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## Volkswagen Group establishes new management structure in ŠKODA-led 'INDIA 2.0' project

- › **More efficient use of synergies:** under ŠKODA's leadership, Volkswagen Group establishes new management structure in India from 1 January 2019
- › **Gurpratap Boparai**, currently Managing Director of ŠKODA AUTO India Private Limited (SAIPL), to also become Managing Director of Volkswagen India Private Limited (VWIPL)
- › **The restructuring of the Volkswagen Group companies is scheduled for 2019 subject to the relevant authorities' approval**

Mladá Boleslav/Mumbai/Pune/Aurangabad, 20 November 2018 – As part of the 'INDIA 2.0' project, the Volkswagen Group plans to sustainably strengthen its position in the Indian market. The Volkswagen Group in India is restructuring its management in order to use the existing synergies more efficiently in the development of this important growth market. **Gurpratap Boparai**, currently Managing Director of ŠKODA AUTO India Private Ltd., will also become Managing Director of Volkswagen India Private Limited (VWIPL) with effect from 1 January 2019. In the future, all the Group brands will continue their operations under the leadership of **Gurpratap Boparai** with a common strategy in the Indian Market. **The restructuring of the Volkswagen Group companies in India is planned for next year, subject to regulatory and other approvals.**

The Volkswagen Group is placing the responsibility for implementing the 'INDIA 2.0' project in the hands of the newly formed management team. The aim of this measure is to make more efficient use of existing synergies and to establish more agile coordination processes so that decisions can be made more quickly and flexibly.

With effect from 1 January 2019, **Gurpratap Singh Boparai**, currently Managing Director of ŠKODA AUTO India Private Ltd., will also become Managing Director of Volkswagen India Private Ltd. (VWIPL). On the same date, **Mr. Pavel Richter**, Production Technical Director of INDIA 2.0 project, will be responsible for production at both Indian plants. As part of the restructuring **Dr. Andreas Lauermann** will be moving to the Volkswagen Group by end of the year to take on new responsibilities.

**Bernhard Maier**, ŠKODA AUTO CEO, explains: "India is an important and attractive growth market for us. Our goal is clear: In this highly competitive environment, we aim for a combined Volkswagen and ŠKODA market share of up to 5% by 2025. Based on the MQB A0-IN platform from 2020, we will be offering the right models to unlock the Indian market's potential."

**Gurpratap Boparai**, Managing Director of ŠKODA AUTO India Private Ltd. and Head of 'INDIA 2.0', adds: "With the introduction of the new management structure, we are laying the foundations both for the joint implementation of 'INDIA 2.0' and for achieving our goals in India: we will secure employment in India, create new jobs, attract talent and launch high quality and attractive vehicles on the market."

As part of 'INDIA 2.0', ŠKODA will be responsible for the Volkswagen Group's model campaign on the Indian market. To best meet the needs of Indian customers, ŠKODA has been focusing on maximum market proximity from the very start. All future models to be developed and produced locally in India will be based on the Volkswagen Group's modular transverse matrix (MQB). This platform already



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meets the stricter legal requirements in India, which will come into force in 2020. In this context, ŠKODA is developing the MQB-A0 IN sub-compact platform exclusively for the Indian market. The model campaign will be launched in 2020 with an SUV. In the second phase of the project, ŠKODA will be examining the possibility of exporting vehicles built in India.

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## Media images:



### Volkswagen Group establishes new management structure in ŠKODA-led 'INDIA 2.0' project

With effect from 1 January 2019, Gurpratap Singh Boparai, currently Managing Director of ŠKODA AUTO India Private Ltd., will also become Managing Director of Volkswagen India Private Ltd. (VWIPL).

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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Pavel Richter, Production Technical Director in the 'INDIA 2.0' project, will be responsible for production at the Indian plants.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

### **ŠKODA AUTO**

- › was founded during the pioneering days of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established automobile companies in the world.
- › currently offers its customers eight passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ (in China) and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.2 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2017.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 35,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is transforming from being a traditional car manufacturer to a 'Simply Clever Company for Optimal Mobility Solutions' as part of ŠKODA Strategy 2025.

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