



# FUTURE OF GAS CARS - HOW LONG TILL EVERYTHING GOES ELECTRIC?

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Many would safely assume electric means of transport as the future of commuting. As per statistics by the SMMT UK monthly list of e-vehicles, compared to as far as 2019, there has been a 16.1% increase in electric cars, owing to them being regarded as more sustainable and environmentally friendly. Regular petrol cars, on the other hand, are expected to be phased out within 2030, as rules and regulations regarding emissions and carbon footprints have been getting tighter in most countries.

Although petrol-running cars have been adapting to the times, the recent drastic hike in fuel prices might be an indication that their time is up. As prices of gas skyrocket due to inflation, hybrid systems are being considered more and more due to being more efficient in the long run. Now that the global phasing of combustion engines is near, how far is Bangladesh from adapting to an electric future?

Petroleum has been the backbone of transport from the dawn of time and since then, people have been trying to find an alternative to petrol for transportation

for the sake of efficiency. There have been alternatives such as Hydrogen cell power trains but the most common alternative has been electricity. Be it in hybrid powertrains, where electric power and internal combustion are used together to reduce fuel consumption, or just completely electric, where it can be said Tesla Motors from Elon Musk has set off the trend, electric vehicles are steadily taking over.

In the last ten years, more people have been shifting to electric cars as there are fair advantages to them compared to gasoline-powered vehicles. Basic maintenance of electric cars is easy and cheap because there are no liquids involved, unlike the various oils and lubricants needed to run a conventional internal combustion engine. Since electric powertrains have less number of moving parts, there are fewer possibilities of parts which could break.

Electric cars are also known to be more environmentally friendly, as these vehicles are known to have little to no emissions when they are running. Because no exhaust gases are given off, they contribute to a smaller carbon footprint with less CO2 emissions.

Although it can be seen that owning an electric car for daily commute seems like a feasible option, the powertrains come with their fair share of disadvantages, such as range anxiety and charge times, just to name a few. Going on longer trips is always a hassle, constantly having to worry about whether the charge would last the whole trip, as there is no certainty when the battery would die if it is on the lower percentages.

Charge times can be long, taking hours to bring the car to operating conditions, whereas compared with refuelling conventional gasoline cars, it needs minutes to fill up the tank which can last hundreds of kilometres. Another major problem is that since electric cars run on mostly software integrations, sometimes glitches or non-responsive systems can brick the car and cause it to not start at all. There have also been cases of cars just blatantly not starting because of software

updates mandatory to the mainframe.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, has been slowly but surely adapting as more electric cars are being imported, making the choice of electric vehicles more normalised than before. Actual laws are being made regarding the vehicles, with brands like DSFK making means of transport such as basic cover vans electric and bringing it to our country, such as the EC36, which was launched this year.

Electric means of transport can be advantageous for countries like Bangladesh since in our daily commuting we spend most of our time in gridlock due to heavy traffic. Since electric cars can be instantly switched on and off, battery life can be saved and city commuting can be made more efficient. Although on longer routes there will be the case of range anxiety because Bangladesh is yet to have a charging station, which should be implemented when more electric cars get common around the streets. Although the most common adaptation for the country recently has been hybrid cars, in the near future, the population might be adapting to electric cars sooner than we think.

There is no doubt that in the near future, electric cars will be the main means of road transport, but it is going to need about 10 to 15 years to be properly utilised in Bangladesh. When it comes to conventional petrol cars, energy can be brought to the car if there is an unexpected emergency. When an electric car dies, there is still no way apart from taking the car on the back of a truck to the nearest charging station, or to the owner's residence where supposedly there is a power outlet.

There is also a lack of infrastructure as undoubtedly there are more petrol filling stations than charging points and until the ratio of infrastructure can be marginalised, gas cars will not be obsolete. All in all, electric cars in Bangladesh can definitely be a welcome solution, but without proper utilisation and national support, it may remain a pipe-dream; keeping us rooted with our go-to four-wheeled gas-run partners.

# Proxy servers and incognito browsing WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



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Private browsing, also known as Incognito or InPrivate mode, has become a popular trend in the past decade. But what do these vague terms mean? Do they ensure a private browsing experience? Or are the tech giants exploiting your personal information in the name of safety and protection? Privacy is your human right and it is crucial for you to know what you are getting yourself into.

**What is Incognito mode?**

Suppose, you search for watches online. After checking out a few available options you log in to your Facebook profile only to discover that your homepage is getting bombarded with targeted ads on watches. Many of us often face similar situations.

Incognito mode creates a separate browsing session from the regular one. The main function of incognito is to make sure that your browsing data is not recorded in your browsing history. This means your browsing history, data, cookies and caches will be unavailable after each session. Closing a window after logging into a website in incognito mode ensures that browser cookies will not be saved. Similarly, cookies used in your main session will not be available in your

incognito session.

The key benefit of this feature is that other users of the same device will not be able to access your browsing history. This will also prevent advertisers from tracking you because third-party sites won't be able to drop a cookie on you.

**Problems with Incognito**

Incognito mode is probably one of the most misunderstood features of modern browsers. As useful as it is, incognito mode is not a means for optimum security and privacy. When you open an incognito window you'll see a warning that your data will be available to all the websites you visit, your educational institute or employer, and even your internet service provider.

A proxy server will also delete certain cookies and remove hidden trackers.

**WHY YOU'RE BETTER OFF USING PROXY THAN INCOGNITO**

There are several reasons why individuals and organizations are better off using a proxy server, with some of them listed below:

*Internet usage control:* Parents and employers often set up proxy servers to refrain and monitoring their kids or workers. This enables them to monitor and control which sites you visit and how much time you spend on them.

*Improved speed:* A good proxy server ensures better internet speed. A proxy server will save the most recent copy of the site and show you your requested content at the shortest interval of time.

*Extended privacy:* Proxy servers will change the user device's IP, keeping you anonymous. This means your IP address is safe from anything tracking you.

*Optimum security:* Your proxy server will encrypt all your transactions made online. This will prevent hackers and malware from harming you, boosting your online security.

*Deny access to allowed content and gain access to blocked content:* You can customise what content you see and what you don't without geographical restrictions. This means you can potentially access different regions for streaming services like Netflix.

**How can you use a proxy server?**

You can change your browser settings and set them to enable the use of a proxy server. The method varies over different browsers but it is pretty easy to set it up. To set up a proxy for Google Chrome, go to: Settings → System → Open your computer's proxy settings → Enable the switch for 'Use a proxy server' → Enter the address and the port → Press Save.

Fill out the address box by typing the proxy server name or the IP address. For the Port field, enter the proxy port number. You can collect these from your IT support tech.

**SAFETY CONCERNS**

Using a proxy server can come with unprecedented risks, so it is of utmost importance to be cautious while choosing a proxy server. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

*Beware of free proxies:* Free isn't always a good option. Most free proxy servers gain revenue by selling your data. Some are not even effective enough. If you plan on using proper proxy servers, consider premium options.

*Browsing history:* Your proxy server will have your real IP address and your web browsing history. Make sure to check that your proxy server isn't saving and retaining your data. Study the provider's law enforcement policies and procedures.

*Encryption:* Make sure whatever proxy you use has full encryption capability. The absence of proper encryption defeats the purpose of proxy servers in the first place.

*Legal issues:* Running proxy servers mean there is always a risk of illegal activities. Be extra vigilant of online security laws and make sure you're not doing anything that can be considered a cybercrime or breaking the law.

ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIZ