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AN IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS ON SOCIETAL SHIFT TOWARDS ELECTRONIC VEHICLES IN INDIA AND ITS IMPACTS FROM AN INDIAN LEGAL PERSPECTIVE.

AUTHORED BY - GNANAVEL L

ABSTRACT:

India is a developing nation with a vast marketplace. The economy is quickly expanding as a result of the rapidly building infrastructure. The automobile industry has evolved due to the invention of new technology. India's demand for affordable, less-polluting electric vehicles is expanding day by day. India is converting to electric automobiles. However, the route to EV adoption's advancement does not appear to be easy, and it may require effort from the public and the government. This paper analyses on the societal shift towards modern electronic vehicles and also the impact caused. There is a need to develop an alternative energy source to power the vehicle due to the current degradation of fossil resources and their increase in price. As a response to India's industry and environment, the automotive industry is moving towards electric automobiles. Despite governments' implementation of EV regulations, EV sales are now at a low level. This paper will examine the accessibility of electric vehicles in the nation and examine their compatibility with local conditions. The study will also give an outline of India's EV market divisions. This paper also discusses the economic, technical, social, and environmental variables influencing the electric car market in India.

Keywords: Electric Vehicles, Society, Renewable, Carbon emissions, Adoption.

1. INTRODUCTION:

India has the third-largest number of road connections worldwide. For Indians, taking the road is the preferred mode of transportation. Almost 60% of people travelled by either their own or shared vehicle. The primary contributors to air pollution and global warming are petrol and diesel. The transportation industry dominates and heavily influences the nation's GDP. By the year 2030, there will be roughly 40 crore people in India who need mobility solutions, making it the fifth largest auto marketplace in the world and perhaps among the top three. Due to the rising climate as well as economic issues the government as well as the people are started moving towards the electronic vehicles such Electric cars, electric scooters and bikes.

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India is attempting to go electric, with over seven and a half lakh electric vehicles now registered there and over eight hundred charging stations. Electric vehicles should be used globally and in India for a number of reasons. The last few decades have seen an increase in initiatives and interest in preserving the environment and the climate. India is one of the most populous nations as well as one of the economies that is developing, thus there is a lot of transportation available to meet the needs of the nation. Globally, the demand for electric vehicles (EVs) is growing swiftly. EV sales have recently accelerated significantly worldwide, including in India. Despite the truth that India still has a ways to go before realising its goals for electric vehicles, it is clear that these vehicles present a significant opportunity for growth now and over the long term. This is a system that calls for a sensible approach from governments and organisations.

1.1 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

- To investigate the growth and competitiveness of the Indian automobile industry.
- To analyse the impact of EVs in India and societal shift towards it through legal perspective.

1.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study and analysis is purely based on secondary sources of data. Different books, article newspapers and relevant websites are referred. Google Scholar and another research database were used to find the secondary source by compiling several pertinent published papers, journals, reports, and periodicals on the topic indicated in the study brief.

2. AN OVERVIEW OF INDIA'S ELECTRIC VEHICLE MARKET GROWTH:

India is currently the world's third-largest vehicle market. In 2022, India surpassed Japan to become the world's third-largest market for light vehicles. According to a study, the market for electric vehicles in India has enormous potential. The Indian government introduces numerous measures to advance the research and knowledge of electric vehicles, so what exactly are electric vehicles? It is a motorised vehicle that runs on electricity. Because there is no combustion process, there are no smog emissions or other forms of air pollution. The Electric Cars and bikes are very beneficial to the consumers, government as well as the society.

