

## MG 4X Electric SUV Revealed With 4.4m Length, 53.95 kWh Battery India Bound?

NEW DELHI, MAR 13:

JSW MG Motor India has established a firm hand. This is because of MG Windsor EV's massive success and the acceptance of the innovative BaaS pricing model. However, MG has not seen similar success with other offerings like Comet EV and ZS EV. MG will replace ZS EV and Astor with new models some time in 2027 and the MG 4X has just been revealed, which we think is a fitting replacement for ZS EV in India. Here is a closer look at it. The prospects of ZS EV replacement have been floating for some time now. MG ES5 was one of those vehicles which many speculated as ZS EV replacement. But now, there is a new electric SUV that might be projected for that position. It has just been revealed ahead of its global debut at Auto China Show in Beijing next month. Dimensionally, MG 4X measures 4,395 mm in length, 1,842 mm in width, 1,551 mm in height and has a wheelbase of 2,750 mm. So, the immediate rival for MG 4X is BYD Atto 2.



Where length and width are concerned, MG 4X is larger, but Atto 2 is taller. It has to be noted that MG 4X is positioned below MG S5 and MG ES5 within the MG4 family.

Where design is concerned, MG 4X

has many family design traits which we have seen in other vehicles including MG S5 and MG ES5. Especially from the rear and side profiles, resemblances with S5 family. At the front, we have a unique fascia with connected LED light

bar, stylish LED headlights, MG branding, sporty bumper with black highlights and more.

From the sides, we can see a crossover SUV silhouette with a premium air to it. Neatly executed chrome window line, dual-tone machined alloy wheels, conventional door handles, charging port on rear left quarter panel and connected rear LED light rails are notable highlights. Interiors of MG 4X are under wraps.

Speculations point out that MG 4X electric SUV might come with a semi-solid-state battery pack with a better safety proposition. Battery size is likely to be around 53.95 kWh and might offer a promised range of 510 km on a single charge, as per CLTC cycle. It might primarily be a FWD single-motor vehicle at launch. JSW MG Motor India has not confirmed whether MG 4X will make it to our shores, but the size and battery capacity are similar to what ZS EV currently offers. Thus sparking speculations.

## 2026 Kia Sonet Affordable Auto Variants Launched Diesel AT Rs 9.78 L, Petrol DCT Rs 9.9 L

MUMBAI, MAR 13:

Kia Sonet has emerged as one of the most sought after B Segment SUVs in the recent past. Sonet recently achieved a momentous sales milestone where it crossed 5 lakh units sales milestone. Now, to boost sales further and make automatic variants of Sonet more affordable, Kia India has launched new variants. Let's take a closer look.

One of the most premium and well-rounded packages in the sub 4m SUV segment, the Kia Sonet, has been brought into MY26 model year. With this update, Kia is giving Sonet more affordable automatic variants, making it more desirable for urban SUV buyers than it ever has been.

There is a new Magma Red colourway introduced with 2026 Sonet to boost Sonet's



bold and youthful appeal. Other colours include Imperial Blue, Pewter Olive, Glacier White Pearl, Sparkling Silver, Aurora Black Pearl, Gravity Grey and a dual-tone Glacier White Pearl + Aurora Black Pearl as well. With X-Line choices are Aurora Black Pearl and Matte Graphite. With 2026

Sonet, there are more choices with regard to its automatic gearbox options. This expands Sonet's automatic variant lineup to appeal to a wider range of audiences. Headline figure is Diesel Auto at Rs 9.78 lakh and Turbo Petrol DCT at Rs 9.9 lakh (both Ex-sh), which are under Rs 10 lakh.

## Volkswagen vs Maruti Trademark Battle In Delhi HC 4MOTION vs TRANSFORMOTION



MUMBAI, MAR 13:

The Delhi High Court has dismissed a petition filed by German automaker Volkswagen challenging the registration of the trademark 'Transformation' by Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. Volkswagen had opposed the mark claiming that it was deceptively similar to its '4MOTION' trademark, which is associated with the brand's all-wheel-drive technology.

The case, titled Volkswagen

AG vs Registrar of Trade Marks and Another, came before Justice Manmeet Pritham Singh Arora, who upheld the earlier decision of the Registrar of Trade Marks rejecting Volkswagen's opposition.

Maruti Suzuki had applied for the registration of the trademark 'Transformation', which was subsequently accepted and advertised by the Registrar of Trade Marks. Volkswagen filed a notice of

opposition arguing that the mark was similar to its registered trademark '4MOTION', which is used for its intelligent four-wheel-drive system in vehicles such as Tiguan.

