

# + Public-private partnership model mooted for building reliable EV charging network in cities

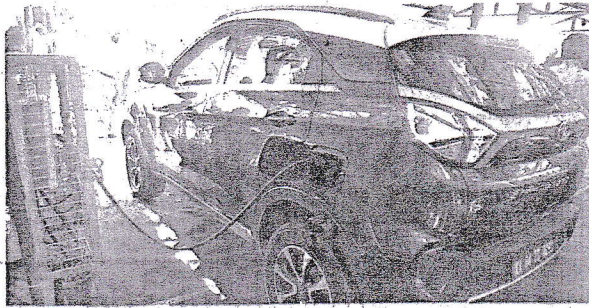
**G Balachandar**  
Chennai

Public-private partnerships are a viable model for scaling up EV charging networks in cities and also to provide reliable charging solutions to drive electrification of commercial passenger fleet.

Over the past few months, electrification of commercial fleet has gathered pace, driven by lower operating costs and emission-related goals. This June, Tamil Nadu allowed commercial fleet to operate electric cars for passenger transportation.

Even as the private sector is keen to scale up investments in charging infrastructure, system glitches at public charging stations and non-performing units set up by government-owned entities are bottlenecks for fleet operators.

There are many non-functional charging stations in



**OUT OF ORDER.** System glitches at public charging stations and non-performing units set up by govt-owned entities are bottlenecks for fleet operators

Chennai and New Delhi.

## GOVT SPACES

Industry stakeholders point out that government spaces in major cities could be licensed to private vendors to build, operate, and maintain charging stations.

“For the past few weeks, we have been successfully running electric cars in our fleet for staff and people transportation. We have already taken delivery of 116

electric cars from Tata Motors for our Chennai fleet, and we have plans to add another 100 electric cars to the Chennai fleet and 30 more to the Coimbatore fleet,” says S Natarajan, MD of New Pandian Travels, which has a fleet of 4,000 vehicles.

While NPT is chalking out plans to add more e-cars to its fleet in Chennai, inadequate charging infrastructure and non-functional charging stations are posing

challenges. Some public charging units in Chennai metro stations and in the fuel outlets of oil majors are not functioning.

In Delhi, too, a number of public charging stations of public sector entities are not functioning.

EESL admits that there are teething issues in its public charging stations in New Delhi and Tamil Nadu.

Rajneesh Rana, Head, Convergence, EESL, says charging units of EESL go out of order due to various reasons – glitches in software, equipment issues, power connection issues.

The infrastructure set up involves multiple stakeholders, such as land-owning agencies, charging equipment suppliers, State discoms. So, there could be different reasons every time it goes out of order.

“However, things will turn better as the space is maturing well,” he added.