

Autonomous BAJA SAEINDIA 2024 concludes at ARAI, Pune, Ushering in a New Era of Road Safety & Innovation

Autonomous BAJA SAEINDIA 2024 Overall Champions:

- AIR #1 Team IPS-Sprinter's from IPS Academy, Institute of Engineering & Science, Indore.
- AIR #2 Team Acroracerz from Acropolis Institute of Technology and Research, Indore.
- AIR #3 Team E-Ziba Racers from Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women, Bhimavaram.

Pune, 6th October 2024:

The inaugural edition of **Autonomous BAJA SAEINDIA 2024 (aBAJA)** concluded today at the **Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Kothrud, Pune**, marking a significant milestone in the future of road safety and autonomous mobility. The event brought together five final teams from engineering colleges across India, who competed over three days in rigorous static and dynamic events, demonstrating their innovative capabilities in ADAS & autonomous vehicle technology.

The final day of the event witnessed the highly anticipated **Remote Driving System (RDS) event**, which replaced the traditional endurance race and served as the ultimate test of precision, control, and technical sophistication for the autonomous all-terrain vehicles. This event, hosted by ARAI, allowed teams to showcase their autonomous vehicles' ability to navigate through challenging environments in real-time, highlighting their technological advancements.

Dr. Reji Mathai, Director of ARAI, reflected on the significance of aBAJA and ARAI's role as a host institute. In his welcome address, he remarked, *"ARAI has been a proud partner of BAJA SAEINDIA for several years, and hosting the first-ever edition of aBAJA is a testament to our commitment to driving the future of automotive technology. This platform provides students with the hands-on experience required to excel in the industry and plays a crucial role in shaping the next generation of engineers. Autonomous technology is the future and is intended for Road Safety, and it is inspiring to see these young minds contributing to its advancement."*

The **Chief Guest, Mr. Rajendra Abhange, Director & Chief Operating Officer, Endurance Technologies Ltd.**, emphasized the importance of autonomous mobility and its impact on the automotive component manufacturing industry. He noted, *"Autonomous mobility is no longer a distant concept— it is a reality that is rapidly shaping the automotive landscape. Competitions like aBAJA are crucial in nurturing industry-ready talent, equipping students with the skills and knowledge required to lead the transformation in our industry. The component manufacturing sector will depend on engineers who are not only innovative but also understand the intricacies of autonomous systems, and aBAJA plays a pivotal role in creating that pipeline of future leaders. One day, we may see fBAJA, the Flying BAJA."*

Mr. Sumantra Barooah, Editor - Technology at ET Auto and Guest of Honour, addressed the audience, sharing his thoughts on the evolving automotive industry. He commented, *"The automotive industry is on the cusp of monumental change, and events like aBAJA serve as a catalyst for innovation. The talent displayed here is a reflection of the interesting times that lie ahead for assisted driving and autonomous mobility. It's heartening to see these young engineers tackle real-world challenges with creativity and technical precision, and I believe the future of the automotive industry is in excellent hands."*

Other distinguished guests during the valedictory event included Dr. G. Nagarajan, Senior VP, SAE INDIA; Mr. Ramanathan Srinivasan, MD, ATS; Dr. Divyanshu Joshi, Group Leader - Body & Chassis, Jaguar Land Rover; Mr. Balraj Subramaniam, Chairman, Organizing Committee, BAJA SAEINDIA; Dr. K C Vora, Prof of Practice & Advisor, BAJA SAEINDIA, Mr. Shantanu Sonar, Lead Judge, aBAJA SAEINDIA 2024; Mr. Arun Shankar, Convener from Continental; Ms. Ujjwala Karle, Jt Convener from ARAI and Mr. Saurabh Chitnavis, Jt Convener from ATS.



