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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.

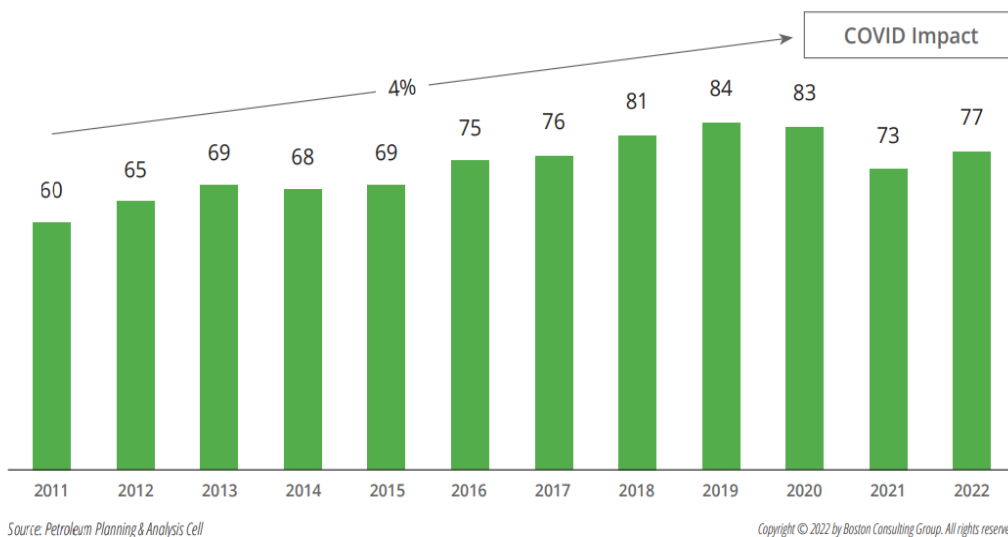
*A panel formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has recommended a ban on the use of diesel-powered four-wheel vehicles by 2027 in **cities with a population of more than 1 million**.*

What is the importance of the diesel vehicles?

- Diesel engines have higher fuel economy than petrol 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.

Exhibit-11.1: Diesel Consumption in India (in Million Metric Tonne)



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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