

26-05-2022

Union Cabinet approves Biofuel Policy

Why in Newspapers?

The Union Cabinet has recently amended the National Biofuel Policy 2018.

Quick Issue?

- The target of achieving 20% ethanol blending in petrol has been set five years back. Thus, the new target is 2025-26 instead of 2030. There are other amendments to the Biofuel Policy.
- Permission for production of biofuels under the 'Make in India' program in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), export oriented units.
- Allowing more feedstock for production of biofuels.
- Export of biofuels allowed in certain cases.

Historical Background?

- Induction of new members to the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC), the agency coordinating the blending programme.
- The National Biofuel Policy, 2018 focuses on Bioethanol, Biodiesel and Bio-CNG. The major components of this policy are Ethanol Blending Program (EPB), production of second generation (2G) ethanol, R&D in feedstock etc.
- The initial target was to achieve 20% blending by 2030. The central government announced premium rates for ethanol produced from sugar syrup, sugarcane juice and heavy molasses.
- The objective of this policy is to reduce the dependence on oil imports, thereby reducing the import bill. It also allows consumers to use eco-friendly fuels. The policy also enables the sugar industry to diversify its portfolio and become self-reliant.
- Currently, the all India average blending is 9.90%. The installed capacity of sugar mills for ethanol production is 460 crore litres.
- The country needs a continuous annual supply of 1,500 crore liters of ethanol to achieve the 20% blending target.

Other Key Facts?

- The National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 allows the production of ethanol from damaged food grains which are unfit for human consumption such as wheat, broken rice etc.
- The policy also allows conversion of surplus quantities of food grains into ethanol based on the approval of the National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
- This policy allows the use of substances used in ethanol production and unfit for human consumption such as sugarcane juice, sugar-containing ingredients- beet, sweet fodder, starchy materials and corn, cassava, wheat, broken rice, rotten potatoes. It expands the range of raw materials for ethanol production.



- The existing National Bio-fuel Policy came into existence during 2018. This proposed amendment will pave the way for the Make in India campaign and it will be possible to cut the import of petroleum products through greater production of bio-fuels. A number of feedstocks are being approved for biofuels.
- A number of feedstocks are being approved for bio-fuels. This step will give impetus to self-reliant India and will give impetus to the Prime Minister's vision of India being "energy independent" by 2047.
- This proposal will increase the attractiveness and support for the development of indigenous technologies, thereby paving the way for the Make in India campaign; Accordingly more jobs will be created.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

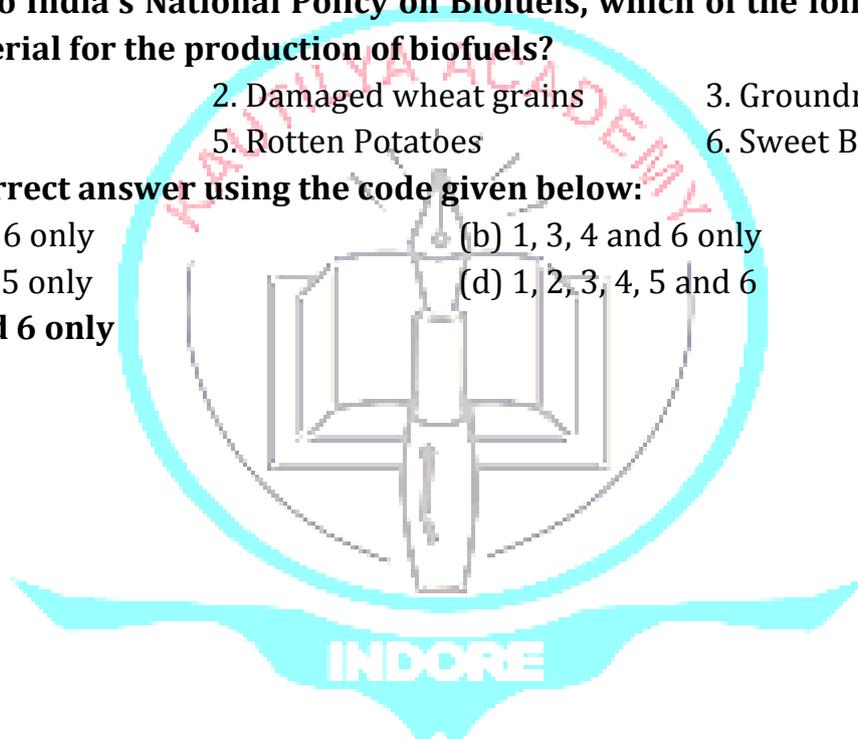
Que. According to India's National Policy on Biofuels, which of the following can be used as raw material for the production of biofuels?

