

## A milestone's been spied for a switchover to EVs

**Time and again**, road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari has expressed confidence that electric vehicles (EVs) will achieve **price parity** with **conventional petrol burners** in India within two years. **Governments** under climate pressure **are given-to** mixing **projections** with **wishful** thinking, and unless the Centre **amps up** subsidies, that looks unlikely in most market segments. Since electric and fuel-burning engines differ so much, however, the bigger question is their **relative** cost of ownership. On this, **prospects** of **convergence** have been **outlined** by a Crisil Research report. On a broad average, it forecasts the premium paid on **owning** a sport utility vehicle (SUV) that **draws** power from a battery over an SUV that runs on petrol at only 11% in 2025-26, down from 23% at the end of 2021-22. By Crisil's estimates, while **an electric SUV** that **logs** 12,000km over four years **would** cost its owner at least ₹35.2 per km by 2025-26 end, a little more than last year, petrol users will face a steeper rise and have to **shell out** ₹31.8 per km. All vehicles get increasingly **economical** with greater use, but since EVs are seen to do this better, the gap would close sooner for those covering longer distances.

**Any cost trend** that favours EV **adoption** **is** good news from a climate perspective, although electricity generation would also have to go mostly clean for a **mass** switchover to **do-its-bit**. Even then, our green path may not prove as smooth as we hope. **The outgo** on a petrol SUV **is** projected to **go-up** faster than an EV equivalent for reasons that include higher fuel expenses, input costs and a heavier **regulatory burden**, but oil-price **volatility** weakens all forecasts of a big factor in that mix. In general, though, **crude** seems likely to get **dearer** over the years even if it **eases** from today's war-driven level. As for **input-inflation**, **supply snarls** of the sort that disrupt the **assembly** of **fossil-fuel cars** **could** impact EVs too. For example, **the price** of nickel, a key battery input, **has soared** as Russian supplies got **squeezed** after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. **Meanwhile**, China's **dominance** of battery-making **is** another source of **anxiety** for the global EV industry. The US recently **invoked** a defence-production law to secure its own lithium, graphite and other materials for that task. With world trade in a **state-of-flux**, a major EV shift has begun to look **trickier** globally than it did two months ago.

**To-be-sure**, state incentives could **plug cost-of-ownership gaps** in India, even make EVs more attractive. But other **deterrents** remain. While **talk** of **battery-swapping** for energy refills **has** been **in the air**, most four-wheeler EV users will probably have to routinely recharge their power-tank, watch its efficiency **slide** over time and then replace it after a few thousand **plug-ins**, which could **set them back** by a big **lump-sum**. Also, as charging networks **sprout**, these would have to prove their **reliability** on ease of access and speed of recharge before EVs can **nudge** more than just early **adopters** out of their **inertia**. **The pace** at which EV stations **fan-out** from big cities across the country **will** matter too. In some ways, two-wheelers are a test case for EV adoption. These are already financially lighter on users than fossil-fuel alternatives, notes the Crisil study. While their

