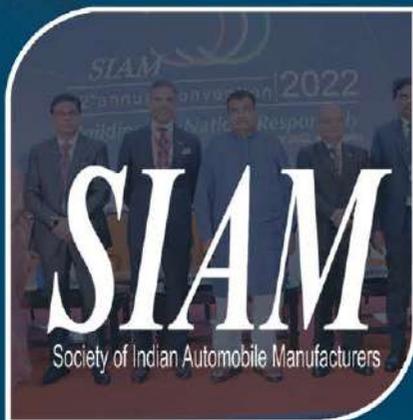


AUTOGUIDE

India's Automotive Industry & Trade Journal



HOPES UP AT SIAM, ACMA ANNUAL MEETS AUTOMECHANIKA FRANKFURT RETURNS



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AUTOMOBILE LIGHTING

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Editor's Viewpoint



LATE JOGINDER P. MALHOTRA
Founder



M.P. MALHOTRA
Chairman - Editorial board



SHILPA MALHOTRA
Executive Editor

Mr Gadkari stated that the automobile industry will play a critical role in making India a five-trillion-dollar economy and envisioned it touching a market size of 15 lakh crore with strong focus on quality, innovation and safety.

Crucial role of auto industry

The auto industry is poised to witness strong impetus in the next five years after the government reiterated its crucial role in the development of the Indian economy. In this issue, we have covered the 62nd Annual Convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) wherein Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Mr Nitin Gadkari, have clarified the industry's role in their statements.

Mr Modi emphasized on accomplishing self-sufficiency in the automobile sector during 'Amrit Kaal' by availing the benefits of his government's initiatives. Meanwhile, Mr Gadkari stated that the automobile industry will play a critical role in making India a five-trillion-dollar economy and envisioned it touching a market size of 15 lakh crore with strong focus on quality, innovation and safety.

We have also covered Automechanika Frankfurt in this issue. The show was very well received by international automotive professionals with the strong presence of 78,000 visitors from 175 countries. This year the show witnessed large scale participation from both exhibitors and visitors after its last edition was affected by the pandemic.

The electric vehicles space is set to become more competitive in the country with companies continuing to launch new products in the segment. Continuing its expansion of EV product portfolio, Tata Motors launched Tiago.ev hatchback. The company plans to expand its network to more than 165 cities in the country and offer more choice to customers with a portfolio of 10 EVs by 2026. Riding on the back of strong CV sales, the company also launched three new pickups - Yodha 2.0, Intra V20 bi-fuel and Intra V50 that offer highest load carrying capacity.

Lastly, the month of September witnessed strong festive demand as automobile sales touched new highs with all segments registering double digit growth except two-wheelers. While overall sales went up by 11 pc, PVs recorded growth of 10 per cent, two-wheelers grew 9 per cent, three-wheelers sales went up by 72 per cent and CV sales was up by 19 per cent. While the rising interest rates over inflation continued to play spoilsport for two-wheeler loans, the availability of semi-conductors eased the sales of passenger vehicles. We hope the sentiment remains high in the coming months too.

Wish you a Happy Diwali!

SIAM's 62nd Annual Convention 'Auto industry crucial to Aatmanirbhar Bharat'

Focus on being quality, innovation and safety centric

THE auto industry's growth is a crucial and integral part in Government of India's vision of 'Amrit Kaal' and move towards an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. The industry should continue to focus on quality, innovation and safety to achieve a market size of 15 lakh crore in the next five years.

The above statements and core ideas were shared during the 62nd Annual convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the apex automobile industry body, held in New Delhi recently.

On the Occasion, Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi in his message highlighted the significance of the mobility sector and its role in the progress of humanity. He emphasized on accomplishing self-sufficiency in the automobile sector during 'Amrit Kaal' by availing the benefits of his government's initiatives like the PLI scheme to boost manufacturing.

In the first plenary session, themed "Indian Auto Sector's Journey in the "Amrit Kaal": Vision @2047", Guest of Honour, Mr Anurag Jain, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Government of India (DPIIT) said, "India is expected to grow from 3 to 32 trillion-dollar economy by 2047. The auto industry is extremely crucial for India's economy and manufacturing sector. The vision is to create a strong ecosystem where the industry can thrive necessitates adequate investment in R&D, skilled manpower, technological advancements, and focus on knowledge and emphasis on sustainability."



Vinod Aggarwal Sanjiv Bajaj Anurag Jain Kenichi Awaayuk Rajesh Menon

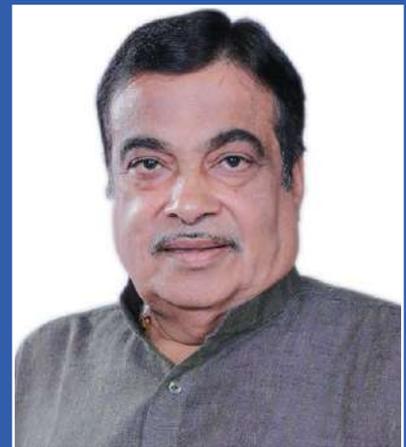


Mr Kenichi Ayukawa, President, SIAM, and Executive Vice Chairman, Maruti Suzuki said, "The automotive industry is facing deep structural slowdown even before Covid. He further said "In the aftermath of covid pandemic and conflict in Ukraine, the industry has been facing severe strain on supply chain. The auto industry will align with Government of India's vision in 'Amrit Kaal'".

During the second special plenary session on "Indian Auto Industry for India's Economic Growth", Guest of Honour, Mr Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India said, "For making India a five-trillion-dollar economy and to achieve the government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the automobile industry will play a critical role. Within the next five years, we are looking at making the auto industry touch a market size of 15 lakh crore. We strongly urge the industry to be quality, innovation and safety centric. With a thrust on innovation in renewable sources of fuel like ethanol-based flex engine and green hydrogen, vehicular pollution can be reduced substantially."

Mr Vinod Aggarwal, Vice President, SIAM and Managing Director & CEO, VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd., Mr Sunjay Kapur, President, ACMA and Chairman, Sona Comstar, Dr Bornali Bhandari, Senior Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Mr Girish Wagh, Chairman, SIAM Commercial Vehicle CEOs Council and Executive Director (CVBU), Tata Motors Ltd, also shared their views in this session.

"Within the next five years, we are looking at making the auto industry touch a market size of 15-lakh crore. We strongly urge the industry to be quality, innovation and safety centric."



Mr Nitin Gadkari,
Union Minister
of Road Transport & Highways

Mr Andre Aranha Correa Do Lago said, "Brazil will work with India on flex-fuel technology, sustainable aviation fuels, second generation ethanol, hybrid flex fuel vehicles, fuel cells, etc."

In the fourth session, several senior leaders from the Government, policymakers, and industry experts deliberated on and brainstormed strategies for the future of sustainable mobility.

In this special plenary session, Mr Arun Goel, Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India, said, "We need to encash the disruption of modern technologies and innovative approaches such as EVs, biofuels, and others. The government and the industry need to make dedicated efforts to help India achieve the target of net-zero by 2070, while making the country auto manufacturing hub for the world."

Mr Kenichi Ayukawa made the concluding remarks at the event while thanking all the stakeholders.

Vinod Aggarwal is new President of SIAM

The Executive Committee of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), elected Mr Vinod Aggarwal, MD & CEO, Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicles Ltd (VECV) as its new President for 2022-23. Mr Vinod Aggarwal, who was the Vice President of SIAM succeeds Mr Kenichi Ayukawa, Executive Vice Chairman & Whole Time Director, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.

The election for new office bearers was conducted during the Executive Committee Meeting, which was held after SIAM's annual general meeting.

The members of SIAM also elected Mr Shailesh Chandra, MD, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd, as the Vice President of SIAM for 2022-23. Mr Satyakam Arya, CEO & MD, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles was elected as the Treasurer of SIAM for 2022-23.



Mr. Vinod Aggarwal



Mr. Arun Goel

Mr Arun Goel, Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India, said, "We need to encash the disruption of modern technologies and innovative approaches such as EVs, biofuels, and others. The government and the industry need to make dedicated efforts to help India achieve the target of net-zero by 2070, while making the country auto manufacturing hub for the world."

Automechanika Frankfurt 2022 registers strong presence

AUTOMECHANIKA Frankfurt 2022 was very well received by international automotive professionals with the strong presence of 78,000 visitors from 175 countries. The show's formats and extensive programme were appreciated by the visitors who came to the automotive industry's leading platform in Frankfurt to experience products and services from workshops, industry and retail.

In fact, these past five days are the fullest the exhibition grounds have been since the restart in Frankfurt. Around 2,804 companies from 70 countries exhibited their products and services across 19 hall levels and in the outdoor exhibition area.

Mr Detlef Braun, Member of the Executive Board of Messe Frankfurt said: "Things are clearly heading in the right direction. Together with our customers and our international partners, we are optimistic about the future: nothing can take the place of trade fairs. The strong international component amongst exhibitors from 70 countries and visitors from 175 countries alike makes it clear that the international automotive aftermarket is back in Frankfurt. Participants also took full advantage of the new networking opportunities to finally meet with one another in person and make new business contacts."

The high level of visitor satisfaction of 92 per cent clearly demonstrates that the areas of focus at this year's Automechanika are exactly what the industry was looking for: increasing digitalisation, remanufacturing, alternative drive systems and electromobility in particular present automotive workshops and retailers with major challenges. For the first time, there were more than 350 events on offer, including presentations given by new market participants and free workshops for automotive professionals.

Mr Peter Wagner, Managing Director, Continental Aftermarket & Services said "As a forum for promising fields like these, Automechanika will be even more important in future, because expertise is absolutely essential if workshops and dealers are to continue playing a major role."

Visitors showed a great deal of interest in the new 'Innovation4Mobility' showcase, which covered such topics as battery technology, alternative drive systems, hydrogen, solar technology, e-commerce and connected vehicles.

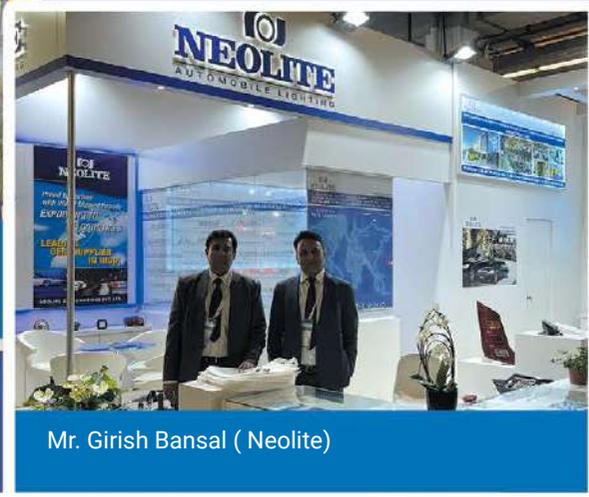
German company GelKoh GmbH, whose new recovery system for damaged e-cars won both an Automechanika Innovation Award and the Green Award, participated in the trade fair for the first time this year.

