



Centre lifts curbs on ethanol production from cane juice

The Centre has lifted restrictions on production of ethanol from sugarcane juice, b-heavy and c-heavy molasses for the next ethanol supply year that begins in November. The Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas will review the diversion for ethanol periodically. The department had restricted ethanol production since last December to ensure the domestic market had adequate supply of sugar.

FPJ NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI

ENERGISING THE TRANSITION TO RENEWABLES

Maharashtra, most likely to become the country's first state to achieve a trillion dollar economy make, has its sights set on becoming a renewable energy leader alongside growth in other areas. At a panel discussion titled Maharashtra's Energy Transition, expert panelists including industry leaders and policymakers deliberated on the challenges, opportunities, and necessary policy frameworks to accelerate the transition while ensuring justice for communities and groups that may be adversely impacted by the migration away from fossil fuels.

Abhijit Ghorpade, director of the Maharashtra state government's climate action cell, said alongside the country's net-zero targets for 2070 announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at COP26 in 2021, and alongside targets to reduce 45% carbon emission and enhance the country's carbon sink by five times by 2030, the state government of Maharashtra has outlined plans to reduce dependence on fossil fuels from 74% to 50%, in "a massive energy transition". He said by 2025, the entire fleet of buses in Mumbai will run on renewables, while the state transport corporation will also have 5,000 green buses.

"Now it is compulsory for all public buildings to be green buildings, we have recently launched the decarbonisation roadmap for the building sector," he said, a step critical for the most urbanised state in India.



(L-R) Sandeep Bangia, Head, Of Strategy, Transformation and E-Mobility, Gulf Oil Lubricants India Ltd.; Abhijit Ghorpade (IAS), Director, Maharashtra climate action cell; Shivang Mahadevia, Head of Strategy, Tata Chemicals;

Ghorpade also spoke on the 'just transitions' roadmap for the state. "We are the largest sub-national economy of the country. We are trying to achieve our economic goal while also achieving the net zero objectives," he said. "In order to ensure that the transition is not painful, so that it becomes inclusive, just and fair, we have to adopt a just transitions policy that tackles any disruption of the job market, we must have a massive skilling programme, etc."

S Lakshminarayanan, executive director (sustainability) of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, spoke on various measures that the oil industry, a hard to abate industry, is taking to reduce emissions while maintaining India's energy security.

Indian per capita energy consumption, about 1.6 tonne per year, is much lower than in the West where it ranges between 5 tonne per year and 10 tonne per. "When we're talking about how we will grow, I can safely

assume that this 1.6 tonne per year will go to about 3 tonne per year. If society has to prosper, energy consumption will grow. We have a target of 500 GW of renewable energy installed capacity, which is approximately about 7 lakh to 8 lakh GWh (giga watt hour) of energy per year. Our consumption today is about 18 lakh gWh per year. If by 2030 energy consumption is going to double, it means this entire 500 GW will not be sufficient to take care of the growth alone. This

means the oil industry will have to be there" he said.

Despite the countrywide transition to renewables, IOCI continues to expect a CAGR of 3% for the coming years, woven while they themselves move towards renewable energy in their internal operations

If oil continues to be important to energy security, emissions would be reduced through biofuels, he said, explaining that a 15% blending of ethanol in MS



(motor spirits) cuts 15% of emissions. "The industries consuming fuel need not do anything — the emissions are automatically coming down." Lakshminarayanan also spoke of the nascent but growing alternatives of bio-diesel, and compressed biogas.

While the automobile industry is witnessing a quick move away from the internal combustion engine to electric vehicles, Sandeep Bangia, head of Strategy, Transformation and E-Mobility at Gulf Oil Lubricants India Limited, stressed on the need to incentivise EVs. "An electric two-wheeler

is cheaper to buy and run. Today, 80% of three wheelers in India are EVs" he said, adding that charging stations are also growing in numbers

He added, "Recently, the central government has launched a zero carbon emission trucking policy which will play a huge role in fighting against pollution as transport sector contributes to 20% of carbon emissions and in cities like Delhi, it goes up to as high as 50%."

Shivang Mahadevia, head, Corporate Strategy and Sustainability at Tata Chemicals, highlighted chemical industry's efforts to curb emissions. "We are an energy intensive industry and although we are trying to move away from fossil fuel, we cannot scale the same results. The industry is collectively trying to address the issue but we need a step-by-step approach to bring in massive change. Since we cannot do away with coal as of now, we need to co-fire with biomass. Simultaneously, we need to ensure electrification of factories which will become cheaper as well as helpful to the environment," said Mahadevia.

There is a need for balance between growth and sustainability. The challenge is how to grow while not growing in carbon emissions

- PRABODHA ACHARYA,
Chief sustainability officer,
JSW Group



Govt gets ₹5,091 crore dividend from IOC

PTI

NEW DELHI

The government has received about Rs 5,091 crore from Indian Oil Corp (IOCL) as dividend, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said on Thursday.

The "Government has received about Rs 5,091 crore from IOCL as dividend tranche," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said in a post on X. During the current financial year 2024-25, so far Rs 10,604.74 crore has been obtained through dividend from the CPSEs.

This include Rs 40 crore from Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL), Rs 554 crore from Power Finance Corp, and Rs 3,443 crore from TCIL as special dividend.

Govt lifts cap on sugar diversion for ethanol production starting November

PTI

NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday permitted use of sugarcane juice and sugar syrup for ethanol production in the 2024-25 ethanol supply year (ESY), reversing last year's ban.

In December 2023, the government prohibited the use of sugarcane juice or sugar syrup for ethanol production in the 2023-24 ESY (December-November) to ensure adequate sugar availability for domestic consump-



tion and keep prices in check.

"Sugar mills and distilleries are allowed to produce ethanol from sugarcane juice/sugar syrup, B-Heavy molasses as well as C-Heavy molasses for ESY 2024-25 as per the agreement/allocation

with OMCs (oil marketing companies)," the food ministry order said.

The Food Ministry and Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry will periodically review the diversion of sugar for ethanol production vis-a-vis sugar production to ensure year-round availability of sugar for domestic consumption, it added.

Ethanol blending in India has reached 13.3 per cent by July of the current season, up from 12.6 per cent during the 2022-23 season.

घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर का पाइप लीक होने से लगी आग, पांच झुलसे

संवाद सूत्र, जागरण. डिब्बाई (बुलंदशहर) : ममता रसोई में खाना बना रही थीं। इसी दौरान खाना बनाते समय घरेलू गैस सिलेंडर का पाइप लीक होने से आग लग गई। इससे परिवार के तीन बच्चों सहित पांच लोग झुलस गए। सभी को नगर के सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र ले जाया गया। जहां डॉक्टरों ने प्राथमिक उपचार के बाद अलीगढ़ रेफर कर दिया। मुहल्ला नमक मंडी में गुरुवार सुबह साढ़े आठ बजे दीपक वाष्ण्य की पत्नी

ममता रसोई में खाना बना रही थीं। इसी दौरान गैस सिलेंडर का पाइप लीक हो गया, जिससे आग लग गई। आग से दीपक, ममता और तीन बेटियां ज्योति, खुशबू एवं परी बुरी तरह से झुलस गए। आसपास के लोगों ने सिलेंडर को बाहर निकाला। चौकी प्रभारी अशोक कुमार और अन्य लोगों ने घायलों को सीएचसी पहुंचाया। सीओ रामकरन सिंह ने बताया कि घायलों का उपचार चल रहा है।