

Renault Dacia Striker SUV Crossover Debuts 4.6m Long, 1.2 L Hybrid 154 PS

NEW DELHI, MAR 11:

As part of Renault Group's 'futuREady' strategic roadmap, Dacia has unveiled the Striker crossover wagon. It is essentially a wagon derivative of the Bigster SUV. Striker has made its debut at a time when the general consumer preference has shifted largely to SUVs. With the Striker, Dacia delivers a compelling blend of SUV styling and roominess, wagon practicality and accessible pricing. Let's check out the details.

Dacia has revealed only the exterior profile of the Striker. The crossover wagon has a strong road presence with features such as sharp LED DRLs, a studded grille design and rugged front bumper. Also conspicuous is a curvy bonnet with strong character lines. Side profile has sporty alloy wheels, circular wheel arches with thick cladding and diagonal trim on the front door.

Dacia Striker has conventional door handles, blacked-out B and C pillars and an elegantly tapering roofline. At the rear, the lighting signatures have the



same basic format as the ones used at the front. Striker has a layered design for the roof mounted spoiler, a raked windshield and prominent bumper. Overall, the styling is something similar to that of SUVs. Dimensionally, the Striker is 4,620 mm long. At this length, it is the largest Dacia model yet. It may

seem that the Bigster is the largest, but that is 4,570 mm long, making it 50 mm shorter than the Striker. Dacia's naming strategy has also been spot on in recent times, as seen with cars like the Duster, Bigster, Jogger and now Striker. These outdoorsy names convey a sense of toughness and are easy to recall and

pronounce.

Dacia has not revealed the interiors of the Striker. It is expected that the crossover wagon will be available in a 5-seat configuration. That means a 7-seat option will continue to be available exclusively with the Dacia Jogger. With a 5-seat format and long size, the Striker will appeal to buyers who prioritize comfort and roominess.

Features onboard the Striker are expected to be similar to the ones available with the Duster and Bigster. The package could include a 10.1-inch infotainment screen, a 10-inch instrument display, dual-zone climate control, adjustable seats with lumbar support, YouClip attachment point system and premium 3D sound system. Striker will also come with a generous boot space.

Dacia Striker's versatile CMF-B platform will allow multi-energy powertrain options. It has been officially confirmed that hybrid and LPG powertrain options will be available with the Striker.

Mahindra Offers Huge Discounts of Up To Rs. 4 Lakh In March 2026 In India



MUMBAI, MAR 11:

As the financial year approaches its closing stages, automakers across India are introducing aggressive offers to garner more sales. Mahindra & Mahindra has also brought in a series of attractive con-

sumer schemes this month covering several SUVs in its portfolio. Depending on the model and variant, the total value of incentives reaches as high as Rs. 4 lakh in some cases. A large portion of these benefits applies primarily to

Model Year 2025 units as dealerships attempt to clear remaining inventory before the start of the next FY. Meanwhile, recently manufactured Model Year 2026 vehicles generally receive smaller benefits - mostly limited to accessories or exchange incentives. As a result, customers willing to purchase slightly older stock can secure significantly higher savings this month.

Among the models receiving moderate discounts is the ever popular Mahindra Bolero. Variants such as B4, B6 and B8 receive around Rs. 10,000 cash discount along with Rs. 10,000 worth of accessories while the B6 Optional variant gets Rs. 20,000 cash support plus accessories - taking total benefits to roughly Rs. 30,000 based on eligibility for additional exchange incentives.

Ather Electric Scooter Discounts Up To Rs 20k Valid Till March 31



MUMBAI, MAR 11:

Ather Energy has announced limited-period discounts of up to Rs 20,000 on its electric scooter lineup including Rizta and 450 Series. The special offers are available across Ather Experience Centres in India until March 31, 2026, making it an attractive opportunity for buyers considering an electric scooter purchase.