Distinguished guests light ceremonial lamp at the aBAJA SAEINDIA 2024 Valedictory Event

The day culminated in the declaration of the Overall Awards by Dr. K C Vora, recognizing the teams for their outstanding performance throughout the 2024 season, encompassing all three phases of aBAJA SAEINDIA. Team IPS-Sprinter's from IPS Academy, Institute of Engineering & Science, Indore, emerged as the overall champions, while Team Acroracerz from Acropolis Institute of Technology and Research, Indore and Team E-Ziba Racers from Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women, Bhimavaram secured the first and second runner-up positions, respectively, in a fiercely contested competition that showcased the best in autonomous vehicle engineering.



aBAJA Overall Winner – Team IPS Sprinters from IPS Academy, Indore.



The 5 teams of aBAJA SAEINDIA 2024 celebrate their journey towards innovation in autonomous mobility.

The final day also saw the announcement of various awards, including the **ARAI AMTIF and Intellimobility awards**, celebrating the technical ingenuity and creativity of the participating teams.

As the event drew to a close, **Mr. Balraj Subramaniam and Dr. K C Vora** of the BAJA SAEINDIA Organizing Committee, announced the opening of registrations for Autonomous BAJA SAEINDIA 2025. Early bird registrations are scheduled from 8:00 to 10:00 PM on 6th Oct 2024, offering various benefits to teams who register during this window. The Conveners of various events were also declared.



BAJA SAEINDIA Opens Registrations for the aBAJA 2025 Season



Office Bearers, Preliminary & Virtual Round Conveners for BAJA SAEINDIA 2025



Phase 3 Conveners for mBAJA and eBAJA SAEINDIA 2025



Phase 3 Conveners for hBAJA and aBAJA SAEINDIA 2025

Mr. Balraj Subramaniam also announced the tentative dates for the BAJA SAEINDIA 2025 season across all categories, providing teams with a comprehensive schedule for the upcoming competitions:

- **Virtual mBAJA, eBAJA & hBAJA Phase 2** at Chitkara University Rajpura near Chandigarh: **29th November to 1st December 2024.**
- **mBAJA & hBAJA Phase 3** at NATRAX, Pithampur near Indore: **8th to 12th January 2025**, with the **HR Meet** at Acropolis Institute, Indore on **13th & 14th January 2025.**
- **eBAJA Phase 3** at BVRIT, Narsapur near Hyderabad: **20th to 23rd February 2025**, with the **HR Meet** on **24th and 25th February 2025.**
- **aBAJA Phase 3** at ARAI, Takwe near Pune: **June 2025** followed by HR Meet.

BAJA SAEINDIA 2025										
Tentative Schedule										
EVENT	PRELIMINARY ROUND			VIRTUAL ROUND			PHYSICAL ROUND			
CATEGORIES	mBAJA eBAJA	hBAJA	aBAJA	mBAJA eBAJA hBAJA	aBAJA	mBAJA	hBAJA	eBAJA	aBAJA	
VENUE	Sri Sairam College, Chennai			Chitkara University, Chandigarh		NATRAX, Pithampur		BVRIT, Narsapur, Hyderabad		TBD
DATES	19 th – 20 th Jul-24	8 th Sept-24	Jan-25	29 th Nov – 1 st Dec-24		Mar-25	9 th – 12 th Jan-25		20 th – 23 rd Feb-25	

Tentative Schedule for BAJA SAEINDIA 2025

The announcement of these dates, along with the conveners for BAJA SAEINDIA 2025, underlines the continued efforts to advance autonomous mobility and ensure that students have the best possible opportunities to develop their skills and showcase their capabilities. The Vote of Thanks was offered by Mr. Arun Shankar, the Convener. The success of BAJA SAEINDIA 2024 highlights the vital role such competitions play in fostering innovation, providing a unique platform for students to apply their theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios and making them Industry-Ready. The event not only encouraged creativity and collaboration but also contributed to shaping the future of automotive mobility in India.

For BAJA SAEINDIA queries please contact:
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