

# Seven 4x4s that will make you rethink that sportscar poster

RAHBAR AL HAQ

Petrolheads define their era with particular sportscars on their childhood walls. 90's kids have the Lamborghini Countach, 2000s have the McLaren F1 and current ones have a Nissan GTR. Trucks and SUVs don't quite often make it to a literal wall of fame. But times are changing and so are the tastes. Here are the latest 4x4 trucks and SUVs that are providing the fizz for petrolheads. Some are stranger than others.



## INEOS GRENADIER

What happens when your favorite vehicle goes out of production? Well, if you are a British billionaire, you build a better version of it. The Grenadier is the brainchild of one Jim Ratcliffe, chemicals magnate, car enthusiast, and the 5th richest man in the UK. As the story goes, he initially approached Jaguar-Land Rover (JLR) to buy the tooling for the old Defender, but when refused, he decided to make his own. His reimagined Defender, which took three years to develop, is sitting on a Toyota sourced ladder frame and running on a BMW powertrain. Production to start around late 2021 in a new factory in Bridgend, and according to Ineos, won't be cheap.



## FORD BRONCO

Moving on to the other side of the pond to another cult classic, the blue oval has finally got around their plans to bring back the Bronco. Although we are still three days away from its official debut, there have been enough leaks for us to justify adding it to this list. The new Bronco will be a body-on-frame design based on the Ranger platform, with a removable roof, sharp edges, and a solid rear axle. Ford describes it as a "no-compromise midsize 4x4 utility for thrill-seekers," and plans to directly compete with the Jeep market. It seems like the rebellious British colony is about to out-Defender the new Defender, though we have to wait just a little bit to know for sure.



## NIKOLA BADGER

Switching from conventional gas guzzlers

to alternative energy, this Badger is the first of its kind. The truck a hydrogen fuel cell/electric hybrid, meaning the only byproduct coming out of its engine is pure water. Amusingly, Nikola's founder, Trevor Milton, claims the only reason they are making the Badger is of the Cybertruck, whose lack of 'ascetics' compelled them to make a good looking EV truck. Whatever their reason, it means we are getting a conventional-looking truck with 906bhp and 980 lb-ft of torque, with a 0-100 of 2.9 seconds. We are certainly not complaining.



## HONORABLE MENTIONS: RIVIAN R1T AND TESLA CYBERTRUCK

Speaking of alternate power, we must mention these two. The only thing these two have in common is the fact that they both are electric. On the one



hand, we have the Rivian R1T. A stylish, eco-friendly lifestyle truck, designed for young couples who like to adventure in the woods. On the other hand, we have a Cybertruck, which we have no idea about. Is the next phase of automotive design, a Mars rover for planet Earth, or one of the prototype armored vehicle Elon developing to outfit his secret clone army? We don't know. And to be perfectly honest, we are not sure we want to know.



## FORD RANGER RAPTOR

When Ford re-introduced the Ranger in the US, they claimed there are no plans to make a Raptor variant. What they didn't say is that they already made one, just for the rest of the world. The Ranger Raptor is a baby F-150 Raptor for those of us who can't afford the big American full-size pickup truck. Albeit instead of a V8, you get a 2.0-liter diesel, making 213 hp and 368 lb-ft of torque. Still of all the cars on this list, this is the only one you can buy in Bangladesh. Just walk up to an AG motors showroom to pre-order one.



## LAND ROVER DEFENDER 110

Speaking for JLR, they rolled out their own updated the Defender a few months ago. The reception to it has been mixed, as its monocoque construction, soft panel edges and leather upholstery means it lacks the rugged no-nonsense look the old Defender. There is a method behind this madness though. JLR wants to make the



## Fighting the good fight against overpopulation fallouts with fabulous technology

SADMAN SAKIB PANTHO

From climate change to the ongoing pandemic, overpopulation is deeply rooted at the cause of many global issues and crises. While organizations and governments are working to research and implement policies to combat overpopulation, innovations, and technology are constantly being leveraged across the globe to combat the increasing number of problems that are stemming from overpopulation.

### PULLING DOWN POVERTY

Poverty is one of the main causes behind overpopulation and overpopulation, in turn, makes poverty more pervasive. Technology is playing a crucial role in bringing people out of crippling poverty. The World Bank is creating digital versions of educational content in local languages and in line with local curricula to make education more interactive in middle and low-income countries around the globe. In Africa, nonprofit EdTech *onebillion* is developing educational software for reading and numeracy in the child's own language. While the effectiveness of microcredit is debatable and controversial, it has without a doubt made a difference in the lives of the poor.

Mobile phones and mobile banking services have made microcredit services widely available to the poor, especially those living in rural areas. In Bangladesh, a large portion of the poor lives in rural areas many of whom are farmers. Last year, *Khamar-e*, an AgriTech startup, received seed funding from the ICT division to use mobile phone-driven IoT to provide farmers with data, resources, and training so that they can achieve the most profit from cattle farming.

### KEEPING CLIMATE CHANGE IN CHECK

Overpopulation is a key factor behind increased environmental pollution, deforestation, and consequently climate change. Corporations around the world are investing in blockchain technologies to reduce carbon emissions and deforestation. In order to preserve forests, drone technology is being extensively used to track and monitor vegetation regrowth. *PlasticBank* is an initiative that is empowering recycling ecosystems in coastal communities, repurposing recycled plastic for reintroduction into industries, and incentivizing recycling through rewards and transparent

blockchains. To promote responsible carbon consumption, companies such as *EnergiToken* and *CarbonX* are leveraging blockchain technology to provide credit rewards.

### FIGHTING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Overpopulation means a nation or region has more mouths to feed. Hunger and malnutrition are serious problems plaguing the world. Agricultural scientists are constantly using biotechnology to come up with new, nutrient-enriched varieties. Even in the 1980s, Vietnam was a hungry nation. And today, Vietnamese farmers are using GPS technology and moisture sensors to overcome traditional challenges to agriculture. *Agro-climate Information Services (ACIS)* – aimed at promoting South Asian women farmers, *AloWeather*, *Green Coffee* and *Specialize Expert System for Agro-Meteorological Early Warning (RIMES-SESAME)* are some of the AgriTech initiatives across Asia working to promote sustainable and environment-friendly agriculture. Farmers are being trained to use digital technology to access weather data so that they can have more profitable produce.

### PREVENTING PANDEMICS

With the population of the world increasing exponentially, researchers and health experts have been warning us for a long time that a pandemic is not a matter of "why?" but rather "when?". And we're seeing the consequences firsthand right now. To prevent such global health crises, big data analytics and 5G will play a huge role in the coming years. Tech giants like Facebook and Google house enormous amounts of user data. As a part of their *Data for Good* program, Facebook is providing research firms around the globe user-movement data while ensuring users' anonymity. The large-scale analysis of these data can not only help identify pandemic hotspots within a community but can also help keep track of transmissions. As a result, the authorities can take steps to prevent the largescale spread of disease. The *Global Epidemic Prevention Platform (GEPP)* leverages 5G to use mobile operators to track infected individuals and to inform others in their vicinity. This has proven to be invaluable for South Korea in its early success against the pandemic.



MITSUBISHI MOTORS

## Super Select 4WD - Robust handling in all conditions

To adapt to ever-changing consumer needs, modern 4WD systems have become increasingly capable and sophisticated. Systems such as the Super Select 4WD –found in the Mitsubishi L200 pickup truck–, are capable of managing the power and braking to each individual wheel as well. This system ensures the truck will always have maximum stability and traction, whether it is on gravel, mud/snow, sand or rock. All the user needs to do is turn the selector dial.



NOW YOU KNOW