



**“NET ZERO PATHWAY FOR STATES AND BUSINESSES”**

MEDIA DOSSIER

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# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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## City's iconic yellow cabs may get fresh life in green avatar

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**Kolkata:** The city's iconic yellow taxis may get a fresh lease of life, even beyond their 15-year scrap limit, with the state government drawing up plans to facilitate their conversion to electric vehicles (EV).

"Kolkata's iconic yellow cabs may live much longer with an EV engine," said state power secretary S Suresh Kumar at an EV ecosystem workshop organised by the Bengal Chamber (BCC&I) and UK government. "With the upcoming scrapping policy of the state, such retrofitting of vehicles will assume significance," he added.

The workshop was organi-

### 'EV ECOSYSTEM'

**2010** | 30k yellow metered cabs

**2019** | 18k due to unviability and app cabs

**2021** | 7k as operators quit, cabbies return to villages in pandemic

**2025** | Below 5k as 15-yr-old vehicles will be scrapped



sed under the Accelerating Smart Power and Renewable Energy in India (ASPIRE) programme, implemented by the governments of UK and India.

Kumar, the architect of the state's EV policy, said the government was trying to develop a "complete EV ecosys-

tem", in which a lot of possibilities could be explored, including developing smarter EVs, unique retrofitting of EVs, best practices and financing commercial models that could be applicable to India's EV market. "We want EV companies to set up their establishments throughout Bengal to develop such an ecosystem," he added.

Once ubiquitous, only about 7,000 yellow taxis remain on-road after the pandemic. Another 2,500 — all of them D and E series Ambassadors — will be phased out by 2025, taking the count below 5,000, operators said, welcoming the government's green initiative.

► Move welcomed, P 4

# City taxi operators welcome govt move

**Sumati.Yengkhom**  
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**Kolkata:** Taxi operators have welcomed the announcement of facilitating a changeover to EVs to bypass the 15-year-old vehicle scrap policy.

“It is very good news if we can retrofit diesel cabs with EV engines,” said Bengal Taxi Association joint secretary Sanjib Roy. “However, the cost of such retrofitting would be a major issue. If the cost is too high, most cab operators will prefer to scrap their vehicle,” he added.

The Ambassador taxi was modelled on Britain’s 1956 Morris Oxford Series III. It was first produced at the Hindustan Motors unit in Uttarpara in 1957. The unit was closed in 2014. Initially, the taxis were available in two variants: black-and-yellow vehicles, which operated within the city’s boundaries, and the all-yellow ones, which were used for inter-city travel. Gradually, the number of black-and-yellow

taxis dwindled until only the yellow cabs were left.

App cabs had already overtaken the yellow cab fleet five years ago, when the registered yellow taxi fleet had come down to fewer than 22,000. The number decreased further in these five years due to the phasing out of Ambassadors. Pre-pandemic Kolkata had 18,000 metered yellow cabs but the lockdown and transport-related restrictions made thousands of cabbies quit the business. Several other cabs had to be scrapped as they crossed the 15-year lifespan.

At the workshop, Kumar also spoke about variable charging tariffs — Rs 5 during off-peak hours and Rs 6 per kilowatt hour (kWh) during peak hours — to discourage charging during peak hours to reduce stress on power transmitters.

He had earlier said that the state had 200-odd EV charging stations across the city. “We will shortly relaunch an app called ‘EV-Bandhu’,” he said.



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## State focus on generation, storage of green power

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**Kolkata:** The state is all set to come up with a decarbonisation policy for a major shift to renewable and other clean energy generation and storage facilities. Currently, renewable energy accounts for only 1% of total energy use in Bengal. The policy aims at fixing a roadmap for a seamless energy transition.

Speaking to **TOI** on the sidelines of the conclave on Net Zero Pathways for States and Businesses, organised by the Bengal Chamber and the UK government, state's power secretary S Suresh Kumar said: "The policy, which is currently being drafted, has a major focus on energy storage."

Adding to the 900 MW Purulia pump storage facility, the state has floated a tender



**SPEWING POISON**

for a 1,000 MW second unit. The Rs 6,000 crore project is being financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, he added.

One of the focus areas of the BCC&I event was sharing best practices on the electric vehicle ecosystem. As a step towards achieving a net-zero target, India is focusing on decarbonizing the transport sector by promoting electric vehicles. The UK government also organized a session on the electric vehicle ecosystem with focus on EV financing and acces-

**TIMES VIEW:** The push is not coming a day too soon. This sector should get all the encouragement and government backing, which will give users the confidence and incentives to make the switch to cleaner energy.

sible EV transition.

