

Plans afoot to cut prices of e-vehicles: CESL CEO

3-wheeler for garbage removal on the cards



Mahua Acharya

MyEV (www.myev.org.in), to make things easier for the consumer. Efforts are on to make vehicle prices more attractive through subsidies and long-term loans, she said. "Affordability is the big issue for the consumer. We are doing the financial structuring at the back-end so that e-vehicle competes closely with their fossil fuel equivalents. We are trying to bring down the sticker price," she said.

Cost of batteries

The high cost of batteries, a major concern for buyers, is expected to come down. "In the long run, the CESL also hopes to introduce exchange schemes which help remove old fossil fuel two-wheelers from the roads.

At the national level, the CESL is involved in initiatives ranging from decentralised solar power projects to e-mobility to solarising feeders.

TIKI RAJWI
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Having launched an electric two-wheeler sales scheme for government employees in Kerala, Convergence Energy Services Ltd. (CESL) is hoping to play a bigger role in helping the State chant the e-mobility mantra.

The newly established subsidiary of the Union government-owned Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL) is planning an electric three-wheeler scheme for garbage removal trucks. The CESL is also in talks with the Kochi Metro Rail Limited for operating feeder buses for last-mile connectivity, its MD & CEO Mahua Acharya told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

"We feel that Kerala consumers are ready (for e-vehicles). In the two-wheeler market there are plenty of options. We would like to promote electric three-wheelers for garbage disposal. Isn't it a little bit ironic, using a diesel-powered vehicle to pick up the garbage? e-vehicles are silent and cleaner," Ms. Acharya said.

The CESL has launched the digital marketplace,

Electric two-wheeler scheme is on

First phase of CESL programme designed for State government employees

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Central government entity Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), on Wednesday launched an electric two-wheeler sales scheme in Kerala. With the roll-out, the State also became the first user of the digital marketplace — MyEV (www.myev.org.in) — for booking and buying electric two-wheelers.

Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty launched the electric two-wheeler programme and digital marketplace. In the first stage, the programme is custom-designed for State government employees.

The CESL is hoping to sell 10,000 vehicles to government employees and government offices.

The CESL is making the vehicles available through its tie-up with the vehicle manufacturers. Initially 14 models from six companies are on offer, CESL officials said.

The purchases will benefit from the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME II), the Central government's subsidy programme, entitling customers



Future mode: Different models of electric two-wheelers on display in the city on Wednesday.

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to a subsidy which brings electric vehicle costs closer to that of their fossil fuel equivalents. In Kerala, the electric two-wheeler initiative is being carried out in collaboration with the Energy Management Centre (EMC).

MyEV app

The digital marketplace www.myev.org.in is designed to reduce physical visits to retail outlets in the COVID-19 situation. The mobile app MyEV can be downloaded from play store.

"The agreement with CESL is a big step towards ushering in a new era of e-mobility. Kerala has always been at the forefront in adapting to new technolo-

14 models from six companies available with subsidies

gies," Mr. Krishnankutty said, adding that the two-wheeler programme would provide for the adoption of green transportation and energy transition.

The CESL was working towards achieving the goals set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and NITI Aayog for the induction of green modes of transportation in different categories over the next five years, Mahua Acharya, managing director and chief executive officer, the CESL said. With the level of demand witnessed from cities,

fleet operators, and financing entities, it was clear that the market was ready for a complete transition to electric mobility, she said. The EMC had inked an MoU with the CESL on June 5 for rolling out the programme in Kerala, EMC director R. Hari-kumar said. The EMC was looking forward to manufacturers setting up more e-vehicle dealerships in the State, he said.

Exhibition

A four-day exhibition of the electric two-wheelers, organised by the EMC and the CESL, is on at the Institution of Engineers, Vellayambalam. Visitors also have the opportunity for test driving the e-vehicles.

Loan scheme for minorities