

Nissan, Honda announce plans to merge

TOKYO, DEC 23: Japanese automakers Honda and Nissan have announced plans to work toward a merger, forming the world's third-largest automaker by sales. The plans come as the industry undergoes dramatic changes in its transition away from fossil fuels. The two companies said they had signed a memorandum of understanding on Monday and that smaller Nissan alliance member Mitsubishi Motors also had agreed to join the talks on integrating their businesses. Honda's president, Toshihiro Mibe, said Honda and Nissan will pursue unifying their operations under a joint holding company. Honda will initially lead the new management, retaining the principles and brands of each company. The aim is to have a formal merger agreement by June and to complete the deal by August 2026, he said. No dollar value was given and the formal talks are just starting, Mibe said. There are "points that need to be studied and discussed," he said. "Frankly speaking, the possibility of this not being implemented is not zero." Automakers in Japan have lagged



behind their big rivals in electric vehicles and are trying to cut costs and make up for lost time. News of a possible merger surfaced earlier this month, with unconfirmed reports saying that the talks on closer collaboration partly were driven by aspirations of Taiwan iPhone maker Foxconn to tie up with Nissan, which has an alliance with Renault SA of France and Mitsubishi. A merger could result in a behemoth worth more than \$50 billion based on

the market capitalization of all three automakers. Together, Honda and the Nissan alliance with Renault SA of France and smaller automaker Mitsubishi Motors Corp. would gain scale to compete with Toyota Motor Corp. and with Germany's Volkswagen AG. Toyota has technology partnerships with Japan's Mazda Motor Corp. and Subaru Corp. Even after a merger Toyota, which rolled out 11.5 million vehicles in 2023, would remain the leading Japanese

automaker. If they join, the three smaller companies would make about 8 million vehicles. In 2023, Honda made 4 million and Nissan produced 3.4 million. Mitsubishi Motors made just over 1 million. Nissan, Honda and Mitsubishi announced in August that they would share components for electric vehicles like batteries and jointly research software for autonomous driving to adapt better to dramatic changes centered around electrification, following a preliminary agreement between Nissan and Honda set in March. Honda, Japan's second-largest automaker, is widely viewed as the only likely Japanese partner able to effect a rescue of Nissan, which has struggled following a scandal that began with the arrest of its former chairman Carlos Ghosn in late 2018 on charges of fraud and misuse of company assets, allegations that he denies. He eventually was released on bail and fled to Lebanon. Speaking Monday to reporters in Tokyo via a video link, Ghosn derided the planned merger as a "desperate move."

Airtel Gains Subscribers While Jio and Vodafone Idea Lose; BSNL Sees Small Growth in October 2024

NEW DELHI, DEC 23: For the first time since the tariff hike announced by private telecom operators in July 2024, Bharti Airtel added 1.9 million subscribers in October 2024. State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) also gained 0.5 million customers during the same period. However, Reliance Jio, India's largest telecom service provider, continued to lose subscribers, with a loss of 3.76 million, while Vodafone Idea Limited lost around 1.97 million customers. All private telecom service providers raised their tariffs by up to 25% in July 2024. Following the hike, these telcos experienced significant subscriber losses. Reliance Jio lost 758,463 subscribers in July 2024, 4 million in August, and 7.9 million in September 2024. Bharti Airtel lost 1.6 million in July



2024, 2.4 million in August, and 1.4 million in September 2024. Vodafone Idea, India's third-largest telecom operator, lost 1.4 million in July 2024, 1.87 million in August, and 1.5 million in September. In terms of overall market share, Reliance Jio held the top position with 39.99%, followed by Bharti Airtel at 33.50%, Vodafone Idea at 18.30%, and BSNL at 8.05%. Overall, the mobile user base continued to decline slightly. In October 2024, total wireless subscribers decreased from 1,153.72 million at the end of September to 1,150.42 million at the end of October, registering a monthly decline rate of 0.29%. This decline was observed in both urban areas (from 628.12 million to 625.56 million) and rural areas (from 525.60 million to 524.86 million) during the same period.