The company says the initia-

tive is aimed at making its electric scooters more accessible to aspirational buyers and younger urban customers, especially as the PM E-Drive subsidy worth Rs 5,000 is set to be discontinued after March 31, 2026. Under the limited-time scheme, customers can avail total benefits of up to Rs 20,000. This includes a credit card discount of Rs 10,000, a cash discount of Rs 6,500 and

an extended components warranty valued at Rs 3,500. These benefits are applicable across Ather's dealership network in India for purchases made before the end of March. With these offers applied, the Rizta S is now priced at Rs 1,04,758 (ex-showroom Mumbai), while the 450S is available at Rs 1,13,100 (ex-showroom Mumbai) during the promotional period. Ather's current product lineup caters to two distinct customer groups. The 450 series is positioned as a performance-focused electric scooter, aimed at riders who value acceleration, advanced technology and a sporty riding experience. On the other hand, the Rizta is designed as a family-oriented scooter, prioritising practicality, comfort and everyday usability. With the growing popularity of EVs among Gen Z and young urban consumers, Ather is positioning its scooters as ideal mobility solutions for modern city lifestyles.

Stock market under pressure after rebound in previous session; Nifty below 23,850

MUMBAI, MAR 11:

Among the sectors, auto, FMCG, PSU Bank, consumer durables, private banks, capital goods, IT, and realty were the biggest losers, while oil & gas and pharma indices ended with marginal gains. On the Nifty, the key gainers were NTPC, Jio Financial, Coal India, Sun Pharma, and Dr Reddy's Labs, while the major losers included Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Eicher Motors, and M&M.

Around 180 stocks touched their 52-week low on the BSE. These included Aegis Logistics, Hexaware Technologies, Coforge, IRCTC, KPR Mills, Godrej Industries, Emami, Five-Star Business, Jubilant Food, TCS, Tata Technologies, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Jyothy Labs, Relaxo Footwear, and JK Lakshmi Cement, among others.

The key losers in the FMCG stocks were Colgate-Palmolive (India), Marico, Emami, and Tata Consumer Products. In the auto stocks, TVS Motor Company, Ashok Leyland, Mahindra & Mahindra, Hyundai Motor India, and Eicher Motors witnessed losses.

The Bank Nifty, which fell over 2%, witnessed heavy selling in private lenders such as Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank. Union Bank declined nearly 2.9%, while IndusInd Bank fell 2.4% and Federal Bank slipped nearly 2.4%.

In Asian markets, the MSCI Asia Pacific Index rose 0.9%, while the MSCI Emerging Markets Index also gained 0.8%.

The stock market on Wednesday came under pressure following a strong rebound in the previous session. The Nifty 50 fell below 23,850 during intraday trading amid selling across sectors.

At the close, the Sensex fell 1,342.27 points, or 1.72%, to 76,863.71, while the Nifty dropped 394.75 points, or 1.63%, to 23,866.85.

Mercedes CLA EV To Get A Base CLA 200 Variant In India 542 km Range

NEW DELHI, MAR 11:

Mercedes-Benz has just showcased the new India-spec CLA 250+ AMG Line Long Range variant and conducted the national media drives too. The company has now revealed that there will be an entry-level CLA 200 variant on sale in India too, making CLA's charm and aura more affordable for buyers. Let's take a closer look at what CLA 200 will get.

While the launch prices of Mercedes CLA 250+ and CLA 200 are not announced yet, tentative prices have been revealed. Tentative price of CLA 200 is Rs 55 lakh (Ex-sh) and tentative price of CLA 250+ is Rs 59 lakh (Ex-sh). Bookings for both are currently underway for a token amount of Rs 1.5 lakh (Ex-sh).

Pre-booking customers will get a complementary 22 KW wall charger. Deliveries of CLA 250+ will commence by April 2026 end and deliveries of CLA 200 will start by June



2026 end. Where design is concerned, CLA 200 Progressive Line will look a little different than CLA 250+ AMG Line owing to their respective styling packs. It has to be noted that CLA 250+ we drove in Bengaluru recently, will come with AMG Line styling package and the Long Range battery pack, which promises a range of 792 km on a single charge. Customers apparently gave feedback who wanted an additional variant of

CLA EV to appeal wide range of buyer preferences.

Enters CLA 200 base variant. It will come as standard with Progressive Line styling pack and comes with a Standard Range battery pack which promises 542 km of range on a single charge. The most notable elements on CLA 200 Progressive Line are comfort seats, multi-function sports leather steering wheel and it will get two trim options.

Mercedes VLE Class Luxury EV Debuts 115 kWh Battery, 700 km Range, 31.3" 8K Screen

NEW DELHI, MAR 11:

If you are one of those who keep up with the automotive industry, you might be aware of the Mercedes-Benz Vision V Concept that the company showcased in April 2025. It was a window into the future of electric minivans with ultimate luxury. This future has taken a production version in the form of VLE Class. Let's take a closer look.

