

# Maruti to Lead Suzuki's Gasoline Drive in India & Other Markets

Suzuki arm working on tech that could make internal combustion engine cars cleaner

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**New Delhi:** Indian subsidiary Maruti Suzuki will increasingly take a lead role in developing cleaner vehicles running on gasoline, for the local market as well as other key geographies like Latin America and ASEAN, for parent Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC). While Suzuki, along with alliance partner Toyota, will focus on developing electric and hybrid vehicles, Maruti Suzuki is executing internal combustion engine-related projects, which will make gasoline vehicles cleaner.

"The Indian government has set a target to go net zero by 2070. Unlike Europe, there is a lot of potential for internal combustion engine vehicles in India. If EV is going to be 15-20% of the market by 2030, the larger market will continue to be ICE. That development will be increasingly entrusted to MSIL R&D. We are building on our develop-

## Top Priority

Range of New Tech at Work

- Higher ethanol blends
- Flex fuel
- Compressed biogas



Maruti aims to convert models to run on electricity, hybrid tech or biofuels in 7-10 years

14 brands are running on CNG



## Home Advantage

India accounts for over 60% of Suzuki's global production

India accounts for 95% of additional 262,000 units

Suzuki sold worldwide in the first nine months of FY23

ment capabilities & capacity", Maruti Suzuki chief technology officer CV Raman told ET. Industry estimates 6 million passenger vehicles will be sold in the Indian market every year by the end of the decade. Of this, about a million vehicles will be electric, necessitating clean tech interventions for several million new vehicles slated to be added over the next 8 years.

The India team at SMC's subsidiary is accordingly working on a range of new technologies — from higher ethanol blends in gasoline vehicles to flex fuel and compressed biogas — to bring down fuel consumption and carbon emissions. Maruti Suzuki aims to convert all models in its portfolio to run on electricity, hybrid technology or biofuels in the next 7-

10 years.

Raman informed, "We are looking at various technologies, improving emission from ICE vehicles is a big part of our strategy. We have changed engines from KB to KC series. All our vehicles are E20-compliant from April 1, 2023. This will help reduce consumption of fossil fuels."

Maruti has showcased the flex fuel WagonR, which will go into production in 2025. It has 14 brands running on CNG. Post the rationalization in prices of natural gas earlier this year, the company has seen an uptick in demand for CNG-driven vehicles. With the price differential between gasoline and CNG widening, nearly a fourth of its sales have started coming in from the fuel.