



## CURRENT AFFAIRS



Argasia Education PVT. Ltd. (GST NO.-09AAPCAI478E1ZH)  
Address: C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold Building gate, Sector 02,  
Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, CONTACT NO:-8448440231

Date : 16 September 2024

# INDIA LAUNCHES PM E-DRIVE SCHEME FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

### SYLLABUS MAPPING:

GS-3-science and technology:India Launches PM E-Drive Scheme for Electric Vehicles

### FOR PRELIMS:

What is the primary objective of the PM E-Drive Scheme launched by the Indian government?

### FOR MAINS:

Evaluate the potential impact of the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive) scheme on India's electric vehicle market and overall environmental sustainability?

### RECENT CONTEXT:

The Indian government has introduced a new plan called the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive) scheme. It replaces the previous FAME II program, which ended in March 2024. The main goal of the PM E-Drive scheme is to promote the use of electric vehicles (EVs) across the country. Although the new scheme has a smaller budget compared to the old one, it still focuses on making EVs more common in India.

### BACKGROUND: THE TRANSITION FROM FAME II

The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) II program, launched in 2019, was a cornerstone of India's strategy to promote electric mobility. Over its lifespan, FAME II provided substantial subsidies for electric vehicles, supported the establishment of charging infrastructure, and encouraged the development of EV technology.

However, as the program concluded in March 2024, it became clear that a new, refreshed approach was necessary to continue and enhance the momentum achieved. The FAME II program's budget, which was significant, had led to substantial progress but also highlighted areas needing further improvement and innovation. This led to the introduction of the PM E-Drive scheme, which aims to address these gaps while adapting to the evolving landscape of electric mobility.

## KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PM E-DRIVE SCHEME

---

### 1. Promoting Electric Vehicle Adoption

- **Incentives for Purchasers:** The PM E-Drive scheme offers targeted financial incentives for both individual buyers and fleet operators. These incentives include direct subsidies on the purchase of electric vehicles and reduced taxes.
- **Price Reductions:** The scheme aims to reduce the effective price of electric vehicles, making them more competitive with traditional internal combustion engine vehicles.

### 2. Supporting EV Infrastructure

- **Charging Stations:** The scheme provides funding for the installation of public and private EV charging stations. This includes both standard and fast-charging facilities, ensuring that EV users have reliable access to charging points.
- **Battery Swapping Stations:** To reduce downtime associated with charging, the scheme promotes the development of battery swapping stations, particularly for two-wheelers and commercial vehicles.

### 3. Enhancing Domestic Manufacturing

- **Incentives for Manufacturers:** The scheme includes financial incentives for manufacturers to set up or expand their production facilities in India. This includes subsidies for research and development, as well as grants for establishing new factories.
- **Skill Development:** Recognizing the need for a skilled workforce, the scheme allocates funds for training programs aimed at developing expertise in EV manufacturing and maintenance.

### 4. Promoting Innovation

- **Research and Development Grants:** The scheme provides grants for research into new technologies, including advanced battery systems, energy-efficient drivetrains, and smart charging solutions.
- **Collaborations:** The scheme encourages partnerships between Indian and international research institutions to foster knowledge exchange and technological advancement.

## BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

---

### 1. While the PM E-Drive scheme has a smaller budget compared to the FAME II program, it has been strategically designed to maximize impact:

- **Focused Allocation:** The budget is allocated with a focus on high-impact areas, such as infrastructure development and incentives for low-income households and small businesses.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** To supplement government funding, the scheme encourages public-private partnerships. This approach aims to leverage additional investments from the private sector to enhance the reach and effectiveness of the program.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

---

### 1. Environmental Impact

- **Lower Emissions:** By increasing the number of electric vehicles on the road, the scheme aims to decrease emissions from the transportation sector, which is a significant contributor to urban air pollution.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Electric vehicles are generally more energy-efficient than conventional vehicles, which can lead to a reduction in overall energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels.

## 2. **Economic Growth**

- **Job Creation:** The expansion of EV manufacturing and infrastructure will create new job opportunities across multiple sectors, from manufacturing to services.
- **Investment Opportunities:** The focus on domestic manufacturing and innovation is likely to attract investment from both domestic and international companies, boosting the overall economic landscape.

## 3. **Technological Advancement**

- **Enhanced Technologies:** Innovations in battery technology, energy storage, and charging infrastructure will likely emerge, positioning India as a leader in the global EV market.
- **Global Competitiveness:** By fostering a competitive domestic EV industry, India can enhance its position in the global market and attract international collaborations.

