1988 features semi-aniline Ebony leather upholstery and exclusive Sunset Gold Satin detailing across the dashboard, steering wheel spokes, gear shift paddles and the heated-and-cooled front Performance Seats.

The Jaguar leaper and horn ring on the steering wheel receive a Satin Black finish, while subtle SV Bespoke and Edition 1988 branding on the illuminated treadplates and dashboard complete the package.



Kia Sonet celebrates 1.5 lakh sales milestone



KIA India is celebrating the 1.5 lakh unit sales of its smart urban compact SUV – Kia Sonet. The vehicle achieved this remarkable feat in just under-two years after its launch in September 2020, said a press release.

Contributing over 32 per cent of Kia's total sales, Sonet has been a widely appreciated model in its segment, fuelling the compact SUV segment's growth, according to the release. Being the segment disruptor, Sonet democratised and led the adoption of the iMT technology in India and created favourability in the market, resulting in 25 per cent of Sonet buyers preferring their vehicle equipped with iMT.

Commenting on this milestone, Mr. Myung-sik Sohn - Chief Sales Officer, Kia India, said, "We are delighted that Sonet has added 1.5 Lakh customers to the Kia India family. Today's evolved urban Indian customer is dynamic, tech-savvy, and bold, and we are incredibly proud to have developed a product that has proven to be the right companion for them."



Mr. Myung-sik Sohn
Chief Sales Officer, Kia India

MG installs community chargers in Jaipur colony

MG Motor India on June 24 installed and inaugurated two residential community chargers at Raj Aangan Society (NRI Colony) in Jaipur.

The smart chargers are Type 2, SIM-enabled and supported through a sharable charger management system. The charging stations will operate 24x7.

The chargers were inaugurated by Mr. RC Yadav, Additional Commissioner, State Transport Department, Jaipur, and Mr. Gaurav Jain, Dealer Principal, MG Jaipur.

As a part of the MG Charge initiative, the automaker will install 1,000 AC fast chargers at residential localities across India in 1,000 days, said a press release.



goEgoNetwork partners with VIT'S Kamats Group



EV infrastructure startup goEgoNetwork has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with hospitality industry VIT'S Kamats Group, to install charging stations at all its hotels in the country.

"goEgo is excited about its new collaboration in the hospitality sector. These kinds of tie-ups will help reduce the range anxiety among the EV owners and help build the EV charging infrastructure," said Mr. Dheeman Kadam, Co-Founder & CMO, goEgoNetwork.

"By installing EV charging stations within our premises, hospitality industries like the VIT'S Hotels & Resorts are not only building trust in our guests, but they are also helping build the EV charging infrastructure in India. We are glad to be partnering with goEgoNetwork for this," said Dr Vikram Kamat, Chairman, VIT'S Kamats Group.

Battery Smart raises \$25 million

BATTERY Smart, a battery-swapping network for electric vehicles, on June 27 announced that it has closed a Series-A round of \$25 million. The funding round was led by Tiger Global, along with participation from Blume Ventures and Orios Ventures, said a press release.

The funds will be utilised to expand to new territories, strengthen its Battery Assignment Technology, and build its team to continue scaling operations, it said further.

Battery Smart's battery-as-a-service model enables interoperable battery swapping for electric vehicles (EVs) in under-two minutes and reduces the up-front investment borne by a consumer by up to 60 per cent, added the release.



Mr. Pulkit Khurana
Co-Founder, Battery Smart

Mr. Pulkit Khurana, Co-Founder, Battery Smart, said, "We are thrilled to have Tiger Global be a part of our journey to build India's largest EV battery swapping network. Battery swapping has incredible potential to fast-track the country's EV adoption, as it solves major deterrents like range anxiety, high up-front costs, and long charging downtimes. With this investment, we are focused on bringing our offerings to even more EV users pan-India."

Matter raises \$10 million

MATTER, a tech start-up focused on electric mobility and energy storage, has raised an initial \$10 million in its latest round of funding. The round drew interest from a diverse set of investors including Capital 2B, Climate Angels Fund, and other Indian and overseas HNIs.

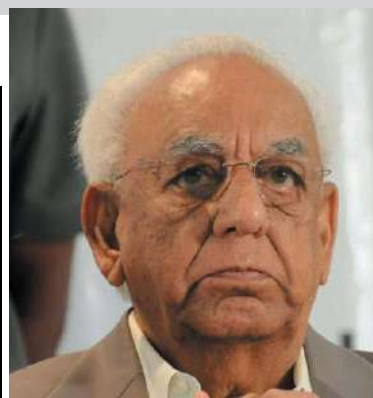
The new investment will be utilised towards the launch of Matter's exciting line of electric mobility and energy storage products, said a press release. The company, it said, intends to launch its first EV motorcycle later in the year.

Mr. Mohal Lalbhai, Founder and CEO, Matter, said, "We welcome our new investors to the endeavour of electric mobility transition and energy empowerment. Our beliefs reinforce the goal of delivering smart and transformational technology to every home in India."

Mr. Vibhore Sharma, Partner- Capital 2B, said, "We believe that the company has great potential to embark on a high growth trajectory."



Kumar Prasad Telikepalli, Mohal Lalbhai,
Saran Babu, Arun Pratap Singh



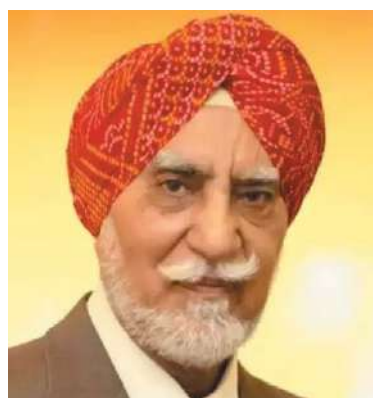
Maruti's first CMD Krishnamurthy passes away

Dr. V Krishnamurthy, former Chairman and Managing Director of Maruti Udyog (now Maruti Suzuki), passed away at the age of 97, on June 26 in Chennai.

He was appointed the Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of Maruti Udyog in 1981, soon after the Government formed the company. He moved to the Steel Authority of India Limited in 1985, but remained associated with Maruti Udyog in non-executive capacity till 1990.

Dr Krishnamurthy had also held key positions in public sector undertakings, and in the Government, such as Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Chairman & CEO, SAIL, and Chairman & CEO, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Member, Planning Commission to name a few.

"He was a wonderful, great individual. His achievements everybody knows about," Mr. RC Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Suzuki told a prominent business daily. Bhargava credits Dr. Krishnamurthy with his entry into the industry. "I can honestly say that my coming into industry and changing my career from the IAS to the industrial side is entirely because of him (Dr. Krishnamurthy)," he said.



Ravi Chopra, former Chairman of Piaggio Vehicles, passes away

Auto industry veteran Ravinder Singh Chopra (79), popularly known as Ravi Chopra, passed away on June 24 due to age-related complications.

Singh was the Chairman of Piaggio Vehicles Pvt Ltd (PVPL), a fully-owned subsidiary of the Italian auto major Piaggio Group, and a highly experienced manager who contributed to the consolidation of the Piaggio Group's work in commercial vehicles in India, the development of manufacturing facilities and the return of the Vespa scooter to India in 2012.

