

## 2025 Kia Carens Facelift Snapped On Test Again

NEW DELHI, MAR 2:

The facelifted Kia Carens is being tested in India as well as South Korea, where much of the original development took place. Testing of the upcoming model is in full swing, and recently, one of its prototypes was caught behind the lens on a highway in South Korea. As seen in one of the spy shots, the new Kia Carens would feature vertically laid split headlamps, which would project a more confident and assertive character. They would comprise more technical-looking daytime running lights incorporating Kia's new Star Map signature, inspired by the lines used to draw constellations together. The radiator grille, lower air intake grille, fog lamps, and bumper would also carry a new look at the front. On the sides, the refreshed Kia Carens features new alloy wheels. Unlike the current model, the facelifted model will include a pure electric variant, and the aerodynamic design of the alloy wheels seen on this prototype indicates that it is that zero-emission derivative. However, while Kia was



using such 'geometric' themed wheels only on EVs earlier, now it is applying this look even on ICE models, with the Syros sold in India being the latest example.

The rear-end of the updated Kia

Carens incorporates new tail lamps that are reminiscent of the Kia EV5, a C-segment electric SUV positioned between the EV3 and EV6. A thin light strip running across the width of the tailgate likely connects the new

tail lamps. The new Kia Carens will likely have some upgrades on the inside, too. Like the Kia Syros, it should feature the Trinity Panoramic Display comprising a 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster, a 5-inch climate control touchscreen, and a 12.3-inch infotainment touchscreen. There may also be some key features missing in the current model, such as a panoramic sunroof, power driver's seat, 360-degree camera system, and advanced driver assistance systems.

Kia will likely offer the new Carens with the same 1.5-litre naturally aspirated petrol, 1.5-litre turbocharged petrol, and 1.5-litre turbocharged diesel engines as the current model. As for the first-ever Carens EV, Kia may use a 51.4 kWh NMC battery pack and a 126 kW (169 hp) permanent magnet synchronous motor, at least in the top-end configuration. We expect it to have a range of somewhere between 425 and 450 km. The launch cadence is unclear, but Kia is expected to put both the ICE and electric variants of the new Carens on sale this year.

## Suzuki 2W India Reports 90k Sales in Feb 2025 Exports Grow by 18.54%

MUMBAI, MAR 2:

Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd. (SMIPL) reported total sales of 90,206 units in February 2025, registering a 7.42% year-on-year (YoY) decline from 97,435 units sold in February 2024. While domestic sales saw a drop, exports surged by 18.54%, helping offset some of the decline.

Compared to January 2025, when Suzuki sold 1,08,921 units, February saw a 17.18% decline in total sales. Domestic sales declined by 16.37%, down from 87,834 units in January 2025. Exports fell by 20.56%, down from 21,087 units in the previous month. Mr. Devashish Handa, Executive Vice President - Sales, Marketing and After Sales, Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd. said, "February



sales reflect a mix of market dynamics with exports showing growth. Although the domestic sales witnessed a temporary slowdown, our focus remains on offering products that align with customers' expectations while

continuously improving the overall ownership experience for Suzuki two-wheeler riders." Suzuki Motorcycle India offers a diverse range of scooters and motorcycles, catering to different customer preferences.

## Hero Xpulse 210, Xtreme 250R Official Bookings Date Revealed

MUMBAI, MAR 2:

As part of its ongoing strategy to diversify its portfolio beyond the commuter segment, Hero MotoCorp had launched the Xpulse 210 and Xtreme 250R at the Bharat Expo 2025. These are available at a starting price of Rs 1.76 lakh and Rs 1.80 lakh, respectively. Enthusiasts will soon be able to place their orders for Xpulse 210 and Xtreme 250R.

For both bikes, bookings were earlier scheduled to commence from February. Deliveries were to start from March. However, it appears that there has been a slight delay of a few weeks. Hero has now officially announced that bookings for Xpulse 210 and Xtreme 250R will commence from 20th March, 2025. Deliveries could start by the end of March or in April 2025.

