

Electric products an option as fuel prices rise

Sales of induction cookers, electric bikes pick up

Petlee Peter and Sowmiya Ashok

CHENNAI: The steady hike in fuel prices over the years has led to an increase in alternatives that run on electricity and are commercially available to consumers. But, substitutes such as induction cookers and electric vehicles, however, continue to be purchased only for "convenience."

A.Gowri, product promoter of an appliance company, says: "People buy induction cookers because of the time it takes for cylinders to be delivered." Software engineer N.Sajith agrees. "I purchased an induction cooker as an emergency option as I didn't have an extra gas cylinder," he says.

Since he got his gas connection, he has noticed that the cylinder lasts longer as he uses both options. However, HR professional Smitha Nishanth feels it is sometimes better to use a gas stove.

Induction cookers are energy efficient as the heat is conducted magnetically to the cooking pan and is not wasted. However, some technicalities for the heating



Induction stoves may provide an energy-efficient alternative, but are they really substituting gas stoves? — PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

CITY PULSE

process to be more effective are not explained to users. Only steel or iron vessels with a flat base can be used and the vessel should be placed on the circle indicating the heating pad.

Many users pay little attention to the savings they make on the energy consumption or do not see a significant difference. "I have never really checked my electricity bill to

see if I have saved on electricity," says Mr.Sajith. But, induction cookers are not substituting gas stoves. "Both gas stoves and inductions are in equal demand," says Ms.Gowri.

Two wheelers

The two-wheeler market is another segment where customers are showing interest in exploring energy-efficient alternatives. In the last couple of years, several electric bike models have entered the

market. They are available with motor power ranging from 250 watts to 800 watts. If charged for six to seven hours, these vehicles can provide a mileage of 60 to 70 km. The basic models do not require registration or insurance cover either.

Ram Kumar of Chooliamedu says, "I have a car which I take to work. All I need is a two-wheeler to go shopping near my house. I'm seriously thinking of buying an electric bike."

At a shop in Anna Nagar, salesperson Gopi says the clientele for electric bikes is gradually increasing. "After booking, there is a waiting period of 30 days," he adds.

These battery-operated vehicles can be accelerated up to a speed of 25 km/hour. Only the 800 watt vehicle can touch 45 km/hour.

Businessman J. Venkataramani feels battery-operated vehicles are an eco-friendly option. "I have been driving a Reva car for the last five years and I'm thoroughly satisfied with its performance. However, though cost-efficient, it is expensive as batteries need to be changed every three years."

READER'S MAIL

Names of bus shelters

There are a number of bus shelters on various M.T.C. bus routes in the city and suburbs. In most shelters, the name of the shelter is not written on them. Owing to this, even a regular city commuter finds difficulty in specifying the name of the bus stop in order to get a ticket, let alone a newcomer to the city. The new commuter is forced either to buy ticket up to the end point of that route or to get down one or two stops before his actual bus stop. This is due to his inability to name the exact bus stop. Hence, each bus shelter may be notified by name in order to make it convenient to commuters. Each shelter may have an information board with details on bus route numbers, starting and end points of that bus route and, importantly, the route. Many commuters are well versed with route number of a particular area, but they do not know the route through which the bus is going on. Will the authorities do the needful?

V.K. Pappiah
Moulivakam-Porur

Avoid playing on streets

Streets have narrowed down because of parking of vehicles on either side. Boys playing cricket on the streets add to the misery of passers-by. I have my own experience of being hit by the balls. The boys would apologise, some of them would also wait for the people to pass through and then continue the game. Still, the risk of serious injury is present when they play powerful shots.

In the circumstances, the boys would do well to avoid the streets for playing cricket and move to playgrounds. Residents' associations can also pitch in and prevail upon them to do so.

