

INDIA · 2026 COST REVIEW

EV vs Petrol Cost Comparison India 2026

Is switching worth it amid rising fuel prices?

[Read the source article](#)

THE DECISION FRAME

The real comparison is cost per kilometre

Purchase price alone misses running cost, fuel inflation, driving pattern, and charging access. The decision is whether total driving cost is lower at 1,000 km a month and across 60,000+ km of ownership.

PPAC makes retail selling prices visible by city and state, so location matters.

DELHI BENCHMARK

₹102.12

Petrol per litre · 1 July 2026

A useful starting point for comparing what each kilometre costs to drive.

WHY THE GAP OPENS

Efficiency creates the operating- cost gap

After regenerative braking, a typical EV is 87%–91% efficient versus about 30% for a conventional petrol vehicle, **according to the DOE**.

That advantage matters especially in India's urban, stop-and-start driving, where regenerative braking and lower drivetrain losses improve efficiency.



Typical EV

After regenerative braking



Conventional petrol

Lower drivetrain efficiency

THE MODEL

Simple inputs, clear direction

These assumptions indicate the direction of the economics rather than claiming every vehicle or tariff is identical.

15 km/l

Petrol car efficiency

0.17 kWh/km

EV wall-plug consumption

₹8.5/kWh

Home electricity rate

CURRENT-RATE RESULT

At current prices, the EV costs ₹5.36 less per kilometre

METRIC	PETROL CAR	EV
Input used in model	₹102.12/litre petrol	₹8.5/kWh home electricity
Efficiency assumption	15 km/l	0.17 kWh/km
Cost per km	₹6.81/km	₹1.45/km
Difference	₹5.36/km	—

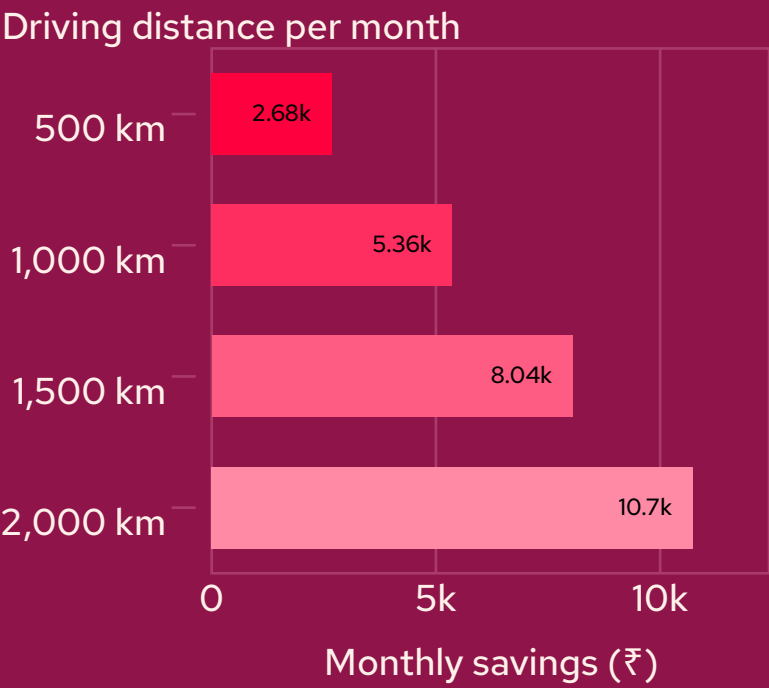
OPERATING-COST GAP

₹5.36

LESS PER KILOMETRE FOR THE EV

These are **direct calculations** based on the current PPAC benchmark and stated assumptions.

Monthly savings scale directly with usage



DRIVING DISTANCE PER MONTH	PETROL SPEND	EV SPEND	MONTHLY SAVINGS	ANNUAL SAVINGS
500 km	₹3,404	₹723	₹2,681.50	₹32,178
1,000 km	₹6,808	₹1,445	₹5,363.00	₹64,356
1,500 km	₹10,212	₹2,168	₹8,044.50	₹96,534
2,000 km	₹13,616	₹2,890	₹10,726.00	₹128,712

The differential is a practical cash-flow advantage for drivers who can use **home charging**.

PRICE EXPOSURE

Rising fuel prices make petrol ownership harder to predict

Petrol is a recurring input whose price is outside the driver's control. PPAC shows ₹102.12/litre in Delhi in July 2026, while local retail selling prices vary by market.

That creates a **location-sensitive cost exposure** for petrol owners. Home or predictable charging makes EV running costs easier to manage.

ONE BENCHMARK

₹102.12/litre

DELHI PETROL · JULY 2026

Local retail selling prices vary by market.

WHERE THE CASE STRENGTHENS

The EV case is strongest in five situations

CONDITION	WHY IT HELPS EVS	RESULT
High monthly mileage	Savings compound with every kilometre.	Faster payback.
Home charging	Electricity can be priced and planned better than petrol.	Lower running cost.
City driving	Stop-go traffic allows regenerative braking to recover energy.	Better efficiency.
Predictable commute	The owner can charge overnight and avoid premium charging.	Cleaner economics.
Multi-year ownership	Operating-cost differences compound over time.	EV advantage widens.

THE NARROW EXCEPTION

Petrol still has a narrow, rational use case

Petrol can make sense when the buyer drives very little, cannot charge at home, or prioritises the lowest upfront purchase price.

The lower sticker price may dominate in the short term, but it does not make petrol cheaper over the long term.

BUYER TYPE	BETTER FIT	WHY
High-mileage commuter	EV	Running-cost difference compounds fast.
City driver with home charging	EV	Strong efficiency and predictable charging.
Low-mileage owner	Petrol	Lower upfront price can dominate short term.
No home charging access	Mixed case	EV savings shrink if charging is expensive or inconvenient.
Long-term owner	EV	Operating cost keeps paying back over time.

THE ARITHMETIC

Break-even turns the debate into arithmetic

₹3 lakh EV premium ÷ ₹5.36/km saving = about 55,939 km to break even.

₹5 lakh EV premium ÷ ₹5.36/km saving = about 93,231 km to break even.

At 1,000 km a month, a ₹3 lakh premium is recovered in less than five years on fuel savings alone. At 2,000 km a month, payback is materially faster.

₹3 LAKH PREMIUM

55,939 km

ABOUT THE BREAK-EVEN
DISTANCE

₹5 LAKH PREMIUM

93,231 km

ABOUT THE BREAK-EVEN
DISTANCE