

# Need to diversify agri towards power, energy sectors: Gadkari

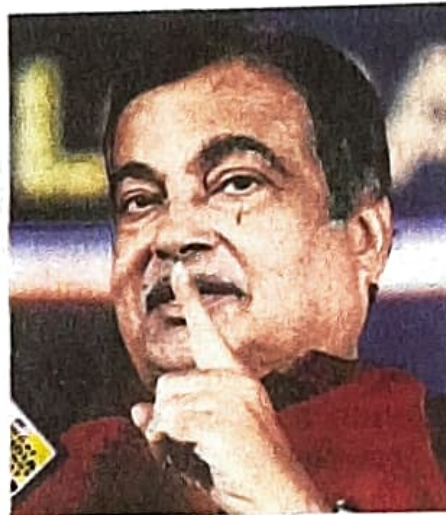
## Transport Minister flags energy shortage, oil import costs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

With India being energy deficient, there is a need for the country to diversify agriculture into the energy and power sectors, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Saturday.

"We already have energy shortage," the Minister said.

"We are making an expenditure of ₹15 lakh crore every year for importing petrol, diesel and other petroleum products. So, this is the time we can diversify agriculture towards the energy and power sector," added Mr. Gadkari while addressing the felicitation programme of National Cogeneration



Nitin Gadkari

Awards 2022. "While 65-70% of our population depends on agriculture, our agricultural growth rate is only 12-13%. And the next move should be cogeneration to increase revenue from sugar. The industry should produce less sugar and more

byproducts, embracing the vision for futuristic technologies and using the power of leadership to convert knowledge into wealth."

He said India's requirement for sugar was 280 lakh tonnes this year, while the production was more than 360 lakh tonnes.

"However, we need to divert production towards ethanol as ethanol requirement is very high. Last year's capacity was 400 crore litres of ethanol and the government has taken a lot of initiatives to increase ethanol production. Now is the time for industry to plan demand for ethanol, using technologies such as power generators run by bioethanol."