Since April 1998, he held the position of Managing Director of Piaggio Vehicles, and was later appointed as the Chairman of the company. In 2017, he introduced Diego Graffi, the current CEO of PVPL, to the industry.

Born in 1943, the industry veteran held a degree in Science and Engineering and attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. He joined Piaggio in April 1998. Before joining Piaggio, he gained three decades of experience with companies mainly in the automotive sector.

HOP's upcoming e-bike Oxo gets ARAI certification

The Automotive Research Association of India has certified HOP Electric's soon-to-be-launched high-speed electric motorcycle Oxo.

According to a press release, the company's latest flagship e-bike successfully cleared all tests conducted by ARAI, including AIS 156 for batteries. The ARAI certification is a testament to HOP Electric's orientation towards its vehicles' reliability, performance, quality and safety, said the release.

The ARAI certification comes on the heels of HOP Electric's successful mandate of the Government's PLI scheme for automobiles under the new Non-Automotive Investor (OEM) category. Under this mandate, the company will be investing more than Rs 2,000 crore in the next five years, added the release.

Mr. Ketan Mehta, CEO and Co-Founder, HOP Electric, said "Having been awarded the ARAI certification and mandate of Gols PLI Scheme is an extremely gratifying feat. This achievement signifies that as an organisation, our endeavours towards developing a truly indigenous brand with Indian R&D prowess to roll out Made in India electric vehicles are on track. These are important milestones and testimony of HOP Electric's team expertise and excellence in developing sustainable mobility solutions."



goEgoNetwork sets up EV charging park in Pune

goEgoNetwork, one of the fastest-growing EV charging infrastructure companies, has launched its first fast EV charging park on Mumbai-Bengaluru Highway, opposite Balewadi Stadium.

The 24-hour charging park comprises two 60kW DC fast-charging stations that can charge four vehicles at a time. It was inaugurated by Shivajinagar MLA Mr. Siddharth Shirole.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shirole said, "This project by goEgo gives Pune a futuristic outlook, it is the first of its kind and many more such charging parks should be launched. I am sure this will help boost EV adoption and give EV owners an avenue to charge their vehicles as and when required."



Mr. Dheeman Kadam, Co-Founder, goEgoNetwork, said, "A boost in robust EV charging infrastructure in India has enabled the positive adoption of EVs by the citizens of the country. We are proud to be the largest charging network in Pune with more than 100 EVSE deployed. To dismiss this anxiety, we at goEgoNetwork have unveiled this state-of-the-art EV charging park to enable India's EV fraternity to move hassle-free."

Euler partners LetsTransport to deploy 1,000 *HiLoad* EVs



EULER Motors has partnered with LetsTransport, a Bengaluru-based urban logistics aggregator, to deploy 1,000 HiLoad three-wheeler EVs.

Both companies will collaborate to deploy these EVs in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi-NCR and cover other cities across India over the next 12 months. With the deployment of HiLoad vehicles, LetsTransport will bring EVs in its portfolio and strengthen its on-time delivery commitment with last-mile efficiencies, said a press release.

The partnership will help Euler Motors increase its foothold in the EV market, and expand its customer base with retailers, 3PL logistics and fleet owners, added the release.

Mr. Saurav Kumar, Founder and CEO, Euler Motors, said, "Our partnership with LetsTransport is yet another successful milestone in the pursuit to bring a real change in EV adoption and aggressively expand our customer footprint in India."

"LetsTransport has been founded on a vision to build cleaner and sustainable logistics solutions with an emphasis to strengthen this ecosystem. Euler Motors' ambition, along with their industry leading EV technology in their HiLoad EV, makes them the right partner for this," said Mr. Pushkar Singh, Founder & CEO, LetsTransport.



PEOPLE

**OLA
ELECTRIC**

Mr. Yashwant Kumar

Ola Electric's Charging Network Head quits

Mr. Yashwant Kumar, Senior Director and Business Head for Charging Networks at Ola Electric, has resigned from the company. An alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, Mr. Kumar joined Ola Electric in March last year.

He is among several senior employees who have made a beeline to leave Bhavish Aggarwal-run electric two-wheeler company in the recent months.

Mr. Kumar was earlier Co-founder and CEO of digital marketing agency GenY Medium in Hyderabad and worked at Procter & Gamble for more than five years. He led branding initiatives for Pantene and Pringles for the South East Asia markets, prior to starting GenY Medium in India.

Ex-Honda exec Guleria joins Royal Enfield as CCO

ROYAL Enfield on July 1 announced that former-Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) executive Yadvinder Singh Guleria has joined the company as the Chief Commercial Officer (CCO).

He will report to Mr. B. Govindarajan, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Enfield, and will be part of the company's management team contributing to the strategic direction of the company and its global success, the company said.

Mr. Govindarajan said Guleria comes with extensive experience in the premium two-wheeler industry and has proven expertise in leading and driving business growth.



Mr. Yadvinder Singh Guleria



Ms. Abanti
Sankaranarayanan

Abanti is Chief Group Public Affairs Officer at Mahindra

MAHINDRA Group on June 17 announced the appointment of Ms. Abanti Sankaranarayanan as the Chief Group Public Affairs Officer effective July 1, 2022.

She will be a part of the Group Executive Board reporting to Dr. Anish Shah, Managing Director and CEO, Mahindra Group.

Prior to joining the Mahindra Group, Ms. Sankaranarayanan was Chief Strategy and Corporate Affairs Officer & Member – Executive Committee at Diageo India. Before that, she served as a member of the Tata Administrative Service (TAS) cadre since 1992 in various General Management and Marketing roles.

Nissan names Wilson as Director Marketing

NISSAN India has appointed Mr. Mohan Wilson as Director Marketing, Product & Customer Experience, for Business Transformation for India market. He replaces Mr. Sriram Padmanabhan.

Mr. Wilson has worked across geographies in Japan, Hong Kong, Germany and India with cross-functional experience of over 20 years in sales and marketing.

In his new role, Mr. Wilson will report to Mr. Rakesh Srivastava, Managing Director, Nissan Motor India, and will be based in Chennai.

Welcoming Mr. Wilson to Nissan Motor India, Mr. Srivastava said, "His global exposure on premium cars would be the key to build Nissan brand with focus on customer experience on Nissan NEXT transformation."



Mr. Mohan Wilson



Mr. Anuj Kathuria

Kathuria quits Ashok Leyland

Mr. Anuj Kathuria has resigned from his position at Ashok Leyland, media reports said quoting sources. He was re-designated as COO -- manufacturing and supply chain in November last year.

Subsequent to the management rejig that took place in November 2021, in January 2022 Mr. Sanjay Saraswat took over as Chief Business Transformation Officer (CBTO) to drive "transformation" across the organisation. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar took over from him as Head MHCV in January and is currently responsible for all sales, product and after-market functions for MHCV trucks and buses.



Mr. Rohit Agarwal

Rohit Agarwal joins ElectricPe as the CTO

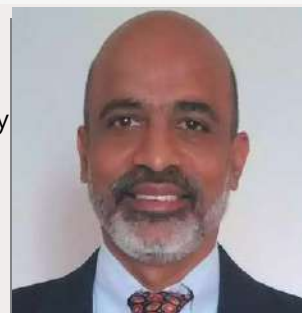
EV charging platform ElectricPe has appointed Mr. Rohit Agarwal as its Chief Technology Officer (CTO). He will lead the product tech strategy and development and lead the team to provide seamless full-stack solutions across all EV stakeholders, said a press release.

