



## Current Affairs of the Day

### India's '21st-century' product aiming to revolutionize world agriculture

In a development that has the potential to revolutionize the agriculture sector across the world, the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) claimed that it has started commercial production of 'nano urea liquid', a first-of-its-kind product. It was developed indigenously through proprietary technology at IFFCO's Nano Biotechnology Research Center (NBRC) in Kalol.

#### Granular Urea In Agriculture:

1. This new product is expected to replace the usage of urea granules, one of the most widely used fertilizers in farmlands across the world.
2. Conventional granular urea is one of the most important nitrogenous fertilizers in the country, with a high nitrogen content of 46 per cent, and is available at one of the lowest market prices.
3. Urea also forms 82 per cent of the total nitrogenous fertilizers consumed in India.





## IFFCO NANO UREA FERTILIZER



**50KG**

=



**500ML**



-   
**Reduces Input Cost**
-   
**Increases Farmers' Income**
-   
**Environment-friendly**
-   
**Enhances Crop Productivity**
-   
**Improves Nutritional Value**
-   
**Cheaper than Conventional Urea**

## ECO FRIENDLY LIQUID FERTILIZER

### IFFCO's Nano Urea: Advantages

1. Cheaper than conventional urea, the new product is expected to reduce the environmental pollution caused by the granular form, by reducing its excessive application that exacerbates soil, water and air pollution with climate change problems.
2. Apart from substantially increasing farmers' income by cutting down on input and storage costs, nano urea liquid also aims to increase crop yield and productivity against conventional urea.
3. It is proven to increase the crop yield by an average of 8 per cent along with improving the quality of farm produce by providing better nutrition to crops, according to the cooperative.

### Nanotechnology and Reduced Environmental Damage:

1. As of now, just 30-50 per cent of nitrogen from urea is utilized by plants in farms while the rest goes waste due to quick chemical transformation because of leaching, which contaminates soil and water bodies, and volatilisation that causes emissions of nitrous oxide in the atmosphere — leading to air pollution and global warming along with low nutritional efficiency for the crop.



2. However, while conventional urea is effective just for 30-50 per cent in delivering nitrogen to plants, the effectiveness of the nano urea liquid is over 80 per cent.
3. A major reason for this increase in efficiency is the fact that nanotechnology, which is the base of this new form of urea, enables designing ultra-small particles that offer higher surface-mass ratios, and help in the controlled delivery of plant nutrients.
4. Due to the ultra-small size and surface properties, the nano urea liquid gets absorbed by plants more effectively when sprayed on their leaves.
5. Nano urea has also been tested for biosafety and toxicity according to norms followed in India and the international guidelines developed by OECD, which are adopted and accepted globally.

## Re-Registering Cars To Become Costlier In India From April 1

1. Renewing registration certificates of vehicles older than 15 years will cost up to eight times more from April across India, except the national capital region, where petrol and diesel-powered vehicles are deemed deregistered after 15 and 10 years, respectively, according to an order by the ministry of road transport and highways.
2. From April 1, it will cost ₹5,000 to renew the registration of all 15-year-old cars, compared with the current rate of ₹600. For two-wheelers, the fee will be ₹1,000 instead of ₹300. For imported cars, the cost will be ₹40,000 instead of ₹15,000.
3. A delay in renewing registrations of private vehicles will cost an additional ₹300 every month. The penalty for commercial vehicles will be ₹500 per month.
4. The new rules also mandate that private vehicles older than 15 years will have to apply for renewal every five years.





## Scrapping vehicles:

- At least 12 million vehicles in India, including those in the NCR, are eligible for scrapping, official data show. To make it easier to scrap old vehicles, the transport ministry has allowed the entire

### HOW PROCESS WILL UNFOLD

A vehicle older than 20 years, if found unfit or registration certificate is not renewed, will be de-registered



Registered owners to hand over such vehicles to a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility with certificate of the vehicles' registration, their PAN details, and other documents



Scraper to verify records of the vehicles from database of the stolen vehicles and issue a Certificate of Deposit, mandatory for the owner to avail incentives



The certificate once used will be stamped "Cancelled" by the agency



Government will maintain a database of the vehicles scrapped every year

### INCENTIVES FOR VEHICLE OWNERS



**Scrap value:** 4-6% of ex-showroom price of new vehicle to be given to the owner by the scrapping centre



**Tax rebate:** States may be advised to offer a road tax rebate of up to 25% for personal vehicles and up to 15% for commercial vehicles against



**Discount on new vehicle:** Vehicle manufacturers will be advised to give 5% discount on new vehicles against a scrapping certificate



**Fee waiver:** Registration fees may also be waived for purchase of new vehicle against the scrapping certificate



application process to be filed online from anywhere in the country.

- The cost of fitness tests of old transport and commercial vehicles will also rise from April. Transport authorities will charge ₹7,000 instead of ₹1,000 for taxis, and ₹12,500 instead of ₹1,500 for buses and trucks. A fitness certificate is mandatory for over eight-year-old commercial vehicles.
- By raising compliance fees, the Center hopes owners will choose to scrap their vehicles and buy modern ones that are less polluting. Air pollution is a serious problem in India, particularly in the cities, and vehicular emissions are one of the main contributors.



THE HINDU

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## The problem of Old Guzzlers:







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## Bang for the buck

Scrap value at scrapping centre:  
**4-6% of ex-showroom price of new vehicle**

**5% manufacturer discount against scrapping certificate\***

(\*ministry to issue advisory soon)



Road tax rebate:  
**Up to 25% (personal vehicle), up to 15% (CV)**

**Registration fee waiver on new vehicle**



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### The Deadline

Rules for fitness test/scraping centre:  
**1st October 2021**



Scrapping of govt vehicles > 15 yrs:  
**1st April 2022**



Mandatory fitness test (Heavy CVs):  
**1st April 2023**



Mandatory fitness test (All other categories):  
**1st June 2024**





<b>MAINS DAWP</b>	<p>Q1. Discuss the salient features of vehicle scrappage policy. Enumerate advantages and challenges.</p> <p>Q2. What is Nano Urea? Discuss its environmental and economic advantages.</p>
<b>MCQs</b>	<p>Q1. Consider the following statements about the Nano Urea developed by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. It is a powered fertilizer</li><li>2. It will lead to savings in input cost</li><li>3. It is environmentally less polluting</li></ol> <p>Which of the above statements is/are <i>incorrect</i>?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 1 and 2 only</li><li>b. 2 and 3 only</li><li>c. 1 only</li><li>d. 1, 2 and 3</li></ol>