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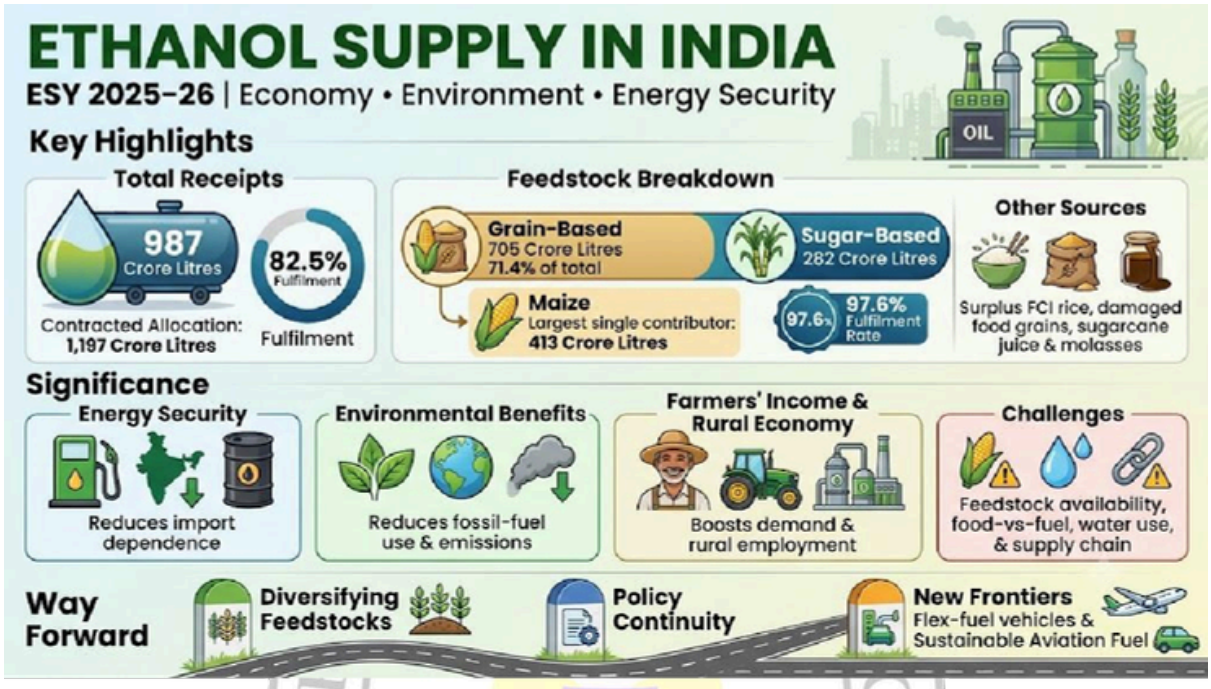
ENVIRONMENT

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GS Paper III – Economy | Environment | Energy Security

Ethanol Supply in India



Key Highlights

- Total ethanol receipts: **987 crore litres by September 2026 under Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025–26.**
- Total contracted allocation: **1,197 crore litres; fulfilment rate was 82.5%.**
- Major feedstock: **Grain-based sources contributed 705 crore litres, accounting for 71.4% of total receipts.**
- **Maize: Largest single contributor, supplying 413 crore litres.**
- **Sugar-based feedstocks: Supplied 282 crore litres, achieving a 97.6% fulfilment rate.**
- **Other sources: Surplus FCI rice, damaged food grains, sugarcane juice and molasses.**

Significance

1. Energy security: Reduces dependence on imported crude oil.

2. Environmental benefits: Ethanol blending can reduce fossil-fuel consumption and certain vehicular emissions.

3. Farmers' income: Creates additional demand for agricultural produce.

4. Rural economy: Supports distilleries and employment.

5. Challenges: Feedstock availability, food-versus-fuel concerns, water consumption and supply-chain constraints.

Way Forward:

Diversify feedstocks, ensure policy continuity and expand ethanol applications in flex-fuel vehicles and sustainable aviation fuel.

Prelims Question

Q. Consider the following statements regarding ethanol blending in India:

1. Ethanol can be produced from grain-based and sugar-based feedstocks. 2.

Ethanol blending can help reduce dependence on imported crude oil.

3. The Ethanol Supply Year 2025–26 runs from November to October. Which

of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

B) 1 and 2 only

C) 2 and 3 only

D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D) 1, 2 and 3

Mains Practice Question

Q. Examine the role of ethanol blending in strengthening India's energy security. Discuss the associated environmental and food-security challenges. (150 words)

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