

Uttar Pradesh bought Rs 8,940 crore items via government e-marketplace portal in 4.5 years



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The GeM portal has also facilitated direct and indirect employment of more than two-and-a-half lakh people in the industries listed on the portal. (Image: <https://gem.gov.in/>)

LUCKNOW: Curbing corruption, the ruling [BJP](#) in UP has purchased items worth Rs 8,940 crore through government e-marketplace ([GeM](#)) portal in the past four-and-a-half years of rule, the state government said on Saturday.

According to a government spokesperson, the [urban development department](#) topped the list with purchase of items worth Rs 3,190 crore, followed by the health and family welfare department which bought items worth Rs 2,720 crore and the department of basic education which made purchases worth Rs 830 crore. The urban development department also hired manpower worth Rs 2,600 crore through outsourcing.

Besides, the departments of medical education, home, information and public relations, skill development mission, food and civil supply, general administration and rural development purchased items worth Rs 791 crore, 632 crore, 404 crore, Rs 352 crore, Rs 314 crore, Rs 294 crore and Rs 243 crore respectively.

The [GeM portal](#) has also facilitated direct and indirect employment of more than two-and-a-half lakh people in the industries listed on the portal. There are 12,847 government buyers and 2,21,450 sellers on the portal, including 62,973 micro and small entrepreneurs. In the past four-and-a-half years, government departments have placed 5,86,651 orders worth Rs 13,597 crore, the state government said.

After the Centre launched the portal in August 2016, the UP government made GeM and Trade Receivables Discounting System (TRADES) portal mandatory in August 2017 for sale of industrial goods in government departments.

A BJP spokesperson said that the previous SP government shied away from using the portal which aimed to bring in transparency.

The state government claimed that it had made the highest procurement through GeM portal for three years in a row. UP government was felicitated by the Centre with 'Best Buyer Award' in 2018 and 'Super Buyer Award' in 2019.

Meanwhile, the state government said that its mission of one district, one medical college is gaining ground as the UP government has paved the way for setting up new medical colleges on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis in 16 un-served districts of the state.

The state government spokesperson said that this augmented the health infrastructure and medical education sector in the state. At present, 59 medical colleges have been made functional in 59 districts. The spokesperson said that in 2017, only 17 out of 75 districts had functioning medical colleges or institutes.