Volkswagen claimed that the similarity between the two marks could potentially confuse customers in the automotive market. However, the Registrar dismissed the opposition, prompting Volkswagen to file an appeal before the Delhi High Court.

While examining the matter, the Delhi High Court observed that the two trademarks are visually, phonetically and conceptually different. The court noted that '4MOTION' begins with a numerical prefix, whereas 'TRANSFORMOTION' begins with the alphabetic prefix 'TRANS', resulting in a distinctly different pronunciation and overall structure. As a result, the court held that there was no plausible likelihood of confusion between the two marks.

## 2026 Nissan X-Trail N-Trek Debuts Gets Rugged Design, ePower Hybrid Engine

NEW DELHI, MAR 13:

Nissan X-Trail needs no introduction globally and is even on sale in India. This premium SUV has been on of the most notable SUV nameplates in the world and has a huge fan following. For 2026, Nissan has just re-introduced the N-Trek version of X-Trail which gets unique styling cues for a more rugged and outdoor appeal. Let's take a closer look. X-Trail N-Trek version was on sale till 2024 and has now returned in 2026 with a unique front design of its own. The new 2026 X-Trail N-Trek has been positioned between N-Connecta and Tekna trim levels and it aims to appeal to buyers who are into outdoor activities like mountain biking or skiing, among others. Where pricing is concerned, 2026 X-Trail starts from GBP 38,220 in UK and the just introduced 2026 X-Trail N-Trek version starts from GBP 43,310. With today's currency exchange rates, they translate



into Rs 46.81 lakh and Rs 53 lakh, respectively. Standard 2026 X-Trail is offered in Acenta Premium, N-Connecta and Tekna trims, while Tekna+ trim level is discontinued. Standard 2026 X-Trail gets a few updates too. On the outside, it gets two new colour options in the form of Sukumo Blue and Coastal Dune. In terms of features and equipment, Standard 2026 Nissan X-Trail gets an update in the

form of new parking cameras, new Google OS which was seen in Qashqai and upgraded interior material quality.

The most notable update with 2026 Nissan X-Trail is the re-introduction of N-Trek trim level, which was last offered in 2024. At the front, N-Trek trim gets a dedicated grille, which is finished in gloss black and gets three White contrasted slots at the top.

## Toyota Land Cruiser FJ To Get A Diesel Engine Eventually

MUMBAI, MAR 13:

The Toyota Land Cruiser FJ is said to be launched in petrol, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid variants in India. Internationally, though, just ahead of its launch in Thailand and Japan, there's talk of a diesel variant as well.

Multiple reports citing Japan's Best Car magazine claim that Toyota will offer the Land Cruiser FJ with the 1GD-FTV 2.8-litre diesel engine, currently available in models such as the Fortuner, Hilux, and Land Cruiser Prado. However, the company plans to introduce this option in 2029, about three years after the model's global launch.

Just like the availability of the 1GD-FTV 2.8-litre diesel engine, its timeline remains a rumour, with no official explanation available behind the deferred introduction. However, a working theory is that Toyota needs time to update this engine to meet stricter emission norms and ensure it remains compliant well into the next decade.

Depending on the model, the 1GD-FTV engine produces up to 150 kW (201 hp) and up to 500 Nm of torque and comes linked to a 6-speed manual, 6-speed automatic, or 8-speed automatic transmission. In select markets, a 48-volt mild-hybrid technology is offered as an option.

The Toyota Land Cruiser FJ is a C-segment SUV measuring 4,575 mm in length, 1,855 mm in width, and 1,960 mm in height, with a 2,580 mm wheelbase. It is a body-on-frame model based on the IMV 0 platform that first spawned the Toyota Hilux Champ compact pickup truck.

Toyota has confirmed plans to launch the Land Cruiser FJ internationally with the 2TR-FE 2.7-litre petrol engine tuned to produce 120 kW (161 hp) and 246 Nm of torque. A 6-speed automatic transmission and a part-time 4WD system will work together to channel power to the wheels.

## Rupee rout, market sell-off drain forex reserves

NEW DELHI, MAR 13:

From a macroeconomic perspective, the Ides of March has brought a bloodbath to the financial markets. Equities have logged their worst closing week since the pandemic-hit March 2020, the rupee has plunged to a lifetime low of 92.47, and the country's foreign exchange reserves — the strongest external sector defence for the economy — have recorded their sharpest weekly fall in over a year as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stepped in heavily to defend the currency.

