

# What is E20 Fuel?

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**In news**— The Prime Minister of India officially announced the availability of E20 at the India Energy Week (IEW) 2023 in Bengaluru.

## **Key updates-**

- **The city of Bengaluru is among the ones that will have retail distribution of E20 fuel**, a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% petrol starting from February 2023.
- Bengaluru is among the 15 cities across India that will **get E20 fuel through outlets run by Indian Oil Corporation in the first phase**, two months ahead of the Centre's initial rollout plan for April 2023.
- **E20 is a blend of 20% ethanol with petrol.**
- The Government aims to achieve a complete 20% blending of ethanol by 2025, and HPCL and other oil marketing companies are setting up 2G-3G ethanol plants that will facilitate the progress.
- In the next two years its retailing would be expanded throughout the country.
- According to the PM, with 10% blending, the country saved a forex outgo of ₹53,894 crore, in addition, increased use of biofuels would lead to a cut in emissions.

## **What is Ethanol Blending?**

- **Ethyl alcohol or ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH) is a biofuel that is made naturally by fermenting sugar** derived from sugarcane or other organic matter like foodgrains( **corn, grain**).
- As part of its carbon reduction commitments, **India has launched the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme to mix this biofuel with petrol to reduce the consumption of petrol.**
- **India has already met its E10 target, so petrol used in**

**the country has 10% ethanol in it.**

- The E20 pilot covers at least 15 cities and will be rolled out across the country in a phased manner.

### **Why Increase Blending?**

India imported 185 million tonnes of petroleum at a cost of \$551 billion in 2020-21. As most of the petroleum products are used in transportation, a successful E20 programme can save the country \$4 billion or Rs 30,000 crore per annum.

### **Solar double burner cook-top-**

- As part of its sustainability and environment protection initiatives Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has also designed a patented indoor solar double burner cook-top, a hybrid solution that works on both solar and auxiliary energy sources, which would be made available to three crore families in the country in the next two to three years.
- The oil firm also has a mandate to recycle 10 crore plastic bottles a year to produce fabric/poli yarn to be used in making uniforms for close to 35,000 of its employees.

### **India Energy Week (IEW)-**

- IEW is the preeminent event for experts in the traditional and non-traditional energy industry from around the world.
- It is aimed to showcase India's rising prowess as an energy transition powerhouse.

**Further**

**reading:**

**<https://journalsofindia.com/ethanol-blending-programme/>**