Automechanika Frankfurt is returning to its biennial rotation and will once again be held every two years. This means that the next trade fair for the international automotive aftermarket will be taking place from 10 to 14 September 2024 at the Frankfurt exhibition grounds.





Mr. Sanjay Molhotra (Jumps Auto)
Mr. Sunil Arora (Abilities India)
Mr. Vinnie Mehta (ACMA)



Mr. Girish Bansal (Neolite)



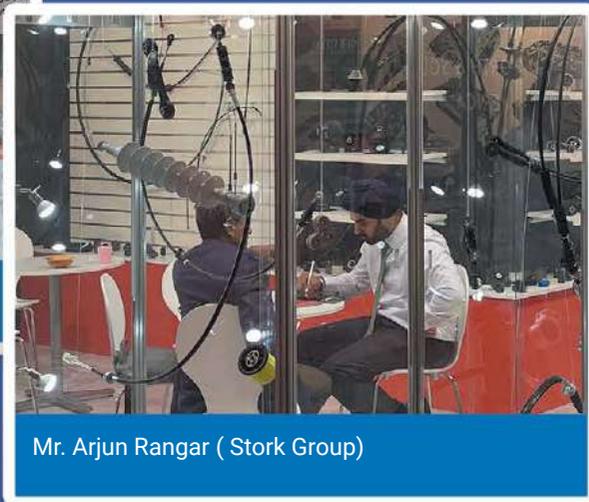
Mr. Sanjay Molhotra (Jumps Auto)
Mr. Lokesh Rana (ACMA)



Ms. Tina Khandelwal (Bar International)



Mr. Nitin Madan (Unique Spares)



Mr. Arjun Rangar (Stork Group)

Auto sales remain steady in September

AUTOMOBILE sales remained steady in the month of September this year owing to strong festive demand and low base registered in the same month last year. While overall sales went up by 11 per cent, passenger vehicles recorded growth of 10 per cent, two-wheelers grew 9 per cent, three-wheelers sales went up by massive 72 per cent and CV sales was up by 19 per cent in the month.

The PV segment continued its steady run by showing a growth of 10 per cent YoY due to better availability of semi-conductors, new launches and feature rich products that kept customers glued to dealerships during the festive period. The two-wheeler segment showed a minimal growth of 9 per cent YoY due to inflation that made vehicle loans expensive.

The three-wheeler segment continues to see structural shift from ICE to EV. This is also reflected in extremely healthy growth rate of e-rickshaws. Apart from better availability of vehicles with full range products including alternate fuels, customers have started using public transport and rickshaw service thus fueling demand in this segment.

Passenger Vehicles

In the passenger vehicles segment, Maruti Suzuki sold a total of 176,306 units in September 2022, against 86,380 units sold in the same month last year. The shortage of electronic components had a minor impact on the production of vehicles, mainly in domestic models, the company informed.

Tata Motors registered growth of 85 per cent YoY with sales of 47,864 units this September against 25,898 units sold in September 2021.

Nissan Motor India announced cumulative wholesales of 7265 units, with domestic wholesales of 3177 units and export wholesales of 4088 units, in the month of September 2022. The cumulative wholesale YTD growth stood at 18 pc as compared to the same period last year.



CVs & Three-wheelers

In the commercial vehicles segment, Tata Motors sold 9,983 units of M&HCV, 5,144 units of I&LCV, 2,287 units of passenger carriers, along with 15,565 units of SCV cargo and pickup in the domestic market. According to Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors, "Tata Motors CV business registered a 20 pc growth in domestic sales during the quarter and this growth was led by stronger sales of MHCVs and a robust recovery in passenger carriers demand. Improving fleet utilizations, pick up in road construction projects and increase in cement consumption catalyzed the demand recovery for MHCVs."

Ashok Leyland reported its M&HCV domestic sales at 10,475 units in September this year as against just 4,529 units in the same month of last year. VE Commercial Vehicles (VECV) sold 133 units of Volvo Trucks and Buses in September 2022 as compared to 56 units in September 2021, representing a growth of 137.5 pc.



Two-wheelers

Ather Energy sold 7435 units in September 2022, registering a 247 pc YoY growth. Similarly, TVS Motor Company registered a growth of 9 per cent in September 2022 with sales of 379,011 units as against 347,156 units in the month of September 2021.



Maruti Swift gets new S-CNG variant

MARUTI Suzuki India Ltd announced the launch of the S-CNG variant of its iconic sporty hatchback Swift. The new Swift S-CNG offers incredible fuel efficiency of 30.90 Km/kg, making it India's most powerful and the most fuel-efficient CNG premium hatchback.

Powered by the advanced 1.2L K-series dual Jet, dual VVT engine, the new Swift S-CNG delivers a peak power of 57kW (77.49PS) @6000rpm and max Torque of 98.5Nm @4300rpm. Maruti Suzuki S-CNG range of vehicles are conceptualized, designed and developed at the company's world-class Research & Development facility after rigorous testing and are factory-fitted to deliver unmatched safety, performance, durability and high fuel efficiency.

With over 26 lakh cumulative sales since its launch, the Swift with its unmatched driving experience, global styling, outstanding performance and a cult fan following has successfully created a league of its own.

Introducing the Swift S-CNG, Mr Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales), Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, said, "Brand Swift needs no introduction and the iconic sporty hatchback is now available with proven and tested company-fitted Maruti Suzuki S-CNG technology. After enthraling over 26 lakh Swift lovers with its performance, styling and road presence, Swift is now available with S-CNG to delight customers with its incredible fuel efficiency of 30.90 Km/kg. This will be the 9th model in our portfolio with CNG offering, strengthening our commitment to a cleaner and greener environment. Swift has carved a niche for itself in the hearts and minds of the customers, it has continuously evolved and has maintained its persona as the most successful hatchback in the Indian market. The Swift S-CNG is the right proposition for customers, looking for a peppy yet economical city drive."

Maruti Suzuki S-CNG technology has transformed the Indian CNG car landscape. The Swift S-CNG vehicle's powertrain and suspension have been specially tuned to offer better engine durability, greater mileage and superior safety. The company's S-CNG vehicles go through a rigorous development cycle and stringent manufacturing checks to ensure complete peace of mind for the customers.



Maruti Suzuki starts selling Grand Vitara at NEXA

MARUTI Suzuki's premium retail outlets NEXA will now offer electric hybrid SUV Grand Vitara as its newest flagship offering. Featuring NEXA's signature design language—“crafted futurism”, the premium SUV offers exciting powertrain choices, dynamic and aggressive exterior design, sophisticated interiors, and a range of technologically advanced segment-leading comfort, convenience and safety features.

Announcing the prices of Grand Vitara, Mr Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, said: “Designed to rule every road, the Grand Vitara has received an overwhelming response from customers with over 57,000 bookings and it has been widely appreciated by critics as well. The intelligent electric hybrid boasts segment-leading fuel-efficiency and a pure EV driving mode. The all-wheel drive (AWD) Grand Vitara featuring Suzuki's legendary AllGrip Select technology will appeal to hardcore SUV aficionados. The vehicle progressive smart hybrid is available with five-speed manual and six-speed automatic transmission options. The Grand Vitara has been launched at a very competitive starting price of INR 10.45 lakh.”

The Grand Vitara progressive smart hybrid is powered by the Next-Gen K-series 1.5-litre, Dual Jet, Dual VVT engine. This powertrain delivers an excellent fuel-efficiency of up to 21.11kmpl. The SUV with a dual battery setup offers brake energy regeneration, torque assist and idle stop-start function.

The Grand Vitara Intelligent electric hybrid comes with a standard warranty of eight years/160,000 km on the Li-ion battery pack. The e-CVT transmission variant of the SUV delivers best-in-class fuel-efficiency of 27.97 kmpl. Loaded with a host of high-tech features such as coloured heads-up-display, 360-degree parking camera system, ventilated seats, etc. The Grand Vitara is now on sale in Zeta+ and Alpha+ variants with prices ranging from INR. 17.99 lakh to INR 19.65 lakh.

The Grand Vitara AllGrip Select will redefine the mid-size SUV segment and open up new avenues for SUV enthusiasts. The Grand Vitara ALLGRIP SELECT Alpha is priced at INR 16.89 lakh. It comes as standard with Suzuki's progressive smart hybrid technology and has a rated fuel-efficiency figure of 19.38 kmpl. The SUV comes with six airbags (front, side & curtain), Electronic Stability Program (ESP) with Hill Hold Assist, three-point ELR seat belts (all seats) and front and rear disc brakes, Hill Descent Control and tyre pressure monitoring system (TPMS) for enhanced safety.

The new Grand Vitara will be available in 10 variants, with three dual-tone and six monotone colour options, including the iconic NEXA Blue.



Honda Amaze crosses five-lakh sales milestone

HONDA Cars India Ltd. (HCIL), India's leading manufacturer of premium cars, announced that its popular family sedan Amaze has cumulatively sold five-lakh units since its first introduction in 2013. The car, presently in its second-generation version, holds a strong position in India's entry sedan segment and enjoys a preferred brand status among personal buyers.

Amaze is presently the largest selling model for HCIL accounting for more than 40 per cent of company sales. Being an India centric product, the Made in India Amaze from the company's Honda's Tapukara plant in Rajasthan is sold in both domestic and export markets in different countries.

Developed and designed as "one class above sedan" with its bold design, sophisticated and spacious interiors, outstanding driving performance, advanced features and safety technologies, the Amaze has created a strong customer base of young and aspirational buyers.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Takuya Tsumura, President & CEO, Honda Cars India Ltd said, "It's a proud moment for us to achieve five-lakh sales milestone for Amaze. We would like to thank our customers for the love and acceptance they have shown for the brand and to our partners for their continuous support. Amaze is our strategic entry model in India and key pillar of our business. Its popularity and acceptance in both big and small cities are a testament that the premium sedan not only matches the customer needs, but also exceeds their expectations."

He further added, "It's our endeavor to offer latest technology, class-defining products with outstanding comfort, safety and peace of mind. The success of Amaze is reflection of our commitment to the market and our customers."

