

Army pushes green initiatives; to buy light electric vehicles, buses and bikes

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With India ranking at the bottom of carbon footprint global index, the Army has pitched in with a roadmap to introduce environment-friendly steps including inducting Electric Vehicles (EVs).

The Army intends to procure about 25 per cent light vehicles, 38 per cent buses and 48 per cent motorcycles in select units depending on feasibility, said Army officials.

Last month, the Army's Western Command (WC) and the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for drawing 25 MW solar power directly from the National Solar

Grid for next 27 years. Before that in 2021, the Army had installed the first green solar energy harnessing plant of 56 KVA in Sikkim.

CAPITAL ROUTE

To begin with, additional e-buses will be procured for select peace establishments. An Open Tender Enquiry (OTE) for procurement of 60 electric buses along with 24 fast chargers will soon be floated.

The requirement, said the Army, was worked out on the basis of operational role and these EVs will establish the right momentum for setting up the ecosystem for further induction of vehicles running on alternative fuel in the armed forces. Army, however, has already started using EVs as part of Civil Hired Transport (CHT). Sta-



tions like Delhi Cantonment have already established charging stations to support EVs. At Delhi Cantt, a number of charging stations are also open to civilians.

INFRA ECOSYSTEM

Enabling infra ecosystem is also being created by the Army for induction of EVs. Support infrastructure being established are EV charging points in the parking lots of offices and residential com-

plexes for on board charging. At least one fast charger and two to three slow chargers will be available at each charging station. Electric circuit cables, transformers with adequate load bearing capability based on anticipated number of EVs per station, said the Army.

Solar panel driven charging stations are also planned to bring carbon footprint of these EVs to near zero, the Army announced.

The Army is attempting to amplify Prime Minister Narendra Modi's effort who has pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. "Considering the pace of greener initiatives being adopted by the Centre, it is necessary to adapt to the changing environment," the army acknowledged.