7.8 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Case study of CNG vehicles in Delhi

- In 1993, during the English cricket tour of India, when the visitors lost a match, they attributed part of their loss to the air pollution in Delhi – the capital city of India.
- Vehicular emissions accounted for 70% of the air pollution in Delhi, would morph into deadly smog during the foggy winters resulting in an increase in respiratory illnesses.
- Children and senior citizens are affected badly.
- On an average, about 500 new vehicles are being added every day in the city.
- Between 2000 and 2008, the Carbon emissions plummeted by 72%, while the SO_2 emissions decreased by 57% after implementing CNG as a fuel for vehicles.
- CNG is mainly comprised of methane, which upon combustion mainly emits CO_2 and H_2O and being lighter disperses very quickly, whereas gasoline and diesel being more complex, emit more harmful emissions such as NO_X and SO_X.
- Owing to the recent volatility in the oil prices and continued patronage of CNG by the government by way of subsidies, the general public has begun to increasingly incorporate CNG kits in their private vehicles, which facilitates them to run on dual fuel mode.
- In view of growing awareness for cleaner air and climate change, there's many a lesson to be learnt from Delhi's resurgence.