The Amaze is a contemporary sedan with striking bold design, elegant and roomy interiors, exceptional driving performance, cutting-edge features and safety technologies. Available in both Manual Transmission and CVT in petrol with 1.2L i-VTEC engine and also diesel with 1.5L i-DTEC engine, the sedan adopts the best of Honda's powertrains to achieve a perfect balance of performance and fuel economy.



Mr. Yuichi Murata
Director Mktg sales

Mr. Takuya Tsumura
President and CEO

Mr. Kunal Behl
VP Mktg

Hyundai drives in all-new Tucson

HYUNDAI Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) launched its dynamic and luxurious all-new Tucson SUV in the national capital recently. The petrol variants of all-new Tucson SUV have been priced between INR 27.69 lakh and INR 30.17 lakh while the diesel variants is priced between INR 30.19 lakh and 34.39 lakh (ex-showroom).

Commenting at the Launch, Mr Unsoo Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd, said, "Our vision for the all-new Tucson was to reshape possibilities and reignite imaginations of our customers by introducing a world-class SUV to India. This global best-seller for Hyundai in 2021 has truly captivated the imagination of customers in India and reflects our global identity in the most immaculate fashion. We remain committed to our customers in India, as we continue to drive the transformation of the Indian automotive landscape and introduce advanced technologies, bringing Indian customer experience at par with the global levels. With the introduction of Hyundai SmartSense, we have yet again showcased the authentic engineering capabilities of Hyundai through our Level 2 ADAS technology."



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



Built to supersede the aspirations of SUV buyers in India, the all-new Tucson boasts of muscular crease lines and an imposing yet expansive hood, delivering an iconic road presence. The dark chrome parametric front grille builds on this SUV's dynamic image, and the front skid plate lends a bold character to this SUV. The distinctive and imposing LED MFR headlamps showcase a futuristic design while seamlessly blending advanced technology with elegance and dynamism.

The angular wheel arches, broad side cladding and diamond cut alloy, make the profile of the vehicle sensuous yet sporty while roof rails and eye-catching satin chrome DLO moulding enhance this SUV's unique appeal. Featuring Connecting LED Tail Lamps, the all-new Tucson displays wide proportions with a luxurious yet hi-tech appeal. It features a three-dimensional logo garnish that is applied below the rear glass. With precision detailing, the parametric pattern bumper adopts a finely detailed pattern that exudes dynamism. The vehicle also features concealed rear wiper with washer, rear spoiler with LED high mount stop lamp and shark fin antenna.

Soft touch door panels and leather seats with signature metal inserts adds to the cabin's luxurious appeal and to further accentuate a bespoke look, the all-new Tucson will offer customers the choice of 64 colour ambient lighting which can be adjusted by the user to suit their moods and occasions. Piano black centre fascia with a flowing design characteristic enriches the cabin and seamlessly blends into the SUV's premium design philosophy.

The all-new Tucson pivots the definition of convenience with hi-tech and advanced convenience features, this SUV delivers a truly smart driving experience. Featuring a 26.03 cm (10.25 inch) floating type digital cluster, the SUV reveals an advanced and modern design character while amplifying simple elegance. It also features multiple climate control technologies while the integration of voice enabled smart panoramic sunroof gives customers the convenience of control and a superlative smart mobility experience.

The all-new Tucson is equipped with smart and premium features such as Bose premium sound 8 speaker system, hands free smart power tail gate with height adjustment, driver power seat memory function, electric parking brake, wireless phone charger, rain sensing wipers, remote engine start with smart key, 10-way power adjustable driver seat with lumbar support and eight-way power adjustable passenger seat.

The all-new Tucson also features a 26.03 cm (10.25") HD audio video navigation system that strengthens the SUV's hi-tech cabin experience while also enhancing convenience. The SUV comes with Hyundai Bluelink that offers customers over 60 connected car features creating a superlative connected car experience. The all-new Hyundai TUCSON is offered with three years free Bluelink subscription and also boasts of smart watch connectivity for iOS, Android OS and Tizen.

The all-new Tucson comes with powerful and advanced powertrains that is powered by new Nu 2.0 petrol engine with a six-speed automatic transmission and R 2.0 Diesel engine with an eight-speed automatic transmission.

The HTRAC all-wheel drive (AWD) system along with multi terrain modes (Snow/Mud/Sand) enables safe driving on challenging terrains while making delivering a thrilling experience.



Jeep Compass marks fifth anniversary with special edition



CELEBRATING five years of its leadership in the 4x4 segment, Jeep launched a special edition of its Compass SUV recently. The new special-edition model of the popular SUV sports a handful of new and exclusive features that render the vehicle even more distinctive.

Commenting on it, Mr Nipun J. Mahajan, Head of Jeep Brand India, said, "The Jeep Compass is an iconic SUV that has and continues to encourage adventure and off-roading in the hearts of many Indians. This is evidenced by the many distinctive awards and honours the vehicle has bagged for its design, efficiency, capability and reliability since its debut here in 2017. The Jeep Compass has firmly established itself as the leading premium compact SUVs in the country and an aspiration for all SUV buyers. The anniversary edition is our celebratory offering that combines the capable Compass in a unique appearance, with loads of safety and technology features at a great value."

Packed with an array of advanced safety and technology features, the Jeep Compass fifth anniversary edition model features a handful of new elements that include a distinct design inside and out, unique wheels, grille accents and commemorative badging. It is being offered with two engine options, the 1.4-litre multiair petrol (7 speed DDCT AT) and the 2.0-litre multijet diesel (6 Speed MT) in 4X2 configuration and the top-of-the-line 4X4 configuration in 2.0- litre multijet diesel (9 Speed AT) with selc-terrain.



Mr Nipun J. Mahajan,
Head of Jeep Brand India

Isuzu organises drive expedition to world's highest pass

Japanese Vehicle manufacturer, Isuzu Motors India in a constant endeavor to provide the best service and ownership experience, conducted a nine-day drive expedition to world's highest pass – Umling-La. With this, the company became the 'first' automobile brand with its customers to reach 19300 feet with a customer drive expedition.

The drive started from Manali to the high passes of Leh Ladakh with 20 adventure seeking customers along with their family and friends. They took their reliable and capable Isuzu D-Max V-Cross and mu-X, to conquer the mountain trails of Ladakh with their powerful and mighty machines.

The trip went through high passes of Leh Ladakh via Zaskar valley, exploring hidden routes and mountain trails, unseen lakes witnessing the beauty of the Himalayas with enticing views. A special interaction session was also organized in Leh at the ITBP camp for the customers. It was an emotional moment as the customer understood how the forces operate in challenging conditions.

Driving through Chushul and reaching Hanle, history was made by this drive expedition.

After exploring Turtuk, the last Indian village on the border, the expedition moved on to blue waters of Pangong lake where customers enjoyed the scenic view of the vista.

From Hanle, the convoy moved towards Manali, via Leh – Manali road taking shortcuts and off-roads trails making most the journey back to base location. The customer shared their experiences in the closing ceremony of the expedition.

ISUZU



Mahindra's Quiklyz to expand leasing of electric vehicles

QUIKLYZ, the new-age vehicle leasing and subscription business of M&M Financial Services Ltd (Mahindra Finance/ MMFSL), announced its plans to expand in the electric mobility leasing space. The company will now offer customized leasing and subscription solutions for electric three-wheelers and four-wheelers to its partners.

Quiklyz has financed over 1000 electric vehicles over the last 12 months including passenger vehicles and three-wheelers. With the new thrust, the company is aiming to broaden its EV portfolio in India to boost its offerings in the logistics and the last mile mobility space.

Quiklyz has partnered with more than 15 electric last mile mobility delivery companies which include MoEVing Urban Technologies, Terrago Logistics, among others. The company has also tied up with several electric mobility providers which include Lithium Urban, BluSmart Mobility and Ambassador Tours & Travels.

Quiklyz has leased electric vehicles across tier 1 cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Noida, and tier 2 cities like Pune, Indore and Nagpur. It currently has one of the largest portfolio of electric vehicles and has provided electric four-wheelers across OEMs including Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, Hyundai, Mercedes-Benz as well as electric three-wheeler load vehicles from Mahindra Electric, Piaggio, Omega Seiki etc. for e-commerce fleet operators.



Volkswagen opens all-women store at Coimbatore



VOLKSWAGEN Passenger Cars India, announced the opening of its first 'all-women city store' in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu recently as part of its initiative to set-up a platform to champion women talent in the automotive workforce and promote diversity, equity and inclusivity across the organization.

As the female car buyer customer base grows rapidly in India, the Volkswagen India all-women city store is an initiative to provide an exclusive and confident environment for women customers, as well as a dedicated space for them to start their car-ownership journey. The initiative also aims to encourage more women professionals to join and excel in the car retail industry. In partnership with Ramani Cars Pvt. Ltd., the all-women city store initiative focuses on upskilling women employees to more leadership roles and setting new benchmarks in customer experience within the market.

The facility operated by Ramani Cars comprises of 35 plus women who will be managing the end-to-end operations right from sales, after-sales, test drive management, customer care services, housekeeping, security and more.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said, "Through this initiative of an all-women city store in Coimbatore, it is our endeavour to champion women talent in the automotive workforce and promotes diversity, equity and inclusivity across the organization. Women talent play an integral role in building the future of the automotive industry and we are confident that these 35 plus women through their efforts will take the automotive retail business to much greater heights."

The all-women city store comprises of a four car display and showcases the company's fresh and young product portfolio comprising of the Volkswagen Taigun, Virtus and Tiguan.

FADA organises 4th Auto Retail Conclave



THE Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) recently organized the fourth edition of the Auto Retail Conclave on the theme of 'Success Through Synergy'. The conclave witnessed the presence of automobile industry stalwarts from Indian and global automobile manufacturers, along with over 300 dealer members from across the nation.

Under the leadership of FADA President Mr. Manish Raj Singhania, the conclave witnessed the launch of the much-awaited "Model Dealer Agreement (MDA)." The new draft agreement visions to offer level playing field for OEMs and dealer partners, in addition to further extending the responsibilities towards the end customers. FADA studied over 100 global and Indian OEM-dealer contracts before coming up with the draft and visions enactment of the auto dealers protection and proposes a model dealer agreement to keep the agreement balanced.



Mr. Kailash Gahlot
Hon'ble Minister of Transport & Environment
Govt of Delhi

The Conclave was inaugurated in the presence of our distinguished guests which included Mr Vinod Aggarwal, President Elect, SIAM, Mr Sunjay J Kapur, President, ACMA, Mr Arvind Kapil, Country Head-Retail Assets, HDFC Bank, and Mr Amar Jatin Sheth, Treasurer FADA.