Mr Agarwal joins ElectricPe with 11 years of prior experience in technology and product development. Before joining ElectricPe, he worked at Udaan in the Ads team. A computer science engineer, Mr Agarwal is an alumnus of IIT Delhi.

Endurance Tech CTO Kharul retires; Sharma takes over

Mr. Ravindra Kharul, CTO of Endurance Technologies, and a two-wheeler industry veteran, has superannuated from the company. He had joined Endurance in 2012. Mr. Kharul is succeeded by Mr. SD Sharma, who had joined the company as V-P, Corporate Strategy, in 2019.

Mr. Sharma takes over the CTO's role when the company enters a new business of anti-lock braking system (ABS), and looks to sustain growth through a strong focus on technology.



Mr. Ravindra Kharul

BYD India's e6 sets record for the longest EV journey

BYD India, a subsidiary of the Warren Buffett-backed world-leading new energy vehicle manufacturer, entered the India Book of Records for the maximum distance covered in an electric car with its all-new e6.

The six-day drive tour of over 2,203 km from Mumbai to New Delhi, covering nine cities across four states, marked the longest EV journey in India. During the journey, the all-new e6 passed the eco-sensitive zones around National Parks along the way, demonstrating a crucial step towards a better environment.

Mr. Sanjay Gopalakrishnan, Head of Electric Passenger Vehicle Business in BYD India, said, "We envisaged the drive to create awareness of sustainability and EV adoption under the 'Sustainable Drive for a Sustainable India' initiative. We are proud to highlight that our premium electric

MPV saved 413 kg of carbon emissions on the journey, a new benchmark set by an EV, leading to its entry into the India Book of Records."



Mr. Sanjay Gopalakrishnan
Head of Electric Passenger Vehicle
Business in BYD India



ACMA and Hero MotoCorp collaborate for EV tech expo

THE Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) and Hero MotoCorp organised an EV Technology Expo, on June 8 and 9 in Jaipur. More than 35 auto component-makers participated and displayed their latest technological innovations and products in the expo.

This was the first time that ACMA organised a tech-show dedicated to components of electric vehicles, said a press release.

Inaugurating the expo, Dr. Arun Jaura, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Hero MotoCorp, said "In line with our Vision – 'Be the Future of Mobility', we are constantly working towards developing newer technologies that drive the mobility segment forward. The EV segment is a crucial part of this journey, and we are glad to be collaborating with ACMA to engage with supply chain ecosystem and provide them an apt platform to showcase their latest EV technologies."

Mr. Vinnie Mehta, Director General, ACMA, said, "With our Government declaring net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, e-mobility has indeed caught the attention of the policy makers and consumers alike in India. The transformation is very pronounced in two-wheelers and three-wheeler segments. As we move towards mass adoption of EVs and electrification of fleet, it is an opportune time for ACMA members to contribute to creation of a robust EV component ecosystem and ACMA is committed towards this endeavor."

ACMA



(Left to right)- Mr. Vinnie Mehta, Director General, ACMA, Mr. Manoj Kolhatkar, Managing Director, Gabriel India Limited, Dr. Arun Jaura, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Hero MotoCorp and Mr. Vikrampati Singhania Chairman, ACMA (NR) and Managing Director, J.K. Fenner (India) Ltd. along with other senior officials of Hero MotoCorp inaugurating the Expo.

YZF-R15S V3 in matte black

INDIA Yamaha Motor (IYM) has announced another update on the YZF-R15S Version 3.0 in India. The 'unibody seat' variant of the super sports model will now be available in a new shade of matte black colour to give it a stealthy appearance, said a press release.

The new paint scheme, it said, is in addition to the already available Racing Blue colour in the R15S. Pricing for the YZF-R15S Version 3.0 model range starts at Rs.1,60,900 (ex-showroom, Delhi).

The company release said at Yamaha, the priority is always given to the customers' demand and every possible attempt is made to meet those demands. Since the launch of YZF-R15S Version 3.0 in Racing Blue colour last year, the company carried out a market research in which it was found that many customers were looking for a new colour option. In order to address the requirements of these young and new customers, the company decided to launch the YZF-R15S Version 3.0 in matte black colour, said the release.



TVS launches a new Radeon with LCD cluster having RTMi

TVS Motor Company has launched a new Radeon which, it said, is the country's first 110 cc motorcycle to flaunt multi-colour reverse LCD cluster with Real Time Mileage Indicator (RTMi).

The RTMi, according to a company press release, enables the user to control the mileage according to riding conditions. Apart from RTMi, there are 17 other useful features in-built into the digital cluster like clock, service indicator, low battery indicator, top speed and average speed, said the release.

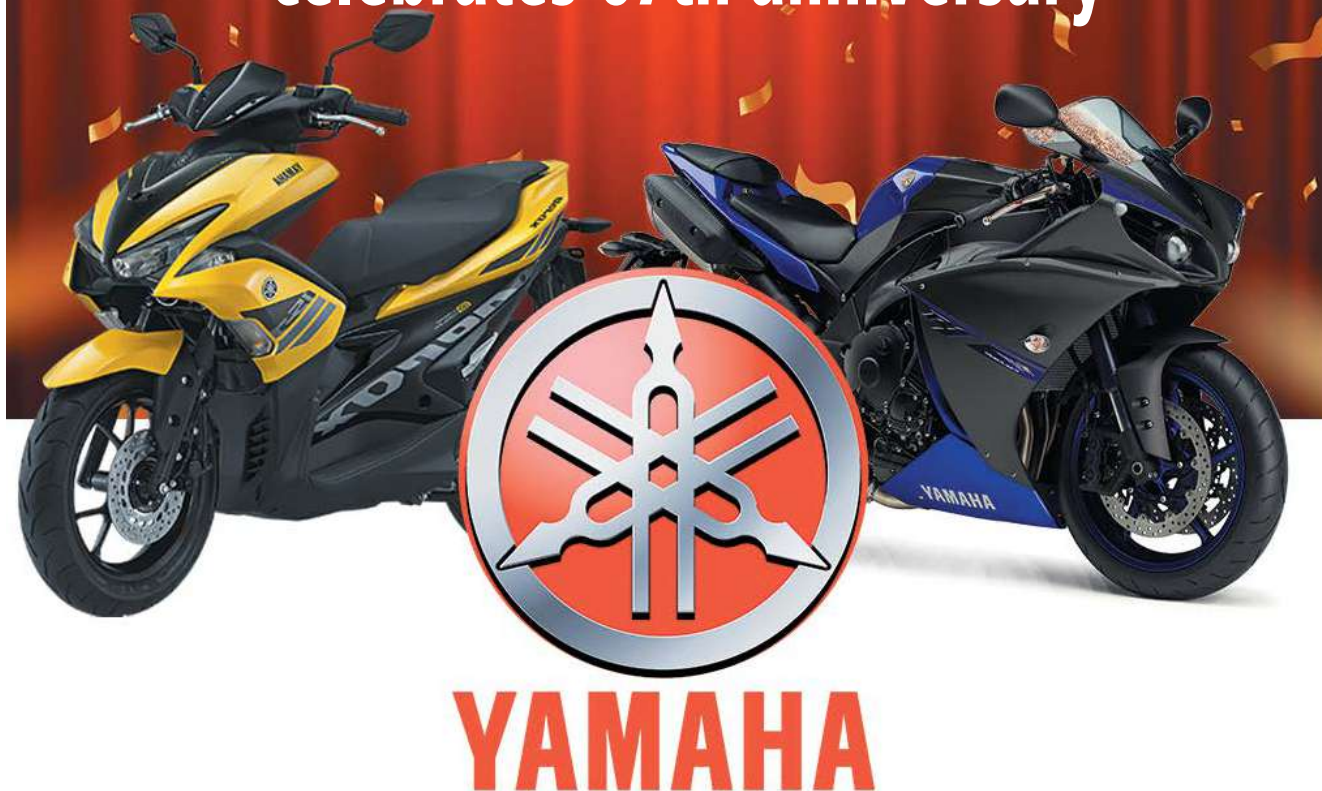
TVS Radeon ensures comfort for the long-distance riders owing to its longest seat in the category and a host of practical features, including a USB charger. It also comes loaded with a distinct premium chrome headlamp, chrome rear view mirrors, front disc brakes and robust thigh pad design.

