

Tesla entry: Tata Motors' Chandra confident of a level-playing policy

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DISPLEASURE OVERTESLA getting a favourable treatment from the government is getting noticeably louder. Domestic carmakers are voicing their concerns over reports stating that the government could lower import taxes on electric vehicles.

Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), who control 25% of the country's passenger vehicle market, have opposed any reduction in import duties on fully imported cars as it put them at a disadvantage while favouring companies that do not make vehicles locally.

Speaking to *FE*, Shailesh Chandra, MD, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, said, "We are confident that whatever the government does will be in the interest of Make in India and a policy which is level-playing."

Tesla is said to have proposed setting up a factory in the country but is demanding lower import duties for the first few years to test market its product.

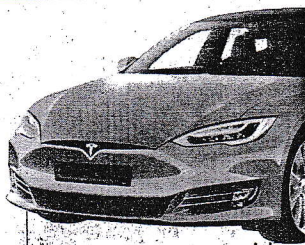
A recent Reuters report said that the government is working on a new

TO BE NOTED

■ Tata Motors and M&M have opposed any cut in import duties on fully imported electric cars

■ Both the carmakers are infusing **₹25,000 crore** in the EV business, roll out around 10-12 EVs in the next few years

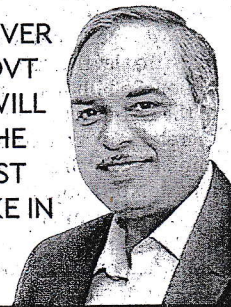
■ Tesla is said to have proposed setting up a factory in the country but is demanding lower import duties



■ A recent report said India could cut import taxes on EVs to as low as 15% for those committing to some local manufacturing

SHAILESH CHANDRA,
MD, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles
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policy to cut import taxes on EVs to as low as 15% for companies committing to some local manufacturing.

M&M, which is gearing up to introduce a bevy of electric SUVs over the next 4-5 years, had challenged global carmakers to invest in India and compete locally.

"We are making in India for the world now and we would welcome all global players to come and invest in India and compete with us. That is exactly the challenge we would throw to them," Anish Shah, managing

director, M&M, said in November.

Both these local heavyweights are infusing ₹25,000 crore in the EV business spread over the next few years that will spawn out around 10-12 EVs, most of which are expected to be in the premium range of around ₹20 lakh and above.

"Recently we had a statement from the government in the Lok Sabha. And these statements seem to be in line with what the expectations would be of the local players of supporting the Make in India and giving

a level-playing field to everyone," Chandra added.

The country's electric car market is much smaller compared to some of the developed markets. During FY23, just under 54,000 electric four-wheelers were registered, marking a growth of 154% compared to FY22.

Tata Motors had a share of 80% of the market, followed by 10% controlled by China-backed MG Motor India. The growth story has continued into this year with around 72,000 units clocked by the industry.