



Department of Legal Metrology

MISSION NIKHARA
MEASUREMENT GUARANTEE

Press release

LAB TESTS EXPOSE ILLEGAL OVER-BLENDING AT KARNATAKA PUMPS

Under the leadership of the Hon'ble Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrology, **Shri Rizwan Arshad**, testing of petrol from major brands available in Karnataka were conducted. The samples were drawn from Bengaluru, Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagar, Mangaluru and Tumakuru.

Samples drawn from **all major fuel companies** have shown an **ethanol blend of more than 20%**. With **IOCL** and **HPCL** recording a blend percentage of **31.2** and **30.5 respectively**.

E20 Ethanol LIES

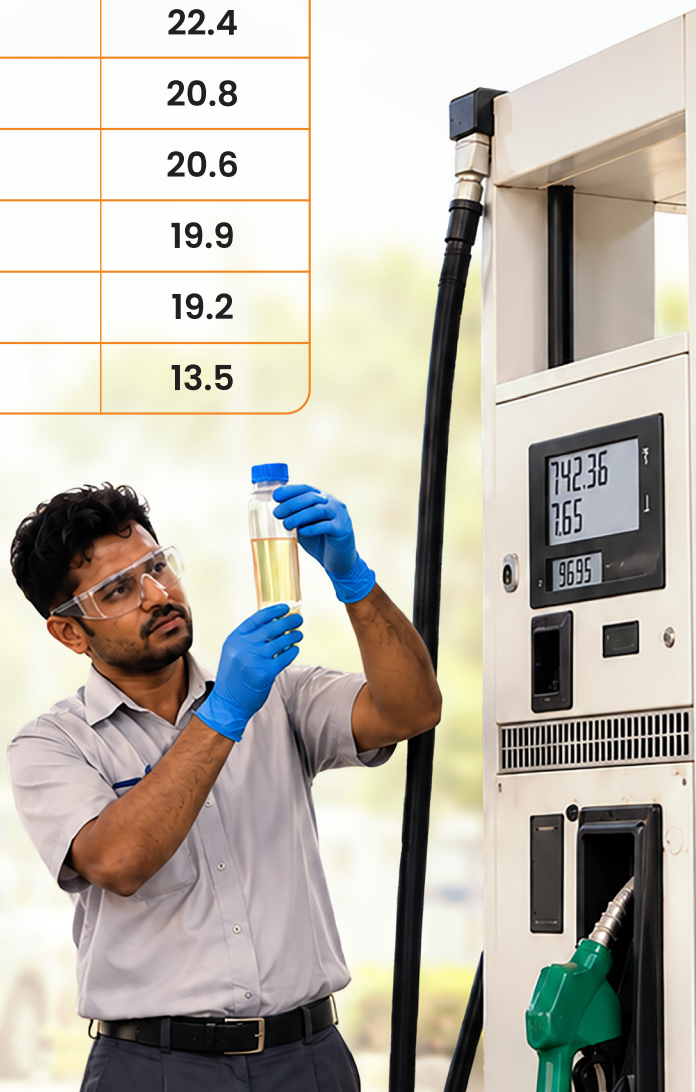
THE PUMP SAYS E20
THE TEST FOUND MORE



The samples were initially submitted to the in-house laboratories of IOCL and BPCL. However, the test reports issued by these laboratories **did not disclose the ethanol content** of the fuel, despite it being one of the prescribed testing parameters. This omission raises serious questions about the transparency of the oil marketing companies and what they seek to conceal from consumers.

We therefore had the samples tested at **NABL accredited** and **ISO certified laboratories.**

Sl.no	Company*	Sample	Ethanol%
1	IOCL	Petrol (MS)	31.2
2	HPCL	Petrol (MS – Power)	30.5
3	HPCL	Petrol (MS)	27
4	BPCL	Petrol (MS – Speed)	26.5
5	Nayara	Petrol (MS)	26.1
6	Shell	Petrol(MS)	25.5
7	BPCL	Petrol (MS)	24.2
8	BPCL	Petrol (MS)	22.6
9	HPCL	Petrol (MS)	22.4
10	IOCL	Petrol(MS)	20.8
11	Nayara	Petrol(MS)	20.6
12	BPCL	Petrol (MS)	19.9
13	MRPL	Petrol (MS)	19.2
14	Shell	Petrol (MS)	13.5



*Samples drawn from different locations

THE CONSUMER IS PAYING A HEAVY PRICE

₹62,000 crore every year

India consumes 6,200 Crore litre of fuel every year. A 10% mileage loss at ₹100/litre means a **₹62,000 crore** annual hit to consumers due to this **over-blending**.

₹39,000 crore every year

Vehicles that were never designed for such fuel face **damage to filters**, **fuel pumps**, **injectors**, **hoses** and **seals**, adding a further **₹39,000 crore** in repair costs.

With a conservative estimate, consumers are facing a hidden burden of nearly

₹1.01 lakh crore annually

This is not a risk confined only to older vehicles.

99% of India's 35 crore vehicles

are not built for blends above E20

Even vehicles sold after April 2023 are certified only up to E20. With lower-ethanol blend petrol withdrawn from nearly 1 lakh fuel stations, the consumer has been left with no alternative.

PROFITS FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND COMPANIES

LOSSES FOR CITIZENS

The Central Government has argued that ethanol blending saves foreign exchange. The benefit, however, has not reached the consumer.

Combined profits of **IOCL**, **BPCL** and **HPCL**:

₹77,821 crore

in FY 2025-26

In addition, automobile manufacturers earn nearly 50% of their profits through servicing and selling spare parts. While the oil marketing companies report record earnings, consumers bear the cost through lost mileage and damaged vehicles.



In addition **most dispensing units** currently in use at petrol pumps are also designed for blends of only up to 15% ethanol. This raises serious concerns about the rollout of the **ethanol-blending policy** as the dispensing infrastructure and related systems were not adequately upgraded to handle **higher ethanol blends, leaving consumers to bear the consequences.**

OUR DEMANDS

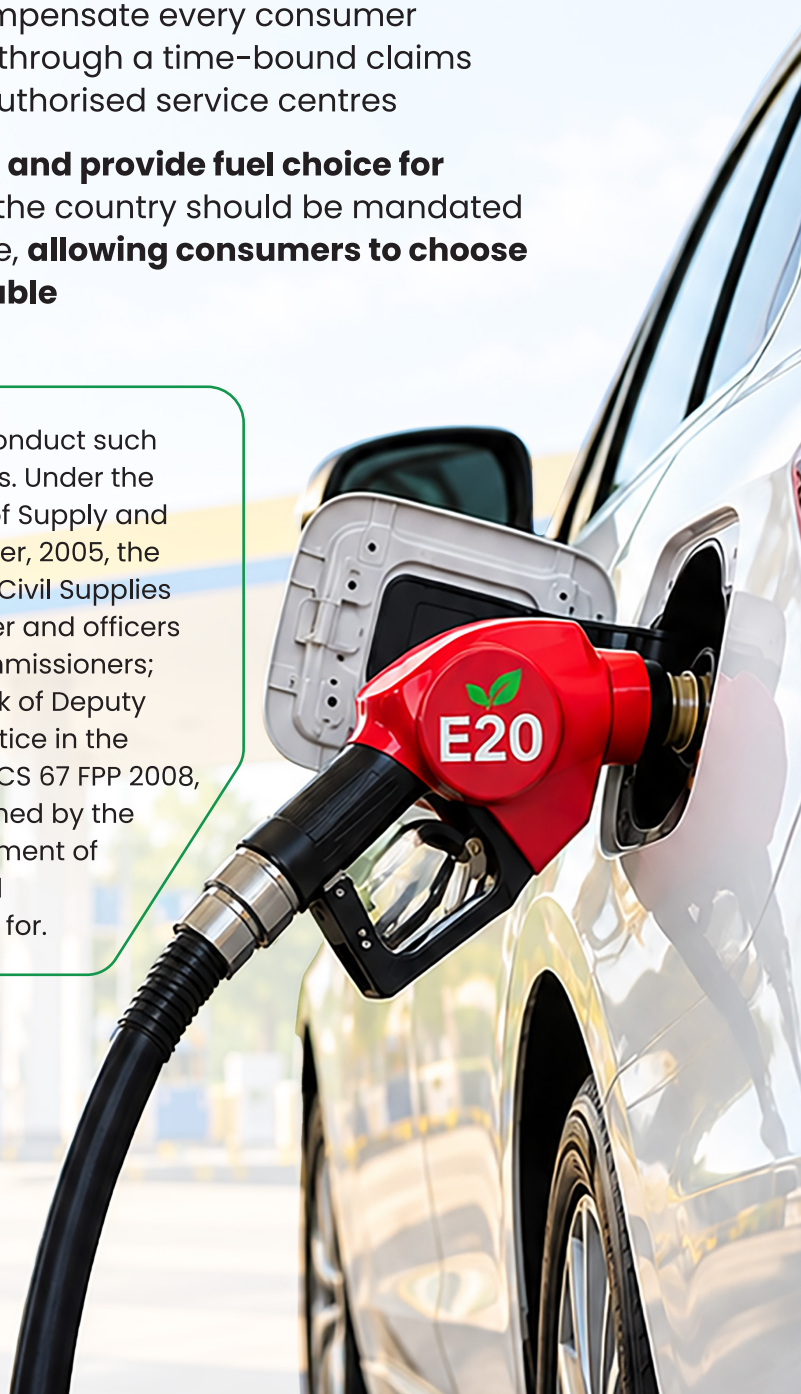
The Union Ministers of Road Transport & Highways and Petroleum & Natural Gas owe an explanation to every Indian: The evidence is now on record. The Government of India must publicly clarify the actual ethanol blend being supplied to consumers