The reserves declined by \$11.68 billion to \$716.81 billion in the week ended March 6, down from a record high of \$728.49 billion in the previous week, according to the latest weekly data released by the central bank. In the preceding reporting week, the overall reserves had risen by \$4.885 billion to an all-time high of \$728.494 billion. India's forex reserves had crossed the \$700 billion mark for the first time in the week ended September 27, 2024.



The sharp \$11.68 billion decline in reserves came amid heavy dollar sales by the RBI to support the rupee, which has been under pressure due to the escalating war involving Iran and the resulting surge in oil prices.

Earlier this week, there were reports that the central bank was preparing a \$12 billion war chest to contain volatility in the foreign exchange market.

The rupee has been the weakest currency in Asia so far this year, losing more than

3.5% in 2026, following a 4.9% decline in 2025. The currency has weakened not only against the US dollar — which has rallied on safe-haven demand since the US and Israel launched a strike on Iran 13 days ago — but also against the euro, the pound, the yen and Gulf currencies. The dollar index was trading 0.49% higher at 101.3 earlier in the day.

In the broader equity market, benchmark indices fell around 2% each, marking the worst week for Dalal Street

since March 2020. The Sensex has slipped below the 75,000 mark, while the Nifty is nearing the 23,000 level, and analysts warn that the sell-off may not be over yet as military tensions in the Middle East escalate and crude prices continue to surge.

Analysts said the rise in US Treasury yields and the strengthening dollar have further contributed to the decline in reserves.

Even at \$716.81 billion, India remains the fourth-largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, after China (\$3.57 trillion), Japan (\$1.24 trillion) and Switzerland (\$952.7 billion), while remaining ahead of Russia (\$620.8 billion). At current levels, the reserves are sufficient to cover about eight months of imports.

Gaura Sen Gupta, economist at IDFC First Bank, estimated that the decline reflected net dollar sales of about \$6.1 billion by the RBI, along with valuation losses of roughly \$5.4 billion.

## Sub 4m SUV Sales Feb 2026 Nexon, Punch, Brezza, Fronx, Venue, Sonet, XUV3XO

MUMBAI, MAR 13:

India's highly competitive sub-compact SUV segment (3.8m-4m) continued to witness strong traction in February 2026. Total sales stood at 1,14,531 units, registering a marginal 0.89% year-on-year growth compared to 1,13,517 units sold in February 2025. However, on a month-on-month basis, sales declined 5.46% from 1,21,150 units recorded in January 2026. Tata Motors dominated the segment with both Nexon and Punch securing the top two positions, while Maruti Suzuki's Brezza and Fronx followed closely behind. Tata Nexon, including its EV version, emerged as the best-selling sub 4m SUV in February 2026 with 19,430 units sold. This marked a 26.59% year-on-year growth compared to 15,349 units sold in February 2025. Despite strong annual growth, Nexon sales declined 16.84% MoM from 23,365 units recorded in January 2026.

Closely following Nexon



was Tata Punch, including Punch EV, with 18,748 units sold last month. Punch recorded a 28.77% YoY growth over 14,559 units sold in February 2025. Month-on-month sales dipped slightly by 2.64% from 19,257 units sold in January 2026. Maruti Brezza secured the third position with 17,863 units sold in February 2026. The SUV posted a 16.05% YoY growth compared to

15,392 units sold during the same period last year. On a MoM basis, Brezza sales increased 2.16% from 17,486 units sold in January 2026. Maruti Fronx ranked fourth with 13,898 units, although it witnessed a sharp 35.24% YoY decline from 21,461 units sold in February 2025. On a monthly basis, Fronx sales improved 4.08% compared to 13,353 units sold in January 2026.

Hyundai Venue registered 10,494 units in February 2026, marking a modest 3.64% YoY growth over 10,125 units sold last year. However, sales declined 15.46% MoM from 12,413 units sold in January 2026. Kia Sonet reported 9,750 units, reflecting a strong 28.32% YoY increase compared to 7,598 units sold in February 2025. Month-on-month sales were down 11.35% from 10,998 units recorded in January 2026.

Mahindra XUV3XO, including its EV variant, posted 8,637 units in February 2026, registering a 9.87% YoY growth compared to 7,861 units sold a year earlier. Skoda Kodiaq, one of the newer entrants in the segment, recorded 4,532 units, reflecting a 24.64% YoY growth. On a month-on-month basis, Kodiaq saw a significant 40.75% increase compared to 3,220 units sold in January 2026, indicating rising demand for the compact SUV.