Hero Xpulse 210 works as a replacement for the Xpulse 200 4V. In addition to the power boost, Hero Xpulse 210



also focuses on improving the overall ride experience. The bike is currently the most affordable ADV in its class. If we set aside the pricing for a while, Hero Xpulse 210 emerges as a direct rival to Kawasaki KLX230. The latter is priced much higher, starting at Rs 3.30 lakh. Hero Xpulse 210 generates 24.26 bhp / 20.7 Nm in comparison to 17.85

bhp and 18.3 Nm of KLX230. However, Xpulse 210 weighs 170 kg (top model), as compared to 139 kg of KLX230. Xpulse 210 has a higher power-to-weight ratio, but trails in torque-to-weight ratio. Both bikes have various similarities such as RSU telescopic front forks, monoshock rear suspension, 21-inch front and 18-inch rear wheels, disc

brakes at both ends, dual-channel ABS and Bluetooth. Suspension travel is higher with KLX230 at 240 mm front and 250 rear, as compared to 210 mm and 205 mm of Xpulse 210. Some features are better with Xpulse 210 such as LED projector headlamps and instrument cluster with navigation.

Xtreme 250R easily qualifies as one of the sportiest creations from Hero MotoCorp. It takes inspiration from the Xtunt 2.5R concept that was showcased at EICMA 2023. Some of the key highlights include an aggressive headlamp design, USD forks in golden finish, sculpted fuel tank, split seats, upsweep exhaust and rear tyre hugger. Powering the bike is a 249.03 cc, single cylinder, liquid cooled DOHC engine that generates 30 PS and 25 Nm. It is mated to a 6-speed transmission. Hero claims Xtreme 250R to be the fastest in its class.

## Electric Vehicle Sales Surpass Diesel Vehicles In 2024

NEW DELHI, MAR 2:

Kolkata, addressed fondly as the diesel capital of India, has achieved a significant milestone in EV sales in 2024. As per the official records obtained from the four regional transport offices, the EV registrations at 5,925 units surpassed the diesel ones which stood at 5,897 units last year. It is for the first time that EVs have outnumbered diesel-powered vehicles in Kolkata despite facing multiple challenges such as scanty charging network, long waiting period and range anxiety. Just so you know, the city's commercial fleet ran almost entirely on diesel fuel. This shift towards EVs reflected a change in mindset of people with more and more individuals opting for cleaner mobility solutions over diesel which is said to be harmful for the environment. Diesel fuel comprises of 24 carcinogenic agents and hence, it has been long facing the ire of experts and



policy makers for having an adverse impact on the health of people and increasing air pollution. "Key pollutants emitted by diesel vehicles include ground-level ozone that damages vegetation, particulate matter that are linked to cancer and respiratory diseases, and nitrogen oxide that contributes to acid rain which percolates into soil and contaminates water sources thereby entering

the human food chain through produce, meat and fish," said Abhijit Chatterjee of Bose Institute.

As per government data of Kolkata, the sales of electric vehicles grew from 3,628 units in 2023 to 5,925 units in 2024. This number was even less than half in 2022 at 2,197 units in Kolkata. The diesel vehicle registrations came down to 5,897 units in 2024 from 5,994 units in 2023.

Though petrol-powered cars remained the top most priority of the customers with 75,862 units sold last year.

One of the foremost reasons behind the rise in sales of EVs was the incentives provided by the West Bengal state government, which includes exemption from registration fees, road tax and additional taxes on the purchase of electric two-wheeler and four-wheeler models.

"Given these environmental hazards, Kolkata's shift towards cleaner fuels marks a significant step towards reducing pollution levels," said Ajay Mittal of Kolkata Clean Air Network. With the various state governments as well as the Union government doling out several benefits for the customers and manufacturers, multiple global EV brands such as Vinfast and Tesla are entering the Indian market with their respective electric car models.

## Mahindra Thar Roxx With Mocha Brown Interior A Detailed Look



MUMBAI, MAR 2:

Mahindra & Mahindra launched the Thar Roxx in the Indian market in August last year. Initially, the SUV was only offered with an Ivory colour theme, however, based on customer feedback, the Mocha Brown interior option was introduced for the 4X4 variants, just before the commencement of the bookings.

