

First Autonomous BAJA SAEINDIA at ARAI, Pune from 4 to 6 Oct 2024 A Grand Finale to the 'Multiverse of Mobility' Season"

Pune, 30th September 2024: The highly anticipated physical round of Autonomous BAJA SAEINDIA (aBAJA) organized by Society of Automotive Engineers (SAEINDIA) is scheduled from 4 to 6 Oct 2024 at the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Kothrud, Pune, with Ajeenkya DY Patil University (ADYPU) as the co-host. Marking the culmination of the BAJA SAEINDIA 2024 season, this category focuses on autonomous driving technologies, showcasing the cutting-edge solutions designed by India's brightest engineering talent. Following the successful completion of mBAJA (Mechanical), eBAJA (Electric), and the debut of hBAJA (Starting with CNG and transitioning to HCNG & Hydrogen) category earlier this year, the first season of aBAJA brings together teams from across the nation to compete for the very first time. This season has been aligned with the theme 'Multiverse of Mobility,' reflecting the convergence of various transportation and sustainability initiatives.

The event kicked off with a press conference held today at Ajeenkya DY Patil University, Pune, marking the official inauguration of aBAJA. Besides, ARAI & ADYPU, the aBAJA competition is grateful for the support & technical mentorship of a diverse array of 40 partners from both industry and academia, including Automotive Test Systems, Daimler Truck Innovation Center India, Valeo India, Continental India, Jaguar Land Rover, Renault Nissan, Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation Systems and Data Acquisition System (TIHAN) at IIT Hyderabad and DY Patil University Pune. The event is also supported by esteemed organizations such as SAE International, SIAM, ACMA, ASDC, AICTE, HAI, FISITA & ECMA, ensuring comprehensive backing from the automotive and engineering sectors. For next year's aBAJA 2025, Registrations open on 6th Oct 2024, where SAEINDIA invites support from additional organizations, contributing to the growth and success of this exciting event.

Today's press conference kicked off with an inaugural note by **Mr. S. Balraj, Chairman, Organizing Committee, BAJA SAEINDIA 2025**, and **former Chief Manager at Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited**, who emphasized the competition's enduring legacy. He said, "BAJA SAEINDIA has forged an impressive legacy over the years, challenging students to solve real-world problems and shaping them into future leaders of the industry. What started as a humble initiative back in 2007, has today become an institution with close ties to the automotive fraternity, providing students with the right platform to carve a firm pedestal for themselves. They build all-terrain buggies, and we put them through all kinds of situations. The result is invaluable problem-solving skills and hands-on experience, which no book or classroom can impart. Going hand-in-hand with academia, BAJA SAEINDIA serves as the crucial link to take students to the next level."

Mr Vijay Pankhawala, Sr Deputy Director of ARAI highlighted the importance of educating engineering students and fostering their awareness in technology and innovation. He stated, "BAJA SAEINDIA, since its inception, has been committed to bridge the gap between industry and academia. It is indeed a pleasure to see so many BAJA SAEINDIA alumni become successful professionals across the automotive industry, even within ARAI. ARAI has been supporting BAJA since its inception and is very proud to host Autonomous BAJA (aBAJA SAEINDIA) at ARAI. ARAI's technical team has been actively involved in preparation of this event over last few months with active participation for guiding, evaluating and supporting organisers and also student teams. ARAI is simultaneously organising Student Innovation ideathon called as "Intellimobility" in association with SAEINDIA. More than 100 teams across India have participated in this ideathon and selected TOP 20 finalist teams are going to present their ideas to industry experts during final round to be held simultaneously with aBaja Finale. Educating students before they step into the industry gives them the confidence to address the challenges the mobility industry faces now and in the future. I wish all the participants and organizers the very best for aBAJA SAEINDIA".



Autonomous CNG Electric IC Engine



Mr. Arun Shankar, Convener for aBAJA SAEINDIA 2024 and Head of Innovation at Continental Autonomous Mobility India, underscored the remarkable collaborative effort driving this ground-breaking event. *“Bringing this all together is a true team effort. From the Steering Committee to the Organizing Committee to the Alumni Committee, each member’s dedication has been vital to our success year after year. The introduction of aBAJA marks a historic milestone as it is the inaugural instance of an autonomous category within BAJA SAEINDIA. This pioneering phase not only highlights the innovative capabilities of our participating teams, but also paves the way for future advancements in autonomous vehicle technology. We are excited to announce that registrations for next year’s aBAJA SAEINDIA 2025 will commence from 6th Oct 2024 with an early bird incentive, promising another year of innovation and excellence as we continue to push the frontiers of automotive engineering.”*

