



## UP- First State to Fully Adopt GeM Platform | Uttar Pradesh | 12 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to fully integrate the [Government e-Marketplace \(GeM\) platform](#), enhancing **transparency and efficiency in public procurement**.

- This move is **projected to save Rs 2,000 crore annually** while fostering fair practices and empowering small businesses.

### Key Points

- Prior tendering systems in Uttar Pradesh lacked uniformity and were vulnerable to misuse.
- GeM resolves these issues by enforcing standardized rules, thereby reducing the chances of violations or loopholes.
- The state government aims to scale up GeM usage across all state departments, ensuring compliance and enhancing accountability.
- **Demonstrated Success:**
  - The Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board used GeM to procure materials for 18 [Atal Residential Schools](#).
    - These schools, serving students from Class 6 to intermediate level, now offer exemplary learning environments, including support for children orphaned during the [Covid-19 pandemic](#).
- **Policy Reforms and Compliance:**
  - **Strict guidelines:** Policies prohibit practices such as offline contracts, price discovery bids, quantity-based bids, and unnecessary requests for samples during bid evaluations.
    - All state departments must procure at least 25% of their annual goods and services through GeM, with penalties for non-compliance.
  - **Support for Small Enterprises:** Relaxed tender eligibility criteria (e.g., turnover and past performance) create opportunities for **micro and small enterprises (MSEs)**.
  - **Worker Welfare Provisions:** Policies mandate minimum wages, [Employee Provident Fund \(EPF\)](#), and [Employee State Insurance \(ESI\)](#) benefits for outsourced employees.
    - Service providers cannot arbitrarily replace outsourced employees after hiring, ensuring job stability and fairness.
  - **Anti-Collusion Measures:** Collusion or bid manipulation incurs severe penalties, with provisions for reporting cases to the GeM team.
  - **Complaint Redressal Mechanism:** High-level committees, chaired by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary, review compliance-related grievances submitted via dedicated emails.
- **Alignment with National Initiatives:**
  - GeM adoption promotes the vision of ["Digital India"](#) by enhancing transparency and accountability in governance.
  - The platform supports local suppliers and fosters fair competition, aligning with the ["Make in India" initiative](#).

### Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Platform

- **GeM facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services** required by various Government Departments / Organisations / PSUs.

- The initiative was launched in August 2016, by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- The current version of GeM, i.e., **GeM 3.0 was launched on January 26, 2018.**
- 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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## Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Dispute | Uttar Pradesh | 12 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

A [Supreme Court](#) bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna is set to hear the case on [Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura.](#)

- It is among the oldest temple-mosque conflicts in India, with **Hindus seeking to reclaim places of worship** they allege were converted into mosques during invasions by Muslim rulers.

### Key Points

- **Background of the Dispute:**
  - Mathura, considered the birthplace of Lord Krishna, had a **temple built in 1618.**
  - The Hindu side alleges that the **temple was demolished in 1670 by Mughal ruler Aurangzeb to construct the Shahi Idgah Mosque.**
  - The Hindu side claims the mosque **contains Hindu religious symbols and features,** including a lotus-shaped pillar and an image of the deity Sheshnag.
    - Also contends that the mosque was built on a part of the 13.37-acre land **belonging to the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust** and has **filed a suit seeking the mosque's relocation.**
  - **The Shahi Idgah Mosque Committee and the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board** argue that the mosque does not stand on disputed land.
- **Key Developments:**
  - **Court-Monitored Survey:**
    - On 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the [Allahabad High Court](#) ordered a **court-monitored survey** of the Shahi Idgah Mosque.
    - The court appointed a commissioner to oversee the survey, based on claims that signs of the site's past as a Hindu temple exist on the mosque premises.
  - **Supreme Court Intervention:**
    - The Committee of Management, Trust Shahi Masjid Idgah, filed a petition **challenging the High Court's order for the survey.**
    - On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the Supreme Court stayed the High Court's order for the survey, citing vagueness in the Hindu side's application.
- **Arguments:**
  - **Hindu Side's Position:**
    - They demanded that the High Court conduct an original trial, similar to the [Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi case.](#)
    - The Hindu side has urged the Supreme Court to allow the High Court to determine the modalities for the commission survey.
  - **Mosque Committee's Position:**
    - The committee argues that the High Court's order for a survey is invalid as the suit

is barred under [the Places of Worship Act, 1991](#) which prevents changes to the character of religious places as of 15th August 1947.

- The committee has also challenged the High Court's 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023, order transferring all dispute-related cases from the Mathura court to itself.



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