



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# Low Carbon Cruise on Mahabahu Brahmaputra - SB Gangadhar

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**Why is in news?** Low Carbon Cruise on Mahabahu Brahmaputra' flagged off by Union Petroleum Minister

In a run-up to **India Energy Week 2023** (IEW 2023) to be held in Bengaluru from 6-8 Feb 2023, Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Housing and Urban Affairs, ceremonially inaugurated the **demo-run of Inland Water Vessel powered by Methanol blended Diesel (MD15)**.

The boat ride was done on a 50-seater motor launch marine vessel named '**SB Gangadhar**'.

The marine vessel is equipped with two Ruston make diesel engines (each engine of 105 hp). The boat will be run on MD-15 (15% methanol blended HSD).

**Methanol is a low carbon hydrogen carrier fuel** produced from high ash coal, agricultural residue, CO<sub>2</sub> from thermal power plants and natural gas. It is the best pathway for meeting India's commitment to COP 21.

Although slightly lower in energy content than petrol and diesel, **methanol can replace both these fuels** in the transport sector (road, rail and marine), energy sector (comprising DG sets, boilers, process heating modules, tractors, and commercial vehicles) and retail cooking (replacing LPG [partially], kerosene and wood charcoal).

**NITI Aayog's 'Methanol Economy' programme** is aimed at reducing India's oil import bill, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and converting coal reserves and municipal solid waste into methanol

Methanol is a **cost-effective alternative marine fuel**. It is **less costly than other marine fuel** and is economical in terms of developing the shore side storage and bunkering infrastructure.

The **cost to convert vessels to run on methanol is significantly less than other alternative fuel conversions** with no need for expensive exhaust gas after treatment and as a liquid fuel, only minor modifications are needed for existing storage and bunkering infrastructure to handle methanol.

**Blending of 15% methanol in gasoline can result in at least 15% reduction in the import of gasoline/crude oil**. In addition, this would bring down GHG emissions by 20% in terms of particulate matter, NO<sub>x</sub>, and SO<sub>x</sub>, thereby improving the urban air quality.

## India Energy Week:

IEW 2023 is the first major event under India's G20 Presidency, which follows the Honourable Prime Minister's pledge at COP26 to cut India's emissions to net-zero by 2070.

Held under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, India Energy Week is the only and all-encompassing international energy event supported at the highest level of Indian government, with participation from all the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and officially supported by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI).

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