The Electric vehicles don’t need fuel to run like traditional vehicles, it only needs a charge for a couple of hours. The Electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) is a technological

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advancement that makes it possible to charge electric automobiles. Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV), Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV), and Hybrid Electric Vehicles are the four different forms of EVs. (HEV). A variety of battery types, from lead-acid battery to nickel-metal hydride, have been utilised in EVs over the years. The most popular type of battery for EVs right now, though, is lithium-ion (Li-ion). [1]As a crucial element of its plan for a sustainable future, the government has been actively supporting EVCI. Moreover Vehicles powered by electricity operate smoothly, emit little pollutants, and are highly efficient. In comparison to petrol vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles in China were shown to have a 37.5% lower energy usage and 35% lower greenhouse gas emissions.[2] The government has begun financing programmes to promote EV adoption, but decision-makers must adopt a long-term vision to effectively implement them.

3. LEGAL POSITION ON EVs IN INDIA:

The Indian government has recently modified current legislation to foster the EV revolution in addition to developing new laws and regulations to govern the EV sector. It is challenging to implement the same set of legislation for both due to the fundamental differences between how an EV operates and how a motor vehicle operates. We'll talk about a few of the distinctions between the two in this section and briefly explain why EVs need a separate regulatory structure. Since most EVs run on batteries rather than internal combustion engines, as was already established, the requirements needed to approve an EV's operation are substantially different from those needed for motor vehicles.

The Motor Vehicles Act of 1988 (MV Act) does not include provisions for electric buses or vehicles, but it does have provisions for electric rickshaws and electric carts. Under the MV Act, e-rickshaws and e-carts are classified separately, but the path to their regulation has been just as difficult. In order to distinguish EVs from conventional vehicles on the road and to assist the authorities in offering EV drivers assistance, lowering toll taxes, etc., the Ministry of Road, Transport, and Highways imposed the exhibition of coloured number plates for EVs in 2018.[3] These plates must be yellow on a green background for transport EVs and white on a green

[1] Mohamed, Menna & Arasan, *Study on Electric Vehicles in India Opportunities and Challenges*, International Journal of Scientific Research in Environmental Science and Toxicology. 3. 1-5, (2018).
[2] Jian Liu & Santos (2015) Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles' in China: The Role of Energy Sources and Utility Factors, International Journal of Sustainable Transportation, 9:2, 145-157.
[3] Anandini Sood and Kopal Kesarwani, *Electric Vehicles in the Indian Legal Domain*, (IJPIEL, 11 May 2022), https://ijpiel.com/index.php/2022/05/11/electric-vehicles-in-the-indian-legal-domain.

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background for other EVs. Additionally, in accordance with the original law, an EV must have a tyre replacement kit, a TPMS, and an extra tyre.

In addition, the Ministry of Power also issued various standards and norms to be followed by the EVs manufactures regarding the process of charging the vehicles, Installation of Charging points at areas and procedure to be followed. Also the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs also issued notification regarding setting up of the charging infrastructure and also permission to install EV charging points at public premises.[4] Though the legal framework are issued for EVs under various heads it would be better if there is a separate statute to monitor and regulate the functioning of electric vehicles in India.

4.0. BENEFITS OF USING ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND NEED FOR SOCIETAL SHIFT:

4.1. Easy to maintain:

Compared to vehicles powered by a traditional internal combustion engine, BEVs have fewer moving components. Less maintenance is required, and there are no pricey systems like injecting fuel and exhaust that are unnecessary in an EV. PHEVs have a gasoline engine and require maintenance, which makes them more expensive than BEVs. However, they also feature a battery-powered propulsion system, which has fewer moving parts and lessens the wear and tear on portions of the fuel engine. Also the EV vehicles can run as exactly fixed by the battery powers so the users can plan and drive their vehicles. Unlike fuel vehicles, the EVs don't need any frequent changes or upgradation in the vehicles.

4.2. User friendly:

EVs are less expensive to manage since they have excellent fuel economies and efficiency, which lower costs for the owner. An electric vehicle costs approximately one-third as much to charge every kilometre as a conventional vehicle does to buy fuel[5]. Also the electric vehicles like bikes don't have complex procedure or way to operate, it is very user friendly to operate. Also the EVs are noise free when compared to traditional vehicles. It doesn't make loud noises or use any other tones.

