

Green energy push as Global Biofuels Alliance takes form

Sanjay.Dutta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), an India-led 'field-to-fuel' initiative to develop and deploy biofuels as a green pathway for energy transition, job creation and economic growth.

"The launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance marks a watershed moment in our quest towards sustainability and clean energy. I thank the member nations who have joined this Alliance," Modi posted on X after launching the grouping on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

Putting the initiative in perspective in his opening remarks at the summit's first session, Modi said India was making the suggestion in the spirit of collective effort to tackle climate change. "Today, the need of the hour is that all countries should work together in the field of fuel blending. Our proposal is to take an initiative at a global level to take ethanol blending in petrol up to 20%. Alternatively, we could work on developing another blending mix for the greater global good.... In this context, today, we are launching the Global Biofuel Alliance. India invites all of you to join this initiative," he said.



TIES THAT BIND

Biofuels are derived from a variety of biomass and considered a low-carbon, sustainable source of energy. Bioethanol, biodiesel and biogas are the most common forms. India has achieved 10% ethanol blending of petrol and is pushing for 20% blending by 2025.

Oil minister Hardeep Singh Puri, in his X post, said, "The world's quest for cleaner and greener energy gains historic momentum", adding the initiative has been launched with the support of 19 major consumer, producer and interested countries as well as 12 organisations.

The GBA is the second India-led international climate action platform to get global acceptance after the International Solar Alliance, which Modi had jointly launched with his French counterpart Francois Hollande at the 2015 Paris COP21.