The motorcycle has a 109.7cc Dura-Life engine designed to offer an optimum combination of power and fuel economy. It churns out 8.4 PS of power @ 7,000 rpm with a torque of 8.7 Nm @ 5,000 rpm, said the release. The vehicle is equipped with a 10-litre tank.

TVS Radeon will be available in four different variants.



Yamaha celebrates 67th anniversary



YAMAHA Motor India (YMI) celebrated the 67th anniversary of its parent company at its corporate office in Chennai, and its factory locations in Kanchipuram and Surajpur. The theme of the celebration was 'Ties in a New Age'.

Yamaha Motor Company Ltd was incorporated in Japan on July 1, 1955.

As part of the celebration, several activities were conducted by YMI to educate employees on the successful journey of the brand since 1955, its plans for the future, and consistent efforts to develop innovative technologies to meet the personal mobility requirements of the customers in future.

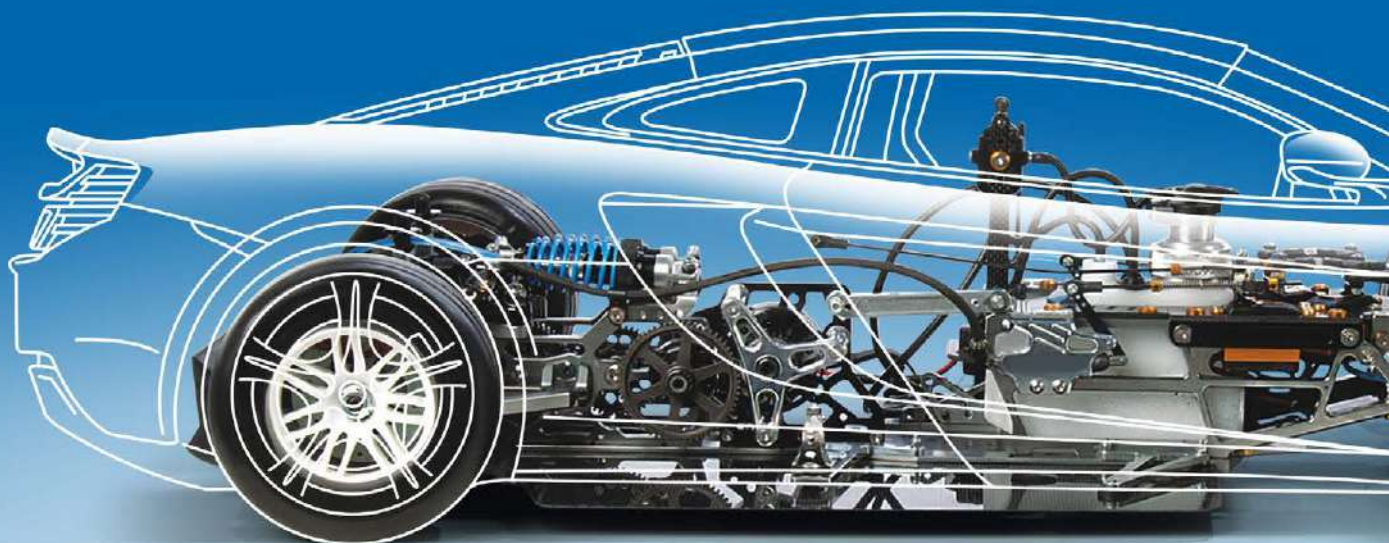
Fun-filled activities and games were also hosted for Yamaha employees and their families at all the company locations. During the event, employees also shared memorable stories about their journey with Yamaha.

Yamaha dealers across India celebrated the Yamaha Day by inviting customers in their regions.

Mr. Eishin Chihana, Chairman, Yamaha Motor India (YMI) Group of companies said, "The global theme for 67th Yamaha Day is 'Ties in a New Age'. 'Ties' is one of the key principals we have always cherished as it has guided us to stay connected and build a solid bond with all our stakeholders – employees, dealers, suppliers, customers and society. The past two years of the pandemic created a big void in human connection as the human touch was missing due to physical isolation and social distancing. Human touch is the foundation of human connections, and we are celebrating this occasion by building stronger ties through human touch."

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SPREADING WINGS



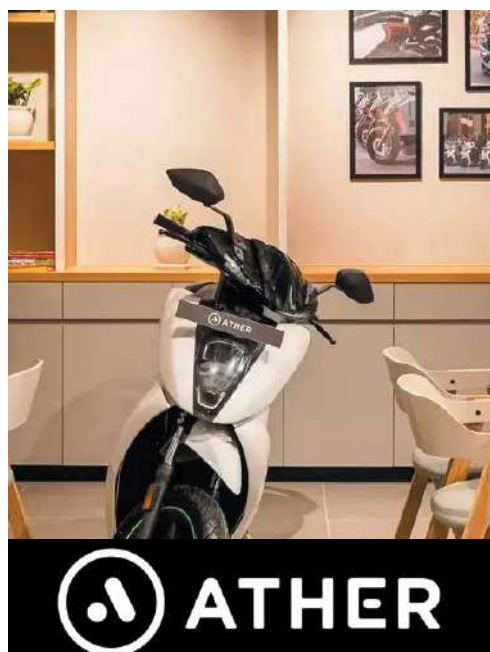
Ather opens new retail centre in Thane

A THER Energy has launched a new retail outlet at Panch Pakhdi, Thane, in Maharashtra. The Ather Space provides a unique ownership experience along with complete service and support for the owners, said a press release.

The new experience centre, which was opened in association with Jakhete Group, is designed to educate customers about every aspect of the vehicle while providing a holistic experience in an interactive space.

Mr. Ravneet S Phokela, Chief Business Officer, Ather Energy, said, "Maharashtra is an important market for Ather Energy, and the state's response to our scooters, the 450X and 450 Plus, has been phenomenal."

