



Auto Industry in 2020: Five biggest takeaways

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2020 has not been a kind year, to put it mildly. Every form of business has come to a standstill, the auto industry being no exception. But even though the hardship, the industry evolved and adapted to the current climate. Here's a list of the five biggest events that shaped the auto industry in 2020, for better or worse.

The fight against Covid-19

The war against this new virus meant all hands on deck, and the auto industry answered the call. Lamborghini Made masks, McLaren designed respirators, while companies such as Tesla and SEAT repurposed their exiting cars parts to make ventilators. Some companies, Such as BYD, Mahindra, and GM, went the extra mile and dedicated entire production plants to make face masks, PPE, and disinfectants. Smaller shops such as the American JK Automotive Designs repurposed their tooling to build face masks for local health workers. Many other companies provided cars and services to keep the health workers on



move, with Rolls Royce deploying a fleet of 30 limousines to help the British Red Cross and UK National Health Service.

Everything canceled

Geneva, New York, SEMA. Not a single one of these prestigious motor shows managed to escape the grasp of the pandemic. Some tried to postpone, others attempted to employ strict safety guidelines, but the risk of spread proved to too much in both cases. One country that did manage to hold their shows, however. China, who officially managed to pretty much control the spread of the Virus by late March, managed to host both Chengdu and



Beijing Motor show at their rescheduled date. For the rest of the world, however, automakers had to look into an alternative method to promote their new products. This brings us to our next topic.

The rise of virtual events

The use of virtual communication exploded after the lockdown. Software such as Zoom, Facebook Live has become a part of our everyday lives. Naturally, it didn't take long for automates to pick up on this. The world was introduced to new and exciting cars —not from the floor of auto shows— but through live unrevealing events straight from factory

floors. Koenigsegg Gamera, Maserati MC20, Bentley Bacalar all made their debut through the lens of a webcam. The world of motorsport also made the switch, with professional race cars drivers and teams taking the competition to the virtual sim racing world of iRacing. However, for all the radical new changes, 2020 also bought back some beloved familiar names.

The rebirth of classic nameplates

Ford Bronco, Nissan Z, Hummer. 2020 has been the year when the automakers finally listened to the voice of the enthusiast and added some fun to their line-up. Bronco, the beloved off-roader from the blue oval has been resurrected and seems to blow the competition out of the water. Nissan, after years of decline, finally got their act together and put together a new Z car with retro styling and 400 horsepower under the bonnet. Finally, the gas-guzzling Hummer —once the darling of American people— also got a refresh, but with a twist.



Electrification of everything

The new Hummer doesn't chug gas, it consumes electricity. And the switch to EV seems to be the most defining moment of this year. Volkswagen rolled out the ID.3, BMW flashed the IX, Nissan debuted the Ariya. Even Ford showed off a test mule for their electric F-150 truck, along with a crazy track-only version of their Mustang SUV. Toyota also debuted the next generation of their Mirai FCV and compared to the ugly duckling that was its predecessor, it's a white swan. The car industry is finally taking the zero-emission concept seriously, and its shows. Hopefully, it's not too late to save mother Earth, and humanity with it.

FEATURE

TOGGLE 5

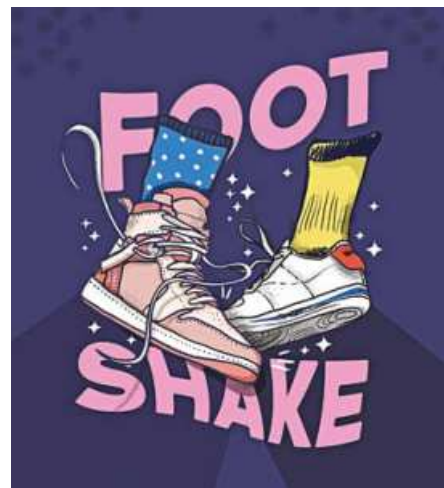
A year of uncertainty, yet a year of unity

REHENUMA RAYSA

2020, a year where a lot from work-from-home to remote learning to many other things became popular. Amid all these, what became more noticeable than ever before is that there live many unsung heroes among us; people who tried to do their parts by putting effort in an attempt to extend their helping hands to people in need in the time of a global pandemic. As the year comes to an end and we prepare ourselves to embrace a new year, we at Toggle, reflect on the past, look on what we have learned, and appreciate the warriors who tried so hard for the greater good.



