

Toyota, Suzuki tieup may extend to EVs, green tech



NEW DELHI: For the first time ever, a [Maruti](#) car is expected to roll out of [Toyota's](#) factory in India as the two Japanese carmakers give finishing touches to a new premium SUV – a competitor to Hyundai Creta, Kia Seltos, and VW [Taigun](#) – strengthening their relationship which may now be extended to green vehicles, including hybrids and electrics.

Top sources told TOI that the new SUV has been in the works for more than a year and will be a collaborative effort of the product development, design, engineering and sourcing teams of Toyota as well as Maruti's parent Suzuki. R&D and component sourcing teams within Maruti have also played a key part in the development of the vehicle which is likely to hit the Indian market by the second half of next year.

The collaboration between the two companies is likely to get aggressive, especially after the Indian government announced a Rs 26,000-crore production-linked incentive ([PLI](#)) scheme focused only on electrics and hydrogen-fuel cell vehicles.

First Maruti Car From Toyota Plant

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ While it's a common platform over which the new premium SUV has been developed, both Toyota and Maruti will have "individualised styling" for their respective SUV➤ Investments for the new vehicle are estimated at	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">over Rs 1,000 crore➤ It will be the first Maruti car to be produced at Toyota India's plant➤ Toyota currently sources Baleno and Brezza from Maruti for sale under its own badge and brand
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"While the original plan of the companies was to look at strong hybrids and other electrified versions (running on both battery and petrol), now the thoughts are being focused around pure electrics and even fuel cells. These are preliminary discussions, and nothing has been finalised as yet. However, it can be said with certainty that it's a joint future," one of the sources said.

Talking about the premium SUV, the source said that investments for the vehicle which has been developed ground-up – are estimated at over Rs 1,000 crore. "It's an ambitious product, and perhaps the first collaborative all-new vehicle that the two companies have developed together."