The expansion, he said, is driven by the high demand for Ather 450 series. "We will continue to expand our retail presence in the state and across India to facilitate a hassle-free transition to EVs," added Mr. Phokela.



HOP expands footprint in Jaipur

HOP Electric Mobility has opened MB Evocity, its seventh HOP Experience Centre, near Parnami Mandir at Raja Park in Jaipur.

Mr. Ketan Mehta, Founder & CEO, HOP Electric Mobility said, "Over the last couple of years, demand for electric vehicles has risen significantly. We plan to open more than 300 dealerships by the end of this year."

Mr. Devesh Bengani, owner of MB Evocity, said, "The sleekly designed electric scooters offer connectivity features like internet, GPS and mobile apps. Through these electric two wheelers, the company is attracting young customers as HOP models are remarkably economical, with running costs approximately 20 paise/km."



Okinawa launches another plant; third in Rajasthan

OKINAWA Autotech has announced the launch of its mega factory in Karoli, Rajasthan. It will be one of the most comprehensive units with state-of-the-art production facilities, said a press release by the electric two-wheeler brand.

It will be the company's third plant in Rajasthan. Spread across 30 acres of land, it will provide employment to more than 5,000 people, said the release.

This factory, added the release, will see an investment of Rs 500 crore and will be fully operational from October 2023.

Okinawa Autotech has announced the launch of its mega factory in Karoli, Rajasthan. It will be one of the most comprehensive units with state-of-the-art production facilities, said a press release by the electric two-wheeler brand.

It will be the company's third plant in Rajasthan. Spread across 30 acres of land, it will provide employment to more than 5,000 people, said the release.

This factory, added the release, will see an investment of Rs 500 crore and will be fully operational from October 2023.



Yamaha opens two new outlets in Bengaluru

INDIA Yamaha Motor on July 2 announced the opening of two new 'Blue Square' outlets in Bengaluru.

Launched under the banner of 'Whitefield Motors', the first showroom is spread across 1,440 square feet and is located at Mahadevapura while the second showroom under the banner of 'Geetha Motors', is set up across 1,600 square feet at Nelamangala.

Both the 'Blue Square' showrooms are 3S facilities, offering end-to-end sales, service, and spares support, said a press release.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Eishin Chihana, Chairman of Yamaha Motor India Group of Companies, said: "The Karnataka market is extremely important for Yamaha and these premium outlets will pave the way in building a stronger retail network in the region."



Steelbird to set up Rs 40-cr plant for auto filters in Rajasthan

STEELBIRD International is setting up a greenfield facility in Neemrana, Rajasthan, for manufacturing automotive filters.

"We have been allotted a 5-acre land in Neemrana, Rajasthan, with an investment of about Rs 40 crore. We will get possession of the land in the next 1-2 months and plan to start production by April 2023," said Mr. Manav Kapur, Executive Director, Steelbird International.

The market leader in air filters, oil filters, fuel filters and cabin filters, Steelbird established its first plant in North India in 1964.

With the latest allotment, the company, whose 65 pc of business comes from manufacturing rubber for aftermarket and OEMs and, 35 pc from filters, will now have six manufacturing units with a cumulative land area of 13 acres. This includes the recent manufacturing space in Neemrana (5 acres), three facilities of 5 acres, 1 acre and 1 acre respectively in Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, and two plants in Greater Noida with land area of half acre each.

Last year, the company had applied for a 10-acre land in Jammu, to cater to manufacturing of rubber and tyres. The proposed investment for this is Rs 25 crore. However, the land allotment is awaited.

Going forward, while the auto industry is seeing a disruption with changing dynamics in the favour of electric vehicles, Steelbird said it remains safe. "For the next 10 years we do not see a disruption in our business from new technologies like EVs since our business is largely into the aftermarket space. As of now, we are not in the process of bringing any products for EVs but we are working on trying to identify parts where we can work," said Mr. Kapur.



Tata Motors launches GenVoltz range of generators in Nepal



TATA Motors, along with its authorised distributor, Sipradi Trading, has launched its range of GenVoltz generators in Nepal.

Designed, developed and tested at its R&D centre in India, the generators are powered by Tata Motors' diesel engines and are perfectly suited to power a wide variety of applications, said a press release. The heavy-duty GenVoltz gensets are available from 25kVa to 125kVA configurations, in both manual and automatic modes, added the release.

Commenting at the launch, Mr. R. Ramakrishnan – Global Head, Customer Care, Commercial Vehicle Business Unit, Tata Motors, said, "The new gensets, powered by reliable and efficient Tata Motors engines, will boost the growth of industries in Nepal. We are confident that Sipradi Group will support the new addition with the utmost commitment in sales and service, as they have been doing for our commercial vehicles for decades."

Mr. Rajan Babu Shrestha, CEO, Sipradi Trading Pvt. Ltd, added: "Right from the inception of Sipradi Group, we have always looked at building a strong business portfolio that will cater to the interest of our customers. The launch of Tata Motors GenVoltz has added another feather to its cap in the mission to aid Nepal's growth. With Tata Motors gensets, we are confident we will be the most reliable brand for power backups of all industrial and infrastructural needs."

Mahindra launches six tractor models under Yuvo Tech+ brand

MAHINDRA Tractors', part of Mahindra's Farm Equipment Sector, on June 9 unveiled six new tractor models under the recently-launched Yuvo Tech+ brand.

Mahindra Yuvo Tech+ is designed and developed at Mahindra's Research Valley (MRV) in Chennai with world-class standards. The new tractors are powered by Mahindra Tractors' new m-ZIP 3-cylinder and ELS 4-cylinder engine, delivering best-in-class power, torque and mileage, said a company press release.

Expanding the Yuvo Tech+ range, the six new models are launched in the 37 – 50 HP (27.6 – 36.7 kW) power band and come with key features such as for-wheel drive, Dual Clutch, SLIPTO, Auxiliary Valve and 2-speed PTO which making it suitable for more than 30 agri applications.



Mr. Hemant Sikka,
President – Farm Equipment
Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd,

The Yuvo Tech + range comes with 12F (forward) + 3R (reverse) transmission technology, with Dual Clutch and 4WD, with a three-speed option (H-M-L) for optimal performance based on different soil types and agri applications.

Mahindra Tractors launched the 275 Yuvo Tech+, 405 Yuvo Tech+ & 415 Yuvo Tech+ with the 3-cylinder m-ZIP engine, and the 475 Yuvo Tech+, 575 Yuvo Tech+ & 585 Yuvo Tech+ with the 4 Cylinder ELS engine.

Mr. Hemant Sikka, President – Farm Equipment Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, said, "With the farmer embracing newer technologies to drive speed and efficiency, the Yuvo Tech+ is the most advanced and versatile tractor offering in its segment and is developed to deliver a winning formula of productivity, comfort and savings for better earnings for the Indian farmer. With this launch, we are confident that these products from the Yuvo Tech+ series will further cement our leadership position in the tractor market."



Kia inaugurates fourth training centre in India

KIA India on June 23 inaugurated its fourth training centre in India, in Kolkata. The facility is located at Budge Budge, Kolkata and spreads across 10,000 square feet, according to a press release by the company.

The new training centre reinforces Kia India's emphasis on imparting world-class training to the dealership workforce, it said.

