

Press Information

Volkswagen Group establishes new management structure within the ŠKODA-led 'INDIA 2.0' project

- › **More efficient use of synergies: under ŠKODA's leadership, Volkswagen Group establishes new management structure in India with effect from 1 January 2019**
 - › **Mr. Gurpratap Boparai, currently Managing Director of ŠKODA AUTO India Private Limited (SAIPL), to also become Managing Director of Volkswagen India Private Limited (VWIPL)**
 - › **The restructuring of the Volkswagen Group companies is scheduled for 2019 subject to regulatory approvals**
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Mumbai/Pune/Aurangabad, 20 November 2018 – As part of the 'INDIA 2.0' project, the Volkswagen Group plans to sustainably strengthen its position in the Indian market. The Volkswagen Group in India is restructuring its management in order to use the existing synergies more efficiently in the development of this important growth market. Mr. Gurpratap Boparai, currently Managing Director of ŠKODA AUTO India Private Ltd., will also become Managing Director of the Volkswagen India Private Limited (VWIPL) with effect from 1 January 2019. In the future, all Group brands will continue their operations under the leadership of Mr. Gurpratap Boparai with a common strategy in the Indian Market. The restructuring of the Volkswagen Group companies in India is planned for next year, subject to regulatory approvals.

The Volkswagen Group is placing the responsibility for implementing the 'INDIA 2.0' project in the hands of the newly formed management team. The aim of this measure is to make more efficient use of existing synergies and to establish more agile coordination processes so that decisions can be made more quickly and flexibly.

With effect from 1 January 2019, Mr. Gurpratap Boparai, currently Managing Director of ŠKODA AUTO India Private Ltd., will also become Managing Director of Volkswagen India Private Ltd. (VWIPL). Mr. Pavel Richter, Technical Director of Production in the 'INDIA 2.0' project will lead production responsibilities for the Group in India. As part of the restructuring Dr. Andreas Lauer mann will be moving to the Volkswagen Group by end of the year to take on new responsibilities.

Mr. Bernhard Maier, ŠKODA AUTO CEO, explains: "India is an important and attractive growth market for us. Our goal is clear: In this highly competitive environment, we aim for a combined Volkswagen and ŠKODA market share of up to 5% by 2025. Based on the MQB A0-IN platform from 2020, we will be offering the right models to unlock the Indian market's potential."

Mr. Gurpratap Boparai, Managing Director of ŠKODA AUTO India Private Ltd. **Head of 'INDIA 2.0'**, adds: "With the introduction of the new management structure, we are laying the foundations both for the joint implementation of 'INDIA 2.0' and for achieving our goals in India: we will secure employment in India, create new jobs, attract talent and launch high quality and attractive vehicles on the market."

As part of 'INDIA 2.0', ŠKODA will be responsible for the Volkswagen Group's model campaign on the Indian market. To best meet the needs of Indian customers, ŠKODA AUTO has been focusing on maximum market proximity from the very start. All future models to be developed and produced locally in India will be based on the Volkswagen Group's modular transverse matrix (MQB). This platform already meets the stricter legal requirements in India, which will come into force in 2020. In this context, ŠKODA is developing the MQB-A0 IN sub-compact platform exclusively for the Indian market. The model campaign will be launched in 2020 with an SUV. In the second phase of the project, ŠKODA will be examining the possibility of exporting vehicles built in India.

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GROUP INDIA

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Mr. Pavel Richter, Technical Director of Production in the 'INDIA 2.0' project, will be responsible for production at the Indian plants.

About Volkswagen Group India: *The Volkswagen Group is represented by five passenger car brands in India: Audi, Lamborghini, Porsche, ŠKODA, and Volkswagen. The Volkswagen Group has been present in India for the last 17 years and began its India journey with the entry of the ŠKODA brand in 2001. The Audi brand and Volkswagen brand entered India in 2007, while Porsche brand and Lamborghini brand followed in 2012. Each brand has its own character and operates as an independent entity in the market. Volkswagen Group India has about 30 models in India about 240 dealerships and is operating two plants – Pune and Aurangabad. The Pune Plant has a manufacturing capacity of 200,000 cars per year (maximum in three-shift system) and is currently manufacturing Volkswagen Polo, Ameo and Vento and ŠKODA Rapid. The Aurangabad Plant assembles various premium and luxury models of Audi, ŠKODA and Volkswagen sold in India and has an annual maximum capacity of approximately 89,000. Volkswagen Group India is a part of Volkswagen AG, which is globally represented by 12 brands - Audi, Bentley, Bugatti, Ducati, Lamborghini, Porsche, Scania, SEAT, ŠKODA, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, MAN, and Volkswagen Passenger Cars.*

ŠKODA AUTO India

- › Has been operating in India since November 2001 as a subsidiary of ŠKODA AUTO a. s. Czech Republic
- › ŠKODA AUTO India has 4 models on sale in India – ŠKODA SUPERB, ŠKODA OCTAVIA, ŠKODA RAPID and ŠKODA KODIAQ
- › Has a network of 70 sales and 70 service outlets across the country and has sold over 249,588 units since November 2001
- › For more information please visit www.ŠKODA-auto.co.in
- › ŠKODA India FB Page - <https://www.facebook.com/ŠKODA india>
- › ŠKODA India corporate communications twitter Handle - <https://twitter.com/ŠKODAIndia PR>