

# 'Asset monetisation goal of ₹88k cr to be crossed'

## Aim Should Be To Get At Least 30% Of Auto Mkt Electrified by '30: Niti Aayog CEO Kant

Surojit Gupta & Sidhartha | TNN

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant is confident of meeting the target of raising Rs 88,000 crore from asset monetisation this fiscal year. In an interview to TOI, Kant details the strategy for transition to electric mobility and the need for government departments to push capital spending. Excerpts:

### One of the key themes of Budget is electric mobility. What are the next steps?

An all comprehensive support system, which encompasses different thrust areas of the EV ecosystem — manufacturing, demand creation, regulatory framework, specifications and standards, charging infrastructure, research and development.

We have witnessed an overwhelming response to the National Programme on Advanced Cell Chemistry Battery Storage for achieving manufacturing capacity of 50 GigaWatts. We received responses from 10 bidders for 130GW — this far surpasses our expectations. Second, the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for automobiles and automobile components industry is directed towards EVs and will bring in fresh investments of over Rs 43,000 crore. This PLI has also received an overwhelming response.

We will facilitate transition of industries towards EVs and new technologies. Over 27 states have moved forward in formulating the state EV policies and 18 states have notified these policies. We have now made 2-wheelers and 3-wheelers cheaper than combustion engine vehicles. Under the FAME scheme, 5 lakh EVs have been supported. We have also thrown a grand challenge for 5,585 electric buses, including 135 double-decker buses, which some states wanted. This is the biggest global tender for electric buses in the world. 2,877 chargers in 68 cities across 25 states/UTs and a further approval for 1,576 EV charging stations across 16 highways and nine expressways has been made under the FAME scheme.

Oil companies are putting 2,200 integrated fast charging

stations in their retail outlets. We are determined to have a network of charging stations across all major cities and highways. We have also developed 12 charging standards. We will come up with battery swapping standards and they will be finalised within next 60 days. Niti Aayog will publish the National Battery Swapping Policy within the next three months.

### By when do you think EV's will be about 10-15% of vehicles in India?

Our objective should be to get a minimum of 30% of the

market electrified by 2030. Our target is that from 2025 onwards, on account of lower prices in India, all 2-wheelers and 3-wheelers sold should be electric.

### What has been the progress on asset monetisation after last year's announcement?

The indicative value of the central sector core assets proposed for monetisation is Rs 6

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We will shortly have an interaction with all state governments to drive both infrastructure development as well as asset monetisation programmes of the state governments. The private sector will need to play a crucial role in good quality infrastructure creation

— AMITABH KANT | CEO, NITI AAYOG



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### How significant is the announcement in the Budget to improve logistics? How will it operate?

Logistics is the backbone for realising the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative of the government. It is necessary to interconnect all the players in the logistics chain and the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) aims to deliver that. In ULIP, 24 logistics systems of six ministries and departments have been mapped and integrated through 78 Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) covering 1,454 fields. NICDC's Logistics Data Bank (LDB) project has been leveraged to develop ULIP.

ULIP will be a game changer for logistics in India and it will make India globally cost competitive. A private sector enterprise will then be able to clearly find out which transit mode they should cho-

lakh crore for financial years 2022 to 2025. This includes assets from sectors such as Railways, roads, highways, power generation, coal, mining, transmission, warehouses and hospitality, besides others. This year the target till March 31 is Rs 88,000 crore for various ministries. I can assure you that we are fully confident of achieving this target and surpassing it. Every ministry has worked very sincerely and roads, power, coal, mining, city gas distribution have done well.

### The Budget focuses on a massive capital spending ramp-up. How do you see implementation?

It is a very progressive policy pursued by FM in the Budget. She has actually thrown a challenge to all of us in the civil service to ensure that we are able to structure projects quickly, we are able to get land, we are able to get all the approvals and we are able to get environmental clearances, to be able to get projects off on the ground quickly. This means that we need to roll out projects fast.