S. Sourirajan
West Mambalam



LACK OF CLARITY: In the absence of information boards, commuters find it difficult to identify bus stops and get down at the correct destination. — PHOTO: S.S.KUMAR

Provide mini bus/van facilities

We live in the interior part of Dandeeswaram Nagar in Velachery. To catch a bus, we have to walk all the way either to Dandeeswaram Bus stop or go to Velachery Bus Terminus, which is a nearly 10-minute walk to catch the bus. If the transport department can consider implementing mini bus/van facilities, it will be helpful for those staying in these areas. Auto service is expensive and we cannot shell out Rs. 30 for a small distance of hardly 1-2 km.

Authorities concerned can implement these types of services on a pilot scheme and they can regularise these services in Velachery and also to other parts of Chennai based on the responses from the public. They can also consider implementing vehicles such as Tata Magic share autos since the noise pollution is nil.

Ravi Purushothaman
Velachery

SBI ATM at Pozhichalur

In the State Bank of India at Pozhichalur, on most days, cash is not available. There is a notice board at the entrance of the ATM, displaying "No Cash". The residents, especially senior

citizens, are put to difficulty. The very purpose of installing an ATM is defeated. The authorities concerned should take immediate steps to see that the cash is available at all times, especially during day time.

R. Radhakrishnan
Pozhichalur

An appeal to MTC

Irumbuliur, which is inhabited by thousands of commuters spread over many residential locations, is situated on both sides of G.S.T. Road that leads to places such as Vandalur, Guduvancheri and Chengleput.

Though several MTC buses ply on this route, only a limited number of buses halt here on both directions, as a result of which the commuters, especially the office-goers and schoolchildren, are put to a lot of hardship and inconvenience and very often these commuters are forced to be at the mercy of auto-rickshawmen and private cab drivers who fleece and exploit these hapless people.

While all MTC buses halt at Perungalathur, which also has suburban train services, why cannot MTC authorities direct its crew members to stop all its services at Irumbuliur?

E.D. Kothandam
East Tambaram

TANGEDCO reply

With reference to the news report published in *The Hindu* dated June 27, it is informed that at present there are around 4,600 metered services in Kannagi Nagar, Thuraiyakkam for which CC charges are being paid regularly. Apart from this, applications have been received from around 10,400 prospective applicants. On payment of necessary charges by TNSCB, services have been effected for 8,600 applicants and for the remaining 1,800 applications service connection cable laying works are under progress and the works will be completed and services effected by July 15.

G. Perumalsamy,
Superintending Engineer,
CEDC/South, TANGEDCO

Passport woes

Recently, I was trying to apply for a passport for my wife under Tatkal scheme. Since the passport authorities specify three documents for address proof, I obtained a Proof of Address Card from the post office after completing the formalities.

But to my dismay when we produced the same to the passport office in Chennai, they rejected it on the ground that it is not in their list of documents specified for this purpose. I spent Rs.600 for the address card only after verifying over phone with the passport office whether the card is acceptable. But when I went there, they did not own up to the phone reply.

Being senior citizens, we do not know how many more trips we have to make to the passport office. Even though I have a passport for myself, that is not considered as a proof for my wife under Tatkal scheme.

R. Sampath
Chitlapakkam

Fewer options for vehicle-users

Ajai Sreevatsan and Lavanya M

CHENNAI: While renewable energy sources offer some alternatives to residents in times of power shortage and load-shedding, vehicle users saddled by high fuel prices do not have too many options to turn to.

Apart from opting to use public transport, the only other viable option for motorists is to adopt certain fuel efficiency measures and hope for possible savings.

Websites such as <http://www.mypetrolprice.com/> provide a rough estimate of the monthly/annual expenditure on fuel, based on current prices. By tracking changes in mileage after adopting strategies such as maintaining an optimum fuel efficiency speed of 45 kmph, sparing use of air-conditioner in case of a car, and switching off the engine at traffic signals, the amount of savings can be calculated.

