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## **Hindustan Motors to launch new Pajero, Newsgaze, December 25**

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The much awaited new model of the legendary SUV Pajero will be launched in the first quarter of year 2012, says the company. Interestingly, Japanese auto major Toyota is giving a facelift to its popular SUV, Fortuner, which is also expected to hit the Indian roads during the same period next year besides Innova in new avatar.

Manoj Jha, Managing Director of Hindustan Motors Limited, said that Pajero as well as new variants from the HM stable would be put on display at the Auto Expo 2012 in New Delhi. The launch of the new Pajero is expected to be in the first quarter of 2012. He said that some dislocation of operations at Mitsubishi Motors' Thailand facility due to natural calamity compelled the company to alter the plans for participation in the auto show.

The next-gen Pajero may be powered by a 2.5-litre common rail turbocharged diesel engine delivering 176 hp @ 4000 RPM along with a torque rating of 35.7 kgm coupled with a five-speed automatic transmission equipped with paddle shifters and Sportronic. The new Pajero may also have the feature of four-wheel drive system.

According to Jha, one of the JV's passenger carrier variants is expected to get approval from Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) soon. Other commercial variants built on the Ambassador platform are also in the pipeline. Market research is being conducted across different states to elicit customer feedback on the new products. The rescheduled launch of Pajero and HM stable vehicles will start from the first quarter of the coming year.

Hindustan Motors has a technical collaboration with Mitsubishi Motors Corporation of Japan and, under this license, produces and markets premium passenger cars viz. Lancer, Pajero, Cedia, Montero, Outlander and Evo X. The plant for the Mitsubishi range is situated at Tiruvallur near Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

<http://www.newsgaze.com/auto/hindustan-motors-launch-pajero/>