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This transformation has led to faster, smarter, and more efficient trucks and buses on the road. With better technology in CVs, vehicle owners are now able to better manage their fleets and create competitive profits in their businesses.

Edge of next-gen CVs

OVER the years, Commercial Vehicles (CVs) have become a metric for economic growth and advancement of technology. With the emergence of next-generation innovations in automotive technology, commercial vehicles are undergoing an exciting transformation. This transformation has led to faster, smarter, and more efficient trucks and buses on the road. With better technology in CVs, vehicle owners are now able to better manage their fleets and create competitive profits in their businesses. We have covered this next-generation transformation in CVs as our cover story for this issue.

With carbon emission cuts as the target, commercial vehicles and buses are already utilizing technologies featured in cars. Similarly, long-distance transport vehicles are already well-optimized for fuel economy with aerodynamic enhancements, weight reduction, and rolling resistance improvements. Hybrid technologies introduced in buses considerably improve urban duty cycle through energy re-generation from braking, particularly during continuous stop-start motion of the vehicles. All this technology infusion is bringing in the necessary transformation in next-generation CVs.

Keeping up with the festive spirit, auto sales have continued the momentum, witnessed in the past few months, in November. Most passenger vehicle manufacturer registered double digit growth while similar trend was witnessed in the two-wheelers, three-wheelers and commercial vehicles with slight variations. The growth in November sales this year is a relief considering the heat faced by the industry in the same month last year in the form of component shortages and threat of new Covid 19 variant – Omicron.

Electric vehicles and hybrids are becoming the major foray of the Indian auto industry with manufacturers keen on environmental sustainability of their vehicles. Toyota unveiled its new Innova HyCross, a self-charging Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicle (SHEV) and announced its foray into the CNG segment with the new E-CNG variants of new Glanza and Urban Cruiser Hyryder models. Similarly, Tata Motors introduced new Tigor.ev and iCNG variant of its Tiago NRG model. Maruti Suzuki also came up with new S-CNG variant of its all-new Alto K10. Also, Omega Seiki Mobility launched innovative three-wheeler electric vehicle, MOV (Meals on Wheels) while technology start-up Matter unveiled its first geared electric motorbike. We have also covered the launch of Force Motors' next-generation Urbania van and Jeep India's new fifth-generation Grand Cherokee.

Enjoy the festive spirit!

Lower Emissions, Higher Profits With Commercial Vehicles

Commercial Vehicles: A Game Changer in Transport Industry

WITH the emergence of next-generation innovations, the world of commercial vehicles is undergoing an exciting transformation. The innovations in automotive technology have led to manufacturers striving to make their vehicles faster, smarter, and more efficient. As a result, commercial vehicle owners are now able to access sophisticated technological features that help them better manage their fleets and create competitive advantages in their businesses.

The rapidly expanding middle class and rising consumption is further driving growth in the commercial vehicle segment. Commercial vehicles are extremely profitable and constructive, especially in a country like India. Among CVs, the light commercial vehicles (LCV), according to industry stakeholders, would benefit the most from this transformation.



Commercial vehicles and buses are already utilizing identical technologies used in cars to reduce carbon emissions. Similarly, long-distance transport vehicles are already well-optimized for fuel economy and duty cycle. Aerodynamic enhancements, weight reduction, and rolling resistance improvements are being incorporated to increase fuel economy, but commercial efficiency rather than regulatory requirements will be the primary motivator behind such technological shifts.

Hybrid technologies considerably improve urban duty cycle of buses because of energy re-generation from braking, particularly during continuous stop-start motion of the vehicles. There have been several experiments and operating instances of electric hybrids that use both series and parallel technologies as well as smaller internal combustion engines. Mechanical and electrical flywheel systems also provide significant efficiency gains. The fundamental difficulty with all commercial vehicle and bus technologies will be the financial equation for recovering the increased costs of advanced technology from fuel use throughout the vehicle's service life, paired with the requirement for high levels of dependability.

Force Motors unveiled their next-generation van Urbania:

Recently 'Force Motors' launched the next-gen van 'Urbania' during the company's Dealers' Meet in Indore where chosen dealers from India and overseas were invited for plant inspection and test rides. The current code for the vehicle is T1N.

Urbania was exhibited at the 2020 Auto Expo, but the debut was postponed due to the Covid epidemic and its cascade impact. Serial production has now begun at the new cutting-edge manufacturing facilities built specifically for this platform. The first batch of automobiles will be delivered to dealerships in the coming weeks.

The Urbania is the country's first commercial vehicle in its category to provide crash and rollover compliance with airbags for the driver and co-driver, even though existing Indian regulations do not require them. Furthermore, Urbania has massive vented disc brakes on all four wheels, as well as ESP, ABS, EBD, and ETDC for unrivaled passenger safety.

Nevertheless, in the month of December, many companies stepped up their game by focusing on the importance of commercial vehicles and making a strong move to enhance the manufacturing of commercial vehicles. Companies like Tata Motors, Force Motors, Mahindra, Ashok Leyland & Maruti revamped their commercial vehicle lineup with a slew of new launches. We noticed ADAS (advanced driver assistance systems) Collision avoidance technology (such as lane departure warning and blind-spot applications) and driver assistance like as night vision, driver awareness, and adaptive cruise control are the primary emphasis of ADAS, driver fatigue monitoring, and other value-added technologies. The businesses also put an emphasis on lowering its carbon impact by using CNG-powered vehicles and LCVs.

Road transport accounts for more than half of all freight transportation in the country, making commercial vehicles an essential component of freight transit. Inadequate rail capacity, low efficiency, dependability, and flexibility of railways have also benefited this industry. This stretch is utilised for both freight and passenger transit. State governments, which were among the most frequent users of passenger carrier commercial vehicles, offered public transportation in a variety of cities.

Commercial vehicles in India are segmented by gross vehicle weight. Primarily, the two categories are light commercial vehicles and medium and heavy commercial vehicles. The former, which has a gross vehicle weight of less than 7.5 metric tons, dominated this sector. Small commercial vehicles, boosted the growth of this segment. A rise in the e-commerce sector, rural consumption, an increase in last-mile connectivity, and a lower total cost of ownership value pillared the growth of this market. New infrastructure projects and fleet replacement were also among the reason for demand creation.

The leading players in the commercial vehicle segment across India were Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, with the former leading the domestic market. Other players included Ashok Leyland, Eicher Motors, SML Isuzu Limited, Force India, and Daimler India Commercial Vehicle Private Limited. The latter sold its vehicles under the brand name 'BharatBenz' and had a small market share.



What experts are saying'

"Going forward, increase in urbanization and consumption will lead to shifts in market segments,"



Mr. Satyakam Arya
Chief Executive, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles,

Tata Motors gets order for 1000 buses in Haryana:

Currently in the automobile sector, 'Tata Motors', India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, recently received an order for 1000 buses from Haryana Roadways. According to the deal, the 52-seater completely constructed BS6 diesel buses will be delivered in stages.

Tata Motors commercial vehicles are built and manufactured with the 'Power of 6' concept in mind, which provides unrivalled driveability, the total cost of ownership, comfort, convenience, and connectivity. Tata Motors also offers a bouquet of service products under its flagship programme, 'Sampoorna Seva', including repair time assurance, breakdown support, insurance and accidental repair time, extended warranty, and other add-on services for maintenance and upkeep.

Achieving milestones with each new innovation in automotive technology is something extraordinary. With the passage of time, we have witnessed new EVs in the market. To be a fact, that Commercial vehicles cover the major sector in transportation, however, EVs are now in the game, and electrification is developing rapidly and is now occurring in the commercial vehicle segment. Commercial vehicle manufacturers are aggressively expanding their electric vehicle portfolio, however, EV sales continues to be gradual in the market.

Following the lead of buses and three-wheelers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are rallying behind the promised benefits of zero-emission trucks, urging the trucking sector to expedite the adoption of vehicles powered by diesel alternatives.



What experts are saying'



Mr Navdeep Singh Virk
IPS, Principal Secretary to
Government, Transport
Department, Haryana

"The modern and economical BS6 buses will provide benefits to all stakeholders alike, and offer unmatched comfort to the passengers. The induction of the new buses will help in making inter-state public transport even more efficient, allowing smooth commute across the state of Haryana."

What experts are saying'

"Mahindra has one of the most notable investments in the state providing mass direct and indirect employment in the region. The Group is further enhancing its investment with the launch of its all-new greenfield facility to manufacture 'Made in India' farm machinery in Pithampur. This a milestone moment not just for the Mahindra group, but also for the country and our Farmers."



MR. NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR
Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Mahindra establishes an agricultural machinery manufacturing facility in Madhya Pradesh:

Besides EVs, Mahindra & Mahindra Farm Equipment Sector (FES), a division of the Mahindra Group, has opened its first dedicated farm machinery unit (non-tractor) at Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh. Mr Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, opened the new factory, which was attended by major state officials, dignitaries, and top Mahindra & Mahindra executives.

Hereafter, the latest advances in commercial vehicle technology have revolutionized the way businesses operate. From improved fuel efficiency to enhanced safety capabilities, modern trucks and buses are smarter and more efficient than ever before. It's an exciting time for businesses that rely on commercial vehicles to conduct their operations. As we look ahead, we can only imagine what further developments are in store for the industry. From improved safety features to more efficient fuel economy, these advancements bring a wealth of potential benefits. At last, investing in a more efficient vehicle has the potential to save you money while also reducing your environmental footprint - it's a win-win situation!



What experts are saying'

"Mahindra has been the leader in the tractorisation of India for several decades and is now determined to be a leader in mechanisation of farming. We aim to grow our farm machinery business by 10x in 5 years and the new farm machinery plant in Pithampur is a key pillar in the execution of this strategy



MR. HEMANT SIKKA
President, Farm Equipment Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra

Jeep India launches iconic Grand Cherokee

Jeep India launched the iconic all-new fifth-generation Grand Cherokee at an introductory price range of INR 77.5 lakh (ex-showroom) at an event held in Mumbai recently. The fifth-generation Grand Cherokee continues to build on its legacy of 30 years as the most awarded SUV ever, with its all-new exterior and interior design, world-class craftsmanship and first-to-market technologies.

The Grand Cherokee is powered by the 2 L Turbo petrol engine coupled with eight-speed automatic transmission that delivers 272 HP and 400 NM of torque. It maximises overall passenger comfort by creating generous interior room and gives passengers expansive, class-leading legroom in the second row. More than 110 advanced safety and security features, including Active Driving Assistance System (ADAS), 360-Degree Surround View, Drowsy Driver Detection, 3 Point seatbelt and occupant detection for all five passengers have been included. Around 73 per cent of the body is made from high strength and advanced high strength steel.

