

Industry welcomes norms, says can offer choices to customers

WHAT VETERANS SAID

- Enables to plan investments, accelerate innovation and offer compelling range of cleaner mobility solutions: Shailesh Chandra, Tata Motors PV
- A pragmatic, forward-looking framework and a double win for the environment and India's energy security: Velusamy R, M&M
- Aligning to multi pathway approach, BEVs, REEVs, PHEVs, SHEVs and FFVs have all been fairly recognised: Vikram Gulati, Toyota Kirloskar Motor
- An important regulatory push for the next phase of India's ethanol journey: Deepak Ballani, ISMA

S Ronendra Singh

New Delhi

With the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-III) norms in place now, the automobile industry on Wednesday said it will not only ensure reduction of the overall fuel consumption from new passenger vehicles (PVs), but also give the industry an opportunity to work on various technology pathways.

THE WAY FORWARD

"CAFE-III regulation lays down a structured roadmap with aggressive annual targets for next five years for the auto industry along with a market-based compliance mechanism," said Shenu Agarwal, President of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

"This will not only ensure the reduction of overall fuel consumption from new PVs but also provide an opportunity to the industry to work on various technology pathways providing multiple choices to the consumers."

The continued recognition of zero-emission technologies reinforces the critical role of electrification in achieving India's long-term decarbonisation objectives, said Shailesh Chandra, MD and CEO, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles.

Velusamy R, President Automotive Business, Mahindra & Mahindra, said, "The targets are appropriately ambitious and provide a clear trajectory through 2031-32. We also welcome the inclusion of a compliance block, technology credits, cleaner-fuel benefits and super credits for EVs and other advanced technologies... This is a pragmatic, forward-looking framework and a double win for the environment and India's energy security."

Toyota Kirloskar Motor's Country Head and Executive Vice-President Vikram Gulati also said the new regula-

tion takes due cognisance of the importance of various clean technologies using an objective and scientific-based assessment methodology to arrive at a regulation that is best suited for our national interests.

"The provisions for credit trading, pooling and flexible compliance mechanisms offer manufacturers greater flexibility while promoting innovation, investment and competitiveness in India's transition towards sustainable mobility," Tarun Garg, MD and CEO, Hyundai Motor India, said.

According to Rahul Bharti, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs at Maruti Suzuki India, the regulation recognises the contribution of multiple powertrain technologies and fuels encouraging multi-faceted R&D and innovation. "A credit/debit mechanism is an improvisation over the previous CAFE-II regulation," he added.

GREATER FUEL CHOICE

The agricultural sector has also welcomed the development, saying the recognition of ethanol-based mobility is an important step towards encouraging greater fuel and technology choice in India.

"These measures can help create additional avenues for utilising India's growing ethanol capacity while reducing fossil fuel dependence, strengthening energy security and resilience, and advancing India's journey towards a more self-reliant and low-carbon mobility sector," Deepak Ballani, D-G, Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association, said.

According to Vijendra Singh, President, All India Distillers' Association, CAFE-III norms give automakers greater clarity to plan and invest in flex-fuel technologies. "CAFE-III is not just an auto-sector regulation; it creates a formal policy bridge between India's expanding ethanol ecosystem and the future of clean mobility."