Water retained in the upper dam is released during periods of high demand to rotate turbines and generate electricity, following which it drains out into the lower dam. During periods of low demand, it is pumped back to the upper dam. The policy aims at flattening the peak power demand curve with the energy generation from such storage facilities. Such flattening of the peak demand curve stabilises the grid, reduces coal consumption and maintenance costs.

# The Telegraph

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## State to get green energy policy

**ANASUYA BASU**

**Calcutta:** The Bengal government is working on formulating a decarbonisation policy, the state power secretary said at a programme on Monday.

"Decarbonisation" refers to the reduction or elimination of carbon dioxide from energy sources using technology, life cycle assessment, and mandatory and voluntary measures to lower carbon dioxide emission.

While addressing a seminar on "Net Zero Pathways for States and Businesses in East and North East", S. Suresh Kumar said: "We need to formulate a policy that will help us achieve the energy transition. We are working on it."

Since Bengal is a coal-rich state, the path to decarboni-

sation needs to start with the coal sector. "The energy mix now comprises 50 per cent from coal, 6 per cent from natural gas, 29 per cent from oil and 12 per cent from non-fossil sources," said Kumar.

The decarbonisation process must include setting up of large-scale energy storage capacity, use of biomass-based fuels and nuclear energy and construction of more hydro projects.

"We need about 200 to 300 billion dollars to push forward the transition, but we don't have that kind of money. So we need to enlist everyone in this effort. The government can guide and make enabling policies," he said.

Listing renewable energy options, he said there was resistance to hydro projects.

The planned 1,000 MW Turga Pumped Storage Project on Ayodhya Hills in Purulia ran into opposition from residents.

"However, the project will be coming up soon. It has all the clearances from the forest and environment department of the central government," Kumar said.

Another important renewable energy source is rooftop solar energy. "There is minimal utilisation of rooftop solar energy here because it is a threat to some agencies and barriers are being created to its utilisation. In fact, rooftop solar energy could stabilise the daytime grid," Kumar said at the programme organised by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the British deputy high com-

mission.

He lay emphasis on off-shore wind plants, and geothermal and tidal energy sources.

Grid management is important while transitioning to renewable energy. When a large number of electric vehicles (EVs) draw power, it could affect the grid. Grid stability could also be affected if there is no adequate offtake when power is pumped into the grid by renewable energy sources.

"We set up power generation facilities to meet peak power, but our objective should be to flatten the peak and match generation to demand," said Kumar.

He said yellow taxis will have to go the CNG or EV way.

# আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা

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## কার্বন ছাঁটাইয়ের লক্ষ্যে নীতি রাজ্যেও

### নিজস্ব সংবাদদাতা

কার্বন নির্গমন কমাতে বিশ্ব জোড়া উদ্যোগের অন্যতম শরিক ভারত। বিদ্যুৎ এবং জ্বালানির বিকল্প ব্যবহারে জোর দেওয়া নিয়ে বিস্তারিত পরিকল্পনা চলছে। সেই লক্ষ্যে পশ্চিমবঙ্গও সার্বিক ভাবে নীতি তৈরি করেছে বলে সোমবার বেঙ্গল চেম্বারের সভার ফাঁকে জানালেন রাজ্যের অতিরিক্ত সচিব তথা বিদ্যুৎসচিব সুরেশ কুমার।

উষ্ণায়ন রুখতে বিকল্প বিদ্যুৎ ও

জ্বালানির উৎপাদনে গুরুত্ব দেওয়ার পাশাপাশি পরিকল্পনা চলছে বৈদ্যুতিক গাড়ির ব্যবহার বাড়ানোর। বণিকসভা বেঙ্গল চেম্বার এবং কলকাতায় ব্রিটেনের ডেপুটি হাই-কমিশনারের যৌথ উদ্যোগে এ দিন কার্বন নির্গমন কমানোর নিয়ে এক সভা আয়োজিত হয়। ডেপুটি হাই-কমিশনার পিটার কুক সেখানে দেশের পূর্ব এবং উত্তর-পূর্বে এই লক্ষ্যমাত্রা পূরণে সকলকে হাত মিলিয়ে কাজ করার বার্তা দেন। বিশেষত উন্নয়নশীল দেশগুলিতে এর

