

Shaping India's Mobility Transition: *Stakeholder Dialogues on Sustainability, Equity, and Systems Change*

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 | 09:30 - 13:30 Hrs IST
Magnolia, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Background

India's mobility sector is at a critical juncture. Over the past decade, policy attention has increasingly focused on Electric Vehicles (EVs) as a key pathway towards decarbonisation for India to achieve its goal towards net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. This has proven to be necessary but not sufficient. The challenge is not just to replace types of vehicles with cleaner alternatives, but to transform the broader mobility ecosystem through integrated planning, governance, financing, and infrastructure. It requires a shift from using technology-centric solutions in silos towards systemic approaches that simultaneously advance environmental sustainability, economic resilience, and social inclusion.

The need for such a transition is becoming increasingly urgent. Road transport accounts for nearly 12 per cent of India's energy-related CO₂ emissions and remains a major contributor to urban air pollution, which is estimated to double by 2050.¹ At the same time, India's urban population is expected to exceed 600 million by 2030,² and transport demand is projected to grow substantially over the coming decades, with passenger and freight demand increasing fourfold and twelvefold, respectively, by 2070-71.³ This rapid growth will place significant pressure on infrastructure and services, creating an urgent need for accessible, affordable, and efficient mobility solutions.

Despite significant progress in promoting EVs, mobility transition efforts remain fragmented, with limited integration across public and shared transport systems, alternative fuels such as biofuels and green hydrogen, urban planning and land use, and the social and economic dimensions of transition.

Furthermore, existing literature on the electric mobility ecosystem has highlighted the importance of addressing workforce transitions, skills development, financing, gender inclusion, and worker welfare alongside technological change. These findings reinforce a growing recognition that sustainable mobility must be approached through a systems lens and guided by Just Transition principles that ensure environmental objectives are pursued alongside considerations of equity, employment, accessibility, and inclusion.

India's responses to these challenges will have important implications not only for achieving its climate commitments but also for enhancing economic productivity, improving public health, and advancing social inclusion in line with its Viksit Bharat aspirations. Realising these outcomes will require a broader portfolio of solutions that extends beyond vehicle electrification to include alternative fuels, improved energy efficiency, integrated mobility planning, paying greater attention to the social and economic dimensions of transition, including employment, skills, accessibility, affordability, and inclusion.

Against this backdrop, "*Shaping India's Mobility Transition: Stakeholder Dialogues on Sustainability, Equity, and Systems Change*" seeks to broaden the discourse beyond EV adoption and examine how India can build an integrated, sustainable, and inclusive mobility ecosystem. Recognising mobility as a

¹ International Energy Agency. (2023). *Transitioning India's road transport sector: Realising climate and air quality benefits*. International Energy Agency. <https://www.iea.org/reports/transitioning-indias-road-transport-sector>

² Puri, H. S. (2020, September 4). 40% of population will live in urban centres by 2030: Hardeep Singh Puri. NDTV. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/40-of-population-will-live-in-urban-centres-by-2030-hardeep-singh-puri-2281380>

³ The Energy and Resources Institute. (2024). *Roadmap for India's energy transition in the transport sector*. TERI. https://teriin.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/Roadmap%20for%20India%20Energy%20Transition_FINAL%20REPORT.pdf

cross-sectoral challenge that intersects with transport, energy, urban development, industry, and the labour market, the dialogue will explore pathways for aligning climate objectives with economic growth, accessibility, and social equity.

Thus, the stakeholder dialogue aims to:

- Broaden the discourse on mobility transition from focus on EVs to integrated and sustainable mobility systems.
- Foster a shared understanding of the opportunities, challenges, and trade-offs associated with India's mobility transformation across environmental, economic, and social dimensions.
- Identify key policy, institutional, regulatory, financing, and market barriers affecting the development and implementation of sustainable mobility solutions.
- Explore pathways for strengthening policy coherence, inter-sectoral coordination, and governance mechanisms to support integrated mobility planning.
- Mainstream Just Transition considerations by examining implications for employment, skills, gender equity, accessibility, and the inclusion of vulnerable and underserved groups.
- Generate actionable and forward-looking recommendations to support a mobility future that is sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and responsive to India's development and climate goals.

Agenda	
Time	Session
09:30 – 10:00	Registration and Tea
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome Remarks and Introduction to the Consultation by FES India
10:15 – 10:30	Context Setting: “Mobility Justice and Systems Change in India” Presentation by CUTS International
10:30 – 10:50	Keynote Address: Beyond EVs - Reimagining India's Mobility Future by Guest Speaker
10:50 – 12:50	Panel Discussion with a Moderator from FES India • <i>Moving Beyond Vehicle Electrification: What Should India's Mobility Transition Look Like?</i> • <i>Building Integrated, Accessible and Gender-responsive Mobility Systems</i> • <i>Urban Planning, Infrastructure, and Demand Management</i> • <i>Financing the Mobility Transition</i> • <i>Ensuring a Just Transition: Employment, Skills, Workers and Social Inclusion Shared, Digital and Technology-enabled Mobility</i> • <i>Governance and Institutional Coordination</i> • <i>From Transition to Transformation: Priorities for the Next Decade</i>
12:50 – 13:15	Question and Answer Session
13:15 – 13:30	Concluding Remarks and Way Forward
13:30 Onwards	Networking Lunch