Discovering the potentials of Bio-fuels

What is the issue?

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- India’s robust transport sector leaves an unsustainable carbon footprint on cities affecting the health of citizens
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- Buses that run on biofuels will mitigate both pollution and congestion.
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What are the concerns of transport sector?

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- The transport sector will add more than 250 million passenger cars, 185 million two- and three-wheelers, and 30 million trucks and vans to the vehicle stock by 2040.
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- The transport sector is the second largest contributor to carbon dioxide.
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- In addition to the health costs of pollution, fossil fuel dependency of the sector continues to burden the exchequer.
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What are the issues with government’s plan on e-mobility?

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- National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020 was also introduced to promote the use of electricity in road transportation.
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- It is aimed to support a target of level of 6 to 7 million hybrid and electric vehicles by 2020.
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- But relying on e-mobility alone will not accomplish India’s ambition to create

a sustainable and green transport on a pan-India basis.
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- Many evidence so far suggests that market uptake of pure electric vehicles has been largely confined to scooters and there is no rapid rollout of electric buses and cars.
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- Even if there is rapid adoption of electric cars, the problem of congestion is increasing due private vehicle growth, government is yet to formulate plans to address this.
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What are bio fuels?

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- Biofuels are fuels produced directly or indirectly from organic material, including plant materials and animal waste.
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- Sewage treatment plants are a gold mine for vehicular fuel and currently generate around 70 billion litres of waste-water every day.
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- Bio- fuels can be generated from local municipal waste and used in Public and private vehicles to address pollution.
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- Biofuels may also be derived from forestry, agricultural or fishery products or municipal wastes, as well as from agro-industry, food industry and food service by-products and wastes.
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- This will provide additional incomes to the farmers and will reduce government’s exchequer.
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What measures needs to be taken on bio-fuel initiatives?

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- Rapid adoption of bio-fuels requires government support to all stakeholders to manufacture biofuel engines, suppliers of biofuels and of course fuelling infrastructure.
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- By building biogas generation and upgrading facilities at the Sewage

Treatment Plants, the output can possibly substitute 350 million litres of diesel, and over 8 million LPG cylinders of 14.2 kg capacity.
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- Such projects need urgent attention and fiscal support from Central and State governments.
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- There have been no fiscal incentives to encourage biofuel-based mass transport, buses which can run on biofuel now attract 28 per cent GST plus 15 per cent cess this needs to be addressed.
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Source: Business Line

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