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The National Logistics Policy

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The National Logistics Policy

Moving goods in India used to cost nearly twice what it costs in a developed economy, as a share of GDP. **One 2022 policy set out to close that gap, and a 2026 government assessment says it may already be closer than the old numbers suggested.**



A container-terminal ceremony at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mumbai. Port capacity is one piece of the logistics puzzle NLP targets. Photo: Wikimedia Commons (GODL-India)

17 Sep 2022 NLP launched, New Delhi
~8% of GDP, target by 2030
38th on LPI in 2023, up from 54th
142 APIs on ULIP, September 2026

What Is the National Logistics Policy?

India needed one clear national plan to fix how goods move across the country. **NLP is that plan.**

- The **National Logistics Policy (NLP)** builds an integrated, efficient logistics ecosystem for India.
- It was launched on **17 September 2022**, in New Delhi, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Its central goal is cutting India's logistics cost as a share of GDP. It also targets pushing India into the world's top 25 countries on the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) by 2030.

Quick check 1. The National Logistics Policy was launched on 17 September 2022, in New Delhi. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Why Did India Need a National Logistics Policy?

For years, India paid far more than other large economies just to move its own goods. **That extra cost sat on top of every product's final price.**

- India's logistics cost has typically run around 13-18% of GDP, well above the roughly 8% seen in developed economies.
- NLP targets bringing that cost down to around 8% of GDP by 2030.
- A newer government assessment, from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with NCAER, puts the figure at 7.97% of GDP for 2023-24, about ₹24.01 lakh crore. That number uses a different, narrower method than the older estimates.

Remember: Two different logistics-cost figures can both be "correct." They just use different methods. Don't assume one number replaces the other in every context.

> **Quick check 2.** NLP's main cost target is bringing India's logistics cost down to around 8% of GDP by 2030. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What Does ULIP Actually Do?

NLP needed a digital backbone to actually connect India's scattered logistics data. **That backbone is called ULIP.**

- The **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)** is NLP's key digital backbone.
- It shares data from dozens of government systems across multiple ministries, through a common set of APIs.
- By September 2026, ULIP connected 49 systems across 13 central ministries and departments, through 142 APIs. Over 200 private-sector applications now run on top of its data, with more than 1,300 registered companies and 350-plus signed agreements.



Road freight on National Highway 2, near Burdwan. ULIP shares data across the systems that plan and track such freight movement. Photo: Wikimedia Commons (CC BY 3.0)

> **Quick check 3.** ULIP shares data across dozens of government systems through a common set of APIs. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

How Much Progress Has India Made Since 2022?

Climbing a global ranking takes years of small, real improvements. **India's climb has been genuine, but it isn't finished.**

- India ranked 38th on the World Bank's 2023 Logistics Performance Index, up from 54th in 2014.
- The government marked NLP's third anniversary in September 2025, highlighting ULIP's growing transaction volumes.
- Climbing from 54th to 38th is genuine movement. Reaching the top 25 by 2030 still remains a real stretch from there.

> **Quick check 4.** India's rank on the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index improved from 54th in 2014 to 38th in 2023. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

How Is NLP Different From PM Gati Shakti?

These two initiatives are often mentioned together. **They are not the same thing, and they don't do the same job.**

- Don't confuse NLP with PM Gati Shakti. PM Gati Shakti is the physical infrastructure master plan, covering roads, rail, and ports.
- NLP is the policy and process layer built on top of that infrastructure. It covers standardisation, digitisation, and skill development.
- The two are complementary and sequential. Gati Shakti maps and coordinates the physical assets; NLP makes those assets efficient to actually use.

> **Quick check 5.** PM Gati Shakti is the policy and process layer, while NLP is the physical infrastructure master plan. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Does ULIP Itself Move Any Goods?

It's easy to assume a platform this large must also handle physical freight. **It doesn't. That's a common exam trap.**

- ULIP doesn't move any goods itself. It only shares real-time data across ministries and private logistics players.
- That shared data lets businesses and regulators plan and track shipments better, across road, rail, air, and sea.
- A question implying ULIP directly operates freight movement, warehousing, or transport is testing this exact data-versus-operations distinction.

> **Quick check 6.** ULIP directly transports and warehouses goods, in addition to sharing logistics data. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Current Affairs

Why Did the Cabinet Create ITLA in October 2026?