The other 'option' that seems to be increasingly exercised is a preference for diesel-driven cars. The share of diesel cars in overall car sales is around 28 per cent currently, and the figure has been climbing steadily. It is expected to touch 40 per cent by 2015.

N. Krishnamoorthy, president, Dealership Line of Busi-



The rising reliance on private transport in an era of high fuel prices is a cause for concern, particularly when traffic congestions are becoming common. — PHOTO: S.R. RAGUNATHAN

ness, TVS & Sons, says that a huge shift is being noticed in the customer preference during the last six months. "The preference for diesel variants is more in the mid-sized cars, namely C segment and above, due to a whole range of options that have been made available by most manufacturers in this range.

The shift is insignificant in small cars."

Regarding the need for better fuel efficiency standards, Mr. Krishnamoorthy says that since Indian consumers

are constantly aspiring for higher power engines, the improvements happening in this area is not felt by users in their monthly fuel bills. "Consumers are able to enjoy bigger cars within the fuel budgets they have been spending earlier," he adds.

Research in the institutional and industrial level is being carried out to enhance the performance of engines. Studies on nano-materials and fuel additives to improve performance are on. Similarly, there is an increasing in-

terest on the feasibility of hydrogen as fuel. But safe storage technologies are still not in place.

G.Sakthinathan, assistant professor, Department of Manufacturing Engineering, College of Engineering, Guindy, says "Component manufacturers are considering giving a nano-coating to engine components to reduce wear and tear. On the materials side, work is being carried out to reduce the weight of the engine and at the same time improve the power."

Official held on charge of cheating

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: The K.K. Nagar police in the city on Sunday arrested Hansraj Saxena, Chief Operating Officer of Sun Pictures, on charges of cheating a film producer to the tune of Rs. 82.53 lakh.

Police sources, quoting a

complaint, said Mr. Saxena, on behalf of Sun Pictures, had purchased the rights for the Tamil flick *Theeradha Vilayaattu Pillai* from producer Selvaraj for a promised sum of Rs. 1.25 crore.

Only a portion of the promised sum was given to Mr. Selvaraj despite repeated visits to Mr. Saxena's of-

fice, they said. Mr. Selvaraj lodged a complaint with the city police commissioner on July 1 stating that Sun Pictures had pressured him into selling the movie.

Complaint

The complaint was sent to the K.K. Nagar police, who registered cases under four

sections of IPC, including those pertaining to cheating and making threats.

A police team picked up Mr. Saxena on Sunday at the Chennai airport upon his arrival from Hyderabad. He was produced before a magistrate, who remanded him to judicial custody, police sources added.

Accused flees from custody

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: A 28-year-old man, accused of robbery, fled from police custody while he was escorted to the Puzhal prison on Saturday evening.

Police sources said Jogindar Varma of Delhi was arrested by the Flower Bazaar police on charges of the robbery and theft. He was produced at the George Town Court on Saturday and was taken to Puzhal prison by two policemen.

The accused who was not

handcuffed gave the police the slip upon reaching the Madhavaram roundabout. Madhavaram police have registered a case and a search is on, sources added.

Man killed

A 30-year-old man was stabbed to death in his tinkering shop in Kunrathur on Sunday. According to the police, Balamurugan, the victim, was stabbed by Murugan of the same locality, who was in an inebriated condition.

Career counselling held

CHENNAI: The career counselling for job-oriented, allied health courses and MBA in Healthcare Management was inaugurated by Akila Ganesan, registrar of the Sankara Nethralaya Acade-

my and the general manager of Sankara Nethralaya. A. Mahalingam, academic officer and Karthikeyan, director of Gemba Institute of HR School also participated.

CINEMA · ARTS · EVENTS

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA Rajam Group Singing by Srinivasa Ladies Club. All are Welcome.

