

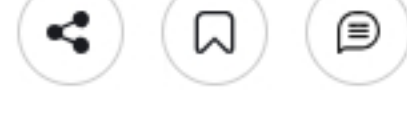
CM Yogi inaugurates UP's first green hydrogen plant in Gorakhpur

Built by Torrent Group, it will have an annual production capacity of 72,000 tonnes per annum.



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Gorakhpur, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, inaugurated Uttar Pradesh's first and India's second green hydrogen plant, built by Ahmedabad-based Torrent Group at Khanimpur in Gorakhpur.

The project, jointly developed by Torrent Group entities Torrent Power and Torrent Gas, will have an annual production capacity of 72,000 tonnes per annum

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the CM said green hydrogen is the energy of the future and highlighted UP's vast potential due to its abundant water resources.

"The Green Hydrogen produced at the plant will be blended with natural gas in Torrent Gas' City Gas Distribution infrastructure in Gorakhpur, maintaining its concentration up to 2 per cent," the group said in a statement.

The green hydrogen blended with natural gas will be further supplied to domestic households, CNG stations and industries in the region through the already laid network of natural gas pipelines.

The CM emphasised that advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Net Zero vision is crucial for protecting life, reducing carbon emissions, and promoting green energy to safeguard the environment and public health. Aligned with the PM's vision, the plant marks a significant step toward achieving pollution-free energy.

He said the plant will play an important role in various sectors including energy and power, health and prevention of various diseases. The CM added that the Torrent Group already has a CNG plant in Gorakhpur. Now, the new plant will enable blending of green hydrogen with CNG and PNG gas that will be supplied to households for cooking. The CM expressed hope that, beyond producing green energy, the plant will also serve as a centre for innovation. Green hydrogen is produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen. The CM highlighted that Uttar Pradesh is rich in water resources, with water available at just ten meters depth in many areas, providing a strong foundation for green hydrogen production.

The CM said carbon emissions arise from all polluting activities, including cooking with wood or coal. Highlighting PM Modi's Ujjwala Scheme, he noted that free LPG connections have been provided to 10 crore families to reduce health risks from smoke. He added that the Prime Minister recently announced increased funding and a package for cheaper cooking gas in the next phase of the scheme.

The Chief Minister said that earlier normal bulbs were used in street lights, which caused higher carbon emissions and consumed more energy, producing escalated electricity bills. Today, with LED street lights, energy consumption has decreased and carbon emissions have also gone down. LEDs do not burn insects and do not cause bad odour. In contrast, earlier halogen bulbs attracted countless insects after rainfall.

Lacking wind energy

CM Yogi said that while Uttar Pradesh has hydropower and thermal energy, it lacks wind energy. The state government has set a target of 22,000 MW of renewable energy, of which 6,000 MW has been achieved so far, with ongoing efforts to further increase production.

CM Yogi said that renewable energy requires supplementary sources, and in the future, hydrogen energy will be the most promising. While currently expensive, he predicted that it will become as affordable as mobile phones.

The Chief Minister said that green energy will change the fate of the entire world. Today, the adverse effects on nature and human health have two major reasons: first, tampering with nature, and second, excessive use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in agriculture. These are also the causes of cancer, liver damage, and other serious diseases.

"Tampering with nature is leading to climate change. Rainfall is also being delayed. The rains should have ideally occurred in July, but now it is happening late. Earlier, during Navratri, rice flakes would arrive in homes, but now with delayed seasons, crops are also delayed," he remarked.

"Today, while some areas are experiencing heavy rainfall, others are facing drought. People are cutting down trees, pollution is damaging and contaminating water sources. Through these actions, we are jeopardizing not only human lives but also the lives of other living beings," stated Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

CM Yogi said that solutions to environmental challenges lie in human hands, emphasising natural farming and green energy.

Praising Torrent Group, CM Yogi said the company has ensured electricity connections to every home in Agra and is providing cooking gas through PNG in 16 other districts. Highlighting piped drinking water and cooking gas as achievements, he added that gas supply through pipelines is part of PM Modi's ambitious vision of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Notably, Torrent Gas has licence to provide Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in Gorakhpur, Sant Kabirnagar and Kushinagar districts.

Torrent has already set up 32 CNG stations and supplies gas to over 12,000 domestic households and 73 industries and commercial establishments in the region and intends to grow its gas distribution infrastructure in the region significantly.

At the inauguration, MP Ravi Kishan Shukla said that the nation is witnessing CM Yogi's vision of development and welfare, noting that improved law and order and policy reforms have made Uttar Pradesh an attractive destination for investors from across India and the world. Welcoming CM Yogi at the inauguration, Sahjanwa MLA Pradeep Shukla said that under his leadership, Uttar Pradesh is being developed with full commitment, aiming to become a fully developed state by 2047.

On the occasion, Torrent Group Director Jinal Mehta said that under CM Yogi Adityanath's leadership, Uttar Pradesh offers a "red carpet, not red tape" for investors. He highlighted the state's progress in law and order and ease of doing business, noting that in the past eight and a half years, Torrent Group has faced no bureaucratic hurdles. He added that the Gorakhpur green hydrogen plant is not only UP's first but also the country's largest city gas distribution project.

Blending Green Hydrogen into Gorakhpur's gas grid is a step in achieving a practical, scalable pathway to net-zero target of the country. It lowers emissions, builds demand for green molecules, and creates a platform for deeper de-carbonisation in transport and industry, he said.

The programme was also attended by MLA Vipin Singh, CM's advisor Awanish Kumar Awasthi, State Women's Commission Vice-President Charu Chaudhary, BJP District President Janardan Tiwari, Kalibari Mahant Ravindra Das, and Torrent Gas Director Manoj Jain, among others.

On the occasion, the CM planted a Rudraksha sapling, sending a message of environmental protection.