

5-Min Monthly Read April 2026

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Federal Lawsuit Targets California's EV Mandate

The U.S. Justice Department and the Department of Transportation have filed a lawsuit to block California's electric vehicle (EV) mandate, arguing the state is effectively imposing its own fuel economy standards.

Federal officials contend the policy could force automakers to overhaul production nationwide, driving up vehicle costs and limiting consumer choice. California's rules, which aim to accelerate the transition to zero-emission vehicles, are also followed by multiple states, raising the stakes of the case. The complaint also takes issue with California's recent "emergency" vehicle emissions rulemaking.



Read more [here](#).

U.S. Tightens EV Charger Rules with 'Buy America' Push



The U.S. Department of Transportation has proposed expanding Buy America requirements for EV chargers, raising domestic content thresholds from 55% to up to 100% for federally funded projects. The move aims to boost U.S. manufacturing, strengthen supply chains, and address national security concerns by reducing reliance on foreign components. The comment period for the proposal has ended and the updated rules will apply once finalized, impacting charger procurement and installation under federal programs.

What's happening with CAFE Norms in India ? – See next page

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Update on India's CAFE Norms



The Indian government is considering delaying the rollout of its CAFE-III fuel efficiency norms, currently scheduled for April 2027, with the PMO calling for fresh consultations amid disagreements over targets and testing rules. The proposed norms would sharply tighten CO₂ limits to 88.4 g/km by 2027 and 71.5 g/km by 2032, requiring significant EV adoption.

Automakers have raised concerns, with Mahindra warning of up to ₹5,000 crore in annual penalties under current targets. Meanwhile, the government has reduced CAFE-2 penalties for nine carmakers to ₹2,728 crore (down from ~₹7,800 crore), signaling a recalibration of enforcement.

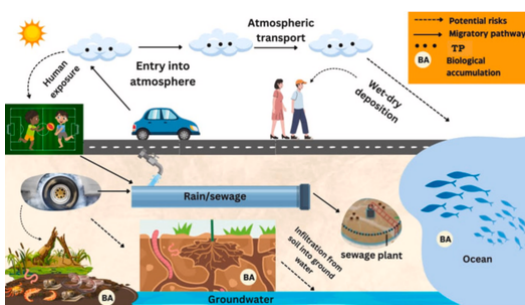
India's EV Policy Shift: Relief for Industry, Pressure on Adoption

India has extended the localization deadline for EV bus and truck motors under the PM E-DRIVE scheme to September 2026, allowing continued imports amid supply chain constraints. The broader PM E-DRIVE scheme has also been extended to March 2028, reflecting slow fund utilisation and implementation challenges.

At the same time, Delhi's EV Policy 2.0 is set to boost adoption with full road tax exemptions and incentives up to ₹1 lakh for electric cars, alongside support for two- and three-wheelers. Nationally, subsidies for electric two-wheelers have been extended to July 2026, though reduced by half, while support for e-rickshaws and e-carts continues until 2028 with capped volumes. Official document here.



UNECE Advances First Global Limits on Tyre Microplastic Emissions



The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has adopted new tyre abrasion limits to curb microplastic pollution, aiming to cut emissions by over 10% and phase out up to 30% of high-abrasion tyres. The rules are expected to be included in EU Euro 7 standards with expected entry into force in 2027. Complementing this, a global expert study highlights key research gaps on tyre particle pollution, identifying priority areas to inform future regulation and environmental risk management.

EU's 'Made in Europe' Industrial Push Gains Momentum

The European Commission's proposed Industrial Accelerator Act marks a major shift in EU industrial policy, aiming to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce reliance on external supply chains. Central to the proposal are "Made in EU" and low-carbon requirements in public procurement and subsidies, particularly targeting sectors like automotive, batteries, and clean technologies.



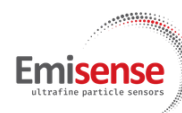
Heard on the street - China VII Proposal Expected soon



This is unofficial - a China VII proposal is being discussed in the industry. Expected is a technology- and fuel-neutral framework covering all vehicle types, with expanded pollutant limits, stronger durability and real-world testing, and broader OBD and telematics monitoring. Expected implementation timing is ~ 2029.

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Engines & Fuels

Volvo Doubles Down on Investment and Hydrogen Innovation



At the 2026 Technology & Maintenance Council (TMC) Annual Meeting, Volvo Trucks North America announced a \$2B investment program, including plant upgrades and a new Mexico factory, alongside a major 400-unit VNL order. The new VNL delivers a 10% fuel efficiency gain, boosting fleet profitability.

Alongside this, Volvo Trucks has announced on-road testing of its H2-ICE powered truck, with a commercial launch planned before 2030. The truck uses the High Pressure Direct Injection (HPDI) technology for diesel-like performance while enabling significantly lower CO₂ emissions.

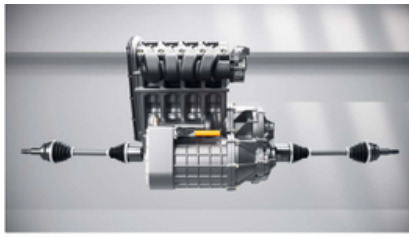


MAN Unveils New 'Lion King' for Heavy-Duty Transport



MAN Truck & Bus has introduced its new TGX 41.640 heavy-duty tractor unit, capable of hauling up to 250 tons. The tractor is powered by the MAN D3876 in-line 6-cylinder engine with 640 hp and 3,000 Nm torque, and integrated heavy-duty components built directly at MAN's production facilities.

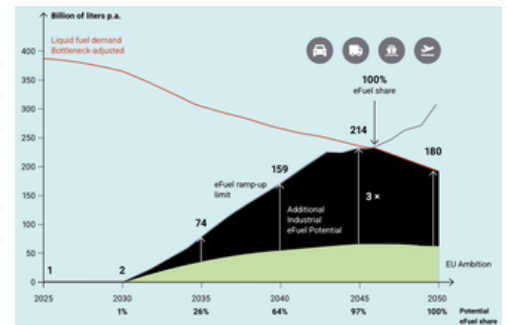
Horse & Repsol Unveil Next-Gen Hybrid Running on 100% Renewable Fuel



Horse Powertrain and Repsol have jointly developed a high-efficiency hybrid powertrain concept that could meaningfully cut transport emissions – without waiting for full electrification. The new HORSE H12 Concept engine achieves 44.2% peak brake thermal efficiency and cuts vehicle fuel consumption by 40% to below 3.3 L/100 kms under standard European testing.

New Study highlights potential for eFuels in Europe

A new study by eFuel Alliance and Porsche Consulting highlights the potential for low-carbon fuels to meet EU decarbonization targets. The study concludes that eFuels could reach > 200 billion liters of gasoline equivalent by 2045, a volume greater than the required demand for renewable fuel in the EU.



MobilityNotes Conference List

Plan your conference/travel – Download a list of noteworthy events in 2026 [here](#)

SAE WCX™, Apr 14–16, Detroit, USA
<https://www.sae.org/events/wcx>

Transportation Energy Institute 2026 Annual Conference, April 20–22, Fort Worth, USA
<https://www.transportationenergy.org/events/transportation-energy-institute-2026-annual-conference/>

UITP Global Public Transport Summit, April 21–23, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
<https://www.uitpsummit.org/dubai2026/>

47th International Vienna Motor Symposium, Apr 22–24, Vienna, Austria
<https://wiener-motorensymposium.at/en/>