

Press Release

Uttar Pradesh Ranks #1 in Deregulation 1.0 exercise, Leads the Nation in Business Reforms

Lucknow | Jan 05, 2026: With the objective of making business operations simpler, transparent and investment-friendly across the country, the Government of India had identified 23 key priority areas to be implemented by all States. Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the leading State in implementing these reforms, securing the top position at the national level.

As per the State-wise ranking under Deregulation 1.0 report of the central government, Uttar Pradesh has been ranked No. 1. The assessment focused on the effective implementation of 23 priority reform areas spanning five major sectors including land, building & construction, labour, utilities and permissions, along with overarching reform priorities.

Notably, Uttar Pradesh is the first State in the country to fully implement all 23 priority areas in a comprehensive manner. The recognition reflects the State Government's sustained efforts towards policy simplification, regulatory rationalisation and strengthening ease of doing business for investors and entrepreneurs.

Under land-related reforms, the State adopted a flexible zoning framework enabling mixed-use development, simplified and digitised the land-use change process and rationalised minimum road width norms for industries in rural areas. A GIS-based land bank of available industrial land has been integrated with the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), ensuring transparency and ease of access to information for investors.

In the building and construction sector, building regulations were amended to reduce land loss in both industrial and commercial plots. The role of empanelled third parties was enhanced in building approvals, joint inspections, fire inspections and online issuance of occupancy and completion certificates, thereby significantly reducing approval timelines.

Major labour reforms included removal of restrictions on women working in certain hazardous industries, permitting night-time employment of women across factories, shops and commercial establishments and rationalisation of working hour limits. Raising the threshold for compliance under the Shops & Establishments Act to 20 workers or more.

Further, the State enabled third-party certification for environmental consents, simplified factory and trade license approvals through online systems, expedited electricity and water connections via integrated digital platforms and reclassified non-polluting industries under the White Category. Introduction of Uttar Pradesh Sugamya Vyapar (Amendment in Provisions) Act, 2025 and integration of all State services with the State Single Window System, linked to the National Single Window System (NSWS), further strengthened the reform ecosystem.

These reforms collectively position Uttar Pradesh as one of India's most progressive and investor-friendly States, reinforcing its commitment to fostering a robust, transparent and growth-oriented business environment.