



UP Becomes First State to Fully Adopt GeM | Uttar Pradesh | 07 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh has **become the first state in India to fully integrate its procurement process with the [Government e-Marketplace \(GeM\)](#).**

Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh has **abolished its longstanding tendering system** by fully adopting GeM.
- This integration **mandates** that all service providers, from basic stationery suppliers to those providing **Sport Utility Vehicle (SUVs)** for official use, adhere strictly to central government regulations
- The comprehensive government order issued on 26th November, 2024, annuls over 33 previous **procurement**-related directives.
 - This move ensures full compliance with GeM protocols, reducing the likelihood of errors and misuse, and promoting a standardized procurement process.
- The state government **estimates that this shift to GeM-based procurement could save over Rs. 2,000 crore annually.**
 - This is achieved through competitive pricing and efficient procurement processes.
- The Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board has **already leveraged GeM to procure quality infrastructure materials** for 18 Atal Residential Schools. These materials, including furniture and IT equipment, were delivered swiftly and at competitive prices, ensuring high standards for educational facilities.
 - The full adoption of GeM is expected to enhance the credibility of public procurement procedures in Uttar Pradesh.
- It **aligns with the state's broader goals of fostering a business-friendly environment** and ensuring transparency in government operations.
- This initiative also supports the state's ambitious economic targets, contributing to its goal of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy.
- Uttar Pradesh's commitment to **transparent procurement has been recognized at national levels.**
 - The state has been awarded for its exemplary performance in various categories, including total order value and highest services procurement.

Government e Marketplace (GeM)

- GeM is a **100% Government owned and National Public Procurement Portal** that facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organisations / PSUs.
 - The initiative was **launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 2016.**
 - It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users, achieve the best value for their money and **aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.**
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Shyamal Misra Appointed CEO of FMDA and GMDA | Haryana | 07 Dec 2024

Why in News?

In a significant administrative reshuffle, **Shyamal Misra**, a 1996-batch IAS officer of the Haryana cadre, has been appointed as the **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of both the **Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority (FMDA)** and the **Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA)**.

Key Points

- Shyamal Misra is currently serving as the **Chief Administrator of the Trade Fair Authority of Haryana** in New Delhi, will also take on the role of **Principal Secretary for the Civil Aviation Department of Haryana**.
 - Despite his expanded portfolio, Shyamal Misra will continue his duties with the **Trade Fair Authority**, balancing a pivotal role in advancing Haryana's urban and aviation infrastructure.
 - These appointments mark a **strategic realignment** in the bureaucratic leadership of both Haryana, reflecting the state's ongoing efforts to streamline and strengthen their administrative machinery.
 - The reshuffle **aims to enhance governance and ensure effective implementation** of development projects.
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Tussle Over Haryana Excise Policy | Haryana | 07 Dec 2024

Why in News?

The **Punjab and Haryana High Court** has issued a stern warning to the **Haryana government** regarding the **sale of liquor** over midnight in bars and pubs located in **Gurugram** and **Faridabad**.

- However, the court refrained from issuing any formal directions to the state on this matter.

Key Points

- The issue arose after the **Haryana Excise Policy 2024-25**, introduced in June, removed provisions from the previous policy that allowed bars and pubs to operate throughout the night upon payment of an additional fee.
- Under the revised policy, all **bars** and **pubs** across Haryana are required to **close by midnight**, except in **Gurugram** and **Faridabad**, where the older rules continue to apply.
- Following the **promulgation of the new policy**, bar and pub owners in **Panchkula** filed a petition in the high court, seeking **parity with their counterparts** in **Gurugram** and **Faridabad**.
 - However, a bench of Justices dismissed their plea, ruling that the excise policy applies different criteria to different districts, and the petitioners cannot demand uniformity.
- The court underscored the **importance of cultural sensitivity** in framing excise policies.

- It noted that allowing all-night liquor sales could lead to **social decay** and **undermine the cultural values** of Indian society.
- The bench stressed that responsible drinking is still a distant goal in the country, and policymakers must consider the broader social implications of their decisions.

Haryana Excise Policy 2024-25

- There will be a slight increase in the **excise duty** on **IMFL (Indian Made Foreign Liquor)** and country liquor in the new policy starting from **12th June**.
- The maximum basic quota of IMFL will be **700 lakh proof liters (Measurement Unit)** and **1,200 lakh proof liters** for the country liquor for the year **2024-25**.
- The **QR code-based track** and trace system that was introduced in **2023-24** for IMFL and country liquor will be extended to imported foreign liquor as well.

Growing Glacier in Uttarakhand's Niti Valley | Uttarakhand | 07 Dec 2024

Why in News?

Recently, in a remarkable discovery, scientists have identified a rapidly expanding [glacier](#) in Uttarakhand's [Niti Valley](#).

- The study, titled "**Manifestations of a Glacier Surge in Central Himalaya Using Multi-Temporal Satellite Data**," utilized **satellite imagery** to observe the glacier's rapid growth.

Key Points

- This new glacier, which stretches about **10 kilometers** in length and spans approximately **48 square kilometers**, is located near the **Randolph** and **Rekana glaciers** in the remote northern region of the state, close to the [India-Tibet border](#).
- The glacier is currently experiencing a "surge" i.e., **a sudden and rapid increase in the size of a glacier, which can be caused by hydrological imbalances**.
 - These imbalances occur when water infiltrates the ice layers, weakening them and causing the ice to slide downward.
- The discovery of this fast-growing glacier has **significant implications for the region's environment and climate**.
 - Glacial surges can lead to **increased risks of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**, which pose a threat to downstream communities and infrastructure.
 - Understanding the dynamics of such glaciers is crucial for developing effective mitigation strategies.
 - As [global temperatures rise](#), the behavior of glaciers in this region is becoming increasingly unpredictable, necessitating ongoing monitoring and study.