Dr. K C Vora, Professor of Practice & Advisor, BAJA SAEINDIA 2025, highlighted the event’s alignment with the evolving technological landscape of the automotive industry. He noted that BAJA SAEINDIA 2024 has embraced the theme 'Multiverse of Mobility' by introducing two new categories, reflecting the convergence of diverse technologies, transportation modes, safety and sustainability initiatives. This approach not only showcases the wide array of possibilities available for individuals and societies but also provides students with invaluable experiences that enhance their readiness as future technocrats, entrepreneurs, designers, innovators and leaders. Dr. Vora emphasized that this initiative supports the vision of the Automotive Mission Plan, Electric Mobility Mission Plan, and National Green Hydrogen Mission Plan, aiming to position India as a global automotive hub.

In the run-up to the main event, from **30th September to 3rd October**, participating teams will undergo a comprehensive readiness check at ARAI, including technical inspections and evaluations of electrical, mechanical, autonomous and safety systems. This rigorous process ensures that all vehicles meet the competition's stringent requirements. The official Inauguration ceremony on 4th October will mark the beginning of Static evaluations like Design, CAE, Sustainability and Sales Presentation, designed to challenge the teams' strategic and engineering skills.

As the event progresses to 5th October, the focus will shift to Dynamic evaluations like brake and actuation assessments, as well as object detection and tracking capabilities. The day will also feature the first round of the INTELLIMOBILITY by ARAI, an Ideathon, aimed at innovative solutions for mobility challenges. The competition will culminate on 6th October with the Remote Driving System (RDS) event, where autonomous buggies will be tested under real-world conditions. This will be followed by the Valedictory ceremony awarding the top-performing teams. The Diversity Ratio is 33% with one All-Girl team consisting of all 30 girls.

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Jain, Vice Chancellor of Ajeenkya DY Patil University, emphasized the profound educational impact of the event. He noted, *“BAJA SAEINDIA serves as a vital bridge between academia and industry, integrating technological and innovative skills with essential soft skills such as communication, time management, leadership, passion and teamwork. This partnership underscores our shared commitment to creating meaningful outcomes through collaborative efforts, perfectly aligning with the University’s vision.”* Dr. Jain expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to partner with BAJA SAEINDIA as the host for the HR Meet and co-host for Autonomous BAJA. He also conveyed his heartfelt wishes to all participating students for a successful experience and commended the event for fostering future leaders.

BAJA SAEINDIA takes a progressive approach by offering students a platform to launch their professional careers with the HR Meet, scheduled today at Ajeenkya DY Patil University, where the participating third and fourth year engineering students shortlisted from the BAJA Aptitude Test (BAT) will appear for the recruitment process. The HR meet provides sponsor companies with the chance to recruit talented students from the competition, offering on-the-spot job opportunities. This initiative not only supports students in their career aspirations but also strengthens the connection between emerging talent and industry leaders.

About BAJA SAEINDIA

BAJA SAEINDIA is an educational pursuit for engineering college students, an out-of-classroom-education system, where engineering students can participate as a team, giving them pragmatic exposure to real-world challenges as faced in the industry. Originally started in the USA by the SAE International as Mini BAJA SAE, today it is being organized in several countries. In India, since 2007, it is being organized as BAJA SAEINDIA: A student-level competition in which teams from universities all over the country conceptualize, design, analyse, fabricate, validate and run an all-terrain vehicle. This is evaluated over a series of Static, Dynamic and Endurance events. Over the years, BAJA SAEINDIA has grown in numbers and has become a biggest sought-out event nationally over the past years. It serves as a platform for young engineering talent to showcase their skills and acquire real-life experience while overcoming obstacles and challenges: critical for their long-term success.

About Autonomous BAJA

The addition of Autonomous BAJA was initiated by the Organizing Committee under the guidance of the Steering Committee. aBAJA (Autonomous BAJA) represent the recent revolutions in the mobility Industry, primarily focussing on Safety & Intelligent Mobility. BAJA SAEINDIA prides itself on being the torchbearer of making technology accessible to engineering students, and it is very natural for this category to be included in BAJA SAEINDIA 2024 and onwards. BAJA SAEINDIA has partnered with various organizations to effectively introduce the new categories. While eBAJA was an endeavour sparked by the comments of Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, it was imperative for the Steering & Organizing Committee to continue to uphold the late President's legacy of advancing technology and education.

For queries please contact:

Mr. Balraj Subramaniam
Chairman, BAJA SAEINDIA 2025
Email: convener.baja@saeindia.org

Dr. KC Vora
Advisor, BAJA SAEINDIA
Email: vorakc04@gmail.com

Our Sponsors



Supported by



Media Partner



Assessment Partner



Autonomous CNC Electric IC Engine