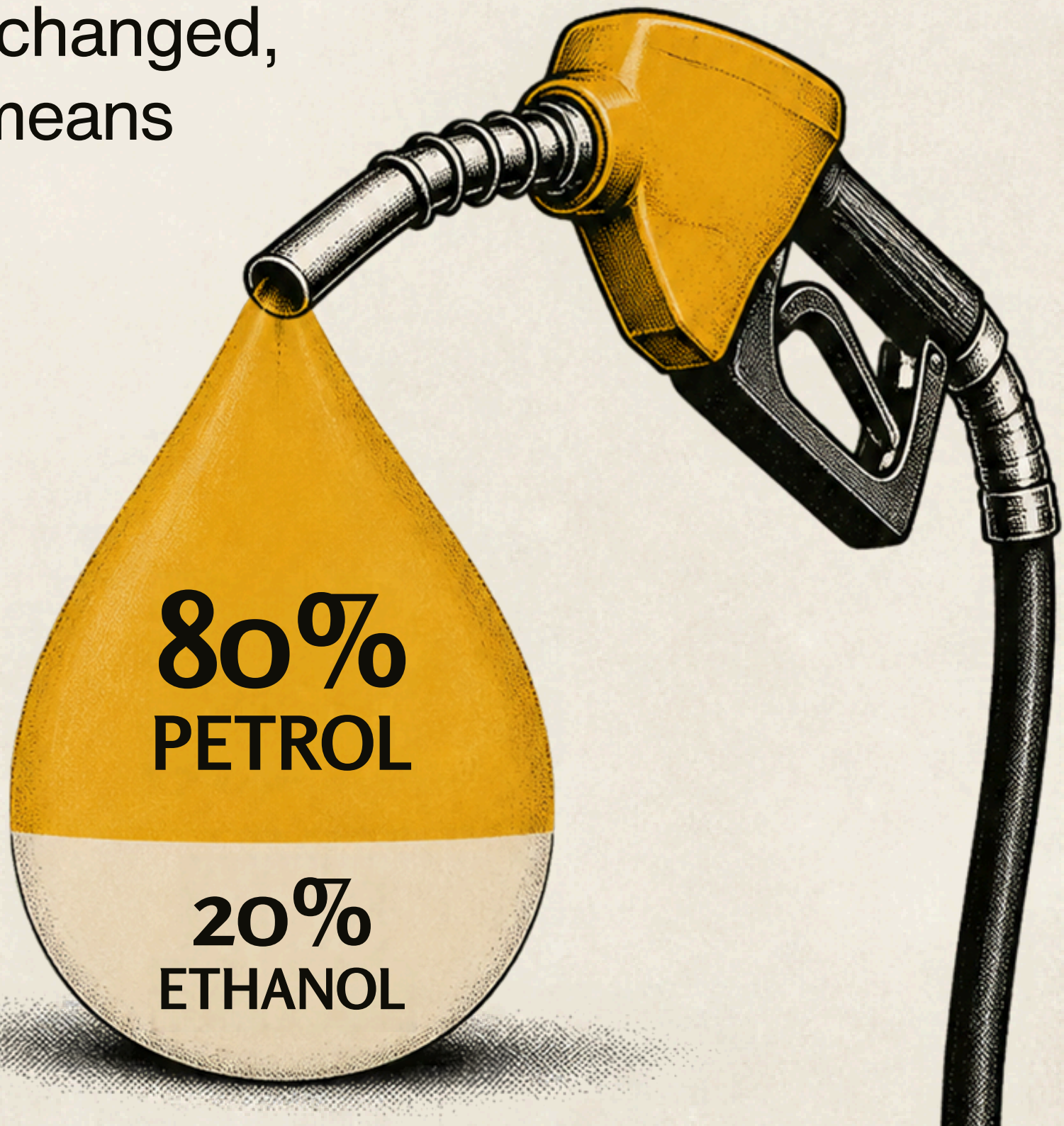
E20 is now the only petrol at India’s pumps.

