

'Public transport should go up, not personal mobility'

No Need Of Special Sops For EVs: Gadkari

New Delhi: Sale of personal cars in India should take a back seat and efforts should be made to invigorate public transport and shared mobility that runs on clean energy, the government said on Thursday.

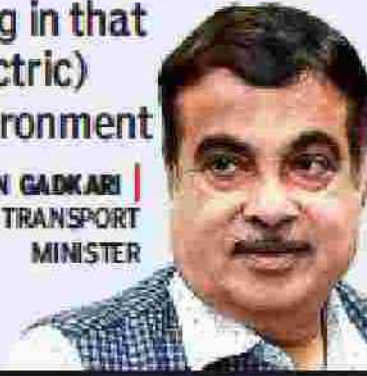
However, while promoting clean energy solution, the government said that special incentives for electric vehicles are not required. "With GST on EVs at 12%, I don't think there is any further need for a subsidy... we need to think innovatively to bring in that (electric) environment," transport minister Nitin Gadkari said at an event organised by industry body Siam.

"My ministry has prepared a detailed report to raise the production of EVs through non-fiscal initiatives over the next five years," the minister said, while clarifying that subsidy is not mandatory.

The minister said that the auto industry should strive to realise at least 15% sales thro-

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—NITIN GADKARI |
TRANSPORT
MINISTER



ugh electrics over the next five years. "This is not mandatory, but I would want the companies to work towards this number."

On the issue of public transport solutions, Gadkari as well as Niti Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar said that they need to be promoted more aggressively in view of rising congestion within the metros and growing pollution across many cities.

"Public transport should

go up, and not personal mobility," Gadkari told TOI. "Pollution is a problem across our cities and steps are required to counter this."

Kumar, who spoke at an industry session organised by auto body Siam, also said that India "cannot afford" to have a car population that mirrors the numbers in the west. "India cannot succeed, and the world cannot afford, if we adopt the same transport model as that of some of the advanced economies, which is based on personalised transport," he said, making a strong pitch for boosting shared mobility solutions.

"Today, the population of cars in India is around 18 per 1000. In America, this is around 900. We cannot go in that direction. If we do that, then the carbon footprint and the availability of space due to congestion will simply not be affordable for us. So, let us charge our mindset towards only a ride, be it shared, or through public transport."