

Renault eyes next million cars by '30 on EV push, new models

Nissan and Renault SA have lined up ₹5,300 crore to launch six models

SHINE JACOB
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French automotive (auto) major Renault rolled out its 1 millionth vehicle in India on Wednesday and set an ambitious target of producing over 2 million cars by 2030, driven by launches and its planned electric vehicle (EV) foray, said Venkatram Mamillapalle, chief executive officer and managing director, Renault India Operations.

The company is currently working on a raft of new models, including two internal combustion engine products and an A-segment EV, which will roll out in 2025.

The plan is to have all its products in the 4-meter range. Renault India cars are at present manufactured at its Oragadam plant in Chennai, with a capacity of 480,000 units per annum.

Nissan Motor Corporation and Renault SA, the automakers that revamped their global alliance in February, have already lined up plans to invest ₹5,300 crore in India to launch six models, including two EVs. This is expected to give employment to an additional 2,000 people. The two companies said that each would manufacture three new models on the joint platform while retaining the individual, distinctive styling of the respective brands.

“We would like to increase our profit by 2030 and achieve the 2 million mark by then,” said Mamillapalle on Wednesday.

Currently, Renault India offers three passenger vehicle models, including the popular Kwid, the Kiger and the Tribler for its customers in India and exports to 14 countries, including South Africa, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Asia Pacific, Indian Oceanic Region, and the East Africa region. The majority of its export business comes from South Africa.

“Achieving the production of 1 million vehicles in India is a significant mile-

ON FLEX FUEL VEHICLES

“ THE COMPANY IS READY FOR ANY TRANSITION THAT THE INDIAN MARKET AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE TARGETING ”



VENKATRAM MAMILLAPALLE
CEO & MD,
Renault India
Operations

IN TOP GEAR

Renault India production milestones



June 2023: **1 million**

Source: Company

stone for Renault. It demonstrates our unwavering commitment to the Indian market and showcases the trust our customers have placed in us. We are deeply grateful to our customers, dealer partners, employees, and all stakeholders who have contributed to this remarkable journey. We will continue to strive for excellence and introduce exciting pro-

ducts that exceed customer expectations,” added Mamillapalle.

During the past year, Renault produced about 84,000 vehicles and exported 28,000. It expects it to be around the same lines in 2023 as well. At present, the company’s localisation level is about 92 per cent.

Talking about the call by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari asking manufacturers to be ready with flex-fuel vehicles or E85 (85 per cent ethanol), Mamillapalle said that his company is ready for any transition that the Indian market and the government are targeting. The company believes it will be easy for it to adapt to E85 as it already has several such flex-fuel models in Brazil.

“The E10 is already in the market. The E20 is to be adapted and will be well-occupied across the country by the end of 2024. It will reduce the imports of crude oil. We also have to progress towards E85. EV and E85 have to grow together. Indications are that by 2027, we will have E85. Refineries have to be equipped as well,” he added. He said that the market will continue to have A-segment cars like the Kwid and will not ‘vanish’ when asked about the shrinking market size.

“It has a market size of 25,000-30,000 vehicles per month and is occupied by three models currently. The segment will not vanish since it is intrinsic to the gradual upgrade for a customer from two-wheelers to four-wheelers,” he added.

The Renault-Nissan plant, one of the alliance’s leading centres for energy and resource reduction, had also announced its road map to carbon neutrality. This will be achieved by 2045, through an ongoing programme to transition to 100 per cent renewable energy, while reducing energy consumption at the plant by 50 per cent compared to today. The Chennai plant sources more than 50 per cent of its electricity from renewables.