Mr Vinod Aggarwal acknowledged the significant contribution made by the dealer community in the auto industry since their existence and said, "The dealer community has been the extended face of the brand for the customer. During last year, the growth has been particularly observed in domestic sales of vehicles. Thus, we are yet to reach the peak level of 2018 – 2019 but we have already reached in the pre pandemic level in most of the automotive sectors."

Mr Sunjay J Kapur said, "component is an important part of the automobile ecosystem and we are committed to offer our OEM dealer partner will the best ease of supply of accessories. We have seen strong sales over the past few months and anticipate breaking non-covid global records. We have also had erratic supply and logistical difficulties, which have led to problems with a scarcity of semiconductors. Recognizing the impressive resiliency displayed in the face of difficulties, the dealership sector is anticipated to transform into the mobility sector."

The key panel discussion was held on 'Perfecting Supply & Demand' followed by 'Dealer Satisfaction Study – Hits & Misses'.

Kia tops FADA's Dealer Satisfaction Study 2022

KIA India, one of the fastest-growing carmakers in the country, has retained its pole position in the Dealer Satisfaction Study 2022 conducted by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA). The company with over 850 points became the only OEM to achieve the feat for two consecutive years in a row.

Kia had topped the previous two years (2021 and 2020) with 879 and 736 points respectively. This year, Kia India outperformed the overall industry average by 152 points and the four-wheeler mass-segment's average by 98 points.

Commenting on this achievement, Mr Hardeep Singh Brar, Vice-President and National Head of Sales & Marketing, Kia India, said, "We consider our dealer associates an intrinsic part of our growth journey in India. Our dealer partners have worked beyond the call of duty to ensure customer delight. Exceptional after-sales service has complemented upward growth momentum.

"our modern-age products well and thus, played a significant role in our success story so far. Topping any study once is a great feeling, doing it three times over makes us proud. We thank all our dealer partners for being a great support all this while and urge them to continue to help us keep up the

The survey examines the health of relationship between automobile dealers and their respective OEMs. With more than 2000 samples, the highest number ever used for such a study in India. It has an equal distribution of samples from all four zones coupled with the right urban and rural mix. The dealer principals, or their CEOs directly took part in the study by sharing their first-hand experience, making it accurate and sharing a holistic view.



Toyota's new hybrid EV priced competitively



TOYOTA Kirloskar Motor (TKM), announced the prices of its brand-new Urban Cruiser Hyryder. While the top four grades of the latest offering from the company are competitively priced between INR 15.11 lakh and INR 18.99 lakh, the prices of all variants is to be announced in a phased manner.

The brand-new SUV was unveiled in early July and the bookings were also announced at the same time. As one of Toyota's sustainable mobility offerings, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder inherits Toyota's famed global SUV lineage with bold and sophisticated styling, along with advanced technology features making it a perfect choice for the customers.

Commenting on it, Mr Atul Sood, Associate Vice President, Sales, and Strategic Marketing, TKM, said, "We are truly humbled and honoured to receive such an overwhelming response for the Urban Cruiser Hyryder and we are grateful that our customers have put their faith and trust in brand Toyota. Today, we have decided to announce the price of the Urban Cruiser Hyryder in a phased manner. The prices for the remaining grades will be announced shortly."

The first-of-its-kind self-charging strong hybrid electric vehicle in the B SUV segment, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder is aimed at delivering exemplary performance, best in class fuel efficiency, quick acceleration, connected car features and is designed for a greener future.

"We have introduced a very competitive pricing for the Urban Cruiser Hyryder, as it is through the Hyryder that we aim to encourage widespread acceptance of environment friendly technologies, thereby creating a positive impact and enhance energy security of the country", Mr Sood added.

Available in two powertrains- self-charging strong hybrid electric powertrain and neo drive, the self-charging strong hybrid electric vehicle is powered by an e-drive transmission and runs 40 per cent of the distance and 60 per cent of the time on electric power, with engine shut-off, offering a fuel efficiency of 27.97kmpl. Additionally, the neo drive comes with a 1.5-liter K-series engine, a five-speed manual transmission, and a six-speed automatic transmission with 2WD and 4WD options.

Isuzu Motors celebrates 10 years in India

ISUZU Motors India (IMI), a subsidiary of Isuzu Motors Limited, Japan, recently celebrated the completion of 10-years of its operations in India. The celebrations marked the first formal get-together of all the company employees post the pandemic period. On the occasion, the company announced that it would produce and deliver 25,000 vehicles in FY 22-23.

Marking the celebrations, Mr Wataru Nakano, Managing Director, IMI, said, "IMI has successfully completed 10 years in India. It has been through many challenges, however, we have created a new niche in India with the Isuzu D-MAX V-Cross (India's first adventure utility vehicle (AUV)). As part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, our 'Made in India' products are now being exported to neighbouring and gulf countries. Needless to say, India is very important to Isuzu and will serve as one of the important manufacturing hubs for the company globally. I am happy to announce that we are well set to deliver 25000 vehicles this year."

The current year has also seen many internal production milestones being achieved including the rollout of the 50,000th vehicle, 5000th locally made engine and the 500,000th pressed part, from the Sri City plant, which are in line with the Company's plans.

At the celebratory event, the members of the management felicitated the employees who have worked since the initial project phase. The 'five-year' long service awards were also presented to many employees on this occasion.

ISUZU



Mr Wataru Nakano
Managing Director, IMI

Jeep plans to become leading e-SUV maker

JEEP, the global sport utility brand of Stellantis N.V, recently announced its comprehensive plan to become the leading electric SUV manufacturer in the world with the introduction of next-generation fully electric 4xe vehicles. As part of the plan, the brand will introduce four all-electric SUVs in North America and Europe by 2025.

Chrysler announced that the brand will launch its first BEV by 2025 and offer an all-electric Chrysler vehicle lineup by 2028. The Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid, the first and still the only plug-in hybrid in the segment, offers an all-electric range of more than 30 miles, more than 80 miles per gallon equivalent (MPGe) and a total range of more than 500 miles.

Mr Carlos Tavares, CEO, Stellantis said: "Across our portfolio of 14 beloved brands we are offering exhilarating electrified products as we push to launch an additional 28 all-new battery electric vehicles through 2024. We're confident that our upcoming launches will thrill our customers and keep them loving the great American brands they've grown up with."

The brand showed the first images of two fully electric SUVs – the all-new Recon and an all-new Wagoneer, code-named Wagoneer S – that will arrive in North America and other regions around the world, while confirming that the all-new, all-electric Avenger will launch in Europe early next year after its debut at this year's Paris Motor Show.





Tata Punch gets new CAMO edition

TATA Motors, India's leading automotive and SUV brand, launched the CAMO edition of its young and vibrant Punch. Embarking on the festive season on a high note, this edition offers an appealing colour theme coupled with a myriad of features and will be available in the rhythm and dazzle packs of the adventure and accomplished personas. It will be offered at an attractive starting price of INR 6.85 lakh (ex-showroom New Delhi).

The Punch CAMO edition will come in an all-new alluring foliage green colour on the outside with dual-tone roof colour options. The car wears an attractive CAMO badging on the fenders and will be available in both MT and AMT transmissions. Furthermore, the car comes equipped with an array of features such as seven-inch Harman infotainment system with Android Auto & Apple Carplay with six speakers, 16-inch charcoal diamond-cut alloy wheels and a reverse parking camera.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rajan Amba, Vice President, Sales, Marketing and Customer Care, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd, said, "Punch is a vital part of our product portfolio and contributes to 24 per cent of our total PV sales. It has consistently featured among the highest-selling cars in the country and currently holds a 15 per cent market share in the highly competitive compact SUV segment. The new CAMO edition will help in enhancing market sentiments by captivating consumer mindsets with its brand-new avatar."

Volvo Car introduces four petrol mild-hybrid vehicles

SWEDISH luxury car maker, Volvo Car India launched its latest range of petrol mild-hybrid range of cars and SUVs in the country recently. The new 2023 lineup includes the petrol mild-hybrid version of popular compact luxury SUV XC40, luxury sedan S90, SUV XC60 and the company's flagship luxury SUV XC90.

With these introductions, the company completed its transition to complete petrol mild-hybrids, moving closer to Volvo Cars sustainable mobility ambition and in sync with company strategy of becoming an all-electric company by 2030.

The new petrol mild-hybrid XC40 is priced at INR 45.90 lakh (ex-showroom). Powered by 1969-cc engine paired with a 48-volt battery, the XC40 has a touring chassis that ensures a smoother ride on bumpy roads. An additional safety feature in the XC40 mild hybrid is the Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) with Cross traffic alert.

The new XC90 is priced at INR 94.90 lakh (ex-showroom) and features the intuitive, next generation android based infotainment system with Google Services that offers customer unprecedented personalization and an unparalleled connectivity. These standard features of Digital Services giving access to Google apps, other apps and services offering hands-free help with Google Assistant, best-in-class navigation through Google Maps are now available in the entire MY23 model range. The new S90 is priced at INR 66.90 lakh (ex-showroom) and the new XC60 is priced at INR 65.90 lakh (ex-showroom).

Mr Jyoti Malhotra, Managing Director, Volvo Car India, said: "The transition to an all-petrol mild hybrid is in sync with Volvo's commitment towards sustainability and in becoming an all-electric company by 2030. Our MY23 portfolio offers the best in global technology to the savvy Indian luxury consumers. These models come with a host of new feature offerings which I am confident will increase the luxury mobility experience of our customers."



Mr. Jyoti Malhotra
Managing Director, Volvo Car India



Tata Motors' Tiago EV launched

TATA Motors, India's leading automobile manufacturer and the pioneer of the EV evolution in the country, recently announced the launch of the newest member of its EV family – the Tiago.ev. The electric vehicle comes with effortless, eco-friendly and premium EV drive experience and has been priced from INR 8.49 Lakh (ex-showroom), for the first 10,000 customers, among which 2000 will be reserved for the current owners of Nexon EV and Tigor EV.

The customers can reserve their car by paying a booking amount of INR 21,000, at any authorised Tata Motors dealership or on the website. Deliveries are scheduled to commence from January 2023.

Introducing the electrifying Tiago.ev, the newest member of its growing EV range, Mr Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, TMPV and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd. said, "With the launch of the Tiago.ev, India's first electric hatchback, the nation can take a giant leap forward in the quest for safe, clean and green mobility. It will be the first in its segment to offer best-in-class connected features as standard across all trims, that are usually offered in more premium cars. It comes with two options of battery packs and four different charging solutions, enabling customers to choose the combination that best serves their mobility needs."