The all-new Grand Cherokee is equipped with the award-winning 10.1-inch Uconnect 5 infotainment system, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. The front panel features new slim HVAC vents, a realigned center stack for greater driver accessibility. The all-new Jeep seating architecture features a length adjustable cushion for the front row passengers. The new eight-way adjustable front seats have power lumbar and memory. Heated/vented seats are available in first two rows, with three-level configurable controls. The center console layout now has updated switches, more storage space in the front bin that can hold two wireless devices and a wireless charger.



Force Motors names its nex-gen van Urbania

AUTOMOTIVE major Force Motors, India's largest van maker, recently named its next-generation shared mobility platform as Urbania. Till date code named as T1N, the new name was revealed at the company's Dealers' Meet held in Indore where select dealers from India and abroad were invited for a plant visit and test rides.

Urbania was showcased at the Auto Expo 2020, but on account of the Covid pandemic and its cascading effect, the launch was delayed. Serial production has now commenced at the new state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities created for this platform. The first lot of vehicles will be shipped to dealerships in the coming fortnight.

The Urbania is the first vehicle in this category in the country offering crash and rollover compliance with air bags for driver and co-driver even though current Indian legislation does not mandate them. In addition, Urbania comes with large ventilated disc brakes on all four wheels with ESP, ABS, EBD and ETDC offering unmatched safety for its passengers.

The Urbania has been developed with global aspirations, it is design protected for plying in select markets of Middle East, Africa, ASEAN and South America where the Urbania is expected to be an excellent value proposition vis-a-vis high premium products from Europe, Far East and USA.

The creation and development of this ground up modular monocoque van and the setting up of new state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities has been done with a total investment of over INR 1000 crore. The Force Motors' team working on the development of Urbania extensively consulted with leading technology specialists, domain experts across the globe, in Italy, Spain, UK, Germany, Japan, and USA to improve, refine and validate this platform made in India, so as to match international performance expectations.

Urbania is India's first fully ground-up, next generation modular monocoque panel van platform. It also offers ergonomically designed cockpit with carlike steering wheel with tilt and telescopic adjustable steering column. The looks are further enhanced by first in segment signature day running LEDs, first in segment projector lamps and first in segment tail lamps with light guide technology, all making it a head turner whichever way one looks at it.



Auto sales continue festive spirit, register strong growth in Nov

AUTOMOBILE sales continued to peak in the month of November with most passenger vehicle manufacturer registering double digit growth. Similar trend was witnessed in the two-wheelers, three-wheelers and commercial vehicles with slight variations. The growth is also result of a low base in November last year when the industry was facing negative head winds in the form of component shortages and threat of new Covid 19 variant – Omicron. Most of the manufacturers were able to maintain the growth momentum of the festive months in November.

Passenger Vehicles

Among passenger vehicles, Maruti Suzuki India sold a total of 1,59,044 units in November 2022 against 139,184 sold in the same month last year, registering growth of 14.26 per cent. Total sales in the month include domestic sales of 135,055 units against 113,017 units sold in November 2021. Sales to other OEM was 4,251 units against 4,774 units in the last year period. Exports also showed degrowth with 19,738 units in November this year against 21,393 units sold last year. The shortage of electronic components had a minor impact on the production of vehicles, mainly in domestic models.

Commenting on it, Mr Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales), Maruti Suzuki, said, "The industry's wholesales grew by 31 pc to 3.22 lakh units in November 2022 as against 2.45 lakh units in November last year. This was also the highest-ever PV sales during November, when compared to the previous best of 2.86 lakh in November 2020."

Premium car manufacturer Honda Cars (HCIL) registered monthly domestic sales of 7,051 units in November 2022 with 29 per cent growth over the corresponding month last year. The company had registered 5,457 units in domestic sales and exported 1,447 units in Nov 2021. The export numbers for HCIL stood at 726 units in Nov 2022.

Commenting on it, Mr Yuichi Murata, Director, Marketing and Sales, Honda Cars India Ltd said, "Riding on the back of relatively better economic prospects, the demand for cars has continued well post the festive season and this momentum is also visible in our sales numbers. We are positive that the trend will continue and we will be able to cater to the growing demand as India goes back to the pre pandemic mode."



Tata Motors sales in the domestic and international market for November 2022 stood at 75,478 vehicles, compared to 62,192 units during November 2021, a growth of 21.36 per cent. The company's total domestic sales stood at 73,467 in November this year against 58,073 units sold in the year ago period, a growth of 27 pc. Its total PV sales stood at 46,425 last month against 29,947 sold in the same month last year, registering growth of 55 pc

Kia India registered 24,025-unit sales in November 2022, its third-best sales performance till date, recording a growth of 69 pc on a year-on-year scale. The carmaker sold 14,214 units in the corresponding month last year. Nissan India announced cumulative wholesales of 6,746 units, inclusive of domestic wholesales of 2400 units and export wholesales of 4346 units, in November 2022. The cumulative wholesale YTD growth stood at 22 pc as compared to the same period last year.

Commercial Vehicles & 3Ws

Among commercial vehicles, Tata Motors' growth went down by 10 per cent as the company registered sales of 29,053 units in November this year against 32,245 sold in the same month last year. However, the M&HCV sales of the company went up by 42 pc with 8,879 units sold in November 2022 as against 6,266 units sold in the same month last year. Domestic sale of MH&ICV in November 2022, including trucks and buses, stood at 11,896 units, compared to 10,213 units in November 2021. Total sales for MH&ICV Domestic and International Business in November 2022, including trucks and buses, stood at 12,673 units compared to 11,909 units in November 2021.

Commenting on CV sales, Ms Sruthi Thomas, Assistant Vice President and Sector Head - Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said, "CY22 came as a year of relief for the domestic commercial vehicle (CV) industry. Accordingly, with the various growth drivers being intact, all the subsegments reported sales increase, and these trends are expected to continue into the next year as well. M&HCV trucks are expected to grow by 15 pc – 20 pc in FY23 and 10 pc – 12pc in FY24, with growth continuing to be supported by traction in construction and mining activities, as well as the pent-up replacement demand."



Two-Wheelers

In November, the top two-wheeler makers reported double-digit growth on the low base of last year. Though there are signs of improvement, the economic health of rural India is not yet back on track, indicated by the lower sales of motorcycles. On a sequential basis, November sales for all OEMs were in the red. In October, wholesales of two-wheelers were up in anticipation of the festive season demand.

Among two-wheelers, Hero MotoCorp sold 390,932 units in November 2022, a growth of 12 per cent over the corresponding month of the previous year (November 2021), when the company had sold 349,393 units. The company expects the momentum to build-up in the coming quarters on account of favorable economic indicators, including encouraging farm activity and positive consumer sentiments along with upcoming marriage season.

Two-wheeler demand has remained weak over the past few years, with consumer sentiments impacted by factors such as income uncertainty during the pandemic period and a persistent hike in two-wheeler prices led by both regulatory changes and inflationary pressures. According to Mr Rohan Gupta of ICRA, "The festive season brought some respite to the sector, with retail offtake in October 2022 growing higher than in the pre-pandemic levels."



Omega Seiki launches MOV EV

Starts mobile kitchen incubator and employment programme

PIONEERING revolutionary sustainable vehicles in the mobile kitchen business, Omega Seiki Mobility launched industry first innovative three-wheeler electric vehicle, MOV (Meals on Wheels) in Bengaluru recently. The electric three-wheeler has been priced at INR 7 lakh (ex-showroom, New Delhi post Govt. subsidy) and will be available in fast and fixed battery options. Deliveries of the vehicle will begin from January 2023.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Uday Narang, Founder and Chairman, Omega Seiki Mobility, said, "I am feeling thrilled on the launch of another marvel and industry first electric vehicle OSM MOV. We have already received the interests of 500 plus customers for the vehicle. The electric vehicle will change the face of the mobile kitchen business. We will be soon launching more revolutionary electric vehicles at Auto Expo 2022."

Like any other business, COVID-19 has impacted the mobile kitchen business in India. From the business perspective, mobile Kitchen seems to be more survivable than dine-in restaurants, given their operational attributes. The company's vehicle will give the owners the option of sustainable and economical means. The company will provide completely equipped electric three-wheeler OSM MOV for ready to start mobile kitchen business instantly.

"The mobile kitchen business in India has huge potential as it is still in its nascent stage. In India, it is estimated to be growing at a rate of 8.4 percent annually.

" Mr. Narang added.

OSM also introduced the tier II and III region-wide mobile kitchen incubator and employment programme. This programme aims to place aspiring entrepreneurs within the tier II and III region mobile kitchen training in an electric three-wheeler mobile kitchen setup for a trial period so they can test their menu and hone their skills. The goal is to mitigate the risk of a steep initial investment for aspiring food truck owners while providing training in best business practices.

"We need to create employment, business opportunities at grass root levels. We need to provide solutions for the tier II and III markets," Mr Narang said.

The vehicle was launched at the opening of the fourth state-of-the-art dealership in Bengaluru. Omega Seiki Mobility currently has 11 dealerships in Karnataka and the company plans to ramp up to 30 dealerships by FY 23-24. The company will display its entire portfolio of eight electric vehicles- Commercial Vehicle Range- Rage+, Rage+ Rapid, Rage+ Rapid Pro, Rage+ Frost, Rage+ Swap, Rage+ Garbage Tipper, Passenger Vehicle Stream and OSM MOV at the dealership.



Toyota drives in hybrid EV

Innova HyCross

USHERING in a new era of its popular Innova model, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) unveiled the Innova HyCross, a self-charging Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicle (SHEV) at an event held in Mumbai recently. Based on Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA), the latest Innova celebrates Toyota's globally recognized quality, durability and reliability backed by advanced technology, to appeal to the Indian customers.

The new Innova HyCross is powered by a fifth-generation self-charging strong hybrid electric system with TNGA 2.0 Litre 4-cylinder gasoline engine and a monocoque frame with an e-drive sequential shift delivering a max power output of 137 kW (186 PS), providing rapid acceleration and best in segment fuel economy. The vehicle also comes with the option of a TNGA 2.0 Litre 4-cylinder gasoline engine mated to a direct shift CVT in select grades delivering an output of 128 kW (174 PS).

Speaking at the event, Mr Hideki Mizuma, Chief Engineer, Innova, Toyota said, "We are happy to launch the all new Innova HyCross for our Indian customers. The self-charging strong hybrid electric vehicle, with the spaciousness of an MPV and proportions and poise of an SUV, is loaded with features to meet the aspirations of Indian customers."

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Vikram Kirloskar, Vice Chairman, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "We are relentlessly working towards creating a local manufacturing eco-system for green technologies not only for India but also for the world. With the launch of the new Innova HyCross, we are redefining the paradigm and redrawing boundaries of technological and product excellence, while taking customer experience to a new high like never before."

The new Innova HyCross features a tough, muscular exterior design with raised bonnet line, a large Hexagonal Gunmetal finish grille, automatic LED Headlamps, super chrome alloy wheels, and a wider bumper. The interior design expresses seamless luxury and comfort. The hybrid EV features Ventilated Front Seats, 25.65cm (10.1U) Connected Display Audio with JBL premium 9 speaker system(including subwoofer), segment-first powered Ottoman 2nd Row Seats and Multi-zone A/C, combine to offer unmatched luxurious experience.