Carnatica and Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha (Ph: 9444018269, 43024024) Today 6-30 p.m. Sangeetha Kalanidhi SIKKIL NEELA & MALA CHANDRASEKAR — (Flute Duet) with M. A. Sundareswaran, R. Ananthakrishnan & H. Sivaramakrishnan, P.S.H.S. Scl., Ch-4. All Welcome.

MISCELLANEOUS Divya Dinangal 108, 9940092992

Today @ Asthika Samajam. Alwarpet, 6-30 p.m. with YACD, Sri Krishna Sweets Present Chaturthi Discourse by Thiru RAMACHANDRAN. All are Welcome.

Madras Sanskrit College & The Samskita Academy, Madras Srimad Bhagavata Saptaham, Upanyasam by Paranoor Mahatma Sri Sri KRISHNAPREMI SWAMIGAL. Today 7-00 p.m. Bhagavata Moola Parayanam from 6-30 a.m. Sanskrit College, Myslapore. All are Welcome.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. : CAO/C/Track/NIT/11
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Administrative Officer/Construction North-Western Railway, Jaipur invites tenders for supply of material as follows :-
1. (1) Tender No. CAO/C/Track/11/11. (2) Brief Description: Manufacture and Supply of Elastic Rail Clips Mark-III with flat toe for 60kg/52kg rails to RDSO Drawing No. T-3701 Alt. IV to IRS Specification No. T-31-92 with latest alteration/amendment if any. Quantity = 2594539 Nos. (3) Estimated tender value : Rs. 1193.75 lacs. (4) Earnest Money- Rs. 10,00,000/-. (5) Cost of tender form: Rs. 2000/- (6) Consignee- SSE/P/Way/C/Sikar. (7) Delivery Period : 10 (Ten) Months. (8) Date & time for submission & opening of tender : 03.08.2011 upto 15.00 hrs. & opened at 15.30 hrs.
2. Tender No. CAO/C/Track/11/12. (2) Brief Description: Manufacture and Supply of GRSP of different drawings : for PSC sleepers ordinary as per drawing no. RDSO/T-3711 = 1360958 Nos. (3) Estimated tender value : Rs. 364.19 lacs (4) Earnest Money- Rs. 500000/-. (5) Cost of tender form : Rs. 2000/- (6) Consignee - SSE/P/Way/C/Sikar. (7) Delivery Period : 08 (Eight) Months. (8) Date & time for submission & opening of tender : 10.08.2011 upto 15.00 hrs. & opened at 15.30 hrs. Terms and Conditions : 1. Tender forms are available on all working days for sale in the office of the Chief Administrative Officer/Construction, North-Western Railway, Jaipur during working hrs. on submission of crossed A/C payee Bank D.D. drawn in favour of FA & CAO (C), North Western Railway, Jaipur or cash receipt by any Station Master of North Western Railway for tender cost as shown above. Tender Sale will be closed on the date of opening of tender at 11.00 hrs. 2. For Tenderers desirous of obtaining the tender documents by post, request shall be entertained only up to 10 days before the tender opening date. They should send crossed A/C payee Bank D.D. drawn in favour of FA & CAO(C), North Western Railway, Jaipur payable at Jaipur also add Rs.100/- as postal charges (NSIC registered firm also to give postal charges). 3. For further details refer the tender document at website "www.nwr.indianrailways.gov.in" 519X

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

Ministry of Defence Director General Naval Projects, Mumbai-23 SUPPLY OF HULL QUALITY CONTROL EQUIPMENT AT NSRY (KARWAR) TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed Two Bid (Technical and Commercial) Tenders valid for 120 days are invited from Original Equipment Manufacturers or Authorised Dealers with proven product support base for the following:

Sl.No.	Item Description	Qty.
(a)	Ultrasonic Thickness Gauge	04
(b)	Paint Inspectors Kit	02
(c)	Compact DC Porosity/Holiday Detector with Associated Jeep Meter	01
(d)	Portable Skid Resistance Tester	02
(e)	Pull Off Adhesion Tester	02
(f)	Portable Wire Rope Tester	01
(g)	De-Mineralized Water Test Kit	02

2. The tenderers are to include details of similar supplies made during last 02 years, Bank Solvency Certificate, Clientele List Including Govt. Organisations and any other relevant information along with the T-bid in support of their Credentials.

