

# AUTOGUIDE

India's Automotive Industry & Trade Journal

**57** YEARS  
SINCE 1966



## AUTO EXPO 2023

**SNEAK PEEK INTO  
FUTURE OF MOBILITY**

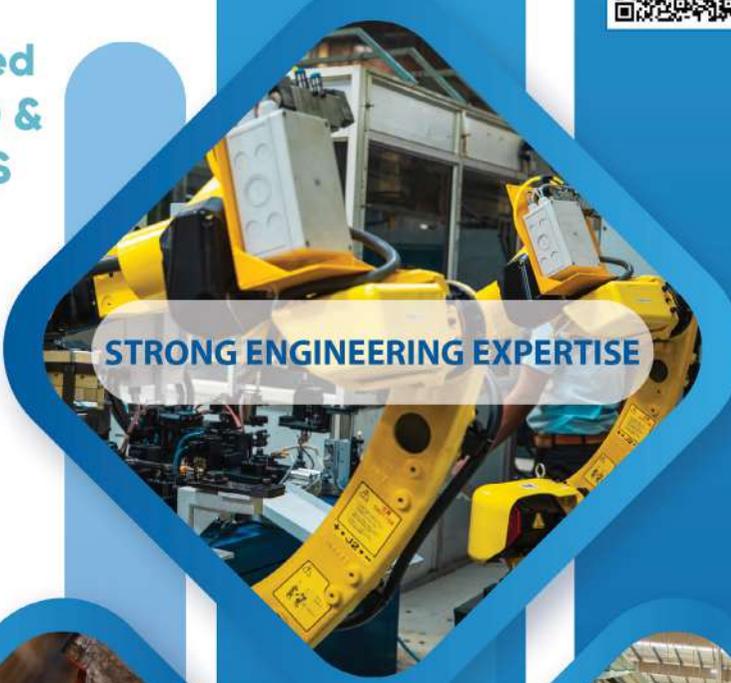




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BMW new M340i



Maruti Suzuki new Eeco



BMW S 1000 RR

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Tata Motors XPRES-T EVs



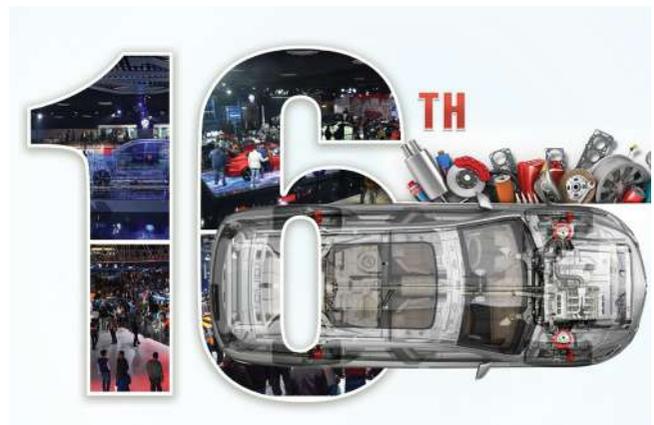
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## Editor's Viewpoint



**LATE JOGINDER P. MALHOTRA**  
Founder



**M.P. MALHOTRA**  
Chairman - Editorial board



**SHILPA MALHOTRA**  
Executive Editor

Both the vehicle and component manufacturers along with the aftermarket are ecstatic about the fact that the show will bring back the much-needed focus on the industry that is critical to the Indian economy.

## All eyes on Auto Expo 2023

**W**ITH the Auto Expo 2023 scheduled to be held from January 12–18 in the Capital, the auto industry is sure to take centerstage in every way. Both the vehicle and component manufacturers along with the aftermarket are ecstatic about the fact that the show will bring back the much-needed focus on the industry that is critical to the Indian economy. With India poised to grow from three to 32 trillion-dollar economy by 2047, the automobile industry is considered extremely crucial for both the perspective of employment generation and growth in manufacturing sector.

This time the biennial automotive show will focus on 'Technovation' as part of the Components show while the vehicle manufacturers will showcase the 'Future of Mobility' at The Motor Show. With the government keen on sustainability and carbon neutrality targets, the theme of The Motor Show is centered around electric concepts and alternate fuel-based vehicles. The Components show will outline the technological innovations and manufacturing prowess of the components industry. This Expo will also see the participation of EV manufacturers who have made a mark for themselves in this fast-growing segment.

The strength of the Indian auto industry cannot be just measured by the manufacturing prowess of the vehicle manufacturers. The supportive auto components sector within it is equally responsible to spread the growth momentum in the economy. Thankfully, the auto components sector has been performing quite well. According to the industry performance review report published by ACMA, the components sector reported growth of 34.8 per cent to INR 2.65 lakh crore (USD 33.8 billion) in first-half of 2022-23. Exports from the sector grew 8.6 per cent to USD 10.1 billion thereby pushing up the much-needed foreign exchange revenue of the country. The aftermarket, estimated at INR 42,007 crore, also witnessed a growth of 8 per cent. We have covered this extensive report in this issue.

Automobile sales which was a concern in the beginning of the year witnessed steady growth in the later half of 2022. The sales in December remained mostly in the positive with some reporting marginal negative growth on a year-on-year basis. While sales of PVs were mostly in the green, two-wheeler companies reported marginal decline. However, sales momentum went up in the three-wheelers and CV segment with some companies achieving double-digit growth.

*Enjoy the Expo!*

# Auto Expo 2023 is here

## Components show to focus on 'Technovation'

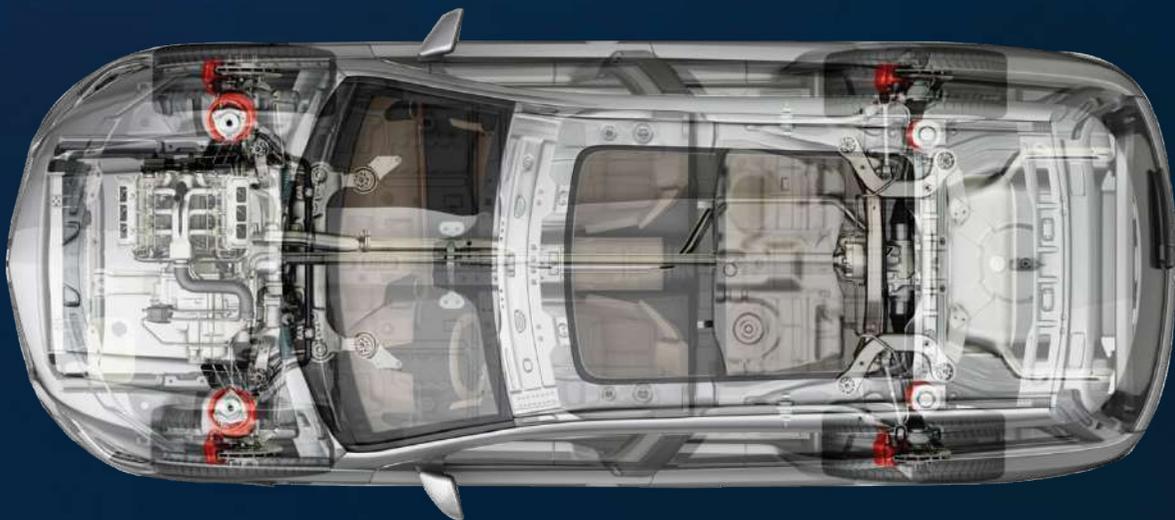
THE biennial automotive show – Auto Expo 2023 – is back with its focus on 'Technovation' and 'Future of Mobility' after the event was cancelled last year due to apprehension arising out of COVID-19 situation. While The Motor Show is showcasing the future of mobility through electric concepts and alternate fuel-based vehicles, the Components show is themed on 'Technovation – Global Platform for Future Technologies and Innovation' and is focused on outlining its prowess in auto components manufacturing.

With India poised to grow from three to 32 trillion-dollar economy by 2047, the automobile industry is extremely crucial for its economy and manufacturing sector. For this, the vision is to create a strong ecosystem where the industry can thrive and necessitate adequate investment in R&D, skilled manpower, technological advancements. The industry is critical in making India a five-trillion-dollar economy and to achieve the government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. Within the next five years, the government is looking at making the auto industry touch a market size of 15 lakh crore with more focus on quality, innovation and safety.

// With the swift expansion of EV sector, numerous startups and established businesses are setting impressive standards. The Components show is going to be the perfect stage to witness the scalability and scope that the industry will be offering its stakeholders and ancillaries in the future"



**Mr Nirmal K. Minda, CMD, Uno Minda Ltd**



Among the automobile manufacturers exhibiting at the expo, Maruti Suzuki is all set to unveil its range of all-new SUVs, futuristic Concept EV, Hybrid, flex-fuel prototype and other products. Its display will feature an array of 16 vehicles including an electric concept SUV, two all-new SUVs, WagonR Flex Fuel prototype and its customised range of existing products like Grand Vitara, XL6, Ciaz, Ertiga, Brezza, Baleno, and Swift among others.

Speaking about its display at the expo, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, MD & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India, said, "Auto Expo 2023 is yet another opportunity for us to showcase our commitment towards the future of mobility through our range of sustainable & technology driven products. Our showcases at the exhibition will highlight Maruti Suzuki's commitment towards cleaner, greener, sustainable and carbon neutral offerings for tomorrow. We are confident that our range of all-new SUVs, futuristic Concept EV, Hybrid, flex-fuel prototype and products will capture the imagination of enthusiasts."

Similarly, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) will display its range of Self Charging Strong Hybrid Electric vehicles, Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle, Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle, Flexi Fuel Hybrid Electric Vehicle and Electric Vehicles representing wide range of green technology line-up. Also on display will be the Hydrogen concept technology.

Mr Atul Sood, Associate V-P, Sales, and Strategic Marketing, TKM, said, "With over two million happy customers, our focus in India continues to be the introduction of technologically advanced products that are safer and greener. Achieving carbon neutrality has been one of our biggest challenges and the fight against carbon will require multiple technology pathways and our latest offerings are another step in that direction."

On the other hand, the auto components industry has been instrumental in streamlining the regular supply of quality components to the OEMs through innovative manufacturing and technology infusion. The industry reported growth of 34.8 per cent to INR 2.65 lakh crore (USD 33.8 billion) in first-half of 2022-23. In the same period, exports grew by 8.6 per cent to USD 10.1 billion while imports went up by 17.2 per cent to USD 10.1 billion.

According to Mr Vinnie Mehta, Director General, ACMA, "With vehicle sales and exports gaining traction, month-on-month, the auto component industry demonstrated a growth of 34.8 percent. Steady growth was witnessed in all segments – supply to OEMs, exports as also the aftermarket. The aftermarket, estimated at INR 42,007 crore also witnessed a growth of 8 percent. Component sales to OEMs in the domestic market grew by 46 percent to INR 2.23 lakh crore."

