

Toyota says March China auto sales down 11.7 pc

Toyota Motor Corp and its joint ventures in China sold 75,900 vehicles in the country in March, down 11.7 per cent from a year earlier, the Japanese automaker said on Monday. Toyota sold 184,700 vehicles in China in January-March, down 12.7 per cent from the same period a year earlier, it said in a text message to reporters. Japanese carmakers' sales in China have suffered since late last year after violent anti-Japan protests in September were sparked by a territorial dispute between the countries. Sales have recovered recently, but some experts say Japanese-brand vehicles may continue to face headwinds in the world's biggest auto market as diplomatic ties remain strained. Toyota's combined Chinese sales in January-February were down 13.3 percent year-on-year. Toyota, which operates car ventures in China with FAW Group and Guangzhou Automobile Group Co, aims to sell 900,000 cars in the country this year, up 7.1 per cent from a year earlier. India Times