



## Government Schemes



## India can achieve high penetration of EV by 2030: NITI Aayog Report



According to recently published technical report *"India's Electric Mobility Transformation: Progress to Date and Future Opportunities"*, India could achieve high penetration of Electric Vehicles (EVs) by 2030 on the back success of FAME II and other measure. The report was jointly published by NITI Aayog and US based Rocky Mountains Institute.

### Report Highlights

**Catalytic effect:** FAME II and other measures could have catalytic effect on overall EV market. If FAME II and other measures in public and private space - are successful, India could realize EV sales penetration of 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial cars, 40% of buses and 80% of two and three-wheelers by 2030.

**Focus on PEP:** To achieve this Government should focus on phased manufacturing plan (PEP) to promote EVs, provide fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for phased manufacturing of EVs and batteries.

**Policy Push:** To drive adaptation of EVs, different government departments should consider bouquet of potential policies such as congestion pricing, low emission/exclusion zones, ZEV credits, parking policies etc. to drive adaptation of EVs.

**846 MT of CO<sub>2</sub> Savings:** Significant high level market share of EVs in two, three, and four-wheelers and buses segment under FAME II will help to cumulative savings of 846 million tonnes (MT) of CO<sub>2</sub> over total deployed vehicle's lifetime.

**3.8 billion e-vkt:** Electric buses covered under FAME II will account for 3.8 billion vehicle kilometers travelled (e-vkt) over their lifetime.

**5.4 MT of oil savings:** EVs eligible under FAME II scheme can save cumulatively 5.4 million tonnes of oil equivalent over their lifetime worth Rs. 17.2 thousand crore.

#### **FAME II scheme**

The second phase of Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of Electric and hybrid vehicles (FAME) scheme was notified by Union Cabinet in February 2019. It aims to further accelerate India's commitment to clean mobility future and sees the electrification of transportation as primary focus areas. It intends to catalyse market for faster adaptation of EVs to ensure durable economic growth and global competitiveness for India's automotive industry.

Benefits under FAME II goes beyond vehicles eligible FAME I. For more details: About **FAME II**.

Notes

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## 2 West Bengal Government schemes win UN awards



Two schemes of West Bengal Government Utkarsh Bangla and Sabuj Sathi have won prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of the United Nations. They were selected out of 1,062 nominations and they also topped list in their respective categories.

Utkarsh Bangla received topmost award and emerged winner in the Capacity Building category. Sabuj Sathi was ranked in first five as champion project under the ICT application: E-Government category.

### Utkarsh Bangla

Under it, skill development training is given to school dropout youths. For this several centres have been opened across the state for imparting skill training in driving, tailoring, television repairing and other electronic equipment. The trained youths are then absorbed in different industries.

### Sabuj Sathi

It was launched in 2015. Under it, bicycles are distributed to the students of class IX to XII studying in Government run and Government aided schools and madrasahs.

### World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

It is world's largest annual gathering of Information Communication Technology (ICT) for development community.

It is co-organized by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UN Development Programme (UNDP).



It provides platform for information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, identifying emerging trends and fostering partnerships, taking into account evolving Information and Knowledge Societies.

**2019 WSIS Forum:** It was held in Geneva, Switzerland was 10th edition. Its theme was "Information and Communication Technologies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals".

**WSIS Awards:** It aims to create effective mechanism to evaluate and recognize individuals, governments, civil society, local, regional and international agencies, research institutions and private-sector companies for outstanding success in implementing development oriented strategies that leverage the power of ICTs as enabler of development.

Notes

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## Cabinet approves extension of New Urea Policy-2015



Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister has approved extension of duration of New Urea Policy-2015 from April 1, 2019 till further orders. The extension of policy will facilitate in continuation of operations of urea plants and ensure regular supply of urea to the farmers.

### Background

The comprehensive New Urea Policy-2015 was approved in 2015 for period of four financial years (till 2019). The policy is aimed at maximising indigenous urea production to reduce import dependency and to reduce subsidy burden on the government. It also aimed at promoting energy efficiency in urea units to reduce Carbon-footprint to make Urea production environment friendly. India had imported around 59.75 lakh tonnes of urea in 2017-18 fiscal year to meet domestic demand. Besides, annual domestic production of urea is around 250 lakh tonnes.

Notes

## 20 States/UTs join Emergency Response Support System



20 States and Union territories have so far joined pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112' launched as part of Emergency Response Support System (ERSS). This single number for emergency services is similar to '911' in United States.

### Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)

It envisages single pan-India emergency number '112', which is internationally recognised number, to target all types of emergencies. Under it, all emergency numbers like 100 (police), 101 (fire), 102 (ambulance and disaster response) have been integrated into one single number '112'. It is being implemented under Nirbhaya Fund, which was set up by Central Government for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of the women.

