Ethanol Blending Prevents Petrol Price Surge: Petroleum Ministry

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas stated ethanol blending saved consumers ¹30/litre during peak crude price volatility.

The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme mixes bio-ethanol derived from agricultural sources into petrol to reduce crude imports.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Without ethanol blending, petrol prices in **Delhi** would have shot up to nearly **¹125 per litre** during global crude price spikes.
- Ethanol blending saved consumers approximately **¹30 per litre** during peak international oil market volatility.
- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** defended the Ethanol Blended Petrol (**EBP**) Programme against cost and food security criticisms.
- The primary objective of ethanol blending is strengthening national **energy security** and retaining foreign exchange within the Indian economy.
- The government has set a target of achieving **20%** ethanol blending in petrol (**E20 fuel**) across the country.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The Ethanol Blended Petrol (**EBP**) Programme was initially launched by the Government of India in **2003**.

The **National Policy on Biofuels** was promulgated in **2018** and later amended in **2022** to advance biofuel target deadlines.

India advanced the target for achieving **20%** ethanol blending in petrol (E20) from **2030** to the target year **2025-26**.

India successfully achieved its target of **10%** ethanol blending in petrol in **June 2022**, five months ahead of schedule.

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana was launched in **2019** to provide financial support for commercial Second Generation (2G) bioethanol projects.

Bioethanol in India is principally produced from **sugarcane molasses**, damaged food grains, maize, and agricultural residues.

REVISION FLASHCARD

E20 Target: India targets 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26 under National Policy on Biofuels.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Group 1 & Group 2 Main/Prelims economy questions on energy policy, import substitution, and inflation management.