



INDIA IS MOVING TOWARDS ITS OWN NEW CAR ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (N-CAP)

SOHINI DAS

Bharat N-CAP, with a focus on improving vehicle safety and assisting car buyers in making informed decisions, is set to commence on October 1, 2023. With this initiative, India becomes the fifth country globally to introduce

its own car crash test rating system.

The cost to test a car under Bharat N-CAP is ₹60 lakh, a significant reduction compared to ₹2.5 crore if conducted overseas, according to analysts with Prabhudas Lilladher. The three key tests involved include frontal impact at 64 kmph, side impact, and side pole impact at 29 kmph for cars rated 3 or more. The ratings will range from 1 to 5 stars. To achieve a 5-star score, a car must score 27 for adult occupant protection and 41 for child occupant protection.

PL analysts expressed the opinion that, “The new Bharat N-CAP provides a localised, cost-effective testing system, potentially boosting the appeal to Indian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to get the vehicle tested. This is entirely voluntary, and adoption will likely be slow at first. However, over the years, we would expect to see more emphasis on manufacturing safer vehicles by the OEMs, along with increased awareness in customers’ minds, due to the localisation of the testing process.”

Vinod Aggarwal, president of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam), believes that a standardised evaluation method will aid customers in comparing the safety ratings of different cars and choosing an appropriate model.

“This programme will eventually help market forces push vehicle manufacturers to offer safer vehicles, with the potential of bringing an everlasting change in the attitude of customers during the purchase,” he added.

INDIA'S SAFEST CARS

OEM	Model	G-NCAP rating	Year
Volkswagen	Taigun & Virtus	★★★★★ 5 stars	2023
Skoda	Slavia & Kushaq	★★★★★ 5 stars	2023
M&M	Scorpio N	★★★★★ Adult ★★★★ Child	2022
	Xuv700	★★★★★ Adult ★★★★ Child	2021
	Xuv 300	★★★★★ Adult ★★★★ Child	2021
Tata Motors	Punch	★★★★★ Adult ★★★★ Child	2021
	Altroz	★★★★★ Adult ★★★★ Child	2020
	Nexon	★★★★★ Adult ★★★★ Child	2018

#The list is not exhaustive. These companies have more Global N-Cap rated models
Source: Globalncap.org

At present, several auto OEMs have opted for Global NCAP testing and ratings.

Tata Motors and Mahindra and Mahindra have a range of cars with Global N-CAP ratings. Maruti Suzuki India has announced that it will offer three models - Brezza, Baleno, and Grand Vitara — in the first lot for safety testing under Bharat N-CAP.