

LUCKNOW GETS NEW EV PLANT

Rajnath: Petro-based vehicles to decline as EV future of transport

Yogi says plant's initial production capacity of nearly 2,500 units to be scaled up to 5,000

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EMPHASISING THAT electric vehicles represent the future of transportation, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the reliance on petroleum-based vehicles will gradually decline.

Rajnath Singh said this while inaugurating the new EV manufacturing plant of Hinduja Group's Ashok Leyland in Lucknow's Sarojini Nagar area on Friday. Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and CM Yogi Adityanath were also present during the event.

According to sources, Rs 252 crore (approx) has been invested in the plant manufacturing EV buses in Lucknow.

Describing the facility "as a landmark for Uttar Pradesh's industrial growth", Rajnath Singh lauded the Hinduja Group and Ashok Leyland for completing the EV manufacturing unit in record 18 months, far ahead of projected timeline of 60 months.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with CM Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy during the inauguration of an EV manufacturing unit in Lucknow on Friday. EXPRESS

"The reliance on petroleum-based vehicles would gradually decline. In this context, the Ashok Leyland EV unit will play a transformative role, contributing significantly to clean energy adoption and advanced manufacturing for both the state and the country," Singh said.

Meanwhile, CM Yogi Adityanath said the EV plant currently has an annual manufacturing capacity of 2,500 units, which will be increased to 5,000 units in phases. He said that the manufacturing plant has been established under the state's SFDI and Fortune 500 policy. Referring to the bus manufactured at the new plant, Yogi said it is a 17-

18 seater vehicle priced at approximately Rs 15 lakh, designed for school transportation and inter-city connectivity. He said that the manufacturing of such vehicles will receive a boost under the state's Electric Vehicle Policy. Yogi said the Hinduja Group will sign an MoU with the state government to provide skill development training to 10,000 youth annually at the facility.

"Over the past 8-9 years, the state has received investment proposals worth Rs 45 lakh crore," Yogi said. During the occasion, Ashok Leyland Chairman Dheeraj Hinduja said that this is the company's first manufacturing plant in Uttar Pradesh.