On 6 October 2026, the Cabinet approved a new apex body for transport planning. **It is called the Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA).**

- **[Policy]** ITLA is a Special Purpose Vehicle. It will be the apex body for transport and logistics planning, research, appraisal and monitoring (PIB).
- It will prepare a National Transport Master Plan with a horizon of ten years or more. It covers roads, railways, ports, aviation, waterways, coastal shipping, urban mobility and logistics (PIB).
- It will do the technical appraisal of Central projects costing ₹500 crore or more. Financial appraisal stays with the existing mechanisms (PIB).

- It will build a National Transport Data Repository from GSTN e-way bills, FASTag, Vahan and GPS data (PIB).
- It will advise on reviewing and updating this policy, the National Logistics Policy, 2022. It complements the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PIB).

What Has NLP Delivered in 2026?

2026 brought a fresh, more favourable read on India's logistics costs. **It also showed ULIP still growing fast.**

- The DPIIT-NCAER assessment placed India's logistics cost at 7.97% of GDP for 2023-24, roughly ₹24.01 lakh crore, already close to the 2030 target on that measure.
- By September 2026, ULIP had grown to 49 connected systems, 13 central ministries, and 142 APIs, with over 200 apps built on top of it by the private sector.
- Government messaging in 2026 shifted toward making low logistics cost durable across regions, commodities, and firm sizes, not just hitting one national average.

> **Quick check 7.** A DPIIT-NCAER assessment placed India's logistics cost at 7.97% of GDP for 2023-24. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Exam Edge

Must KnowNLP was launched on 17 September 2022, in New Delhi. It targets cutting logistics cost to ~8% of GDP and top-25 LPI rank, both by 2030.

Good to KnowULIP is NLP's digital backbone. By September 2026 it linked 49 systems across 13 ministries through 142 APIs.

Great to KnowIndia's LPI rank improved from 54th (2014) to 38th (2023). A newer DPIIT-NCAER estimate puts 2023-24 logistics cost at 7.97% of GDP.

Exam TrapNLP is not PM Gati Shakti, and ULIP does not move goods itself, it only shares data. Watch for either mix-up.

When was the National Logistics Policy launched?

On 17 September 2022, in New Delhi, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

What logistics-cost target does NLP aim for by 2030?

Around 8% of GDP, down from the 13-18% range seen in earlier years.

Does ULIP move goods itself?

No. ULIP only shares real-time logistics data across government systems and private players. It does not transport, warehouse, or handle any goods.

MCQ on the National Logistics Policy

Test what you just read with these verified questions.

Practice MCQs

1. When was the National Logistics Policy (NLP) launched?

A. 15 August 2022

B. 1 April 2021

C. 26 January 2023

D. 17 September 2022

See answer ↓

2. What logistics-cost-to-GDP target does the National Logistics Policy aim for by 2030?

A. Around 25% of GDP

B. Around 2% of GDP

C. Around 8% of GDP

D. Around 18% of GDP, unchanged from today

See answer ↓

3. What does the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) actually do?

A. It replaces the Ministry of Road Transport entirely

B. It physically transports goods between ports and warehouses

C. It sets mandatory freight prices for all private carriers

D. It shares real-time logistics data across government systems and ministries

See answer ↓

4. How has India's rank on the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) changed between 2014 and 2023?

A. It stayed unchanged at 38th throughout

B. It fell from 38th to 54th

C. It climbed from 54th to 38th

D. It climbed from 100th to 54th

See answer ↓

5. How does the National Logistics Policy differ from PM Gati Shakti?

A. NLP covers only railways, while PM Gati Shakti covers only roads

B. PM Gati Shakti is the physical infrastructure master plan; NLP is the policy layer on top of it

C. PM Gati Shakti was discontinued once NLP was launched

D. They are simply two different names for the exact same scheme

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **D.** The National Logistics Policy was launched on 17 September 2022, in New Delhi. ↑ Q1
2. **C.** NLP targets bringing India's logistics cost down to around 8% of GDP by 2030, in line with developed economies. ↑ Q2
3. **D.** ULIP doesn't move any goods itself -- it shares real-time data across ministries and private logistics players through a common set of APIs. ↑ Q3
4. **C.** India's LPI rank climbed from 54th in 2014 to 38th in 2023 -- genuine progress, though the top-25 target for 2030 remains a stretch. ↑ Q4
5. **B.** PM Gati Shakti is the physical infrastructure master plan; NLP is the policy and process layer built on top of it, covering standardisation, digitisation, and skill development. ↑ Q5

Quick-check answers

1. **False.** ↑ 1
2. **False.** ↑ 2
3. **False.** ↑ 3
4. **False.** ↑ 4
5. **False.** ↑ 5
6. **False.** ↑ 6
7. **False.** ↑ 7

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