[4] Rujuta O. Kambli, *Electric Vehicles in India: Future and Challenges*, ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.538 Volume 10 Issue II (Feb 2022).
[5] Rohit Shakya, Dr. Shishir Dixit, *A Study on Development of Electric Vehicles in India*, ISSN: 2321-9653; IC Value: 45.98; SJ Impact Factor: 7.429 Volume 9 Issue VI Jun (2021).

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4.3. Health Advantages:

Better air quality will result from less toxic emissions, which is excellent for our health. Nowadays many health issues to humans are caused due to the harmful emission of gases from the Fuel powered vehicles and from other things. With the use of Electric vehicles these air pollution can be drastically reduced and paves way for better environment. For Example even the cities like Delhi the air pollution is uncontrollable due to the enormous vehicle combustion and emissions, so with the shift to EVs it can be controlled and reduced. Additionally, EVs make a lot less noise than vehicles powered by petrol or diesel.

4.4. Eco-Friendly:

EVs generate zero exhaust emissions, making them less environmentally damaging. You can further lower greenhouse gas emissions if you choose to charge your EV using renewable energy. Some EVs are manufactured using environmentally friendly materials, including the Focus by Ford Electric, which uses recycled and bio-based components, and the Nissan Leaf, which uses recycled plastic bottles, used auto parts, and second-hand appliances in some of its construction.[6] Moreover many vehicles are made with fibre in order to ensure the light weight of the vehicles. Nowadays the new EVs are modernized and built according to our Indian roads.

4.5. More secure:

EVs are less prone to crash because of their low centre of gravity. They also pose less danger from explosions and fires. They are more durable due to their body construction, which makes them safer in collisions. Moreover EVs have speed limit and adaptable nature according to the area and road conditions.

5. INDIA AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES GROWTH:

India requires a revolution in transportation. It is impractical to stay on the current course of introducing more and more cars that consume expensive imported petrol and fill up already-clogged cities that are plagued by infrastructure problems and severe air pollution. The switch to electric mobility is one successful international strategy to lower greenhouse gases in the transport industry. India is one of a select few nations that back the global EV30@30 initiative, which seeks to have at least 30% of new vehicle sales be electric by the year 2030.[7] India presented a number

[6] Hyundai. All-New Hyundai NEXO—Technical Specifications. 2019., (accessed on 10th April 2023). https://www.hyundai.news/eu/press-kits/all-new-hyundai-nexo-technical-specifications.
[7] Report on Electric Vehicles - India's Future - Drishti IAS.