// With growth in consumption of EVs, we are witnessing fast transformation of the auto components sector to be an integral part of the EV manufacturing supply chain. The components industry is making steady investments as also acquiring technology companies."

**Mr Sunjay Kapur, President, ACMA and Chairman, Sona Comstar**



//With over two million happy customers, our focus in India continues to be the introduction of technologically advanced products that are safer and greener. Achieving carbon neutrality has been one of our biggest challenges and the fight against carbon will require multiple technology pathways and our latest offerings are another step in that direction."



**Mr Atul Sood, Associate V-P, Sales, and Strategic Marketing, Toyota Kirloskar Motor**

Sharing his insights on the industry's performance, Mr Sunjay Kapur, President, ACMA and Chairman, Sona Comstar, said, "With growth in consumption of EVs, we are witnessing fast transformation of the auto components sector to be an integral part of the EV manufacturing supply chain. The components industry is making steady investments as also acquiring technology companies."

As for the EV opportunities in India, the number of charging stations in the country is expected to reach four-lakh by 2026. This would make it easier for the auto component industry to take advantage of the EV opportunity and expertise in EV components manufacturing, thus helping India on a global scale.

Among the component manufacturers exhibiting at the expo, Uno Minda Ltd will showcase its range of electric two and three-wheeler components. Commenting on it, Mr Nirmal K. Minda, CMD, Uno Minda Ltd said, "Looking forward in the year of 2023, automation and electrification are going to be the ultimate game-changers. Our core strategy for developing solutions and components will be PACE-P is for personalization, A is for Automation, C is for Connected and E is for electrification. We are also aggressively working on electric two-wheeler and three-wheeler segment."

"Government's policy support and incentives towards EV segment will pave way for many milestones in the Indian automotive sector. The Auto Expo (Components) provides a collaborative platform for networking, and participants are eager to leverage this opportunity after two years. With the swift expansion of EV sector, numerous startups and established businesses are setting impressive standards. The Components show is going to be the perfect stage to witness the scalability and scope that the industry will be offering its stakeholders and ancillaries in the future. We are also showcasing our PACE product line, along with the products from our recent JVs with international companies," Mr Minda added.

The Auto Expo 2023 - Components exhibition will see participation of 800 plus companies across domestic and seven international pavilions. The expo is likely to witness more than 115,000 visitors across the four days of the event. Other prominent exhibitors include JUMPS Auto Industries, Horizon Industrial Products Pvt. Ltd., Hella India Lighting, Kalyani Forge, Jyoti Rubber Industries, Neolite ZKW Lightings, NRB Bearings, Steelbird International, Stork Rubber Products etc.

Apart from Maruti Suzuki and Toyota, other vehicle manufacturers participating in The Motor Show include Tata Motors, Hyundai, MG Motor India, Kia, BYD, Tork Motors, VECV, Ashok Leyland, Benelli, EVTRIC, Greaves Electric etc.



//Auto Expo 2023 is yet another opportunity for us to showcase our commitment towards the future of mobility through our range of sustainable & technology driven products. Our showcases at the exhibition will highlight Maruti Suzuki's commitment towards cleaner, greener, sustainable and carbon neutral offerings for tomorrow. We are confident that our range of all-new SUVs, futuristic Concept EV, Hybrid, flex-fuel prototype and products will capture the imagination of enthusiasts."

**Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, MD & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India**



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# Auto component industry registers double digit growth in H1 FY23

## OEM sales grew 46 per cent to INR 2.23 lakh crore

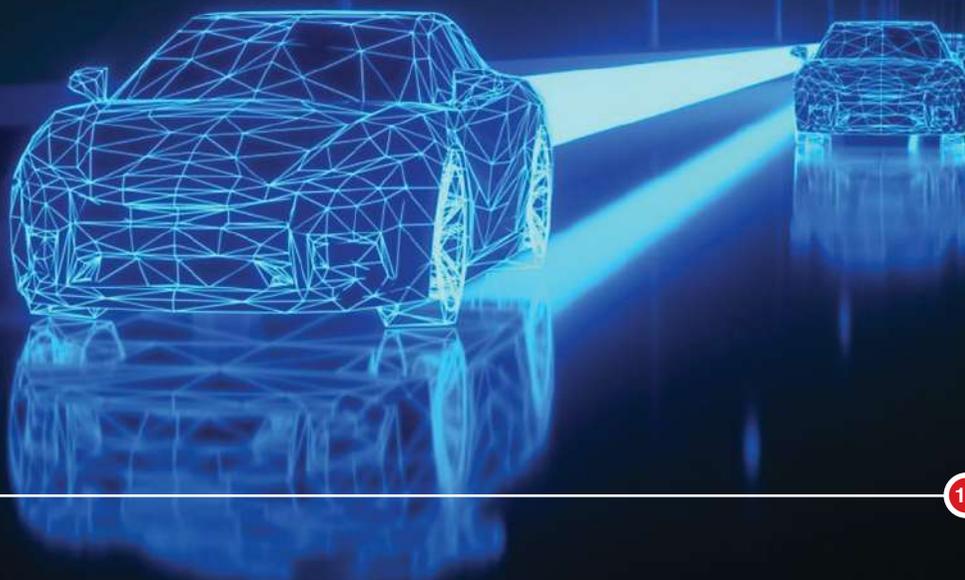
**T**HE Indian auto component industry reported growth of 34.8 per cent to INR 2.65 lakh crore (USD 33.8 billion) in first-half of 2022-23. The findings were recently released by the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) in its Industry Performance Review for the same period.

According to the report, the total turnover of the automotive component industry stood at INR 2.65 lakh crore (USD 33.8 billion) for the period from April 2022 to September 2022. Exports grew 8.6 per cent to USD 10.1 billion while imports went up by 17.2 per cent to USD 10.1 billion.

Commenting on the performance of the industry, Mr Vinnie Mehta, Director General, ACMA, said, "With vehicle sales and exports gaining traction, month-on-month, the auto component industry demonstrated a growth of 34.8 percent scaling a turnover of INR 2.65 lakh crore (USD 33.8 billion) in the first-half of FY 2022-23. Steady growth was witnessed in all segments – supply to OEMs, exports as also the aftermarket. Exports grew by 8.6 percent to USD 10.1 billion (INR 79.03 lakh crore) while imports grew by 17.2 percent to USD 10.1 billion (INR 79.8 lakh crore). The aftermarket, estimated at Rs. 42,007 crore also witnessed a growth of 8 percent. Component sales to OEMs in the domestic market grew by 46 percent to Rs 2.23 lakh crore."

"With growth in consumption of EVs, we are witnessing fast transformation of the auto components sector to be an integral part of the EV manufacturing supply chain. The components industry is making steady investments as also acquiring technology companies. For medium to long term outlook, we need to be wary of the impending recession in Europe and the US."

**Mr Sunjay Kapur, President, ACMA and Chairman, Sona Comstar**



“Steady growth was witnessed in all segments – supply to OEMs, exports as also the aftermarket. The aftermarket, estimated at Rs. 42,007 crore also witnessed a growth of 8 percent. Component sales to OEMs in the domestic market grew by 46 percent to Rs 2.23 lakh crore.”



Mr Vinnie Mehta, Director General, ACMA

Sharing his insights, Mr Sunjay Kapur, President, ACMA and Chairman, Sona Comstar, said, “With vehicle sales across all segments, reaching the pre-pandemic levels and moderation in the supply-side issues such as availability of semiconductors, high input raw-material costs and non-availability of containers, the auto components sector witnessed a steady growth in both domestic and the international markets in the first half of FY2022-23. With domestic manufacturing of vehicles and components gathering pace, imports also witnessed an uptick.”

Elaborating on outlook for the near to mid-term future, Mr Kapur said, “Going forward, I am optimistic that the current fiscal year will witness another good performance from the auto components sector. Further, with growth in consumption of EVs, we are witnessing fast transformation of the auto components sector to be an integral part of the EV manufacturing supply chain. The components industry is making steady investments as also acquiring technology companies. For medium to long term outlook, we need to be wary of the impending recession in Europe and the US as also the supply chain issues which are not fully behind us.”

Among the key findings of the ACMA Industry Performance Review for H1 2022-23, exports of auto components grew by 8.6 percent to USD 10.1 billion in H1 2022-23 from USD 9.3 billion in H1 2021-22. North America accounting for 33 per cent of exports, saw an increase of 12 percent, while Europe and Asia, accounting for 30 per cent and 26 per cent respectively also registered increase of 4 and 11 per cent respectively. Imports grew by 17.2 per cent from USD 8.7 billion in H1 2021-22 to USD 10.1 billion in H1 2022-23. Asia accounted for 65 per cent of imports followed by Europe and North America, with 26 per cent and 8 per cent respectively. Imports from Asia grew by 21 per cent, from Europe by 6 per cent and from North America by 29 per cent.

The aftermarket in H1 2022-23 witnessed a growth of 8 per cent to Rs 42,007 crore (USD 5.4 billion) from Rs.38,895 crore (USD 5.3 billion) in H1 2021-22.

Commenting on it, Mr Nirmal K. Minda, CMD, Uno Minda Ltd, said, “The automotive industry experienced strong growth in 2022 filled with positive momentum and is looking to surpass the pre pandemic production levels. In order to seize new market opportunities, our effort was focused on making calculated efforts to raise our share of business with OEMs, steadily enhance kit value, and provide customer with new cutting-edge technologies.”



# Auto sales remain positive in Dec 2022

**W**HILE sales of automobiles in the month of December remained mostly in the positive, some companies recorded negative growth on a year-on-year basis. The sales of passenger vehicles were mostly in the green while two-wheeler companies reported marginal growth with some figures in red. The only excitement was witnessed in the three-wheelers and commercial vehicles segment where sales momentum went up, with some even achieving double-digit growth.

## Passenger Vehicles

Among passenger vehicles segment, Maruti Suzuki reported marginally negative growth with sales dropping by 9 per cent in December 2022 as compared to the same month last year. The company reportedly sold 112,010 units in December 2022 against 123,016 units sold in December 2021. Tata Motors registered healthy growth of 13.9 per cent in its PV sales in December 2022. The company sold 40,407 units last month against 35,462 units sold in December 2021. The figure includes the growth in the sales of electric PVs.

Commenting on it, Mr. Shailesh Chandra, MD, Tata Motors PV Ltd. and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "Going forward, we expect the growth momentum for EVs to remain strong with their rising popularity and the announcement of progressive policies by several states. Overall, we expect the PV industry to continue witnessing robust demand in the next quarter."