Mr Chandra further said, "With an aim to make our EVs more accessible, with this launch, we are entering 80 new cities, expanding our network to more than 165 cities. We are confident that this move will help more and more customers embrace EVs as their preferred mode for personal mobility. We remain focused to play our role in fulfilling India's commitment towards reducing carbon footprint from auto emissions and will offer more choice to customers with a portfolio of 10 EVs by 2026."

The Tiago.ev is based on the Ziptron technology which is the company's in-house developed globally competitive high voltage architecture designed for unique Indian driving and weather conditions. The EV is offered in multiple combinations of IP67 rated battery packs (water and dust resistant) and charging options including a 24kWh battery pack, delivering a modified Indian driving cycle (MIDC) range of 315km for longer daily driving needs and a 19.2kWh battery pack for short and frequent trips, delivering an estimated MIDC range of 250km. Keeping all stress at bay, the battery and motor also come with 8 years or 160,000 kms warranty.



Blue Peter's Director, Dr. Alka Kaul is optimistic about the future of the auto industry.

Q. What new efforts is your group making to better its profitability considering the rising raw material cost and inflation?

Remaining competitive is very important to us. We practice adding value to our organization and to our customers. It's for this our team is working on VA/VE, optimization of the processes and ZERO defect. Talent development and retention is very important to us to ensure constantly increasing productivity and a creative work environment. A lot of focus is on R&D to mitigate VUCA world.

Q. How has the company fared during the recent pandemic considering the lack of demand and production cuts by OEMs?

Corona time has been bad for all. Worst hit were MSMEs. We also saw a very dark phase. If it was not for our customers and Government of India, coping would have been very tough. We are proud to say that our team also stood by us and worked innovatively. All the above efforts helped the company to stand tall.

Q. Is the company investing in Research & Development? If yes, what are the areas it is focussing on?

Ours is built to print, so we have to keep our technologies update for ensuring that we can match up the specs and timeline of our customers. Hence our R&D focus is on improvement of the processes; decreasing rejection occurrences in all the areas of operations by using Poke-Yoke; bringing in automations to increase our productivity. Innovating to improve competitiveness is key to success.

'Being ready for the present to capture the future'

Q. Blue Peter India has been a major OEM supplier of metal sheets, how has been the journey so far for the group?

Ans:- It has been an amazing journey with lots of valleys & hills. A learning journey which helped develop culture & resilience in our team. Met many great people on the way. Developed a lot of business bringing growth to the company. Corona time was very bad. But now things look promising and upward trend visible.

Q. Apart from metal sheets, what other products does the group manufacture and does it plan on enhancing its product portfolio?

Horizon makes anything and everything in all types of metal. We cater to Automotive, Railways, Metro, Hi-end Furniture, General fabrication industry. One of our prestigious assembly product is Car Jack. We manufacture and export Press Tools, from tandem / single stage to progressive press tools. Currently, we are manufacturing metal parts and assemblies for EV segment too.

Q. Does the group plan to enhance its capacity in recent years as the markets get back to pre-COVID levels of demand?

We always provide value to our customers and for this staying ahead of the curve is a must. Our investments are based on the future trends and projections and based on what we see now, we have already planned our capacities and investments accordingly. Being ready for the present to capture the future is our way of also contributing to the economy of our country.

Q. What are some of your major achievements and pioneering initiatives?

Horizon has a very dedicated committed team. We were first MSME in north India to be certified ISO. We started our exports from Germany which is tough on quality. We exported progressive press tool when it was unheard of in India. We imported safety high speed presses even before customer asked for them. In spite of being an MSME, we try to do our best in all spheres.

Chartered Speed flags off EV services in GIFT city

Mobility service provider Chartered Speed Ltd. (CSL) flagged off four fully integrated electric buses and twenty e-bikes in Gift city to enable intercity and intra-city movement. The fleet of electric vehicles was introduced as part of Phase 1 to address the demand of public transport for people commuting to and from GIFT city. The number of buses will be increased to 50 over a period of 12-18 months.

Mr Tapan Ray, Managing Director & Group CEO of GIFT city flagged off the services in presence of Mr. Pankaj Gandhi, Managing Director and CEO of Chartered Speed Ltd. The commuters can opt for convenient subscription options, pre-book the seats in buses and find a bike for their travel route. These travel services will cover three destination points – two in Ahmedabad and one in Gandhinagar.

Mr Tapan Ray said, "As GIFT city continues to set benchmarks with its increasing global and national importance, sustainable development and innovation have become an integral part of GIFT's progress. The commencement of its EV fleet by Chartered Speed has opened a new chapter in green mobility solutions. This will provide an easy, convenient and sustainable mode of transport for those commuting to GIFT city."



Mr. Pankaj Gandhi,
Managing Director and CEO of
Chartered Speed Ltd

These 37-seater EV buses are equipped with necessary amenities like onboard wifi, mobile charging sockets and safety devices making it a comfortable mode of travel for the commuters. Similarly, Chartered bikes are powerful yet lightweight electric bikes to provide easy travel within GIFT city. Chartered Speed will monitor, operate and maintain the fleet services end-to-end and the charging infrastructure will be developed across locations in GIFT city. On an average, a fleet of 10 buses and 50 e-bikes will save approximately 5.5 lakh litres of fuel while reducing carbon emissions to the tune of 1450 tonnes, annually.

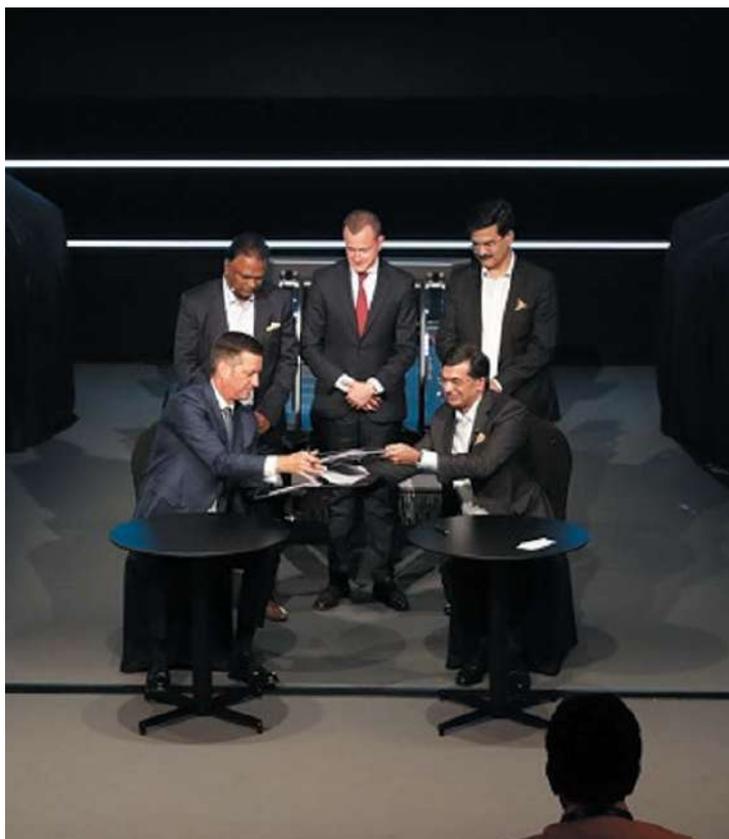


Volkswagen to supply components for Mahindra's new e-SUVs

EXPLORING a strategic alliance to accelerate electrification of Indian automotive market, Mahindra and Volkswagen Group signed a term sheet on the supply of MEB electric components for Mahindra's new electric SUV family. Deepening the partnering agreement signed earlier this year, both the companies intend to expand their cooperation in this regard.

The cooperation intends to have a volume of more than one million units over lifetime and includes the equipment of five all-electric SUVs with MEB components. In addition, the two companies will explore further opportunities for collaboration, opening the perspective towards a broader strategic alliance to accelerate the electrification of the Indian automotive market.

Mr Thomas Schmall, Volkswagen Group Board of Management member for Technology and CEO of Volkswagen Group Components, said: "We are happy that we have identified a larger scope of collaboration between our two companies. Together, Volkswagen and Mahindra can contribute significantly to the electrification of India, a huge automotive market with ambitious climate protection commitments. The MEB electric platform and its components are key to affordable sustainable mobility around the globe. The partnership not only demonstrates that our platform business is highly competitive, but also that the MEB is well on track to become one of the leading open platforms for e-mobility."



Mr Rajesh Jejurikar, Executive Director, Auto and Farm Sectors, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., said: "The signing of the techno-commercial term sheet is a significant step forward in our partnership with Volkswagen. Our purpose-built INGLO platform offers unmatched potential for growth and further customization for developing new and innovative products, not just for India, but for global markets. Our vision is to lead the electric mobility revolution in India by bringing authentic electric SUVs with cutting-edge technology, as showcased in the UK. We are very pleased to explore further areas of potential collaboration with Volkswagen and are confident that together, we will be able to shape an exciting electric future."

Swaraj rolls out 20th-lakh tractor



SWARAJ Tractors, part of Mahindra Group, rolled out its twentieth-lakh tractor from the company's Mohali plant in Punjab recently. This milestone is a testament to the customers' trust and confidence in the brand Swaraj.

swaraj Division, M&M Ltd, rolled out the twentieth-lakh tractor in a special ceremony attended by employees. Speaking on the occasion he said, "This achievement has further cemented brand Swaraj's reputation of being reliable and one of the fastest growing brands in the domestic tractor market over the past few years. We are thankful to all our customers and stakeholders for their wholehearted support towards the growth of this brand."

Since its inception in 1974, the first milestone of ten-lakh tractor production was achieved in 2013. Now within a span of just nine years, we have accomplished twenty-lakh tractor production in 2022, which is a testimony of the faster growth of the brand Swaraj. What makes this achievement more remarkable is the fact that this has come when the industry was going through unforeseen challenges due to the pandemic in the last couple of years.

Mr Hemant Sikka, President, Farm Equipment Sector, M&M Ltd, said, "This journey to reach the twenty-lakh production mark has been challenging and exciting for us. We are happy that over the years Swaraj has been able to make a significant contribution to the lives of Indian farmers. Going ahead we look forward to providing more agri-based solutions and enabling mechanisation. This achievement is another stepping stone towards living our purpose of transform farming and enriching lives".

Swaraj manufactures tractors in the range of 15HP to 65HP and provides complete mechanisation solutions. The tractor major has also become a pioneer in horticulture mechanisation by recently introducing CODE by Swaraj, a multi-purpose farm machine. Currently, it has two fully functional tractor manufacturing plants, its own Foundry and R&D units located in Punjab, while another new manufacturing plant of Swaraj is coming up in the state.