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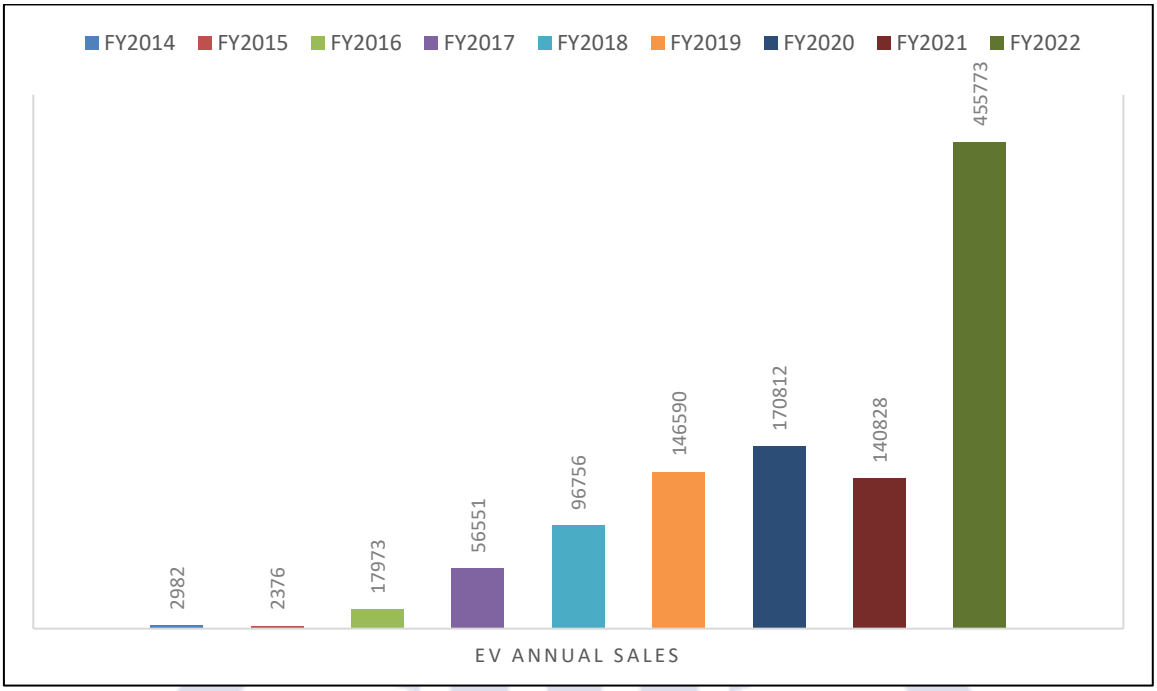
of proposals during the Glasgow summit, including using renewable energy to meet 50% of its energy demands by 2030, cutting carbon emissions by a billion tons by then, and reaching net zero by 2070. Let's see the Electric Vehicles Annual Sales Trend in India (FY2014 - FY2022).



As depicted in the chart in India the EVs sales in the year 2014 was around 2,982 vehicles which gradually started to increase in the forthcoming years. [8]In 2020 the total EVs sales reached nearly 1, 70,812 which is the highest among the previous years. At last in 2022 the Electric vehicles sales attained a great boom of nearly 4, 55,773 which is 223.638% increase in sales than the previous year. Thus it's evident from the chart and data that India is in progressive nature towards the usage of EVs in the society as in many ways it's beneficial to the public as well as the society.

5.1. KEY CHALLENGES FOR EVs IN INDIA:

Electric vehicles provide a number of significant benefits, but with those benefits come a number of difficulties and problems. Generally batteries power electric vehicles, they must be charged sufficiently to keep them running. However, what happens if the batteries run out of power? In this case, a charging station is required to keep the batteries charged. There is only 300 to 500 charging stations currently available in India, which lacks an adequate infrastructure for charging. Therefore, the government is concentrating on this period and starting a policy for the construction of charging stations. In addition Consumers are unable to purchase new items that are so expensive in automobile industry. A fuel-based combustion engine vehicle can cost up to 9 lakhs to 10 lakhs Indian rupees with the same characteristics, but the price of an electric vehicle can't be justified

[8] Annual India EV Report Card Fy2022- JMK Research and Analytics.

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with the number of individuals who wish to purchase one.[9] The latest Tesla model car costs roughly 60 lakh Indian rupees. Therefore, in order to encourage consumers to purchase EVs, the cost should be reasonable for Indians. First, in order to make it practicable, we need stop relying on other nations for materials because doing so raises the price of those commodities and discourages companies from producing as many EVs. Commonly an average Indian buys a car and uses it roughly around 10 to 15 years, but in case of electric vehicles there is a need to change the battery after a couple of years.

