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# Iran War & India's Push for Ethanol

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Amid the ongoing Iran (West Asia) conflict, experts suggest that India should accelerate its ethanol blending programme to reduce dependence on imported crude oil and strengthen energy security.

## Why is Ethanol Important Now?

The Iran war has disrupted global energy supplies, especially through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for oil and gas transport. India, being heavily dependent on imports, faces risks of rising fuel prices and supply shortages, making alternative fuels like ethanol crucial.

## What is Ethanol Blending?

Ethanol blending involves mixing ethanol (a biofuel) with petrol to reduce crude oil consumption. It helps in:

### Lowering import dependence

Reducing fuel costs

Cutting carbon emissions

?? India's Ethanol Programme

Launched in 2003

Achieved 10% blending (E10) in 2022

### Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040  
Phone: 044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833

Target: 20% blending (E20) by 2025–26 (achieved ahead of schedule)

### **Global Example (Brazil Model)**

Countries like Brazil successfully used ethanol blending after the 1970s oil crisis to reduce oil dependency. India can replicate a similar strategy in the current crisis.

### **Challenges in Ethanol Expansion**

Dependence on crops like sugarcane and grains (food vs fuel issue)

Water-intensive production

Impact on food prices and agriculture balance

Vehicle compatibility concerns

### **Significance for India**

Enhances energy security during geopolitical crises

Reduces pressure on foreign exchange reserves

Supports farmers' income (ethanol production from crops)

Promotes clean and renewable energy transition