safety has been a **concern**—currently being **probed** by the Centre after a **string** of fire **mishaps**—sales have seen an **uptick** in recent months. If quality **bugs** are fixed and this market **takes-off**, a wider EV shift would look less **distant**.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Milestone** (noun) – turning point, critical point, major achievement (in development)
2. **Spy** (verb) – Investigate, explore, search, examine जांच करना, पता लगाना
3. **Switchover** (noun) – An instance of adopting a new policy, position, way of life, etc.
4. **EVs** (noun) – Electric vehicles
5. **Time and again** (phrase) – Frequently, often, repeatedly, many times बार-बार
6. **Price Parity** (noun) – a term used to explain when two assets are equal in value.
7. **Conventional** (adjective) – usual, normal, regular, ordinary, traditional, common सामान्य
8. **Petrol Burner** (noun) – Vehicle which runs on petrol i.e. bike, car etc.
9. **Give to** (phrasal verb) – allow, permit, let have, grant, accord अनुमति देना
10. **Projection** (noun) – estimate, forecast, prediction, calculation, prognostication पूर्वानुमान
11. **Wishful** (adjective) – aspiring, hopeful, yearning, ambitious इच्छाकल्पित
12. **Amp up** (phrasal verb) – to Increase the level or amount of (something) sharply.
13. **Relative** (adjective) – comparative, respective, parallel, corresponding, reciprocal आपेक्षिक
14. **Prospect** (noun) – possibilities, potential, expectations, outlook संभावनाएं
15. **Convergence** (noun) – The act or fact of coming together: merging, coming together संमिलन
16. **Outline** (verb) – indicate, summarize, Give a summary of रेखांकित करना
17. **Own** (verb) – be the owner of, possess रखना
18. **Draw** (verb) – take out, produce, extract लेना
19. **Log** (verb) – achieve, make, cover (a certain distance) दर्ज करना
20. **Shell out** (phrasal verb) – pay, spend, expend, pay out, lay out, disburse खर्च करना
21. **Economical** (adjective) –cheap, inexpensive, low-cost, effective किफायती
22. **Adoption** (noun) – Acceptance, implementation, espousal, acquiring अपनाना
23. **Mass** (adjective) – majority, larger number, larger part, greater number बड़े पैमाने पर

24. **Do one's bit** (phrase) – to make a small but expected contribution to a larger goal.
25. **Outgo** (noun) – the outlay of money; expenditure खर्च
26. **Go up** (phrasal verb) – ignite, increase बढ़ना
27. **Regulatory burden** (noun) – It includes taxes, penalty, fine etc.
28. **Volatility** (noun) – Instability, capriciousness, change rapidly and unpredictably (especially for the worse.)  
उतार-चढ़ाव
29. **Crude** (noun) – Natural mineral oil.
30. **Dear** (adjective) – Expensive, pricey, pricy, costly, exorbitant महंगा
31. **Ease** (verb) – reduce, alleviate, lessen कम होना
32. **Input inflation** (noun) – inflation caused by an increase in prices of inputs like labour, raw material, etc.
33. **Snarl** (noun) – A confused, complicated, or tangled situation
34. **Assembly** (noun) – construction, building, manufacture, setting up, putting together निर्माण
35. **Fossil-fuel car** (noun) – vehicles which are powered by fossil fuels, such as gasoline, diesel, kerosene and fuel oil
36. **Soar** (verb) – rise, mount, Escalate  
Increase बढ़ना
37. **Squeeze** (verb) – (especially in a financial or commercial context) have a damaging or restricting effect on. कमी आना
38. **Meanwhile** (adverb) –the while, concurrently, meantime इस बीच
39. **Dominance** (noun) – Power, control, supremacy, influence, leverage दबदबा/बोलबाला
40. **Anxiety** (noun) – worry, concern, nervousness, apprehension चिंता
41. **Invoke** (verb) – put into effect , resort to, use, put into use इस्तेमाल करना
42. **State of flux** (phrase) – constantly changing
43. **Tricky** (adjective) – Complicated, delicate, problematic, complex, difficult पेचीदा/मुश्किल
44. **To be sure** (phrase) – Certainly, ensure, make sure निश्चित रूप से
45. **Plug the gap** (phrase) – Provide something that is lacking in a particular situation.
46. **Deterrent** (noun) – Prevention, restriction, restraint, obstruction, hindrance अवरोध

