

Centre notifies logistics policy, infra ministries to devise plans in 6 months

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New Delhi, 29 September

Key infrastructure ministries such as rail, highways, ports, steel, among others, will have to prepare sector-specific plans to increase logistics efficiency in consultation with various stakeholders within six months, according to the national logistics policy (NLP) notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade on Thursday.

For instance, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways can lay down an action plan to develop digital systems to trace and complete visibility of cargo, reduce compliance burden on roads, and measure reliability of truck movement, strategise to address truck driver shortage and their social security, digital system to monitor work and rest hours.

The Sectoral Plans for Efficient Logistics will be aligned with PM GatiShakti and address logistics issues pertaining to infrastructure, processes, digital improvements, policies and regulatory reforms, and capacity building for better workforce, and focus on optimisation of modal mix, the policy that was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ear-



WHAT'S NEW

► Ministry of Road Transport & Highways can develop digital systems to trace and complete visibility of cargo, reduce compliance burden on roads, and make strategy to address truck drivers' shortage, social security, among others

► The Sectoral Plans for Efficient Logistics (SPEL) will be aligned with PM GatiShakti

► SPEL will address issues related to infrastructure, policies, regulatory reforms, etc

lier this month said.

Currently, individual ministries have their respective overall long-term infrastructure plans — National Rail Plan, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, among others. However, the government felt that digital improvements, policies, regulatory framework, and capacity building were needed to improve efficiency.

The policy has also called for integration of all logistics-related digital portals and information technology solutions of key infrastructure

ministries, Department of Revenue, among others. The soft launch of the initiative, known as Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) will have to be facilitated within six months.

Right now, the digital systems of line ministries exist in silos, with no common interface for data sharing and no digital tool to provide a means for performance monitoring and network planning.

ULIP aims to address this issue through data integration.