Suzuki Swift Sport ZC33S Final Edition Debuts Turbo Engine, 140 PS, 230 NM



NEW DELHI, DEC 23: Based on the 3rd Generation model, Swift Sport has been a popular enthusiast offering in global markets. Now that the 4th Gen Swift has debuted, Swift Sport based on 3rd Gen model is at the end of its life cycle. Suzuki has unveiled Swift Sport ZC33S Final Edition that will be on sale till November 2025. Let's take a look. Maruti Suzuki Swift has been a shiny example of a hatchback in India. Being affordable, light in weight, fuel efficient, sensible and econom-

ical to run are some of the main ethos of Swift hatchback. However, Swift has had a sporty variant called Swift Sport in global markets that packed quite a lot of punch for its size. While it is not on sale in India, it is a well-received product from enthusiasts and thrill seekers globally for its pocket-rocket performance. Catering to this niche, Suzuki Swift Sport ZC33S Final Edition has been unveiled that will be sold from March 2025 till November 2025. This is the final edition of Swift Sport

based on 3rd gen model. A Swift Sport based on 4th Gen model has not been announced yet. If there is no Swift Sport based on 4th Gen model, the just unveiled Swift Sport ZC33S Final Edition might very well be the final iteration of this pocket rocket formula. Final Edition is confirmed to be sold in Japan only and availability in other global markets is yet to be announced. The company is poised to reveal it at Tokyo Auto Salon alongside the Fronx Sea Bass Night Game Concept, WagonR Smile European Antique Concept, Solio, Solio Bandit and New Gen Spacia Gear. Swift Sport ZC33S Final Edition features quite a few unique exterior and interior design elements. For starters, we can see lovely shades of Blue, Yellow, Red, Silver and White. Some colours are complemented by Black roof and Pillars. Front fascia of 3rd Gen Swift has been carried over, but gets a gloss Black grill.

Yamaha Sales Nov 2024 RayZR, FZ, MT15, Fascino, R15, Aerox, R3, MT03



MUMBAI, DEC 23: Yamaha Motor India secured the 7th position among two-wheeler brands in domestic sales for November 2024. Despite being outpaced by leading brands such as Hero, Honda, and TVS, Yamaha continues to be a key player in the market. The brand reported domestic sales of 55,781 units, marking a year-on-year (YoY) decline of 7.36% compared to 60,212 units in November 2023. Yamaha Motor India

reported domestic two-wheeler sales of 55,781 units in November 2024, reflecting a 7.36% decline compared to 60,212 units sold during the same period last year. The performance varied across models, with some showing growth while others faced significant challenges. RayZR emerged as the top performer, recording 14,428 units and achieving a robust 26.54% year-on-year growth, adding 3,026 units over November 2023.

Similarly, MT15 posted an 8.25% increase in sales, with 9,894 units sold, 754 units more than last year. In contrast, several models saw declining numbers. FZ series recorded sales of 14,406 units, a drop of 11.25% or 1,827 units year-on-year. Fascino, one of Yamaha's popular scooters, sold 7,921 units but saw a 7.52% decline compared to last year, losing 644 units. R15 faced a sharp decline of 36.96%, with sales falling to 7,105 units, a loss of 4,165 units. Aerox suffered the steepest drop, with sales plummeting by 43.95% to just 2,019 units, a reduction of 1,583 units. R3 and MT03 contributed 8 units. Following the year-on-year analysis, Yamaha Motor India's month-on-month (MoM) sales performance in November 2024 witnessed a steep decline. Total domestic two-wheeler sales dropped by 25.97%, with 55,781 units sold in November compared to 75,349 units in October 2024—a loss of 19,568 units.

MG Gloster Available With Huge Discounts Of Up To Rs. 6 Lakh

MUMBAI, DEC 23: JSW MG Motor's flagship three-row SUV, the Gloster, is now being offered with dealer-level benefits and discounts of up to Rs 6 lakh, making it an appealing option for buyers. With a mid-life facelift on the horizon, this could be an ideal time to secure the pre-facelift model at a significant discount. SUV test drives Currently priced between Rs 38.80 lakh and Rs 43.87 lakh (ex-showroom), the MG Gloster competes in a segment dominated by the Toyota Fortuner. It also takes on Skoda Kodiaq, Jeep Meridian, Isuzu MU-X and Nissan X-Trail. Despite its rivals' strong presence, the Gloster has made a notable impact with its extensive feature list and spacious interior. The lucrative benefits could further enhance its value proposition. The upcoming facelift is expected to bring design tweaks and feature upgrades but the pre-facelift model remains a drool-worthy option considering the benefits. Buyers eyeing a full-size SUV with premium features and performance should consider taking advantage of the current offers.

The 2025 MG Gloster, derived from the Maxus D90, will bring several design updates to refresh its overall appeal. The rear end sports redesigned LED taillights and a reworked exhaust setup while the front sees a new grille, updated lighting elements and a revamped bumper. Inside, the updates are even more significant with the centre console undergoing a major transformation. Judging by the spy shots, a larger freestanding touchscreen infotainment system will dominate the dashboard, flanked by new HVAC vents and twin wireless mobile chargers. Practicality will likely be further improved with repositioned controls including a relocated electronic parking brake switch, two rotary dials, and three differential lock buttons.