## 4. **Public Health**

- **Reduced Health Risks:** Lower levels of air pollution can lead to a decrease in respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, contributing to overall better health outcomes.

## **CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

---

### 1. **Infrastructure Development**

- **Deployment Speed:** Rapid deployment of charging and battery swapping stations is essential to avoid range anxiety and ensure that EV owners have convenient access to charging facilities.
- **Maintenance and Reliability:** Ensuring the reliability and maintenance of the infrastructure is crucial for sustaining consumer confidence in EVs.

### 2. **Affordability and Accessibility**

- **Cost Barrier:** The higher upfront cost of EVs compared to traditional vehicles can still be a barrier for many potential buyers. The effectiveness of subsidies and financial incentives will be key to overcoming this challenge.
- **Accessibility:** Ensuring that the benefits of the scheme reach various segments of the population, including low-income groups and rural areas, is important for achieving widespread adoption.

### 3. **Technological Reliability**

- **Quality Assurance:** Continuous improvement in battery life, charging efficiency, and vehicle performance is necessary to meet consumer expectations and industry standards.

### 4. **Policy Stability**

- **Long-Term Commitment:** A stable and long-term commitment to the scheme's objectives is crucial for building trust and encouraging investment from both consumers and manufacturers.

## **CONCLUSION**

---

The launch of the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive) scheme represents a significant step forward in India's journey towards sustainable transportation. By focusing on increasing the adoption of electric vehicles, expanding infrastructure, supporting domestic manufacturing, and promoting innovation, the scheme aims to address key challenges and drive the country's transition to a greener future.

While the scheme's budget is smaller compared to its predecessor, its strategic focus on high-impact areas and its emphasis on public-private partnerships are designed to maximize its effectiveness. As India embarks on this new phase of its electric mobility journey, the success of the

PM E-Drive scheme will depend on effective implementation, stakeholder collaboration, and continued innovation.



### PRELIM QUESTION:

- Q. What is the main objective of the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive) scheme launched by the Indian government?
- A. To promote the use of hybrid vehicles
  - B. To support the development of conventional fuel infrastructure
  - C. To increase the adoption of electric vehicles and improve EV infrastructure
  - D. To reduce the number of electric vehicles on the road

Answer:C

### MAINS QUESTION:

- Q. Analyze the objectives and expected impact of the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive) scheme on India's electric vehicle sector. Evaluate the potential challenges that could affect its successful implementation and suggest measures to address these challenges.?(200words)

[Ritik singh](#)

## “THE RISE OF THE EAST: BRICS AS A EMERGING GLOBAL ORDER AND INDIA’S PIVOTAL ROLE”

*This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and topic details of the RISE OF BRICS as an alternative global order and its challenges*

### Syllabus mapping:

**GS-2: International Relationship: India and regional grouping.**

### For Prelims:

What are NDB, BRICS+, and Contingency Reserve Fund?

### For Mains:

What is the significance of the BRICS for India and how it can act as an alternative global economic order, what challenges and ways to make BRICS an alternative system? India and BRICS relations, its significance to India.

### Why in the News?

An Indian delegation under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Ministry of Culture attended the 9th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia.



### Introduction to BRICS

#### Origins and Formation:

**2001:** The term BRIC was coined in 2001 by Goldman Sachs to forecast global economic trends.

**2006:** The BRIC forum was formally established with a Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2006.

**2009:** The first summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009.

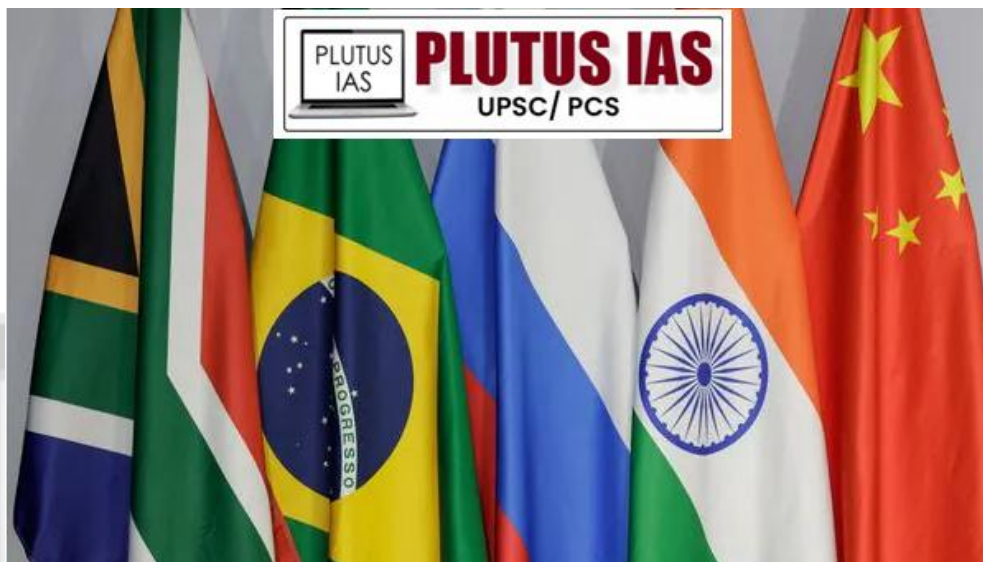
**2010:** South Africa joined in December 2010, leading to the formation of BRICS.

