Suzuki plans to launch 8 SUVs in India in 5 yrs, eyes 50% mkt share

Multiple powertrains to be introduced in the country

Suzuki Motor plans to launch eight sport utility vehicles in India over the next five to six years as it looks to reclaim market share lost to rivals, the Japanese automaker's president Toshihiro Suzuki said on Wednesday.

The firm is aiming to bring its share of the Indian market — currently at 38 per cent — back to its pre-pandemic level of around 50 per cent, even as competition is at its fiercest since Suzuki began operating in India four decades ago, he said.

"India is Suzuki's most critical market and we have big plans for India," Suzuki said on the sidelines of the Japan Mobility Show in Tokyo.

Suzuki wants to be the biggest seller of electric cars in India and maintain its lead as the country's biggest car exporter, he added.

The new SUVs will bring Suzuki's total product portfolio in India to 28 models.

"We are carefully bringing products and technologies to fulfill aspirations of people ... from entry-level to large SUVs and MPVs," Suzuki said.

He said the push would bring multiple powertrains to India, including hybrids as well as compressed natural gas and biogas-powered cars.

He did not give a timeline for meeting the goals.

Suzuki's ambitious plans for India come as its local unit, Maruti Suzuki has lost ground to rivals. In August, Suzuki announced plans to invest \$8 billion in India, doubling a commitment it made earlier in the year.