Himachal Pradesh was first state to launch this pan-India single emergency number '112' under ERSS project.

### Features of ERSS

On pressing 112 number, the system identifies location of person in distress connecting through voice or data for providing immediate assistance. SHOUT feature exclusively for women has been introduced in '112 India' mobile app to ensure safety of women. It provides immediate assistance from registered volunteers in vicinity apart from immediate assistance from Emergency Response Centre (ERCs).

### Benefits of ERSS

It provides single emergency response number across country, providing

24\*7 efficient and effective response system.

It can receive inputs from various voice and data services like voice call, SMS, e-mail and panic buttons in public transport, to attend to citizens in distress.

Location of persons in distress can also be identified by authorities simply by connecting through voice or data to provide immediate assistance to the affected.

It has automated response system feature for timely dispatch of field resources (police) to location of incidence using system.

It also has GPS enabled dispatch of vehicles to locate nearest vehicles. It will provide standardized and easy to use mobile apps, Internet of Things (IoT) applications on Pan-India basis.

It will help in optimum manpower utilisation and prompt action on emergency calls. It will also simplify problems related to coordination among police force.

Notes

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## FAME II: 50% localisation mandatory to receive Subsidies



Government has decided made mandatory for Electric Vehicles (EV) manufacturers in India to locally source at least 50% components in order to receive subsidies and be eligible to bid for government orders under FAME II Scheme. This move is aimed encouraging local manufacturing and deterring reliance on imports.

The incorporation of localisation conditions to avail benefits under the FAME-II Scheme was decided at Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee of National Mission for Transformative Mobility chaired by NITI Aayog chief executive officer (CEO) Amitabh Kant.

### Outcomes of meeting

Only companies that meet the 50% localisation threshold will be eligible for incentives and subsidies under FAME II Scheme to boost electric mobility as well as 'Make in India' initiative.

The inter-,ministerial committee also has finalised mission's approach to make domestic industry competitive at the global level.

Government will adopt challenge route to select states and entrepreneurs to set up giga factories for large scale manufacturing of cells and batteries in the country.

### Inter-ministerial committee of the national mission for transformative mobility

It was constituted following cabinet decision to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives in the country. It consists of secretary of nine stakeholder ministries and director general of the Bureau of Indian Standards as its members.

### FAME India (Phase II) Scheme

It aims at promoting eco-friendly electric and hybrid vehicles in the country. The scheme is being administered by Union Ministry of Heavy Industries.

**Objective:** Encourage faster adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrid vehicles by offering upfront Incentive on purchase of EVs and also by way of establishing necessary charging Infrastructure for electric vehicles. It also seeks to address issue of environmental pollution and fuel security.

**Features:** It gives emphasis is on electrification of public transportation that includes shared transport.

It will give demand incentives on operational expenditure model for electric buses through State/city transport corporation (STUs).

In three and four wheelers segment, it will incentives to vehicles used for public transport or registered for commercial purposes. In two wheelers segment, it will focus on private vehicles.

It plans to support 10 Lakhs e-2W, 5 Lakhs e-3W, 55000 4Ws and 7000 Buses.

**Encourage advance technologies:** Benefits of incentives under it will be extended to only those vehicles which are fitted with advance battery like Lithium Ion battery and other new battery technologies.

**Charging Infrastructure:** It also proposes for establishment of charging infrastructure. It seeks setting up about 2700 charging stations in metros, million plus cities, smart cities and cities of hilly states across the country to ensure availability of at least one charging station in grid of 3 km x 3 km. It also proposes establishment of charging stations on major highways connecting major city clusters. On such highways, charging stations will be established on both sides of road at an interval of about 25 km each.

Notes

## Utkarsh Bangla scheme wins WSIS award of UN



West Bengal Government's Utkarsh Bangla scheme has won prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) award 2019 of United Nations (UN). This scheme had emerged No 1 in the Capacity Building category of the award.

### Utkarsh Bangla scheme

It aims to create pool of skilled candidates industry ready by providing vocational training to school dropouts ranging from 400 to 1200 hours free of charge. Its beneficiaries are trained in driving, tailoring, repairing television and other electronic equipment's, beautician courses etc. On completion the vocational training courses beneficiaries are given certificates. The state Vocational Education Department is nodal implementing agency of this scheme. The syllabus for courses under this scheme are in line with the National Vocational Education Qualification Framework.

### Kanyashree Scheme

Earlier, in 2017, West Bengal government had received another UN award for its 'Kanyashree' Scheme, which is a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme aimed at promoting education among girls.

### WSIS Prizes

It is international contest to create effective mechanism to evaluate and recognise individuals, governments and private bodies for outstanding success in implementing development oriented strategies that leverage power of Information Communication and Technologies (ICTs) as an enabler of the development. The awards are given in 18 categories from all over the world.



# UPSC OPTIONAL COURSES



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