

Press Release**Indian Railways and Maruti Suzuki flag-off India's First Flexi Deck Auto-Wagon rake**

**Gurgaon, March 5, 2014:** Setting a new benchmark in transportation of new cars through railways, the Indian Railways and Maruti Suzuki India Limited flagged off a new high-capacity railway rake (technically called BCACBM) here today.

Named 'Flexi deck auto-wagon rake', it brings the advantages of higher capacity, flexibility, faster speed and environment friendliness to rail transportation of cars.

Mr. Arunendra Kumar, Chairman, Railway Board and Mr. R.C. Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, jointly flagged off the country's 1<sup>st</sup> Flexi Deck Auto-Wagon rake from Gurgaon railway station. Mr. D.P. Pande, Member (Traffic), Railway Board was joined by Maruti Suzuki's Managing Director & CEO, Mr. Kenichi Ayukawa and Mr. M.M. Singh, Chief Operating Officer (Production), Maruti Suzuki. Several dignitaries from Indian Railways and top management officials from Maruti Suzuki also graced the occasion.

The 'Flexi deck auto-wagon rake' designed by Indian Railway's Research Design and Standards Organization has 20 per cent additional capacity (318 cars) as compared to the current twin-decker rakes (265 cars), used for rail transportation. The new rake, with its height adjustable middle-deck is highly flexible and can transport vehicles of multiple dimensions. The new rake can move at speed of upto 95 km per hour as compared to 65 km per hour of the existing rakes. The new rake can travel between Gurgaon and Bangalore in around 5 days as compared to 7 days by road transportation. Transporting cars by new 'Flexi deck auto-wagon rake' will lead to reduction in carbon emission making it more environment friendly.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Flexi deck auto-wagon rake consisting of 27 wagons chugged off to Nidavanda, Bangalore from Gurgaon carrying a mixed load of Maruti Suzuki cars including Swift, Dzire, Alto, Wagon R and Omni.

Maruti Suzuki is India's first automobile company to procure flexi deck auto-wagon rakes. Maruti Suzuki has initially procured three such rakes of 27 wagons each. These rakes will be primarily deployed in the high-volume West and South India destinations. In the long term, the company will dispatch cars through railways to several destinations like Nagpur, Siliguri, Mumbai, Pune, Mundra, Kolkata etc. In the coming times Maruti Suzuki will order more rakes to meet its growing transportation requirement.

**On the occasion of the flag off, Mr. Kenichi Ayukawa, Managing Director and CEO, Maruti Suzuki said,** "We are delighted to have initiated this contemporary mode of transport to the Indian automobile industry. Indian Railways deserves all the credit for their foresight and tremendous enthusiasm and co-operation to make this initiative move from a concept to reality within a short span of around 36 months."

**On the occasion Mr. M.M. Singh, Chief Operating Officer (Production), Maruti Suzuki said,** "The induction of 'flexi deck auto-wagon rake' will start a new chapter in automotive logistics in the country. Trains are one of the fastest, safest and eco-friendly modes of transportation. With these newly designed rakes we have been able to increase the load carrying capacity along with a high flexibility to cater to a variety of vehicle dimensions. We are happy that Indian Railways supported the initiative of Maruti Suzuki to enhance the country's transportation infrastructure."

**Quick facts**  
**Flexi Deck Auto Wagon Rakes**

- Joint initiative by Indian Railways and Maruti Suzuki
- Designed by Indian Railway's Research Design and Standards Organisation, Lucknow
- Concept Design: Feb 2011  
1<sup>st</sup> rake: March 2014 - within 36 months
- 1<sup>st</sup> Automobile Company in India to own rakes.
- 1<sup>st</sup> lot : 3 rakes (81 wagons)
- 20 per cent additional capacity (318 cars / rake)
- Height adjustable middle-deck for high flexibility
- Speeds of 95 km per hour in loaded condition and 100 km per hour in empty
- Gurgaon to Bangalore in 5 days.
- More environment friendly.
- Covered roof, lockable doors and tamper-proof
- Run on broad gauge.

To streamline the railways transportation, Maruti Suzuki will develop infrastructure at the off-loading destinations. Initially, Maruti Suzuki has developed a railway station at Nidavanda, near Bangalore. The Nidavanda station has a capacity to handle nearly 300 vehicles presently. As Maruti Suzuki has big volumes for South India destinations, Bangalore will be used as a feeder point for dealer network.

With the 'Flexi deck auto-wagon rake' in place the Indian Railways and Maruti Suzuki will jointly relieve the road infrastructure of the excessive load and bring modern, high capacity vehicle transportation to the country's logistics map.

Interestingly, the Maruti Suzuki has been using rail transportation mode for over two decades. In 2008 Maruti Suzuki joined hands with Indian railways and developed double-deck container trains to enhance the load carrying capacity. These continue to be used by Maruti Suzuki mainly for the export vehicles from its' manufacturing plants in Haryana to Mundra port.

While the dispatch through railways increased from 2 per cent in 2007-08 to over 5 per cent in 2012-13, with the commissioning of the Flexi Deck Auto-Wagon rakes, the Company is confident rail transportation would substantially increase in the future.