Total Ban on Diesel Vehicles in India

Why in news?

A government panel has recommended to ban all the diesel four wheelers by 2027.

Why did the panel recommend to ban diesel vehicles?

- **Greenhouse gas emissions** - To achieve the stated aim to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 40% to mitigate climate change.
- **Net zero goal** - To produce 40% of its electricity from renewables as part of its 2070 net zero goal.
- **Oxides of nitrogen (NOx)** - The higher compression ratio of diesel engines increase emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx).
- **Volkswagen emissions scandal** - Led to an increase in the negative perception against diesel across markets, including India.

> *A panel formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has recommended a ban on the use of diesel-powered four-wheel vehicles by 2027 in **cities with a population of more than 1 million**.*

What is the importance of the diesel vehicles?

- Diesel engines have higher fuel economy than petro engine.
- Diesel engines do not use high-voltage spark ignition (spark plugs), and thus use less fuel per kilometer.
- Diesel engines have higher compression ratios, making it the fuel of choice for heavy vehicles.
- Diesel engines offer more torque (rotational or turning force) and are less likely to get stalled.

> *Diesel currently accounts for about 40% of India's petroleum products consumption.*

What will be the consequences if there is a total ban?

- **Affects transportation** - Around 87% of diesel fuel sales are in the transport segment, with trucks and buses accounting for about 68%.
- **Affects the state's GDP** - Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Haryana make up almost

40% of the diesel sold in India.

- **Affects the auto manufactures** - The auto manufactures have heavy invested in transition their diesel fleet from BS-IV to BS-VI emission norms.
- **Low availability of alternates** - The commercial vehicle segment have not explored much of the alternatives such as electric vehicles which would cause serious disruptions in the segment.

What is the way forward?

- According to Energy Transition Advisory Committee report LNG has the potential to replace both diesel and CNG in heavy-duty vehicles and thereby reduce GHG emissions.
- The diesel should be phased out, rather than proposing a complete ban to avoid any serious disruptions.
- Railways and gas-powered trucks could be used for the movement of cargo.
- Indian should built underground gas storage to meet any unforeseen demand of energy in the future.

Quick facts

Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC)
• PPAC is attached to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was created effective from 1st April 2002. • PPAC assists the Government in discharge of some of the functions earlier performed by Oil Coordination Committee (OCC). • The expenditure of PPAC is borne by Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). • The functions of PPAC includes - Administration of ***subsidy on PDS Kerosene*** and domestic LPG and ***freight subsidy*** for far flung areas. - Maintenance of information data bank and communication system to deal with emergencies and unforeseen situations. - Analyzing the ***trends in the international oil market*** and domestic prices. - Forecasting and evaluation of petroleum import and export trends.

Reference

1. The Indian Express | Ban On Diesel Vehicles

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