

Cooking oil based biodiesel

May 6, 2021

In news: Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, remotely flagged off the **first supply of UCO (Used Cooking Oil) based Biodiesel blended Diesel** under the EOI Scheme from Indian Oil's **Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi**.

More information-

- Under the **Expressions of Interest for "Procurement of Bio-diesel produced from Used Cooking Oil" scheme**, OMCs offer periodically incremental price guarantees for five years.
- It also extends **off-take guarantees for ten years** to prospective entrepreneurs.
- Under this initiative, Indian Oil has received 51KL of UCO-Biodiesel at its Tikrikalan terminal in Delhi as of 31.3.2021.
- This initiative will garner substantial economic benefits for the nation by **shoring up indigenous Biodiesel supply, reducing import dependence, and generating rural employment**.
- It will also help **divert the unhealthy used oil from the food chain to a more productive purpose** and usher in a revolution through **"Randhan se Indhan"**.
- Indian Oil has started constructing **eight Biodiesels plants across Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh**.

Biodiesel-

- It is an alternative fuel, similar to conventional or 'fossil' diesel.
- It can be **produced from vegetable oils, animal fats, tallow and waste cooking oil**.
- A significant advantage of it is its **carbon-neutrality**, i.e. the oilseed absorbs the same amount of CO₂ as is

released when the fuel is combusted in a vehicle.

- It is **rapidly biodegradable and completely non-toxic.**
- Biodiesel is made through a **chemical process called transesterification** whereby the glycerin is separated from the fat or vegetable oil.
- The process leaves behind **two products – methyl esters and glycerin.**

Methyl esters is the chemical name for biodiesel and glycerin is used in a variety of products, including soap.