

● ROLL-OUT LIKELY WITHIN TWO YEARS

Renault-Nissan to launch four SUVs

To take on Creta, Seltos and Grand Vitara models

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THE RENAULT NISSAN alliance will launch four new vehicles in India within two years. These will be two five-seater and two seven-seater SUVs, and will be co-badged products.

"These will be C-segment SUVs, manufactured on our new CMF-B platform, with a very high level of localisation, at over 90%," Makoto Uchida, president, Nissan Motor, said on Wednesday. "CMF-B is a modular platform, on which a wide range of cars can be manufactured." Luca de Meo, CEO, Renault, added that these will be launched 'shortly'.

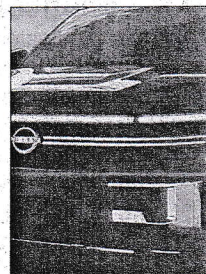
"While I cannot share the timeline right now, we won't take four-five years to launch them. These will come sooner. We really need new cars, for our dealers, for our customers, for ourselves," he said.

"Currently, the Alliance has just four models in India – Nissan Magnite and three Renault cars (Kwid, Triber and Kiger)." C-segment is one of India's largest SUV segments. During April-February FY24, it formed 16.4% of the passenger vehicle market. C-segment SUVs are

REVVING UP



New launches to be C-segment SUVs, one of India's largest SUV segments



C-segment is led by Hyundai Creta, Kia Seltos and Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara

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■ Tata Motors is readying a C-segment SUV called the Curvv, to be launched later this year

priced in the ₹10-20 lakh range, and have a length of 4,000-4,400 mm.

It's led by Hyundai Creta, Kia Seltos and Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara. Other models are Honda Elevate, Toyota Hyryder, MG Astor, Skoda Kushaq, Volkswagen Taigun and Citroen C5 Air-cross. Tata Motors is readying a C-segment SUV called the Curvv, which will be launched later this year. Mahindra Scorpio, although longer than 4,400 mm, is in the same price range as C-segment SUVs.

Both Renault and Nissan used to be present in this space – Renault Duster and Nissan Terrano and Kicks – but have exited it. The Duster was discontinued in 2022 and the Kicks in 2023, both owing to

poor sales. The Terrano was discontinued in 2019. In February last year, the Renault Nissan alliance had announced a fresh investment of ₹5,300 crore to roll out six new vehicles, including two new EVs, for domestic and international markets.

While Uchida and de Meo didn't talk about EVs, they said that one year ago, the market was totally different.

On the new EV policy – which has proposed reducing import duty on EVs from 70-100% to just 15%, provided the manufacturer invests ₹4,150 crore (\$500 million) on setting up a facility in India – de Meo said the Alliance partners are studying it. "We have not evaluated the competitiveness of the proposal," he said.