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AUTOGUIDE

India's Automotive Industry & Trade Journal

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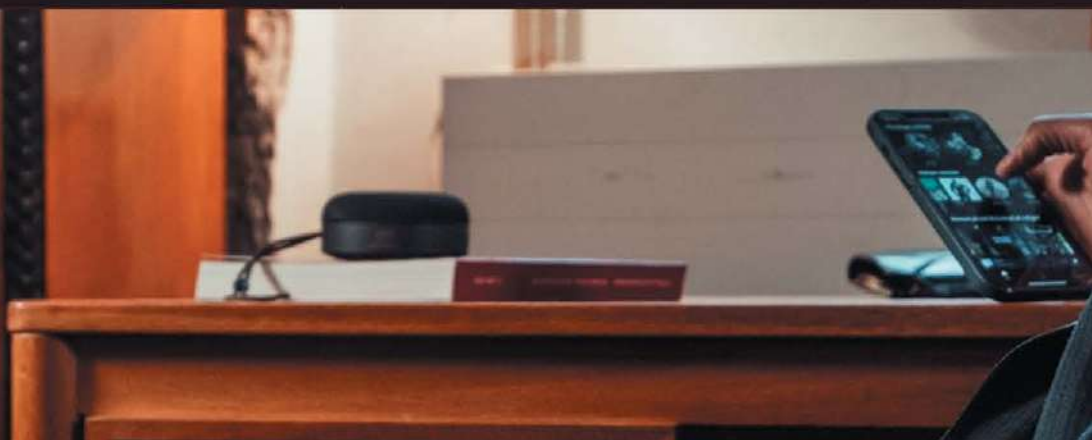
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Transforming e-Mobility

L2 Range Hub Motors



AIEVHM10-SC



AIEVHM18-MC

Specifications

Rim size : 10/12 inches

Watts : 850/2000/4000w

Voltage : 48 - 60v

Brakes : Drum and Disc

Product supported : Motorcycle & Scooter

L3 Range Motors, Controllers and Axles



AIEVEM010
AIEVEC010



AIEVEM10-SM
AIEVEC10-SM



AIEVEM012
AIEVEC012



AIEVAXL333

Specifications

Watts : 1000W - 1200W

Voltage : 48V

Peak : 1.8/2.2/2KW

No load Rpm : 3150,3800(10PH)

Specifications

Gear ratio: 1:10

Axle length: 33/35 inch

Brake housing dia (ID): 160

Rim bolt PCD: 100mm

Payload - 750-900kg

Special Features

Cruise mode

3 Speed mode

E-ABS

Hard - Soft Self learning

L5 Range Motors, Controllers and Axles



AIEVEM020
AIEMEC020



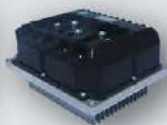
AIEVEM030
AIEVEC030



AIEVEM050
AIEVEC050



AIEVEM120-SM AIEVEC120-SM



AIEVAXL510

Specifications

Watts : 2000 - 5000W

Voltage : 48/60V

Peak : 4.6/6.6/7.2/10.7KW

No load Rpm : 4000

Specifications

Watts - 12Kw

Operating voltage - 72V

Peak - 24kw

RPM - 2700 - 3600 Rpm @ 24.2Kw

Specifications

Gear ratio: 1:10

Axle length: 42/46 inch

Brake housing dia (ID): 220 /180

Special Features

Cruise control

Parking mode

Temperature cut-off

Special Features

Liquid Coolant - 50/50 water / glycol

Parking mode

Temperature cut-off

Rim bolt PCD: 100mm

Braking type : Hydraulic

Payload - 1200-1400kg

Editor's Viewpoint



LATE JOGINDER P. MALHOTRA
Founder



M.P. MALHOTRA
Chairman - Editorial board



SHILPA MALHOTRA
Executive Editor

As electric mobility becomes the new 'normal' for the auto industry, the manufacturers are keen on taking this opportunity to include more and more electric vehicles in their product portfolio.

'Transforming' towards e-mobility

WHILE the auto industry is on its path of recovery after the Covid pandemic, it is witnessing major headwinds in the form of geo-political uncertainties, supply constraints, high inflation, increased fuel prices and low market demand in some of the segments. Considering the challenges, the industry is looking forward to the future of sustainable mobility through major transformation in the form of electric vehicles. In this issue, we have focussed on this 'transformation' in our cover story. This is in sync with the themes of the 62nd Annual Session of ACMA – 'Future of Mobility' and 62nd Annual Convention of SIAM – 'Future of Sustainable Mobility'. The events scheduled on 14th and 15th of this month will see the leaders of the industry come together to debate strategies for the future of mobility.

As electric mobility becomes the new 'normal' for the auto industry, the manufacturers are keen on taking this opportunity to include more and more electric vehicles in their product portfolio. Mahindra has unveiled five electric SUVs based on its INGLO platform. These vehicles are to be launched between 2024 and 2026. Also, at Prawaas 3.0, Tata Motors and VECV showcased their top-of-the-line electric buses and coaches. On the other hand, Omega Seiki Mobility announced its plans to deploy more than 10,000 electric two and three-wheelers in the Indian rural markets by FY 2022-23. All these developments have focussed on the growth of e-mobility across the country.

In another development, the sad demise of former Tata Sons Chairman, Mr Cyrus Mistry in a road accident has opened debate over better enforcement of safety measures like seat belts, drunken driving, speeding and wrong lane driving. The industry feels that while there should be more safety features in cars, the government should equally focus on the enforcement of the safety rules. This is indeed a necessity with road accidents accounting for huge number of deaths owing to absence of safety features in vehicles or disregard of safety rules.

While sales of passenger and commercial vehicles have revived in the last month due to festive demand, some of the manufacturers continued to face supply constraints resulting in slow production. Maruti Suzuki and Tata Motors are leading the sales graphs with other manufacturers following their lead. We hope that the festive demand stays put.

Enjoy the festive spirit!

Transforming auto industry fuels bigger opportunities



WITH change being the only constant, the automotive industry witnessed transformation and changes over the last few decades. The industry has seen transformation and transition from the Ambassadors to small-sized cars, pickup vehicles to Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs), jumbo trucks to heavy duty trucks, from buses to coaches etc. The only thing that has remained unchanged is 'change' itself.

Driving through this transformation, the automotive industry has grabbed every technological upgrade as an opportunity and has built on it. It configured the development of new power trains that better fuel efficiency and power in vehicles despite facing challenges in the form of rising environment pollution. Considering the new challenges, the shift to electric/hybrid vehicles was an obvious outcome. With EVs driving the market sentiment, the government moved in with swift changes in the policies to ease the transformation. Now, this change is being driven by trends like connected cars, autonomous driving and shared mobility.

Vehicle and component manufacturers are in the forefront of this transformation with the majority including EVs in their product portfolio. Leading this change is the Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd which aims to launch five electric SUVs based on its new INGLO platform from 2024 to 2026. They include the XUV.e8, XUV.e9, BE.05, BE.07 and BE.09.

Dr Anish Shah, MD & CEO, Mahindra Group, said, "We are proud and delighted to showcase our Born Electric vision. It provides a strategic direction that is in line with our core philosophy of 'Rise' – to be an organisation that will be counted among the best in the world and at the same time rise for our planet to fight against climate change. Mahindra will offer customers future-ready technology, head-turning design, world-class products and the benefits of global partnerships. By 2027, we expect that a quarter of the SUVs we sell will be electric."

Similarly, Tata Motors has taken decisive steps to promote alternate fuel technology through the development of Hydrogen Fuel Cell buses. The company is also a leading manufacturer and seller of electric buses. On the same lines, Kia India introduced its global EV- EV6 in the country and is creating a passenger vehicle fast charging infrastructure across its dealerships.

Omega Seiki Mobility (OSM), an Anglian Omega Group company is taking initiative to boost electric mobility in rural markets of the country. The company along with Agri Junction announced a strategic partnership to deploy more than 10,000 electric two and three-wheeler vehicles in rural markets by FY 22-23.

Greaves Electric Mobility is boosting sales of its Ampere electric scooter range through its EV dealerships. The brand now has over 1.5 lakh plus customers and more than 400 plus authorised sales and service outlets across the country.

Likewise, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) to jointly set up a technology epicenter to identify mid to long term solutions necessary for the future of Mobility.



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Expanding its presence in the EV charger segment, Park+ opened its 75th EV zone in Delhi. The company is set to install 10,000 EV zones across the country. Mr Amit Lakhotia, said, "The Indian EV narrative is incomplete without a robust EV charging network. The key missing piece in the Indian EV jigsaw is the weak EV charge network, which magnifies the inherent range anxiety among EV car owners. Additionally, a weak EV charger network also works as a major impediment when it comes to EV adoption among potential car owners. We already have real estate connections at 3,000 plus locations, across India. These new 10,000 EV zones are just the beginning and reflect our commitment in empowering India to achieve its carbon se azadi goal."

As for the connected car technology, MG Motor India introduced new i-Smart features in its Advanced Gloster model. The model now offers more than 75 connected car features. Customers of the "Advanced Gloster" will be able to utilise the app as an in-car remote for the audio, air conditioning, and mood light. The vehicle is powered by MapmyIndia that simplifies and customises search results for restaurants, hotels, and more for customers.

On the other hand, US-based ElectronEV announced its foray into India recently. The company will roll out light/ medium and heavy commercial vehicles as part of its India plans.

