

Wait is over: 16th edition of motor show to be 'electric'

Even as some mainline brands are conspicuous by their absence, India's biggest automobile event is for petrolheads

SHINE JACOB
Chennai, 9 January

With as many as five global launches and 75 unveils, India's flagship motor show — Auto Expo 2023 — is ready to kick-start this week, starting Friday. Clean mobility will drive the expo in this year's edition, which kicks off with press days on January 11-12, followed by general public days from January 13-18, and will see a much larger participation of newer start-up players, especially in the electric vehicle (EV) segment.

This edition is set to see the highest industry participation, with about 80 industry stakeholders participating in the mega motor show, including 46 vehicle manufacturers.

While traditional original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) like Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL), Tata Motors, Hyundai Motor India, Kia India, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, MG Motor India, Ashok Leyland, Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicles, SML Isuzu, and JBM Auto will be part of the event, there will be bigger participation from newer start-up players — most of them producing only EVs, ranging from two- and three-wheelers to passenger and commercial EVs.

"Auto Expo 2023 is providing a platform for companies to showcase advancements in new-generation electrified technologies and will provide experience to consumers on how the automotive industry has charged up for transformation of mobility that will be carbon-benign, safe, and connected. There are a large number of pure EV players showcasing electric passenger vehicles (PVs), two- and three-wheelers, and commercial vehicles (CVs)," said Rajesh Menon, director-general, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers.

The 16th edition of the Auto Expo will be held at the India Exposition Mart in Greater Noida after a gap of three years.

In the PV segment, pure electric OEMs will include BYD India, Vayve Mobility, and Pravaig

Dynamics.

In the two-wheeler segment, electric OEMs include Ampere EV by Greaves, Tork Motors, Wardwizard Innovations & Mobility, LML eMotion, Atul Auto, Matter Motor Works, MTA E-Mobility, and Motovolt Mobility.

Among CVs, pure EV OEMs include Omega Seiki Mobility, Hexall Motors, and Jupiter Electric Mobility.

The show will also give alternative sources like ethanol powertrain top billing. A separate ethanol pavilion will showcase technological developments in the ethanol value chain.

Some vehicle manufacturers will also display their working prototype of flex-fuel vehicles which can take a range of ethanol blends varying between 20 per cent and 85 per cent. These vehicle manufacturers include

TVS Motor Company, Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, Yamaha Motor India, and Suzuki Motorcycle India among two-wheelers and MSIL and Toyota Kirloskar Motor among cars.

With clean technology becoming the focus, manufacturers will be displaying developments on various powertrain options, ranging from biofuels like ethanol, gaseous fuels like compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas, electrification technologies, including EV, hybrid and hydrogen, at their respective pavilions

The display of powertrain options will be much more extensive than the earlier editions.

Meanwhile, several major OEMs like Mahindra & Mahindra, Volkswagen India, Citroën, Škoda Auto, and Honda Cars India have given this year's show a clear miss.

Legacy brands in the two-wheeler and luxury car space like Honda, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Jaguar Land Rover will be conspicuous by their absence at the biennial show that was originally scheduled to be held in 2022, but deferred to this year due to Covid-19.

Automotive industry sources claimed that several players have given the show a miss since participation has become a costly affair.



India pips Japan for 3rd spot

SOHINI DAS
New Delhi, 9 January

India has overtaken Japan to become the third largest vehicle market in 2022 after China and the US, selling more than 4.25 million vehicles riding on pent-up demand and enhanced production by carmakers.

According to the Society of Indian Automotive Manufacturers (SIAM), 4.13 million vehicles — including passenger and commercial — were sold in the country between January and November 2022. SIAM releases quarterly data on commercial

vehicles, and thus numbers for the October-December quarter are awaited for the segment. Also, OEMs like Tata Motors have shifted to quarterly reporting of wholesale and retail sales numbers. So Tata Motors data is awaited. However, as the country's largest passenger car player, Maruti Suzuki India, has reported its December domestic sales figures (113,535 units, excluding sales to other OEMs), the overall sales in India have crossed the 4.25-million mark.

According to preliminary data reported by Nikkei Asia, Japan sold 4.2 million vehicles in 2022, down 5.6 per cent year-on-year.

Tata Motors promises CV range

DEEPAK PATEL & NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, 9 January

Tata Motors will introduce a range of commercial vehicles to address all aspects of city transportation, its executive director Girish Wagh said on Monday as the auto major kicked off customer deliveries of the electric variant of its Ace mini truck at a starting price of ₹9.99 lakh (ex-showroom).

Wagh told reporters: "In cities, we need to come up with decarbonisation solutions fast. We have already launched electric buses, which address urban passenger transportation." Ace EV will address the issue of urban cargo transportation, especially the last-mile section, he said. "There are a few other applications that cannot be served by Ace



Tata Motors' Ace EV kicked off customer deliveries on Monday

PTI

alone. There are some municipality applications that we are also looking at. We will come with an entire range that can address all types of city transportation," he said.

