UP set to become top ethanol producer state in the country

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh's ethanol production capacity is currently estimated at two billion litres per year which is almost eight times more than the capacity of 240 million litres per year five years back, said Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary, minister for sugarcane development and sugar industry at the Confederation of Indian Industry's Sugartech conference on Monday.

The minister said that with this growth in capacity, UP was set to become the top ethanol producer in the country. "The size of the industry in the state has crossed Rs 12,000 crore. The state's ethanol capacity is expected to reach 2.25 billion litres per annum in few years. This sector has witnessed unprecedented support from the industry in terms of investment in plants and machinery, technology and total cultivation area in the last six years," he said.

Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary at the Sugartech conference

Chief secretary DS Mishra spoke about the importance of the sugarcane sector in making UP a USD 1 trillion economy. Calling the sugar sector is an apt example of a circular economy that provides employment to more than 4.5 million families related to the sugarcane sector in UP, which includes sugar, ethanol, jaggery, power cogeneration, jaggery, khandsari, etc, he said that the consolidated annual sugarcane economy in the state is about Rs 50,000 crore. "The state government is making efforts to integrate the sugarcane crop with an attractive ethanol value chain to provide remunerative prices to farmers and double their income," he said.

Conference chairperson and executive director and CEO (sugar business), DCM Shriram Ltd, Roshan Lal Tamak praised efforts being made by the state government in providing sugar mills with a progressing policy infrastructure and reviving sick sugar mill units. Prabhu N Singh, cane commissioner, spoke about UP Bio Energy Policy which was released in September 2022, with the objective of encouraging compressed biogas plants, bio-diesel production plants and bio-coal production plants based on bioenergy waste.