

LOOK BACK: Frankfurt Motor Show 2019

The most significant cars launched at the Frankfurt International Motor Show 2019

The Frankfurt International Motor Show is a yearly indulgence of automotive royalty, where the world's biggest brands showcase their most significant upcoming products and their grandiose visions of the future. This year, the show was beset by environmentalists and climate activists calling for an end to this (largely) petrol fuelled automotive orgy. The manufacturers were hell-bent on proving them wrong, though—this year saw an incredible number of EVs, hybrids and green concepts that plan on saving the planet once and for all.

THE (HYBRID) SUPERCARS



Lamborghini Sian

With Ferrari taking orders for the hybrid F8 supercar, Lamborghini felt left behind. The hybrid Sian has a combined power output of 819 HP from its Aventador derived V12 and 34 HP rated electric motor, taking the literally green Lambo to 60 MPH in just 2.8 seconds. That power output is the highest ever in any Lamborghini, so take that hybrid haters.

BMW Vision M-Next Concept

The BMW Vision M-NEXT is designed to be the replacement for the current generation i8 hybrid, and takes significant design cues from the BMW M1 and the Hommage concept, including the rear window louvres, flying buttresses on the C-pillars and a distinctive swoopy profile that brings back the 80s wedge in glorious retro fashion.



THE EXECUTIVE PERFORMANCE



Audi RS7

The RS7 has been dormant for a while, as Audi fiddled the first generation for nearly eight years before revealing the latest Sportback. The new RS7 is a nuclear power plant cased in a swoopy-yet-muscular body—the 4.0 litre TFSI V8 produces 600 HP and 590 lb-ft torque, and top speed (if unlocked through the Dynamic Plus pack) is 190 MPH. 60 MPH takes only 3.6 seconds, with stability getting a boost via the mild hybrid system on board.

BMW 4 Concept

The 4-series has been on the market a while, and BMW took a familiar approach with updating it via the 4 Concept. The moustache has grown massive, taking the kidney grille to beyond 7-series/X7 sizes, while the rest of the bodywork gets an 8-series inspired muscle makeover. There's no hints at possible drivetrains, but it looks fantastic (although the grille will divide opinions faster than you can take an M4 GTS around a corner).



THE FOUR DOOR EV CHALLENGERS



Porsche Taycan

Porsche has launched the ultimate challenge to Tesla's claim to fame with the Taycan. Teased for years through the Mission-E Concept, the Taycan production version takes a sledgehammer to the EV concept with 750 HP from its motors, which can be charged for a range of 100 km within a scarcely believable 5 minutes, with total range coming in at 412 km. In addition to using an 800 volt system, the Taycan is the first EV to use a multi-gear AWD transmission system, with two speeds on offer.

Mercedes-Benz EQS Concept

The EQS Concept is supposed to drive home Benz's commitment to an electric future, showcasing what a luxurious four door EV of the future might look like. For a brand that prides itself on owning the credit of popularising the internal combustion engine, Benz sure does produce a bunch of EV concepts...without putting them into production. They might have to rush a few into production though, with the planet running out of time.



THE OFF-ROADERS



Land Rover Defender

Land Rover has revived the Defender nameplate after only two years since they cancelled the much-loved original. As with reviving any nostalgic nameplate (Supra, anyone?), the fans have been divided on its looks, abilities and more. Some have decried the "luxury" interior and complicated electronics showcased during the launch, saying they remove the rugged charm of hammering the old ones back into shape. Whatever the case, this new Defender, in 90 and 110 form as before, has the potential to be a huge hit...40 years from now.

Audi AI-TRAIL Quattro Concept

This moon buggy/distant planet exploration rover looking thing is Audi's autonomous off-roading concept, which combines artificial intelligence powered autonomous capabilities with the Quattro cult by-laws to create a vehicle that can (theoretically) navigate the harshest terrain with ease, all by itself. It even comes with four drones that latch on to the roof and scramble on command, providing lighting illumination to a 3D camera stream to the cockpit. Just think of the hillbillies who'll take this thing mudding in the American South.



Racer's edge

Interviewed:
Aiman Sadat, 19 year old Champion of the VW Ameo Cup Junior category



Give us a background of your achievements in the VW Ameo Cup.

The Volkswagen Ameo Cup was my first racing competition. I came 2nd in drivers selection held in Pune, India and was racing in the Junior category of the racing series (the Senior and Junior categories take place together). In race two of the round, I finished second and got my first podium alongside fellow Bangladeshi Avik Anwar, who placed first. It was the first one-two podium finish for Bangladeshis at a major international racing series. In race two of round three in Chennai, I got another second place podium finish and was leading the Junior Championship all the way. I was consistent across all four rounds of the Junior Championship and became the Junior Champion of

Volkswagen Ameo Cup 2019. I was also the youngest Champion in the history of Volkswagen Motorsports.

What started your passion for motorsport?

My dad always had a dream to race and represent the country but due to certain circumstances he never got the chance to do it. Since 2016, I have been following in the footsteps of my elder brother and former Volkswagen Ameo Cup Junio Runner-up, Affan Sadat. Besides that I am an enthusiast who loves to cruise, do track days, etc.

How did you get into the Ameo Cup?

What's involved in a young driver trying to get into an international motor-sport event? I always had a dream to race in that series (following my brother), but my mother wasn't convinced at first. I had to maintain my studies and impress sponsors because

without them, racing would be a huge cost for my father. I had to go Pune for driver selection—15 drivers were selected from 300 applicants. We had to do physical training as well as learn and understand the basics of racing such as flags, race start procedures, safety car procedures and more. We were given go-karts and asked to set lap times in groups. I was the second fastest among those applicants and I was selected right away.

How do you prepare for a race?

My brother was key in preparing before every race—he examined my practice runs on the racing simulator and explained to me what I was doing wrong. I had to memorise and revise the racing (theoretical and practical) rules and regulations every day. My brother used to quiz me on everything

and both of us had to take three hours off every day for practice and revision. To be physically strong I had to cycle every day and play football. It's mandatory to remain fit because there is no air-conditioning in these racecars and there are chances of dehydration.

What's next for Aiman Sadat?

Next target is to compete in the Indian Touring Car Championship and Formula LGB 1600. Avik Anwar, my brother Affan and myself—we want motorsport to be as popular as cricket and we want to continue bringing racing success for our country. We need proper support from the government—FIA approved race-tracks and sponsorships can develop this sport faster than any one of us can individually.

Bajaj Pulsar NS160 launched

Uttara Motors Limited launched a new version of the Bajaj Pulsar NS160 in Dhaka at the Crystal Hall of Hotel Intercontinental on Sunday, September 29th.

Launched under the slogan "Ride Fearless", the new iteration of the bike features fuel injection and dual disc-brakes with ABS, making Bajaj one of the few brands in Bangladesh to offer these features in combination.

Vice President of Bajaj Auto Ltd, Millind Bade, claims these features have been taken from their 250 and 500cc segment bikes and incorporated into the NS160 FI-ABS—to meet the demand of the Bangladeshi market, which is now the fastest growing market in their sport bike segment. The 160.3 cc engine generates a respectable 14.81 HP @8500 RPM and 10.4 lb-ft of torque @6000 RPM.

Deliveries of the pre booked units will start within the coming weeks. Interested buyers can pre-book the new bike the from any Uttara Motors showroom across the country for a price of TK 294,900. For the budget conscious, Uttara Motors will also offer a non ABS dual disc version, priced at TK 186,900.

