



Use of biofuels needs to increase: Gadkari

Special edition of the book "Ek Hota Carver" published

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“The use of biofuels needs to be increased to reduce the strain caused by fossil fuel on our country's economy, and the growing pollution menace arising from it,” said Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and the Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. He was speaking at publication ceremony of the special edition of the book “Ek Hota Carver” by Veena Gavankar.

Jointly organized by Rajhans Prakashan and Praj Industries, the special edition of the book commemorates the prestigious 2020 George Washington Carver Award conferred by Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) on Dr. Pramod Chaudhari, founder and executive chairman of Praj Industries. The award is the highest recognition in the field of industrial biotechnology.

Mr. Shrikant Vaidya, Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation was the chief guest at the event.

The webinar, which was aired on various social media sites, was attended by a large number of experts from literature and industry.

Mr. Gadkari said, “The use of a wide variety of biofuels should be encouraged to curb both oil imports and pollution. These readily available, economical & pollution-free products has the potential to create new opportunities by harnessing bio-waste from our country's agricultural sector while generating employment and providing alternative income to farmers. I congratulate Dr. Chaudhari on the work he is doing to not only boost the country's agro-based rural economy, but also save the country at least Rs 2 lakh crore in foreign exchange. He truly embodies the spirit and purpose of George Washington Carver”. Mr. Gadkari promised that the central government would take steps to continue promoting biofuels and that as the Minister of State for Home Affairs, he would speed up the process.

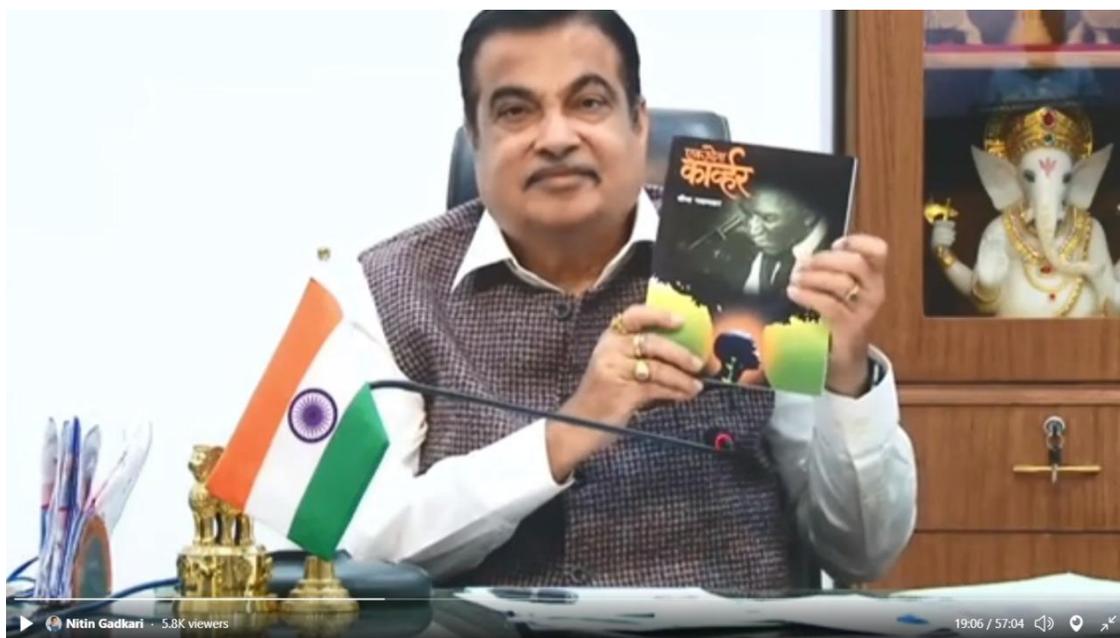
Presenting a comprehensive view of IOCL, Mr. Vaidya said, “We are striving to ensure that Indian Oil is not only a seller of petroleum products, but also an energy company in the future.” He expounded on the company's vision to provide clean, environmentally friendly and efficient alternative fuels.

“Industrial biotechnology will soon become an all-encompassing sustainable alternative to everyday life” said Dr. Chaudhari. In addition to providing fuel options for transportation by road, water and air, Praj has entered the field of renewable chemicals and materials. Praj is developing technologies that can be used in sectors such as agriculture and food processing, automotive industry, textile manufacturing, etc. He said the technology, which uses carbohydrates instead of hydrocarbons, is in line with Carver's mantra of agricultural development.

He added that the purpose of this special edition was to convince youth that the rural economy can be boosted if agriculture and agribusiness are linked to industry.

Ms. Gavankar, author of the book said that agricultural products can be used as raw materials for factories, proving that Dr. Carver's dreams are realised through Dr. Chaudhari's Praj.

Dr. Sadanand Borse, editor of Rajhans Prakashan welcomed the guests. Vice President of Praj Industries, Dr. Ravindra Utgikar moderated the program and expressed his gratitude.





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