The delivery timeline of the Mocha Brown interior-themed SUV was set to start in January 2025. After a bit of delay, the Thar Roxx with Mocha Brown interiors has finally started reaching dealerships. Going by the images from the dealership, the Mocha Brown shade has been used on multiple parts inside the cabin, including the lower dashboard, door

trims, seats and front armrest. Overall, the combination of Black and Mocha Brown appears quite mature and unlike the Ivory theme, it won't catch dirt as easily. Apart from the colour change, the specifications, including the feel and finish of the leatherette material will be identical to the Ivory shade.

This interior colour option is only available as an option with the 4X4 variants. This also means that you can still choose the lighter colour shade. The specific variant in the pictures is the top-spec AX7 L 4X4 Diesel AT. The new interior theme is better suited to the needs of the 4WD variant buyers as it won't be a hassle to maintain the darker shade when venturing off-road. For the record, Mahindra is only offering 4X4 with the diesel powertrain option, which employs the 2.2-litre mHawk turbo oil burner.

## Honda Cars India Sales At 10k in Feb 2025 Domestic and Exports

NEW DELHI, MAR 2:

Honda Cars India Ltd. (HCIL) reported total sales of 10,323 units in February 2025, registering a 21.07% year-on-year (YoY) decline from 13,078 units sold in February 2024. The decline was witnessed across both domestic and export markets, with demand slowing down significantly. Honda's domestic sales stood at 5,616 units, marking a 21.37% YoY drop from 7,142 units in February 2024. Similarly, exports fell by 20.70%, with 4,707 units shipped in February 2025 compared to 5,936 units in the same period last year. Compared to January 2025, when Honda sold 7,325 units in the domestic market, February saw a 23.33% decline, with 1,709 fewer units sold. The decline in sales could be attributed to changing market trends, increasing competition from SUVs, and limited new product offerings.



Honda's current lineup in India, consisting primarily of sedans and compact SUVs, is facing stiff competition from rivals expanding aggressively in the mid-size and compact SUV segments. Sharing thoughts on Feb'25 sales performance, Mr. Kunal Behl, Vice President, Marketing & Sales, Honda Cars India Ltd. said, "The market conditions have been challenging for the

auto industry where we saw reduced momentum in car registrations and difficulties in creating fresh demand during Feb as compared to last year. However, our recent launches of All New Amaze and Special editions of Elevate Black and City Apex with good response from market have helped us to create new excitement in our products and sustain sales in this tough period.

## Maruti Suzuki Records Close To 2 Lakh Unit Sales In Feb 2025

MUMBAI, MAR 2:

Maruti Suzuki ended February 2025 with total sales of 199,400 units, recording a 0.98 per cent year-on-year growth compared to 197,471 units during the same period last year. Passenger vehicle and light commercial vehicle sales in the domestic market stood at 1,63,501 units, almost identical to the 163,397 units sold in Feb 2024. Additionally, 10,878 units were supplied to other OEMs, marking a 111.3 per cent YoY growth over 5,147 units. Exports, however, saw a 13.5 per cent decline, dropping from 28,927 units last year to 25,021 units this February. SUVs and MPVs remained key growth drivers, contributing 65,033 units - a 6.2 per cent increase in comparison to 61,234 units during the corresponding period twelve months ago. The Eco van recorded 11,493 units, a 5.3 per cent dip from 12,147 units sold a year ago. Overall domestic passenger vehicle sales reached 160,791 units, a marginal 0.3 per cent increase compared to 160,271 units in February last year. The compact car lineup, featuring models such as the Baleno, Swift, WagonR, Dzire, Ignis and Celerio, garnered 72,942 units, registering a 1.8 per cent rise.

The mini segment, which comprises the Alto and S-Presso, saw a notable 30.8 per cent decline, with 10,226 units sold versus 14,782 units last year. Meanwhile, the Ciaz sedan stood out with a 128.1 per cent growth, increasing from 481 units in February 2024 to 1,097 units this year. However, Maruti Suzuki will soon pull the plugs on it. In contrast, light commercial vehicle sales, comprising the Super Carry, dropped 13.3 per cent with 2,710 units sold against 3,126 units twelve months ago. Including passenger vehicles, light commercial vehicles, and OEM supplies, Maruti Suzuki's total domestic sales stood at 174,379 units, up 3.5 per cent from 168,544 units in February 2024.