3. The detailed Tender Enquiries along with 'Terms and Conditions' can be perused/downloaded for submission of your bids from the website <http://tenders.gov.in> and www.irfc-nausena.nic.in. Firms may seek clarifications pertaining to the tender document from Projector Director (E) Office of Director General Naval Dockyard SBS Road Mumbai-23. Telephone No. 022-22751884 Fax No. 022-22661142.

4. The last date of receipt of Sealed Tenders along with Earnest Money Deposit is 1400 hrs. on 21st July 2011.

davp 10702/11/0158/1112

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES

Chief Engineer (Andaman & Nicobar Zone) Port Blair on behalf of President of India invites applications from eligible enlisted Contractors of MES and enlisted/unenlisted Contractors working with other Govt. Departments meeting eligibility criteria for selection of Contractors for issue of tender of under mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Supply, Install, Test and Commissioning of 20 TPD EDI (Electro De-ionisation) Plant including sea water intake system, Desalination Plant, Low PPM RO (Reverse Osmosis) Plant at Haddo, Port Blair.
Estimated cost of work	Rs. 180.00 Lakhs
Completion Period	06 (Six) Months
Amount of Earnest Money for Contractors not enlisted with MES	Rs. 2,55,000/- in the shape of Call Deposit Receipt from any Scheduled Bank. BGB not acceptable.
Cost of tender	Rs. 1,000/- in the shape of DD/ Bankers Cheque from any Nationalized Bank in favour of Garrison Engineer (I) Haddo, Port Blair.
Last date of Receipt of Applications	15 Jul 2011
Eligibility Criteria:-	(a) For MES Enlisted Contractors Class : 'B' Category : (c) (vii) (b) For other Contractors (i) Meeting enlistment criteria of MES with regard to having satisfactorily completed requisite value of works, Annual turn over, Working Capital, Fixed Assets, verification of character and antecedents of proprietor/partners/directors etc. (ii) No Recovery outstanding in Govt. Deptt.
Date of issue of Tender	On or after 18 Jul 2011
Date of Receipt of Tender	On or after 30 Aug 2011

Notes:

- Application not accompanied by requisite value DD/Bankers Cheque towards Cost of Tender shall not be considered for issue of tender.
- Contractors not enlisted with MES will be required to enclose necessary documents to prove their eligibility as given above and as hereinafter including Affidavit for no recovery outstanding.
 - Experience of having successfully completed works rendered to Govt. department during last 3 years in which applications are invited should be one of the following:-
 - Three completed works of establishment of Desalination plant of capacity 06 TPD and above.
 - Two completed works of establishment of Desalination plant of capacity 10 TPD and above.
 - One completed works of establishment of Desalination plant of capacity 20 TPD and above.
 - Must have experienced staff for operating and maintenance Desalination plant of capacity 06 TPD & above. Also must have ability to operate and maintain the equipment for a period of 03 years after installation.
 - In addition to above, the criteria regarding satisfactory performance of works, personnel, establishment, equipment etc. may also be incorporated according to the requirement of the Project.
- In case of rejection of application for issue of tender, the applicant shall be refunded the cost of tender. However, Contractor may appeal to next higher Engineer Authority i.e., HQ CESC Pune for rejection of his application for issue of tender whose decision shall be final and binding and contractor shall not be entitled to any compensation whatsoever for non-issue of tender.
- The above details are also available on MES website: www.mes.gov.in and Indian Trade Journal. Full Notice of Tender IAFW-2162 & Enlistment Criteria is available in all Offices of MES and also on MES website.

davp 10102/11/0784/1112