Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance| Environment*

Why in News

Recently, Union Government issued directions countering misleading social media claims regarding the quality, safety & impact of 20% Ethonal -Blended Petrol (E20).

- **Initiated by** – Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

About Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Program

- **Launch -** In 2003 to enhance energy security by reducing oil imports & promote environmental sustainability.
- **Stage Wise Rollout –** Implemented Progressively based on technical preparedness, Fulfilling in the nationalwide rollout of E20 (20**% ethanol blending) from 2023 onwards.**
- **Global Standards** – It is Globally accepted practice. For example, Brazil uses E27 as its standard petrol blending, while countries like USA & Japan also employs high blending levels.

Technical details

- **Ethanol absorbs moisture (Hygroscopic) –** To Prevent water entering into fuel tanks, modern vehicles are equipped with structural safeguards.
- **Feedstock-** like Sugarcane juice, B-heavy molasses, damaged food grains like broken rice & Maize are used to produce Ethanol. Distillation & Fermentation Process completely eliminates residual sugars.
- **"Ant Attraction" Myth –** There is zero scientific basis linking E20 fuel attracting ants. Fuel-grade ethanol conforms to stringent industrial specifications and contains denaturants that act as insect repellents.
- **Insurance Validity -** Regulatory stakeholders have clarified that using government-mandated E20 fuel does not impact or invalidate vehicle insurance policies.

Ecological & Economic Significance

- **Forex Savings:** Around 1.4 lakh crore in foreign exchange has been saved by India by cutting expensive crude oil imports.
- **Rural Economy -** It provides a structured remunerative demand for farmers produce, boosting rural incomes, by using diverse domestic feedstocks.
- **Climate Commitments -** It directly aids India's transition toward cleaner mobility

and helps meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for carbon emission reduction.

What is Ethanol?
• It is an anhydrous ethyl alcohol (C_2H_5OH) with a high-octane rating, making it an excellent fuel extender when blended with petrol. In India, it is primarily produced as a biofuel under the **National Policy on Biofuels**.

For Reference Click here : IAS Parliament | The Hindu