The two premier associations of the Indian auto industry – the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) have been elemental in promoting the new technologies and bringing about the 'change' in the industry. While electric vehicles and connected cars are a reality, autonomous driving and shared mobility is yet to take off in a big way across the country. The auto industry is determined and willing to explore the challenges of electric vehicles and bring them to the customers for the greater good of environment and climate change.

Mr Amit Lakhotia, Founder and CEO @ Park+ said, "The Indian EV narrative is incomplete without a robust EV charging network. The key missing piece in the Indian EV jigsaw is the weak EV charge network, which magnifies the inherent range anxiety among EV car owners. Additionally, a weak EV charger network also works as a major impediment when it comes to EV adoption among potential car owners. We already have real estate connections at 3,000 plus locations, across India. These new 10,000 EV zones are just the beginning and reflect our commitment in empowering India to achieve its carbon se azadi goal."



Auto sales remain strong over festive demand

AUTOMOBILE manufacturers witnessed double digit increase in their sales numbers in the month of August, ahead of the festive season with sentiments remaining high over demand.

Maruti Suzuki registered Year-on-year growth of 26.4 per cent with total sales (domestic + exports) of 165,173 units in August 2022 against 130,699 units in August 2021. The company same up with domestic figures of 143,692 units in August this year over 110,080 units recorded in the corresponding month last year. However, MSIL showed some minor decline in sales over month-on-month as it faced shortage of electronic components.

Likewise, Tata Motors sales in the domestic and international market for August 2022 stood at 78,843 vehicles, compared to 57,995 units during August 2021, thereby growing by over 36 per cent. Its domestic sales went up 41 per cent with 76,479 units sold in August 2022 over 54,190 units sold in August 2021. Its commercial vehicle sales increased by six per cent with 31,492 units. The company put up highest growth numbers in the passenger vehicles segment with sales going up by 68 per cent at 47,166 units in August this year over 28,018 units in same month last year.

Kia India, one of the fastest-growing carmakers in the country, clocked 22,322 units of sales in August 2022, reporting year-on-year growth of 33.27 per cent over the corresponding month last year. Continuing its healthy performance, the company retained its position on the five bestselling carmakers list.

Commenting on it, Mr Hardeep Singh Brar, Vice-President and Head of Sales & Marketing, Kia India said, "We have been observing upward sales momentum since the beginning of this year, and it is a good sign for the Indian automotive market. Comparing the quarters, our monthly average so far for Q3 of 2022 stands at 7.8 per cent over Q2 and 10.9 per cent over Q1 of this year, indicating gradual improvement in supply chain constraints and healthy consumer sentiment. With the demand and supply curve staying positive, we are optimistic that an excellent festive season in terms of sales is ahead of us."

Nissan Motor India registered cumulative wholesales of 8915 units, inclusive of domestic of 3283 units and export of 5632 units for the month of August 2022. The cumulative wholesale YTD growth stood at 29 per cent.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor also sold a total of 14,959 units in the month of August 2022, thereby registering a growth of 17 per cent over wholesales in August 2021. The company had sold 12,772 units in the month of August 2021.



SALES

Honda Cars India Ltd. (HCIL) registered monthly domestic sales of 7,769 units in Aug 2022 while the export numbers stood at 2,356 units. The minor de-growth in the figures was due to the supply constraints faced by the company resulting in long waiting periods. On the same lines, MG Motor India registered negative figures with retail sales of 3,823 units for August 2022 with volatility in supply chains affecting production of vehicles.

Among two-wheelers, TVS Motor registered a growth of 15 per cent in August 2022 with sales of 333,787 units as against 290,694 units in the month of August 2021. Domestic two-wheeler registered growth of 33 per cent with sales increasing from 179,999 units in August 2021 to 239,325 units in August 2022.

Hero MotoCorp showed sales growth of 1.9 per cent as it sold 462,608 units in August 2022 against 453,879 units in the corresponding month of the previous year (August 2021). Sequentially, this translates into a growth over the month of July 2022, when the Company had sold 445,580 units.



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Seat belt is a must for all car passengers

Cyrus Mistry's tragic accident raises questions on safety rules

WHILE the auto industry deliberates the implementation of six air bags in all cars, the tragic and accidental demise of former Tata Sons Chairman, Mr Cyrus Mistry has raised questions on better enforcement of safety rules and reminded everyone that seat belts are a must for all car passengers. Mr Mistry was reportedly in the rear seat of the car involved in the accident and was not putting on the seat belt.

While the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has proposed mandatory six airbags for all cars from October this year, the auto industry has pointed towards better enforcement of safety rules like seat belts, drunken driving, high-speeding and wrong lane driving to curb the rising deaths in road accidents.

The Indian safety rules require seat belts for all car passengers and dual airbags for front seat travellers. Mr Mistry's car had rear airbags too, as is the norm in luxury cars now. However, since he wasn't wearing a seat belt, as per police investigators, he may have crashed against the front seat before the airbag deployed, a news report stated.

According to auto industry and government sources, most of the car buyers opt for two-airbag variants even in models that come with the option of six bags. As the companies are not in a hurry to add more, the government has proposed to make them mandatory for all models. This might be a welcome move from the government but the industry opines that better enforcement of the safety rules is equally required to save more lives in road accidents.

Currently, Maruti, Hyundai and Tata Motors, while catering to price conscious customers, offer six airbags across some models. But when it comes to luxury, almost all the companies - including top ones such as Mercedes-Benz, Audi and Volvo - already offer six airbags, and more on the bigger models, as a standard feature across their entire line-up.

The Ministry's road accidents report for 2020 reveals that 15,100 drivers and passengers were killed due to non-use of seat belts. For perspective, 17,800 travellers in four-wheelers were killed that year. This is a scary indicator of how many people are dying because of non-compliance with a basic safety rule. A majority of the tragic deaths in road accidents could easily be avoided by following the simple rule of seat belts.



Mahindra's Scorpio Classic in new avatar

MAHINDRA & Mahindra Ltd., pioneers of the SUV segment in India, recently announced the launch of Scorpio Classic in a brand new avatar. While the SUV is now offered with refreshed looks, contemporary interiors, and a new powerful engine, the company has retained the silhouette of the original.

Speaking at the launch of Scorpio Classic, Mr Veejay Nakra, President, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd., said, "The Scorpio is a landmark model which has reinforced Mahindra's reputation of being a manufacturer of authentic and highly desirable SUVs. With over eight lakh customers, the Scorpio has an unbeatable fan following and continues to be loved by proud owners and trusted by eminent institutions like the armed forces, para-military and internal security forces. With the launch of the Scorpio Classic, we are offering the Scorpio fans and enthusiasts a tough yet authentic SUV built to exhibit an 'attitude' like never before."

The Scorpio Classic can be distinguished by its new bold grille along with a muscular bonnet with hood scoop and the new twin-peaks logo. The new DRLs with the signature Scorpio tower LED tail lamps and new R17 diamond-cut alloy wheels further add to the appeal of the original form.

The Scorpio Classic boasts of superior performance with an all-aluminum lightweight GEN-2 mHawk engine, producing a whopping 97 kW (132 PS) of power and 300 Nm torque. A substantial 230 Nm of low-end torque is produced at only 1000 rpm. The engine is 55 kilos lighter and is 14 percent more fuel efficient than the engine that powered the previous model. To further refine the driving experience, a new six-speed cable shift has been introduced in the manual transmission. The suspension set-up has been enhanced with MTV-CL technology to deliver superior ride and handling. Significant advancement has been made in the steering system for easy maneuverability and control.

The Scorpio has always stood out for its refined SUV interiors. The Scorpio Classic takes this to the next level with its new two-tone beige-and-black interior theme, classic wood pattern console and premium quilted upholstery. The vehicle also has a new 22.86 cm touchscreen infotainment system with phone mirroring and other modern functionalities.

Available in two variants – Classic S and Classic S 11 – the Scorpio Classic will continue to be sold alongside the all-new Scorpio-N which was launched in June this year. The Scorpio Classic will be available in five colours – Red Rage, Napoli Black, Dsat Silver, Pearl White and a newly introduced Galaxy Grey.

ved over time to address the customer needs and remains the popular choice amongst enthusiasts who look for a tough, powerful, and capable 'authentic' SUV. The Scorpio Classic will continue to demonstrate its traits of standout design, unmissable presence, and powerful performance.



Tata Motors showcases its next-gen mass mobility solutions

LEADING commercial vehicle manufacturer, Tata Motors showcased its seven cutting-edge mass mobility solutions at Prawaas 3.0 held in Hyderabad recently. The company exhibited a robust product portfolio of passenger commercial vehicles across multiple fuel options at the third edition of India's flagship bus and car travel show. Keeping with this year's theme of 'Towards safe, smart and sustainable passenger mobility', the company displayed modern and sustainable solutions for both last-mile and long-haul mass mobility needs.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Rohit Srivastava, Vice-President, Product Line – Buses, Tata Motors: said, "Tata Motors is delighted to participate in the latest edition of Prawaas. This has emerged as an excellent platform for showcasing new products and technology as well as providing possibilities for deeper collaboration between operators, business visitors and other stakeholders within this segment. This year's theme vitally highlights the necessity of using emerging technology and innovation to make sustainable transportation a reality."

"As a pioneer in the industry, Tata Motors has always remained aligned to this vision, and our diverse and smart range of products come with varied clean fuel options, with their characteristic promise of safety, comfort and efficiency," he added.

Tata Motors' vehicle range at Prawaas 3.0 featured India's first front engine 13.5-metre bus – the Magna sleeper coach for intercity and luxury travel. Among the alternate-fuel-powered vehicles at the exhibition include the Ultra Electric 9/9 bus specially designed for staff transportation, Starbus Long Range CNG and LPO 10.2 CNG AC school bus. The display also had a customisable Caravan with modern facilities that is ideal for luxurious leisure travel and the iconic Winger 9S and Magic Express which is ideal for last-mile passenger transportation.

On the battery electric mobility front, Tata Motors is the market leader having delivered more than 715 Tata Motors' e-buses in various cities of the country and have cumulatively clocked more than 40 million kilometres. The company also offers the widest range for CNG buses across categories ensuring lower operational costs and higher profitability for the operators.



Uno Minda to invest Rs 300 Cr to expand capacity



UNO Minda, a tier-1 supplier of proprietary automotive solutions and systems to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), will invest around INR 300 crore to expand its manufacturing capacity of 4W alloy wheels and 4W automotive switches to meet their rising demand in the market.

According to a company press release, Minda Kosei Aluminum Wheel Pvt Ltd., one of the key subsidiary of Uno Minda, will be expanding its 4W alloy wheel capacity by 60,000 wheels per month to 240,000 wheel per month at its plant in Bawal, Haryana. The additional capital expenditure for the aforesaid capacity expansion will be INR 190 crore. The expansion is expected to be commissioned in two phase with first phase of 30,000 wheel per month through December 2023 and remaining through June 2024. The expansion will cater to increased demand fuelled by increasing application factor. Alloy wheels have also emerged as one of the most sought after accessory for 4W buyers in India.



The release further stated that Mindarika Pvt Ltd (MRPL), another key subsidiary of Uno Minda, is setting up a new manufacturing plant at Farrukhnagar (Gurugram, Haryana) to cater to increased demand of 4W Automotive switches from Indian and international customers. The project cost for setting up phase one of the manufacturing plant at Farrukhnagar will be approx. INR. 110 crore which will be completed by September 2023. The phase one of the plant will manufacture products to be used for manufacturing of auto components. The new plant will be strategically located 15 km from the existing Manesar plant deriving significant operational synergies. This location will also have sufficient land availability for any future expansion.

Dubai footprint will entail setting up of a wholly owned subsidiary and an office in mainland Dubai in order to enhance the company's market reach in African and Middle East markets with focus on aftermarket segment. UAE being an auto hub for MEA and CIS with high customer inflow will facilitate aftermarket business development in the region, the release stated.



Narendra Modi
Prime minister of India

Mr Osamu Suzuki

Maruti Suzuki marks 40 years in India

Lays foundation for EV battery and vehicle manufacturing facilities

Celebrating 40 years of partnership with the people of India, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) recently laid the foundation stone for two manufacturing facilities in Gujarat and Haryana respectively. The facilities include Suzuki Motor Gujarat electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility at Hansalpur, Gujarat and Maruti Suzuki vehicle manufacturing facility in Kharkhoda, Haryana.

The commemorative ceremony at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat was graced by the Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi. He also laid the foundation stone of Maruti Suzuki's vehicle manufacturing facility in Kharkhoda, Haryana via video conferencing.

As part of the celebration, Suzuki Motor Corporation also announced the establishment of Suzuki R&D Center India Pvt Ltd (SRDI). Through SRDI, Suzuki will establish a framework to strengthen its R&D competitiveness and capabilities. The R&D centre will work together with the rich technical talent in the country to develop new technologies for India as well as other global markets.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion included Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr Bhupendra Patel, Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr Satoshi Suzuki, Minister of State, Government of Gujarat, Mr Jagdishbhai Ishwarbhai Vishwarkarma (Panchal) and Member of Parliament, Mr. C. R. Patil. Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr Manohar Lal and Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr Dushyant Chautala attended the ceremony virtually from Kharkhoda, Haryana.

From Suzuki Motor Corporation, Mr Osamu Suzuki, Former Chairman and Mr Toshihiro Suzuki, President and Maruti Suzuki leadership represented by Mr R. C. Bhargava, Chairman; Mr Kenichi Ayukawa, Executive Vice Chairman and Mr Hisashi Takeuchi, MD & CEO, were present on the occasion.

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VECV unveils nex-gen Volvo 9600, Eicher inter-city coaches



VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd, unveiled its next-generation inter-city coaches at Prawaas 3.0 event held at Hyderabad recently. Among the products unveiled at the event are the newly launched Volvo 9600 15m & 13.5m and the Eicher 13.5m intercity coaches.

Mr Vinod Aggarwal, MD & CEO, VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd., and Mr. Akash Passey, President, Bus Division, VECV, were present at the event to unveil these best-in-class vehicles that reiterate the company's continued focus on delivering futuristic industry leading products.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Aggarwal said, "Indian bus industry is on the path of revival. With the market opening up across segments, inter-city travel is picking up robustly and will soon touch pre-COVID levels. In such a scenario, the state-of-the-art, industry-leading modern and luxurious buses from Volvo and Eicher will set new benchmarks in long-distance travel and pave the path for the industry. This strong line-up of next-gen buses promise comfort and safety combined with greater efficiency that offers a truly superlative customer experience."

Mr Akash Passey added, "The Volvo 9600 and the Eicher intercity coach are a testimony to our commitment towards redefining the bus industry in India. These vehicles truly demonstrate our 'Make in India' commitment. The bus segment is a very competitive market, and we have a range of products that offer the most compelling proposition across all segments, including the inter-city long distance travel. We will continue to build on our portfolio of technologically advanced and sustainable products that address the evolving market needs while delivering an unparalleled customer experience.

The debut of the next-generation Volvo 9600 coach by Volvo Buses, marks a significant milestone in its more than two-decade-old journey in India. The initial products on this platform are sleeper and seater coaches with dimensions of 15m 6x2 and 13.5m 4x2. The coach is a benchmark in luxury, comfort and safety, thanks to its award-winning European design. Fine aesthetics and ample room are combined in the distinctive tall boy design. The sleeping coach has 40 berths, but the 15-meter seater coach can accommodate 55 passengers. There is 15.1 cubic metres of luggage space in the seater application and 9.2 cubic metres in the sleeper application. Up to 47 people can sit in the 13.5-meter coach, while 36 people can sleep in the sleeper version.

The Eicher 13.5m intercity coach, addresses operators demand for a mid-premium HD bus and is the latest addition to the Eicher intercity platform. Proven engine performance, class-leading reliability, and improved functionality are some of the hallmarks of the range. The first OEM-built FE Coach with seater and sleeper configuration, the bus holds a VEDX5 engine with a power of 240 hp and torque of 900 Nm. Its 425L HDPE fuel tank promises long uninterrupted trips, while its lightweight construction improves fuel efficiency. The sleek Tall Boy design and layered surfaces of the modern aerodynamics immediately exude aesthetic appeal.

The Eicher Skyline Pro E, a fully electric city bus was also featured by VECV at the event. With orders from the prestigious cities of Chandigarh and Surat in place, the Skyline Pro E is firmly positioned to offer city bus passengers an emission-free ride.

US-based ElectronEV forays into India

To roll out light, medium and heavy duty CVs



Mr Rakesh Koneru,
Founder, ElectronEV,

Committed to sustainable mobility solutions in the trucking industry, US-based ElectronEV announced its foray into India recently. The company will roll out light/ medium and heavy commercial vehicles as part of its India plans.

With a substantial fleet of over 500 commercial EVs running in the US, the brand is introducing its unique services, including customized EV vehicles, vehicle management solutions, fleet management solutions, digital cockpit and IoT solutions, real-time data analytic solutions, and charging infrastructure to the fast-growing Indian market.

With this, ElectronEV plans to introduce its proprietary EV technology through its electric vehicles and end-to-end mobility solutions for markets like India, South East Asia, Australia and Europe. The product portfolio will consist of light, medium, and heavy duty commercial vehicles like delivery vans, trucks, and buses.

The company is planning to target the pain areas like the limitations of the battery technology, high capital



To provide higher production volumes closer to target customers, ElectronEV will adopt a manufacturing strategy of setting up micro-factories in conjunction with a modular technology stack.

Mr Rakesh Koneru, Founder, ElectronEV, said, "India is emerging as the largest and fastest growing market for EVs. That is why our products will cater to the demand for B2B and B2C segments in India. ElectronEV plans to introduce its proprietary EV technology through its electric vehicles and end-to-end mobility solutions for markets like India, South East Asia, Australia, and Europe."

Mahindra's new Jeeto Plus CNG CharSau

LEADING Small Commercial Vehicle (SCV) manufacturer Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) recently launched the new Jeeto Plus CNG CharSau to strengthen its presence in the segment. The new SCV will be an addition to the company's existing Jeeto Plus range that promises to set new standards in fuel efficiency and mileage. The vehicle has been competitively priced at Rs 5.26 lakh (ex-showroom).

The new Jeeto Plus CNG CharSau boasts of unmatched range of up to 400km with best-in-class mileage of 35.1 km/kg making it ideal for both inter and intra-city travel. When combined with its industry-leading load carrying capacity of 650kg, the new SCV is ideally positioned to boost profitability and deliver improved prosperity to the customers.

The new Jeeto Plus CNG CharSau has been developed to cater to the evolving last-mile connectivity and logistics needs of transporters. It comes equipped with a range of stand-out features that makes it a perfect fit for the business requirements of small and medium-scale businessmen and traders across India who offer last-mile transportation solutions.

The Jeeto Plus CNG CharSau boasts of a powerful engine that delivers class-leading power of 15 kW and torque of 44 Nm at 1600 – 2200 rpm. This ensures superior pick-up, acceleration and gradeability, allowing the vehicle to carry heavy loads even up the steepest of slopes. Further coupled with lowest maintenance cost and the ability to carry varied load options effectively, the SCV will deliver up to 30 per cent higher profit than the market offerings.

The new Jeeto Plus CNG CharSau has two CNG tanks with a total capacity of 68 litres (40L+28L). It has a longer deck length of 2257 mm (7 ft), class-leading payload capacity of 650 kg, lowest maintenance cost (INR 0.22 per km) and most affordable price which in turn gives higher savings of about 30 per cent over other CNG mini trucks.



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MG Motor's Advanced Gloster to feature i-Smart technology

MG Motor India announced new i-Smart features in its upcoming Advanced Gloster model. It will now offer more than 75 connected car features.

The i-Smart intelligent system enables customers to connect with their car thus enhancing their overall driving experience. They will be able to monitor their car much more easily, activate any features they wish, and smoothly connect to their lifestyle choices.

Customers of the "Advanced Gloster" will be able to utilise the app as an in-car remote for the audio, air conditioning, and mood light in addition to the current i-Smart functions. Moreover, in addition to the current Apple watch users, the i-Smart app will be made accessible for android watch users as well, providing connectivity to a vast audience.

The navigation experience, powered by MapmyIndia, is further enhanced with live weather and AQI information on the navigation screen. The Advanced Gloster puts convenience at the forefront with the integrated 'Discover App', an inbuilt feature of MapmyIndia co-powered by Dineout, and Kogo. It simplifies and customises search results for restaurants, hotels, and more for customers. Additionally, the new Park+ head unit App will enable users to pre-book and pre-pay for parking slots even before they reach their destination.

The Advanced Gloster also features an advanced VR system, a distinguishing feature of i-Smart, that offers 100 plus commands to control the sunroof, AC, music, navigation, and newly added 35 plus Hinglish commands. Customers can also personalise their in-car experience with customisable lock screen wallpaper.



Kia marks three years of Seltos

KIA India, one of the fastest growing car manufacturers in the country, celebrated the completion of three years of its maiden product, Seltos. The Seltos turned three in July this year. Three years on, the SUV has proven itself as a disruptor and has redefined how the mid-SUV segment is perceived in the country. Just a few months earlier, the model crossed the three lakh sales milestone, becoming the fastest SUV to achieve the feat in the country.

Kia Seltos has been a landmark product for the company since the very beginning. Within the first two months, it had established itself as the highest selling SUV in its segment, helping the company enter the list of top five carmakers in the country with just one product – Seltos. Its popularity gained ground and it crossed one lakh sales milestone in August 2020, i.e. just one year after it was launched in the country. The product's successful run has allowed Kia to retain its position amongst the top five carmakers in the country for three years in a row.

Seltos was also the first car in its segment to debut the iMT technology, earlier launched only with a petrol engine option, shortly followed by a diesel engine. In September 2021, Kia India introduced the top trim 'X Line' on the model, with first made-in-India 'Xclusive Matt Graphite' exteriors and first-in-segment 18" Crystal cut matte graphite alloy wheels, which further enhanced the premium quotient of this product.

Kia India recently crossed the five-lakh sales milestone in the country, with Seltos contributing to close to 60 per cent to the overall sales. While 58 per cent of the Seltos sales come from its top variants, the automatic options of the vehicle contribute to around 25 per cent. The revolutionary iMT technology became an instant hit amongst buyers, with one out of every 10 buyers opting for it in 2022. In July this year, the company achieved the milestone of crossing one-lakh exports of the Seltos to more than 91 countries from its Anantapur plant in Andhra Pradesh.



CEAT launches WINENERGY X3-R tyres for electric buses

CEAT's WINENERGY X3-R CV tyres are the tyres of choice for a number of India's leading electric bus manufacturers

Making inroads into the electric vehicles CEAT India, India's intra-city road transportation will soon feature even more environment-friendly electric buses. CEAT Tyres has launched new tyres with several leading EV OEM's. These tyres have features which have been tested for ride and handling and are specific to the requirements of electric buses for use on urban roads.

The performance of CEAT's WINENERGY X3-R tyres is already proven in EV fleets across the country. Data has shown that these tyres deliver 30% higher mileage, 30% better rolling resistance, and 50% reduction in tyre noise as compared to regular tyres. These parameters are particularly important in EV vehicles. Non-polluting electric buses are cheaper to run and are less noisy compared to vehicles using fossil-fuels.

The R&D invested by CEAT Tyres into the development of the new EV tyres has considered the unique requirements and characteristics of an electric bus. For instance, an EV bus has a higher torque, both at the start and also when accelerating. An electric engine is also heavier than a diesel engine. An electric bus needs to be able to offer a smooth, cushioned ride on city roads which are quite often in a state of disrepair. The technical aspects of CEAT's WINENERGY X3-R tyres address these requirements. The tyre has an all-steel tubeless construction with a robust casing to cater to the high torque. The tyres have a low rolling resistance for better mileage. Other technologies have also been utilised: such as EVST for better stiffness and tyre grip, FaF to dampen noise, and BRIC-T to resist tread buckling. The tyres have a unique circuit design, a wider contact, and have reinforced sidewalls – these features provide better traction and reduce tyre damage, hence making for a safer, cost-effective, and smoother ride. Another aspect of these EV tyres is that they fit all axle positions. The EV tyres are available in two sizes - 295/80R22.5 and 255/70R22.5.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Arnab Banerjee, COO, CEAT said, "Indian cities can look forward to the further deployment of electric buses which provide for a sustainable, air and noise pollution-free transit for commuters. With the launch of CEAT's WINENERGY X3-R EV tyres we are pleased to be able to offer tyres specifically designed for our EV OEMs, and to help in making urban transport cost-effective, cleaner, and smoother."



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BMW marks 50th anniversary

Unveils X7 40i M Sport exclusive edition

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of its parent company, BMW India introduced an exclusive '50 Jahre M Edition' of its X7 40i M Sport in India recently. Locally produced at the company's Plant in Chennai, the exclusive edition bespoke model comes in a petrol variant and can be booked online.

BMW India had announced that it will launch 10 exclusive '50 Jahre M Editions' to celebrate the M sub-brand that stands for high-performance adrenaline gushing cars.

BMW M is known for its high performance and supremacy of excellence. X7 is a statement of the luxury class - the flagship of the 'X' range. It combines the modernity of a luxury sedan with the agile driving and spaciousness of a sports activity vehicle.

The BMW X7 is big, bold and has an incredible on-road presence. The model opens up a brand new dimension in luxurious driving pleasure and is designed to elevate every moment of the journey. The first-class comfort this car delivers is absolutely unparalleled. The limited edition is available at an attractive ex-showroom price of Rs 1.2 crores.

The X7 40i M Sport 50 Jahre M Edition offers an extremely versatile and flexible luggage compartment. Folding down the second and third row seats can increase storage capacity from 326 litre up to 2,120 litres, making it suitable for all kinds of journeys.

With the unrivalled BMW TwinPower Turbo technology, the petrol engine melds maximum power with exemplary efficiency and offers spontaneous responsiveness even at low engine speeds. The X7 40i M Sport produces an output of 340 hp and maximum torque of 450 Nm at 1,500 – 5,200 rpm. The car accelerates from 0 -100 km / hr in just 6.1 seconds.

A host of BMW ConnectedDrive technologies continue to break the innovation barrier like the BMW Gesture Control, BMW Display Key, Wireless Charging and Wireless Apple CarPlay. BMW EfficientDynamics includes features such as 8-speed Steptronic Automatic Transmission, Auto Start-Stop, ECO PRO mode, Brake-Energy Regeneration, Electronic Power Steering, 50:50 weight distribution, driving experience control switch and many other innovative technologies.



Mahindra & Mahindra 76th AGM

'Let's set aside our fears and step up to bat'

ADDRESSING the 76th annual general meeting of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Chairman of the Group, Mr Anand Mahindra persuaded the stakeholders to set aside their fears and step up in the current troublesome economic scenario.

Speaking about the current inflation concern, he said "Even though inflation is a concern, from the business angle, it can nevertheless provide a minimum threshold of returns on productive assets. If it does not spin out of control, inflation can be the ally of growth."

Mr Mahindra further said, "I believe industry should have faith in the future and invest. The world is changing, and there are opportunities waiting to be seized. We seize these opportunities and turn our fortunes around. A little bit of calculated risk and a little bit of courage will pay rich dividends. To quote FDR, we have nothing to fear but fear itself."

Mr Mahindra detailed on various issues including the price of oil and the war in Ukraine. He said, "The war is teaching us a timely lesson about the dangers of overreliance on oil and the need for alternate energy sources. It also coincides with a climate change crisis which needs to be tackled on a war footing. It seems logical that this experience of oil supplies being negatively affected by war will shake us out of our complacency and give a much-needed fillip to the quest for renewable energy. Some good may yet come out of this deplorable situation, and if that happens, it may well turn out to be an opportunity."

