

UP tops nat'l deregulation chart, leads in EoDB reforms

Implements All 23 Priority Reform Areas

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top-performing state in India in implementing deregulation reforms aimed at simplifying business operations and improving investment climate, according to central govt's Deregulation 1.0 report.

The state secured the No.1 position in state-wise national ranking after becoming the first in India to implement all 23 priority reform areas

identified by the Govt of India. These reforms span 5 key sectors — land, building and construction, labour, utilities and permissions — along with broader regulatory and process-related changes.

Officials said the ranking reflects Uttar Pradesh's sus-

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tained push towards policy simplification, regulatory rationalisation, and creating a more transparent and investor-friendly business environment.

Under land-related reforms, the state adopted a flexible zoning framework to allow mixed-use development and simplified the land-use change process through

digitisation. Minimum road width norms for industries in rural areas were rationalised, while a GIS-based land bank of available industrial land was integrated with the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), enabling investors to access real-time information more easily.

In the building and construction sector, amendments to building regulations reduced land loss in industrial and commercial plots. The state also expanded the role of empanelled third parties in building approvals, joint inspections, and fire safety inspections. Online issuance of occupancy and completion certificates helped significantly cut approval timelines, officials said.

Labour reforms formed major pillar of the exercise. The state removed restrictions on women working in hazardous industries and permitted night-time employment of women across factories, shops, and commercial establishments. Working hour limits were rationalised, and the threshold for compliance under the Shops and Establishments Act was raised to 20 workers or more, reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses.

UP enabled third-party certification for environmental consents, streamlined factory and trade licence approvals through online systems, and expedited electricity and water connections via integrated digital platforms.