Mr. Hideki Mizuma
Chief Engineer, Innova, Toyota

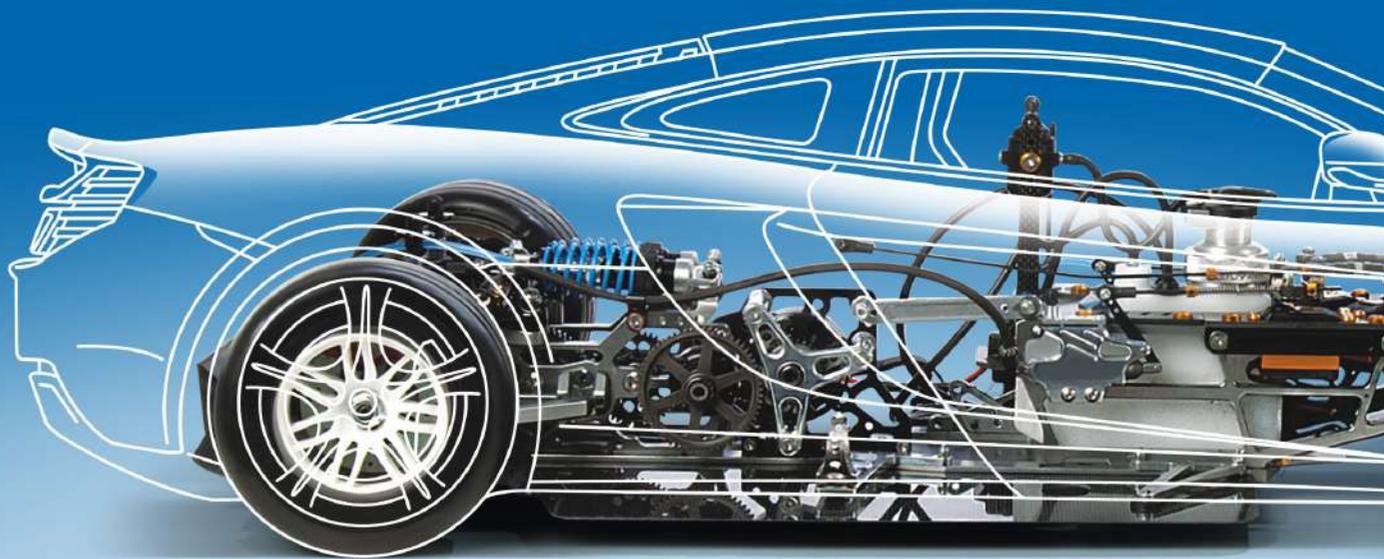
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Tata Motors' new Tigor.ev with enhanced range, features

KEEPING up with its New Forever philosophy, Tata Motors launched new Tigor.ev sedan with an extended range of 315 km (ARAI certified) and enhanced features at an event held in Mumbai recently. The Tigor.ev comes with 10 new premium and technology features that includes new Magnetic Red colour option, new additions like leatherette upholstery, leather wrapped steering wheel, rain sensing wipers, auto headlamps and cruise control.

The electric sedan also offers more tech experience to customers with smart enhancements like multi-mode regen, connected car technology- Zconnect, smartwatch connectivity, iTPMS and tyre puncture repair kit which will be offered as standard across the range. The new Tigor.ev has been priced from INR 12.49 lakh (ex-showroom).

Speaking at the launch event, Mr Shailesh Chandra, MD, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd. and Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd., said, "The EV industry is witnessing tremendous growth and is gaining popularity in the Indian market. With 50,000 Tata EVs on road and an 89 per cent market share (YTD), we at Tata Motors are solely driving this shift with our extensive portfolio. The recently introduced Tiago.ev – a product launched to democratize the EV market, received a tremendous response and we are elated to announce that it has garnered over 20K bookings in just a month since its launch. In line with our New Forever philosophy, it is now time to upgrade the Tigor.ev with more tech and premium features. We are happy to present to you the new Tigor.ev with an extended range of 315km (ARAI certified)."

Armed with stunning design, class leading safety coupled with comfort and thrilling performance, the new Tigor.ev delivers a peak power output of 55 kW and a peak torque of 170 Nm and is powered by a 26-kWh liquid-cooled, high energy density battery pack and an IP67 rated battery pack and motor to make it weather and worry-proof.

As done with the Nexon EV Prime, Tata Motors is extending a free of cost feature update pack to current Tigor.ev owners through a software update. Customers can get their vehicles upgraded with multi-mode regeneration, iTPMS and tyre puncture repair kit.



Apollo Tyres' Chennai plant conferred with Deming Prize



APOLLO Tyres' Chennai plant, amongst the largest manufacturing facilities in Asia, was conferred with the coveted Deming Prize for Total Quality Management (TQM). Mr C Thomas Mathew, Unit Head, Chennai Plant, Apollo Tyres Ltd, received the award from the Deming Prize Committee at an event held in Tokyo, Japan recently

The Deming Prize, considered to be a gold standard of quality, was bestowed upon Apollo Tyres' Chennai Plant for achieving outstanding performance by practicing Total Quality Management (TQM), utilising statistical concepts and methodologies based on the company's excellent business philosophy and leadership.



C Thomas Mathew, Unit Head, Chennai Plant, Apollo Tyres Ltd received the award from the Deming Prize Committee in Tokyo, Japan

Highly automated and equipped with advanced manufacturing practices, Apollo Tyres' Chennai Plant is servicing multiple Indian and global OEMs. The facility is built over 128 acres and has the capacity to produce around 850 metric tonnes of tyres per day. This plant has seen an investment to the tune of INR 5000 crore till date and produces high-end radial tyres for passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

Rane Group Chairman L Ganesh receives Deming Award

RANE Group's Chairman, Mr L Ganesh was conferred with the prestigious Deming Award for his outstanding contribution in dissemination and promotion (Overseas) of Total Quality Management (TQM) at an event held in Japan recently. One of the longest-running and highest recognitions globally, Mr. Ganesh is the third Indian and fifth globally to be bestowed with this award for his contributions.

Commenting on it, Mr L Ganesh said, "Rane Group embarked on the TQM journey in the year 2000 under the leadership of Mr. L. Lakshman who was then the Chairman. Commencing from 2003, five of our Rane Companies won the Deming Prize and three of our Group companies went on to win Deming grand prize. It has been a phenomenal journey and I consider myself fortunate to have been part of the same. The benefits to the Rane Group of companies have been significant. We have also tried to disseminate TQM practices to our suppliers and shared this knowledge through many forums and to other Corporates in India. I dedicate this award to all our past and current employees."



L Ganesh, Chairman of Rane Group

Kia delivers 200 EV6s across India

ACHIEVING a new milestone, one of the fastest growing vehicle manufacturer Kia India delivered 200 units of its EV6 model to customers across the country. This number is already twice the initially planned 100 units for the entire year. Now, the company is planning to further increase the total allocation of EV6 in 2022 and complete most of the pending deliveries within this year.

The EV6 is the first electric vehicle by Kia in the country and was launched in June 2022, however, the deliveries to customers began in October. The EV6 received an overwhelming response from Indian customers with 355 bookings received even before its launch and these booking numbers have grown since then. Staying true to its commitment of customer centricity, Kia India will be delivering additional units to customers in the upcoming days.

Mr Myung-sik Sohn, Chief Sales Officer, Kia India, said "The EV6 is considered to be amongst the most sophisticated products by Kia ever and is a demonstration of our technological prowess and capabilities. At the launch of EV6, amid the very positive response received, we had promised our customers to bring in more units of the model, over and above the initially allotted 100 units for 2022. Going forward, our focus will be on completing the deliveries of all the existing and new bookings at the earliest. The EV6 made electric mobility a fun and joyful experience for our customers, and I am confident that the vehicle will be a common sight on Indian roads in the upcoming days."

The EV6 is built on Kia's dedicated EV platform, the Electric-Global Modular Platform (E-GMP) and marks the beginning of the company's journey into the EV space in the country. EV6 offers a range of up to 708 km on a full charge (ARAI certified), thereby keeping range anxiety at bay. The company is committed to offering sustainable mobility solutions and is working towards developing charging infrastructure in the country to provide a hassle-free ownership experience for its customers. As part of its EV roadmap, it will launch its India-centric EV by 2025 in the country.



GLOBAL EYE



TVS Motor opens showroom in Singapore

EXPANDING its global footprint, two-wheeler manufacturer TVS Motor Company inaugurated its first state-of-the-art TVS Experience Centre in Singapore recently. This expansion is in line with the company's global expansion plans. The new TVS Experience Centre will offer a range of the company's premium motorcycles including the flagship model, Apache RR310 for racing enthusiasts, and the Apache RTR range for the performance seekers.

The company will introduce diverse products offerings, catering to both personal commuting as well as the delivery premium segment in Singapore. This centre will additionally have vehicle servicing facility, spare parts, and the full range of merchandise to choose from.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr Vimal Sumbly, Head Business-Premium at TVS Motor Company, said, "The Apache series have always been at the forefront of technology and innovation since its launch in 2005 and continue to set a benchmark in the performance segment. Our expansion into Singapore, with the launch of the TVS Apache series, is instrumental in our premiumisation story and we are confident of widening our community of Apache owners in the country."

Mr J Thangarajan, President Director-PT TVS Motor Company, said, "We are delighted to expand our presence in the ASEAN region, with our new TVS Experience Centre in Singapore with Motorsport Pte Ltd. This state-of-the-art experience centre inaugurated here in Singapore will further consolidate our presence in the region."



MAHLE becomes key supplier of e-compressors

ESTABLISHING itself as a major supplier of e-mobility components, MAHLE has secured numerous series orders for electric A/C compressors in the passenger car and commercial vehicle sectors. The company has total order worth approximately Euro 1.4 billion.

MAHLE introduced the most powerful e-compressor currently available on the market with a peak power of 18 kW. E-compressors are the heart of thermal management in electric vehicles. The key component is important for the temperature control of the e-drive and thus crucial for the service life, charging speed and cruising range of the battery. In addition, it ensures pleasant passenger comfort.

Commenting on it, Mr Arnd Franz, Chairman of the Management Board and CEO of the MAHLE Group, said, "MAHLE will continue to expand its role as a complete system supplier for air conditioning in electric vehicles."

With its electric A/C compressor, MAHLE is a pioneer in high-voltage technology, i.e. voltage levels above 400 volts, and large compressor displacements. These characteristics enable, for example, ultra-fast charging, which is so important for modern EVs. The company currently offers its high-voltage compressor in voltage ranges up to 900 volts and displacements up to 57 ccm³. Its compact design means that it can be used in all vehicle classes, from passenger cars to heavy-duty commercial vehicles. The extremely small installation space requirements are made possible by the patented refrigerant cooling of the compressor motor and electronics. The noise-optimized high-voltage compressor from MAHLE effectively causes slightest vibrations. This results in very smooth running and best acoustics.