Showing concern over the US going into recession, he said, "It's difficult to predict how a possible recession will play out in the US. But there's a silver lining to it. India has always been resilient. Look at shocks over the last three decades - there is a short-term impact, of course. But over the longer term, the India story keeps alive. If there is only a mild recession in the US, that is likely to be good for India. Our resilience will help bring capital inflows. Further, the recession will help reverse the commodity price rises and also perhaps induce the US Fed to put a cap on rising interest rates."

Commenting on supply chain disruption, Mr Mahindra said, "Those lamenting the demise of a global supply network are ignoring the fact that the disruption is in the China-dominated global supply network rather than the true global supply chain. Unshackling ourselves from China is a good development for the rest of the world and long overdue. Nature abhors a vacuum, and other countries, including ours, will rush to fill it. In fact, the process of unshackling has already begun. China may be losing its edge: 60 per cent of companies and 82 per cent of manufacturers now report their production slowed during the present outbreak due to lack of employees, inability to obtain supplies, or explicit factory halts resulting from the lockdowns."



Anand Mahindra

Chairman of the Mahindra Group,
Mahindra & Mahindra Limited and Tech
Mahindra Limited.

Goodyear launches new tyres for luxury vehicles

EXPANDING its Assurance portfolio of tyres, Goodyear India launched new Assurance ComfortTred for luxury vehicles in the Indian market recently. With the combination of advanced technology and a sophisticated tread pattern, the consumer-focused design of the Assurance ComfortTred redefines the luxury driving experience.

Using ANX technology, Assurance ComfortTred delivers a quieter driving experience on the road. Constructed with an extra noise and vibration cancelling layer built with the company's advanced compound, the tyre is firmly insulated against rolling noise. The closed pattern design helps to reduce air pumping noise while a high number of smaller tread blocks resulting in a lower impact force, thereby delivering a quieter driving performance.

In addition to the ultimate comfort and quiet ride, Assurance ComfortTred tyre is designed for safety from the first mile to the last, in terms of wet road grip and shorter breaking distance. The new generation tread compound features a high amount of silica and resin for additional traction which provides incremental modulation to the road surface, leading to a better road contact and water evacuation. The tyres are available in seven sizes.

Mr Sandeep Mahajan, Chairman & MD, Goodyear India, said: "We are excited to introduce Assurance ComfortTred, a new product from Goodyear, tailored for luxury vehicles. Assurance ComfortTred is a true comfort provider that enables the vehicle to become a quiet space for the riders and thus provide superior driving experience to consumers. As a pioneer in tyre technology, Goodyear has always been at the forefront of innovation and our endeavour is to offer best-in-class products in line with evolving consumer needs".



Mr Sandeep Mahajan,
Chairman & MD,
Goodyear India



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Switch opens its first experience centre in Bengaluru

ELECTRIC vehicle manufacturer, Switch opened its first exclusive experience centre in Namma Bengaluru recently. At this experience centre, the company's extensive range of e-bikes will be on display, along with all the merchandising and accessories that it has to offer.

The company is set to launch CSR 762, which will pack in a best-in-class battery swapping technology. The EV motorbike will be unveiled in the coming months. However, the patrons of Switch will also be able to experience CSR 762 at their Namma centre.

During the pandemic, when people were confined to their homes, cycling was the only outlet to release one's pent-up energy. Switch bike came to the rescue of millions of people as it helped people tackle not only physical but mental health problems. The bike, through its best-in-class e-bike, came to the rescue of Indian consumers, who were finding it difficult to cycle long distances. With the launch of Switch XE+, XE, MXE and the non-electric NXE, the brand captured the minds of its audiences and catapulted to the favoured e-bike brand for Indians across age groups.

Commenting on the showroom opening, Mr Chintan Khatri, CEO of Switch, said, "Switch bikes had a first mover advantage in this space. We have had a phenomenal journey since we introduced Switch XE+ and XE. These were built keeping in mind the people of India and keeping their average stature and build. We look forward to the next phase of growth and are grateful for the response we have gotten so far."

Mr Khatri envisioned that there will be Switch dealership and distributorship touch points across pan-India and he made good on that promise. Now, he has taken up opening exclusive Switch experience showrooms across India and he has started off on a very high and powerful note. Switch also celebrates its strength in its two manufacturing plants. As per the government mandate, the brand supplies 250W motor in India and locks the speed of the bike at 25kmph. However, Switch still supplies 500W and 750W motor e-bikes overseas to countries like the Netherlands, Australia, Dubai, USA, Europe and many second and third-world countries. Being an original equipment manufacturer, the brand also supplies its loose parts and raw materials to nearby countries and supports small upcoming brands.



Mahindra introduces new Bolero MaXX Pik-Up

MAHINDRA & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M), the leader in the Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV) - 2 to 3.5 ton category, launched the all-new Bolero MaXX Pik-Up recently to cater to the transport and logistics needs of modern India. The company unveiled the brand with the launch of Bolero MaXX Pik-Up City 3000 at an introductory price of ₹7,68,000 onwards (ex-showroom).

Mr Veejay Nakra, President, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd., said, "At Mahindra, we constantly strive to influence customers' life positively and enable them to earn more and prosper. The all-new Bolero MaXX Pik-Up is a futuristic brand loaded with many category-first features such as the advanced iMAXX technology, turn safe lights, height adjustable seats, in addition to the powerful and efficient engine, and class-leading payload capacity. With this new benchmark brand in the pickup segment, Mahindra once again demonstrates its intention and capability to offer immense value to its customers."

Bolero MaXX Pik-Up comes with several category first features like height adjustable driver seats to ensure a tireless journey. The certified D+2 seating with headrest and higher legroom provides maximum comfort. Safety features such as category first turn safe lights, LED tail lamps, and front bonnet ensure maximum driver safety. Endowed with a 5.5-meter turning radius, the pick-up truck can negotiate any traffic, narrow city lanes, and flyovers with élan. The compact design makes it ideally suited for city roads for inter and intra-city transportation.



Tata Punch achieves one-lakh sales mark

TATA Motors passenger vehicles achieved a new milestone with its first sub-compact SUV Punch touching one-lakh sales mark within a span of 10 months. The company rolled out the 1,00,000th unit from its manufacturing facility in Pune.

The Punch SUV has set a new benchmark in the industry, by becoming the first SUV to achieve this milestone. It has received a phenomenal response from customers for its stunning design, robust performance and best-in-class five-star safety features.

Tata Punch is the youngest member of the 'New Forever' range and comes with remarkable features such as a 7-inch touchscreen system, digital instrument cluster, auto AC, automatic headlights, connected car tech, and cruise control. Offering the agility of a hatch with the DNA of an SUV, the SUV has been a part of top 10 highest-selling cars in India consistently.

Commenting on this milestone, Mr Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd, said, "We are delighted to share that Punch has achieved the one-lakh sales mark within a short span of 10 months. It is one of the highest selling SUV from our 'New Forever' portfolio. This achievement speaks highly of the strong response from customers and we are very thankful to them for their continued trust. The Punch is our second product based on the ALFA architecture and has successfully established its popularity by creating a new segment and thereby reinforcing the four core pillars of a true SUV - stunning design, versatile and engaging performance, roomy and spacious interiors and absolute safety. We are confident that the Punch will continue to receive love from customers and will keep redefining the SUV experience through its performance."

Since its launch in 2021, Tata Punch is known for its distinctive personas that embrace diversity while remaining committed to its vibe. It offers a wide array of options at different price points to choose from, catering to a wide spectrum of consumer needs. The sales were the highest ever in July 2022 at 11,007 units.

Powered by a 1.2-liter petrol engine, it delivers an outstanding fuel efficiency of 18.82 kmpl in manual and 18.97 kmpl in AMT. Offered in both MT and AMT transmission options, the SUV is India's safest sub-compact SUV with five-star GNCAP rating. The car is available in 8 colors, as well as in dual tone options. With features such as projector headlamps with LED DRLs, LED tail lamps, rain-sensing wipers, auto-fold ORVMs, 16-inch diamond-cut alloys, 7-inch touchscreen infotainment system, automatic temperature control, semi-digital instrument cluster amongst other features, the Punch aims at providing the utmost comfort.

Furthermore, it also includes the iRA connected car technology, which offers over 25 features, making the car a complete package for its customers.



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Kia unveils fast EV charger for PVs in Kochi

KIA India, one of the fastest growing carmakers in the country, inaugurated its fastest 240kWh charger for EV passenger vehicles in Kochi recently. This DC fast charger is installed at the company's dealership - Incheon Kia.

Keeping with its commitment to providing customers with top-notch mobility solutions, the company is steadily building a fast charger network across the country, ensuring all EV owners have access to fast charging options. Customers can avail this charging facility at the Kochi dealership by paying per usage.

Kia India will also accommodate the charging needs of EVs from other OEMs through these charging stations. Further building on the recent launch of Gurgaon's fastest "150kWh" charger for passenger cars in July 2022, the company EV journey in the country is further cemented by this development.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Myung-sik Sohn, Chief Sales Officer, Kia India, said: "These are exciting times for EVs, and we aim not just to be a part of the mobility revolution of EVs in India but to make EV ownership aspirational, accessible, and inclusive. Our global best EV, EV6, launched in India earlier this year, is the perfect illustration of our philosophy. Subsequently, launching this 240-kWh DC fast charger for EV passenger vehicles in Kochi brings me immense joy. This is a significant milestone for us at Kia as we continue strengthening our commitment to developing EV infrastructure in the country and contributing to India's mobility growth story. Our EV journey in India does not stop here, in fact, we are in the process of setting up more charging stations at our EV dealerships across the country, ensuring superior customer experience and reducing the issue of charging time and range anxiety that usually follows EV customers."