The state-of-the-art facility is equipped to handle soft skill training and technical training. The facility is equipped with a role-playing area, Body & paint, and EV Repair training. Realising the increased importance of digitising operations, the new training centre is fully digitised and can broadcast virtual training across dealerships. Aigning with the new era of mobility and the shift to electric vehicles, Kia India's new training centre, is fully capable of training dealer staff to handle EV queries.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Myung-sik Sohn, Chief Sales Officer, Kia India, said, "The inauguration of the fourth training facility is a reiteration of our commitment towards our people and our customers. The new facility will offer easy access to our dealer personnel from East and Northeast regions who used to come to Faridabad earlier for their training."

Kia India has been operating three training centres across Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Faridabad.



Tata Motors collaborates with Amity to enhance tech skills of employees



Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Dhaneshwar
Pro Vice Chancellor, Amity University,

TATA Motors on June 24 announced a partnership with Amity University to provide M.Tech degree in EV technology to its employees working at the Lucknow plant.

The company-sponsored programme aims at enhancing the employees' technical skills, thereby bridging skill gaps that prevail in the automotive

industry and creating a future-ready organization, said a press release.

Employees enrolled for the M.Tech programme will undergo comprehensive training that is designed in two parts – technical orientation delivered through theoretical and practical sessions to be conducted at Tata Motors campus and Amity University's Lucknow Campus respectively. The course comprises four semesters spread over two years, which will culminate in six- month comprehensive industrial project.

Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Dhaneshwar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Amity University, Uttar Pradesh Lucknow campus, said, "We are thrilled to be working with Tata Motors on this collaborative programme. This mutually beneficial initiative will lead to a rich exchange of knowledge and will allow students to align with the latest industry practices."

MGverse, a future-ready metaverse platform

MG Motor on June 6 announced the launch of MGverse, a metaverse platform that will provide an immersive experience to its customers and stakeholders through multiple arenas.

MGverse, said a press release, will act as a universe that combines multiple virtual spaces into a single platform. With this, the brand aims to bring MG fans, customers, partners, and employees together to work, play, engage, collaborate, co-create, socialise and shop, said the release.

Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Chief Commercial Officer, MG Motor India, said, "Digital technologies have advanced faster than any other innovation in human history. MGverse is a step forward where users can interact with visualised data, just like in the real world."

The brand will provide five different experience centres:

Explore & Creator's Centre: This will enable the users to personalise, accessorise and build their favourite MG vehicle in the metaverse. It will also allow customers to take a virtual test drive in the cities and streets of their preference.

NFT Gallery: This will allow users to witness MG's finest collections on display and enable them to collaborate and co-create, list, and transact NFTs on the platform.

MG Car Club: The members of MGCC will get one more avenue to connect, engage and celebrate togetherness through members-only events and concerts.

Gaming Arena: The user will get a chance to experience MG's rich racing history. One can choose their favourite racetrack to race in a sportier MG or play other games.

MG Knowledge Centre: It will provide opportunities to MG employees and partners to upskill and attend virtual training sessions, conferences and meetings.



Mr. Gaurav Gupta
Chief Commercial Officer,
MG Motor India

Maruti invests in startup SSPL

As part of its MAIL initiative to support startups with promising mobility solutions, Maruti Suzuki India Limited has announced an investment of around Rs 2 crore in Sociograph Solutions (SSPL).

The company plans to use the Visual Artificial Intelligence (AI) platform of SSPL called Dave.AI, with an aim to enhance digital sales experience of its customers.

Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki said, "Maruti Suzuki is committed to empower the mobility startup ecosystem in the country. Towards this, we have undertaken the ambitious MAIL programme since 2019. Our investment in SSPL demonstrates our resolve towards improving business metrics using contemporary technology."



Mr. Sriram PH, Co-founder & CEO, Dave.AI and Dr. Ananth, Co-founder & CTO of Dave.AI said, "We are fortunate to get associated with a market leader like Maruti Suzuki, at an early phase of our startup journey. This collaboration immensely helped us by not only validating our concepts, but also learn and imbibe the skills that are required to scale up our operations in a sustainable manner."

MG partners with Siemens



MG Motor India has partnered with Siemens to leverage cutting-edge digital technologies to increase productivity, save energy and cost, and reduce emissions and carbon footprint in its operations.

Mr. Ravi Mittal, Director- Manufacturing, MG Motor India, said, "MG is constantly evolving to meet rapidly changing requirements and provide innovative solutions by

collaborating with ecosystem partners. Our partnership with Siemens is focused on industrial digitalisation and intelligent manufacturing. It will strengthen our commitment to lowering carbon footprints, increasing production efficiency, and providing significant energy and cost-saving solutions."

Mr. Suprakash Chaudhuri, Head of Digital Industries, Siemens Limited, said, "We are excited about this development and take immense pride in partnering with MG Motor. What we have created with MG Motor is the digital twin of production. It allows MG to connect the plant through automation and monitor real-time operational performance."

Volvo to assemble all-electric car XC40 Recharge in India

VOLVO Car India on June 7 announced that its all-electric offering the XC40 Recharge will be assembled in India for the Indian market.

The car with a range up to 418 km per charge will be assembled at the company's Hosakote plant near Bengaluru in Karnataka, said a press release.

"We are committed to grow the Indian market and our plans to assemble our latest offering the XC40 Recharge at our plant in Bengaluru are a reflection of this resolute. The future of mobility is electric and as a company we have already stated that we will be an all-electric car company by 2030. Our focus on local assembly is a step in this direction," said Mr. Jyoti Malhotra, Managing Director, Volvo Car India

Volvo recently showcased its first pure-electric vehicle XC40 Recharge in India and the launch is planned in July with expected deliveries starting in October this year.

The company started the local assembly in India in 2017 and since then the focus has been to continue adding models in the locally assembled line-up. At present, the flagship SUV XC90, the mid-size SUV XC60, the compact luxury SUV XC40 and the luxury sedan S90 are being locally assembled at the Bengaluru plant. XC40 Recharge will be the latest to join the locally assembled portfolio in India.



Ather Energy partners SBI for finance options to customers

A THER Energy on June 8 announced its partnership with the State Bank of India (SBI) to provide financing options to its customers.

Through the partnership with the largest public sector bank in the country, Ather Energy aims at leveraging the reach and penetration of SBI to accelerate the adoption of EVs in the country, said a press release.

The partnership will enable Ather Energy customers, having pre-approved loan offers from SBI to avail instant loans at low-interest rates starting from 9.55 per cent, depending on their customer credit profile. They can avail loans up to 85 per cent of the on-road price of the vehicle.

Mr. Ravneet Phokela, Chief Business Officer, Ather Energy, said, "We understand that financing plays a critical role in the auto sector, and are confident that our partnership with SBI will ensure ease of purchase for customers and attract more people to join the EV revolution."

Mrs. Saloni Narayan, Dy. Managing Director (Retail Business) SBI, said, "We are glad to associate with Ather Energy. This initiative is a step further towards offering digital two-wheeler loans to customers through a paperless process at the convenience of their place and time of choice."



Volvo sets up solar power panels at UP, Haryana PHCs

VOLVO Car India has set up solar power panels at Community and primary health centres at Jewar in Gautam Buddh Nagar district in UP, in Village Kheri Kalan in Faridabad and Bhorikalan and Bhangrola in Gurugram districts of Haryana.