In addition to e-compressors for e-mobility, MAHLE also develops and produces electric actuators, auxiliary components, engine accessories, auxiliary aggregates, the electronics and software, and the entire thermal management system. E-mobility and thermal management are among the technology group's strategic fields.

Between 2022 and 2026, more than 20 electrified vehicle platforms from leading passenger car and CV manufacturers will be launched on the market that rely on MAHLE technology and products. The supplier is thus fully on course for transformation. It already generates over 60 percent of its sales independently of the passenger car combustion engine. This should increase to 75 percent by 2030, the company informed.



Mr Arnd Franz,
Chairman of the Management Board and CEO
of the MAHLE Group,

SPREADING WINGS



Big Boy Toyz expands network, opens showroom in Ahmedabad

EXPANDING its network in tier 2 cities in India, leading pre-owned luxury car dealer Big Boy Toyz, opened a new showroom in Ahmedabad, Gujarat recently. BBT has revolutionised the pre-owned luxury car market in India and continues to do so by now entering the tier 2 cities of India, starting with the Gujarat.

Big Boy Toyz' 4th studio is a momentous hallmark of 8000 sq. ft., standing on the marvellous land of legends AKA, Ahmedabad, Gujarat at Cama Motors. The key highlight of the studio will be to cater to sales, service and spare parts making it a one-stop destination for all the luxury sports car lovers. While starting with an employee strength of 20 people, the brand is maximizing its reach nationwide.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mr Jatin Ahuja, Founder & CEO, of Big Boy Toyz said, "We as a brand, ensure Big Boy Toyz continues to leave a remarkable mark in the automobile industry with its expansion plans and meet the consumer demands. Over the years we have witnessed growing demands from buyers across the country, especially the tier II cities. Hence to meet the growing demands and expand our reach, we made our next stop at Ahmedabad and look forward to growing across cities."



Maruti Suzuki inaugurates 3,500th car sales outlet

STRENGTHENING its reach across the country, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd inaugurated its 3,500th new car sales outlet in Hyderabad recently. Present across 2,250 cities, the company crossed a landmark milestone and became the only car company to achieve such a wide network across India.

Mr. Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India and Mr. Nobutaka Suzuki, Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India, were present at the inauguration of the 3,500th sales outlet in Hyderabad.

Driven by the constant endeavour to be closer to customers to offer a delightful car ownership experience, Maruti Suzuki added 237 sales outlets in FY 2021-22. Notably, the network expansion continues to see a big spurt with the addition of 170 outlets between April to October of the current fiscal year 2022-23.



Ather Energy inaugurates second facility in Tamil Nadu

REITERATING its commitment towards quality and reliability, Ather Energy, India's leading EV scooter brand, inaugurated its second manufacturing facility in Hosur, Tamil Nadu recently. The facility spread across 300,000 sq. ft will help the brand expand its production capacity to 4,20,000 units per annum, further enabling the company to fulfill the increasing demand for its flagship e-scooters – the Ather 450X and 450 Plus.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Mr Swapnil Jain, Co-Founder & CTO, Ather Energy, said, "Rapid scale up is susceptible to quality issues and delivering safe and reliable products to our customers is our biggest priority while creating a vision for the plant. With deep investments and innovation done on processes and machines, this plant will help us to further strengthen our leadership in delivering quality vehicles."

Ather's new manufacturing facility houses two units - one dedicated to battery production and the other for vehicle assembly. The battery unit will have five assembly lines and the vehicle assembly will have two assembly lines. The completely state-of-the-art, modern facility is in line with the governments 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and will further boost local manufacturing in the country. With a strong local ecosystem that has been developed, most of the supplier base for the company is in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Karnataka, making Hosur an ideal location for the factory.

"The new facility has been enabled with Industry 4.0 bringing together data from testing and simulation, process (Industry 4.0), field (connected vehicle) to deliver electric scooters with world class quality. With a strong focus on manufacturing excellence, we have improved our take time by 10X and work content by 4X. Towards our commitment to vehicle safety, we have class leading testing standards for our scooters on the vehicle as well as on the software side. Currently each scooter goes through more than 1500 stringent tests to ensure its reliability and safety," Mr Swapnil added.

Ather Energy plans to strengthen its retail operations by expanding to new markets. The company plans to expand to around 150 experience centres in 100 cities by March 2023. It has also invested heavily in the charging infrastructure to provide a holistic experience to the rider community. Recently the company achieved the milestone of installing 500 fast-charging stations across the country and plans to install 1400 Ather Grids by the end of FY23.



Tata Motors bags order for 1000 buses in Haryana

TATA Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, has bagged an order for 1000 buses from Haryana Roadways recently. The company will supply the 52-seater fully built BS6 diesel buses in a phased manner, as per the contract.

The buses offer superior passenger comfort, high fuel efficiency, reliability and low total cost of ownership. The e-bidding process was carried out through the Government tender process. Commenting on it, Mr Navdeep Singh Virk, IPS, Principal Secretary to Government, Transport Department, Haryana, said, "The modern and economical BS6 buses will provide benefits to all stakeholders alike, and offer unmatched comfort to the passengers. The induction of the new buses will help in making inter-state public transport even more efficient, allowing smooth commute across the state of Haryana."

Mr Rohit Srivastava, Vice President, Product Line – Buses, Tata Motors, said, "The delivery of these buses will further fortify our partnership with State Government of Haryana and help in offering modern public transport to the citizens of the state. We are committed towards modernising public transportation in India and offer best-in-class comfort and efficiency with our buses."

Tata Motors commercial vehicles are designed and engineered on the 'Power of 6' philosophy, which delivers unparalleled driveability, total cost of operations, comfort and convenience, and connectivity. Tata Motors also offers its flagship initiative, Sampurna Seva, a bouquet of service offerings including repair time assurance, breakdown assistance, insurance and accidental repair time, extended warranty, and other add-on services for vehicle maintenance and upkeep.



Maruti Suzuki introduces Alto K10 S-CNG variant

STRENGTHENING its commitment towards offering green vehicles, Maruti Suzuki launched the all-new Alto K10 S-CNG variant recently. The new S-CNG variant will further expand the reach of the popular hatchback across the country. The car has been priced at INR 5.94 lakh (ex-showroom).

The all-new Alto K10's S-CNG is powered by a Next-Gen K-Series 1.0L Dual Jet, Dual VVT engine, offering unmatched fuel efficiency and refinement. The car's powertrain with dual-interdependent ECUs, develops a peak power output of 41.7kW(56.69PS++)@5300RPM and max torque of 82.1Nm@3400RPM in CNG Mode. Available with a 5-speed manual gearbox, it delivers an incredible fuel-efficiency of 33.85 km/kg.

Introducing the all-new Alto K10 S-CNG, Mr Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, said, "The Alto brand has been a symbol of how Maruti Suzuki has evolved in response to customers' shifting desires. The Alto continued to be the best-selling vehicle in the country for 16 consecutive years, and we are convinced that the launch of the S-CNG model will further strengthen its appeal, thanks to its stellar fuel-efficiency."

He further added, "I am delighted to share that we have sold more than one-million S-CNG vehicles so far, which has helped save over one million tonnes of CO2 emissions. The addition of S-CNG to the popular Alto K10 will allow further widespread adoption of our environment-friendly technology. Our S-CNG range is specially designed, developed, and manufactured at our facilities to suit Indian driving conditions."

The suspension setup of the Alto K10 S-CNG has been calibrated to the updated powertrain to enhance ride quality, comfort, and safety. Maruti Suzuki's Research & Development facility conducts rigorous testing of its factory-fitted S-CNG cars to deliver unmatched safety, performance, durability, and fuel-efficiency.

Notably, Maruti Suzuki offers the country's largest selection of CNG vehicles. Currently, the brand offers a total of 13 S-CNG models including Alto, Alto K10, S-Presso, WagonR, Eeco, Celerio, Swift, Dzire, Ertiga, Baleno, XL6, Super Carry and Tour S.



Matter unveils its first geared electric motorbike

TAKING a massive leap forward, technology start-up Matter unveiled its first geared electric motorbike at an event held in the Capital recently. The electric motorbike has been perfected for trails and roadways and has been designed and engineered in-house with a consumer-centric product development approach focused on safety, security, reliability, and performance. The vehicle will be manufactured from the company's facility in Ahmedabad and will be available across major cities in India.

Founder and Group CEO, Mr Mohal Lalbhai, said, "With many firsts, I am proud to say that this motorbike will be leading us into the future that we all have dreamt about. Our vision has motivated us to challenge the status quo, remain persistent and resilient towards the goal, and walk a difficult path with agility. Today we accelerate India's journey to electrification as India rides on motorbikes."

The motorbike is powered by an integrated, high-energy density, 5 kWh Power Pack, the matterEnergy 1.0. The powerpack is an integrated unit that houses the battery pack, the Battery Management System (BMS), the Drive Train Unit (DTU), power conversion modules and other protection systems. To enable a high-quality, smooth, and an extremely responsive ride, Matter has developed matterDrive 1.0, a revolutionary propulsion system that combines an electric motor with the Matter Hypershift manual gearbox, which provides complete control of the power delivery to the rider.

The motorbike supports both standard and fast charging through a common connector. The vehicle is equipped with a standard on-board 1kW Intelligent Charger, matterCharge 1.0, which offers the flexibility and convenience of charging the vehicle at any 5A, 3-pin plug point. The on-board charger can charge the vehicle in less than 5 hours and has an over charge protection as well.

The motorbike is designed to inspire emotion with bi-functional LED projector headlamp, split LED tail lamps, body-integrated front turn signals, a translucent shroud and an exposed spinner attached to the motor. The vehicle also packs convenient utility elements such as a storage space with built-in lights and a smart mobile charging port.



MG Motor ranked highest in sales satisfaction study

IN the era of digital information search, vehicle shoppers in India are still sensitive to product discovery at showrooms, according to the JD Power 2022 India Sales Satisfaction Index Study (SSI) report that was released at an event held in the Capital recently. MG Motor has been ranked highest in India Sales Satisfaction for the second consecutive year.

According to the study, product discovery at a showroom remains an important driver of customer experience with more than 73 pc of vehicle shoppers in India knowing the exact model to be purchased and 88 pc researching online. JD Power has re-launched the India Sales Satisfaction Index Study in partnership with NielsenIQ.

The study finds that customers with a seamless product discovery engagement have an increase of 28 index points (on a 1,000-point scale) over those who do not (872 vs. 844, respectively). However, more than one-third (36 pc) of customers in India mention that the product discovery engagement was not seamless.

Mr Sandeep Pande, lead of the automotive practice India at NielsenIQ, said, "Even in an era of instant information availability, the importance of sales consultant-led product discovery continues to drive purchase experience. With customers returning to the showrooms for their purchase, a seamless product discovery will aid satisfaction and will drive dealer referrals."

