

IIT-incubated startup set to launch electric two-wheelers.

Plans to have over 10,000 vehicles on roads across country

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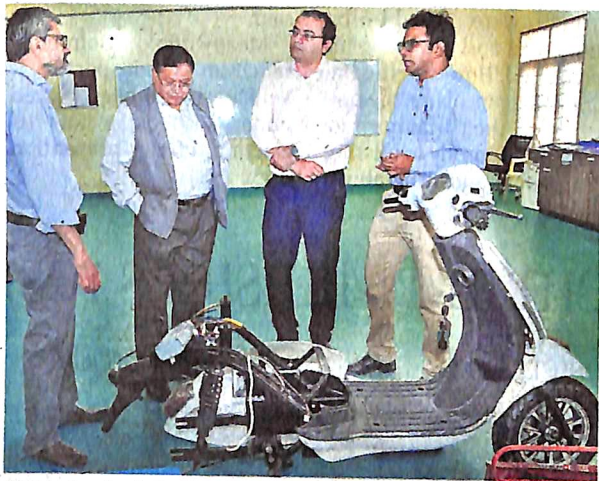
A startup incubated at the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H) has developed long-range, high-performance electric two-wheelers designed for Indian conditions and will be commercially launching them across the country next month.

PURE EV, the electric vehicle vertical of PuREnergy, a startup incubated by IIT-H that manufactures high performance lithium batteries, will launch four models – ‘EGNITE,’ ‘ETRANCE,’ ‘EPLUTO,’ and ‘ETRON’. The aim is to have over 10,000 electric vehicles on road in 2019-20. It has established an 18,000-sq.ft. state-of-the-art facility, co-located with IIT-H, for research and development, and for large scale production of electric vehicles and electric batteries.

For tough conditions

The unique points of the vehicles developed by PURE EV are that the batteries are designed to work under tough environmental conditions, and have lesser weight for portability and deliver high discharge currents for fast pick-up.

The company was founded in 2016 by Nishanth Dongari, assistant professor, De-



IIT-Hyderabad director U.B. Desai and NITI Aayog member V.K. Saraswat inspecting an electric vehicle at the institute campus at Kandi in Sangareddy district. ■ MOHD. ARIF

partment of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, IIT-H, and has Rohit Vadera, an alumnus of IIT Bombay, as its CEO. NITI Aayog member V.K. Saraswat and IIT-H director Prof U.B. Desai visited the manufacturing unit on April 28 and interacted with the founders.

“The company has extended collaboration with other EV startups to develop and supply high voltage lithium batteries for three and four-wheeler applications. Dedicated research fellows are working on solving problems associated with active cooling, in-depth electro-chemistry-thermal analysis

and eventually making the entire battery unit compatible for high-speed EV applications,” said Dr. Dongari.

Approvals secured

“We have obtained Automotive Research Association of India approvals for electric bikes and two-wheelers. Our electric vehicles offer significant cost savings over traditional ICE vehicles with running costs as low as 5 paise/km. We are working actively towards channel development and aim to deploy more than 10,000 units of our various models in the current financial year,” said Mr. Vadera.