Mr Harish Chavan
CEO, Swaraj Division, M&M Ltd

VoltUp to expand battery swapping locations in Mumbai

MAKING efforts to expand battery swapping locations in Mumbai, VoltUp, a one-stop battery swapping start-up, recently announced its partnership with Adani Electricity and Hero Electric. This is for the first time in India that a battery swapping start-up has launched operations in partnership with Infrastructure, OEM and last mile partners to boost smart mobility.

Starting with 120 docks in 10 locations between Goregaon and Borivali, the partnership is going to add 50 locations by year-end to cover the western line from Churchgate to Mira-Bhayandar. In their effort to set up smart electric mobility stations across the city for easy access to battery swapping, the partnership looks to operationalize 500 such battery swapping solutions centres across Mumbai by 2024, catering to over 30,000 riders daily.

The lack of charging infrastructure, high cost of adoption and long charging time for electric vehicles have been the major hurdles and challenges toward the adoption of electric mobility in the country. To plug these gaps, VoltUp, Adani Electricity and Hero Electric have come together towards setting and scaling up of infrastructure – bridging the gap for network, energy and technology.



With this tie-up, VoltUp will be able to provide instant energy to independent delivery partners with Zomato, for whom charging their two-wheeler batteries prove to be challenging. In the composite ecosystem, instant battery swapping will enable Zomato's independent delivery partners in Mumbai to have seamless experience without constantly working around the limitations of one-time charge for their electric vehicles' battery.

Announcing the partnership, Mr Siddharth Kabra, Co-founder & CEO, VoltUp, said; "In a fast-paced city like Mumbai where time is always of essence, enabling riders to instant battery swapping will empower them to grow economically while doing away with range anxiety. Adani Electricity's dense network and Hero Electric's manufacturing of advanced and affordable products resonate with VoltUp's business model of providing a complete green solution to the EV industry. This partnership will not only act as a catalyst in pushing the envelope of smart mobility in India but will also integrate green energy for charging batteries."



Delta ships over one-million EV CHARGERS worldwide

ESTABLISHING itself as a global leader in e-mobility, Delta has shipped over one million electric vehicle chargers to its consumers since 2011. Over the last few years, as one of the prominent leaders in EV (Electric Vehicles) charging solutions, it has set up EV charging stations in various parts of the world, including Asia, USA, and Europe.

Delta has shipped over one million EV chargers to consumers worldwide to foster e-mobility transition across the globe. Currently, the company provides powertrain and energy management systems to the world's leading EV automakers in Europe, the USA, and Asia.

With expertise in high-efficiency power technologies, Delta has been delivering energy-efficient EV charging solutions worldwide for over a decade. In 2020, the company collaborated with Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd., a Japanese energy company, to operate an EV charging station in Yokohama. Both the companies renovated an old gas station into an EV charging station that has a cafe. The EV charging station operates under the theme 'Park and Charge' enabling a smart retail energy ecosystem that unifies Delta's energy storage, power conditioning system, EV chargers, DeltaGrid IoT energy management system, and Delta's retail IoT solution.

In August 2022, Delta joined hands with EVgo, the largest public fast charging network for electric vehicles (EVs) in the USA, to supply 1000 fast chargers with up to 350kW power output. The organisation has successfully delivered over 6,000 EV chargers to consumers in India also.



Mr Benjamin Lin, Delta Electronics India's President & GM, said, "We are at the forefront of building e-mobility across the globe. Delta strives to build a sustainable world that includes green energy infrastructure, smart factories, and e-mobility. We intend to increase the delivery of our EV chargers globally. We are immensely thankful to our local partners as we collaborate to build e-mobility. In India, we project to deliver more than 10,000 EV chargers by mid-2023."

FADA's Dealer Satisfaction Study 2022

Viability, policy issues remain key to auto dealers



AUTO dealers in India continue to expect higher transparency in dealer viability and policy issues from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). Despite improvement in relationships between the two across various segments, these issues still remain the two most critical concerns for auto dealers across all segments of the industry.

The above findings were revealed in the outcome of the Dealer Satisfaction Study 2022 recently undertaken by Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), the apex national body of automobile retail in the country in association with PremonAsia, a consumer-insight led consulting and advisory firm based out of Singapore.

Commenting on the outcome of the study, FADA President, Mr. Manish Raj Singhania, said, "FADA's Dealer Satisfaction Study 2022 continues to examine the health of the relationship between auto dealers and their OEM's post the covid era. The overall improvements seen across all value chains demonstrate the significance of conducting this annual study in identifying and addressing relevant issues that are critical to strengthen the partnership between the two stakeholders. While we welcome the efforts shown by OEMs in improving key issues related to sales, delivery and after-sales, dealers continue to expect higher transparency in matters related to dealership viability and a fair and balanced business policy."



"I am ecstatic to say that FADA's DSS'22 continued to get more than 2,000 responses. This shows the trust which the dealers have on this study in terms of raising their concerns which can then be addressed by their OEMs in a logical manner."

Mr C S Vigneshwar,
FADA Vice President & Chairman DSS-22

TVS Motor brings in 2022 Apache motorcycles

TVS Motor Company, a reputed manufacturer of two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the world, launched its all-new 2022 Apache RTR 180 and Apache RTR 160 motorcycles recently. The motorcycles now come packaged with new exciting styling and feature updates for an uncompromised ride experience.

The power increase coupled with weight reduction of two kgs in Apache RTR 160 and one kg in Apache RTR 180 has resulted in an enhanced power-to-weight ratio for both motorcycles, offering an unravelling riding experience.

The Apache series have always been at the forefront of technology and innovation since their launch in 2005, and continue to set a benchmark in the performance segment. The motorcycles have offered multiple first-in-segment and best-in-class features, technology to the customers, starting from fuel injection, ABS, dual channel ABS, slipper clutch, to the most recent SmartXconnect, ride modes, LED headlamps etc.

Commenting at the launch, Mr Vimal Sumbly, Head Business - Premium, TVS Motor Company, said, "The Apache series has been built on the racing heritage of TVS Racing to bring superior products into the market that connect with our customers and racing enthusiasts. The introduction of the 2022 range of Apache RTR 160 and Apache RTR 180 is a testament to our commitment towards delighting the Apache community and loyalists globally, with a true racing experience. These motorcycles will continue their legacy of offering class leading race technologies to transform performance biking, and further strengthening our premiumisation journey."



Mr Vimal Sumbly
Head Business - Premium,
TVS Motor Company

Designed as "The all-new racer's choice", the new 2022 Apache RTR 160 and 2022 Apache RTR 180 are updated with striking style elements and new attractive graphics that are in line with its racing DNA. The two motorcycles also get segment leading features like an all-new LED headlamp, offering superior range and light penetration, as well as an new LED tail lamp.

Stepping up the convenience quotient for the riders, the motorcycles will come equipped with an advanced Bluetooth enabled fully digital instrument cluster and SmartXconnect technology with Voice Assist, to further enhance their ride experience. As a segment first, these motorcycles get three ride modes namely - rain, urban and sport, showcasing their adaptability to different conditions. Both of these also get a X-ring chain, wider 120mm rear tyre, gear position indicator with shift assist and TVS Connect App with new a UI/UX.

Motovolt launches URBN e-bike

MOTOVOLT Mobility Pvt Ltd launched its feature-rich, smart e-bike - URBN - at an event held in the Capital recently in the presence of Member of Parliament Mr Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma. The e-bike has been attractively priced at INR 49,999 and is targeted at modern Indian youth.

Motovolt's URBN e-bike is uniquely designed for greater riding comfort and comes with a host of features that makes it the ideal choice for today's generation. It is available for booking at INR 999 on the company's website and 100+ physical retail points.

The URBN is powered by a removable BIS-approved battery which is safe and easy to charge. It comes with a peddle assist sensor and offers multiple riding modes to support peddling or automatic ride preferences. Further, it comes with an ignition key switch, handles lock, and various other features. URBN needs no license or registration giving riders the freedom to enjoy hassle-free sustainable rides.

The event was attended by many industry leaders and a panel discussion was held to discuss the growth of the EV ecosystem, future of micro-mobility in the country, challenges and opportunities.

Speaking at the event, Mr Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, said, "The Government of India has been dedicatedly working towards promoting the EV sector in India. We have been focusing on supporting manufacturers who innovate and create high-quality and affordable battery-powered commute options. We have launched various schemes and initiatives such as Production Linked Incentives and subsidies on the purchase of EVs. It is heartening to see a young enterprise like Motovolt come up with e-bikes, and I hope URBN will prove to be a great personal commute option for the younger commuters in cities all over India."



Mr. Tushar Choudhary
Mr. Manohar Bethapudi

MG Motor installs AC fast charging points in 15 cities



ON the occasion of World EV Day, MG Motor India successfully installed 50 plus AC fast chargers at more than 25 residential areas and corporate offices across 15 cities in the country under the MG Charge initiative. The programme aims to strengthen the EV charging infrastructure in India by installing residential chargers to create a seamless charging experience for the community.

MG holds an unwavering commitment to the future of electric vehicles in the country. The carmaker has undertaken various initiatives in association with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Jio-bp and Castrol to build a convenient and reliable EV charging ecosystem, which includes free-of-cost charging stations and vehicle service assistance. Earlier this year, the company also launched the new and advanced version of India's first pure electric internet SUV (the ZS EV), post the launch of its predecessor in 2020.

National Engineering Industries opens tech centre in Germany



NATIONAL Engineering Industries Ltd. (NEI) - part of the USD 2.4 billion CK Birla Group and manufacturer of NBC brand of bearings, announced the launch of its Global Technology Centre (GTC) in Würzburg (Wuerzburg), Bavaria (Germany) through its subsidiary NBC Global.

The technology centre will focus on application engineering, product development and manufacturing technology in the automobile and industrial space. It will support the company's global and Europe-based OEM customers as well as act as an extended arm for NBC Bearings in India by driving innovation, speed in implementation of new ideas, response to customer requirements and addressing market requirements. The GTC was launched at the IAA Transportation 2022 held at Hanover, Germany.

A competence centre approach at the GTC will have dedicated teams work on relevant customer application in e-motors and e-mobility bearings, wheel-end bearings, drivetrain bearings and manufacturing process development.

Mr Rohit Saboo, President & CEO, National Engineering Industries Ltd, said "It is a moment of great pride as we start our very first Global Technology Centre to focus on customer-centered bearings, an integral component to every kind of machinery. To have this centre located in Germany, world's automotive hub of innovation, gives NBC Bearings a strategic advantage of collaborating directly with our global customers which are some of the leading automotive makers offering products tailored to their needs, accelerating response and go to market time."