The study also revealed that commercial engagement issues affect overall satisfaction with nearly one-third (27 pc) of customers mention that they faced one or more issues during their commercial engagement with the dealers. Also the studied finds that millennials¹ and Gen Z customers remain hard to please. Also, customers remain sensitive towards key explanations on the day of delivery and a bit beyond. The customers who are provided all explanations, a special ceremony and a follow-up call have an average score of 871. When a dealer fails to complete one of these steps, satisfaction declines to 835.

MG has been ranked highest for a second consecutive year, with a score of 881 while Toyota with score of 878 ranks second. Hyundai with a score of 872 has been ranked third.

The 2022 India Sales Satisfaction Study (SSI) is based on responses from 6,618 new vehicle owners who purchased their vehicle from January through December 2021. The study was fielded from June through September 2022.

The study measures new-vehicle owners' satisfaction with sales process by examining their satisfaction on six factors (listed in order of importance); delivery process (20pc), dealer facility (18pc), paperwork completion (17pc), working out the deal (15pc), sales consultant (15pc), brand website (14pc). The study only examines the after-sale satisfaction in the mass market segment.





(1958-2022)

Toyota's Vikram Kirloskar passes away

TOYOTA Kirloskar Motor's Vice-Chairman, Mr Vikram S Kirloskar passed away on November 29 in Bengaluru at the age of 64, after he suffered from a massive cardiac arrest. Mr Kirloskar is survived by his wife Ms Geetanjali and daughter Ms Manasi Neville Tata.

Sharing his condolences, Mr Vinod Aggarwal, President, SIAM and MD & CEO, VECV, said "The entire auto industry is shocked and deeply saddened at the tragic demise of Mr Vikram Kirloskar. He has led SIAM as President from 2013 to 2015 and has been Chairing the SIAM Passenger Vehicle CEOs Council. He was widely respected and admired at all levels and contributed immensely to the growth of the Indian auto industry and emphasized on the need for making India a robust auto manufacturing hub. He has always been passionate for all round development of the industry and aligning them with the national goals for the good of the economy, environmental sustainability and the society as a whole."

A fourth-generation member of the Kirloskar Group, which was founded in 1888, Mr Kirloskar had played a vital role in bringing Japan's Toyota Motor to India and in the success of the auto manufacturer in this market since 1997. Toyota's manufacturing plant at Bidadi near Bengaluru is one of the largest automotive facilities in India.

In a statement, Toyota said, "We are extremely saddened to inform the untimely demise of Mr Vikram S Kirloskar. At this time of grief, we request everyone to pray that his soul rests in peace. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends."

A graduate in mechanical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr Kirloskar was a staunch advocate of green mobility solutions. According to him, it was crucial to align technology with the energy mix and the infrastructure available to cut emissions in a world grappling with the fallout of climate change. He will be remembered for his contribution to the auto industry and to the Indian society at large.

Apollo Tyres partners Tyromer for supply of recycled rubber



TAKING forward its commitment to sustainability, Apollo Tyres has partnered with Tyromer Inc, a leader in non-chemical devulcanisation of end-of-life tyres. Under the partnership, Tyromer will supply recycled rubber material, produced using its environmentally sustainable processes, to Apollo Tyres.

Announcing the partnership, Mr P K Mohamed, Chief Advisor, R&D, Apollo Tyres Ltd, said, "This partnership with Tyromer is a step towards achieving our sustainability goals, and it also enables us to honour our Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Producing new tyres using the sustainable raw materials, is currently, the most efficient path to meet our circular economy goals."

Apollo Tyres and Tyromer share a deep commitment to sustainability and social responsibility. This partnership has validated tyre-derived polymer (TDP), produced by Tyromer's proprietary and patented technology, as the raw material for tyres.

Commenting on the partnership, Dr Sam Visaisouk, CEO, Tyromer Inc, said, "We are thankful to Apollo Tyres' team for its support of our vision of direct tyre-to-tyre recycling for achieving a tyre circular economy. In the face of climate crisis, not using rubber derived from end-of-life tyres is no longer an option."

It is to be noted that using a tonne of tyre-derived polymer (TDP) saves GHG emissions equivalent to four passenger vehicles driven for a year. Also, producing a tonne of TDP requires less than 2 MWh of energy, compared to over 20 MWh required for new material.

Kia India starts its pre-owned car business

KIA India, one of the fastest-growing carmakers in the country, commenced its Certified Pre-Owned Car Business 'Kia CPO' for customers recently. With exclusive Kia CPO outlets, the company intends to provide a new age experience to customers, in line with new car buying experience, that will allow them to sell, buy or exchange pre-owned cars, backed by hassle-free ownership transfers and customized finance options.

Starting certified pre-owned car business in just over three years since the beginning of sales operations in the country, makes Kia one of the fastest OEM to do so. Continuing with its efforts to offer industry-first products and services, the company will provide industry-best warranty coverage along with industry first and best maintenance programme on pre-owned cars. The cars sold through Kia CPO will get up to two years and 40,000 km of warranty coverage and four free periodic maintenances.

Mr Myung-sik Sohn, Chief Sales Officer, Kia India, said, "With Kia CPO, we want to rewrite the rules of the game for the pre-owned car market. Currently, Indian customers have limited access to certified and verified information when it comes to the pre-owned car segment and we intend to change this notion with our entry into the business. Our proactive approach of starting CPO business at such an early stage of our existence in the country will ensure that all systems and processes are in place even before the first lot of our products comes under the average replacement age."

Mr Sohn further said, "We've noticed that more than one-third customers of new Kia cars are replacement buyers, and we aim to facilitate them through our certified pre-owned car business. Customers can exchange any used car with new Kia cars and we are also offering a combined packaged deal for exchange customers, with secure and instant payment transfer option."

Kia has aggressive plans to ramp up the CPO business in the country with 30 plus outlets by the end of 2022. It has already established 15 outlets in 14 cities – Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Cochin, Bhubaneshwar, Calicut, Amritsar, Nasik, Baroda, Kannur and Malappuram

Through Kia CPO, Kia India aims to offer exemplary services to customers by following a fair, transparent, and quick digital evaluation process to provide right price for their cars. The company has also introduced Industry best Digital Evaluation Mobile Application with real time data integration and scientific pricing suggestion.



Volvo Car starts delivery of XC40 Recharge e-SUV

VOLVO Car India commenced the delivery of its full-electric SUV XC40 Recharge in the country as the first car was delivered in Gujarat by Mr Jyoti Malhotra, Managing Director, Volvo Car India. The XC40 Recharge is India's first locally assembled luxury electric SUV and is assembled at the company's facility based in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Jyoti Malhotra said, "It is indeed a milestone for all of us at Volvo to have the first of the India assembled pure electric XC40 Recharge luxury SUV delivered. This delivery is historic as this not only marks the beginning of our journey towards becoming an all-electric car company by 2030 but also will be the first car which is being delivered under our ambitious online direct sales model. The response to the XC40 Recharge has been really encouraging with 150 car orders received online within 2 hours of opening bookings. I am delighted to announce that we already have close to 500 advance orders with us, and we will be delivering around 100 of them before the year-end. Rest of the customers will get their cars next year."

The XC40 Recharge was launched on July 26th this year at INR 55.90 lakh (ex-showroom) with a hassle-free ownership package. Volvo's first electric SUV garnered an overwhelming response from luxury car buyers in India, with the business registering online bookings of 150 cars within few hours of starting bookings on July 27th. The e-SUV has a phenomenal range of upto 418 kilometres on a single charge as per WLTP. This feature has increased consumer confidence and addressed common misconceptions regarding EV range.





PEOPLE

Vishal Kapoor is new CEO of EESL

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) recently announced the appointment of former Joint Secretary at the Union Ministry of Power, Government of India, Mr Vishal Kapoor as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

As Joint Secretary, Mr Kapoor's role entailed leading various government interventions, schemes, and reforms in the Distribution sector. Furthermore, he was spearheading cyber security and IT initiatives in the power sector. He has played an instrumental role in formulating the revamped distribution sector scheme for operational and financial turnaround of distribution utilities.

In his previous roles with the Indian Railways, he has worked in various capacities in design, operations and maintenance of rolling stock of Indian Railways. Amongst his other accomplishments are the introduction of high-capacity freight cars in India and export of more than a dozen locomotives to Tanzania and Myanmar.



Mr. Vishal Kapoor



Mr. Stefano Sanchini

Stefano Sanchini is new MD of Bridgestone India

Bridgestone India, a global leader in tyres and sustainable mobility solutions, recently announced the appointment of Mr Stefano Sanchini as its new Managing Director from January 2023 onwards. Mr Parag Satpute, who is currently the MD, will be assuming a new global role in Bridgestone's Solutions Business and will be stationed at Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Mr Stefano Sanchini, moves from his current role as VP Region for Middle East & Africa and will take up the position of MD. Mr Stefano has been with Bridgestone since 2017 as Sales Director MEA and was appointed VP Region MEA in 2019.

On his move into a global role Mr Parag Satpute said "The last few years have been as rewarding as they have been challenging and I am pleased to see the fruit of our efforts. I am also excited and looking forward to contributing towards Bridgestone's ambitions as a global leader in mobility solutions."



NXP Semiconductors appoints Hitesh Garg as India head

NXP Semiconductors, a world leader in secure connectivity solutions for embedded applications, appointed Mr Hitesh Garg as the new India Country Manager. With over 25 years of experience, Mr Hitesh in his new role will be responsible to lead and strategically growing the India business across all 4 sites – Bangalore, Noida, Pune and Hyderabad.

With more than a decade of experience with NXP in various roles, Mr Hitesh will now focus on strategic growth, strengthening local teams, collaboration across sites, etc. He will continue to be the General Manager for Analog Mixed Signal IP (AMSIP). Prior to NXP, he had worked with Conexant Systems, Microchip, and state-owned Semiconductor Complex Limited in various technical and lead roles. In addition to Mr Hitesh's appointment, NXP has also announced a new India Country Council, that will support NXP India and help drive and support growth in the region. The Council will consist of leaders from cross-functional, cross-site teams in India, who will collaborate with Mr Hitesh to achieve NXP India's goals and objectives.



Mr. Hitesh Garg



Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan B

CEAT appoints new Chief Marketing Officer

Leading tyre manufacturer CEAT announced the appointment of Mr Lakshmi Narayanan B as the its new Chief Marketing Officer of the company. In this role, Mr Narayanan will spearhead the marketing initiatives of the company across all passenger vehicles, truck and bus in all markets and augment CEAT's position as an organization.

Mr Lakshmi Narayanan has a strong experience in sales and marketing spanning 18 years. In his last role as the Head – Marketing at Asian Paints, he led a diverse team and played a defining role in consistently building multi-category portfolio and making inroads into new market segments fuelling growth. His accomplishments include growing the business operations in the premium segment, launching and spearheading forays in retailing and services that create new and powerful consumer experiences, driving the turnaround of the tools business and building several successes in product leadership.