## Skoda, VW Sales Breakup Feb 2026 Kylaq, Slavia, Kushaq, Taigun, Virtus



MUMBAI, MAR 13:

Skoda and Volkswagen continue to maintain steady traction in the Indian market despite operating with relatively limited product portfolios. In February 2026, Skoda ranked among the top 10 passenger vehicle manufacturers while Volkswagen maintained a smaller but stable presence. Kylaq emerged as the Skoda's

best-selling model, while Virtus continued to dominate the VW sales charts.

Skoda Auto India reported total sales of 6,361 units in February 2026, registering a 13.94% year-on-year growth compared to 5,583 units sold in February 2025. On a month-on-month basis, sales improved 10.84% from 5,739 units sold in January 2026.

Leading the charts for the brand was Skoda Kylaq, which recorded 4,532 unit sales last month. This marked a 24.64% YoY growth compared to 3,636 units sold in February 2025. Month-on-month sales also surged 40.75% from 3,220 units in January 2026, highlighting strong demand for the compact SUV. Skoda Slavia sedan ranked second with 1,674 units sold in February 2026. This represented a strong 85.79% YoY growth from 901 units sold in February 2025. However, sales declined 13.98% MoM compared to 1,946 units sold in January 2026. Flagship Skoda Kodiaq recorded 146 unit sales, registering a sharp 1360% YoY increase from just 10 units sold in February 2025. On a month-on-month basis, Kodiaq sales improved 5.04% compared to 139 units sold in January 2026.

## Honda Reassesses EV Plans, Axes 0 Series & Acura RSX EVs

MUMBAI, MAR 13:

Not long ago, Honda was talking up a new generation of electric vehicles under the 0 Series banner. The lineup was meant to include a futuristic sedan and SUV along with an electric version of the Acura RSX. Now, reports indicate the Japanese manufacturer has scrapped all three projects as part of a rethink of its electrification plans. The decision comes at a time when global EV demand has begun to cool in several markets. Automakers are increasingly dealing with changing regulations, government incentives and slower-than-expected adoption rates. For Honda, continuing with these particular projects under current conditions reportedly did not make financial sense.

The 0 Series programme had originally been introduced as Honda's next major step in the electric era. These vehicles were supposed to run on the company's new Honda Zero Platform — a dedicated EV architecture designed entirely in-house. Production was planned at Honda's EV manufacturing hub in Ohio, United States. Interestingly, the brand had been presenting a very different picture not too long ago. At the Japan Mobility Show 2025, Honda showcased the Honda 0 Series Alpha — a midsize electric SUV concept that was expected to lead the company's future EV expansion. The concept generated considerable attention thanks to its radical styling and was even confirmed for markets including India and Japan around 2027.

During that event, Honda CEO Toshihiro Mibe had also spoken about increasing the company's focus on India. With Chinese electric vehicle makers expanding rapidly, Honda viewed India alongside Japan and North America as a crucial region for rebuilding its presence in the global market and it will have to be waited and seen what really happens in the future.

## 2026 Suzuki Burgman Street EX Launch Price Rs 1.08 Lakh New Colour

NEW DELHI, MAR 13:

While Suzuki has a huge arsenal of motorcycles globally, their business in the Indian market is primarily dominated by scooters. Access is their best-seller and one of the most popular 125cc scooters in the country. It is complemented by Burgman Street, which is a maxi-style family scooter powered by the same engine as Access.

Burgman Street clocks consistent sales numbers, which is quite commendable for its genre and body style. In March 2026, Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd introduced MY26 version of Burgman Street EX scooter where it gets a new colour. Let's take a closer look.

Where pricing is concerned, 2026 Suzuki Burgman Street EX costs Rs 1.08 lakh (Ex-sh). Suzuki has kept prices of Burgman Street EX similar to what it was before. The new colour with 2026 Burgman



Street EX is called Pearl Grace White, which is a combination of White and Grey and is very subtle and understated.

Other colour options offered with Burgman Street EX include Metallic Royal Bronze and Metallic Matte Black No 2. Price is the same between all three colour options, which is

welcome in our books. It has to be noted that Suzuki has discontinued the Matte Stellar Blue colour that used to be offered before. EX in Burgman Street EX name means this model has a 12-inch rear wheel, which should offer better everyday rideability and bump absorption.