Renowned German luxury car manufacturer, Mercedes-Benz has just taken the veil off their upcoming luxury electric minivan. Called the VLE Class, it is designed as a Grand Limousine and offers an uber luxurious experience and offers seating for up to 8 occupants with multiple seating layout options. Dimensionally, Mercedes VLE Class measures up to 5,484 mm in length, 1,999 mm in width, 1,943 mm in height and has a long wheelbase of up to 3,517 mm. There are multiple wheelbase configurations too and the most sur-



prising element is that VLE Class boasts an air drag coefficient of just 0.25 Cd.

This 'Grand Limousine' is showcased in 2028 model year and it will make its way to USA as well. Mercedes VLE Class is positioned on a new Van.EA platform with an 800V architecture. There will be a related Van.CA platform on which ICE version of this 'Grand Limousine' will be based on. The 800V architec-

ture allows faster charging as well, capped at 300 kW DC.

Battery size will range between 80 kWh and 115 kWh and promised range is up to 700 km on a single charge. The showcased variant is VLE300 and it packs a 115 kWh battery and a 268 bhp single motor layout powering front wheels. VLE400 variant with dual-motor AWD and 409 bhp of peak power will be introduced later on.

Maruti Sales Breakup Feb 2026 - Dzire, Brezza, Ertiga, WagonR, Swift, Baleno, Fronx, Victoris

MUMBAI, MAR 11:

Maruti Suzuki India Limited reported domestic passenger vehicle sales of 1,61,000 units in February 2026, registering marginal 0.13% YoY growth compared to 1,60,791 units sold in February 2025. However, sales declined 7.75% MoM when compared to 1,74,529 units recorded in January 2026.

Sedans and MPVs remained the strongest contributors to volumes during the month, while several entry-level hatchbacks and some SUVs recorded notable declines. Maruti Dzire emerged as the brand's best-selling model in February 2026 with 19,326 units, reflecting a 31.5% YoY growth compared to 14,694 units sold in February last year. On a month-on-month basis, sales dipped slightly by 1.5% from 19,629 units recorded in January 2026. Following closely behind was



Brezza, which registered 17,863 units in February 2026. This represented a 16% YoY increase over 15,392 units sold in February 2025, while MoM sales improved by 2.2% compared to 17,486 units in January. Ertiga MPV continued to maintain strong demand with 17,807 units sold, marking a 19.8% YoY increase from 14,868 units in February 2025. Month-on-month sales, however,

remained almost flat with a marginal 0.5% decline. Among hatchbacks, Wagon R posted 14,885 units, though sales declined sharply by 25% YoY from 19,879 units. On a MoM basis, the decline was relatively minor at 1.5%. Swift recorded 14,833 units in February 2026, reflecting a 9% YoY drop from 16,269 units and a steeper 16.7% MoM decline from 17,806 units in January.

RE Himalayan 450 Gets Hardcore 'Phantom' Upgrade With Rally-Ready Mods

NEW DELHI, MAR 11:

A more hardcore version of the Royal Enfield Himalayan 450 has been developed in the UK showing how the adventure motorcycle can be transformed for tougher off-road use. Created by Cooperb Motorcycles, the build is called the Phantom and introduces a wide range of aftermarket components to improve durability, range and trail capability.

The powertrain itself remains largely untouched. The familiar 452 cc Sherpa single-cylinder motor continues to power the motorcycle but Cooperb has added supporting upgrades to improve performance. A HP Corse exhaust system, coupled with a DNA intake kit, helps the engine breathe more efficiently while a FuelX Pro Plus controller enables riders to adjust the air-fuel mixture through multiple preset modes without needing specialised tuning equipment.

The suspension setup is where the most noticeable changes take place. Customers can opt for upgraded rear shocks from Hagon or K-Tech - both offering adjustable preload and compression damping. Riders choosing the K-Tech setup gain an additional rebound adjustment feature allowing the suspension to be tuned depending on terrain and riding style.

Further improvements can be made to the front suspension through an optional K-Tech ProValve kit. While the original open cartridge fork design is retained, revised internal components help deliver improved damping control and a wider range of adjustment. The upgrades are intended to give the motorcycle better stability when tackling demanding off-road conditions.