Commenting on it, Mr Arnab Banerjee, Chief Operating Officer at CEAT Tyres, said, "Mr Lakshmi Narayanan is a highly experienced professional with a strong track record of building brands. His experience in the consumer marketing space as well as deep insights into the consumer psyche will play a pivotal role in shaping our marketing strategy and reinforce our position as a provider of safe and smart mobility."



TVS Eurogrip showcases premium range of tyres at CII Autoserve 2022

TVS Srichakra, one of India's leading manufacturers of two and three-wheeler and off-highway tyres, showcased its premium range of tyres at the CII Autoserve Expo held in Chennai recently. The tyre major partnered as Associate Sponsor in the tenth edition of the exhibition.

TVS Eurogrip displayed a select range of premium products including their flagship radials, new motorcycle tubeless patterns and new offerings in the scooter segment as well as two prominent off-highway tyres. At the event, the company presented the brand's digitalization efforts in the aftermarket from both the sales channel and marketing perspectives.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr P Madhavan, EVP, Sales and Marketing, TVS Eurogrip, said, "As we progress in our journey of building market leadership, it gives us pleasure to be associated with the 10th edition of Autoserve as an Associate Sponsor. For us it is a great platform to connect with current as well as potential business partners and helps us gain a richer understanding on latest trends and innovations in the automotive space."

Autoserve 2022 was held from November 11-13 at the Chennai Trade Centre. Organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Autoserve is one of India's largest focused exhibitions on automotive care, maintenance, service, parts and garage equipment. This year, the expo and conference was held on the theme, 'Technological Advancements: Spearheading Growth.'



TVS Eurogrip launches premium 2W tyres at EICMA 2022



TVS Eurogrip, one of the fastest growing global brands in the powered two-wheeler tyres segment, launched two new world-class products - Roadhound, a sport touring and Climber XC, an off-road specialty tyres at the 2022 EICMA Motor Show in Milan, Italy recently.

The newly launched Roadhound, is a sport touring tyre with dual compound technology on radial rear sizes. It features excellent grip on both dry and wet surfaces, and improves handling and comfort on both naked, sport and touring motorcycles. Tyre profile, tread pattern and structure have been engineered to provide high mileage and performance consistency. The tyres will be available from early 2023 with a size range covering both radial and x-ply applications.

Climber XC is a tyre for motocross, enduro and cross-country applications, designated for both leisure, training and competition. It has been developed and fine-tuned with expert inputs from motocross and enduro racing teams to provide excellent traction and lateral support on multiple surfaces. Extended tyre service life is ensured by a knobby layout and geometry boosting wear and tear resistance, coupled with symmetrical shape allowing for wheel reversibility.

Mahindra opens farm machinery plant in Madhya Pradesh

MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA Farm Equipment Sector (FES), a part of the Mahindra Group, recently inaugurated its first dedicated farm machinery plant (non-tractor) in Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh. The new plant was inaugurated by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, Mr Narendra Singh Tomar at an event attended by key state officials, dignitaries and senior leaders from Mahindra & Mahindra.

Mahindra's new farm machinery plant is strategically situated in the industrial city of Pithampur with access to a diverse supplier base, enabling the company to manufacture durable, high-quality, affordable and accessible 'Made in India, for India' farm machinery, marketed in both the Mahindra & Swaraj brands. The plant will also manufacture products for export to global markets in Asia, Africa, Europe and America.

With its well-planned lay-out, the new plant is capable of rolling-out a series of new products designed at Mahindra's global technology Centres of Excellence in Finland, Japan and Turkey. The new plant is spread over 23 acres and has a capacity to manufacture 1,200 combine harvesters and 3,300 rice transplanters per year. The Pithampur plant, along with its dedicated supplier park, is eventually expected to provide employment to 1,100 persons.

Speaking at the inaugural event, Mr Narendra Singh Tomar said, "Mahindra has one of the most notable investments in the state providing mass direct and indirect employment in the region. The Group is further enhancing its investment with the launch of its all-new greenfield facility to manufacture 'Made in India' farm machinery in Pithampur. This a milestone moment not just for the Mahindra group, but also for the country and our farmers."

Mr Hemant Sikka, President, Farm Equipment Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra, said, "Mahindra has been the leader in the tractorisation of India for several decades and is now determined to be a leader in mechanisation of farming. We aim to grow our farm machinery business by 10x in 5 years and the new farm machinery plant in Pithampur is a key pillar in the execution of this strategy."



Mahindra



Toyota forays into CNG segment

Introduces E-CNG tech for new Glanza and Urban Cruiser Hyryder

TOYOTA Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced its foray into the CNG segment with the introduction of new E-CNG variants of new Glanza and Urban Cruiser Hyryder model line-up recently. The new Glanza with E-CNG technology is competitively priced at INR 8.43 lakh and INR 9.46 lakh for grades G & S respectively. The prices for E-CNG trims of Urban Cruiser Hyryder will be announced shortly.

The new Glanza, which was launched earlier this year, will now be available with a CNG variant in the S & G grades, along with a Manual Transmission powertrain. The first of its kind in the segment, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder too will now be available with a factory fitted CNG kit in both S & G grades. Equipped with a Manual Transmission (MT) powertrain in both the grades, the CNG variant will be in addition to the self-charging strong hybrid electric as well as the neo drive variants, which are already available in the market and have received very encouraging response from customers.

The introduction of CNG grades in both the Toyota models will further enable the company to enhance its range of sustainable vehicle technology offerings, as well as offer more eco-friendly & economical options for customers to choose from. Thus, catering to a varied range of mobility needs of Indian consumers.

Sharing his thoughts on the occasion, Mr Atul Sood, Associate Vice President, Sales, and Strategic Marketing, TKM, said, "Being a customer centric company, TKM believes in placing customer's interest at the forefront. Our goal at Toyota has always been to serve the markets needs with a clear focus on customers' aspirations, and by providing the most viable products and services to our customers. With the same vision in mind, we are delighted to announce our foray in the CNG segment, driving in CNG variants for two of our much sought- after offerings, the Glanza and the Urban Cruiser Hyryder."



TOYOTA



RevFin plans to set footprint in 50 cities

IN a bid to promote electric mobility and environmental sustainability nationwide through EV financing, digital lending platform RevFin Revfin aims to reach out to new states and have footprints in 50 cities with 1000 dealers and add 10000 new customers by March 2023. Targeting this, the company rolled out its ambitious #RevFinBharatYatra campaign recently.



As part of the campaign, the company reaffirm's its leadership position in existing market and establish the same in new markets. By March 2023, Revfin is targeting cities like Allahabad, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Agra, Etawah, Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Puri, Rourkela, Baleswar, Jaipur, Seeker, Alwar, Udaipur etc. It will team up with its preferred OEM partners and dealers like Yatri, Mayuri, Saarthi, Citylife, SAR, Kinetic, Baxy and Goenka to expedite the adoption of EVs and create a robust infrastructure for clean mobility in the country and will continue to forge new partnerships with OEMs and dealers across different vehicle types.

Yulu secures Rs 73 crore finance from US based IDFC

SHARED electric mobility service provider Yulu received a loan confirmation of INR 73 crore from the U.S International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the United States government's Development Financial Institution (DFI), focused on advancing economic growth in emerging markets across the world.

Mr Anuj Tewari, Chief Financial Officer, Yulu (Bikes Pvt Ltd) said, "As the market leader in electric mobility, Yulu has served first & last mile mobility needs of millions of users. Yulu fulfills six of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and has successfully built a clean mobility business in India based on positive unit economics. This financing from a forward-looking institution as the DFC speaks about their belief in Yulu's vision and the ability to execute at scale, to not just create a green mobility alternative but also to create livelihoods through direct and indirect employment opportunities."



Yulu has enabled tens of thousands of delivery executives to join the workforce and increase their net earnings by providing an efficient, sustainable, and affordable mobility solution. 75 million plus green deliveries have been made using Yulu EVs till date, and the company has helped save 15000 metric tons of CO2 emissions. The company has also created a dedicated social and development program for delivery executives called "Safe Rider," in conjunction with city and traffic authorities

Uno Minda to sign JV with German based Buehler Motor

UNO MINDA, a tier-1 supplier of proprietary automotive solutions and systems to OEMs, announced its Board's decision to enter into a joint venture agreement with German based Buehler Motor GmbH to enhance its EV offerings. The JV aims to develop, manufacture and market traction motors in India and other SAARC nations.

The JV will offer traction motors for battery driven electrified two-wheelers and three-wheelers. Uno Minda will hold 50.1 pc stake in the JV while the remaining stake will be held by Buehler.

Buehler has a long history of 165 years and is a leading global supplier of customized mechatronic drive solutions. The company, currently headquartered in Nuremberg, Germany, has manufacturing facilities in Germany, Czech Republic, USA, Mexico and China. The company's expertise is much beyond DC and BLDC motors, gear motors and pumps. It specializes in automotive industry, aviation and many other industrial applications.

Over the last few years, Uno Minda have built one of the most formidable EVs specific product portfolio in the industry for two-wheeler and three-wheelers. Addition of traction motors will further complement the company's impressive existing EV specific product portfolio specially the motor controller.

The joint venture plans to incur capital expenditure of INR 110 crore including sustaining capex over a period of next six years, the investment will be scheduled to meet the demand. The company will be investing INR 17 crore as equity investment in JV to part finance the above capital expenditure, while remaining will be funded through a mix of debt and internal accruals of the joint venture entity.

Commenting on it, Mr Nirmal K Minda, CMD, Uno Minda Group, said, "Uno Minda has been in continuous pursuit for new and advance technologies facilitating smarter, cleaner and safer transportation. We are extremely delighted to partner with Buehler to enhance our electric vehicle offerings. This partnership will help us combine our engineering expertise and technologies to accelerate localisation and manufacturing of traction motors for Indian automotive market."

Mr Mark Furtwängler, CEO of Buehler Motor, said, "We are delighted to partner with Uno Minda to foray in one of the largest automotive markets - India. Our combined strengths – Uno Minda's expertise in value-focused engineering, manufacturing process and customer connects and Buehler Motor's technical expertise, global experience in motors and access to future technology – are a potent recipe for success in growing electric vehicle markets in India."



Okaya EV showcases high-speed e-scooters at IIT Fair



OKAYA Electric Vehicles (Okaya EV) showcased its brand-new range of high speed electric scooters at the India International Trade Fair held at Pragati Maidan in the Capital recently.

A large number of customers and clients thronged at 'Okaya EV' pavilion with great interest at the Fair.

With an aim to provide a platform to showcase state-of-the-art electric scooters, besides facilitating dealer interest and dealership queries, the expo in a nutshell has turned out as a major draw for Okaya EV.

