

UP Tops Deregulation Rankings; New Phase-II Reforms Set to Cut Compliance Further

- **UP Leads Deregulation; Phase-II Reforms to Ease Compliance**
- **Ease of Doing Business: UP Sets Next Reform Push**

Lucknow, January 16, 2026: Uttar Pradesh continues to strengthen its position as one of India's most business-friendly states, with focused efforts underway to make business operations simpler, more transparent, and investor-centric.

In this regard, a Government of India panel led by **Smt. Meeta Rajivlochan**, Lead Member for Uttar Pradesh in the Task Force on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Secretary, National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, visited Lucknow on Friday. She was accompanied by **Shri Rahul Sharma**, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.

In the morning, the delegation held a detailed meeting with **Chief Secretary Uttar Pradesh Shri S.P. Goyal**, along with ACS and Principal Secretaries of all departments at the Chief Secretary's Office. The meeting included an orientation session on **Phase-II of EoDB reforms**, focusing on the roadmap for next-level compliance reduction and deregulation.

Later in the day, an important interaction on Compliance Reduction and Deregulation 2.0 was held at the Invest UP office with leading industry associations. The meeting was attended by Smt. Meeta Rajivlochan, Shri Rahul Sharma, Shri Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Deputy Secretary, DPIIT, and Ms. Deeksha Biswas, Young Professional, NITI Aayog. Representatives from **CII, PHDCCI, Laghu Udyog Bharati, FICCI, ASSOCHAM**, and other industry bodies also participated.

Notably, Uttar Pradesh has secured the #1 rank in the country for its performance under the Deregulation 1.0 Compliance Reduction Exercise, as per the rankings released by the Cabinet Secretariat (January 2026). The state successfully implemented reforms across 23 priority areas, aimed at eliminating unnecessary compliances, reducing inspection-related hurdles, digitising investment services, and improving approval processes for businesses and MSMEs.

Building on this strong foundation, Phase-II will focus on high-impact reforms across key sectors including land, building and construction, power/electricity, labour, fire, environment, tourism, healthcare, and education.

During the interaction, the Government also sought structured feedback and sector-wise case studies from industry associations to identify remaining bottlenecks, strengthen on-ground implementation, and ensure faster and smoother service delivery. Industry representatives appreciated the progressive changes introduced under the Model Building and Construction Byelaws, 2025.

Uttar Pradesh has further reinforced its reform ecosystem through major steps such as decriminalisation and deregulation, including the Uttar Pradesh Sugamya Vyapar (Amendment in Provisions) Act, 2025, integration of departmental services with the Single Window System, and the upgradation of Nivesh Mitra to a more advanced Nivesh Mitra 3.0, now linked with the National Single Window System (NSWS).

These reforms reaffirm the state's commitment to building a trust-based, efficient, and growth-driven business environment, positioning Uttar Pradesh among India's most progressive and investor-preferred investment destinations.