

Future of Electric Cars

Why in news?

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- Britain recently decided to outlaw the sale of new diesel and petrol cars and vans from 2040 in a bid to cut air pollution.

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- French government also made a similar proposal to ban petrol and diesel cars, including hybrid vehicles that have an electric motor and a petrol or diesel engine.

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What are the challenges?

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- In the UK, demand for diesel cars dropped 10% in the second quarter of this year.

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- People like the idea of reducing their carbon footprint, as well as electric cars' fast acceleration and noiselessness.

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- But there are several challenges.

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- No more than 10% of those who consider an electric vehicle actually buy one.

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- There are the longer-term questions of whether the charging infrastructure will keep up with the number of vehicles, and availability of electrical grids.

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- Financial incentives can help by bringing electric-car prices close to those of traditional vehicles but they're not enough for a breakthrough.

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- Only countries such as Norway, where the incentives make electric vehicles appreciably cheaper to buy and own, have seen significant uptake.

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- Governments are rightly hesitant to force something on consumers that

doesn't really work for them.

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Source: Live Mint

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