Already having established a domineering position in electric vehicles segment, Okaya Electric Vehicles has come out with the newest in the long line-up of high-speed electric two-wheelers which include the phenomenal Faast F4 which offers 140-160 km range per charge, the Faast F2B and Faast F2T variants, starting at just INR 84,999 and other comfort speed series e-scooters. Also on display were the benchmark setting Okaya EV Charging stations, a domain Okaya is already an established market leader with over 40 pc market share

Mr Anshul Gupta, Managing Director, Okaya Electric Vehicles, said, "India International Trade Fair serves as an important platform for us to reach out to our corporate and individual clients and showcase our latest offerings. A mega event like this also helps the company in its mission of strengthening its dealers' network."

With future ambitions of developing vehicles for every segment of the market including business and delivery solutions in addition to its existing line-up of charging infrastructure, battery, and EVs, Okaya EV is positioned to become the backbone of India's EV dream providing end-to-end solutions in this sphere. While creating the much-required fast charging infrastructure for charging e-scooters, the company has already emerged as a key player in the electric vehicles segment.

Castrol and KMS collaborate to strengthen aftermarket business

LEADING lubricant company Castrol India Ltd (CIL) has collaborated with Ki Mobility Solutions Pvt Ltd. (KMS), a leading Indian player in independent automobile aftermarket business, to leverage each other's strengths in aftermarket business. Both the companies plan to expand the automotive aftermarket business through KMS's digitally integrated multi-brand service platform for two and four-wheelers 'myTVS'.

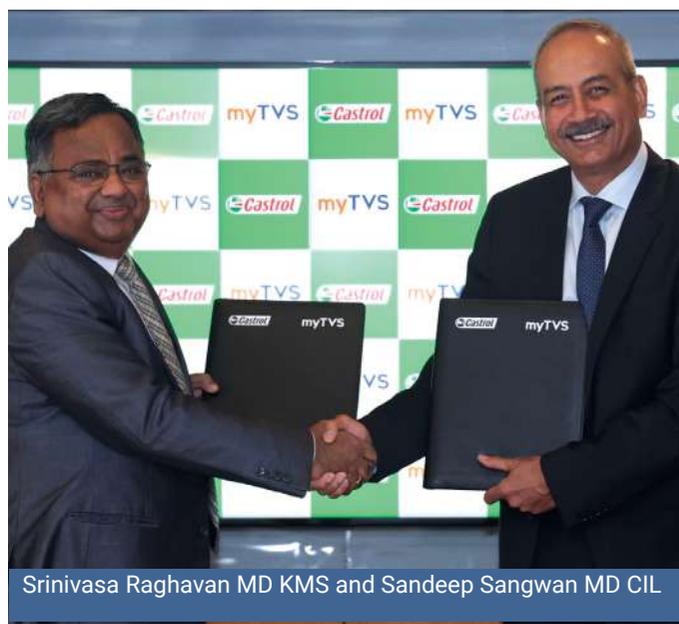
As part of the collaboration, Castrol India will acquire a 7.09 pc stake in KMS with a planned investment of upto INR 487.5 crore, marking its largest all-cash deal till date. With this strategic investment, lubricant company aims to expand its presence in service and maintenance for both internal combustion engine (ICE) and electric vehicles (EV) and leverage myTVS' digital and operational capabilities. This alliance will also offer potential for Castrol and KMS to collaborate and partner in select markets beyond India.

Vehicle owners will benefit from this strategic alliance through easy access to differentiated, digitally enabled service and maintenance offered by the myTVS platform whose reach includes three million customers across 1,000 garages in India. The 'myTVS' online-to-offline digital platform already offers quality, standardized and cost-effective services and parts to B2B and B2C customers through its owned outlets, franchise network, at home services and road-side assistance.

CIL's existing presence in service and maintenance includes its rapidly expanding network of 220 Castrol auto service passenger car workshops in 110 cities across India and 42 Castrol express oil change outlets that offer two-wheeler consumers swift and reliable oil change.

Commenting on it, Mr Sandeep Sangwan, MD, Castrol India Ltd, said, "KMS has a leading automotive digital platform, myTVS which is disrupting the Indian aftermarket. Castrol's established brand equity and nation-wide footprint in India, combined with myTVS' digital strength will bring structure to the currently fragmented automotive service sector and also accelerate business growth for KMS. In addition, Castrol will explore business and technology collaborations with KMS to enable readiness for transition to electric mobility. Indian consumers will reap the dual benefits of trusted brands and reliable services."

Mr G. Srinivasa Raghavan, MD, ki Mobility Solutions, said, "This investment by Castrol India is testimony to the success of our unique online-to-offline business model. Our partnership with Castrol will significantly enhance the ownership experience for customers across the lifecycle of their vehicles. Besides, the coming together of two leading players will offer numerous synergy options like scaling-up of business offerings to electric vehicles, and the potential to expand our footprint beyond India."



Srinivasa Raghavan MD KMS and Sandeep Sangwan MD CIL

Rider Mania 2022 held in Goa

CEAT sponsors annual motorcycle festival

CEAT Ltd, India's leading tyre manufacturer, was the exclusive tyre sponsor for Rider Mania 2022 that was organized in Goa recently. The annual motorcycle festival, that is organised by Royal Enfield, was held after a few years due to the impact of Covid-19 and saw a huge turnout this year.

Riders and non-riders, along with people from all walks of life came together at Rider Mania to spend a weekend filled with motorcycling events, music performances, art and biking gear exhibits, get-togethers in an eclectic ambience.

At Rider Mania 2022, CEAT also sponsored CEAT Adventure Trail and CEAT Dirt Track events. Both the events witnessed good participation from enthusiastic riders. These tracks offered a platform for the riders to learn different riding skills and showcase their skills and abilities to ride a bike on difficult terrain. The winners of the event received a tool kit from CEAT with a digital inflator, digital NSD gauge, CEAT branded valve caps, and a multipurpose torch.

Royal Enfield's newest flagship offering the Super Meteor 650 was unveiled at the event. As the exclusive Royal Enfield tyre partner for the Super Meteor 650, CEAT showcased its new Aramid based Bias Belted tyres for the Royal Enfield Bike. CEAT also organised 'Tread Your Way', a fun activity for the participants, wherein participants were asked to design the most suitable tread using clay and tools for various riding conditions.

Commenting on the event, Mr Lakshminarayanan B, Chief Marketing Officer, CEAT Tyres, said, "We are delighted to be the exclusive sponsors for Rider Mania 2022. It is a one-of-its-kind event for biking enthusiasts. The event gives a slice of differentiated challenges for the riders' abilities and helped them acquire knowledge and experience to tackle difficult terrains. We were overwhelmed by the huge level of participation in the event."

Bullmenn Riders Club (Coimbatore), Bangalore Malayali Club, Royal Riders (Mumbai), and Free Souls (Pune), along with other Royal Enfield biking clubs from around the country participated in the event. The first Rider Mania scheduled after the pandemic witnessed the participation of over 13000 Royal Enfield riders. CEAT is the tyre partner for many Royal Enfield bikes, which includes flagship model, Continental GT 650, Classic 350, Himalayan, Meteor 350, etc



Quiklyz plans to lease over 1000 electric 3Ws in 6 months

QUIKLYZ, the vehicle leasing and subscription business of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (Mahindra Finance/ MMFSL), signed MoUs with prominent last mile mobility players for leasing over 1000 electric three-wheelers (3W). The company plans to deliver these leased vehicles over the next six months across India thereby opening up newer opportunities in EV leasing.

The MOUs have been signed up with Mahindra Logistics Ltd, MoEving Urban Technologies Pvt Ltd., Creativity at Best Technologies Pvt. Ltd., Magenta EV Solutions Pvt Ltd. and, Terrago Logistics Pvt Ltd. The signing was done on the sidelines of the launch of Mahindra Electric's Zor Grand in Bengaluru recently. The three-wheeler electric vehicles will be used primarily for delivery and logistics purposes.

Mahindra
FINANCE



Mr Raul Rebello, COO, Mahindra Finance, said, "India's transition to EV has accelerated in the last few years which has given a major boost to the Indian EV financing ecosystem. With these recent partnerships our aim is to be early adopters of this disruptive technology, our way of contribution in India achieving its goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2070."

Tata Motors partners HDFC to finance EV dealers

IN a bid to increase EV adoption in the country, Tata Motors, India's leading automotive manufacturer has partnered with HDFC Bank to offer an electric vehicle dealer financing solution to its authorized passenger EV dealers. The MoU for this partnership was signed by Mr. Aasif Malbari, Chief Financial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd. and Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. and Mr. Arvind Kapil, Group Head -Retail Assets, HDFC Bank.

Under this scheme, the company will provide its dealers additional inventory funding over and above their ICE finance limit with attractive pricing linked to Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR). The repayment tenure of the finance will range from 60 to 75 days. Furthermore, the bank will also offer additional limit to cater to high demand phases, which will be available to dealers three times in a year.



Mr. Arvind Kapil
Group Head -Retail Assets,
HDFC Bank.

Mr. Aasif Malbari
Chief Financial Officer, of
Tata Passenger Electric
Mobility Ltd

Tata Motors' Tiago NRG gets new iCNG variant

MAKING a new addition to its iCNG cars, Tata Motors introduced Tiago NRG iCNG at an event held in Mumbai recently. Witnessing the phenomenal response for Tiago NRG in the last one year, the company extended the NRG portfolio by launching its iCNG variant.

Tiago NRG has established itself as a toughroader with its SUV inspired design and offroading capabilities. The iCNG variant is India's first toughroader CNG with a high ground clearance of 177 mm and retuned suspension. Available in four attractive colours – Foresta Green, Fire Red, Polar White, and Cloudy Grey, the Tiago NRG iCNG will come in two trim options and will be available across all Tata Motors authorised dealerships.

Commenting on NRG iCNG's distinctive design and capabilities, Mr Rajan Amba, Vice President, Sales, Marketing and Customer Care, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd., said, "In line with Tata Motors' 'New Forever' brand philosophy of continuously refreshing our portfolio, we are delighted to launch the iCNG avatar of the Tiago NRG. This newest addition to our range will offer our customers with the best of both worlds – a car that is the perfect companion for the Indian terrains and is packed with intelligent technology features for utmost comfort and convenience."

Introduced in 2022, the iCNG technology by Tata Motors, with its four pillars of incredible performance, iconic safety, intelligent technology, and impressive features has witnessed an impressive response from customers. The Tiago NRG iCNG comes with the new 'iCNG' badging in the exteriors and is equipped with SUV design elements such as armoured front cladding, infinity black roof with roof rails, a muscular tailgate, satin skid plate, squircle wheel arches, and 14-inch hyperstyle wheels. The new variant has been priced INR 7.39 lakh (ex-showroom).



