

UP steps up drive to ease business compliance burden

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Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh has stepped up its deregulation drive with Centre and state officials reviewing a range of reforms aimed at cutting compliance burdens, removing approval bottlenecks and speeding up clearances for businesses and citizens.

An official spokesperson said that the review meeting, held at Invest UP on Thursday, focused on key areas including FSSAI licensing for food businesses, labour laws, GST processes, fire licensing and safety norms, building approvals, MSME support and UPPCL power connections.

The review assumes significance as Uttar Pradesh had ranked first among states in the first phase of Compliance Reduction and Deregulation for reforms aimed at easing regulatory procedures and removing approval hurdles.

Special secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, KK Pathak, and additional secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, India, Rahul Sharma also reviewed implementation of reforms under Deregulation 2.0 and identified areas where procedures could be simplified further.

Pathak said regulations should serve their intended



Invest UP CEO Vijay Kiran Anand welcomes special secretary, cabinet secretariat KK Pathak

purpose without creating unnecessary hurdles for businesses and citizens. Discussing fire safety, he stressed that the focus should remain on protecting lives rather than treating compliance merely as the process of obtaining a No Objection Certificate.

Officials also discussed simplifying town-planning and housing regulations, including greater flexibility in Floor Area Ratio (FAR), to facilitate development. The meeting also examined ways to streamline regulations for setting up new schools and simplify certain revenue-related procedures.

Invest UP CEO Vijay Kiran Anand, secretary Secondary Education Kinjal Singh, secretary Revenue Divya Mittal, additional CEO Invest UP Prerna Sharma and senior officials from various departments attended the meeting.