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Tightness | 2. Damaged wheat grains | 3. Groundnut seeds |
| 4. Chickpeas | 5. Rotten Potatoes | 6. Sweet Beet |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) 1, 2, 5 and 6 only | (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only |
| (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only | (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 |

Ans. (a) 1, 2, 5 and 6 only



Quad Summit 2022

Why in Newspapers?

The Quad Summit began on 24 May 2022 in Tokyo, Japan. It was attended by the leaders of the Quad countries (Australia, India, Japan and the US).

Quick Issue?

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japan PM Fumio Kishida and newly-elected Australian PM Antony Albanese attended the summit. This is the second in-person quad summit.
- Addressing this summit, PM Modi said that the Quad Grouping is a force for good and aims at an inclusive Indo-Pacific region. He also appreciated the role of the Quad in ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Historical Background?

- The Quad Fellowship was launched in this summit. This is a first of its kind scholarship program aimed at fostering people-to-people ties among the four members of the Quad.
- The fellowship will sponsor 25 students from each quad country to pursue higher studies and doctoral degrees at leading science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) universities in the US.
- In 2007, the then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposed the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.
- After Australia's exit, the quad closed. Again during the 2017 ASEAN summit in Manila, all four countries agreed to revive the Quad to counter China.
- The vision of the Quad is “free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” and a rules-based maritime order in the East and South China Seas.
- Quad Infrastructure Coordination Group, Green Shipping Network, Clean-Hydrogen Partnership, Quad Fellowship, Semi-conductor Supply Chain Initiative, Quad Senior Cyber Group, etc. have been formed by the Quad member countries.
- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, is an informal strategic dialogue forum between India, the US, Japan and Australia.
- It brings these countries together to ensure and support a 'free, open and prosperous' Indo-Pacific region.
- The concept of the Quad was first formally introduced by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007, however, it could not be carried forward due to Australia's withdrawal under Chinese pressure.

Other Key Facts?

- The quadrilateral alliance of 'India, Australia, America and Japan' is going to be formed with the aim of giving shape to the 'Indo-Pacific Concept' in place of the earlier 'Asia-Pacific Concept'. This quadrilateral alliance will prove to be important in keeping China 'free' in the midst of China's growing military presence in this strategic region. The emergence of China is a reality that India has to deal with. But diplomacy is an art that depends on the right balance and India has to strike that balance.



- The idea of setting up a 'Democratic Security Diamond' involving Australia, India, Japan and the US was introduced by Shinzo Abe in the year 2012 to ensure maritime security from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.
- The 'Quad' group was established in November 2017 to formulate a new strategy to keep the Indo-Pacific region free from the influence of any external power (especially China) and its first meeting was held a day before the ASEAN summit.
- All the four countries of the Quad (Japan, India, Australia and USA) participated in the Malabar exercise in the year 2020.
- The Malabar exercise is an annual trilateral naval exercise between the navies of India, Japan and the United States, conducted alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Which country is not a part of Indo-Pacific Quad group?

- (a) America (b) India
(c) Japan (d) Indonesia

Ans. (d) Indonesia

