

CM bats for data centres, policy to be framed soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: To encourage the setting up of data centres in the state, the IT department is working on a data centre policy which is expected to be finalized within the next few weeks.

On Thursday, chief minister Yogi Adityanath took a presentation on the proposed policy and said that due to their capacity to generate employment, data centres should be encouraged to come up at the earliest.

Yogi said that data centres have a crucial role in the IT sector and a policy is needed urgently for this field to attract investments.

The new policy should be investor friendly and it should be finalized only after consultations with all stakeholders, he added.

“While ensuring that benefits under the policy

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are extended to investors on time, it should also be ensured that they complete their projects on time. Since data centres will result in generation of direct and indirect employment, the policy should be drafted as soon as possible so that such centres could come up in the state at the earliest,” the chief minister said.

Additional chief secretary, IT, Alok Kumar gave details on the proposed industries, the economic benefits of having data centres in the state, timeline for implementation of the policy, the benefits which are

proposed to be given to companies under the policy.

In October, Uttar Pradesh received its first proposal for a data centre. The Hiranandani Group will be setting up the state’s first data centre in Greater Noida with an investment of Rs 600 crore.

Officials said that several other companies have approached the government for setting up data centres and there is likely to be major movement in this industry once the policy is ready.

“India is still a growing digital economy and has huge potential for data generation and storage. Currently, only about 20% of the data generated within the country is stored domestically while the rest is stored in data centres located in other countries,” said an official.