**2024:** *BRICS PLUS*: The expansion of BRICS,



incorporating Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE from January 2024 is called the BRICS+.

**Key Institutions and Initiatives:** *New Development Bank (NDB) 2014, Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), BRICS Business Council, BRICS Think Tanks Council.*



### **Significance of the BRICS**

- 1. Integration of New Members:** The addition of new members from across the continents represents the BRICS support for enhancing the group's diversity and influence.
- 2. Support for Multilateralism:** Emphasizing a commitment to multilateralism and the UN Charter, BRICS underlines the central role of the United Nations in maintaining peace, advancing development, and promoting democracy and human rights.
- 3. Global Governance Reform:** BRICS advocates for a more agile and representative international system that includes developing and least-developed countries, particularly from Africa, in global decision-making processes.
- 4. Economic importance:** BRICS countries represent 26% of the global landmass and 42% of the global population which makes the BRICS far larger than the other groupings.
- 5. Multilateral Trading System:** BRICS supports a fair, rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, emphasizing the need for WTO reform.
- 6. Climate change fight:** The group supports balanced energy transitions, utilizing all energy sources—including renewables, fossil fuels, and nuclear energy—to ensure resilient and sustainable energy systems.
- 7. Global Financial Architecture Reform:** BRICS calls for reform of global financial institutions to enhance the voice and representation of developing countries. The NDB is mainly for this purpose.
- 8. Conflict Resolution:** one of the significance is to reduce the tensions and bilateral issues among the members of The BRICS and call for the resolution of the international conflict.

### **Significance of the BRICS for India:**

- 1. Economic Significance:** The BRICS offers India a good opportunity to enhance its trade relations, and increase FDI flow in India.
- 2. Infrastructure and social development:** The NDB provides India with financial resources for infrastructure projects, sustainable development, and other critical investments. This bank supports India's economic development goals and infrastructure needs.
- 3. Cultural and Creative Industries in BRICS:** India's advocacy for including cultural and creative industries in BRICS's agenda highlights the broader trend of recognizing culture as a driver of economic development.
- 4. Shaping the Global Development Agenda:** In the past, India has used this platform for shaping the global Agenda.
- 5. Strengthening Multilateralism:** India is an advocate of strengthening the UN and other multilateral bodies. This platform provides the voice for India to reform and strengthen the multilateral institutions.
- 6. Strategic Partnerships:** BRICS helps India to build strategic partnerships with major global players, enhancing its influence in global affairs. Especially Russia.
- 7. Regional power:** BRICS offers India an advantage to deal with issues such as terrorism and regional security etc. BRICS countries collaborated to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to developing and African countries.
- 8. Strategic autonomy:** India is a member of the Quad and BRICS, both these groups are symbols of India's strategic autonomy which helps India to protect its national interest.

### **Challenges for BRICS:**

- 1. Aligning Diverse Interests:** One of the primary challenges for BRICS is aligning the diverse interests of its members. China is more focused on economic integration, Russia is on the expansion of its defense exports, etc.
- 2. Managing Regional Rivalries:** The inclusion of both Saudi Arabia and Iran in recent expansion, with their historical rivalries, could pose challenges to internal cohesion and decision-making within BRICS.
- 3. Overlap with Other Groupings:** Managing mandates with other groupings like IBSA and SCO is also a challenge for the BRICS countries.
- 4. Leadership Contest:** The expansion of BRICS has intensified the competition between China and India for leadership within the group and the Global South.
- 5. Domestic issues:** The domestic political structure of the BRICS and BRICS countries is one of the challenges highlighted by the C Raja Mohan.
- 6. Limited economic cooperation:** The trade between BRICS nations is unequal. India has a trade deficit with China, Russia and India have limited economic cooperation.

