

‘Exploring linking scrappage norm to pollution metric’

DHRUVAKSH SAHA

New Delhi, 10 September

Following concerns over the new vehicle scrap-page policy, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is studying whether it can link the vehicle scrapping mandate to the pollution levels of vehicles instead of their age, according to the Union Road Transport and Highways Secretary Anurag Jain.

“People tell us that if they've maintained their vehicle well, why should they be mandated to scrap it? We are studying whether we can enforce a scrapping mandate where the upper limit is relative to the pollution of the vehicle, for example, pre BS-1 or pre BS-2, instead of the 15-year mandate,” Jain said at the 64th Annual General Meeting of Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). They would, however, need to be a trustworthy system of issuing pollution certificates, he added, seeking inputs from the industry on how to make the framework watertight. The secretary was addressing a session on sustainable mobility. Currently, vehicles that are more than 15 years old will have to be scrapped under the Central government’s scrappage policy. Reports suggest that in several states, the Centre’s scrappage programme has struggled to take off. Earlier, Union minister Nitin Gadkari also urged the sector to increase discounts related to the scrapping of old vehicles against the purchase of new ones, adding that it will help decrease pollution and reduce steel imports significantly.