

Centre sets up task force to accelerate India's EV drive

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NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: To promote the country's electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem in line with its vision of Viksit Bharat, the Centre is in the process of establishing a task force to create a roadmap for the industry, per a letter sent by the ministry of heavy industries (MHI) to automakers that Mint has seen. MHI will finalise the setup of the task force in collaboration with Ficci (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and other agencies.

"The EV task force has been set up to engage with stakeholders through workshops and stakeholder meetings to gather their insights and recommendations on various aspects of EV adoption and infrastructure development," read the letter.

Different agencies have been asked for inputs on 11 topics to build an action plan for EV adoption.

"The agencies involved with the foundation of the EV task force have already started approaching original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to proceed on the project of automotive vision plan for Viksit Bharat 2047," said one person aware of the matter on condition of anonymity.

MHI and Ficci didn't respond to queries sent by Mint till press time.

I.V. Rao, distinguished fellow at TERI, one of the agencies in the task force, confirmed the ministry's move. "While TERI supports other agencies, our primary focus is on identifying and addressing skill gaps in the industry," said Rao. "We have been separately working with heavy duty trucks for a different project, but comprehensive mapping and analysis precede any further action," he added, on whether the task force has



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already started approaching OEMs. "Involving all stakeholders is crucial, but equally important is ensuring that the right individuals represent them."

GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), a German government and European Union (EU) agency, and Ficci will focus on charging infrastructure, while the Retail Motor Industry Organisation (RMI) will concentrate on two- and three-wheelers.

The Indian Battery Swapping Association (IBSA) will look at battery swapping. The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) will handle matters related to electric trucks, and the World Bank (WB) will oversee the subject matter of electric buses.

Additionally, WRI India (World Resources Institute)/Ficci will look into electric four-wheelers, and the US Agency of International Development (USAID) will be responsible for power electronics, devices, and motors.

The India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) is assigned to advanced chemistry cell (ACC) technologies. Primus Partners will explore the development of rare earth magnets. Climate Trends will liaise with testing agencies to ensure compliance and standards, and TERI is tasked with skilling and workforce development to support the burgeoning EV sector.