New Honda Activa 125 Has Arrived: Top 5 Things You Should Know

NEW DELHI, DEC 23: With limited models, the electric vehicle segment in India is witnessing slow progress and a number of factors are responsible for this trend including lack of charging infrastructure, range issues and higher sticker cost of cars as compared to the ICE models. Car manufacturers are ready with a variety of new models for the mass-market EV segment which will go on sale next year and we will see new players in the form of Maruti Suzuki and Toyota. In the article, we will look at the sales of electric cars in the month of November 2024. The total electric vehicle sales in November 2024 stood at 8,668 units, a 14.58% YOY growth. On the other hand, the segment saw a dip of 18.30% in the MOM analysis. Tata Motors continued to be the top performer with 4,224 units in the bag, however, an overall 17.71% YOY de-growth was observed. The Indian carmaker sports models like Punch EV, Nexon EV and Curvv in its line-up. Taking the second spot is MG, by selling 3,163 units last month. This accounts for a massive 230.86% YOY growth which can be attributed to the launch of the new MG Windsor contributing a good proportion to the numbers. The Comet EV and ZS EV are also a part of the brand's line-up. Trailing behind is Mahindra with only the XUV400 EV in the line-up and it managed to sell 552 units, a 2.03% YOY growth. The Indian SUV manufacturer will likely see these numbers going up once the new BE 6 and XUV 9e start rolling on the roads. BYD is also not too far behind with 329 units in its portfolio by selling models like the Atto 3 and Seal EV. Citroen and Kia posted double-digit sales of 82 and 68 units, respectively. Hyundai with the IONIQ 5 sold only 21 units in the electric vehicle segment, however, the soon-to-be launched Creta EV will be a major volume puller for the Korean brand.

Updated 2025 Triumph Speed Twin 900 Launched at Rs. 8.89 Lakh

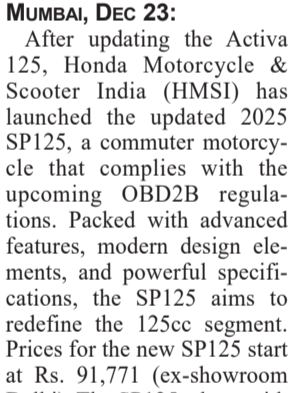


NEW DELHI, DEC 23: Triumph Motorcycles India has introduced the 2025 Speed Twin 900, offering a new take on its modern-classic motorcycle. The heavily updated model, priced at Rs. 8,89,000 (ex-showroom Delhi), gets subtle design tweaks, enhanced handling and improved rider-focused technology. It is set to hit Indian

dealerships this month. The updated Speed Twin 900 retains its Bonneville DNA but with sportier touches. A redesigned fuel tank, compact headlight, and shorter silencers give the bike a sleeker and more modern look. Riders can choose from three new paint schemes – Pure White with bold accents, Phantom Black with gold details and

Aluminum Silver with a red outline. Powered by the same 900 cc Bonneville twin engine, the Speed Twin 900 continues to deliver 65 PS at 7,500 rpm and 80 Nm of torque at 3,800 rpm. The engine remains responsive and easy to manage, thanks to a ride-by-wire system. Riders can select from two modes – Road and Rain – depending on surface conditions while new lean-sensitive ABS and traction control ensure added confidence during cornering. Handling has also received a boost with a stiffer aluminium swingarm, Marzocchi upside-down forks, and piggyback rear suspension. These upgrades enhance agility while maintaining a comfortable ride according to the brand. The braking system has been improved as well with a larger 320 mm front disc and a four-piston calliper.

2025 Honda SP125 Launched with Enhanced Features, Connectivity, Performance



MUMBAI, DEC 23: After updating the Activa 125, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) has launched the updated 2025 SP125, a commuter motorcycle that complies with the upcoming OBD2B regulations. Packed with advanced features, modern design elements, and powerful specifications, the SP125 aims to redefine the 125cc segment. Prices for the new SP125 start at Rs. 91,771 (ex-showroom Delhi). The SP125, along with its sibling Shine 125, continues to dominate the 125cc motorcycle category, with both models collectively recording around 1.5 lakh monthly sales, making them the best-selling motorcycles in this segment. Honda SP125 is thoughtfully designed to offer both comfort and practicality, making it an ideal choice for daily commutes. It measures 2020 mm in length,



785 mm in width, and 1103 mm in height, providing a well-balanced and compact profile. With a wheelbase of 1285 mm and a ground clearance of 160 mm, the SP125 ensures stability and ease of manoeuvrability on diverse road conditions. The seat height of 790 mm strikes a balance between comfort and accessibility for riders of varying heights, while the

kerb weight of 116 kg makes it lightweight and easy to handle. Additionally, the bike is equipped with an 11.2-liter fuel tank, enabling longer rides without frequent refuelling stops. 2025 SP125 is powered by a 124cc single-cylinder, fuel-injected engine delivering 8 kW of power at 7500 rpm and 10.9 Nm of torque at 6000 rpm, paired with a 5-speed gearbox.

