

# 'Telecom towers, aircraft can be powered by ethanol'

## Gadkari says the govt is talking to the IAF for using ethanol to power its aircraft

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The Centre is exploring the possibility of using ethanol to power telecom towers to boost the consumption of the greener fuel and reduce dependence on the imported fossil fuel, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Sunday.

Addressing the Sugar & Ethanol India Conference 2022, Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari said, "There are four lakh operational telecom towers in India, and they use diesel generators for power. If we replace diesel with ethanol then we can boost consumption of ethanol. Kirloskar and other companies have found a way to use 100 per cent ethanol to run the generators. Karnataka, Tamil

Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have large quantities of ethanol, which can be tapped into."

### **Ethanol, an alternative**

Besides using ethanol in commercial jetliners, Gadkari said that the government is talking to the Indian Air Force for using ethanol to fuel its aircrafts. In 2018, Spicejet operated India's first test flight powered by biojet fuel on a Bombardier Q400 aircraft.

"We are in talks with the Indian Air Force chief and defence forces. We are exploring the possibilities of increasing the usage of ethanol in the IAF," Gadkari added. On January 26, 2019, a biojet fuel-powered Indian Air Force transport aircraft AN-32, flew



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari PTI

over Raj Path as part of the Republic Day celebrations.

India is able to produce 465 crore litre of ethanol per annum at present. When E20 is approved the consumption will shoot up to 1,500 crore litre. According to Gadkari, in the next five years ethanol requirement is expected to go up to 4,000 crore litre. India has allowed blending of up to 10 per cent (E10) in automobile

fuel as of now. All vehicles manufactured in India are tuned for E10.

"We have three pumps in Pune but no one has turned up to fill ethanol. Bajaj, TVS and Hero have developed two-wheelers that can run on ethanol. Three-wheelers too are being developed to run on ethanol. I have asked construction equipment manufacturing companies to give up diesel engines and switch to petrol before switching to flex engines," Gadkari added.

### **'More ethanol, less sugar'**

"The Centre has decided to give a go-ahead to open ethanol pumps. I request sugar factory owners to make ethanol available at their factories. It is better for our future to reduce sugar production and increase ethanol production," Gadkari added.