MG Motor India's retail sales for the month of December 2022 were recorded at 3899 units, which is a 53 per cent growth over the corresponding figures for December 2021. Toyota's sales went down by four percent during the month of December 2022, as the company sold 10,421 units when compared to 10,834 units sold in December 2021. Similarly, Nissan India reported negative figures with 33 per cent drop in sales volumes. The company sold 2020 units last month against 3010 sold in December 2021.

Kia India registered sales of 15,184 units in the domestic market in Dec 2022 with 95 pc YoY growth. The company reportedly sold 7,797 units in December 2021. Commenting on Kia's robust performance, Mr Hardeep Singh Brar, VP and Head- Sales & Marketing, Kia India, said, "Despite various headwinds like geopolitical issues, COVID-induced supply chain obstructions and price increase, we managed to register the highest sales ever for the brand in the country."

Honda Cars' sales went down by 11 per cent with the company selling 7,062 units in December 2022 against 7,973 units sold in December 2021.



## Two-Wheelers

Among two-wheelers, Hero MotoCorp recorded minor two per cent growth at 381,365 units in Dec 2022 against 374,485 units sold in the month of Dec 2021. TVS Motor registered two-wheeler sales of 227,666 units in December 2022 as against 235,392 units December 2021, negative growth of 3.3 pc. However, domestic sales went up by 10 pc increasing from 146,763 units in December 2021 to 161,369 units in December 2022. Bajaj Auto's sales remained in red with sales of 125,525 units in Dec 2022 against 127,593 units in the year ago period, recording negative growth of two per cent.



Suzuki Motorcycle India maintained a positive momentum in sales figures with growth of 26 per cent at 40,905 units in Dec 2022. The company sold 32,549 units in Dec 2021. Mr Satoshi Uchida, Managing Director, Suzuki Motorcycle India, said, "In December 2022, the company exported 23,007 units from India. This is the highest ever monthly export sales reported by the company till date." Suzuki Motorcycle India maintained a positive momentum in sales figures with growth of 26 per cent at 40,905 units in Dec 2022. The company sold 32,549 units in Dec 2021. Mr Satoshi Uchida, Managing Director, Suzuki Motorcycle India, said, "In December 2022, the company exported 23,007 units from India. This is the highest ever monthly export sales reported by the company till date."

## Three-Wheelers & Commercial Vehicles

In the commercial vehicles segment, Tata Motors registered minor de-growth of 0.6 pc in overall sales in December 2022 at 33,949 units against 34,151 units sold in Dec 2021. The company sold 32,954 units in the domestic market against 31,008 units sold in December 2021, growing by 6.3 pc.

Mr Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors, said, "The growth was mostly due to improving fleet utilizations, pick up in road construction projects and increase in cement consumption catalysed the demand recovery for MHCVs. CV exports, however, remained subdued due to the prevailing economic situation in most overseas markets."

Among other CV manufacturers, Mahindra & Mahindra recorded growth of 36 pc with sales of 25,132 units in Dec 2022 against 18,418 units sold in December 2021. Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicles' sales went up by 29 pc at 6,889 units in Dec 2022 against 5,344 units sold in Dec 2021.



# Toyota to showcase its sustainable mobility solutions

**T**OYOTA Kirloskar Motor (TKM) is all set to be a part of Auto Expo 2023 with its advanced technology and product line-up based on the concept of "The Thrill & Joy of moving together". The company will showcase a range of self-charging strong hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicle, fuel cell electric vehicle, flexi fuel hybrid EV and other electric vehicles representing its wide range of green technology line-up.

The company's displays are divided into three zones namely the Technology Zone, Emotional Zone and Environment Zone representing the overall concept and key sections of the stall.

On display at the Technology zone include a range of self-charging strong hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicle, fuel cell electric vehicle, flexi fuel hybrid electric vehicle and electric vehicles representing wide range of green technology line-up. Also on display is the Hydrogen concept technology. The Emotional Zone showcases youth connect through a thrilling SUV line-up including modified vehicles to appeal to our younger customers and audience. The Environment Zone embodies TKM's efforts to build a sustainable society through people, process and product thereby contributing immensely to the country's sustainable initiatives.

Confirming participation at the Auto Expo 2023, Mr Atul Sood, Associate Vice President, Sales, and Strategic Marketing, TKM, said, "At Toyota, we are working towards bringing models which are environment friendly and based on customer feedback. With over two million happy customers, our focus in India continues to be the introduction of technologically advanced products that are safer and greener. Achieving carbon neutrality has been one of our biggest challenges and the fight against carbon will require multiple technology pathways and our latest offerings are another step in that direction."

"In addition, through this event, TKM aims to showcase our holistic approach to reduce carbon through an array of advanced products, technologies and sustainable plant initiatives which are exciting to all our stakeholders. We are confident that our unique range of exhibits will further strengthen our bond with customers thus enabling the creation of lasting and valuable associations," Mr Sood added.



# Maruti Suzuki unveils India's first Flex Fuel prototype car



As part of its decarbonization journey, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd unveiled India's first mass segment Flex Fuel car - the Wagon R Flex Fuel prototype model at an event held in the Capital recently. The prototype car has been designed to run on any ethanol-petrol blend between 20 pc (E20) and 85 pc (E85) fuel.

The prototype car was unveiled in the presence of Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Mr Nitin Gadkari. It has been designed and developed locally by engineers of Maruti Suzuki, with necessary support from Suzuki Motor Corporation, Japan.

The Wagon R Flex Fuel prototype vehicle has an upgraded engine designed specifically to use higher ethanol-blended petrol. To make the engine compatible with higher ethanol blends (E20-E85), new fuel system technologies like heated fuel rail for cold start assist and ethanol sensor for ethanol percentage detection have been built. Further, components like engine management system, upgraded fuel pump and fuel injector, among others, have been developed along with upgradation of other mechanical components to ensure engine as well as vehicle durability. To align to the latest regulations, Maruti Suzuki has developed engine management system strategies and emission control system to comply with the stringent BS6 Phase-II emission norms.

On the occasion, Mr Hisashi Takeuchi, MD & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India, said, "Maruti Suzuki has consistently aligned itself to the national objectives of reducing country's oil import burden and improving the environment. Notably, our research shows that ethanol fuel- based Wagon R Flex Fuel prototype vehicle operating on E85 fuel will help reduce tailpipe GHG emissions by 79 pc in comparison to a conventional gasoline Wagon R model while ensuring the same FFV-infographic power performance. Its benefits have also been outlined in Niti Aayog's 'Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25' which elaborates on the plan for production and utilization of ethanol for automotive application. Further, India is the largest producer & consumer of sugar, and its second largest exporter in the world. Ethanol made from processing crop waste, is ideal for an agrarian economy. This also gives an impetus to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative."

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POSITIVE**

 **NERVES OF  
STEEL**

 **SOAR  
LIKE A  
BIRD**

# Over 800 companies to attend Auto Expo 2023 Components Show

THE 16th edition of Auto Expo 2023 — Components Show will witness the participation of over 800 companies from 15 countries. The Components Show is being jointly organised by ACMA, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and SIAM from 12 to 15 January 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Sharing the highlights of the show, Mr Sunjay Kapur, President, ACMA & Chairman, Sona Comstar, said, "With participation from over 800 companies, several of them from overseas, we have been completely sold out. In the backdrop of strong economic recovery and rising vehicle sales in the country, the Auto Expo 2023- Components is expected to create newer opportunities for the components industry as also provide a platform to showcase its prowess as it strives to stay relevant in a fast-transforming industry. With confirmation of several business and sourcing delegations, the event will provide an ideal opportunity for networking, striking international partnerships and gaining insights into the future of mobility."

Mr Vipin Sondhi, Chairman, CII National Committee on Future Mobility and Battery Storage and Chairman CII National Committee on Technology, R&D and Innovation, said, "The Components Show will be reflective of dominant trends including electric mobility, ADAS, biofuel & flex-fuel based engine technologies, vehicular safety technologies, sustainable & ecologically sound manufacturing practices, digitisation, automotive start-ups, innovative technologies & solutions and much more. In tune with these, our theme pavilion 'Technovation' is designed to be a crystal-ball of future of mobility, showcasing cutting-edge technology offerings from our domestic companies."

This edition of the Components Show is larger than the previous editions and is spread across an area of over 60,000 sq mts. The show has attracted participation of over 800 companies from 15 countries including Canada, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Poland, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, UK and USA, with six Country Pavilions – France, Germany, Japan, Poland, South Korea and UK.

The show is themed 'Technovation – Global Platform for Future Technologies & Innovations' and will have focused pavilions on EV Components, Innovation & Start-Ups, ACMA Safer Drives, ACMA Industry Services, Bearings pavilion, Garage Equipment pavilion and REA, Gujarat state pavilion.

Around 200 participating companies would be launching/displaying over 1,400 new products and technologies. Whilst more than 10,000 business visitors have already registered for the event, the show is expected to be attended by over 100,000 visitors including businessmen, government officials, diplomatic community and the media, from 40 countries.



# Apollo inaugurates advanced tyre testing facility



Mr Daniele Lorenzetti  
Chief Technology Officer, Apollo Tyres Ltd

P. K. Mohamed  
Chief Advisor, R&D, Apollo Tyres Ltd

Leading tyre manufacturer Apollo Tyres inaugurated an advanced tyre testing facility recently at its Global R&D Centre, Asia, located in Chennai. The new facility will help improve upon the efficiency and effectiveness of product development cycle for passenger vehicle and two-wheeler tyres, including the ones for electric vehicles. The facility will further reduce the new product development cycle time for the company.

The key features of the advanced test facility are the custom-designed flat-trac machine and anechoic chamber, which would characterise the performance of tyres' dynamics and acoustics, leading to faster product development for both OE and replacement markets. The development of tyres for high-end passenger vehicles, EV specific tyres for PV and high-end motorcycle tyres would be the products that would get directly benefitted due to this facility.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr Daniele Lorenzetti, Chief Technology Officer, Apollo Tyres Ltd, said "We strongly focus on continuous improvement in efficiency and effectiveness of product development, and this new facility will further augment our testing capabilities for future vehicle models. We will be able to fine tune the performance of our products by simulating closely to the real-world conditions using this facility. This is aligned with Apollo Tyres' 2026 vision, of which technology is a key pillar."

Unlike previous versions, this machine replicates real-life situations, including emergency manoeuvres of vehicles like high slip angles and high torque ramp-up. For two-wheelers, it simulates the most severe inclinations, as prevalent amongst premium motorcycle riders.

Another component of this testing facility is the high-speed uniformity machine combined with anechoic chamber. This helps simulate the NVH (Noise, Vibration and Harshness) properties of the tyres, which are critical for vehicles, especially EVs and premium vehicles. This machine combines the study of both mechanical and acoustic comfort parameters, by building different road profiles for the tyres to be tested.