## Toyota Wraps Up Feb 2025 With 28,000+ Unit Sales, 13% Growth

NEW DELHI, MAR 2:

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) wrapped up February 2025 on a strong note, selling 28,414 units and recording a 13 per cent year-on-year growth. The tally marks an appreciable increase from the 25,220 units sold in the same month last year, reaffirming Toyota's growing market presence. Domestic sales stood at 26,414 units while the exports contributed 2,000 units. The past year has been especially rewarding for Toyota with total sales between April 2024 and February 2025 reaching 3,06,105 units - a massive 30 per cent growth compared to the 2,36,332 units sold in the same period of FY 2023-24. Much of this success has been driven by Toyota's popular MPVs and SUVs which accounted for 68 per cent of overall sales. Models like the Innova Crysta, Innova Hycross, Urban Cruiser Hyryder, Glanza and Fortuner remain in good demand. In a move to cater to off-road enthusiasts, Toyota has reopened bookings for the Land Cruiser 300, responding to overwhelming demand. The introduction of the new GR-S grade under the GR Sport lineup brings off-road-tuned suspension, differential locks and improved shock absorbers for better handling in extreme conditions.

Compact models like the Taisor and Glanza, rebadged versions of the Fronx and Baleno respectively, continue to play a big role in Toyota garnering decent numbers in the volume-based market. These small cars made up 28 per cent of February's sales. Toyota will introduce the Urban Cruiser BEV later this year in India, following its debut at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo. The five-seater midsize SUV has plenty in common with the soon-launching Maruti Suzuki e Vitara and it will be sold in two battery options with the claimed driving range of over 500 km per charge. Commenting on last month's performance, Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business said,

## Yamaha Working On Locally-Developed EV Platform For India



NEW DELHI, MAR 2:

The leading two-wheeler brands in the Indian market such as Hero MotoCorp, Honda, Suzuki, Bajaj etc. have forayed into the EV segment. While Bajaj Auto was among the early entrants, Hero, Honda and Suzuki joined the bandwagon at a relatively later stage. However, Yamaha, one of the key auto brands in India,

is yet to make its presence felt in the electric vehicle segment. Now, we have learnt that the Japanese company is working on the development of a locally developed platform for EVs in India. Itaru Otani, chairman of Yamaha Motor India, stated in an interaction with AutoCar India that a final decision is yet to come but the brand will eventually enter the EV seg-

ment in India in the coming years. However, no specific timeline was revealed and it was also not made clear whether the electric vehicle platform under development will be a local one or global.

"The timeline has been defined, but we cannot disclose it at this moment. We usually develop electric vehicles based on a platform concept, ensuring they align with the Indian market. This is a key factor we need to focus on," Otani said. Yamaha had recently made an investment in the Bengaluru-based EV brand River, which retails the Indie e-scooter in the Indian market. The company is also conducting a feasibility study on using River Indie's platform for its upcoming EV models for India. "River is making progress in the EV market, and they are doing a good job. We are studying the possibility of utilising their platform," Otani stated.

## Yamaha To Likely Launch This Adventure Bike In India

MUMBAI, MAR 2:

The reports of Yamaha bringing the Tenere 700 to the Indian market have been doing rounds on the internet for a very long time now. To add fuel to the fire, the ADV was showcased at the 2025 Bharat Mobility Expo held in January. According to the reports, the initial work on the project was already underway last year, however, we are yet to hear anything concrete from the company. The Tenere 700 is currently manufactured in Japan and France only and for the Indian market, the Japan-made model is being considered. This means that it will be sold in the country via the CBU route, which puts a lot of hurdles in pricing the ADV right, thanks to the import duties. On the other hand, rival brands like Triumph, Ducati and BMW are safeguarded from import taxes as these companies bring CBUs



imported from Thailand, utilising the benefits of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Talking about the ADV, the Tenere 700 is known for its no-nonsense approach towards enduro riding. It is one of the most anticipated adventure bikes in the Indian market. It is powered by a 689cc parallel-twin liquid-cooled engine with power output rated at 72 bhp

and 68 Nm of peak torque. The engine is mated to a 6-speed gearbox. In terms of hardware, the ADV features fully adjustable 43mm USD forks at the front while the rear gets a mono-shock with pre-load and rebound damping adjustment. Riding on 21-inch front and 18-inch rear wire-spoke rims, the bike gets disc brakes at both ends.