

U. P. S. C.

Electric mobility is not the only solution for India for air pollution.

India's drive towards Electric Vehicle (EV)-led mobility has accelerated in recent years, but it has raised more environmental questions than it answers.

For one, the charging infrastructure is expected to be heavily reliant on coal-based power, indirectly increasing the green house gas emissions. Then, there is bigger question of what to do with the heap of electronic waste generated from worn-out lithium-ion batteries, which drive E.Vs.

Recently present ruling government has decided to more than half the GST on EVs from 12% to 5%. It also has slashed the GSTs on EV chargers from 18% to 5%, the new rates being effective from 1st Aug. 2019.

Other major causes of air pollution in India :-

- ~~Stubble~~ Uncontrolled stubble burning in the farms near the outskirts of metro-politan cities.
- Increase use of coal-based fuel in power generation and other industries like steel etc.

U. P. S. C.

- Release from agriculture fields.
- Use of fossil fuel (e.g. wood, cow dung etc.) for cooking food mostly in rural areas.
- Unable to upgrade the ~~standards~~ emission standards of the existing vehicles running to reduce the emissions of NO_x and SO_x .
- Un-controlled deforestation.

Way forward :-

India should ~~adopt~~ definitely adopt every new eco-friendly technology, but only when it is relevant and feasible. Why not let this be self-propelled movement by automotive and technology industries, rather than a mandate for state. We still can not ensure 24x7 electricity supply to hospitals and schools. All our villages still do not have reliable electricity supply. They only have "connected" to grid. Nearly 80% of the electricity is produced from coal and gas. Yet another 50,000 MW of ~~coal~~ ~~the~~ ~~electricity~~ ~~from~~ ~~coal~~ ~~and~~ ~~gas~~ power plants are being set up under National Electricity plan, About \$2 billion worth of battery storage is imported every year. ~~Yet~~, we should not push ourselves into a solution knowing well that there will be immense pressure on a power grid which is not fully reliable.