# BMW's new M340i xDrive debuts in India



**B**MW India launched the new M340i xDrive in the country recently. The model is a segment best-seller due to its commanding performance, attractive design, rich feature list and unique M driving experience that it renders. The newly launched car has been priced at INR 69.20 lakh.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India, said, "The M340i xDrive is a sure-shot winner as it amplifies the thrill of sheer driving pleasure to a different level, thanks to the power of M which lies right at its heart. This captivating formula meets the cravings of auto enthusiasts who want a premium sedan for everyday use that doubles up as performance machine when desired. This refreshed avatar will further consolidate the leading position of M340i and win over more brand fans and M enthusiasts."

The exterior design of the new M340i xDrive remains sporty as ever. The front end cuts a wide, low-slung and aggressive figure. Framed by a single surround, the black mesh style BMW kidney grille is linked to sleek adaptive LED headlights with blue accents. The car's hood, long wheelbase, short overhangs and elegantly flowing roofline accentuate its sporting profile when viewed from the side. Horizontal lines and the slim, stylishly darkened light units housing L-shaped LED taillights give the rear a wide, athletic stance.

The interior accentuates luxury, comfort and the revered feeling of M. Paired with M leather steering wheel with shift paddles they deliver a race car like seating experience. Adding to the sense of space is the large glass sunroof, the big luggage compartment has a capacity of 480 litres and the 40:20:40 split backrest and automatic boot lid operation provide greater flexibility for loading / unloading.

The new M340i xDrive is powered by 2,998 cc straight-six petrol engine which produces an output of 374 hp and 500 Nm maximum torque. The car completes the sprint from 0 to 100 km/hr in 4.4 seconds, making it the quickest BMW to be produced in the country. The eight-speed Steptronic Sport automatic transmission performs smooth, almost imperceptible gearshifts. BMW ConnectedDrive technology breaks the innovation barrier and turns the car into an interconnected digital device. Host of ConnectedDrive features include Digital Key Plus, Emergency Call, Real-time Traffic Information and Remote Services through MyBMW app.



# Blue Energy's LNG trucks begin commercial operations

Blue Energy Motors's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) fueled green trucks have begun commercial operations for JK Lakshmi Cement recently. In a flag off ceremony held at JK Lakshmi Cement's Sirohi plant in Rajasthan, the first fleet of LNG trucks left for their clinker grinding unit at Surat.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by the senior management representatives of both the companies and other important stakeholders. With this JK Lakshmi Cement becomes the first cement company to deploy LNG trucks for long haul transportation of raw materials in the country.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr Anirudh Bhuwarka, CEO, Blue Energy Motors, said, "Sustainability should not be a choice anymore, but a compulsory way of life. We are delighted to share our vision of revolutionizing India's green trucking industry with JK Lakshmi Cement. The infra industry is very closely connected to trucks, and such adoptions institute trust and confidence that will eventually pave the way towards a carbon-neutral environment. Our trucks have been designed and conceptualized, keeping in mind the Indian conditions and climate requirements. It's the best immediate solution to pollution caused by the heavy duty-vehicle sector. With the cement industry giant joining hands with us, we are confident that more players in the industry will begin their journey of sustainable mobility and become part of our green trucking revolution."

Mr Arun Shukla, President & Director, JK Lakshmi Cement, said, "Deploying LNG trucks of Blue Energy Motors is our first step towards sustainable transportation as LNG is an excellent green alternative for fossil fuel. This initiative will act as a game-changer for the country's cement transportation industry and help facilitate the eventual transition towards a more circular economy."

The market entry of Blue Energy Motor's LNG-fueled trucks started with the introduction of BE5528 tractor as the first model. The truck uses FPT industrial multipoint stoichiometric combustion engine to ensure best-in-class fuel consumption and lower noise than diesel engines. With 280hp power and 1000Nm torque, it is one of the most powerful natural gas trucks on the Indian market. It has the industry's first 990-lt fuel tank which provides the range of up to 1400 km in a single fill. The company has installed capacity to produce 10,000 trucks / annum which can be augmented further as demand ramps up.



# Maruti Suzuki to unveil e-Concept & SUV range



**M**ARUTI Suzuki, country's largest passenger vehicle manufacturer, is poised to captivate the hearts and minds of the audience at Auto Expo 2023 with a range of futuristic products and technology showcases. The company will unveil an electric concept car and range of SUVs at the event.

Maruti Suzuki's showcase at the expo is in line with the company's vision to offer futuristic, technology-driven products and services for customers. Visitors will be able to experience a future fuelled by imagination and led by sustainability, technology, safety and connectivity at Maruti Suzuki pavilion.

Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, MD & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India, said, "For Over four decades, Maruti Suzuki has been consistently bringing the joy of mobility to customers through industry-defining products and technologies. Auto Expo 2023 is yet another opportunity for us to showcase our commitment towards the future of mobility through our range of sustainable & technology driven products. Our showcases at the exhibition will highlight Maruti Suzuki's commitment towards cleaner, greener, sustainable and carbon neutral offerings for tomorrow. We are confident that our range of all-new SUVs, futuristic Concept EV, Hybrid, flex-fuel prototype and products will capture the imagination of enthusiasts."

Maruti Suzuki will display an array of 16 vehicles at the expo including an electric concept SUV, two all-new SUVs, WagonR Flex Fuel prototype and its customised range of existing products like Grand Vitara, XL6, Ciaz, Ertiga, Brezza, Baleno, and Swift among others.



Unveil three new SUVs

The Maruti Suzuki pavilion will be divided into four zones Sustainability Zone, Technology Zone, Innovation Zone and Adventure Zone. The major highlight will be the Grand SUV amphitheatre that will enthrall viewers with an elevated section featuring a range of SUVs and UVs by the brand.

At the pavilion, customers will enjoy curated engagement activities like 'Sustainability Tree' in the Sustainability Zone. The Technology Zone will captivate the tech savvy visitors with engaging & immersive experience on futuristic technologies while the Innovation Zone will engage with Varun Dhawan fans as they will be able to strike a pose with the superstar's 3D character for a unique photo opportunity. The specially curated Adventure Zone will have a 'Rock Wall Climbing Activity' to engage adventure enthusiasts while also showcasing customized AllGRIP vehicles.



Unveil three new SUVs

# Off-Road vehicles & tyres witnessing rise in demand

**T**HE rising popularity of recreational and sports activities including ATV races and championships across the globe has been driving the demand for SUVs, adventure sports and off-road vehicles. As these vehicles use specialised tyres, the demand for them have also been on the rise.

According to the Global Market Insights report, off-road vehicles (ORV) market size has surpassed USD 15 billion in 2020 and is anticipated to grow at 7 pc CAGR between 2021 and 2027. Automotive brands offer options from 2WD and 4WD vehicles to choose, with powerful engines to delight and excite adventure seekers. With increasing demand for such vehicles, brings with it the corresponding need for specialised tyres for different applications.

Among the most preferred tyres used by such off-road vehicles is the Goodyear Wrangler AT/SA tyre. The tyre is equipped with DuraWall technology, providing superior all-terrain durability with improved quiet and comfort for on-road and extended mileage. The new product also boasts improved wet performance, braking performance, and heavy handling. The new MG Gloster 2022 comes with tyres of 255/55 R19 107W specification.

The Geolandar X-CV tyre was built from the ground up with technology to take on today's luxury sport crossovers and SUVs.

The Bridgestone Alenza 001 has been designed for luxury SUVs and is engineered to maximise vehicle potential on both wet and dry roads offering high-level braking performance, outstanding tyre life, and enhanced grip in wet and dry conditions. The Ceat SecuraDrive SUV is a tubeless tyre that is an ideal fitment for cars like Hyundai Venue, Kia Sonet, Maruti Suzuki Vitara Brezza, Tata Nexon, Mahindra XUV300, Ford EcoSport, Toyota Urban Cruiser, Nissan Magnite and Renault Kiger.



# Uno Minda ties up with Korea based Asentec

**U**NO MINDA Ltd, a Tier-1 supplier of proprietary automotive solutions and systems to OEMs, entered into a technical license agreement with Korea based Asentec to strengthen its advance automotive sensors product portfolio. Asentec is a leading global supplier of automotive sensors and actuators, will help Uno Minda to design, develop, manufacture and market wheel speed sensors in India.

Asentec, a subsidiary of Sejong Industrial, specialises in mobility parts centered on sensors and actuators with manufacturing facilities in Korea, Vietnam and China. The company is leading suppliers to OEMs in Korea and international market.

Uno Minda had set up separate division for automotive sensors few years back considering the rising demand of the evolving technology in sensor space. Sensor division has come a long way since its inception with manufacturing of engine and exhaust sensors, transmission & suspension sensors and active safety and comfort sensors among others. The current partnership with Asentec will further strengthen its advance sensors product portfolio in the country.

Earlier this year, Uno Minda had entered into a joint venture agreement with German based Buehler Motor GmbH to enhance its EV offerings. The company also decided to expand its manufacturing capacity of 4W alloy wheels and 4W automotive switches to meet their rising demand in the Indian market.



Commenting on the overall company's performance in the year 2022, Mr. Nirmal K Minda, CMD, Uno Minda Ltd, said, "The automotive industry experienced strong growth in 2022 filled with positive momentum and is looking to surpass the pre-pandemic production levels. In order to seize new market opportunities, our effort was focused on making calculated efforts to raise our share of business with OEMs, steadily enhance kit value, and provide customer with new cutting-edge technologies."



Mr. Nirmal K Minda  
CMD, Uno Minda Ltd



# Shriram Automall introduces price trend report of used vehicles

**S**HRIRAM Automall India Ltd (SAMIL), India's Leading marketplace for pre-owned vehicles and equipment, introduced the first-of-its-kind used vehicles and equipment price trends reports – ThePriceX Insights Report 2022 recently. This report delivers segment-wise and model-wise price trends of four-wheelers, commercial vehicles, construction equipment, farm equipment, and two-wheelers across India from any source and geography.

As every used vehicle and equipment is unique having different conditions and running history, it's very difficult to evaluate the right market price for them. ThePriceX Insights Report 2022 was developed with expertise from Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence, IIT Delhi to enhance their in-house developed pre-owned vehicle valuation platform – ThePriceX. This provides insights based on real data and analytics which will help buyers and sellers to make better decisions while buying and selling used vehicles & equipment. Shriram Automall has compiled millions of transactions points over the past 11 years, its operational expertise, and scientific analysis of the market trends to deliver a purposeful report to assist buyers and sellers with their transactions.

