

National logistics policy gets Cabinet approval

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NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the national logistics policy which aims to remove gridlocks in the movement of goods, lower logistics costs and bring in a tech-enabled unified system across supply chains.

The prime minister had on September 18 announced the policy that will cut across sectors and will complement the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, a multi-modal connectivity infrastructure development programme.

The national logistics policy aims to reduce cost of logistics

in India to be comparable to global benchmarks by 2030. The country's costs in transport, storage and material handling are estimated to be around 14% of GDP, higher than advanced economies' average of 8-10%, according to data from the World Bank.

The policy also envisages to improve the country's Logistics Performance Index ranking and figure among top 25 countries by 2030, aside from creating data-driven decision-making for an "efficient logistics ecosystem", as per a Cabinet statement.

"The policy has been developed through a consultative process held between several ministries, industry representatives and economists," the state-

ment said. It will utilize the existing institutional frameworks such as the empowered group of Union secretaries that oversees the PM GatiShakti plan. "The vision is to develop a technologically enabled, integrated, cost-efficient, resilient, sustainable and trusted logistics ecosystem for accelerated and inclusive growth," the statement said.

The policy lays down an "action agenda" for immediate on-ground implementation of initiatives such as a unified logistics interface platform (ULIP), which will be basically a large secure network which shippers, consignees as well as government agencies can access for real-time information.