

Govt recharges EV support with ₹10.9K cr PM E-DRIVE

Cabinet clears Ayushman Bharat cover for those 70 yrs and above

BS REPORTERS

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The Union Cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, approved a series of significant initiatives spanning many sectors, including health, electric mobility, rural infrastructure, and renewable energy.

Among the biggest decisions, the Cabinet approved allocation of ₹10,900 crore for the third iteration of the FAME scheme (in a new avatar) for electric vehicles (EVs), and gave its nod to the health insurance cover under Ayushman Bharat for all Indian citizens aged 70 or above. These decisions come days before this National Democratic Alliance government completes 100 days.

A highlight of the

BIG MOVES



PM E-DRIVE

Outlay: ₹10,900 cr for 2 years

- To support 2.48 mn e2Ws, 316,000 e3Ws, 14,028 e-buses

Separate ₹3,435 cr scheme to support the roll-out of 38,000 e-buses



4th phase of PMGSY

Outlay: ₹70,125 cr spread over 5 years



Ayushman Bharat expansion

Outlay: ₹3,437 cr

- The coverage aims to benefit 60 million senior citizens from 45 million families with ₹5 lakh free health insurance cover
- Benefits shall be extended regardless of income level



Hydropower projects

Outlay: ₹12,461 cr

- To support infra works around 31.35 Gw hydel projects, to be implemented over 8 yrs

meeting was approval for the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme, a long-anticipated follow-up to the now-concluded FAME programme, which ended in March 2024 after nine years of operation.

The new scheme, with an outlay of ₹10,900 crore

for two years, will provide subsidy support to a wide range of EVs, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers, buses, trucks, and ambulances. But the scheme notably omits electric cars, which were previously covered under the FAME programme.

A key feature of the PM E-DRIVE is the introduc-

tion of Aadhaar-authenticated e-vouchers, which will now be required to claim subsidies. Additionally, the scheme aims to establish 88,500 charging stations, announced Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

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■ **62,500 km** of rural roads to be constructed

■ **25,000** unconnected habitations shall be linked

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PMGSY Phase-IV gets Cabinet nod

The minister informed that PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) scheme for procurement and operation of e-buses by Public Transport Authorities (PTAs) has an outlay of ₹3,435 crore to support the roll-out of 38,000 e-buses. In a move to enhance health care for the elderly, the Cabinet also approved the extension of health insurance cover under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their income levels – a major poll promise made by the Bharatiya Janata Party in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections. With an initial outlay of ₹3,437 crore, the expanded scheme aims to benefit 60 million senior citizens with ₹5 lakh free health insurance cover. Rural development received a significant push with the green light for the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

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