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### Jeep to sell SUVs with petrol option in India after diesel ban

FCA plans to introduce a locally manufactured model soon

Jeep will offer its sport utility vehicles with petrol engine options in India later this year after the Supreme Court put a temporary ban on the sale of large diesel-powered cars in the capital.

The Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV unit, which will start selling its Wrangler and Grand Cherokee in some key Indian cities from the middle of this year, will initially offer diesel engines and subsequently add petrol options, Kevin Flynn, who heads Fiat Chrysler in the country, said in an interview at the Delhi auto show on.

"As soon as it was announced we responded immediately by planning petrol variants in India," he said referring to the Supreme Court order in December.

Last month, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., the country's biggest SUV maker, introduced a smaller

engine for two of its most popular models, allowing the company to circumvent a temporary ban on large diesel-powered vehicles in India's capital. The actions by Mahindra and Jeep show how automakers in the country are adapting to the unprecedented restrictions imposed by India's authorities as officials tackle air pollution.

Jeep is adjusting its strategy in a market where it says SUV sales have grown 22 per cent over the last five years. The company expects demand to expand exponentially in the future. The automaker plans to introduce a new model in India next year that will be locally

manufactured, said Flynn. Fiat is investing \$280 million in its factory in western India to build Jeep products, he said. "It's a perfect time to introduce Jeep in India because of the growing SUV sales in the market," said Flynn. "The best part is the Jeep brand is already known in India and we need to reclaim the brand."



**Grand debut** Visitors interact in front of a poster for Jeep at Auto Expo 2016 in Greater Noida. AFP

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