

Towards Electric mobility

What is the issue?

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Despite policy uncertainties, companies in the transportation sector are spending big on infra and R&D to be part of the ongoing electric revolution.

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What is the roadmap?

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- Transportation sector accounts for over 10% of India's carbon emissions.
- Thus the government is keen to switch from polluting internal combustion engines to electric vehicles.
- However, it can't dramatically alter the auto-industry landscape from two-wheelers to passenger vehicles and trucks.
- Automobiles gulp 30% of the petroleum from its refineries and since electric vehicles have fewer components than an internal combustion vehicle, the components sector could be devastated by a rapid switch-over to electric road power.
- Hence, the government has made a target that EVs will make up 33% of vehicles on the road only by 2030.

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What are the initiatives taken in this regard?

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- New ride-sharing or motorbike-taxi companies have sprung up in India in the last few years, which help to boost electric two-wheeler sales.
- Companies are getting involved in customising the vehicles to be made

“stronger” to take the strain of multiple users in case of ride-sharing.

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- Along with that, the companies need to be spent on a mix of R&D, manufacturing facilities, marketing and awareness-creation on electric vehicles.

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- Automobile companies, along with ride-sharing ones, decided to set up charging networks in the metro cities like Delhi and Bengaluru.

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- Some companies have aimed to build a plant and localise battery production with their own funds.

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- They have even worked out an app to enable bookings at charging stations and say which ones have the right type of charger.

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- All these initiatives are a welcoming move in the complete switch over to electronic vehicles in the country.

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What should be the immediate focus?

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- The auto majors are pushing for the government to give more support to hybrid vehicles in the coming years.

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- A hybrid vehicle is one that uses more than one means of propulsion, wherein a petrol or diesel engine will be combined with an electric motor.

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- Auto industry experts argue that hybrids would obviate the need for an extensive network of charging stations.

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- It would also be a way of saving a large number of components firms that might be put out of business if EVs take over the roads totally.

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- Thus, the immediate future of EVs lies with two-wheelers and public transport, focussing especially on hybrid vehicles.

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- But as battery prices fall, there will be a transition from hybrid to electric vehicles, along with an increasing number of electric four-wheelers in the country.

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Source: Business Line

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