

UP becomes first state in country to fully adopt GeM

State Will Save ₹2K Cr Annually

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Lucknow: In a groundbreaking initiative to eliminate unscrupulous practices and establish a transparent tendering process that ensures equitable opportunities for the procurement of goods and services, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to abolish its longstanding tendering system and fully integrate its procurement procedure with the Centre's Govt e-Marketplace (GeM).

This integration mandates that all service providers, whether supplying basic stationery or providing SUVs for official use, strictly adhere to central govt regulations.

Any deviation from GeM protocols could result in disqualification from conducting business with the Uttar Pradesh govt.

FOCUS ON TRANSPARENCY

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ No conditions contrary to GeM rules are permitted➤ Price discovery bids, offline contracts, and unit quantity-based GeM bids are strictly prohibited➤ Requesting samples during bid evaluation is prohibited➤ To encourage micro & small enterprises, tender eligibility (turnover and past performance) criteria have been relaxed➤ All depts are required to procure at least 25% of their annual purchase from MSEs➤ Penalty will be imposed if service providers fail to pay outsourced personnel in time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minimum wage, EPF, and ESI benefits to outsourced employees is mandatory➤ Service providers can't arbitrarily remove or replace outsourced employees after hiring➤ In cases of collusion or manipulation in GeM bids, there is provision of sending bids to GeM team for probe➤ Compliance-related complaints can be sent to gemcellup@gmail.com and gemcellgoup@gmail.com➤ Complaints are resolved by high-level committee chaired by UP chief secy, with additional secys/principal secys as members
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According to official sources, the UP govt issued a comprehensive government order (GO) on Nov 26, 2024, annulling more than 33 previous procurement-related directives to ensure full compliance with the GeM portal's policies.

"The Uttar Pradesh Procurement Manual, establis-

hed in 2016 before the advent of GeM, had become obsolete, hindering the state from maximising procurement benefits through the portal. The existence of multiple and varied rules increased the likelihood of unintentional errors by buyers, discouraged the use of the GeM portal for procure-

ment, and, in some cases, raised concerns about discretion and potential misuse. The complete adoption of GeM rules ensures standardization," they elaborated.

As per a conservative estimate, the state govt could save over Rs 2,000 crore annually through GeM-based procurement of goods and services.

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board leveraged GeM to procure quality infrastructure materials for 18 Atal Residential Schools.

These materials included furniture and IT equipment for students from Class 6 through the intermediate level, ensuring swift delivery at competitive prices. The Atal Residential Schools were established primarily to provide exemplary education for children orphaned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Krishna Murari, deputy CEO (UP) of GeM, played a pivotal role in streamlining Uttar Pradesh's procurement processes with the central govt's GeM.