

## Projects worth ₹1.2 lakh crore underway in Punjab: Assocham

**Chandigarh:** As many as 248 projects, involving an investment of Rs 1.20 lakh crore, are under implementation in Punjab, with considerable cut in time taken for project completion, says an Assocham study. Most of the projects are in the services sector (other than financial) that constitute 45.1% of outstanding investment in 2017-18, followed by construction and real estate with 26.1% and manufacturing with 20.9%, the study said. TNS

## TS mulls budgetary support to spur EV adoption

Consultations among departments on Electric Vehicle policy concludes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

The State government's upcoming policy on electric vehicles (EV) will push for provision of annual budgetary support towards measures to speed up adoption of the eco-friendly vehicles.

Industries and IT Secretary Jayesh Ranjan stated that inter-departmental consultations on the policy, whose draft was circulated some time ago, has concluded. He said a lump sum would likely be called for to help undertake the necessary interventions.

Measures to spur the demand, provide supply or create the required infrastructure would be undertaken, the senior official told a conference on electric mobility that industry body Assocham had organised in the city on Wednesday.

The policy would spell out benefits the State government would extend to support manufacturing of the vehicles as well as components besides in the field of battery technology and telematics.

"We have the inputs of all line departments. All possible interventions to take care of supply, demand and infrastructure has been identified in the policy," he said, while maintaining a suspense on the launch date.

### 2030 deadline

Electric vehicle adoption on a mass scale has assumed significance in the country against the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi setting a 2030 deadline for registration of only EVs.

The cornerstone of the State's EV policy, he declared, would be its flexibility. "We have provided a fairly good deal of flexibility and have deliberately, very consciously refrained from committing to any number," Mr. Ranjan said, pointing out that by setting num-

bers with regard to beneficiaries, incentives and the time frame policies tend to get cast in stone.

"The kind of flexibility that typically we don't see in government policy has been brought in. We have decided there will be a participatory decision making body, an empowered committee that will at the spur-of-the-moment decide if a particular intervention is the most needed one," he said.

Such flexibility, he explained, was also needed, given the dynamic changes witnessed in the EV space.

Earlier, Director-Automotive in TSIIC Vijay Jaiswal told the opening session of the conference that several private firms had evinced interest in setting up charging infrastructure for EVs and by the end of this year, 100 such facilities were likely in the city.

President of trade and industry body FTAPCCI Gowra Srinivas underscored the significance of an attractive policy for EVs as they were key to addressing air pollution.

## NEW POLICY

# Govt plans to make TS a hub for EV manufacturing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Hyderabad

IN a bid to promote Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing, the state government will assist private firms set up manufacturing units in Telangana by providing long-term lease of government lands at subsidised rates and a battery disposal infrastructure among others. These policy initiatives are in the last stages of consideration by the state government.

The Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation made the announcement at the Electric Mobility Conference organised by ASSOCHAM with the support of state government on Wednesday. While lands would be leased out for setting up of charging or swapping infrastructure, battery disposal infrastructure would come up on a PPP model.

Though the State released a draft policy on EVs in September last year, the final draft is yet to be made public. The state through this policy hopes to en-

courage those working in the EV sector to set up their manufacturing units in the state. The policy also aims to facilitate the better adoption of EVs in the State, starting with Hyderabad. As a part of this, the government recently announced that 100 EV charging points will be set up along the Metro Rail cor-

ridor with the aim of improving mobility. However, experts feel public adoption of EV will depend on the ease of charging or swapping batteries. "The best EV batteries presently available in the market require minimum four hours to charge, so will the vehicle owner wait for four hours till the vehicle gets charged?," asked Chandu Kumar Potti, MD and Chief Executive of Versatile Auto

components private limited.

The other option available is battery swapping. "When one battery runs out, you can go to a battery station, like a fuel pump, and exchange the spent battery with a fully charged one. But this model is expensive and not everyone can afford a spare battery," said Kumar.



**The best EV batteries presently available in the market require minimum four hours to charge, so will the vehicle owner wait for four hours till the vehicle gets charged**

Chandu Kumar Potti,  
MD of private firm

## Range anxiety remains a concern, says report

BUSINESS BUREAU

Hyderabad

Transition to electric vehicles (EVs) is necessary for the Indian automotive industry to retain its foothold and also to gain new ground as the world shifts towards EVs. The Indian market is at a nascent stage with EVs accounting less than one per cent of overall vehicle sales. The market is now seeing renewed interest and engagement on the back of Government's plans to achieve complete electrification by 2030, said a report.

Titled 'Electrifying India: Building blocks for a sustainable EV ecosystem', brought by industry lobby body Assocham and EY at an event organised by

FTAPCCI and Government of Telangana, the report said India is exploring cost effective viable solutions to deal with pollution. Now, the EV industry is dominated by two-wheelers and e-rickshaws. A varied pace of electrification is expected across different vehicle segments, it said.

The report said India is fifth largest light vehicle market in the world with 3.2 million cars sold in 2017-18. The market offers a significant growth potential given a very low vehicle penetration at 36 personal vehicles per 1000 driving population. The acceptance of EVs will depend on range, cost, charging infrastructure and use cases.

Corporate fleets, which

have a defined route and operations in a limited geography, will be the first ones to adopt. Cab aggregators are likely to be willing to adopt EV due to the low running costs, it said adding that intra-city bus segment is more market-ready than other segments because of shorter trip length, route predictability and ease of charging at depots. One of the major barriers to the adoptions of EVs is range anxiety. A thriving network of charging infrastructure will help proliferation of EVs, it said adding that India now has about 222 charging stations. Telematics can tell about distance that can be covered, location of charging station and its availability, it said.