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Government Launches LEAF to Strengthen EV Charging Ecosystem

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Why in News?

The Government of India has launched the Light Electric-Vehicle Acceleration Forum (LEAF) to accelerate the development of a robust and standardized electric vehicle (EV) charging ecosystem, particularly for light electric vehicles such as two-wheelers and three-wheelers.

About LEAF Initiative

The LEAF initiative has been launched under the leadership of H. D. Kumaraswamy. It is an industry-led consortium that brings together key stakeholders including vehicle manufacturers, charging infrastructure providers, and technology companies. The primary aim is to create a collaborative platform to address challenges in EV charging and ensure seamless growth of electric mobility in India.

Objectives and Key Features

LEAF focuses on building an interoperable and efficient EV charging network across the country. It aims to improve charging reliability, accessibility, and user experience, thereby reducing range anxiety among users. A major technical aspect of the initiative is the promotion of the Light Electric Combined Charging System (LECCS), which allows both AC and DC charging using a standardized connector, ensuring compatibility across different EV models and charging stations.

Need for the Initiative

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India's EV ecosystem has been facing issues such as lack of standardization, fragmented infrastructure, and inconsistent charging experience. Since electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers form the largest share of EV adoption in India, a focused approach like LEAF is essential to streamline infrastructure and boost consumer confidence.

Government Support and Related Initiatives

The LEAF initiative complements existing government efforts such as the FAME-II scheme (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles), which provides subsidies and incentives to promote EV adoption. It also aligns with India's broader commitments like achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 and reducing dependence on fossil fuel imports.