



Unbreakable: 2005 Toyota Hilux resto rebuild

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Where the Europeans had the Paris-Dakar rally, the Americans had the Baja 1000 on the tougher terrains of Mexico. Which is why the cars, or trucks in this case, that participated in the Baja 1000 looked nothing like their factory counterparts. They were lifted, 800 hp, fiberglass shelled tube on frame trophy trucks built to circumvent 1000 miles through the terrain of scenic yet perilous Baja-Californian Peninsula. Enter Ivan “Iron Man” Stewart and the red, orange and yellow liveried Toyota SR5. Soon, TRD became synonymous with Baja 1000. Around late 90’s, another Toyota Hilux, albeit shadowed by the hero car, became synonymous with Back To The Future. That black custom 4x4 with yellow fog lamps went on to kick start an entire generation’s infatuation with it. Toyota did start cashing in on the hype, but subtly, until recently with the introduction of the TRD pro models, which North America seems to love and already has developed a cult following. To be fair, we petrolheads are all obsessed with trucks to an extent (and no that does not mean we’re compensating



for something else). Anyone who says otherwise is fighting the closet door. Mine started with a copy of Super Pickups on PS2 from Eastern Plaza. “Check out that 4x4!” says my boss (all the time) as he looks at pictures of Marty McFly’s Hilux. While the Hilux has grown part of its reliability legend from the relation with extremist groups in the Middle East, the real love for many comes from watching BTTF on long cold nights curled up in a blanket. Check out this 4x4 indeed. The red TRD pro-esque 2005 Hilux came to be an adventitious decision by Fahmid Ishtiaque Ahmed, as he wanted to fish for something unique in a sea of

numerous Defender and Patrol builds. With the help of a contact in the embassy auctions, a 2.7L 3RZ Hilux with a fairly low mileage was sourced and Samiur Rahman Tushar, a young veteran in the deshi petrolhead community, drove the noble Hilux straight to his restoration facility, Machinam. A considerable amount of hours wrenching and some TLC and an overnight parts from Japan scene later, the transformation took shape



into what you’re seeing in the pictures. The cabin was transformed into a 4 seater configuration, made out of Axio seats in the front and front seats from a Mark II in the rear. The dashboard was given the

leather treatment, along with a Momo steering wheel. Doors and windows were given automation from a Hilux Surf. The mean demeanor of its front fascia is alleviated by an ARB inspired custom made front bumper, in conjunction to TRD headlamps and a custom grille. The bed houses an ARB design rollbar. The meatier Zestino mud terrain tyres and the 16” 4x4 style wheels were sourced by Platinum Wheels. The cherry on top(literally) yellow fog Lamps and an LED bar mounted on the ARB design bumper and roll bar. “It drives well and is quite quick although the skittish rear due to an empty bed is typical of pickup trucks,” Tushar said and added, “Best place to be is in the rear seats, big, bolstered and recline able.” This sweet 4x4 indeed greater than the sum of its parts. It’s not black (well, except for the rear doors, a nice touch), but it is very functional indeed. No silly multiple touchscreens and no ridiculous powered tailgate like many new trucks offer. This is functional with style much like our beloved black truck from the movies. I am sure Marty McFly would be proud.



Will Alexa take my job away?

An in-depth look into the increasing use of conversational AI in interactive services

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Siri & Alexa are our regular examples of conversational AI, mostly used for checking the temperature or playing music by its users with some occasional assistance to Google questions the user is too busy to type. The artificial intelligence industry, however, has not stopped at making voice assistants for your amusement. The conversational AI industry is predicted to reach a value of \$15 billion by 2024 according to a recent study by P&S Intelligence. The AI solutions’ services

are not limited to mere chatbots anymore and are expanding to all sorts of different services that involve communication and administrative assistance, call centre jobs and many more.

These AIs are being designed to perform all sorts of customer-related tasks in a more time-efficient manner and eliminating the probability of human error. The chatbots will deal with your queries about credit card blocks while being aware of your emotional standing from your tonality, choice of words, and frequency of the voice. Although the question remains whether AI services can fully mimic human emotions like empathy and such, many are still concerned about how AI will threaten day-to-day jobs. Call centre jobs to face the biggest threat since their services are mostly regarding synthesizing information for

the customers’ benefit, something an AI can replace with greater accuracy due to its higher analytical ability. Call centre agents have to rely on their own speed to pull up necessary data to aid in their clients’ concern, whereas an AI can do the same thing in a shorter period. They are designed to be connected to a wide array of networks and the development of their listening ability will allow them to communicate information from their wide network effectively. Especially in times like this, when organisations worldwide are looking to cut their human resources, AI-based call centred jobs could take the centre stage for industries that need them. Response ai, a Florida based AI-powered call centre service is an example of how AI could be the future of call centres. If history teaches us anything, it’s that jobs will be replaced or enhanced with disruptive technologies of one form or other. But conversational AI is not here to cut jobs only. It is projected to enhance the quality of existing jobs and give birth to newer ones. For example, chatbot implementation providers believe that a conversational AI should always be paired with a human supervisor. AI-powered


chats can become too routinized and as a result, it will not be able to respond to queries by clients and customers who come up with new problems. The program will then have to redirect the client’s queries to the supervisor, which essentially will make these services more competent. Despite the promise of complementing human jobs, it is undeniable that certain jobs are going to become obsolete or fully replaced. Executive assistants, office secretaries, and receptionists who are solely responsible for providing accessible information or scheduling management will find it harder to survive in the market. However, industry leaders like Rhonda Scharf, believe conversational AIs can co-exist with a human overseeing the jobs as long as administrative assistants learn to adapt and update their services. One of these updates can be learning the algorithmic features so that they can manage the AI, monitor the AI, and train the AI with new knowledge. Conversational AI exists to mimic human behaviour and expressions, so it is crucial that they work in human existence so that they can learn more ways to communicate with human interaction.



MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Why lightweight vehicles are better

Traditionally, cars were built around an iron or steel frame. Though it made the cars durable, the frame's weight took a significant toll on the car's power, handling, and fuel efficiency. Advancement in metallurgy and adoption of unibody construction, however, allowed automakers to significantly reduce this weight penalty without compromising the car's structural strength. For example, the **Mitsubishi Xpander's** Reinforced Impact Safety Evolution (RISE) body allows it to be just as strong as its heavier counterparts while having a curb weight of only 1,240 kg. With the lighter weight granting the car better handling and a greater fuel economy.



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