



Toyota Land Cruiser Prado vs Haval H9: competing for the Bangladeshi icon

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The Toyota Land Cruiser Prado, as we all know, is one of the most popular, well established full-sized SUVs in Bangladesh. Competing against a car with this pedigree in Bangladesh is like comparing silver with platinum.

Knowing these conditions, Haval, with high hope and a strong will, came up with the H9, a direct competitor with the Prado, for half the price. But the main questions are always perpetual. Is it a worthy contender of the Prado or should you trust Toyota?

This week, we are going to compare the second-generation Haval H9 with the fourth-generation Toyota Land Cruiser Prado.

How does the Chinese samurai hold up to the Japanese connoisseur?

Haval does bring a lot to the table in this confrontation. But the car is almost identical to the Prado. Almost to the point, it's sort of like playing a game of spot the difference. You could easily mistake an H9 for a Prado but either way, they both have their fair share of differences.

On paper, both are full-sized SUVs sporting seven seats, a 4WD system, and

rear diff lock capabilities. Step inside the car and you could find that differences are keen. Both the cars have tri-zone climate control systems, leather dashes with wooden trim, albeit the Haval wooden panels look a little fancier than the Prado trims in my opinion. Leather front and back seats, front seats are power in both cars, leather stitched steering wheel and cup holders in their usual places to hold your favourite Crimson Cup drink.

Although the Haval has better headroom than the Prado, the backbench in the Prado is nicer. But overall though, the



Haval cabin is heaps better than the Prado as mostly due to the benign leather dash and seats. It almost feels premium compared to the Prado.

What matters the most

The Prado powered by the 2.8L turbo-diesel making 130kW/450 Nm equipped with a six-speed automatic or manual transmission has a larger displacement than the H9; which comes with a 2L turbo under the hood

making 180kW/350 Nm equipped with an eight-speed transmission which is far more compared to the Prado. But then, the larger displacement makes the experience smoother and comes in handy when tackling terrain on low-range gear modes.

The Haval is nothing less though compared to the Prado, having a six terrain mode system to make sure to tackle terrain, mud, and snow with ease. When it comes to commuting, the Prado sports a communicative steering and automated braking system which the Haval lacks unfortunately but it has a good enough cruise control system that



compared to the Haval, as of now at least.

Longevity wise, the Japanese never disappoint and still have that trust from the average person cashing out for a car but, if consistency is maintained from the Chinese manufacturers, things could take a turn for the better. Until then, the Prado remains an untouchable SUV in Bangladesh.

VERDICT

To be fair, the Haval H9 puts up a great deal by showing exponential growth, being not such a popular company compared to Toyota. The H9 proves that times have changed and if not kept up with the things outside tradition, it really can switch the default.

makes your driving experiences on the freeway less tiring.

Although it has quite a handful of missing features from necessary driver aid to the autonomous braking systems, coming at half the price of a Prado, complaints are faint. Although the Prado has a larger displacement makes commuting experiences less harsh compared to the H9 and, the engine fluidity from a Toyota is still far better

Indigenous Exclusive: an online news platform for the world, by indigenous youths

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

Bangladesh is home to a great number of indigenous communities that hold a rich diversity of living heritage and culture. But unfortunately, we have very few sources to know about their distinct cultures, languages, daily phenomenon, or even their struggles. As minorities, they are still struggling to get their socioeconomic, political, and cultural rights, and their stories are often ignored and neglected. To tell the world about these unheard stories, some indigenous youths created an online news media platform, 'Indigenous Exclusive' in October 2020.

Building a safe and useful news media platform for indigenous people

In 2017, there was a massive communal and arson attack in Longadu under the Rangamati district of the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT). However, it did not get much national media coverage as it should have.

This unfortunate and saddening situation led Arjyashree Chakma to generate a plan of creating a media of their own, where the stories and issues of indigenous people can be highlighted, and people across the country and abroad can acknowledge them and know what they are facing.

In late 2020 when the world was still close to a halt, Arjyashree, studying at Holy Cross College, thought of executing her dream to do something for her people. She and her close friend Eve Elizabeth Khockshi founded 'Indigenous Exclusive' on 22nd October 2020.

