

Uttar Pradesh government ensured industries ran smoothly during Covid, says minister Sidharth Nath Singh

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Minister Sidharth Nath Singh

LUCKNOW: During the two [Covid](#) waves, the state government did not allow industries to suffer and provided them with every possibility facility to ensure their smooth operations, said [MSME](#) minister [Sidharth Nath Singh](#).

UP also recently earned praise from [PM Narendra Modi](#) for industrial development, who said that the impact of UP's policies was being witnessed by small towns and villages as well.

The MSME minister said that efforts were made to keep industries running for most part of the pandemic. "During the first wave, district MSME officers were in constant touch with industries to ensure smooth functioning of the sector, primarily those units which were related to essential goods. Industrial activity, including IT and IT enabled services, were allowed to operate from April

20. In the second wave, all industrial units were allowed to operate during the curfew hours," said Singh.

An official from the department said that there were also no restrictions on movement of workers and to ease matters further for them, they were not required to apply for any passes but could just show their ID cards or letters from organisations.

During the first wave, the official said, the government helped in setting up 53 PPE manufacturing units with a capacity of 50,000 kits per day and 40 new units for manufacturing of sanitisers. The power department also waived fixed charges for the industrial sector and gave a further 15% rebate on power usage.

The minister said the government was also sensitive to the problems being faced by industries. For instance, when the [Indian Industries Association](#) pointed out that production and maintenance were affected due to lack of transport facilities because of which raw material was not being able to reach plants, the government allowed transportation of all such essential materials.