Kia India recently launched its first fully electric car, EV6 in India which is based on the Electric-Global Modular Platform (E-GMP). EV6 offers a range of 528 km on a full charge, thereby keeping range anxiety at bay. The e-car can be charged 10-80 per cent in as little as 18 minutes using a 350-kW charger. As part of its EV roadmap, the company will launch its India-centric EV by 2025 in the country.



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

Steelbird International to expand product portfolio with Hella

STEELBIRD International, a leading automotive components company, is poised to strengthen its product portfolio with its new range of horns and spark plugs that will be powered by German brand Hella. The company's new product line will be coupled with Hella's competency in this product group.

Supported by Hella's product portfolio, Steelbird will soon launch its line of horns and spark plugs. The objective is to leverage the company's marketing and distribution strength in reaching the product to maximum retail points across the country while the products from Hella will enable the best German reliability in delivering a world-class product. Thus, both Hella and Steelbird are poised to complement each other's strengths in product offering and market distribution respectively.

The announcement was made in the presence of Mr Rama Shankar Pandey, Managing Director, Hella India Lighting, Mr Pankaj Kapur, Managing Director, Steelbird and Mr. Manav Kapur, Executive Director, Steelbird International, at the dealer's meet held in Dubai recently. The company made the landmark announcement about the launch of its horns and spark plugs, (Powered by Hella), to their leading channel partners in July this year.

Commenting on it, Mr Manav Kapur said, "We are proud and privileged to collaborate with the world's leading player in automotive sector, Hella, for our new market intervention. The market holds great potential for such a quality product, and I am confident that our new venture will achieve resounding success at the marketplace due to the promise of world-class German brand, coupled with the strong background, experience, initiative and efforts of our competent channel partners."

Mr Rama Shankar Pandey of Hella said, "We are looking forward to create positive experiences for two-wheeler customers and channel partners of Steelbird by offering our product expertise in horns and spark plugs. With extensive distribution coverage of Steelbird in this segment, these products powered by Hella, are sure to make an impact, to make every ride safer and smoother for road users. "

Steelbird International has been at the forefront of manufacturing and marketing world-class automotive filters, rubber parts, and accessories for over 58 years to the Indian market and to the best of OEMs across the world. The company is renowned for impeccable quality of its products that translates into safety and motoring delight for the customer across all two-wheeler vehicle segments, models, and types.

With the recent highly successful forays into tyres, lubricants, bearings, and a range of other categories, Steelbird built formidable brand equity on the strength of in-depth and vast knowledge of the Indian market. It has coupled it with expert market penetration, most importantly because of its solid distribution infrastructure and a tradition of lasting, mutually rewarding relationships with a large network of channel partners pan-India.



Tata Motors bags order for 921 electric buses

LEADING commercial vehicle manufacturer, Tata Motors has bagged an order for 921 electric buses from Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) recently. With this order, the company has won total order for over 3600 electric buses in under 30 days with the other 1,500 being ordered by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and 1,180 from West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC).

Under the larger tender by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), Tata Motors will supply, operate and maintain 12-metre electric buses for a period 12 years, as per the contract. Tata Starbus is an indigenously developed vehicle with superior design and best-in-class features designed for sustainable and comfortable travel.

Commenting on it, Ms. G Sathyavathi, IAS, Managing Director, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation, said, "We are delighted to confirm the order of 921 electric buses to Tata Motors. This order is paramount for Bengaluru's growing need for clean, sustainable urban mass mobility. BMTC is happy to induct modern electric buses that will attract maximum ridership for eco-friendly public transport."

Ms Mahua Acharya, MD & CEO Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), said, "We are extremely pleased that BMTC has placed its order for electric buses under the Grand Challenge of CESL. This is a yet another significant milestone in the electric bus journey we are on. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of Karnataka and BMTC for their commitment and to Tata Motors for their collaboration."

Speaking at the occasion, Mr Rohit Srivastava, Vice President, Product Line – Buses, Tata Motors, said, "We are delighted that Tata Motors' commitment towards modernising public transportation in India is further strengthened by receiving the prestigious order of electric buses from BMTC. Tata Motors has been at the forefront of developing smart, modern and energy efficient passenger commercial vehicles, catering to the needs of future mobility. We are confident that these environment-friendly electric buses will be beneficial for the residents of Bengaluru."



Tata Motors' state-of-the-art research and development facilities have steadily worked to engineer innovative mobility solutions powered by alternate fuel technology, including battery-electric, hybrid, CNG, LNG and Hydrogen Fuel Cell technology. Till date, it has supplied more than 715 electric buses across multiple cities in India, which have cumulatively clocked more than 40 million kilometres.

Volkswagen delivers over 5,000 Virtus in two months

GERMAN carmaker Volkswagen marked a recent milestone with the delivery of over 5000 Virtus sedans in just two months across the country. Since its market introduction in June 2022, the Virtus has reignited the premium midsize sedan segment and gained immense popularity and appeal among aspirational Indian customers.

Sharing his thoughts on the achievement, Mr Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said, "The Volkswagen Virtus is a strong product offering in the premium midsize sedan segment in India with its 'big by' design and features. The acceptance and admiration given by our customers to the Virtus is overwhelming and we look forward to delighting many more customers with our best-in-class products and services."

The Virtus in a short span has achieved two records, it created its first national record at the India Book of Records from Kerala along with achieving its global recognition at the Asia Book of Records from Gujarat by being the only sedan to be delivered to maximum customers in a day.

The sedan is available across 152 sales touchpoints in India at an introductory price of INR 11.21 lakh (ex-showroom). Recently, the company also announced the introduction of the Virtus under its Omni-channel mobility solutions. The Virtus is now available under the Volkswagen subscription and power lease that enables customers to choose from their preferred ownership models that are convenient and hassle-free.



The Virtus is offered under the dynamic and performance line that is powered by the globally acclaimed TSI technology by Volkswagen. The performance line is equipped with the 1.5l TSI EVO engine with active cylinder technology (ACT) mated to a seven-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. The 1.0l TSI engine on the dynamic line is mated to a six-speed manual and six-speed automatic torque converter transmission, delivering 85kW (115PS) power ranging from 5000 to 5500 rpm and 178 Nm of torque at 1750 to 4500 rpm.

JMA's Virat Sondhi passes away



Mr Virat Sondhi,
Chairman Emeritus and former Managing Director,
Jullundur Motor Agency

Mr Virat Sondhi, the Chairman Emeritus, Non-executive Director, promoter and former Managing Director of the Jullundur Motor Agency(D) Ltd. is no more.

Mr Virat Sondhi joined JMA in 1957 and was the third-generation in business. The company was founded in 1927 by Late Sr. Raizada Bindaban Sondhi in Lahore.

Mr Virat Sondhi was characterised for his hard work, persistence, patience, analytical mindset and optimism. As an experienced and knowledgeable professional of the industry, he worked on a defined path. His ideas on business ethics helped the company increase its customer base while his unique system of working like introducing a manual for the staff had paid rich dividends for the company in the long run. He was a true peoples' person who was liked and respected by all and touched many lives in numerous ways. His optimism, positivity and strong aura made him the driving force behind the company.

JMA has achieved many milestones under the leadership of Mr Virat and had grown manifold. His contribution to the company still continues to be a guiding force and support to the staff. His guidance, encouragement and blessings will always be a source of strength for the company. The entire team at JMA wishes to continue on the path laid out by him, in his words 'keep the wagon moving'.

Under Mr Virat Sondhi's guidance, the next-generation of employees at JMA is well trained. Fondly addressed as the 'Bhishma Pitamah' of the industry, his contribution to the company and to the entire industry, will continue to inspire many in the times to come.

Isuzu Motors and myTVS open multi-brand service facility

JAPANESE Vehicle manufacturer, Isuzu Motors India and myTVS, India's largest integrated multi-brand vehicle service provider, inaugurated a multi-brand myTVS facility at JMD Isuzu dealership in Mumbai recently. This facility will also deliver multi-brand services under the brand – myTVS.

As an industry first, under this partnership programme, Isuzu dealer partners who have additional capacity can opt to become franchisees of myTVS by providing dedicated and shared services and bays within their existing Isuzu service premises itself. The facility of myTVS, while within the Isuzu workshop premises, will have dedicated facilities for other brands. The predominant part of the workshop will however continue to operate as an exclusive Isuzu facility. This will bring efficiencies and ensure better viability for the dealer while providing more reach for myTVS.

The myTVS facility will offer services such as general service and body/accidental repairs for multi-brand vehicles other than Isuzu vehicles. It aims to provide services to customers like quick service, speed wash as well as cashless insurance at reasonable costs. The identified manpower is trained with a special focus on skill inventory, gap analysis and aggregate repairs for the multi-brand service.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr Toru Kishimoto – Deputy MD, Isuzu Motors India, said: "We are constantly working on making our facilities increasingly viable. This unique partnership will enhance the dealer's ability to offer dedicated services to Isuzu customers as well as connect with customers of other brands. Being an experienced and leading player in the industry, myTVS will offer exceptional services to their customers".

Mr. G. Srinivasa Raghavan, MD, myTVS, said: "It is a decisive strategic deal that has the potential to disrupt the way the Indian automobile industry functions. The fact that brick-and-mortar dealership/service centres are capital intensive, this co-existence model will ease that burden. We see this partnership as a catalyst to thrive on each other's strengths and customers will be the ultimate beneficiaries. For myTVS a partner like Isuzu will further strengthen our service portfolio range and help us penetrate in the western part of the country."