47. **Battery swapping** (noun) – Battery swapping is when the discharged battery is taken out and interchanged with a fully charged one
48. **In the air** (phrase) – Noticeable all around; becoming prevalent.
49. **Slide** (verb) – Fall, decrease, diminish, go down गिरना/ कमी होना
50. **Plug-in** (noun) – Connect an electrical appliance to the mains by inserting a plug in a socket.
51. **Set back** (phrasal verb) – cost a certain amount; put back
52. **Lump sum** (noun) – A single payment made at a particular time, as opposed to a number of smaller payments or instalments.
53. **Sprout** (verb) – increase, grow, develop, emerge, Appear (suddenly and in large numbers). वृद्धि करना
54. **Reliability** (noun) – Dependability, consistency, trustworthiness विश्वसनीयता
55. **Nudge** (verb) – prompt, encourage, coax, stimulate, prod आगे बढ़ाना
56. **Adopter** (noun) – embracer, accepter ग्रहण करने वाला
57. **Inertia** (noun) – Disinterest, inactivity, Unwillingness, lethargy जड़ता/निष्क्रियता
58. **Pace** (noun) – speed, Velocity tempo, momentum (speed at which something develops) गति
59. **Fan out** (phrasal verb) – to spread out over a wide area विस्तार करना
60. **Concern** (noun) – Anxiety, worry, apprehension fear चिंता
61. **Probe** (verb) – investigate, examine, scrutinize, inquire into जांच करना
62. **String** (noun) – Sequence, series chain श्रृंखला/ क्रम
63. **Mishap** (noun) – trouble, problem, difficulty, issue, setback दुर्घटना
64. **Uptick** (noun) – A small increase. इजाफा
65. **Bug** (noun) – fault, error, mistake, problem त्रुटि
66. **Take off** (phrasal verb) – succeed, do well, thrive, boom, catch on, progress, गति पकड़ना
67. **Distant** (adjective) – Faraway, far-off, remote दूर

### Practice Exercise

**Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the highlighted words**

[Editorial]

1. Governments under climate pressure are given to mixing projections with wishful thinking, and unless the Centre amps up subsidies, that looks unlikely in most market segments
  - A. Ardent
  - B. Augment
  - C. Proponent
  - D. Hedonism
  - E. None of the above
2. By Crisil's estimates, while an electric SUV that logs 12,000km over four years would cost its owner at least ₹35.2 per km by 2025-26 end
  - A. Ideology
  - B. Exult
  - C. Amenity
  - D. Register
  - E. None of the above
3. The outgo on a petrol SUV is projected to go up faster than an EV equivalent for reasons that include higher fuel expenses
  - A. Precipitous
  - B. Steadfast
  - C. Expenditure
  - D. Abysmal
  - E. None of the above

**Direction (Q4 – Q5): Select the antonym of the highlight word referred in the sentence.**

4. All vehicles get increasingly economical with greater use, but since EVs are seen to do this better, the gap would close sooner for those covering longer distances.
  - A. Credulous
  - B. Discreet
  - C. Capitulate
  - D. Expensive
  - E. None of the above
5. The pace at which EV stations fan out from big cities across the country will matter too.
  - A. Elusive
  - B. Restrict
  - C. Exhaustive
  - D. Irascible
  - E. None of the above

[Answer]

**Direction (Q6 – Q10): Improve the underlined part of the sentences, if needed**

6. He has been growing weaker and his wife now hangs with a thread.
- A. on
  - B. to
  - C. by
  - D. No improvement
7. The passengers were afraid but the captain consoled them that there was no danger.
- A. guaranteed
  - B. assured
  - C. confided
  - D. No improvement
8. Would you like some water?
- A. Can
  - B. Do
  - C. Shall
  - D. No improvement
9. The injured man had been shot from his back.
- A. in the back
  - B. to the back
  - C. by his back
  - D. No improvement
10. Luckily we've got the few minutes to spare.
- A. quite few
  - B. a little
  - C. a few
  - D. No improvement

**Cloze test based on Editorial: Coming together****[Answer]**

The benefits \_\_\_\_\_ **11** \_\_\_\_\_ from this unique merger could cut both ways. For one, the cost of funding is likely to drop, which can be passed on to mortgage consumers, further \_\_\_\_\_ **12** \_\_\_\_\_ the entity's position in the sector. The combine will also benefit from efficiency gains owing to \_\_\_\_\_ **13** \_\_\_\_\_ of activities and rationalisation of costs. Further, considering that there is apparently very little customer overlap between the two — a significant share of HDFC's customers don't have bank accounts with HDFC Bank, and an equally high number of HDFC bank customers don't have mortgages from the group — the merger greatly widens the scope for cross selling, from mutual funds to insurance to loans. This presents a \_\_\_\_\_ **14** \_\_\_\_\_ opportunity for the combined entity.