SAMIL's ThePriceX Tool uses machine learning algorithms, simultaneously evaluating a vehicle based on 100 plus factors including make, model, age, mileage etc., to estimate the right price range. Price indexes are validated by correlating with key industry metrics in a bid to separate the degree of change in used vehicles & equipment prices over time.

Sharing his views, Mr Sameer Malhotra, Director and CEO, (SAMIL), said, "ThePriceX Insights 2022 Report is likely to empower our buyers and sellers like banks, NBFCs, insurance companies, OEMs & dealers, leasing, rental & aggregator companies, brokers, transporters, contractors and end users to transact used vehicles & equipment more effectively and efficiently for better profitably."



Mr Sameer Malhotra  
Director and CEO, (SAMIL)



# Maruti Suzuki drives in new Eeco

**M**ARUTI Suzuki India introduced the new Eeco with a new and more powerful engine and enhanced fuel-efficiency at an event held in the Capital recently. The country's highest-selling van has been consistently dominating the segment. Building on its success, the new Eeco has been innovatively engineered and developed as a dual-purpose vehicle to cater to the evolving needs of customers.

The new Eeco aims to make every trip special, whether with family or for business. It comes with 1.2L advanced K-Series dual jet, dual VVT engine, improved interiors and enhanced safety features. The new engine delivers 10 pc more power output of 59.4kW (80.76 PS) @6000rpm and a torque output of 104.4Nm@3000rpm (for petrol variants). The petrol version is 25 pc more fuel-efficient delivering upto 20.20 kmpl, while the S-CNG version boasts of a 29 pc higher fuel-efficiency and delivers upto 27.05 km/kg.

The new Eeco interior aesthetics have been enhanced to offer a more engaging drive feel. It features driver focused controls, reclining front seats, cabin air-filter (in AC variants), dome lamp with new battery saver function, etc. It comes loaded with 11 plus safety features such as engine immobiliser, illuminated hazard switch, dual airbags, ABS with EBD, child lock for the sliding doors and windows, reverse parking sensors etc. amongst other standard safety features to ensure a safe drive. In-cabin improvements in the new Eeco cargo petrol variant consist of a flat cargo floor that increases cargo space by 60 litres.

Commenting on it, Mr. Shashank Srivastava, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, said, "Since its launch, the Eeco has been a preferred and proud choice for over 9.75 lakh owners in the past decade and enjoys an undisputed leadership with 93 pc market share in its segment. This versatile multi-purpose van with an advanced powertrain, improved mileage and new features embodies pride of ownership and living life to the fullest. It represents a whole new attitude, with fresh confidence in its latest avatar."

The new Eeco will be available across 13 variants including 5-seater, 7-seater, Cargo, Tour and Ambulance++. It has been priced between INR 5.10 lakh and INR 8.13 lakh for various variants.



# GLOBAL EYE



## MG Motor's MG4 electric gets 5-star Euro NCAP safety rating

**M**G Motor Europe announced that its new all-electric MG4 hatchback has achieved the maximum five-star Euro NCAP safety rating. Euro NCAP awarded five stars to all current MG4 specifications, including Standard, Comfort and Luxury model trims.

As part of the rigorous testing process - which tests for child and adult occupant safety, vulnerable road user protection and vehicle safety assist functions. All MG4s are equipped with MG Pilot, a comprehensive package of safety equipment designed to offer an additional layer of protection. Driver aids including active emergency braking, adaptive cruise control, lane keep assist and driver attention alert are included as standard across the range. Intelligent high beam assist and speed limit assist are also included as part of a simple, intuitive package of safety features that protects occupants and other road users.



## Toyota's hydrogen-powered Corolla races in Thailand

**T**OYOTA'S hydrogen powered Corolla participated in the 25-hour endurance race held in Thailand recently. Mr Akio Toyoda, President & CEO of Toyota Motor Corporation and founder and team owner of ROOKIE Racing, participated under the driver name "Morizo" in the race.

Toyota demonstrated its multiple pathway approach to accelerate actions towards carbon neutrality, by displaying and demonstrating various clean technologies, including Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV), Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV), Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV).



# SIAM organises tech demo for Ethanol based FFVs

Aligned with the Government's thrust towards ethanol adoption in India, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) organised a technology demonstration on "Ethanol Adoption - Flex Fuel Vehicles in India", at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi recently. It was done to demonstrate the readiness of automobile manufacturers for ethanol adoption through multiple segments of FFVs slated to be launched, particularly in the four-wheelers and two-wheelers segment.

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Mr Nitin Jairam Gadkari, inaugurated the demonstration session where the vehicle features and technological developments were showcased to emphasize the use of FFVs and future possibilities. The demonstration was organized as a part of the year-round activities to promote the use of ethanol. The programme witnessed participation from automotive industry experts, government officials, oil Industry, and other stakeholder associations.

India's Ethanol Blending Programme is driven by the highest level within the government. The important deadlines decided for pan India implementation of E-20 are 2023 for vehicles to be material compliant, and 2025 for vehicles to be fully E-20 compliant. Maruti Suzuki India, TVS Motor Company, Bajaj Auto Limited, Hero MotoCorp, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, Suzuki Motorcycle India, Yamaha Motor India and Royal Enfield participated in the exposition and showcased their flex fuel technology.

Addressing the event, Mr Gadkari said, "Ethics, economy & ecology and environment are the most prominent three pillars of our society. Regarding ecology & environment the whole world is marching towards carbon neutrality. We need to have technology that we can use to convert waste to wealth. India uses the maximum amount of fossil fuel in the world, and 40 pc of air pollution is caused by fossil fuels. Therefore, it's our responsibility to spread awareness and impart education about ethanol-blended petrol and its benefits, compared to traditional fuel."



Vinod Agarwal  
President, SIAM,  
CEO & MD, Volvo Eicher  
Commercial Vehicles

Nitin Gadkari  
Union Minister of Road  
Transport & Highways,  
Government of India

Hisashi Takeuchi  
MD & CEO  
Maruti Suzuki

K N Radhakrishnan  
Director and CEO,  
TVS Motor

## Bridgestone India ties-up with Blume Ventures

**B**RIDGESTONE India, part of Bridgestone Group, has partnered with Blume Ventures to leverage the start-up eco-system in the mobility solutions space. The partnership is aimed at joining the "Start-up India" initiative of the Government and nurture innovation and start-ups in the mobility space.

Blume focuses on early-stage, innovative technology-led start-ups. This fits into Bridgestone's interest in creating a vibrant mobility solutions space in India. Mr Sanjay Nath, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Blume Ventures, said, "Thanks to an increasing reality of IPO and M&A exits, there is a huge resurgence of founders and operators. We're excited for Blume to become the preferred seed partner of choice for both these categories."



Mr Parag Satpute, MD, Bridgestone India, said, "Bridgestone India's partnership with Blume Ventures will deepen and widen our innovation strategy and will nurture our leadership role in the introduction of new mobility services. The corporate venture partnership will allow us to accelerate our strategy of exploring new and disruptive models in the mobility eco-system."

## Tata Motors partners DTC to operate 1500 e-buses

**T**ATA MOTORS, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, announced that its fully owned subsidiary, TML CV Mobility Solutions Ltd. recently signed a definitive agreement with Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) for the operation of 1500 electric buses in the Capital. As part of the agreement, TML CV Mobility Solutions Ltd. will supply, operate and maintain 1500 units of 12-metre low-floor air-conditioned electric buses for a period 12 years.

Tata Starbus EV is an indigenously developed vehicle with superior design and best-in-class features for sustainable and comfortable commute.

Commenting on it, Mr Asim Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Chairman, TML CV Mobility Solutions Ltd, said, "Our relationship with DTC, which stands strong for over a decade, is based on the foundation of mutual trust and cooperation and this order will further strengthen it. We are confident that the electric buses will provide sustainable, safe and comfortable public transportation to the commuters of Delhi."



# Apollo Tyres keeps focus on sustainability in future



**M**ARKING itself as a responsible and progressive tyre manufacturer, Apollo Tyres, has made further commitments in the ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) space recently. The company has committed itself towards sustainability by setting target to become carbon neutral by 2050.

As part of the commitment, the company would entail improve scope-1 and scope-2 emission intensity by 25 pc by 2026 against baseline year of 2020 and also increase renewable power's share to 25 pc by 2026. It is also set to improve water withdrawal intensity by 25 pc by 2026 against baseline year of 2019. Along with these commitments, the company will improve its D&I (Diversity and Inclusion) to 12 pc globally by 2026 and increase usage of sustainable raw material to 40 pc by 2030.

Speaking about the defined targets, Mr Neeraj Kanwar, Vice Chairman & MD, Apollo Tyres Ltd, said, "With an aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2050, we are working towards creating climate-resilient operations. Dedicated teams and investments are being made in energy-saving initiatives and towards renewable energy to be prepared for the future and to contribute towards a decarbonised tomorrow."

Apollo Tyres has systems in place to monitor and analyse its GHG emissions, which are independently verified by a third party, and reported annually in its sustainability disclosures. The company has undergone climate risk assessment as per the taskforce on climate related financial disclosure (TCFD) framework. Based on the identified areas, mitigation strategies have been formulated and action plan drawn, to put them into action.

With the Andhra Pradesh facility in India, already running completely on biomass, the company has accelerated its journey towards renewable energy usage across operations and move away from fossil fuels. The Chennai plant has guaranteed a supply of 40 million units of through its investment in solar power; similarly, the Vadodara facility has captive capacities for solar and wind energy. At an overall organisation level, nearly 10 pc of power requirement in FY22 was met by renewable sources.

Apollo Tyres, in line with international tyre manufacturers, have taken an ambitious goal of achieving 40 pc sustainable material in its tyre compounds by the year 2030. The split up of sustainable materials, will be 30 pc biomaterial and 10 pc recycled material. The company has taken several steps to ensure reuse and recycling of water, in addition to increasing the awareness regarding the same in the communities around.



# Tata Motors ties up with IndusInd Bank for EV financing

IN its effort towards increasing EV adoption in the country, Tata Motors announced has joined hands with IndusInd Bank to offer an exclusive electric vehicle dealer financing solution to its authorized passenger EV dealers. Under this scheme, IndusInd Bank will provide additional inventory funding with attractive pricing to authorized passenger EV dealers of Tata Motors.

This additional inventory funding would be over and above the ICE finance limit of the dealers. Repayment tenure will range from 60 to 75 days. Furthermore, IndusInd Bank will also offer additional limit to cater to high demand phases, which will be available to dealers two times in a year.

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. Sanjeev Anand, Head – Corporate, Commercial, Rural & Inclusive Banking, IndusInd Bank Ltd.

