

Škoda Auto unveils updated Kushaq in India

- › Enhanced design: Updated SUV with elements of Škoda's Modern Solid design language; Monte Carlo trim available from launch
- › Powertrains and transmissions: Turbocharged engines across the range; all-new eight-speed torque-converter automatic with the 1.0 TSI; six-speed manual and proven seven-speed DSG with the 1.5 TSI
- › Extensive standard equipment: Alloy wheels, electric sunroof, Climatronic, and LED headlamps and taillamps, among others
- › Availability: Pre-orders open now on Škoda Auto India's official website

Mladá Boleslav/Kochi, 20 January 2026 - Škoda Auto India has introduced the updated Kushaq in the key Indian market. Featuring segment-first technologies – including an all-new eight-speed torque-converter automatic transmission and a Rear Seat Massage function – together with additional features and standard equipment, the model follows Škoda Auto India's principle of making European engineering more accessible on Indian roads. The updated Kushaq builds on the success of its predecessor, which sold more than 94,900 units and is exported to growth markets such as Vietnam, the Middle East, and Africa. This will further support the brand in establishing India as its second strong pillar outside its European home market.

Klaus Zellmer, CEO of Škoda Auto, said, "The updated Kushaq reinforces the importance of India as the springboard for Škoda Auto's strategy to grow our international markets. The Kushaq has rapidly established itself with customers in India and as an export to ASEAN and the Middle East. Now we are setting the next benchmark for the model's overall value proposition. This update incorporates Modern Solid design elements as well as a broad range of advances from the infotainment and driver assistance features, offering even greater comfort and safety. Together with the Kodiaq and the Kylaq, Škoda Auto offers an SUV fleet on the Indian market that caters to significant segments and price points. Taking the Kushaq to the next level creates the opportunity for additional demand and further growth in our most important market outside."

Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "At Škoda, our mission is to democratise European technology and make it more accessible to customers across India. With the new Kushaq, we are meeting these aspirations and catering to evolving customer preferences. At the same time, we further build our legacy by offering an SUV that comes with the most important safety, comfort, design and convenience features as standard, led by our proven European engineering. We are constantly listening to our customers, and the new Kushaq is another step in keeping our portfolio modern and relevant for our growing Škoda family."

Made in India, for India

Debuting in 2021, the Kushaq – its name derived from the Sanskrit word for 'emperor' – was Škoda Auto's first model on the MQB-A0-IN platform, developed by teams in India and the Czech Republic with accessibility in mind. The SUV resonated strongly with customers, achieving sales of more than 94,900 units. Škoda also leveraged regional synergies by exporting the Kushaq to the Middle East and in CKD kit form to Vietnam. The refreshed Kushaq continues this legacy with several new segment-first features while retaining the practical equipment of its predecessor, including ventilated electric front seats, cruise control, a rear-view camera with sensors, and wireless charging, among others.

Modern Solid design elements, Monte Carlo variant available at launch

The Kushaq now incorporates elements of the Modern Solid design language and features an all-new front grille with chrome ribs and an illuminated Light Band. The front also includes new LED headlights, front parking sensors, and LED fog lamps. At the rear, new connected taillights with sequential indicators are complemented by illuminated 'Škoda' lettering spanning the taillights. The profile presents clean, robust lines with cladding around the wheel arches and sills. Alloy wheels are standard across all variants. The SUV will be available in eight colours, including three new options: Shimla Green, Steel Grey, and Cherry Red. For the first time, the Monte Carlo trim will be offered from launch.

Wide range of powerful turbocharged engines and automatic transmission

Retaining its driving characteristics and a maximum ground clearance of 188 mm, the updated Kushaq is ready to tackle rough roads. It introduces a segment-first, all-new eight-speed torque-converter automatic transmission, paired with the efficient and proven 1.0 TSI engine producing 85 kW and 178 Nm of torque. This engine is also available with a six-speed manual. The 1.5 TSI engine delivers 110 kW and 250 Nm of torque. This four-cylinder turbocharged unit with Active Cylinder Technology is paired exclusively with a quick-shifting seven-speed DSG transmission. On the 1.5 TSI, the Kushaq also features disc brakes on all four wheels.

Spacious interior and numerous features for a high level of comfort, even on long journeys

A new panoramic sunroof is complemented by dual-colour ambient lighting. Six-way electric seats with ventilation for the driver and front passenger further enhance comfort. The boot offers 491 litres of space, expandable to 1,405 litres, supporting everyday practicality. Climatronic is now standard, as are an electric sunroof and more than 25 safety features.

AI Companion powered by Google

The new Kushaq features a 10.1-inch (25.6 cm) infotainment system with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, tailored to the needs and expectations of Indian customers. At its core is an advanced voice assistant powered by Google Automotive AI Agent, bringing Gemini into the vehicle. It provides intelligent, context-aware assistance and real-time information, and enables hands-free control of music, calls, climate settings, and more. Developed with a deep understanding of local needs, the system recognises Indian English accents to ensure

inclusive, intuitive voice interactions. This combines global technology with local relevance and sets new benchmarks for smarter driving in India.

Best-possible active and passive safety

The updated Kushaq upholds five-star Global NCAP standards. It offers more than 25 active and passive safety features as standard across all variants, including six airbags, with higher variants providing over 40 safety features. Škoda Auto India has also enhanced all-weather visibility and safety by including key features such as a rear wiper, rear defogger and automatic rain-sensing wipers across variants, supporting active, passive and preventive safety in all conditions.

Škoda Auto on the Indian market

Škoda Auto has been active in India since 2000, when it became the first Volkswagen Group brand to establish a presence there. Since then, this dynamic growth market has become a second pillar outside Europe and a cornerstone of Škoda's internationalisation strategy. After assuming responsibility for the Volkswagen Group's activities in India in 2018, Škoda launched a "made in India, for India" model campaign: first the Kushaq SUV, then the Slavia sedan, and at the beginning of last year, the Kylaq SUV. With strong demand in the popular sub-4-metre segment, the Kylaq contributed significantly to Škoda almost doubling its deliveries in 2025 versus the previous year. With its current model range and geographic position, India also serves as a strategic hub for the wider ASEAN region, the Middle East, Australia and New Zealand.

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Media images



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Source: Škoda Auto

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At the rear, new connected taillights with sequential indicators are complemented by illuminated 'Škoda' lettering spanning the taillights. The profile presents clean, robust lines with cladding around the wheel arches and sills.

Source: Škoda Auto

Škoda Auto

- › aims to become one of the top three best-selling brands in Europe by the end of the decade by offering its customers the best of both worlds through a range of attractive BEV, hybrid & ICE products;
- › effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- › currently offers customers 12 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- › delivered more than 1,040,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2025;
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group, one of the world's most successful car manufacturers, for more than 30 years;
- › is part of Brand Group CORE, an organisational merger of the Volkswagen Group's volume brands, with the aim of achieving joint growth and significantly increasing the overall efficiency of all five volume brands;
- › independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Volkswagen Group brands;
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic; has production capacities in China, Slovakia and India, mostly through group partnerships, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine in cooperation with a local partner;
- › employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.