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 11. A. Profound  | B. Stemming      |
| C. Itinerant     | D. Ponderous     |
| 12. A. Cementing | B. Manifesto     |
| C. Orthodox      | D. Virtuoso      |
| 13. A. Sanguine  | B. Streamlining  |
| C. Assimilating  | D. Appropriating |
| 14. A. Lucrative | B. Adulation     |
| C. Insidious     | D. Plebian       |

15. **Which among the following will be the Third sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?**

- P.** While such a move has been discussed for years, changes in the regulatory architecture
- Q.** the central bank has moved to bring about harmonisation in the framework governing banks and non-banking financial companies — have narrowed the “regulatory arbitrage” and created a “conducive environment” for the merger.
- R.** The merger between the country's largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank, and leading mortgage firm, HDFC, announced on Monday, will create a financial behemoth with a market capitalisation of around Rs 14 lakh crore.
- S.** With a combined loan book of nearly Rs 18 lakh crore, the merged entity will be twice the size of its nearest private sector rival. As a consequence,
- T.** the bank's market share will rise to 15 per cent, up from 11 per cent currently, according to S&P Global Ratings.

A. T

B. R

C. P

D. Q

**Answer**

1. B    2. D    3. C    4. D    5. B    6.C    7.B    8.D    9.A    10.C    11.B    12.A    13.B  
 14. A    15. A    **[Practice Exercise]**    **[Cloze test]**

**Explanation**

6. (C) 'with' के बदले 'by' का प्रयोग होगा।
7. (B) 'consoled' के बदले 'assured' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'console' का अर्थ है 'सांत्वना देना', सहानुभूति दिखाना' और इसका प्रयोग किसी व्यक्ति के लिए उसके दुःखी, निराश होने के समय किया जाता है किन्तु 'assure' का अर्थ है 'आश्वासन देना, आश्वस्त करना, भरोसा देना; जैसे-
- No one could console her when her husband died.
  - I assure you that there is no danger here.
8. (D) No improvement.
9. (A) 'from his back' के बदले 'in the back' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'stab somebody in the back' या 'shoot' some body in the head/ in the back' etc. का प्रयोग होता है; देखें-
- She has been stabbed in the chest repeatedly.
  - She was shot there times in the head.
- 10.(C) 'the few' के बदले 'a few' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'the few' का अर्थ है 'जो कुछ' और यह किसी Noun को definite बनाने के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है जबकि 'a few' का अर्थ है 'some (कुछ)' और यह अनिश्चित संख्या का बोध कराने के लिए प्रयुक्त होता है; जैसे-
- He gave me a few books.
  - I have read the few books that you gave me.
11. **Stem from** (phrasal verb) - have its origins in, arise from, originate from, spring from, derive from से उत्पन्न होना
12. **Cement** (verb) - Settle or establish firmly. मजबूती से स्थापित करना
13. **Streamline** (verb) - efficient, smooth-running, well run, well organized, slick कारगर बनाना
14. **Lucrative** (adjective) - profitable, profit-making, gainful, remunerative, moneymaking, लाभप्रद
15. RSTPQ
- The merger between the country's largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank, and leading mortgage firm, HDFC, announced on Monday, will create a financial behemoth with a market capitalisation of around Rs 14 lakh crore. With a combined loan book of nearly Rs 18 lakh crore, the merged entity will be twice the size of its nearest private sector rival. As a consequence, the bank's market share will rise to

15 per cent, up from 11 per cent currently, according to S&P Global Ratings. While such a move has been discussed for years, changes in the regulatory architecture – the central bank has moved to bring about harmonisation in the framework governing banks and non-banking financial companies – have narrowed the “regulatory arbitrage” and created a “conducive environment” for the merger.