In comparison to Indian automobile Technology, the development of Electric Vehicles is more reliable globally. EVs are not as effective in India in terms of performance, dependability, or speed. It influences EV growth. India also depends on other nations, like as China, for the components of electric vehicles, which causes a rise in imports and a decline in the value of the rupee. The import of EV components like Semiconductors, IC chips and other materials from China has been halted due to the COVID19 epidemic, so India is now producing its own materials for EVs with innovative policies. Even now Foxconn and other MNCs are planning to start manufacturing of semiconductors in India which return the global hub for electronics. Also the battery is the most crucial element of EVs. [10]

The estimated reserves of cobalt and lithium needed for battery manufacture do not exist in India. Being somewhat dependent on other nations for the purchase of batteries made from lithium-ion is a barrier to total independence in the batteries manufacturing industry. Emissions of greenhouse gases are decreased with EV. However, the method used to generate the electricity needed to charge EVs emits greenhouse gases as well. Global warming is a result of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere Diseases of the respiratory, pulmonary, and nervous systems may result from the manufacturing and processing of energy storage devices as well as from eliminating of electrochemical batteries. As a result, while designing energy storage systems, especially batteries, safety measures must be taken.

Workforce is an important factor in all industries, and the electric vehicle business is one of the most innovative right now. Since many people are unfamiliar with EVs, labouring has become a significant task in the EV industry. A suitable technology education should be given to the labour force in order to address this issue, as doing so will increase output and precision when constructing electric vehicles.

[9] Geetika , Sumit Barman, *Opportunities and Scope for Electric Vehicles in India*, ISBN: 978-81-952146-4-8,(2022).
[10] Priyadarshini Patil, *Electric Vehicles and India Recent Trends in the Automobile Sector*, International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews Vol (2) Issue (7) Page 661-668, (2021).

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6.0. WAY FORWARD:

India's electric vehicle industry is expanding significantly. India's ambition to encourage EVs and develop into a manufacturing powerhouse for EVs is clearly stated in the legislation and incentives implemented by both the state and the central governments. Even the general population is seeking for alternatives these days to reduce their travel costs, and the Indian EV industry, which is steadily growing, comes to their aid amid an increase in the price of crude oil. Additionally, it is evident from recent purchases that the market for EVs is expanding daily. The most commonly used EVs are Cars and bikes in India as it only satisfies the day to day needs of the consumers and household usage. A straightforward but important fact—that electric vehicles can outperform those driven by combustion engines—has been demonstrated by Tesla Motors Inc. in the United States. As a result, the electric automotive sector is now being promoted in the United States and other nations through a performance-focused awareness campaign. However, similar awareness programmes must also be planned for the Indian market. Government can accomplish this by launching campaigns to raise awareness or by holding contests. There is a good chance that EVs will become popular in India because the Indian government is working to make it a country with only electric vehicles by the year 2030, however there are certain areas that need more attention like Cost of Electric vehicles, Battery infrastructure at remote areas, proper awareness about EVs, Better research and improvements in the battery technology according to our Indian culture and use. It is difficult to predict what the future holds for electric vehicles, but this sector has a great deal of potential to establish itself as the biggest industry not just in India but worldwide with various advancements and improvements in the vehicles.

6.1 CONCLUSION:

India's adoption of EVs is largely intended to lower emissions of greenhouse gases and lower oil costs improve the social and environmental condition. The Indian government has set forth an ambitious and challenging goal with its vision for 2030. The government should take full use of the potential offered and develop practical solutions to the problems that will arise from the adoption of EVs. Electric automobiles are making progress in India with the assistance given by the Indian government. In the long run, these cars are far less expensive than normal vehicles powered by fossil fuels. They are superior than fuel based vehicles since they are more advantageous to just economically. Because they don't create sound or smog, electric vehicles (EVs) will change the problem of pollution in India in addition to noise pollution. One of the primary issues with the expansion of the EV sector is the charging infrastructure. The public and commercial sectors must collaborate more and more to build the infrastructure for charging. The

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early investment and market adoption are fraught with difficulties, but as possibilities arise, the EV market will grow. Additionally, the worldwide population has a significant role in the realisation and success of this business. As a result, that through extensive advertising and environmental education initiatives, people will feel empowered and encouraged to drive an electric vehicle. So with effective awareness about electric vehicles and the advanced development of technology, it would be possible to make the EV industry bloom in India.

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