

DELHI MANDATES EV ADOPTION FOR ONLINE CAB, FLEET AGGREGATORS IN DRAFT SCHEME

Relevant for: Science & Technology | Topic: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government has issued a draft Motor Vehicle Aggregators Scheme, 2021, which has called on online passenger and commercial vehicle operators to increasingly adopt electric vehicles (EVs). Alongside laying down a proposed timeline for adding more electric vehicles to their fleet, the draft scheme has also proposed a continuous driver assessment to boost safety of services in the national capital.

According to the draft scheme, electrification targets will apply only for new cars being brought under the ambit of operators such as Uber, Olacabs and others. Older vehicles already registered under these aggregators will, for the time being, continue operating.

For new fleet additions, the two- and three-wheeler sectors will need at least 10% to be EVs within six months of obtaining an aggregator licence from the Delhi government. Within one year, 25% of all new fleet additions are required to comprise EVs, and within two years, this must rise up to 50%.

For four wheelers, aggregators will need 5% of their new additions to be EVs within six months, rising to 15% in one year and 25% in two years.

The scheme adds that any vehicle aggregator operating with fleets larger than 50 vehicles will be required to comply with its requirements. In terms of licensing, both aggregators and drivers working under them will be required to obtain licences from the Delhi government's transport department. Each of these licences will be renewable on a yearly basis. It incentivises EVs by removing any licence application or renewal fees for them.

Operators registered under this scheme will also be required to set up a 24-hour contact centre in Delhi, which will also need to store real-time data of all vehicles operational under them at any point. These contact centres will also be needed to share any booking related data, including passenger names, car registration numbers and driver details, with the Delhi government's transport department at any given point in time.

In terms of monitoring drivers working under an aggregator, if drivers sees user reports filed against them for more than 15% of trips in a month, the aggregator will be required to take "appropriate action" against them. If drivers are rated below 3.5 of 5 after a year of service, they will be put under an "observation period" of three months. Subject to no improvement in the score, the Delhi government can cancel the licence afforded to them under this scheme.

The scheme also lays down penalties for aggregators operating in Delhi, if they fail to meet any of the mentioned targets.

An Uber India spokesperson said, "We believe that such a shift revolves around an organic ecosystem readiness, which includes well-developed, accessible charging infrastructure, and a pre-existing equivalent offtake of EVs at the point of purchase itself. Equitable sharing of responsibility among various stakeholders across the EV value chain, including vehicle manufacturers, shall be an important determinant of the success of the mandates."

Ola Cabs declined to comment.

Akash Gupta, chief executive of Zypp Electric, a commercial EV startup that supplies fleet vehicles for the likes of Amazon, Zomato and Delhivery, said such a scheme was already expected in the industry. The startup expects its demands to rise six times in the next financial year as a result, and also expects more state governments to adopt such policies.

Never miss a story! Stay connected and informed with Mint. [Download](#) our App Now!!

Log in to our website to save your bookmarks. It'll just take a moment.

Oops! Looks like you have exceeded the limit to bookmark the image. Remove some to bookmark this image.

Your session has expired, please login again.

You are now subscribed to our newsletters. In case you can't find any email from our side, please check the spam folder.

This is a subscriber only feature [Subscribe Now](#) to get daily updates on WhatsApp

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

CrackIAS