Dr. Lokesh Agrawal, Vice President and Head of R&D, National Engineering Industries Ltd. said, "This is an important milestone for NBC as we continue our journey to be a global player. We have put together a team of very talented and accomplished engineers who will be innovating the future products in the automotive and industrial space."

Mr Andreas Knopf, Head of Global Technology Centre, NBC Global (Germany) GmbH said, "This centre will provide a strong impetus for growth to NBC, both from customer proximity and technology perspective. We will be partnering with customers to develop products for higher speed, durability and for longer service life."



Mr Rohit Saboo
President & CEO,
National Engineering
Industries Ltd

Citroen gets new brand identity

CITROËN revealed a fresh corporate brand identity and logo of the company, signaling a bold and dynamic new era for the 103-year-old brand. This new identity will accelerate its mission to make electric mobility accessible to all and extend its core DNA for affordability, audacity and customer wellbeing.

The elegant new emblem signposts the brand's transition and evolution, and will debut at the end of September on a significant conceptual Citroën family vehicle. Versions of it will then progressively enhance future Citroën production and concept vehicles from mid-2023 on. The prominent, enhanced vertical oval will introduce a new direction in design language in which the visually prominent badge will become an immediately recognizable signature element of all Citroën models.

Citroën CEO, Mr Vincent Cobée, said, "Our new identity is an elegant symbol of progress as we move our customers physically in daring, forward-looking vehicles that challenge traditional industry rules. This ensures that their entire experience – particularly going electric – is more affordable, comfortable and enjoyable whatever their wants and needs."



Mr Vincent Cobée
Citroën CEO





Tata Motors brings in three new pickups

RIDING on the rapidly growing pickup segment, Tata Motors, leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, launched three new pickups - Yodha 2.0, Intra V20 bi-fuel and Intra V50 recently. These rugged and tough pickups come with bold new design and offer the highest load-carrying capacity, largest deck length, longest range and are equipped with several modern features essential for a safe and comfortable drive.

Designed and engineered to cater to a wide variety of urban and rural applications, the new Yodha 2.0, Intra V20 bi-fuel and Intra V50 are ideal to service the diverse mobility needs of the fast-growing agriculture, poultry and dairy sectors as well as the expanding delivery requirements of FMCG, e-commerce and logistics sectors. Each of these pickups offer the lowest total cost of ownership in their category to enable our customers earn maximum profits. Tata Motors commemorated the launch of India's best pickups by delivering 750 of them to customers across the country.

Yodha 2.0 offers highest 2000kg rated payload capacity with best-in-class off-road capability. It also features an updated design with rugged looks, Tata signature 'Trust Bar' and a stylish grille amongst other functional upgrades. The Yodha is also available in 1200, 1500 and 1700 kg rated payload options. It comes with 4x4 and 4x2 configurations, and is available in single cab and crew cab options.

Intra V50 smart pickup offers high 1500 kg rated payload capacity and largest deck length. The Intra V20 is India's first bi-fuel pickup with 1000 kg payload and longest range of 700 km. Tata Motors showcased the Intra V20, the country's first bi-fuel (CNG + petrol) commercial vehicle with payload of 1000 kg, that combines the robustness of the proven Intra V20 capabilities with the lower operational cost of CNG to deliver more value.

GLOBAL EYE



MG Motor launches MG4 Electric in Europe

MARKING a new milestone along its growth trajectory, MG Motor launched its all-electric hatchback - new MG4 Electric – in Europe recently. The MG4 Electric is the first of a series of MG models based on the intelligent new MSP platform (“Modular Scalable Platform”) – making it the company’s most important car till date. It delivers impressively compact dimensions and exceptional design, excellent driving behaviour, a high level of electrical efficiency, innovative driver assistance systems and great usability.

The MG4 Electric will enter the important C segment in Europe with a choice of three versions. The entry-level model is the MG4 Electric Standard with a battery capacity of 51 kWh, up to 350 km range in the WLTP cycle and a rear electric motor delivering 125 kW (170 ps). The MG4 Electric Comfort and the MG4 Electric Luxury each boast a 64 kWh battery and a 150 kW (204 ps) electric motor. This enables the Comfort model to offer a range of up to 450 km. The first vehicles will be delivered to customers from the pre-order programme in 2022.



Automechanika Frankfurt 2022

Eight companies receive Innovation Award 2022

EIGHT companies received the coveted Innovation Awards 2022 at a ceremony held recently at the Automechanika Frankfurt 2022 trade fair organised in Frankfurt, Germany. In addition to these eight awards, a Green Award was given to the product judged to be especially sustainable.

The winners of the Innovation Awards were chosen from a total of 133 candidates. The products and solutions submitted were evaluated by an international panel of 14 experts. They examined various criteria, including the degree of innovation, cost effectiveness, user-friendliness, functionality, relevance to the aftermarket, safety and quality, as well as contributions to environmental protection and sustainability.

This year's award-winning products revealed a clear focus on digitalisation, new mobility and sustainability. Winners included smart solutions for workshops and automotive technology, including an app that allows spare parts to be found and ordered quickly and reliably, online-supported systems for damage diagnostics, and a Bluetooth colour scanner that can identify colours and use a database to supply the correct formula for matching paint in a matter of seconds. A recovery system for damaged e-cars, a rapid charging station with a maximum output power of 240 kW, and a system for reducing braking torque were also among the award winners.

This was the third time that the panel presented the Green Award to honour the most ecologically sustainable innovation among the submitted products. This year's Green Award went to GelKoh for 'LiBa Rescue', a recovery system for e-cars that helps to conserve resources. This innovation also won the Innovation Award in the Workshop & Service Solutions category.



JLR's suppliers to align to zero emissions targets

AS part of its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Jaguar Land Rover invited its global supply network to commit to 2030 sustainability targets approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). The company aims to reach carbon net zero emissions across its supply chain, products, and operations by 2039.

Achieving net zero across entire value chain will benefit people, clients, and the planet. Jaguar Land Rover's commitments can only be achieved by working closely with suppliers who share the same vision for change. For this, the company invited its global tier 1 supplier network – products, services and logistics – to align with its 2030 goals, while maintaining the same quality.

This commitment would involve suppliers disclosing the carbon reporting and collaborating with their own supply chain to deliver the same reductions. This requirement has been shared with Jaguar Land Rover's supply network, totaling more than 5000 companies across the globe.

Ms Barbara Bergmeier, Executive Director of Industrial Operations, Jaguar Land Rover, said: "Fulfilling our SBTi commitments and achieving carbon net zero emissions across our entire supply chain by 2039 are the driving forces in JLR's industrial strategy. We can only meet these ambitious targets together, which is why we're inviting suppliers to join us on this challenging but exciting journey, strengthening existing relationships to enable all parties to achieve significant, quantifiable goals."



Aston Martin introduces new V12 Vantage Roadster

ASTON Martin introduced its new V12 Vantage Roadster that combines the thrilling performance of the most powerful Vantage ever made with the freedom and sensory stimulation of roof-down driving.

With production strictly limited to just 249 customer examples globally, with all examples sold ahead of release, the V12 Vantage Roadster boasts a compelling combination of dramatic widebody design, ground-hugging wide-track suspension and the mighty 5.2-litre twin-turbo V12 engine. With searing straight-line speed and the unfiltered howl of Aston Martin's sonorous 700PS 12-cylinder engine, the car elevates the open-top driving experience to a scintillating new level.

Mr Roberto Fedeli, Aston Martin Chief Technical Officer, said: "We have worked extremely hard to ensure the V12 Vantage Roadster possesses the same potency and dynamism that characterizes the V12 Vantage, while surpassing it in terms of raw sensory excitement that you only achieve with roof down driving. With more power and torque than any Vantage Roadster before it, a wide-track chassis with precisely tuned suspension calibration, and up to ten times the downforce of the series production Vantage Roadster, this is a breathtaking machine created for our most enthusiastic customers."

Developing 700PS at 6500 rpm and 753Nm of torque at 5,500 rpm, the quad-cam 60-deg 5.2-litre V12 is a true force of nature. Accelerating from rest to 60mph in just 3.5sec and with a top speed of 200mph the V12 Vantage Roadster occupies the very highest echelon of open-top sportscar performance. With a ZF 8-speed automatic transmission and mechanical Limited-Slip Differential (LSD) mounted at the rear, the car possesses the purity and balance of a front-mid-engined rear-wheel drive layout.

Like the V12 Vantage, the roadster features powerful Carbon Ceramic Brakes (CCB) as standard. Measuring 410mm x 38mm the front discs are gripped by 6-piston calipers, while the 360mm x 32mm rear discs are paired with 4-piston calipers. Aerodynamic performance also informs the new sculpted single-piece sills and rear bumper, which comes complete with integrated diffuser.



Mr Roberto Fedeli,
Aston Martin Chief
Technical Officer



SPREADING WINGS



Sanjay Gopalakrishnan, Senior Vice President, Electric Passenger Vehicle Business, BYD India and Mr Sanjay Thakker, Promoter & Executive Chairman, Landmark with BYD e6 MPV.

BYD inaugurates first PV showroom in New Delhi

WARREN Buffett-backed automaker BYD opened its first showroom for passenger vehicles in New Delhi recently. The showroom will be managed by Landmark BYD and is the fourth BYD dealership showroom in the country.

The showroom was inaugurated by Ms Garima Misra, Managing Director of Group Landmark, Mr Rajiv Vohra, Director of Group Landmark, and Mr Sanjay Gopalakrishnan, Senior Vice President of Electric Passenger Vehicle Business of BYD India in the presence of senior officials of both the companies.

Landmark BYD will offer consumers access to its pure electric vehicles. Spread across 6,600 square feet, this state-of-the-art 3S facility is one of the largest for BYD in the country. Fully-trained technicians, service equipment, service bays, EV charging stations, a customer lounge area and a showroom display floor work together to provide customers with the best in-store experience in Okhla Industrial Hub.

Mr Sanjay Gopalakrishnan said, "The New Delhi NCR region is one of the key markets for BYD India. New Delhi has immense potential for premium passenger vehicles, and additional 18,000 charging stations are planned to be installed across the city by 2024. The goal is to have one station for every 15 electric vehicles inside the city. This is a major boost for the EV industry and we strongly believe that BYD will be the main contributor to EV adoption in the EPV segments."

Mr Sanjay Thakker, Chairman & Founder of Group Landmark, remarked: "Landmark is the go-to partner when it comes to leading premium and luxury brands across India. A partnership with BYD, the world's leading NEV manufacturer, further consolidates this position."

