



Under-charged

Electric vehicles are in for a bumpy ride as automakers hesitate to take the big leap

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here cannot be a bigger fanatic than 37-year-old Puneite, Kamlesh Mallick. And we're not talking about bigots here. In 2013, he bought a Mahindra e2o.

For the next 12 months, he religiously blogged his daily experience with the electric vehicle (EV). "I was never a car person, I loved my cycle. But when I learnt about EVs — the technology, the magic of electrons powering the drivetrain, regenerative braking, the quiet drive — something clicked within me," says the founder of PluginIndia, an online

forum dedicated to EV enthusiasts. In the ensuing five years, the forum would end up bringing together 2,000 EV owners sharing their "electric" experience.

Sushil Sangoi, the 50-year-old founder of Maitri Information Systems, an IT company based in Bengaluru, is also an EV convert. He was among the early buyers of Reva, which was launched in 2001. Traffic in the city had already worsened, which convinced Sangoi of his purchase. "I did not see the point in buying an expensive car to drive through narrow roads." While the first Reva cost ₹250,000, in 2008, he upgraded to a newer model that set him back by ₹400,000, excluding the ₹150,000 that he got for the old car. After driving around 90,000