Ola S1 Pro Sona Edition Features Real 24K Gold You Can Win It For Free!

MUMBAI, DEC 23: One of India's leading electric scooter makers, Ola Electric, is creating new buzz around its S1 range with the introduction of S1 Pro Sona Edition. This is a very limited edition model that gets real 24K gold elements. It has been unveiled as part of #SavingsWalaScooter campaign aimed at expanding sales and service stores to 4,000 by December 25, 2024. The company has not announced the price of Ola S1 Pro Sona Edition as it is a part of a giveaway. Yes, an electric scooter with 24K real gold elements in limited numbers is part of a giveaway that one can win through #OlaSonaContest. The Sona Edition gets exclusive colours, finishes and even a custom skin on Move OS. With growing popularity for electric scooters, there is a massive surge in new offerings. Bajaj recently launched the new Chetak 35 Series, Hero launched new Vida V2



series and Honda recently showcased upcoming Activa e and QCI. Ola Electric, on the other hand, has no immediate new electric scooter launches. However, the company has been building hype around its flagship scooter S1 Pro near the holiday season. There have

been a lot of controversies revolving around Ola Electric for some time now. Rivals like TVS and Bajaj have caught up in sales and both those brands are just inches away from surpassing Ola's top position for a long time. Ola seems to be doing damage control to fix

some of the social media backlash with #OlaSonaContest. As part of the contest, participants need to post an Instagram reel with S1 Pro or click a picture standing outside an Ola Store and tag Ola Electric with #OlaSonaContest. We're sure many participants will flood Instagram with positive content about Ola Electric to stand a chance of winning an Ola S1 Pro with 24K real gold elements. The company is also on the verge of expanding its sales and service network to incorporate as many as 4000 touch points before December 25th, 2024. When compared to a standard S1 Pro, Sona Edition features quite a few design changes to distinguish itself apart. There will be exclusivity and Ola has not disclosed how many Sona Edition will be given away for free. It features a Pearl White shade with real 24K gold plating seen on side stand, rear footpegs, grab rail, brake levers and ORVM stalks.

Kia Seltos Does Not Get These Features But Syros Has

NEW DELHI, DEC 23: Kia India has raised quite a few eyebrows when the company unveiled its new sub 4m SUV, Syros. The Syros is quite unusual for the Indian market as it packs an interesting combination of platform, powertrain, features and creature comforts from other vehicles within Hyundai and Kia's portfolio. The gist of Syros is that it is sub 4m SUV based on a modified version of K1 platform seen on vehicles like Santro, Exter, Grand i10 NIOS and Aura, while being as feature-loaded as Seltos. There are 8 new attributes with Kia Syros that even the Seltos doesn't get. Let's take a look. Being new has its perks as Kia Syros features company's new design language. We have seen a similar implementation of vertical headlights in wheel-arch cladding on Kia Tasman pickup truck. Syros bears a boxy silhouette on the outside with a chopped-off effect to the rear section. Even on the inside, Syros gets a new design theme, while Seltos still looks like it did when it was



launched. On the outside, Kia Syros gets unique flush-mounted door handles on all four doors. In comparison, both Sonet sub 4m SUV and Seltos compact SUV gets conventional door handles. Notably, Syros' door handles don't pop out on their own, similar to the design seen in Tata Curvv and Curvv EV. On the inside, Kia Syros offers something called a 30-inch Trinity Display. This is the first triple display implementation in sub 4m and compact seg-

feel, when compared to what is offered with Seltos. For the first time in sub 4m and compact segments (across all genres), Kia Syros gets rear ventilated seat option on top of front seat ventilation. Seltos and Sonet both come equipped with ventilated seats option only in the front. That said, the functionality of Syros' rear ventilated seats is incomplete as ventilation is only for thighs and not backrest. Kia Syros' rear seats get a lot of flexibility in top-spec trims. It gets a recline function for seat backrest with a very generous angle for a laid-back and relaxed experience. Not just that, rear seat base slides forward and backwards for the first time in this segment. As an extension of the sliding and reclining rear seats, Kia Syros offers a flexible boot. Users can slide the seat base all the way forwards and seat-back all the way up and liberate a lot of storage space in the boot. When necessary, users can choose comfort and get exceptional kneeroom and recline angle.