Ethanol Blending Petrol (EBP) Programme

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in news?

The Union Home Minister hailed the ethanol blending programme as a transformative initiative for India's sugar cooperatives and helps in promoting rural prosperity.

- **EBP –** It is an initiative aimed at increasing the proportion of ethanol in gasoline.
- The program promotes the blending of ethanol derived from sugarcane, maize and other agricultural feedstock with petrol.
- **Launched in –** 2003.
- **Nodal Ministry –** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Objective –** To reduce the reliance on fossil fuel imports and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Target –** Target of 20% blending of ethanol with petrol by 2025.
- As of July 2025, India ***achieved a 20%*** of ethanol blend, from just 1.5% in 2014.
- **Framework for EBP –** ***National Biofuel Policy, 2009,*** provides a framework for the implementation of EBP.
- **Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** – To sell Ethanol Blended Petrol subject to commercial viability as per Bureau of Indian Standards.
- **Coverage –** This programme has been extended to the whole of India except the Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.

Quick Fact

National Biofuel Policy
• **Launched –** In 2009 • Proposed a target of 20% blending of both biodiesel and bioethanol by 2017. • The policy was revised in 2018 and 2022 to achieve ***20% bioethanol blending*** by 2025 and ***5% biodiesel blending*** by 2030.
Ethanol
• Ethanol is a colourless, combustible, and volatile liquid organic substance. • It is one of the primary biofuels, naturally produced through the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or through petrochemical processes like ethylene hydration.

References

1. The Hindu | Ethanol Programme a game changer

2. Vikaspedia | Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme

