

Use of methanol as fuel can reduce emission by 90%: Expert

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Indore: Blending just about 15% methanol with petrol will cut down vehicular pollution by around 30 per cent while switch to methanol totally as fuel in automobiles will lead to over 90% drop in emission, said professor Surya Prakash from University of Southern California.

Prakash, an eminent researcher working on 'methanol economy' and chairman at Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute stressed on use of methanol as clean fuel in various sectors to cut down pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Prakash said, "Carbon dioxide creates a lot of problems in atmosphere. Global warming is real. An alternative source of fuel is required, where methanol can be more efficient and friendly. A methanol engine can be around 40 per cent smaller in size than diesel engine." He was at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore to attend international conference on Emerging Trends in Chemistry organized to celebrate 10th anniversary of IIT, Indore, discipline of Chemistry. Pradeep Mathur, director, IIT Indore said, "Researchers from different disciplines at IIT Indore are working on various



Representational pic

areas related to methanol/alternative fuels such as nano-cluster-based electrodes for methanol fuel cell, development of catalytic systems for the transformation of biomass to alternate fuels, algae biodiesel development, production of methanol from carbon dioxide, solar cells, batteries, energy generation and storage. The insti-

tute has also engaged in collaborated research on alternative fuels with foreign universities." One litre petrol is equivalent to 1.5 litre methanol but is much cleaner and efficient. Responding to push by Centre to electrical vehicles, Prakash said methanol can be used in existing infrastructure and old vehicles with very little modification can run on methanol very efficiently while electric vehicles need a whole new infrastructure.

Giving a push to methanol economy, NITI Aayog has framed roadmap to substitute 10 per cent crude imports by methanol by 2030.