

● ₹3,435-CR PM E-BUS PAYMENT SECURITY MECHANISM GETS NOD

# Cabinet clears ₹10,900-cr electric mobility scheme

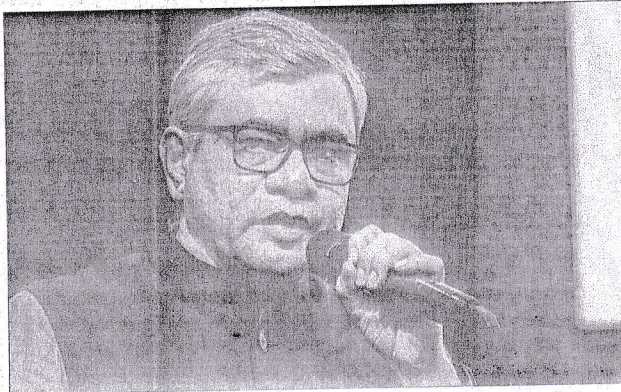
FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, September 11

**THE UNION CABINET** on Wednesday approved the PM E-Drive Scheme with an outlay of ₹10,900 crore for two years to boost adoption of electric vehicles in India, replacing the flagship FAME programme that ran for nine years till March this year.

The Cabinet also approved the PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) for procurement and operation of e-buses by public transport authorities (PTAs) with an outlay of ₹3,435.33 crore. This scheme will support deployment of more than 38,000 electric buses from FY25 to FY29. The scheme will support the operation of e-buses for a period of up to 12 years from the date of deployment.

The decision on PM Electric Drive Revolution In Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PME-Drive) Scheme was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The scheme will support 2.48 million electric two-wheelers, 316,000 e-three wheelers, and 14,028 e-buses. The PM E-Drive will also support 88,500 charging sites, Vaishnaw said.

The new scheme offers subsidies/demand incentives worth ₹3,679 crore to incentivise adoption of electric two-wheelers, electric three-wheelers, e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging electric vehicles (EVs). A sum of ₹4,391 crore



Information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefs the media on the Cabinet's decisions in New Delhi on Wednesday

has been provided for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by state transport undertakings and public transport agencies. Besides, ₹500 crore has been earmarked for the deployment of e-ambulances. This is a new initiative of the government to promote the use of e-ambulance for a comfortable patient transport. A sum of ₹500 crore has been provided for incentivising adoption of e-trucks.

According to a government statement, the scheme addresses range anxiety of EV buyers by promoting in a big way the installation of electric vehicle public charging stations. These shall be installed in the selected cities with high EV penetration and on selected highways. The scheme proposes the installation of 22,100 fast chargers for e-4-wheelers, 1,800 fast chargers for e-buses and 48,400 fast chargers for e-2-wheelers and

three wheelers. The outlay for these stations will be ₹2,000 crore.

In view of the growing EV ecosystem in the country, the test agencies of the ministry of heavy industries will be modernised to deal with the new and emerging technologies to promote green mobility. The upgradation of testing agencies with an outlay of ₹780 crore has been approved.

The scheme promotes an efficient, competitive and resilient EV manufacturing industry thereby promoting Aatmanirbhar Bharat. This will be achieved by incorporating phased manufacturing programme which encourages domestic manufacturing and strengthening of EV supply chain, it said. The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicle (FAME) Scheme was launched in April 2015.

## ₹5-lakh health cover for all aged above 70

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**THE GOVERNMENT** on Wednesday extended the ₹5-lakh-a-year free health cover to all senior citizens above 70 years under the flagship Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

The move would benefit nearly 45 million families with 60 million senior citizens. The ₹5-lakh coverage will be on a family basis.

The scheme has been made available for 107 million poor households in the country since September 2018, roughly covering the bottom 40% of the population. With the Union Cabinet's approval, all senior citizens aged 70 and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status, would be eligible to avail the benefits of the scheme. The extension to all senior citizens would likely cost ₹3,437 crore annually by way of insurance premium.

The senior citizens aged 70 years and above belonging to the families already covered under the scheme will get an additional top-up cover of up to ₹5 lakh per year for themselves. Those already availing benefits of other public health insurance schemes such as CGHS may either choose their existing scheme or opt for PMJAY.