According to a press release, the company has plans to extend this initiative to other community health care centres in 2022. The execution partner for this is industry body Assocham.

The four health centres now have a combined 50 KW of captive solar power. After consuming power for their needs, these health centres can distribute excess power to the grid, thereby not only making a contribution to sustainable energy but also lower their respective energy bills, said the release.

"Volvo is committed to sustainability and providing renewable and green energy to these health centres showcases our commitment. We have initially set up solar power plants at four centres and have plans to expand this to other Community health centres in these regions," said Mr Jyoti Malhotra, Managing Director, Volvo Cars India.



BMW Motorrad introduces academy for G 310 R owners

BMW Motorrad has announced the first-ever BMW G 310 R Rider Academy in India. The academy will offer BMW G 310 R riders curated training sessions to hone their riding skills under expert guidance.

BMW Motorrad will host a one-day exclusive riding experience for BMW G 310 R owners. The participants will go through a comprehensive training, which will include basic familiarity of the motorcycle, understanding of correct rider position, throttle control, vision, steering and other exercises such as emergency braking and riding on track.

Participants are required to hold a valid driver's license at the time of the event and the training is only for BMW Motorrad G 310 R owners. The customers can participate only on their motorcycle and will undergo scrutiny to check the fitness of the motorcycle. The organisers are entitled to exclude vehicles that do not comply to the minimum operating standards.



Tata Motors bags biggest fleet order 10,000 EVs

ON the occasion of the World Environment Day, Tata Motors signed an agreement with BluSmart Electric Mobility for delivering 10,000 XPRES T EVs to the company.

This deployment of 10,000 units makes it the biggest ever EV fleet order in India, said a press release issued by Tata Motors. It is an addition to the 3,500 XPRES T EV order, which was signed by both the companies in October last year.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd., and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd, said, "Tata Motors is taking active steps towards the rapid electrification of mobility, and it is heartening to see renowned fleet aggregators joining the green mobility wave with us. We are delighted to continue our association with BluSmart Electric Mobility as we deploy 10,000 XPRES T EVs across the country."

Mr. Anmol Singh Jaggi, Co-Founder, BluSmart Electric Mobility, said, "With our \$50M in Series A fundraise, we are supercharged to rapidly expand across Delhi- NCR and the metro cities. We are thankful to Tata Motors for charging up our journey to scale up at a fast pace."



Mr. Shailesh Chandra
Mr. Anmol Singh Jaggi

TKM bags the 'Golden Peacock HR Excellence Award' for 2021

TOYOTA Kirloskar Motor (TKM) was recently awarded the 'Golden Peacock Award for HR Excellence' for the year 2021 for achieving overall excellence in its human resource management practices.

The award, instituted by the Institute of Directors to acknowledge HR Excellence, was presented to TKM by the Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture, Mr Arjun Ram Meghwal.

Expressing delight on receiving the award, Mr. G. Shankara, Vice-President of HR & Services, TKM, said "We are extremely pleased that our best practices and persistent efforts towards establishing a work culture that is engaging, healthy and development-focused are well acknowledged."



Mr. Namitesh Roy Choudhury, Executive Director & Head of PTSE and Mr. Sunil Antony, Vice President & Head of Human Resources received the HR Excellence award on behalf of LANXESS India at a Grand Event held in New Delhi on 3rd June 2022

BMW India has multiple plans to celebrate the 'Power of M'

THE year 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the BMW M GmbH division and BMW India has planned a series of prized '50 Jahre M Editions', special M accessories reminiscing the iconic brand, thrilling events and emotional campaigns to celebrate the 'Power of M'.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India, said, "M is the strongest letter in the world and in its 50th anniversary it is stronger than ever. Inspired by motorsport, BMW M philosophy is the perfect interplay of dynamics, agility and precision while being suitable for everyday use."

According to a press release, 10 distinct '50 Jahre M Editions' will give customers an opportunity to express both their passion for motor-racing and their awareness of tradition. Stealing the spotlight will be special editions from the powerful M stable including the BMW M340i, BMW M4, BMW M5.

Iconic and historically significant BMW M paint finishes and upholstery options will also be offered for select models. Style-defining colours such as Dakar Yellow, Fire Orange, Daytona Violet, Macao Blue, Imola Red or Frozen Marina Bay Blue refer to the various eras of BMW M.

Customers can add sporting character to every detail with three '50 Jahre M Edition' accessories packages which will be available at an attractive launch pricing.

BMW M is putting down a marker for those who love tradition. Customers who opt for a BMW M automobile, special M Edition variants or a model equipped with an M Sport package will have their vehicle's front, rear and wheel hubs decorated with M emblems inspired by the classic 'BMW Motorsport' logo.

The company will also introduce dedicated M-certified dealerships in India where enthusiasts will find everything M under one roof. These dealerships will provide the classic feel and ultimate high-performance experience that is associated with the brand, said the company release.



Bridgestone MoU with ASDC to extend its Sarthi initiative

BRIDGESTONE India has signed a MoU with the Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) to extend its flagship CSR initiative Sarthi.

The Sarthi programme is aligned to Bridgestone's global commitment towards safe and sustainable mobility. Under the programme, 695 youths from marginalized sections have been trained and placed as skilled heavy motor vehicle drivers, mostly from under-represented areas of Maharashtra.

Under the new MoU, Sarthi will now be extended to South and East India and Bridgestone intends to impart training to around 640 youth including 100 women in the current financial year.

In addition to training on driving Skills, the programme includes sessions on finance management, soft skills, gender sensitisation and physical wellbeing.

The MoU was signed by Officer Bridgestone India, and Mr. Arindam Lahiri, Chief Executive Officer, ASDC.

Mr. Parag Satpute, Managing Director, Bridgestone India, said, "The Sarthi programme is our endeavour to fill the gap of skilled drivers in the country, and as



a result, contributing towards road safety. We are glad to partner with ASDC for the project."

Mr. Arindam Lahiri, CEO of ASDC, said, "ASDC is committed to up-skilling all aspects of the Industry. Drivers are an integral stakeholder of the ecosystem and we as an organisation welcome collaborating in endeavors that provide skills for a career in the automotive sector."

e-Ashwa launches e-auto

e-Ashwa Automotive has launched its e-auto with a view to making the last-mile mobility convenient, affordable and eco-friendly.

According to a press release, the heavy steel body e-auto will run on both lithium ion and lead acid batteries and will be available in different colours. With a mileage of 90-100 km and a maximum speed of up to 25 kmph, this budget e-auto is a good option for traditional rickshaw drivers, said the release.

Mr. Vikas Gupta, Founder & CEO, e-Ashwa Automotive, said, "We operate in affordable electric mobility segment and autos are key enablers in bridging the last-mile mobility gap. With the launch of e-auto, we want to make the auto drivers' journey much more convenient, environment-friendly and, most importantly, increase in their earnings."



GLOBAL EYE



BYD's new sales record in Latin America

A TOTAL of 1,200 units of BYD Yuan Pro EVs (known locally as S1 Pro) were exported to Costa Rica this year. This sets a new sales record in Latin America for BYD, said a press release.