'Committed to India's Energy Security': Reliance to maximise LPG output at Jamnagar complex

MUMBAI, MAR 11:

As India starts to grapple with LPG shortage owing to supply chain disruption in the Gulf of Hormuz that is under Iran's siege in the ongoing war with US and Israel, Reliance Industries Wednesday said it remained committed to doing everything possible to support India's energy security in times of global uncertainty, including maximising gas production at the refining and petrochemicals complexes at Jamnagar, the world's largest integrated refining hub.

"For Reliance, India's energy security and the well-being of millions of Indian families always come first. We will continue to work closely with the Government of India and remain fully compliant with all national guidelines and allocation priorities, ensuring that energy supplies reach the sectors and communities that need them the most," Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) statement said.



"At a time when global energy markets are experiencing volatility, ensuring uninterrupted access to essential fuels for Indian households remains a national priority."

The statement said that its teams are working around the clock to optimize refinery operations and enhance LPG output. "Our teams are working around the clock to optimize refinery operations and enhance LPG output so that supplies to the domestic mar-

ket remain stable and reliable," it said. "At the same time, natural gas produced from the KG-D6 Basin will be diverted to support supply to priority sectors, in line with national energy priorities and Government guidelines," it added.

"As always, Reliance will stand firmly with the nation in its time of need. In times of global uncertainty, we remain committed to doing everything possible to support India's

energy security and ensure reliable access to essential fuels for the country," it added.

The government has invoked the Essential Commodities Act to ensure an uninterrupted supply of domestic cooking gas, directing refineries and petrochemical units to maximise production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and divert key hydrocarbon streams to the LPG pool.

According to the order, the supply of natural gas to certain sectors shall be treated as priority allocation and shall be maintained subject to operational availability to hundred per cent. of their average past six-month average gas consumption.

These sectors include: Domestic Piped Natural Gas supply; Compressed Natural Gas for transport; LPG production including LPG shrinkage requirements; Pipeline compressor fuel and other essential pipeline operational requirements.

Renault Bridger SUV Concept Debuts Sub 4m, India Launch 2027

NEW DELHI, MAR 11:

Renault has officially revealed the Renault Bridger Concept, previewing a new compact SUV that will play a key role in the brand's future strategy for India. The company has confirmed that production will begin in India in 2027, with the country serving as the primary market as well as a global export hub. Positioned as a rugged and lifestyle-oriented compact SUV, Bridger will compete in the high-volume sub-4 metre SUV segment while offering distinctive styling and practical cabin space. The Bridger concept showcases a bold and boxy design that emphasizes off-road character. The front fascia features a large gloss black panel with illuminated RENAULT lettering, flanked by distinctive LED lighting signatures. The headlights incorporate a layered LED pattern that gives the SUV a modern and aggressive appearance. A chunky front bumper with a large lower air intake further reinforces the rugged stance.



The concept also features a sculpted bonnet and pronounced wheel arches, highlighting its SUV proportions. In profile, Bridger carries a tall and upright silhouette with a strong shoulder line. The SUV gets black cladding around the wheel arches, large alloy wheels, roof rails and a contrasting black roof. These elements contribute to the vehicle's adventurous look.

At the rear, Bridger continues its rugged theme with a tailgate-mounted spare wheel, a feature typically seen on lifestyle off-road SUVs. The rear lighting elements feature a split LED signature, giving the SUV a modern design identity. A prominent bumper with skid plate detailing further enhances the off-road styling cues. Overall, the concept suggests that Renault wants the

Bridger to stand apart visually from conventional subcompact SUVs. Renault confirmed that the production version of Bridger will remain under 4 metres in length, allowing it to benefit from India's sub-4m tax structure. Despite the compact footprint, the company claims the SUV will offer best-in-class interior space, including generous knee room, headroom and overall cabin comfort.

The Bridger will also offer 400 litres of boot space, which would place it among the more practical offerings in the segment. Renault has confirmed that India will be the primary market for Bridger, with local production starting in 2027. Vehicles manufactured in India will also be exported to several international markets, including regions such as Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. This strategy aligns with Renault's broader plan to strengthen its presence in India while also using the country as a manufacturing and export base.