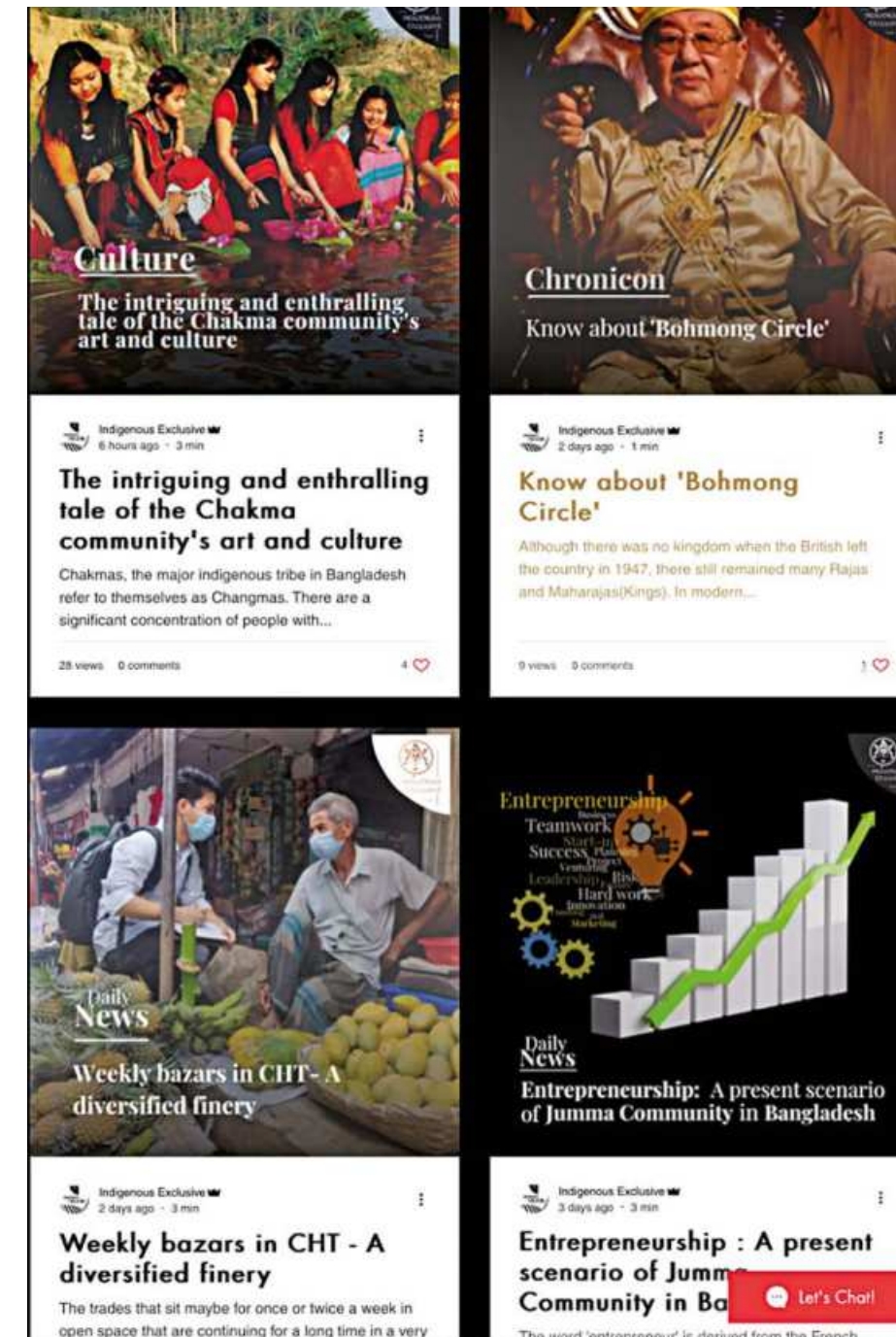
Initially, they only used to create weekly news. But now, they update on a daily basis with a wide range of stories.

A group of enthusiastic and energetic indigenous youths

At first, Arjyashree used to gather members for her team, edit the news and write-ups, and Eve used to make covers for their stories. Now, they have a team of 23 youth members who are working hard for the betterment of indigenous communities.

Interestingly, all of these youths are indigenous students, mostly studying in different high schools and some are in universities. This platform has members from indigenous communities such as Chakma, Marma, Garo, and so on.

Besides upholding the stories of these



communities, she had a target to create a platform where indigenous students can write fearlessly, and feel included. This is why it is only open for indigenous students to join the core team, and to create sufficient opportunities for them to participate in such extra-curricular activities.

All about 'Indigenous Exclusive' platform
At 'Indigenous Exclusive', all these news are published in English as they want to reach maximum audiences all around the world, and let people know about their communities. For now, these stories get published on the free website and update about the recently published stories on their Facebook page on a daily basis.

They feature stories about their culture, food and traditional meals, history, notable personalities of their communities, daily phenomenon, and so on. For example, they did news on Mohendra Lal Tripura who was an author, poet, and lyricist at the same time and belonged to the Tripura community. He left a huge contribution to their native music and literature, but most people do not know about his works. They also raise important issues such as the lack of quality education in indigenous communities, miserable transportation systems, etc.

Moreover, they focus on the inspiring and success stories from indigenous communities such as they did a blog on F Minor, the first all-female indigenous band. Check out their Facebook page to know more about such incredible stories and people. These wonderful write-ups and posters need a lot of effort.

The team of 'Indigenous Exclusive' uses books related to indigenous communities' history, issues and culture, and does a good amount of online research before publishing them. Their articles are read by people across the country and people from India, Nepal, Canada, the USA, France, among others.

Hoping to overcome the obstacles and make it a bigger platform for indigenous people

Arjyashree is still a college-going student, and most of her team members are also from high schools. For obvious reasons, it is quite troublesome for them to manage their academic studies and this platform. It also takes a lot of courage and determination to work for a platform that is exclusively for indigenous communities. Moreover, they do not have a domain for an actual website. They have developed it on a free domain as it is hard for them to bear the maintenance costs of an actual website as a student-based organisation at such a young age.

However, Arjyashree has an aim to buy a domain whenever she starts to earn on her own and make it a bigger platform for indigenous communities. She hopes to expand it more in the future for the betterment of these people.

Ajyashree adds, "If we do not come forward for our community, then who will come instead? Let us come forward and do something well for our community."