পরিকল্পনা রূপায়নে বিপুল পুঞ্জির প্রয়োজনীয়তার কথাও জানান।

কার্বন নির্গমন হ্রাস প্রকল্পে বড় লগ্নির প্রয়োজনের কথা তোলেন সুরেশও। তবে তাঁর বক্তব্য, মজুত বেশি হওয়ায় পূর্বাঞ্চলে কয়লার উপর বাড়তি নির্ভরতা রয়েছে। উদাসীনতা আছে বিকল্প বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি সম্পর্কে। বাড়ির ছাদে সৌর বিদ্যুৎ প্রকল্পে উৎসাহ দিতে তেমন আগ্রহী নয় বণ্টন সংস্থাগুলিও। তাঁর দাবি, পাম্প স্টোরেজ প্রকল্প,

জলবিদ্যুৎ কিংবা সমুদ্রে হাওয়া বিদ্যুৎ প্রকল্পে জোর দেওয়া যায়। বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানির ব্যবহারে রূপান্তরের যে লক্ষ্য ২০৩০-এর জন্য নেওয়া হয়েছে, তার প্রেক্ষিতেই রাজ্যে নীতি তৈরির ইঙ্গিত দেন তিনি। সুরেশ এ দিন হলুদ ট্যাক্সিকে বৈদ্যুতিক গাড়িতে রূপান্তরের মতো পরিকল্পনা খতিয়ে দেখার পক্ষে সওয়াল করেছেন। তবে সুরেশের খবর, দিল্লির সরকার এই নীতি প্রকাশ করলেও তার প্রযুক্তিগত বাস্তবতা ও সম্ভাব্যতা নিয়ে প্রশ্ন রয়েছে।

# আজকাল

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## দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ করতে বৈদ্যুতিন যানে গুরুত্ব

আজকালের প্রতিবেদন

বৈদ্যুতিন যান চলাচল বৃদ্ধির মাধ্যমে কার্বন নিঃসরণ কমিয়ে পরিবেশ দূষণ কমানো সম্ভব। এ নিয়ে 'নেট জিরো পাথওয়ে ফর স্টেটস অ্যান্ড অ্যান্ড বিজনেসেস' শীর্ষক এক আলোচনাচক্রের আয়োজন করে বেঙ্গল চেম্বার অফ কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি এবং ব্রিটিশ ডেপুটি হাই কমিশন, কলকাতা। ইংল্যান্ড থেকে এক প্রতিনিধিদল যোগ দেয়। 'নেট জিরো টার্গেট ফর ইন্ডিয়া ২০৭০', 'সুন্দরবন ব-দ্বীপ অঞ্চলে শিল্পী, গবেষকদের সমন্বয়ে কীভাবে সেখানকার মানুষের জীবনযাত্রার মান উন্নত করা যায় এবং ভারতে বৈদ্যুতিন যানের ব্যবহার' নিয়ে আলোচনা হয়। ছিলেন বেঙ্গল চেম্বার অফ কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রির প্রাক্তন প্রেসিডেন্ট দেব এ মুখার্জি, অ্যাঙ্কিং ব্রিটিশ ডেপুটি হাইকমিশনার (পূর্ব ও উত্তর-পূর্ব ভারত) পিটার কুক, রাজ্য বিদ্যুৎ দপ্তরের অতিরিক্ত মুখ্য সচিব এস সুরেশ কুমার, এনটিপিসি-র ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগের জেনারেল ম্যানেজার পঙ্কজকুমার গুপ্তা। ভারুয়াল মাধ্যমে সম্মেলনে যোগ দেন বিহারের দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ পর্ষদের চেয়ারম্যান ড. অশোককুমার ঘোষ এবং মাহিন্দ্রা ইউনিভার্সিটির সেন্টার ফর সাস্টেইনএবিলিটির প্রধান অনির্বাণ ঘোষ।



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## **BCCI&l and British Deputy High Commission organize “Net Zero Pathway for States and Businesses”**

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and British Deputy High Commission in Kolkata have together organized the “Net Zero Pathway for States and Businesses”.

 By **United News Of IndL** — On **March 20, 2023 16:41 IST**

Kolkata, March 20: The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata has organized the “Net Zero Pathway for States and Businesses” on Monday here.

A high level delegation from the United Kingdom came to Kolkata to exchange knowledge on clean technologies, policies and sectoral skill developments.

The event was attended by senior policymakers and businesses. Topics like, Net Zero Target for India by 2070; Exploring local livelihoods and good landscape practices through artist/researcher collaborations with communities in the Sundarbans Delta; Corporate Case Studies on Roadmap to Net Zero in India and Electric Vehicle (EV) were discussed.



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KRISHNENDU BANDYOPADHYAY / TNN / Updated: Mar 21, 2023, 08:59 IST

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Representative image

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## West Bengal focus on generation, storage of green power

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