Mr. Gulu Menda, MD, JMD Isuzu, said: "We are extremely thankful to Isuzu Motors India and myTVS for reposing faith in us through this partnership. We are confident that with this partnership we will continue to deliver on both Isuzu and other brands customer's expectations and provide the right service at all times".



Apollo introduces five new truck-bus radial tyres

LEADING tyre maker, Apollo Tyres introduced five new truck-bus radial tyres for the Indian market. These new products are a mix of steer, drive and all-wheel fitment tyres, and have been introduced to enhance customers' operational productivity and offer the best in technology.

Apollo introduced EnduRace RA, a regional all wheel or steer fitment tyre in the size 295/90 R20, that offers the customers added benefits on even wear characteristics, best in class initial tread mileage (ITM) and superior durability in regional applications. The company is targeting for a leadership in the steer segment with this product, which has the potential to become the new benchmark in steer radial tyres.

Apollo EnduTrax MA, launched in the size 295/90 R20, is a mixed application steer fitment tyre, primarily for tipper trucks. It has superior cut and chip resistant compound for trouble free performance in rough terrains. The stone ejectors prevent stone drilling and penetration for extra prevention to the carcass. The tyre is designed to ensure customers get the highest vehicle uptime and lowest cost per kilometre in the growing infrastructure application in the country. The EnduRace RD nRG, part of the company's nRG range, is the most fuel efficient drive tyre for regional to long haul applications, providing 5-8 per cent better fuel savings with uncompromised durability and tyre life. The Endurance RD nRG has been launched in the size 295/90 R20.

Apollo EnduRace LD+ and RA have been launched for drive and steer fitment in regional applications for ICVs in the size 9.00 R20. Targeted towards the rapidly growing e-commerce, parcel and logistics industry, these tyres deliver advantages of best-in-class tread mileage, proven robust casing, uniform wear and better fuel efficiency. The twin centre blocks of this tyre optimally set with shoulder ensures better load bearing and uniform wear. Superior belt construction counters puncture damages inflicted upon the tread surface, offering prolonged tread life and more retreads.

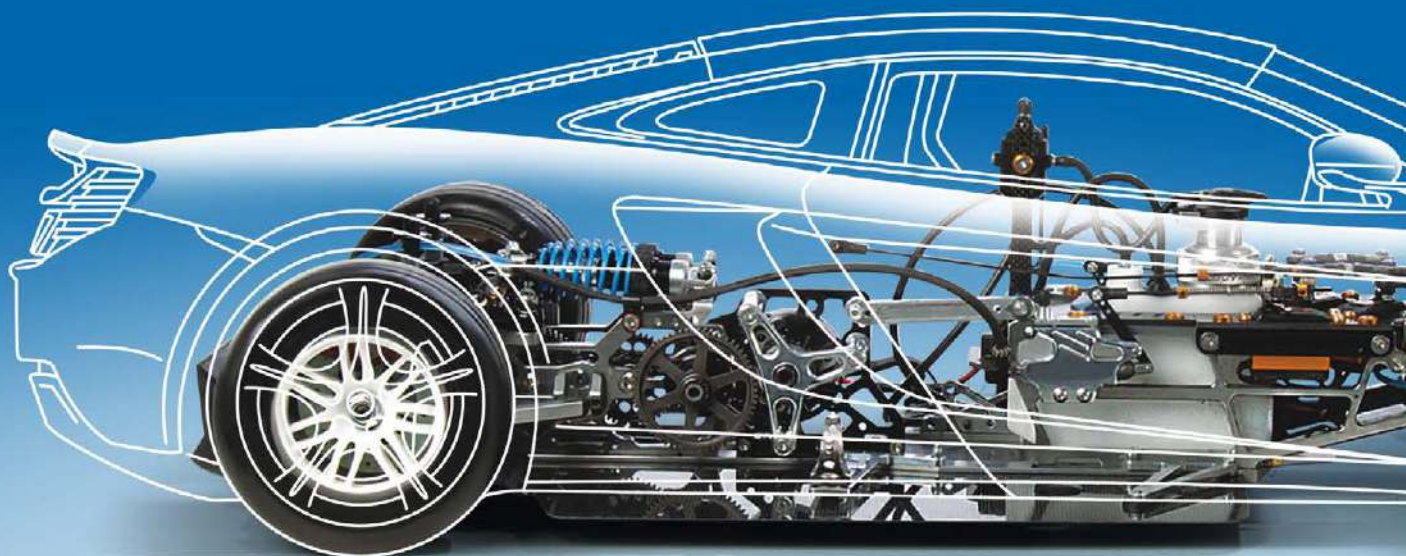
These five new products will further cement company's leadership position in India in the truck-bus radial segment, and will be a testimony to brand Apollo's assurance on performance, durability and specific application advantage.



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PEOPLE



MR. Dipankar Ghosh



Apollo Tyres appoints Dipankar Ghosh as new HR head

BRINGING in changes in the top leadership, Apollo Tyres appointed Mr Dipankar Ghosh as its new Group Head, Human Resources (HR) for the Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa (APMEA) region. With a leadership experience across multiple industries, Mr Dipankar has joined in a regional senior leadership role at the company and would be leading the regional HR team.

Mr Dipankar comes with 25 years of diverse experience in leading FMCG, automobile and service industries, in the domain of HR business partnering, strategic human resource initiatives, talent assurance, policy making and employee relations. At Apollo Tyres, he would be responsible for the people pillar, overseeing people practices for the APMEA region, driving key strategies in strengthening the talent pipeline, ensuring high performance culture and building a highly engaged ecosystem.

Commenting on it, Mr Satish Sharma, President, Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa (APMEA), Apollo Tyres Ltd, said, "Mr Dipankar's proven expertise in strategic human resource management and business transformation across industry verticals would be a key for our 'People' Pillar, which is an important part of achieving our FY26 vision. He also brings along wide-ranging experience in managing multi-stakeholder interventions and developing high-performance teams."

Keerthi Prakash is new MD of Renault Nissan's Chennai plant

NISSAN India announced the appointment of Mr Keerthi Prakash as Managing Director of Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd (RNAIPL) and will lead operations at the company's alliance plant in Chennai.

Mr Keerthi is currently posted as Deputy Managing Director of RNAIPL. He had joined the plant in 2008 and has over 20 years of automotive manufacturing experience. He replaces Mr Biju Balendran who has decided to pursue opportunities outside of Nissan after four successful years as plant Managing Director.

Mr Frank Torres, President Nissan India Operations, said: "I am pleased to announce Mr Keerthi's appointment as Managing Director of our Chennai plant. He has a wealth of production and engineering experience, having held numerous management and senior management positions within the plant since 2008."

"I also thank Mr Biju for his dedication to RNAIPL throughout his 14 years at the plant. His contribution has been pivotal to RNAIPL's transformation, and I wish him every success in his future career," Mr Torres added.



Keerthi Prakash



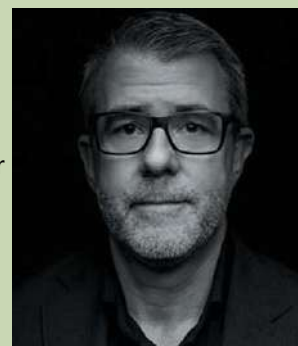
Volvo Cars appoints Johan Ekdahl as CFO

VOLVO Cars has recently appointed Mr Johan Ekdahl as its new Chief Financial Officer. He has been Volvo Cars' acting CFO since June this year when he succeeded Mr Björn Annwall who took up a new position as Chief Commercial Officer & Deputy CEO.

Mr Johan joined Volvo Cars in 2015 and has led global accounting and group reporting in the company since 2017. Johan holds a master's degree in Business and Economics from Gothenburg University. Before joining Volvo Cars, he worked as an authorised auditor at EY.

Speaking at the appointment, Mr Jim Rowan, President and Chief Executive of Volvo Cars, said "Johan is a strong leader who combines financial expertise with in-depth knowledge of our business. His background and experience will be crucial in his role as CFO to help us accelerate towards our strategic ambitions and become a fully electric carmaker by 2030."

Mr Johan Ekdahl said, "Our financial position is solid, and we are well equipped to achieve our strategic ambitions. Finance plays a key role on that journey, and I look forward to continuing working with the great Volvo Cars team to drive our sustainable and profitable growth."



Johan Ekdahl



Mr Nitin Kant

Revfin Services appoints distribution, strategy heads

REVFIN Services announced the appointments of Mr Nitin Kant as its National Head of Distribution, and Ms Monika Saxena in the capacity of Chief Strategy Officer recently. Mr Nitin has a commendable industry experience spanning over two decades. He has excelled in a plethora of verticals such as two-wheelers, consumer durables, personal loans, business loans and healthcare. On the other hand, Ms Monika brings with her an entrepreneurial spirit as she was managing a training and consulting organization before joining Revfin.

Over the years, Mr Kant has held several leadership roles across organizations like Citigroup, Standard Chartered, Barclays and Home Credit. In his previous role, he served as the Chief Business Officer for Aiqahealth. In his current stint, Mr. Kant will be responsible for expanding Revfin's footprints across the EV financing space in the country and augmenting the company's product portfolio.