Here's what changed, and what it means for you.



An explainer by Anjana Raman

What’s next?

No decision yet to raise the mandate beyond E20.

But higher blends are planned at 500 outlets by Dec 2026 and about 5,000 by Dec 2027, which could take India’s overall blending to nearly 26% by 2030–31.



Sources: PIB / Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Deccan Herald, Outlook, ETV Bharat, Business Today, Moneylife

Anjana Raman anjanaraman.com

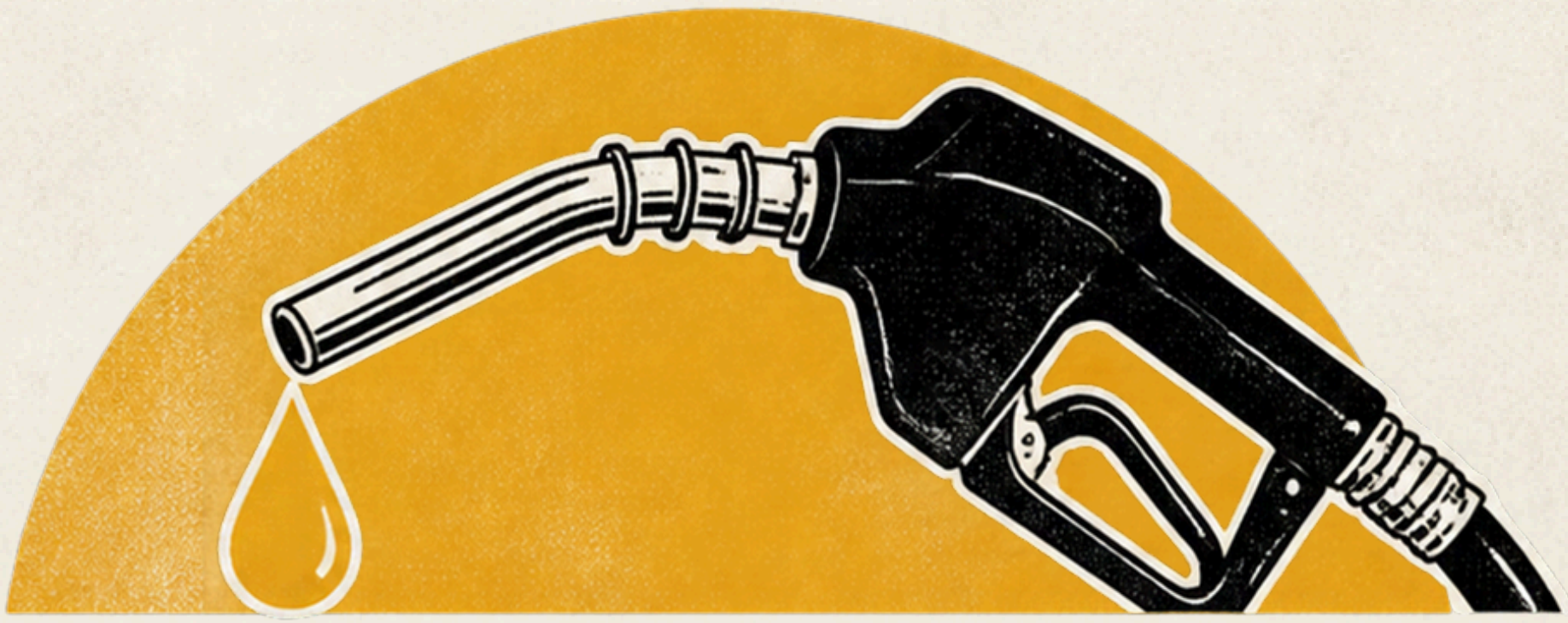
What is E20?

E10 = 10% ethanol + 90% petrol



E20 = 20% ethanol + 80% petrol





Standard engines handle blends up to set limits.
Higher blends like E85 and E100 need flex-fuel vehicles.

How we got here

2001 –
Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme starts as a pilot

2013–14 –
Blending at 1.53%

June 2022 –
10% reached, five months early; 20% target moved from 2030 to 2025–26

2025–26 –
Average blending reaches about 20%

1 April 2026 –
E20 (min. 95 RON) mandated at all pumps nationwide



Why the push?

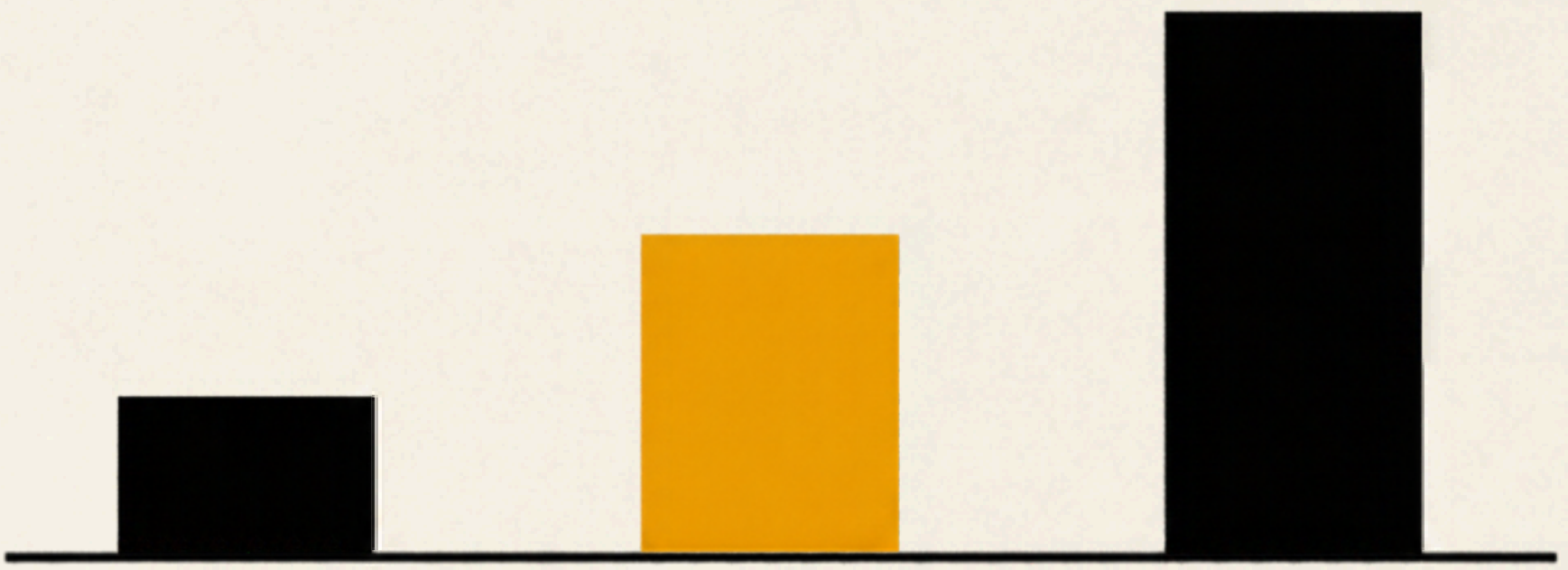


Energy security: over ₹1.40 lakh crore saved in foreign exchange since 2014-15, by official data



Cleaner air: less dependence on crude imports and lower vehicle emissions

The mileage question



Government: 1-2% drop (E20-calibrated vehicles), 3-6% (others)

Independent experts: up to 6-7% in real-world driving

Drivers (LocalCircles survey): 1 in 4 owners of 2023-24 cars report a drop of more than 20%

Lab tests vs the road: the gap at the heart of the E20 debate.

What it means for your vehicle

E20-compliant vehicles made since April 2023

Insurance: PIB says E20 does not affect your policy's validity

Price: E20 isn't cheaper, even with a fifth of every litre being ethanol