Mr. Daniel Rosenstock, a member of the Board of Directors of Cori Motors, the official distributor of BYD in Costa Rica, said: "the BYD Yuan Pro is a milestone in the history of electric vehicles in Costa Rica and Central America. As the favourite electric vehicle of Costa Ricans, this model gains widespread acceptance from both individual consumers and multinational enterprise buyers."

The Yuan Pro is designed with BYD's latest Dragon Face 3.0 design, with large and thick tires. The smooth body lines outline the whole vehicle, giving it a dynamic and lively appearance.

In terms of performance, the Yuan Pro is equipped with a lithium iron phosphate Blade Battery and a permanent magnet synchronous single motor, with a maximum power of 100kW and a maximum torque of 210N·m. It has a range of 401 km and can accelerate from 0 to 50 km/h in 3.9 seconds.



Clean Logistics presents first hydrogen-powered truck

CLEAN Logistics SE on June 23 presented its first hydrogen-powered zero-emission truck Fyuriant to the public, at Stade airfield.

With this, Clean Logistics has heralded a new era in the field of environmentally friendly solutions for road freight transport and reached another milestone in its corporate history, said a press release.

The trucks boast ground-breaking technology. The first Fyuriant is equipped, among other things, with two hydrogen fuel cells with 2x120 kW output and hydrogen tanks with a volume of 43 kg. This ensures a sufficiently high range of over 400 km and short refuelling times of less than 15 minutes.

The rear axle, which is equipped with wheel hub motors, has a maximum torque of 17,000 Nm, which provides the truck with the appropriate power in any driving situation. The intelligent control system enables an efficient control of the overall system in every driving situation.

Mr. Dirk Graszt, CEO of Clean Logistics, said, "We are very excited to present our Fyuriant today. The truck is an important milestone in the decarbonisation of the transport sector in Germany and Europe. With our trucks and buses, we meet with a high response in the industry. This is because we are now already able to make zero-emission vehicles available to the market."



FEV, ProLogium sign MoU for solid-state battery systems

FEV and ProLogium Technology, a leader in solid-state batteries, have signed a MoU to cooperate in the development of solid-state battery systems.

Both parties are leveraging their expertise to jointly develop energy storage systems based on ProLogium's unique solid-state batteries (SSBs) technology, said a press release.

SSBs, whose properties and innovative internal structure require new battery concepts, have a variety of advantages, it said. Among other things, they are a suitable energy storage alternative with particularly high energy density for a wide range of applications, such as the transportation sector.

Under the MOU, FEV, a globally leading engineering service provider, and ProLogium will focus their joint efforts on battery system development for customers, sales activities and cell/module verification based on ProLogium's solid-state battery technology.

"As a technology-open development service provider, we are working on solid-state battery solutions in the field of e-mobility. With ProLogium, we have been able to gain a renowned cell manufacturer as a partner in this area who is a leader in SSB technology," said Prof. Stefan Pischinger, President and CEO of FEV Group.

"Our recent agreement with FEV reflects the continued development of ProLogium and our global business strategy," said Mr. Vincent Yang, CEO and founder of ProLogium Technology. "It brings together two like-minded and complementary partners focused on creating new value in a traditional industry. Our collaboration will help the automotive industry achieve innovative, clean and efficient energy consumption of electrified vehicles faster," he added.



Industrial robot market worth over \$11.8 bn in 2021: Report



AFTER a two-year period of contraction, industrial robot shipments saw a Y-o-Y increase of over 30 per cent in 2021, according to new research published by Interact Analysis.

Pre-pandemic, the industrial robot sector was considered relatively mature, enjoying moderate, stable growth, but Covid-19 and the extended labour shortages that followed have caused an increased enthusiasm for manufacturing automation which has turbo-charged the robot industry. Additionally, many manufacturing companies are investing in automation as a form of 'future-proofing' to prepare them for future emergencies.

The industrial robot market was worth over \$11.8 billion in 2021 with over three quarters of this value represented by articulated robots. By 2026, the market will be worth almost \$20 billion, with articulated robots' ratio slightly decreased but still accounting for over 70 per cent of this. However, it will be collaborative robots (cobots) that will see the most success in new markets and applications.

Interact Analysis previously forecasted a steady decline in the average selling price of industrial robots. But, as a result of global supply chain issues, there were dramatic pricing increases in the industrial robot market in 2021. It is likely that price increases will continue through 2022 due to ongoing economic uncertainty.

Ms. Maya Xiao, Senior Analyst at Interact Analysis, says, "This new piece of industrial robot research has been the largest revision to our forecasts that we've had to undertake since we started to track the robotics industry in 2018. The long-term outlook for industrial robots is bright – significantly brighter than it was pre-pandemic."

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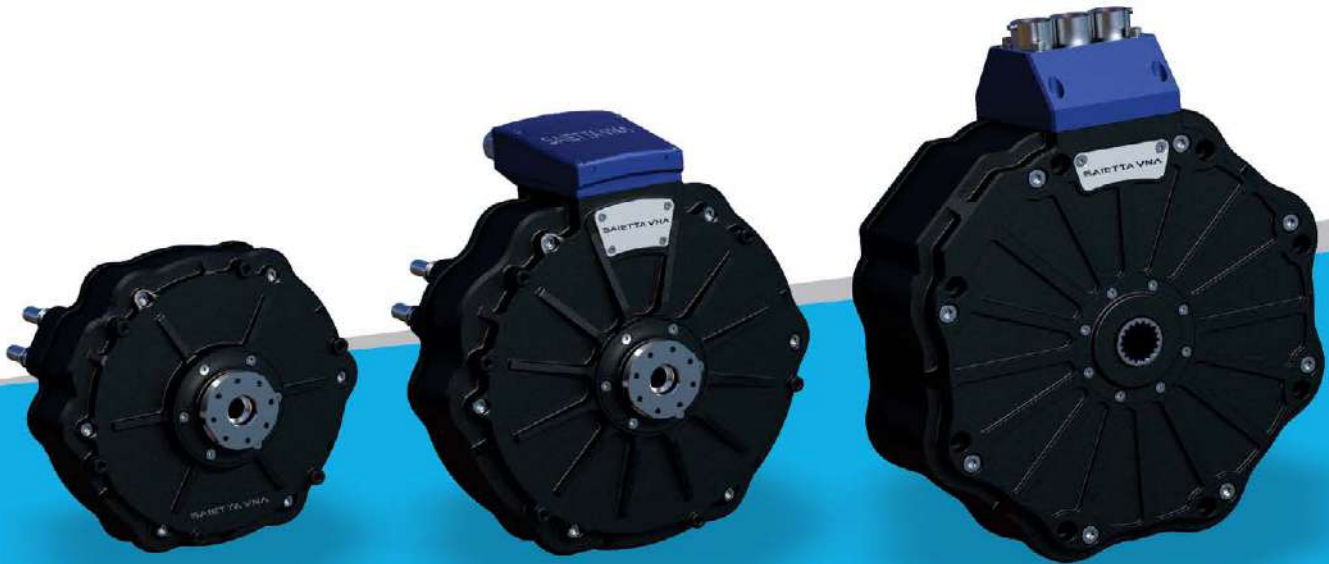
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Saietta VNA

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