Ms Saxena has been a part of several notable organizations such as NIIT, American Express and Samsung. Her expansive experience of over 20 years in diverse organizations including startups present her with the necessary skills and momentum to chart and drive the overarching business and people strategy for Revfin.

Speaking on the latest hirings, Mr Sameer Aggarwal, CEO & Founder, Revfin, said, "Both Mr Nitin and Ms Monika have held several leadership positions and have been successful entrepreneurs."



SPREADING WINGS



Jeep India opens showroom at Navi Mumbai

JEEP India, marking its 70th dealership in the country, inaugurated a new showroom at Navi Mumbai recently. While the showroom is situated in Nerul, the state-of-the-art workshop is located in Turbhe. The Nerul showroom has a floor area of over 2,700 square feet while the associated workshop is spread across more than 43,000 square feet area.

The new showroom features an exclusive product display area with the state-of-the-art 3D car configurator, a customer lounge and offers a wide array of Jeep accessories and lifestyle merchandise. Trained employees have been deployed at the dealership and workshop to ensure customers receive top-notch service.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Nipun J. Mahajan, Head of Jeep India, said, "Jeep India is deeply committed to offering its customers and prospective buyers an unparalleled brand experience. Mumbai and the ever-expanding suburban areas



have been and continues to be a significant market for the Jeep brand. The opening of the full-service dealership facility with group landmark, in Nerul further fortifies our presence in the western region."

Yamaha's Blue Square premium outlet now in Pondicherry

INDIA Yamaha Motor (IYM) opened its first "Blue Square" outlet in Mudaliarpeth, Pondicherry recently. The outlet 'Srinivasa Motors', offers end-to-end sales, service and spares support. The concept-driven showroom covers 1720sq.ft. and embeds the company's racing DNA of excitement, style and sportiness.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Eishin Chihana, Chairman, Yamaha Motor India Group of Companies said, "As a part of 'The Call of the Blue' brand campaign, we are extremely happy to announce the launch of the first Blue Square showroom in Pondicherry as it is one of the most flourishing business hubs in Southern India. The new Blue Square showroom will be a platform for every customer to attain a sense of belonging to Yamaha's rich heritage in international motorsports."





Mahindra Insurance partners with Mad About Wheels to provide EV solutions

MAHINDRA Insurance Brokers Limited (MIBL), a subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (Mahindra Finance), announced its partnership with Mad About Wheels (MaW) – India's first brand agnostic electric mobility and automotive solutions provider. Now customers buying electric two and three-wheeler vehicles will receive comprehensive motor insurance products from dealers of MaW.

Speaking about the partnership, Mr Vedanarayanan Seshadri, MD & Principal Officer, MIBL, said, "This unique distribution partnership will enable MaW dealer-partners to utilise MIBL's platform to provide insurance products to the emerging and ever evolving EV industry. Given the rapid growth of two and three-wheeler fleets in India this partnership will facilitate insurance through MAW dealer partners with a wide reach."

The partnership will give MaW dealers selling electric two-wheeler and three-wheeler vehicles, an access to various insurance products offered by MIBL's insurance partners. The customers can effectively compare and select an insurance cover that meets their individual and specific requirements.

Mr Amresh Khar, Co-Founder of Mad About Wheels said, "The MIBL association will help us increase our reach into this growing sector & on-board new age dealers as well as OEM brands to build more confidence into the EV business. I am sure that the EV industry at large will be the benefactors of this kind of a unique partnership. Our Flagship product of Extended Warranties is running successfully, where we have already crossed 20,000 thousand customers".



Mr Amresh Khar,
Co-Founder of Mad
About Wheels

Siam's 8th Automotive Logistics Conclave

Focus on transition towards a sustainable future

THE Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), organised the 8th SIAM Automotive Logistics Conclave in New Delhi recently. The conclave themed 'Automotive Logistics: Transitioning towards a Sustainable Future' focussed on exploring new frontiers for transportation of vehicles. It stressed on improving logistic operations in the automotive sector keeping in view the developments happening across the roadways sector, government policies, and vision change in last two years.

The conclave was divided into five sessions - "Leveraging Technology for Enhancing Road Transport Efficiency", "Railways – The Road Ahead", "Waterways – The New Frontier", "Role of Multi-Modal Logistics Parks in Automobile Transportation", and "Special Plenary Session: Path Ahead".

In the first session, the speakers discussed the developments happening across the roadways sector, government policies, and vision change in last two years. The panel consisted of eminent speakers including Mr Rakesh K Sen, Co-Chairman SIAM Logistics Group & Vice President, M&M, Mr. R.S. Kapoor, Senior Adviser, Maruti Suzuki, Mr. Ashutosh Jha, Sales Director, Michelin and Mr. D K Rai, Director – Automotive, CHEP. The session was moderated by Mr. Sarbjit Singh, General Manager, Hyundai Motor India.

Sharing his thoughts, Mr Rakesh K Sen said, "The two factors that matter the most are operations need to ensure reduced logistics cost while time and innovation is imperative in the ecosystem. Moving forward sustainability is the need of the hour, and everyone needs to adopt the sustainable ways."

Mr R.S. Kapoor said, "The automotive industry is evolving and is actively taking steps towards accomplishing sustainability. Sustainable operations, collaborations and emerging technology can further revamp the sector."

The second session discussed railways as one of the future solutions for logistics across India. The role of railways in the logistics industry with future vision was kept forward for smoothening the supply chain during the discussion. The third session elaborated on developing the inland waterways across the country.



The panel for the fourth session talked about the ways India is moving forward in developing the infrastructure and creating newer MMLPs across the states for increasing the efficiency of the supply chain aiding the manufacturing sector. The panel consisted of Mr. Achal Paliwal, Tower Head, Outbound Logistics, Tata Motors Business Services, Mr. Bharat Joshi, Director, Trac 1 Logistics, Mr. Sanjeev Patil, Vice President (Logistics), National Highway Logistics Management Ltd., and Mr. Amit Garg, Head – Domestic Rail Business, DP World. The session was moderated by Mr. Jaffrey Thomas, Partner, PwC.

CEAT awarded 5-star ratings for its premium car tyres

CEAT has been awarded five-star ratings for its premium platform of passenger car tyres as part of its efforts to conform to the new BEE (Bureau of Energy Efficiency) rating norms for tyres.

Mr Arnab Banerjee, COO, CEAT Tyres, said, "It is heartening, and a matter of satisfaction, that for several platforms of our premium car tyres for sedans and SUVs, we have been certified with five-star ratings issued by BEE. It is a vindication of our continued efforts to manufacture quality tyres for our customers. Star ratings provide a transparent and an industry-wide benchmark for a customer to be able to compare and make an informed decision while purchasing new tyres."

The five-star ratings have already been awarded by BEE to several premium platform range of tyres manufactured by CEAT Tyres. These are SportDrive SUV tyres, SecuraDrive tyres for SUVs and premium sedans, and CrossDrive tyres. The star ratings for tyres are similar to star ratings which are awarded to consumer durables, such as air conditioners and refrigerators.

The expected BEE rating, once it becomes binding, will be applicable to almost all categories of radial tyres, other than for farm and earthmoving categories. The Government of India has recently launched the Star Labelling Programme for tyres meeting the regulatory standard. This is administered by BEE which awards star ratings based on the performance of domestically manufactured tyres in tests conducted by NABL accredited labs. From the test results, a tyre's star rating is awarded, based on the rolling resistance coefficient (while achieving minimum wet grip requirements).

At present, BEE star labelling is in voluntary phase. It is expected that the star rating programme will become mandatory from January 2023. However, CEAT Tyres has proactively begun complying with the certification process, a company press release stated.



BYD makes it to Fortune Global 500 list

DEMONSTRATING its outstanding achievements in the global market, BYD made it to the Fortune Global 500 list for 2022. Focused on solving social problems, the company remains dedicated to leveraging effective solutions for sustainable development.

After years of progress, BYD has grown into a high-tech enterprise with its business scope covering automobiles, rail transit, new energy and electronics. In pursuit of a greener world, the company became a Fortune Global 500 enterprise that comes up with new energy solutions.

Amidst the backdrop of the recent rapid growth of the automobile industry, BYD leveraged its strength to usher in advanced technology, high quality products and in broadening its market foray. Backed by its technologies, such as the blade battery, DM-i super hybrid technology and the e-platform, the company sold 730,093 passenger vehicles in 2021. This includes 593,745 new energy passenger vehicles, with a year-on-year (YoY) increase of 231.6 per cent.

In China, BYD has cemented its status as the top seller of new energy passenger vehicles for nine consecutive years. In the first half of 2022, it has sold 638,157 new energy passenger vehicles, up 324.8 per cent YoY growth. Setting its sights far beyond China, it is in the process of expanding its global footprint. The company has embraced technological revolution and industrial transformation around the world. By incorporating global wisdom and sharing green technological innovations with consumers, the company is on the path to be internationally competitive.

Currently, BYD's new energy vehicle footprint extends to over 400 cities and across 70 countries and regions on six continents. This July, it announced its official entry into the passenger vehicle market in Japan, marking a new chapter in the globalization of its passenger vehicles.

Since March 2022, BYD has ceased the production of cars powered only by internal combustion engines. Its shift to only producing battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles epitomizes the low-carbon transformation in the transportation industry. At present, carbon emission reduction and new energy development are the global consensuses.

Exceeding its prestigious Global 500 status, BYD will continue to create technological innovations for a better life, promote sustainable development of society, and implement its 'Cool the Earth by 1 degree Celsius' initiative.



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