

Uttar Pradesh fast tracks ease of doing business reforms in districts

- ***Districts to be ranked every month for timely disposal of applications, redressal of grievances and feedback of entrepreneurs using Nivesh Mitra***
- ***Districts will be divided into two categories for the purpose of ranking – districts receiving more than 2,000 applications through Nivesh Mitra and other category will comprise of remaining districts***

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Dealing efficiently with the challenges posed by COVID-19 lockdown, subsequent to a raft of measures taken recently to attract investment, create jobs and to facilitate smooth resumption of businesses and industries in Uttar Pradesh, the State government has now accelerated the **implementation of ease of doing business reforms at district level.**

In a government order issued today, **all District Magistrates have been directed to ensure effective implementation of ease of doing business reforms in their respective districts.** All 75 districts will be ranked every month on the basis of percentage earned on three parameters, viz. ***District-wise time-bound disposal of applications received on single window portal-Nivesh Mitra for getting approvals or licenses by entrepreneurs; 'Satisfactory' feedback of Nivesh Mitra user; and timely grievance redressal status of the district.*** It may be noted that District Magistrates chair the district-level Udyog Bandhu meetings and have been provided with User ID and passwords to monitor the applications and their disposal on Nivesh Mitra.

Hon'ble Minister, Industrial Development, Shri Satish Mahana said that the government was confident that on the back of district-level ease of doing business ranking initiative, Uttar Pradesh would see an equally impressive entrepreneurs' facilitation at grass root level in Uttar Pradesh. *"As the State government, under the able guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister, is gearing up to transform the current challenges into opportunities of bringing in reforms for inclusive development, it is crucial that these reforms are implemented and visible on ground at all levels of governance, including districts", he added.*

Infrastructure & Industrial Development Commissioner, Shri Alok Tandon said that this step would encourage the spirit of business competitiveness amongst the districts, which shall further act as a catalyst in improving the doing business ranking for the state of Uttar Pradesh, as the ranking would be based on the feedback of entrepreneurs and investors this year.

Principal Secretary, Infrastructure & Industrial Development, Shri Alok Kumar said, *"Along with other initiatives, like- creation of new investment promotion and facilitation agency, appropriate policy interventions and timely implementation of ease of doing business reforms at State level, it is imperative to ensure efficient execution of reforms at district level to create a conducive environment for industries and investors".*

Shri Alok Kumar informed that the data point for ranking of the districts would be single window portal -Nivesh Mitra only, as relevant provisions had been already made on Nivesh Mitra to fetch this data online. The ranking of the districts has been conceptualized in two broad categories—first category will include districts that receive more than 2,000 applications

on Nivesh Mitra for seeking clearances for setting up or running of units and other category will comprise of remaining districts.

Notably, according to the February 2020 data, there were 17 districts with over 2,000 applications received on Nivesh Mitra, these include- Bulandshahr, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Muzaffar Nagar, Gautambudh Nagar, Agra, Saharanpur, Mathura, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Meerut, Hapur, Kanpur and Moradabad.

It is pertinent to mention here that **single window portal of the state – Nivesh Mitra is also part of Ease of Doing Business reforms. Upgraded version of Nivesh Mitra was inaugurated by Hon’ble Prime Minister during the U.P. investor summit in 2018. Now, 146 services of 20 departments are available through Nivesh Mitra.**

Creditably, State was placed in the ‘**Achievers’ category** in ease of doing business rankings released by Department for Promotion of Industry&Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India for implementation of Business Reform Action Plan 2017-18 (BRAP 2017-18). **Uttar Pradesh was ranked 12th** amongst the Indian states with 92.89 % score.

Uttar Pradesh is among the top five performing states in 6 of the 12 reform areas namely: Single Window System, Land Availability & Allotment, Environmental Registration Enablers, Obtaining Utility Permits, Paying Taxes and Access to Information & Transparency Enablers.
