

Alt fuels turn ignition key in mobility sector

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During the 63rd Annual Convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam), the Indian automotive industry and the government reached a mutual agreement to collaborate closely in their efforts to embrace alternative fuels. They aim to achieve carbon neutrality well ahead of the 2070 deadline.

Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari urged the automotive industry to shift away from environmentally harmful fuels like diesel and petrol in favour of alternative, eco-friendly options. He emphasised the need for the industry to rapidly expand its utilisation of green technologies, including biofuels, electric vehicles (EVs), and hydrogen-powered vehicles. Expressing gratitude for the industry's efforts in decreasing the use of diesel in passenger vehicles from 53 per cent in 2014 to 18 per cent in 2023, he encouraged the industry to continue reducing this figure.

He cautioned that if the industry doesn't make further progress, the government may implement stricter policies. "Bring down the diesel vehicle's share; otherwise, we will have to impose an additional 10 per cent pollution tax," Gadkari said.

Vinod Aggarwal, president of Siam and managing director (MD) and chief executive officer of Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicles, underscored the imperative need for sustainable mobility to secure a better tomorrow.

He highlighted the six pillars of sustainability on which the automotive industry and Siam are presently focusing in close association with the government, namely Jaivik Pahal (biofuel), Vidyutikaran (electrification), Gas Gatisheelta (gaseous fuels), Harit Hydrogen (green hydrogen), Chakriyata (recycling), and finally Surakshit Safar (safe journey). He also mentioned the progress undertaken by the industry to increase its localisation

Sustainable mobility need of the hour: Modi

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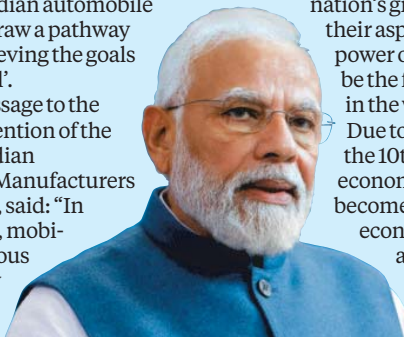
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday stressed the need to develop a mobility ecosystem that is sustainable and in harmony with the environment while also asking the Indian automobile industry to draw a pathway towards achieving the goals of 'Amrit Kaal'.

In his message to the annual convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam), Modi, said: "In today's India, mobility in its various forms is a key driver of

growth. As crores of people move out of poverty into the neo-middle class there is social and economic mobility," the Prime Minister said in the address, which was read out by Siam President Vinod Aggarwal.

He said, "As they push the nation's growth through their aspirations, they power our economy to be the fastest growing in the world.

Due to this, from being the 10th largest economy, India has become the 5th largest economy. Soon, we are poised to reach the top 3."



content. Alternative fuels are often low-cost, produce less waste and particulate matter, carbon monoxide, unburned hydrocarbons, and sulphur dioxide. Shailesh Chandra, vice-president of Siam and MD of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, said, "Siam has embarked on a proactive journey, with a strong focus on biofuels and a future centred around green energies."

Gadkari urged the automotive industry to increase the production of EVs. He said that EV sales in India are expected to reach 10 million by 2030. Gadkari also urged the industry to move towards green hydrogen. He added that the government is working on generating thermal, hydro, wind, nuclear, and geothermal energy to meet the growing demand for electricity from EVs. The minister underscored that transitioning away from fossil fuels is not merely an environmental imperative but also a significant economic

one. India's monthly import bill for oil is around \$10 billion.

"Flex-fuels are the solution for the future. Biofuel is cheaper and generates jobs, making it a good option for developing countries," Suaní Teixeira Coelho, professor at the Institute of Energy and Environment and Coordinator of the Research Group of Bioenergy at the University of Sao Paulo, said. Coelho highlighted that Brazil started its transition for economic reasons, but today, it is a necessity to decarbonise the environment.

Minister of Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey highlighted that the government will help the industry in achieving its targets.

"We have extended the production-linked incentive scheme by another year to enable the automotive industry to reap the benefits of the incentives being provided for manufacturing advanced automotive technologies," Pandey said.