The Indian government is targeting 30 per cent EV penetration for the PV segment by 2030, with an aim to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. Driven by these goals, BYD is working closely with its partners to provide localized green products for the Indian market.

Neuron Energy ties up with EVTRIC Motors



NEURON Energy, a bootstrapped start-up in the battery manufacturing segment, recently announced its partnership with EVTRIC Motors, a leading name in the electric two-wheelers segment. With this tie-up, the start-up will supply 12000 battery packs per year, generating an approximate revenue of Rs 50 crore annually.

This strategic and long-term partnership offers EVTRIC Motors continuous support for their battery pack requirements. It will receive extensive holistic service support from Neuron.

Commenting on the association, Mr Pratik Kamdar, Co-Founder, Neuron Energy said, "Neuron Energy has always been customer driven and our aim is to aid in the country's adoption of electric vehicles across two, three and four-wheelers (LMV, HMV) segments. Our association with EVTRIC will help us expand the reach of our offerings and cater to a wider audience. Our batteries are safe and thoroughly tested and we ensure to provide post sales service support in case of any discrepancy to avoid any untoward incidents. We are hopeful that together we'll be able to transition more consumers from regular two-wheelers to EV thus substantially reducing carbon footprint and build a greener future."

Sona Comstar produces one-lakh EV traction motors



SONA COMSTAR

COMING up with a landmark achievement, Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd ("Sona Comstar"), recently achieved the 100,000 EV traction motor production milestone. While the company took 17 months to reach cumulative production of 50,000, it doubled the production in just four months.

The company's R&D team designed and developed the EV traction motors in-house and launched them for production in 2020. The production of these indigenous traction motors started at the Chennai plant in November 2020.

Sona Comstar offers a wide range of traction motors and controllers for electric two and three-wheeler segments. The company's traction motors and motor controllers, which include Motor T family, provide the highest efficiency, power, and torque density in the 48V category in the world. Sona Comstar is an innovation-led automotive technology company delivering mission-critical systems and components to its customers worldwide. It is committed to continue driving faster adoption of electric vehicles in India and across the world.

Commenting on the achievement, Mr Sat Mohan Gupta, CEO- Motor business, Sona Comstar, said, "I congratulate my team on this amazing milestone and thank our customers for their continued trust in our products. We are excited to play the leading role in India's transition to greener mobility. Our manufacturing team has set up excellent in-house designed assembly lines at our plant in Chennai, which is driving seamless scale-up of production to meet the growing demand from our customers."

Indian used-car market to grow at 19.5 pc by FY 2026-27

THE Indian used-car market that is valued at \$23 billion in FY 2021-2022 is projected to grow and expand at double the rate at a CAGR of 19.5 pc till FY 2026-2027, according to the Indian Blue Book (IBB) report that was unveiled at an event held in Mumbai recently. The 5th edition of the FY 2021-2022 Indian Blue Book used car report was presented by Car & Bike and Das Welt Auto.

India's used-vehicle industry is currently transitioning from an unorganized setup - where transactions happen via roadside garage mechanics, small brokers and between car owners - to an organized system with more players entering the market. As per the report, among the leading factors that will contribute to this growth of the used-car market in the next five years are a rising middle-class and young population; rising disposable incomes; technology driven transparency, convenience, simplicity of transactions; availability of certified cars; decrease in the average tenure of ownership for cars and two-wheelers due to larger disposable incomes; the launch of new models within shorter time frames; dealer trade-in bonuses and buyback assurances.

Mr Ashutosh Pandey, CEO & MD, Mahindra First Choice said, "Used cars, which were once considered a compromise, are now making their way into the consideration set of consumers when they think about purchasing a car. There is no reason our industry cannot achieve double-digit growth for many years to come."

Commenting on the report, Mr Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India said, "The used car market has accelerated since the pandemic. Customers are displaying a considerable preference towards used cars and the gap between new cars and used car sales is reducing phenomenally. As per the report, the organized used car market share is expected to increase from 20 pc in FY 2021-2022 to 45 pc in FY 2026-2027."

The Indian used car market is expected to touch sales of up to eight million units by FY 2026-2027. It is projected to grow at double the rate in value, at a CAGR of 19.5 pc till FY 2026-2027. The demand in smaller towns is expected to grow at a 30 pc CAGR by FY 2026-2027 as compared to a 10 pc CAGR in the top 40 cities.



BMW Motorrad launches four touring bikes



BMW MOTORRAD

BMW Motorrad launched its much-awaited touring range - the new R 1250 RT, the new K 1600 GTL, the new K 1600 Bagger and the new K 1600 Grand America in India recently. Deliveries of the motorcycles have already begun for customers who had pre-booked the motorcycles across the BMW Motorrad dealer network in India.

Mr Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India, said, "Each BMW Motorrad model tells its own story, and each promises the motorcyclist an individual and unforgettable recreational experience. As a high-performance, emotional, and exclusive riding experience, the new BMW Motorrad touring motorcycles embody the motto of the 'Spirit of the Open Road'. It is synonymous with elegance, power, and luxury on two wheels. As an ultimate luxury touring motorcycle range, the new R 1250 RT, the new K 1600 GTL, the new K 1600 Bagger and the new K 1600 Grand America will redefine the luxury and exclusivity in the touring segment in India. The legendary two-cylinder boxer and the unrivalled six-cylinder engine performance, outstanding ride comfort and exclusive features ensure relaxed cruising on long highways that stretch out to the horizon and provide intense riding pleasure."

The R 1250 RT has been priced at INR 23.95 lakh, the K 1600 Bagger has been priced INR 23.90 lakh, the K 1600 GTL is priced at INR 32 lakh while the K 1600 Grand America will be sold for INR 33 lakh (ex-showroom price).

The new BMW R 1250 RT now looks fresher and more dynamic with enhanced travel and touring qualities with its aerodynamic advancements and its new fairing and full LED headlamps. It sets the benchmark in its class with new innovations. The legendary 2-cylinder boxer engine ensures comfortable travel and dynamic propulsion. The BMW ShiftCam technology ensures superior power across the entire speed range and exemplary fuel consumption. The powerful 1254 cc two-cylinder boxer engine produces an output of 136hp (100kW) at 7,750 rpm and a maximum torque of 143 Nm at 6,250 rpm. The motorcycle accelerates from 0-100 kmph in just 3.7 seconds and achieves a top speed of 200 kmph.



Baxy launches two CNG 3Ws with BS VI tech

Baxy Mobility introduced two new CNG variant three-wheelers - the Super King Cargo and Express Passenger - with BS VI technology. The three-wheelers have been priced between INR 2.9 lakh and INR 3.0 lakh (ex-showroom).

Speaking at the launch, Mr Naveeth Menon, Vice President-Market Operations, Baxy Mobility, said, "In a bid to further strengthen our position in the alternate fuel segment space, Baxy Mobility has introduced CNG cargo and passenger models that offer substantial acquisition cost benefits for the price sensitive customer. These products are the result of a robust product development process that we follow at our manufacturing facility at Roorkee, which are actually based on consumer insights at conceptualisation stage".

The Super King Cargo carrier comes with the biggest cargo tray of 6.5 feet in the industry. The extra size gives more loading options and allows it to carry bulky and voluminous cargo on any terrain without compromising on fuel mileage. The vehicle promises high performance and high reliability with lesser maintenance cost and helps in earning greater profits.

The product is packed with a powerful Baxy M-Tec G400 WG VI Bi Fuel CNG engine that produces 8.71 HP / Engine Power 396 cc @3400 rpm as well as 22 Nm torque @2000 – 2400 rpm. It gives a fuel efficiency of 32 km/kg and is backed with a four-years warranty. Available in both, single cylinder (40 litres) as well as double cylinder (30+30 lt) options, it has advantage over rivals especially where CNG pumps are in far-flung areas. The higher payload capacity along with a smooth 4 speed gearbox, assist in providing efficient working. The carrier has been priced at INR 3.0 lakh (ex-showroom).



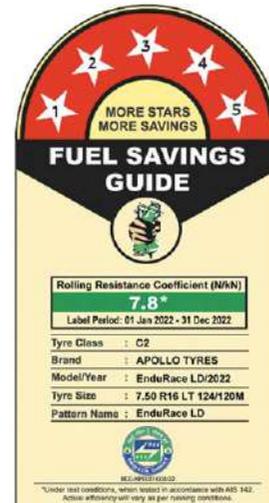
Apollo awarded 5-star for its LCV tyres

APOLLO Tyres, a leading manufacturer of tyres, has become the first company to be awarded with five-stars for its brand of light truck radials. Multiple SKUs of 16-inch Apollo Endurace RA and LD have received the five-star ratings from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), while few of them have also received four-star ratings.

Commenting on the same, Mr Satish Sharma, President, Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa (APMEA), Apollo Tyres Ltd, said "BEE's label programme provides the customers information on fuel/energy savings, and helps them take an informed buying decision. The savings on fuel/energy, which is the highest cost for this category of consumers, optimises their entire cost of operation. We are the leaders in the CV category, especially in the light truck radials, and this star rating would help us further dominate the segment."

Apollo Tyres pioneered the technology for light truck tubeless tyres a decade or so back, and simultaneously also developed tube type all steel radial tyres for light commercial vehicles, based on market requirements. Considering the growing pace of infrastructure development and subsequent requirements in high-speed applications, these radial tyres overcome the limitations of bias tyres in terms of mileage, durability and tyre life.

The tube type radial range includes EnduRace RA, which is for steer axle or all wheel fitment, and EnduRace LD for drive axle fitment. These variants cater to all the regional transportation needs of domestic customers, having 4x2 trucks with up to 9 tonne load carrying capacity, for their short and long haulage applications across the country. In addition to the trucks, these tyres are a preferred fitment in the passenger segment as well for schools and tourist buses. The company is also supplying these tyres to the major OEMs like Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, VECV and Mahindra.



The steer/all wheel tread pattern, EnduRace RA is designed with sinusoidal groove base with rib tapers to provide better stability and control for vehicle maneuvering and low rolling resistance. The stress relieving sipes facilitate uniform wear, while the optimised contact pressure reduces the noise.

The EnduRace LD tread pattern is designed with strong and robust blocks providing drive axle traction in heavy load application with smooth wear, reduced heat and improved cut and chip resistance. The casings of these tyres are made with tension optimised cords, with lower fatigue, to maximise durability for multi-life performance. The superior combination of compound, pattern design and casing durability – yield these five-star rated tyres with better fuel efficiency, giving desired value for money to each customer, and enabling them to go the distance without compromising on the mileage and durability.



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