Promoting Alternative Mobility Solutions

What is the issue?

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- In India urban pollution is significantly on rise concerning people’s health.
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- India needs to offer monetary incentives and other subsidies to e-vehicle manufacturers to address this issue.
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What is the status of pollution in India?

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- The WHO global air pollution database report that ranked 14 Indian cities among the 15 of the world’s most polluted.
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- India’s urban pollution as measured by PM 2.5 level is already about 40 per cent above the global safe limits across major Indian cities.
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- World Bank assesses health and welfare losses at 7.7 per cent of India’s GDP (PPP adjusted).
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- If these costs are unchecked, they will grow sharply in the coming decades.
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What are the major contributors of air pollution in India?

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- **Domestic Activity -** Usage of kerosene, coal and wood fires for cooking are major contributors on domestic activity.
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- **Vehicular pollution -** It contributes around 35 per cent of the total PM 2.5 emissions today.

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- Of the total vehicular pollution, 40 per cent to 45 per cent comes from two-wheelers and another 30 per cent to-35 per cent from four wheelers.
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- In a future with internal combustion engines vehicles, urban pollution will continue to remain 25 per cent to 30 per cent above safe global standards because of the growth in automobiles.
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What measures needs to be taken?

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- India need to speed up the journey towards **LPG and solar-powered stoves** to reduce the impact from domestic activity.
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- It needs to combine the already-proposed tighter emission norms (in form of BS VI), with a push for **shared mobility and public transport** and adoption of alternate mobility technologies.
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- The policy roadmap should encompass three key elements based on global learnings.
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1. **Incentives for** adoption of alternate mobility technologies like **Electric vehicles.**
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2. Restrictions on elements that contribute negatively to strategic objectives (such as congestion charges on polluting technologies).
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3. Provision of enabling infrastructure.
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- Thus government needs to drive immediate investments by providing subsidies and tax breaks to local manufacturers along with support for research and development in the e-mobility domain.
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Source: Indian Express

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