Penalise over-blending: Initiate action against all OMCs supplying petrol above 20% ethanol

Establish an E20 spoilage fund: Compensate every consumer whose vehicle has been damaged, through a time-bound claims process with damage certified by authorised service centres

Mandate blend display nationwide and provide fuel choice for the consumers: Every fuel pump in the country should be mandated to display ethanol blend percentage, **allowing consumers to choose between the range of blends available**

The Government of Karnataka will continue to conduct such tests across the State and will release its findings. Under the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005, the State has empowered the Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department; the Controller and officers of the Legal Metrology Department; Deputy Commissioners; Tahsildars; and police officers not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police to act against malpractice in the supply and distribution of fuel (Notification No. FCS 67 FPP 2008, dated 15.04.2009). Under **Mission Nikhara** launched by the Hon'ble Minister **Shri Rizwan Arshad**, the Government of Karnataka will ensure an accurate measure and a quality guarantee for every litre its people pay for.



Karnataka's motorists will not keep paying for petrol and getting ethanol.

ANNEXURE

TEST CERTIFICATE NO.	TR01138
JOB ORDER NO.	202609210197
SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	Petrol, Sample description: MS, Seal Identification No. : 6579662

TEST RESULTS

Sl. No.	Tests	Results	Test method
1	Density @ 15°, g/cc	0.746	IS 1448 : Part 16 : 2014
2	Ethanol, %	31.2	By Gas chromatography
3	Chloride	Nil	Inhouse method

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(Employee code No.:

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QAD 64

ANNEXURE

TEST CERTIFICATE NO.	TR01142
JOB ORDER NO.	202609210204
SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	Petrol, Sample description: MS (Power), Seal Identification No. : 7369195, Wo No. : CLM/ACT/QUA/CR-39/2026-27

TEST RESULTS

Sl. No.	Tests	Results	Test method
1	Density @ 15°, g/cc	0.748	IS 1448 : Part 16 : 2014
2	Ethanol, %	30.5	By Gas chromatography
3	Chloride	Nil	Inhouse method

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ANNEXURE

TEST CERTIFICATE NO.	TR01141
JOB ORDER NO.	202609210203
SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	Petrol, Sample description: MS, Seal Identification No. : 7369177, Wo No. : CLM/ACT/QUA/CR-39/2026-27

TEST RESULTS

Sl. No.	Tests	Results	Test method
1	Density @ 15°, g/cc	0.746	IS 1448 : Part 16 : 2014
2	Ethanol, %	27.0	By Gas chromatography
3	Chloride	Nil	Inhouse method

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ANNEXURE

TEST CERTIFICATE NO.	TR01137
JOB ORDER NO.	202609210196
SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	Petrol, Sample description: MS-Speed, Seal Identification No. : 5248545

TEST RESULTS

Sl. No.	Tests	Results	Test method
1	Density @ 15°, g/cc	0.749	IS 1448 : Part 16 : 2014
2	Ethanol, %	26.5	By Gas chromatography
3	Chloride	Nil	Inhouse method

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ANNEXURE

TEST CERTIFICATE NO.	TR01143
JOB ORDER NO.	202609210205
SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	Petrol, Sample description: MS, Seal Identification No. : 0022246, Wo No. : CLM/FUEL/QUA/CR-39/2026-27

TEST RESULTS

Sl. No.	Tests	Results	Test method
1	Density @ 15°, g/cc	0.742	IS 1448 : Part 16 : 2014
2	Ethanol, %	26.1	By Gas chromatography
3	Chloride	Nil	Inhouse method

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ANNEXURE

TEST CERTIFICATE NO.	TR01139
JOB ORDER NO.	202609210198
SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	Petrol, Sample description: MS, Seal Identification No. : 7954512

TEST RESULTS

Sl. No.	Tests	Results	Test method
1	Density @ 15°, g/cc	0.749	IS 1448 : Part 16 : 2014
2	Ethanol, %	25.5	By Gas chromatography
3	Chloride	Nil	Inhouse method

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