Mr Rajan Amba,
Vice President,
Sales, Marketing and
Customer Care, Tata
Motors Passenger
Vehicles Ltd.



goEgoNetwork opens its first fast charge park in Bengaluru

ELECTRIC vehicle charging solutions providing company goEgoNetwork opened its first fast charge park in Bengaluru, Karnataka with strategic partnership with SRIT India Pvt. Ltd. As part of expanding its reach in Karnataka's developing EV-charging market, under the guided approach of SRIT, goEgoNetwork is poised to set up at least 500-1000 charging stations across Karnataka in one year.

Notably, the 24x7 state-of-the-art charge park in Bengaluru will be equipped with one unit each of goEgoNetwork's Pelican Pro (60 kW), Pelican (15 kW - GBT), Eagle, and Albatross to ensure efficient and fast charging of all types of EVs including two, three and four-wheelers. The charging park is equipped with goEgoNetwork's Pelican EV charging station that has a powerful capacity of 60kW. With this charging station, 4-wheeler EV owners can charge their EVs to 80 per cent in just 45-60 minutes and can enjoy a full charge in just 90-120 minutes depending on the size of the battery.



iGowise to launch e-bike Trigo BX4 in Jan 2023

BENGALURU-based electric vehicle startup, iGowise Mobility Pvt Ltd is set to launch its unique two-wheeler electric bike - Trigo BX4 - for the Indian market in January 2023. The unique e-bike is aimed at urban Indian families who value space, safety and comfort of an SUV.

This upcoming SUV e-bike is expected to be aimed at Indian families and will be competitively priced. It will be available in three different variants but with no compromise on the battery size and range. The base price for Trigo BX4 is expected to be between INR 1.1 to 1.2 lakh.

Trigo BX4 aims to bridge the compromise users have to face day-to-day between a car's comfort and safety versus a two-wheeler's convenience, agility and ease of parking.

Mr Sravan Appana, CEO of iGowise Mobility, said, "As a country, we are progressing towards a greener and cleaner future, but we continue to ignore the myriad of challenges two-wheeler users face on the ground today. Safety and Comfort of two-wheeler is must for people to embrace sustainable mobility."



JLR's Range Rover & Range Rover Sport awarded five-star safety ratings

JAGUAR Land Rover's new Range Rover and Range Rover Sport have been awarded maximum five-star ratings in the latest Euro NCAP safety tests. The luxury SUVs draw on more than 50 years of expertise in delivering exceptional breadth of all-terrain capability, refinement and safety.

The new models are the latest in a long line of Range Rovers to gain a five-star rating under the stringent Euro NCAP star rating safety protocols introduced in 2009, stretching back to the Evoque in 2011.

Both models are based on a new mixed-metal, flexible modular longitudinal architecture, which provides solid foundations for a suite of state-of-the-art driver assistance technologies to work in harmony for a responsive and refined drive. New Range Rover, which is available with four, five and seven-seat configurations, is up to 50 per cent stiffer than its predecessor while the Range Rover Sport is 35 per cent stiffer than before.

The award-winning new Range Rover scored 87 per cent for child occupant protection and 72 per cent for vulnerable road users, while the Range Rover Sport achieved an 85 per cent rating for adult occupant protection. Both SUVs obtained 82 per cent for safety assist.

Mr Thomas Mueller, Executive Director Product Engineering, Jaguar Land Rover, said, "These excellent Euro NCAP results are a direct result of the hard work and expertise that goes into designing, engineering and manufacturing vehicles that have combined safety, capability and luxury for more than five decades. Our strong, mixed metal MLA-Flex body architecture provides solid foundations for a suite of cutting-edge active safety systems that combined, work in harmony to protect occupants and other road users. These Range Rovers are a technological triumph."

Alongside the active safety systems, new Range Rover and Range Rover Sport make use of technologies that aim to improve driver alertness and reduce the potential for distraction. Both vehicles are also available with Cabin Air Purification Pro1, a pioneering system that takes interior air quality to the next level.



Yulu signs MoU with govt to boost e-mobility in Karnataka



YULU, India's market leader in shared electric two-wheeler mobility-as-a-service (MaaS) and Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) businesses, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka to boost electric mobility in the state. As part of the MoU, the company in line with its business expansion will invest INR 1200 crores to deploy a fleet of one Lakh EVs and operationalize the largest EV battery charging and swapping infrastructure in the state over the next five years.

The MoU was signed by Mr R K Misra, Co-Founder, Yulu, in the presence of Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Ms Nirmla Sitharaman, other Union cabinet ministers, state government officials and other dignitaries at the Invest Karnataka Global Investors Meet in Bengaluru.

In addition to creating a practical and affordable shared solution for urban mobility at scale, the MoU also covers investments made in product innovation, new technology and sustainable operations. Yulu will create about 7000 direct jobs across its value chain activities. Additionally, it will leverage its R&D and research expertise to design, develop and manufacture IoTs and EV charging equipment. The investment will accelerate EV adoption in the state and reduce the carbon footprint.

Ather partners with IDFC to finance two-wheeler EVs

ATHER Energy, India's first smart electric scooter manufacturer, announced its partnership with IDFC bank to offer a first-in-the-industry two-wheeler EV financing option to its customers. The company's customers will now have an easy option to upgrade and own a much smarter and faster Ather 450X scooter by incurring the same monthly expense as that of a conventional petrol scooter.

This scheme is expected to make Ather scooters more accessible to customers by offering a lucrative financing option to customers and drive faster adoption of electric vehicles. The scheme also provides the flexibility to customers to purchase a 450X or a 450 Plus with a down payment as low as 5 pc of the on-road price applicable in the respective city.

However, for the first time in the electric two-wheeler space, IDFC Bank is offering all this at a 48 month loan tenure, making the EMIs extremely easy to afford. To add to this, customers will be able to get an approval in 45 minutes and there is zero processing fee.



Customers can exchange their old scooters or motorcycles at zero down payment. Practically, at a lower cost, customers can bring home a modern, performance-oriented scooter that is equipped with smart features like touchscreen dashboard, on-board navigation, reverse assist, document storage, and theft and tow notifications.

Euler Motors ties up with Shriram Transport to finance EVs



EULER Motors, an electric vehicle company, has partnered with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited (STFC) to drive accessible retail financing of its HiLoad EVs. The partnership will aim at PAN India deployment of the company's HiLoad EVs, with lower interest rates and high loan to value (LTVs) for customers in retail.

With an objective to deploy over 20,000 EVs in the next two years, Euler Motors will utilize STFC's financing and segment expertise in the transportation sector and make commercial EVs mainstream on Indian roads. Both organisations will also closely work to drive awareness on benefits of EVs for Indian customers.

On this partnership, Mr Saurav Kumar, Founder and CEO, Euler Motors, said, "Euler Motors is committed to provide the most powerful EVs, and develop a robust ecosystem, of which EV financing is a critical element. We are thrilled about having one of India's largest asset financing Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), STFC on board with us. Their expertise in asset management and customer know-how will help us deploy EVs at scale across our target markets. Together, we aim to make the Indian commercial vehicle segment progressive and emission free."

This partnership also marks STFC's first association with a commercial EV company in India. Speaking on the tie-up, Mr P. Sridharan Joint MD, Shriram Transport Finance, said "Shriram has the right financing solutions and customer connect in rural and semi-urban areas and, we expect to achieve tremendous success in E-CV financing in the next 3-5 years. The partnership with Euler synergises with our approach in the EV financing space and is part of our overall strategy to provide finance to the entire e-commerce logistics supply chain ecosystem."

Euler Motors is enabling a robust EV ecosystem for India, with its high performance and powerful EVs, HiLoad and supportive infrastructure across charging and servicing. The HiLoad EV, launched in 2021, comes with the industry first 12.4 KWh active liquid cooled battery technology, highest range at 151 Km per charge and highest payload capacity at 688 kg. With this, Euler Motors aspires to become a dominant player in the Indian commercial vehicle segment.

Tata Motors rolls-out 50,000th EV



Mr. Rajesh Khatri
Vice President, Operations,
Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd

Mr. Anand Kulkarni,
Vice President, Operations, Product Line and
Purchase & Supplier Quality, Tata Passenger
Electric Mobility,

TAKING ahead the EV revolution in the country, leading automotive brand Tata Motors rolled out its 50,000th EV in the country recently. The company rolled out the 50,000th EV from its Pune facility. Favorable policy environment, positive word of mouth from existing customers, practical product options, better ride and handling and attractive cost of ownership have helped the company achieve this feat ahead of its target.

Commenting on this achievement, Mr Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd. said, "As the pioneers of EVs in the country, the onus of ensuring successful adoption was on us. With well calibrated product mix, strong consumer facing initiatives, we have been able to address barriers to EV adoption. We created an entire EV ecosystem with Tata Group companies to provide simple, cost-effective solutions for our customers."

"Celebrating 50,000th EVs in India is a strong testament to how our portfolio is resonating with people across the country. EVs are offering a practical solution to problems of rising fuel price and worsening pollution. Customers are now ready to welcome EVs and we are thrilled to witness the transition from early adopters to now EVs becoming a mainstream choice for Indian customers", Mr Chandra added.

From the most popular SUV brand in India, the Nexon EV to the newest addition– Tata Tiago. ev, India's first electric hatchback, the company's deep understanding of EV customers has resulted in an exciting product mix with the most relevant features. To address customer needs, Tata Motors has not only introduced features like Multi Mode Regen and Multi Drive Mode, but also educated customers about the best way to drive their EVs for optimal range. All products are powered by the high voltage Ziptron architecture, which is driven and proven for over 450 million kms across diverse and challenging Indian terrains, providing an unmatched, uncompromising EV experience.

Going forward, Tata Motors is focusing on a three-phased architecture approach for EVs and plans to launch 10 EVs in the coming five years.



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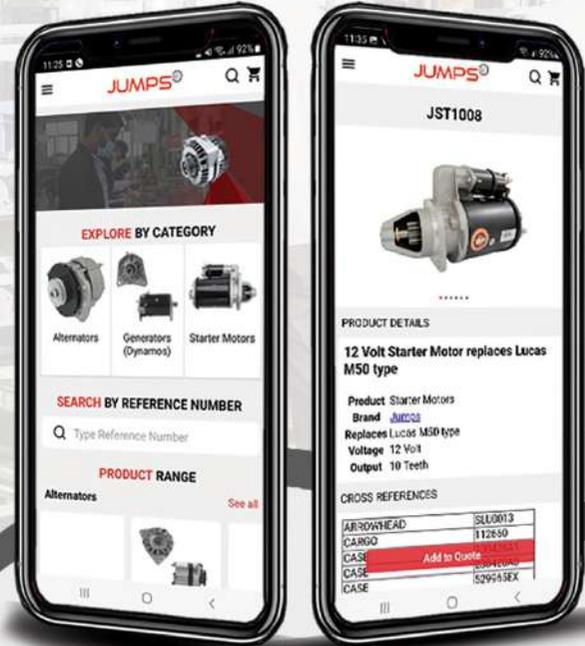
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