Ethanol blending

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Why is in news? Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) visits R&D centre Praj Matrix's

- With an **objective to understand in depth innovations in indigenous technology** developments and debottlenecking any growth impediments **in ethanol blending**, Secretary Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Shri SudhanshPandey along with a team from Food Corporation Of India (FCI) visited R&D centre Praj Matrix's recently.
- The **Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)** is playing pivotal role in achieving **10% ethanol blending in petrol (E10)** by ensuring feedstock supply alignment with enhanced ethanol production capacity build-up.
- The **low carbon innovative technologies** are helping India progress **towards Net Zero goals** assisting attaining COP 26 goals for the country while **facilitating Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan** by meeting **20% petrol requirements from ethanol** and strengthening energy security of the country.
- This would also **help save foreign exchange** for the country worth about Rs. 30000 crore per annum.
- This would ensure an **alternative market for farmers' produce** like rice, maize helping them achieve better returns, more than MSP and also faster payment from sugar mills.
- All these activities are leading to **transforming Indian Farming community** from **'Anna Daata' to 'Urja Daata'**.
- It is **one of the principal biofuels**, which is naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration.
- **Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP):** It is aimed at reducing the country's dependence on crude oil imports, cutting carbon emissions and boosting farmers' incomes.
- The Government of India has advanced the **target for 20% ethanol blending in petrol (also called E20) to 2025 from 2030**.
- By **blending ethanol into gasoline**, it can reduce the amount of petrol required to run a car, thereby reducing dependence on imported, expensive, and polluting petroleum.