Commenting on it, Mr Aasif Malbari, said, “As we move along towards our aim of electrification and green mobility, we are ecstatic to partner with IndusInd Bank to assist our authorized electric passenger vehicle dealer partners with an exclusive financing programme. Our dealer network is one of our core support pillars and through their constant efforts we have been able to ride the electrification wave in India. We are positive that through this tie-up, we will make EVs more accessible and the EV buying process, a seamless and a memorable experience for our customers.”

Speaking of this partnership, Mr Sanjeev Anand, Head, said, “We are proud to partner with the segment leader in the journey toward a sustainable future. Through this tie-up, we are also looking forward to expanding our base into new consumer segments and be a bank of choice providing solutions to meet all banking requirements of the customers.”

Tata Motors has been pioneering the Indian automotive market with its groundbreaking efforts, and is currently leading the e-mobility wave in India with a commanding market share of 89 pc, with over 50,000 EVs produced till date in personal and fleet segments.



**Mr. Sanjeev Anand**

Head – Corporate, Commercial, Rural & Inclusive Banking, IndusInd Bank Ltd.

**Mr. Aasif Malbari**

Chief Financial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd. and Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd.

# Tata Motors helps 3400 students enrol in engineering and med schools



**T**ATA Motors, leading vehicle manufacturer in the country, has helped around 3400 students enrol in Indian's top engineering and medical schools under its ENABLE programme in FY 2022. The programme is a crucial part of Vidyadhanam, one of its core pillars of focus in the company's Corporate Social Responsibility mandate. Among these students who benefitted under the programme, 40 per cent are women.

ENABLE is a digitally-enabled remote learning initiative that prepares talented class 11 and 12 students studying across 552 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in the country to take JEE and NEET competitive exams, providing access to resources and guidance that might otherwise not be easily available to them.

Striving to help deserving students like Mr Krishnanshu and Mr Deepak secure a place in the country's premier higher education institutes through quality coaching, Tata Motors launched the Engineering and NEET (National Eligibility Entrance Test) Admission Bridge Accelerated Learning Engagement initiative—ENABLE in January 2021 in association with the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), Avanti Fellows and Ex-Navodayan Foundation.

ENABLE extends field-leading, free-of-cost coaching with targeted mentoring and continuous evaluation, supported by the benefits of a digital medium. Overall, 35 pc of the students supported by this programme make it to prestigious engineering and medical institutes of the country.

Commenting on it, Mr Vinod Kulkarni, CSR Head, Tata Motors, said, "Tata Motors has exerted continued emphasis on the need of making quality education accessible to all. ENABLE is focused on helping augment the efforts of secondary school students in their journey towards transitioning into higher education, and strives to provide promising youth from underserved communities all the help they need to make their engineering and medical aspirations come true. In the coming years we hope to magnify the scope and impact of ENABLE, helping many more talented children fulfil their dreams."



# PEOPLE

## Hero MotoCorp expands role of two top executives

**H**ERO MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, announced expansion in the role of key top management executives of the company. As part of the new expansion Mr Niranjan Gupta, currently Chief Financial Officer (CFO), has been given the additional charge of heading Strategy and M&A for the company.

Mr Vikram Kasbekar, Executive Director on the Board of Hero MotoCorp, has been given the responsibility to head the key function of Global Product Planning as an interim charge. He is also on the Board of HMCMM Auto Private limited and HNBL, Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, after spending more than six years with Hero MotoCorp, Mr Malo Le Masson, Head of Strategy, M&A & Global Product Planning (GPP), has decided to move on and pursue opportunities outside of the company.



Mr Niranjan Gupta



Mr Vikram Kasbekar



Ms Manasi Tata

## Manasi Tata is new Director of Kirloskar JV companies

**K**IRLOSKAR Systems Pvt. Ltd. (KSPL) announced the appointment of Ms. Manasi Tata as Director on the board of KSPL's joint-venture companies, including Toyota Industries Engine India Pvt. Ltd. (TIEI), Kirloskar Toyota Textile Machinery Pvt. Ltd. (KTTM), Toyota Material Handling India Pvt. Ltd. (TMHIN), and Denso Kirloskar Industries Pvt. Ltd. (DNKI).

Ms Manasi Tata's appointment as Director, comes after the untimely passing of her father, Late Mr Vikram S. Kirloskar, former CMD, KSPL. His wife, Mrs. Geetanjali Kirloskar, has already taken charge as the new CMD at KSPL.

## Tata Green Batteries appoints Rama Shankar Pandey as CEO

**R**AMA SHANKAR PANDEY, who led Hella India Lighting as its Managing Director for 13 years till recently, has joined Tata Green Batteries as its CEO. The battery maker Tata Green Batteries is a joint venture between the Tata Group's auto components business Tata AutoComp Systems and Japan's GS Yuasa Corporation. In his new role, Pandey will also be responsible for Tata AutoComp's aftermarket business for all markets.



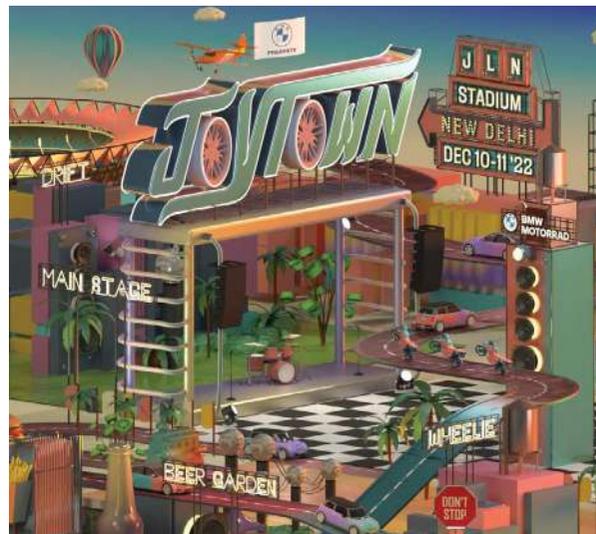
Mr Rama Shankar Pandey

# BMW organises JOYTOWN festival

## Showcases driving prowess of its luxury cars and bikes

BMW Group India organised its first-ever music and driving festival – JOYTOWN - in the NCR region recently. The two-day immersive brand experience festival enthralled brand fans and enthusiasts as the company showcased the power of its dynamic cars and bikes. The event will be hosted in Mumbai and Bengaluru as well this January.

JOYTOWN brought together BMW, MINI and BMW Motorrad to offer one-of-a-kind experience that is a perfect mix of cars and bikes, music, entertainment and gastronomical delights. The event witnessed jaw dropping stunts/drifts performed by experts on cars and bikes. The experts showcased the power and agility of BMW M cars and the prowess of BMW xDrive.



Commenting on it, Mr Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India, said, “JOYTOWN is a unique melange of bespoke experiences intersecting BMW, MINI and BMW Motorrad, music and culinary offerings. We are thrilled to present India’s first-ever music and driving festival which is specially designed for automotive enthusiasts and their family members. It’s an exclusive access to witness the thrilling world of BMW, experience MINI’s legendary go-kart feeling, gravity defying stunts by BMW Motorrad riders and grooving to the beats and tunes of India’s favourite artists all at one place.”



# BMW Motorrad unveils S 1000 RR super sports bike

**B**MW Motorrad launched its hugely popular all-new S 1000 RR super sport bike at an event held in Gurugram recently. Launched as a completely built-up unit, the bike is available for bookings and deliveries will commence from February 2023 onwards. The super bike has been priced between INR 20.25 lakh and INR 24.45 lakh.

The all-new S 1000 RR surpasses its forerunners thanks to comprehensive updates to the engine, suspension, chassis, aerodynamics, design and assistance systems. The front has a completely revamped look with a higher windscreen, side winglets and partitioning of the lower triple clamp.

The super bike has been fitted with an advanced 4-cylinder water / oil cooled engine with BMW shiftcam technology. The 999cc engine generates 210 hp at 13,750 rpm to deliver supreme level of engine power (3 hp more than the previous model). The 6-speed gearbox allows ease of

The S 1000 RR's advanced narrow 'Flex Frame' is further improvised. One-piece rear swinging arm with underslung sections and the rear wheel is easier to remove and install. The new suspension geometry not only improves riding precision, but also increases target accuracy and provides clearer feedback from the front wheel. M Brakes are offered as standard on the new S 1000 RR. The supremely effective ABS Pro with new Brake Slide Assist and ABS Pro 'Slick' setting functions ensure perfect braking.

This generation of S 1000 RR boasts multiple innovations in coloured TFT screen and electrical / electronic system. The new instrument cluster has an optimised display of the rev counter. Moreover, factory setting can be seen in a pie chart with new representation of ABS setting options. Standard equipment has been expanded to include the lighter M battery and USB charging socket.



# Greaves Electric Mobility to unveil five new EVs at Auto Expo 2023



Boosted by a healthy investment round, Greaves Electric Mobility Pvt Ltd (GEMPL), the e-mobility business of Greaves Cotton, will showcase five new electric two and three-wheelers for passenger and cargo segments at the Auto Expo 2023. Sharing a glimpse into its ambitious EV roadmap of the future, the company will address EV customer needs in the fast-transforming B2B and B2C space.

The new products will sport a sophisticated and modern design language, backed by rigorous engineering and development. Each product is carefully optimized to address future customer expectation, Indian road- and use-conditions, and operating economics. The design inspiration for the Ampere 2-wheeler range and the 3-wheeler range from GEMPL stems from the theme of humanising technology, by bringing together the best of technology and safety.

Highlights of the new range include an all-new EV scooter embodying the new brand identity and premium design, along with a next-generation, aero-efficient cargo three-wheeler concept. Each product will continue to embody the company's 'Make-in-India' thrust with a high-degree of localization with domestically sourced components.

Commenting on it, Mr Nagesh Basavanhalli, Executive Vice Chairman of Greaves Cotton, said, "This Auto Expo is a milestone for GEMPL. Following a healthy investment round we are, for the first time, showcasing a hint of our future. This is characterized by a wide array of products to suit two-wheeler and three-wheeler EV customers across relevant price points for both the B2B and the B2C segments. Our new modern brand identity and design language is an expression of the sophistication we will bring to the segment."

GEMPL has recorded its highest ever Q2 sales of 33K units for its two and three-wheeler portfolio. The company has emerged as a full-range, pure-play EV firm with an extensive EV portfolio in passenger & cargo mobility. It is also advancing the adoption of electric vehicles in the nation, by building an ecosystem at scale, with EV retailing through its extensive network of Greaves retail stores, EV financing from Greaves Finance, and an extensive after-sales and service network.



**Mr Nagesh Basavanhalli**  
Executive Vice Chairman of  
Greaves Cotton

## Sona Comstar aims at sustainable future



Mr Sunjay Kapur,  
Chairman, Sona Comstar

**S**ONA BLW Precision Forgings Ltd ("Sona Comstar"), one of the leading providers of automotive technology solutions globally, aims to develop a sustainable future for its business and stakeholders. The company's plans were unveiled in the recently released first sustainability report that was themed - "Accelerating towards the future of mobility, sustainably".

As a technology leader, Sona Comstar will make the most significant impact by enabling a reduction in GHG emissions through low-carbon mobility, resource efficiency and promoting social progress. The company has also increased the revenue share from Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) from 1.3 pc in FY19 to 25 pc in FY22.

Commenting on the report, Mr Sunjay Kapur, Chairman, Sona Comstar, said, "The aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Europe, the global economic slowdown, high inflation, and climate change; all these events reaffirm the importance of sustainable development and make us reflect on the values that bind our society together. Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do at Sona Comstar. It is central to the trust placed in our company by all stakeholders, including customers, employees, suppliers, partners, shareholders and communities. We are leading the way to a sustainable future."

## Shriram Pistons & Rings marches ahead

**S**HRIRAM Pistons & Rings Ltd (SPRL) has an exceptional lineage of Shriram Group, one of the most reputed Industrial houses. Driven by advance technology, The Company has the capability to provide end-to-end solutions which include Design, Develop, Validate and Manufacture products for its customers at its Tech Centre with highly talented Design and Engineering Professionals in Concept Design, FEA, Simulation, Rig Testing, Prototype Development, and Engine Testing & Analysis

The Company deploys most modern manufacturing equipment and processes, using state-of-the-art technology. SPR has evolved into a centre of manufacturing excellence, employing over 9000 motivated and multi-skilled employees. The Company is the largest manufacturer of Pistons, Pins, Rings, and Engine Valves in India with two Manufacturing units in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh and one in Pathredi (Rajasthan). Its products are marketed to almost all OEMs and Aftermarkets under the brands SPR and USHA.

SPR is the largest exporter of Pistons and Rings from India to marquee customers, including Perkins, Fiat Power Train, Cummins, Yanmar, BMW, Daimler, BRP Rotax, Kubota, Wabco, Cummins, etc. SPRL has the "Trading House" status from the Government of India.

Being customer-driven, and bringing smiles, has its rewards. SPRL is the first customer-driven Engine Valve manufacturer in India to receive the coveted TPM Excellence Award in 2004 and TPM Special Award in 2008 from JIPM, Japan. Also, SPR has received multiple awards from OEMs for Excellence in Technology, Manufacturing Excellence, Quality, Exports and Overall Performance. SPR has Direct on Line (DoL) status with most OEMs.



Krishnakumar, MD & CEO, Shriram Pistons & Rings Ltd.

# Honda Power begins battery swap service at Bengaluru metro stations

**H**ONDA Power Pack Energy India Pvt. Ltd. (HEID), a subsidiary of Honda Motor Co., for battery swap service, and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), announced the start of battery swap services at the BMRCL metro stations.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the service, Mr. Kiyoshi Ito, President & CMD, Honda Power Pack Energy India, said, "HEID would focus on three actions, which are expanding its battery swap network in Bengaluru, ensuring the reliable service with a highly integrated system monitoring every unique battery and exchanger, and supporting vehicle manufacturers who are developing EV that utilizes Honda Mobile Power Pack e."

In November 2021, HEID was established to begin battery swap service in India starting with electric auto rickshaws. The company's battery swap service will enable rickshaw drivers to stop by at the nearest battery stations being setup across the selected cities and swap discharged batteries (Honda Mobile Power Pack e:) with fully charged ones. The use of this service will significantly reduce drivers' initial cost to purchase EV as well as reducing concern about range anxiety and running out of batteries.

Mr. Anjum Parwez, MD, BMRCL, said "People will adopt to eco-friendly mobility services, if required setup are delivered. Such charging infrastructure will not only facilitate metro commuters to adopt to e mobility as their first and last mile connectivity, it will also facilitate other e-mobility vehicle users to become partners for a Greener Bangalore."



**Mr. Kiyoshi Ito**  
President & CMD,  
Honda Power Pack Energy India

**Mr. Anjum Parwez**  
MD, BMRCL

HEID and BMRCL signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in the field of e-mobility and have affirmed the mutual commitment through developing its swap station network. HEID has already set up Honda e:Swap station at five BMRCL stations in Bengaluru and started its operation initially for electric auto rickshaws which are compatible with Honda Mobile Power Pack e:. This partnership would accelerate the penetration of e-mobility in the last and fast mile connectivity and contribute into cleaner & greener future.

HEID vision is to create the largest battery swapping station network by setting up more than 70 stations in Bengaluru by July 2023. Furthermore, based on the success in Bengaluru city, the service will be expanded to other major cities in a phased manner.



# SPREADING WINGS



## Okaya EV debuts in Sri Lanka

CONTINUING with its commitment of delivering a wide range of e-scooters to its customers all across the globe, Okaya EV, announced its foray into Sri Lanka with the opening of its first showroom in Colombo. The company also announced the launch of Sri Lanka's first-ever fully electric bike in partnership with Douglas and Sons (DSL).

This company's first showroom has on display the complete range of its EVs in terms of price mileage and top speed. Inaugurating the company's first showroom in Sri Lanka, Mr Anshul Gupta, MD, Okaya Electric Vehicles, said, "We take pride in opening our first showroom of Sri Lanka at Colombo, simultaneously with launching the country's first-ever fully electric bike in partnership with Douglas and sons. At Okaya, we are committed to provide top-of-the-line and sustainable electric mobility to our valued customers."

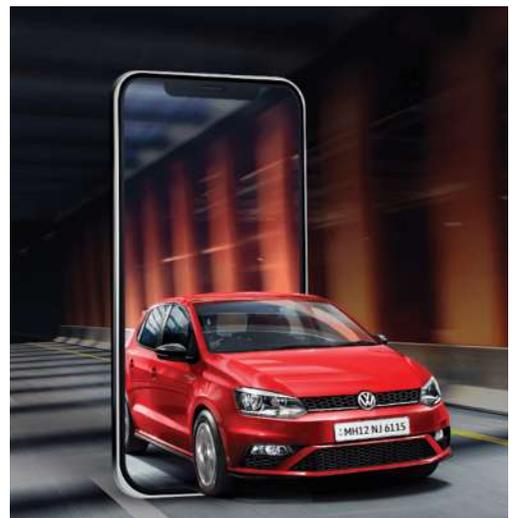


The showroom at Colombo was inaugurated by Mr Saroj Perera, Chairman and Managing Director of DSL, Mr Anil Gupta, Vice President of International Business at OKAYA Power Pvt. Ltd. and the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Mr Gopal Baglay. Meanwhile, Okaya EV is offering three slow-speed electric scooters—Freedom, Class IQ, and Avion IQ—in the Indian market as well as in Sri Lanka.

## Volkswagen opens new touchpoint in Nagpur

Volkswagen Passenger Cars India inaugurated a new sales and service touchpoint in Nagpur recently. The new 3S (sales, service & spares) touchpoint is operated under the adept leadership of Mr Siddharth Vaid, Dealer Partner, Volkswagen Nagpur.

The five-car display area in the showroom will showcase India's safest SUVW, the Taigun, striking & exhilarating Virtus and the global best-seller, Tiguan. Along with the impeccable product offerings, the showroom will also cater to the service requirements of the customers. The 18-bay workshop will be manned by highly skilled and trained technicians.



## Isuzu sets footprint in Jammu & Kashmir

ISUZU Motors India, manufacturers of the world-renowned D-Max pick-ups and SUV range, has set its footprint in Jammu & Kashmir region with the inauguration of two new Authorized Service Centres (ASC) at Baramulla and Jammu recently.

While the Jammu centre has been opened in partnership with Kulwant Automobiles, the Baramulla centre will be managed by partner, Midland Automobiles. Both the centres are well-equipped with modern tools, genuine parts and lubes. The ASC facility was inaugurated by the senior management from Isuzu Motors India, Midland Automobiles and Kulwant Automobiles.

Commenting on the occasion, Capt. Shankar Srinivas, Vice President – Service & Customer Relations, External Affairs & PR, Isuzu Motors India, said, "We are constantly ramping up our service offering across the country in an effort to be closer to our customers. Customer delight is at the core of our service operations and we work towards enhancing their experience throughout with the support of our network partners."



## Volkswagen strengthens presence in East India



VOLKSWAGEN Passenger Cars India strengthened its presence in East India with the inauguration of two new touchpoints in the city of Kolkata. The newly inaugurated touchpoints will be operated under the adept leadership of Mr Rajiv Sanghvi, Managing Director, PPS Group. The city of Kolkata now comprises of four sales touch points and three service facilities that will serve the discerning Indian customer.

With the addition of two new touchpoints in Kolkata, Volkswagen presents its young and fresh product portfolio – the Taigun, Virtus and the Tiguan.

Commenting at the inauguration, Mr Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said, "We are witnessing an influx in demand for our newly introduced products in the state of West Bengal and East India. In an endeavour to be accessible, we have expanded our network presence in order to meet the requirements of our aspirational Indian customers."



**Mr Rajiv Sanghvi**  
Managing Director, PPS Group.

## Toyota inaugurates first regional stockyard in Haryana

**E**NABLING easy access to world-class products and services to its customers, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) inaugurated its first regional stockyard at Faruknagar in Haryana recently. The new stockyard promises quicker delivery of vehicles to customers across seven states in North India.

Ensuring a leaner and efficient distribution network across the region, the strategically located stockyard will reduce delivery time from the current 6-8 days to a maximum of two days for dealers in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu & Kashmir.

The five-acre stockyard which has a parking capacity of 900 vehicles, is the second such for TKM, following the launch of its first regional stockyard in Guwahati in 2020. The regional stockyard in Guwahati has majorly benefitted the dealers and customers in the North-eastern region of India.



Commenting at the inauguration, Mr V. Wiseline Sigamani, General Manager, TKM, said, "By being in close proximity to our patrons through the regional stockyard, we are not only able to reduce transit costs but also reduce CO2 emissions significantly in the process, through reduced logistics."

## Citroen opens first phygital showroom in Nagpur

**M**AKING its foray into the central Indian region, Citroën India opened its first 'La Maison Citroën' phygital showroom in Nagpur recently. The conveniently-located new dealership will make the company's offerings easily-accessible for the residents of the city who are planning to buy a new car.

The entire Citroën India range, which currently includes the new C5 Aircross SUV and the new C3, will be available for retail at the phygital showroom in Nagpur. In addition to customer-focused, digital-driven sales services, the dealership will also house L'Atelier Citroën to ensure customers have seamless access to a robust range of after-sales services as well.