### Explanation in English

6. (C) 'by' will be used instead of 'with'.
7. (B) 'assured' will be used instead of 'consoled' because 'console' means 'to console', show sympathy' and it is used for a person when he is sad, disappointed but ' assure' means 'to assure'; As-
  - i. No one could console her when her husband died.
  - ii. I assure you that there is no danger here.
8. (D) No improvement.
9. (A) 'from his back' will be replaced with 'in the back' because 'stab somebody in the back' or 'shoot' some body in the head/ in the back' etc. is used; see-
  - i. She has been stabbed in the chest repeatedly.
  - ii. She was shot there times in the head.
- 10.(C) 'a few' will be used instead of 'the few' because 'the few' means 'whatever' and is used to make a noun definite while 'a few' means 'some (some)' and it is used to denote an indefinite number; As-
  - i. He gave me a few books.
  - ii. I have read the few books that you gave me.

## Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	<b>Ardent</b>	adjective	Passionate	उत्साही
	<b>Proponent</b>	noun	An advocate; a support of a position	समर्थक
	<b>Hedonism</b>	noun	The pursuit of pleasure as way of life	सुखवाद, प्रेमवाद
Q2	<b>Ideology</b>	noun	A system of social or political ideas	विचारधारा
	<b>Exult</b>	verb	To Rejoice; to celebrate	बहुत प्रसन्न होना, हर्षित होना
	<b>Amenity</b>	adjective	Pleasantness; attractive or comfortable feature	सुख सुविधा
Q3	<b>Precipitous</b>	adjective	Steep	तेज़
	<b>Steadfast</b>	adjective	Loyal; faithful	दृढ़
	<b>Abysmal</b>	adjective	Extremely hopeless or wretched; bottomless	अथाह, अति-गहन
Q4	<b>Credulous</b>	adjective	Eager to believe; gullible	विश्वासप्रवणता; भोला, सीधा-सादा
	<b>Discreet</b>	adjective	Prudent; Judiciously reserved	विचारशील, बुद्धिमान
	<b>Capitulate</b>	verb	To surrender; to give up or give in	शर्त पर हथियार डाल देना
Q5	<b>Elusive</b>	adjective	Hard to pin down; evasive	मायावी, कपटपूर्ण
	<b>Exhaustive</b>	adjective	Thorough; rigorous; complete; painstaking	संपूर्ण, विस्तृत, मेहनती
	<b>Irascible</b>	adjective	Easily angered or provoked; irritable	उत्तेजित
Q11	<b>Profound</b>	adjective	Deep (in several cases)	गहन
	<b>Itinerant</b>	adjective	Moving from place to place	चलनेवाला
	<b>Ponderous</b>	adjective	So large as to be clumsy; massive; dull	कष्टकारक

<b>Q12</b>	<b>Manifesto</b>	noun	A public declaration of beliefs or principles, usually political ones	घोषणापत्र
	<b>Orthodox</b>	adjective	Conventional; adhering to established principles or doctrines, especially in religion; by the book	रूढ़िवादी
	<b>Virtuoso</b>	noun	A masterful musician; a masterful practitioner in some other field.	कलाप्रवीण व्यक्ति
<b>Q13</b>	<b>Sanguine</b>	adjective	Cheerful; optimistic; hopeful	आशावादी
	<b>Assimilate</b>	verb	To take in; to absorb to learn thoroughly	अपनाना
	<b>Appropriate</b>	verb	To take without permission; to set aside for a particular use	अपनाना, बचा रचना
<b>Q14</b>	<b>Adulation</b>	noun	Wild or excessive administration flattery	चाटुकारिता, चापलूसी
	<b>Insidious</b>	adjective	Treacherous; sneaky	कपटी
	<b>Plebeian</b>	adjective	Common; vulgar; low class; bourgeois	अशिष्ट