**7. Regional issues:** There are different perspectives of the BRICS countries on many regional issues such as China is actively engaging with the Taliban, unlike other BRICS countries.

***Ways to utilize the BRICS potential:***

**1. Balancing the national interest:** The diverse interests can be managed by the effective dialogue in the BRICS, Use this platform for the resolution of bilateral issues.

**2. Enhancing economic cooperation:** the exploration of the untapped potential between the BRICS countries can make a very large market. For example, India, and Russia.

**3. Role of The NDB:** The NDB can finance more projects in Africa and newly added members to make other developing countries join this organization.

**4. Cooperation in technical and functional areas:** The areas like health education and innovation, most of the BRICS countries can collaborate on this front. India opening an education centre in the UAE is the best move in this direction.

**5. Respecting mutual concerns:** countries should respect each other's sovereignty and mutual interest, specifically bordering countries.

**6. Cooperation in climate change and other global issues:** the group becomes more effective when it raises the same voice for any issues. The BRICS countries can collaborate on issues like climate change and the transition to renewable energy.

**7. Cultural Diplomacy:** Promote cultural exchanges to build mutual understanding and respect among BRICS nations, thereby enhancing people-to-people connections and shared values.

**8. Collaborative Security Frameworks:** Develop cooperative security measures and intelligence-sharing frameworks to effectively address common security threats and challenges within the BRICS region.

**9. Joint Counterterrorism Initiatives:** Work together on counterterrorism and cybersecurity efforts to safeguard national and regional security interests from evolving threats.

***Conclusion:***

BRICS, initially focused on economic collaboration, has evolved to address a wide range of global issues through various summits and practical cooperation. The recent cultural summit and the addition of new members will boost the significance of the BRICS group. The role of India in adding new members once again highlights India's active engagement in the group. The need to address mutual concerns, respect mutual interests, and work together for global challenges would help the group to stand as a complementary system of global governance.

**PRELIMS QUESTION:**

**Q. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), recently often seen in the news in the context of which of the following:**

- A. BRICS
- B. WEF
- C. IMF



D. World Bank

**ANSWER: A**

**MAINS QUESTION:**

Discuss the Recent Expansion of BRICS to BRICS Plus and Highlight the Rise of BRICS as an Alternative Global Political Order. How Can India Play a Significant Role in This Emerging Global Order?

(250 words 15 marks)

## PRELIMS BITS: BHASKAR PLATFORM AND DPIIT

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and topic details of the BHASKAR PLATFORM.*

**Syllabus mapping:**

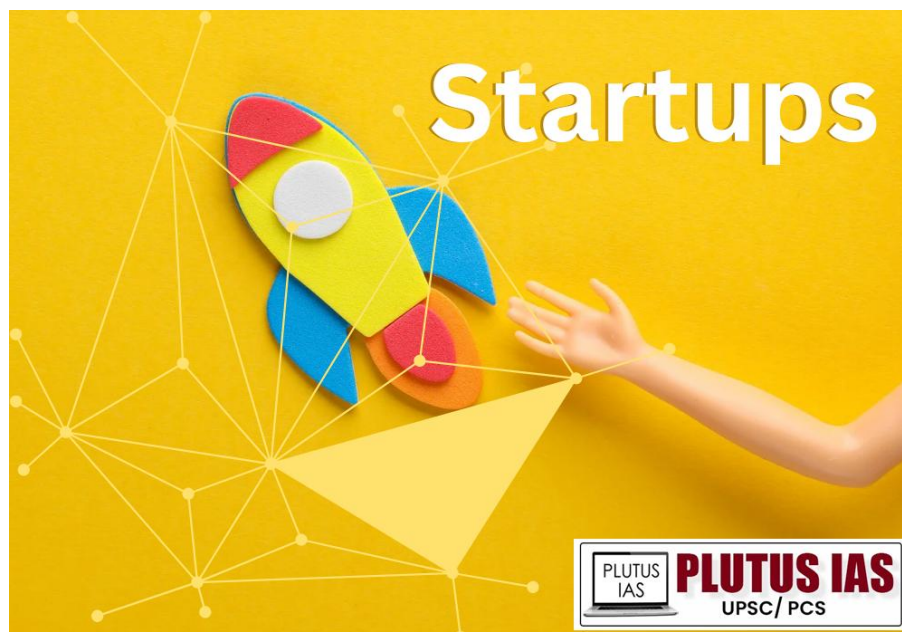
GS- Recent events of national and international importance.