# VECV organizes seminar to envision sustainable public transport

**V**E Commercial Vehicles, a Joint Venture between Sweden's Volvo Group and India's Eicher

Motors, organised the Nobel Series Seminar 2022 in New Delhi recently to arrive at measurable outcomes to drive sustainable and scalable public transport in the country.

The seminar was organized under the patronage of Sweden's Ambassador to India. Since its inception in 2009, the Nobel Series Seminar has sought to provide an inclusive platform for public transport stakeholders to deliberate for a sustainable, safe and dependable public transport for India.

The latest edition was themed: Public Transport: Passenger Transport during Amrit Kaal – in keeping with the government's ambitious vision to improve the quality of life of all Indians by boosting digital and physical connectivity.

In his inaugural address, Mr Jan Thesleff, Ambassador of Sweden to India, said, "Transport is an integral part of a comprehensive Indo-Sweden partnership that kicked off in 2018. Sustainability is in the Swedish DNA. Blend the blue and yellow colours of the Swedish flag and you have green!"

Mr Akash Passey, President Bus Division and e-mobility, VE Commercial Vehicles, said, "VECV offers end-end people and cargo movement solutions. We are also privileged to actively participate and lead the industry in the domains of digitization and green mobility. The congruence between Swedish technical expertise and Indian engineering mettle is bearing rich dividends."

Mr Passey also hosted a panel discussion around the theme of the event. Speaking at the event, Mr Prasanna Pathwardhan, CMD, Prasanna Group of Companies and President Bus and Car Operators Confederation of India, said, "Bus-based public transport has no single nodal authority unlike the railways. We need a central mobility fund that covers all modes of transport under an integrated multimodal management authority."

Addressing the meet, Dr. SK Lohia, Senior Advisor, World Bank, said, "In scaling up the bus-based public transport sector, it is important that lessons are imbibed from the railways which have proper systems of improving rolling stock specifications, training, resource allocation and development of non-farebox revenues."



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# Tata Motors partners BMTC to operate e-buses in Bengaluru



**T**ata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) signed a definitive agreement with its fully owned subsidiary, TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd. for operation of 921 electric buses in the city of Bengaluru recently.

As part of the agreement, TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd. will supply, operate and maintain 921 units of 12-metre low-floor electric buses for a period of 12 years. Tata Starbus Electric is an indigenously developed vehicle with superior design and best-in-class features for sustainable and comfortable commute.

Commenting on it, Ms. G Sathyavathi, IAS, Managing Director, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation, said, "We are pleased to have signed an agreement with TML Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd. for operating 921 electric buses in Bengaluru. We are confident that the induction of the zero-emission, eco-friendly buses will benefit all stakeholders and help in curbing air pollution. Tata Motors' vast experience in the electric mobility domain will certainly assist in providing uninterrupted, safe and comfortable commute in the city."

Mr. Asim Kumar Mukhopadhyay, CEO and MD, TML Smart City Mobility Solutions, said, "It is a momentous occasion for us as we sign the first definitive agreement under the larger CESL tender and are delighted to have partnered with BMTC in their effort to modernise and electrify the public transportation in the city of Bengaluru. We, at Tata Motors, continuously endeavour to develop smart, green and energy efficient mass mobility solutions. We are confident that the electric buses will provide sustainable, safe and comfortable public transportation to the commuters of Bengaluru."

Tata Motors' state-of-the-art research and development facilities have steadily worked to engineer innovative mobility solutions powered by alternate fuel technology, including battery-electric, hybrid, CNG, LNG and Hydrogen Fuel Cell technology. Till date, the company has supplied more than 730 electric buses across multiple cities in India, which have cumulatively clocked more than 55 million kilometres, with an uptime of over 95 pc.



**Mr. Asim Kumar**  
Mukhopadhyay, CEO and MD,  
TML Smart City Mobility Solutions,

# JLR begins deliveries of new Range Rover Sport in India

JAGUAR Land Rover India announced that it has begun deliveries of the all-new Range Rover Sport in the country recently. The new Range Rover Sport is available with a 3.0 l diesel engine, delivering power of 258 kW and torque of 700 Nm and a 3.0 l petrol engine, delivering power of 294 kW and torque of 550 Nm. The vehicle is available in Dynamic SE, Dynamic HSE and Autobiography specifications, with a First Edition available throughout the first year of production.

Mr Rohit Suri, President and MD, Jaguar Land Rover India, said: "The new Range Rover Sport builds on seventeen years of unparalleled sporting luxury by offering newer levels of sophistication and refinement to our highly discerning clients. The third-generation model is the most desirable, advanced and dynamically capable yet."

Assertive, confident and muscular, the new Range Rover Sport delivers unparalleled road presence through its short overhangs, large wheels and unmistakable, dramatic profile. The vehicle is built on the state-of-the-art MLA-Flex platform, which enables next-level capability, performance and handling, as well as greater efficiency.



# Aeris Communications awarded for AI-driven innovations

**A**ERIS Communications, a leading provider of Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, won the award in the 'Best Innovation in AI-Customer Experience' category for its ClarityAI solution at the DX Awards 2022. The AI-powered app developed by Aeris utilizes Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) technology to remove background noises and improve voice quality, ensuring that there are no roadblocks during communication.

With participation from over 380 plus companies and evaluation from 50 jury members on the entries in three rounds, the recognition stands as a testament to the company's commitment to demonstrating excellence in innovation and implementation of customer solutions.

ClarityAI solution provides seamless communication during video conferencing which is used by companies to connect with employees, customers, and partners. Choosing the right technology plays a pivotal role in ensuring uninterrupted virtual meetings without any unwanted background noise.

Commenting on it, Dr Rishi Bhatnagar, President, Aeris Communications, said, "Being recognized for the outstanding work we perform for our clients and receiving several awards is an honour for us. This has only been possible due to our dedicated and hardworking team of experts par excellence, who function as the strong pillar of growth and expansion of our business and clientele. Winning for ClarityAI is also noteworthy because it advances our mission to create a future of work that depends on the flexibility and creativity of in-office, remote, and hybrid workers."

In the year 2022, Aeris Communications has been named the Best Company to Work for while Dr Rishi Bhatnagar was accorded the CEO of the Year Award and Ms Shweta Berry was conferred with Brand Builder of the Year Award.

Speaking after winning the award, Ms Shweta Berry, Director Marketing & Head of Strategic Alliances-Industry & Academia, Marcom, Sales Enablement and CSR Divisions, Aeris Communications, said, "Its humbling to receive recognition for the accomplishments of my past two decades of professional work as a marketeer, as well as effectiveness of the marketing strategy adopted to establish the Aeris brand in our regions of operations. This great honour serves as a testament to not only me, but to the leadership at Aeris, which is committed to serving all our stakeholders with high value and honesty."



In the year 2022, Aeris Communications has been named the Best Company to Work for while Dr Rishi Bhatnagar was accorded the CEO of the Year Award and Ms Shweta Berry was conferred with Brand Builder of the Year Award.

# BMW Motorrad's luxury bikes roar at India Bike Week 2022

**B**MW Motorrad showcased its exclusive range of luxury sports bikes at India Bike Week 2022 held in Goa recently. True to its motto - 'Make Life a Ride', the company's pavilion attracted motorcycle enthusiasts and seasoned bikers to the fascinating world of luxury sports bikes.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India, said, "At BMW Motorrad, we have been crafting not only masterpieces of engineering, but experiences that are just pure enthusiasm on two wheels. We are thrilled to bring BMW Motorrad back to India Bike Week, presenting our fans from all over India the very essence of our brand motto 'Make Life a Ride'. We are overwhelmed with the response from bikers who have travelled from all across the country and look forward to see them embark on a journey of their lifetime with the 'Ultimate Riding Machine'."

At the pavilion, the ground level displays included G 310 RR, S 1000 RR, F 850 GS, F 900 XR, K 1600 GTL option 719 Midnight, R 18 and C 400 GT. Custom made G 310 RR, G 310 R and G 310 GS bikes were also on special display. The latest range of the brand accessories and garment collection were also on display. The Bar and VIP zone on the terrace provided a prime view of the entire event and was the perfect place to relax amidst the buzz.

Motorcycling enthusiasts and customers also made great use of the opportunity to engage with BMW Motorrad product specialists and receive expert advice on products and services. A complimentary general bike check-up and service support was offered to all BMW customers at the pavilion. Further, special offers on riding gear and accessories was available to bikers and enthusiasts.

BMW Motorrad customers from across the country participated in the event. On the first day, the group rode out together on an exclusive 'BMW Motorrad Ride-in'. Riding to Vagator, the cavalcade created excitement through the city, marking the official opening of the BMW Motorrad Pavilion.



**Mr Vikram Pawah**  
President,  
BMW Group India



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# Tata Motors to deliver 5000 XPRES-T EVs to Everest Fleet

**K**EEPING the vision of a clean & green environment alive, Tata Motors signed an MoU with Everest Fleet Pvt. Ltd. recently for the delivery of 5000 XPRES-T EVs. The company handed over 100 cars to mark this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ramesh Dorairajan, Senior General Manager, Network Management and EV Sales, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicle, said, "We are delighted to associate with Everest Fleet for the deployment of 5000 XPRES-T EVs electric sedans in their fleet. With enhanced safety, fast charging solution, a premium interior theme, and dynamic performance at an affordable price, the XPRES-T EV has created a new benchmark in India's EV fleet segment with a market share of more than 90 pc. Through such partnerships, we are successfully moving towards enhancing EV adoption in India, thereby helping the country #EvolveToElectric."

Mr. Siddharth Ladsariya, Founder, Everest Fleet Pvt. Ltd., "Everest Fleet is a purpose-led organisation with a deep focus on sustainable mobility solutions. At Everest Fleet, we are paving the way for a better India, one kilometer at a time. Time has come to now take our 100 pc CNG cars' fleet towards a greener and cleaner alternative - Electric Vehicle. We are really looking forward for this EV journey together with Tata Motors as a strategic partner."

In July 2021, Tata Motors launched the 'XPRES' brand exclusively for fleet customers, and the XPRES-T EV is the first vehicle under this brand. The new XPRES-T electric sedan comes with 2 range options – 213km and 165km (ARAI certified range under test conditions). It packs a high energy density battery of 21.5 kWh and 16.5 kWh and be charged from 0- 80% in 90 mins and 110 mins, respectively, using fast charging or can also be normally charged from any 15 A plug point, which is easily available and convenient. It comes with zero tail-pipe emission, single speed automatic transmission, dual airbags, and ABS with EBD as standard across variants. The premium black theme interior with standard automatic climate control and Electric Blue accents across its interior and exterior will give it a differentiated presence from other Tata cars.

**Mr. Siddharth Ladsariya**  
Founder,  
Everest Fleet Pvt. Ltd



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