Moreover, due to the spread of misinformation, various kinds of disastrous incidents occurred. Gradually the situation did get better as people became more aware of the disease. However, even now, the road is not quite easy because of the ongoing second wave of the virus. Also, the long term existence of Covid-19 took a toll on the healthcare providers' mental health along with others where anxiety became a part of their daily lives. He elaborated on his experience



In the time of a global health crisis, healthcare heroes, despite the risk involved, continued to treat and heal coronavirus infected patients. We talked to Dr Ikramul Hasan Khan, Lecturer at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College and Hospital, regarding this. He shared how everything was so difficult at the initial stage. They had to go through many challenges, especially during March/April, and such was not the case only in our country but in the world as no one was prepared to take such a hit.



of dealing with the pandemic saying, "Although we already had the experience of responding to national crises before, this time with the Coronavirus crisis, the situation was all the more dire and different. However, we keep on going because of the responsibility we feel we have towards attending to our duty, which came with choosing such a great occupation. Life and death are in the hands of the creator but what we do with our lives is up to us". "This year was an eye-opening year for

us. We need to re-think the definition of success again as we come to an end of this year. We tend running after degrees or material success, but these come much later on the list. Humanitarian qualities and values are what set us apart from other animals, so such principles should be the focus of our attention and prioritised. The ultimate success is more than our worldly temptations which are temporary, but giving back to the world is eternal", he added.

Meanwhile, In the face of a global pandemic, many helping hands came in to help the helpless. Individual effort, as well as Organisational effort, was what people needed. Many voluntary organisations stood together and against all odds, joined the fight against Covid-19. Among them, one was the voluntary organisation, Bidyanondo. The volunteers of Bidyanondo did not surrender and stayed determined to continue their good deeds to combat Covid-19.

They have not only distributed dry foods, cooked meals, masks, PPE so far but also their medical team is continuing to provide medical facilities to those who require the support even in the remotest of places. They supplied baby food and delivered grocery items for people stuck at home. They have made Corona dedicated hospital in Chittagong, helped farmers as well as many underprivileged humans. Their Shabolombi project that aimed to help people become self-dependent was a successful initiation among many other projects they undertook. They have many other projects running even now.

According to Faruque Ahmed from Bidyanondo, "The journey, although at times, was tough for us to endure, at the same time, it was a significant achievement for us because we got the

opportunity to do some social work, and that brings mental peace to us. While providing reliefs, we have visited many places, seen people up close, met them in person, heard about their sufferings, and all the experiences have made the volunteers even more confident now. The fear of the Coronavirus is there, but so is our strong sense of responsibility. We had Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, BCG, BGB and various other voluntary organisations including JAAGO Foundation and Manusher Jonno Foundation assisting us. We are grateful for all the supports we have got from others".

Even though we mentioned only a handful of people in this article, it is to be acknowledged that, the homage we pay is due to everyone - from doctors to farmers, from delivery service providers to law enforcers to many more; even commoners who stayed at home refusing to go out except in the case of urgency deserves the applause.

The crisis brought out the best in people where many tried to rise above their obstacles and limitations to uplift others, because, well, the world needed it. During the pandemic, where, in one hand, the farmers kept the country fed, the teachers adapted and transitioned to the new method of taking online classes because the nation needed to keep the education going. Everyone who did their job right is to be given credit and appreciated.

There was a remarkable collective effort as people from different sectors came together to mitigate the consequences of Covid-19, and now, at the end of this year, with the news of the invention of the vaccine, people are finding hope despite all the sacrifices they had to make.