

99% criminal provisions in trade laws to be replaced with fines

UP State Bureau

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In a major step toward industrial and labour reforms, Uttar Pradesh is preparing to abolish nearly 99 percent of criminal provisions in 13 state laws related to trade and commerce. With this move, the state will become the first in the country to shift outdated penal provisions into non-criminal categories. Under the revised framework, imprisonment clauses will be replaced by monetary penalties and administrative measures.

Officials confirmed that the provisions will be included in the forthcoming "Sugamya Vyapar (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025." The amendments will cover several key laws including the Excise Act, Molasses Act, Tree



Jail terms to be replaced with monetary penalties and administrative actions

Protection Act, Revenue Code, Sugarcane Act, Groundwater Act, Municipal Corporation Act, Plastic Waste Act, Cinema Act, and Panchayat Acts. The aim is to make these regulations more practical and business-friendly while maintaining

accountability.

Simplification of labour laws is also being considered. Proposals include extending the validity of factory licenses, introducing flexible rules for shops and establishments, and creating greater opportunities for women workers. Transparency in inspections is planned through a system of self-certification and third-party audits.

To further improve ease of doing business, the state will upgrade its "Nivesh Mitra" single-window system to version 3.0. The updated platform will digitize the entire process of applications and approvals for investors. Key features will include a common application form, PAN-based identification, a smart dashboard, multilingual support, and an AI-enabled chatbot.