**For Prelims:**

What is the BHASKAR platform, DPIIT mandate, GI tag, and other related mandate of the DPIIT.

**Recent Context:**

DPIIT to launch BHASKAR: A Revolutionary Platform for India's Startup Ecosystem



**Key Facts about BHASKAR**

- **Initiative:** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is launching BHASKAR, a digital platform under the Startup India program.

- **Objective:** BHASKAR aims to centralize, streamline, and enhance collaboration among stakeholders in India's startup ecosystem, including startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government bodies.
- **Vision:** The platform aligns with the Government of India's goal to transform India into a global leader in innovation and entrepreneurship.

#### **Platform Features:**

- **Networking and Collaboration:** Facilitates interaction between various stakeholders.
- **Centralized Resource Access:** Provides startups with immediate access to critical tools and knowledge.
- **Personalized Identification:** Issues unique BHASKAR IDs to each stakeholder for tailored interactions.
- **Enhanced Discoverability:** Offers powerful search features to locate resources, collaborators, and opportunities.
- **Global Branding:** Promotes India's reputation as a hub for innovation and facilitates cross-border collaborations.
- **Impact:** BHASKAR is expected to be a central hub for collaboration, idea exchange, and growth, helping to unlock the full potential of India's startup ecosystem.
- **Launch:** The platform is set to be launched on September 16, 2024.
- **Significance:** BHASKAR will drive India's emergence as a global leader in entrepreneurship by fostering a connected, efficient, and collaborative environment.

### **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**

#### **1. Establishment and Renaming**

**Founded:** 1995

**Reconstituted:** 2000, with the merger of the Department of Industrial Development

**Formerly Known As** the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion

**Current Name:** Renamed as DPIIT in January 2019

#### **2. Expanded Responsibilities**

**E-commerce:** Responsibilities transferred in 2018

**Internal Trade:** Includes welfare of traders and employees (from 2019)

**Startups:** Added to DPIIT's portfolio (from 2019)

**Logistics Sector:** Integrated development responsibility (from November 2021)

#### **3. Core Role**

**Promote Industrial Development:** Facilitate investment in new technologies, accelerate foreign direct investment (FDI), and support balanced industry and trade development

#### **4. Major duties:**

1. General Industrial Policy
2. Productivity in Industry
3. E-Commerce Matters
4. Promotion of Internal Trade
5. Welfare of Traders and Employees
6. Facilitating Ease of Doing Business
7. Start-Ups
8. Integrated Development of Logistics Sector
9. Monitoring Project Implementation
10. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan

## 5. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

**Administration:** Handles protection and administration of IPRs

## 6. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

**Promotion:** Facilitates direct foreign and non-resident investments

**Special Economic Zones:** Includes investments by Overseas Indians

## 7. Industry Development

**Focus Areas:** Includes sectors such as cables, light engineering products, light industries, electrical engineering products, and various other industries not covered by other ministries

## 8. Legislations Administered

1. Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951
2. Explosives Act, 1884
3. Inflammable Substances Act, 1952
4. Boilers Act, 1923
5. Patents Act, 1970
6. Copyright Act, 1957
7. Trade Marks Act, 1999
8. Design Act, 2000
9. National Institute of Design Act, 2014
10. Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
11. Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act, 2000

## PRELIMS QUESTION:

**Q.**With reference to the Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Consider the following statement:

1. The DPIIT is an administrative department under the Ministry of Finance.
2. The major function of the DPIIT is to promote the start-up culture in India.
3. The DPIIT also administers the Geographical Indication of Goods (Registration And Protection) Act 1999.
4. Recently DPIIT launched the BHASKAR platform for the easy approval of the FDI.

**How many of the above-given statements are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

[Munde Dhananjay Navnath](#)



UPSC CSE 2025-26

# GS FOUNDATION

## 18 MONTHS PROGRAMME

### Course Features:

Experienced Faculty

Every Week Current Affairs Classes

Books of Pre & Mains

Personal Mentorship

Online Credentials for Back up Support



**27th SEP**  
**08:00AM**

📍 2nd Floor, Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh Metro Station Gate No. - 6, New Delhi 110005

**OUR CENTERS** Delhi | Chandigarh | Shimla | Bilaspur

✉ [Info@plutusias.com](mailto:Info@plutusias.com)

☎ **8448440231**

🌐 [www.plutusias.com](http://www.plutusias.com)