

As the Modi-Musk meeting draws near, Centre brainstorms on reform modalities, new EV policy

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Days ahead of Elon Musk's scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss Tesla and Starlink's possible operations in India, top officials from the Ministries of Telecom and Heavy Industries and the Niti Aayog held meetings centred around enhancing ease of doing business and further expansion of the e-mobility and satellite communications sectors.

There have been a series of meetings in different ministries on Thursday, including electric vehicle (EV) makers, with top officials of

the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), a source told *businessline*.

Niti Aayog officials, too, had a meeting with entrepreneurs in the Space sector, while the Minister of Telecommunications, Ashwini Vaishnaw, met with the Secretary DoT to discuss the visit, sources said.

The meeting at MHI was chaired by Secretary, Kamran Rizvi and Additional Secretary, Hanif Qureshi, with the stakeholders from the auto industry, including companies such as Hyundai Motor India, Maruti Suzuki India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Vietnam-based VinFast, which is setting up a plant in



ON THE AGENDA. Elon Musk is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss Tesla's and Starlink's possible operations in India soon

Tamil Nadu. While the representatives of the Indian companies were physically present at the meeting,

CEO, VinFast joined the meeting via online from Vietnam.

Interestingly, Tesla was represented by Gopal Nadadur who is the Vice-President for South Asia at The Asia Group. The Asia Group, which is a strategic advisory firm based in Washington DC, is the advisor to Tesla.

NEW EV POLICY

"The meeting was one of the first meetings of the new EV policy, where all stakeholders were called to give their thoughts and the advisor from Tesla was just attending the meeting through video link, but he did not give any opinion related to the policy," a source privy to the

meeting told *businessline*.

The source further mentioned that the MHI meeting also had representatives from IFCI, which will help the Ministry streamline the applications under the new EV scheme.

The Centre had last month approved an EV policy that will allow companies that invest a minimum of ₹4,150 crore or \$500 million in India, meeting domestic value-added conditions, to import a limited number of vehicles at reduced customs duties.

The policy is aimed at attracting major multinational companies including Elon Musk's Tesla, and promoting India as a manufacturing destination.