



## National Logistics Portal (Marine)

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI) and Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MOPSW) has entrusted the work of developing the National Logistics Portal (Marine) to Indian Ports Association (IPA).

The National Logistic Portal (NLP) is a project of national importance aimed at connecting all the stakeholders of the logistics community using IT, to improve efficiency and transparency by reducing costs and time delays. This project will have a significant impact on the 'Ease of Doing Business' Index of the country.

The activities of NLP Marine are categorized into four distinct verticals viz.

- i. Carrier,
- ii. Cargo,
- iii. Finance and
- iv. Participating Government Agencies.

In this regard, a system integrator has been appointed and currently initial study for Business Requirement Specifications (BRS) and Software Requirement Specifications (SRS) preparation is in progress.

The NLP Marine project will be bootstrapping of the PCS 1x, the existing Port Community System, and will cover the functionalities of marine trade including Inland Waterways and Coastal. The NLP Marine project is an ambitious initiative which will strengthen with the involvement of various ministries through integrations with various platforms, sharing of information sources and working in close synergy.

### Interview with Shri Rajeev Puri, ED IT i/c

#### What is the National Logistics Portal - Marine?

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MOPSW) and Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI) has entrusted the work of developing the National Logistics Portal (Marine) to Indian Ports Association (IPA).

National Logistic Portal (NLP) is a project of national importance aimed at connecting all the stakeholders of the logistics community using IT, to improve efficiency and transparency by reducing costs and time delays. This project will have a significant positive impact on the 'Ease of Doing Business' Index of the country. In the first phase, NLP will be introduced in the Maritime Logistics sector. The activities of NLP - Marine are categorized into four distinct verticals viz. i. Carrier, ii. Cargo, iii. Finance and iv. Regulatory Bodies (Participating Government Agencies, EPCs). A system integrator has been appointed and currently initial study for drawing up Business Requirement Specifications (BRS) and

Software Requirement Specifications (SRS) preparation is in progress. IPA had already established a Port Community System (PCS 1.0) in the year 2009 to serve the major seaports of the country and their communities through exchange of business-critical messages electronically. It was upgraded PCS 1x and shifted to the cloud space during 2018. The NLP Marine project will be bootstrapping of the PCS 1x and will cover the functionalities of marine trade including Inland Waterways and Coastal traffic as well. The NLP Marine project is an initiative which requires the participation and involvement of various ministries through integrations with different platforms working in close synergy for sharing information among the stakeholders.

### What are its core objectives?

The core objectives of NLP Marine are:

- Move towards a paperless regime i.e. to optimise, manage, and automate Maritime port and logistics processes by connecting transport and logistics chains i.e. electronic handling of key processes relating to import, export, and domestic movement of all types of cargo including containers.
- Facilitate the stakeholders to improve their efficiency through exchange of business-related information with their trading partners accurately and quickly through multi-channel service delivery viz. mobile devices, portal, data exchange through systems, etc
- Improve the quality of service and improve the ranking in the ease of doing business globally.
- Provide real time status information to the stakeholders, to track, trace and control the movement of consignments in the maritime logistics chain.
- Enable analysis and usage of the vast amount of maritime logistics related knowledge base through appropriate BI tools

### What are the key aspects of the portal? What makes it unique?

The envisaged NLP Marine, when launched, will be a single point of contact for the stakeholders of Maritime logistics for doing their business activities from end to end round the clock by leveraging the cutting-edge technology and collaborating with various service providers along the maritime transport chain.

In the current scenario, following challenges are faced by the stakeholders of Maritime logistics daily.

- Absence of standardised formats across regulators and service providers.
- Lack of standardised operating procedures and timeframe for giving approvals.

- Lack of harmonization of processes and documentation.
- Limited levels of automation among various players across the maritime logistic chain.
- Manual processes for documentation as required for various agencies and stakeholders resulting in duplication of paperwork.
- Lack of real time information.

The NLP-Marine is designed to overcome these challenges and offer a comprehensive end to end solution to all stakeholder, by addressing all the difficulties faced by them in EXIM trade.

“Regulatory Bodies and PGA services” vertical comprising of all the PGAs and EPCs and other regulators who control the maritime logistics will provide the following services

- Simplification of regulatory processes by displaying the certifications, licenses and other processes required for different commodities and origin destination pair, including common application form (CAF) to be shared with the respective PGA/ EPC for issue of certificates.
- Integrated regulatory platform will enable data interchange with Customs, PGAs and EPCs and will allow exporters and importers to access facilities like Digi-lockers and check status of compliance.
- Obtaining approvals/ certificates/ clearances from commodity-specific bodies such as FASSAI / Coffee Board / Textile Committee etc.

NLP Marine solution is unique in providing end to end service under a single window to all exporters and importers using the system, for all their business needs.

### How has use of technology enabled in streamlining Indian shipping services?

The implementation of NLP has been initiated with the development of NLP Marine as a first phase. It is an “open platform” that allows coexistence of multiple service providers to provide EXIM related services independently or by combining different connectivity options. It has the capability to integrate with various Port Operating Systems/ Terminal Operating Systems, ICEGATE, systems of other regulatory agencies and stakeholder(s) systems within the NLP Marine ecosystem. It aims to reduce regulatory complexities and enhance the ease of doing business by moving towards a user-friendly, paperless, and round the clock single window system. This will be accomplished by utilising the latest developments in ICT viz. cloud space, state of the art IT infrastructure with redundancies, open source and proprietary software, micro services architecture, provisions for disaster recovery, stringent security mea-

asures to achieve confidentiality, integrity, and availability

## How can the NLP help streamline EXIM logistics?

This platform will benefit both, traders, and logistic service providers alike. Some of the key benefits for the stakeholders are:

### Traders

1. Increased overall efficiency and transparency
2. Increased visibility and access to various Logistics Service Providers from all over the country
3. Simplified discovery of competitive rates for various logistics services Seamless end to end logistics services available through a single platform with features like route planning and multi-mode selections.
4. Background verification and rating of Logistics Service Providers to ensure quality and credibility
5. Assistance in EXIM certification through NLP single window certification system
6. Real-time availability of the status of the service and track and trace features for the carrier, cargo, and containers.
7. Access to useful statistics about the market for efficient business planning and decision making.

### Logistic Service Providers

1. Increased overall efficiency and visibility of services across the country
2. Access to prospective users from across the country resulting in improved client base
3. Increased capacity utilization and potential to increase LSP business volume
4. Opportunity to build brand or enhance LSP brand image
5. Increased prospects for collaboration amongst LSPs for providing end to end solutions to users
6. Real-time availability of the status of the service and track and trace features for the carrier, cargo, and containers.
7. Reduction in time and effort for obtaining regulatory clearances
8. Accessibility to business statistics

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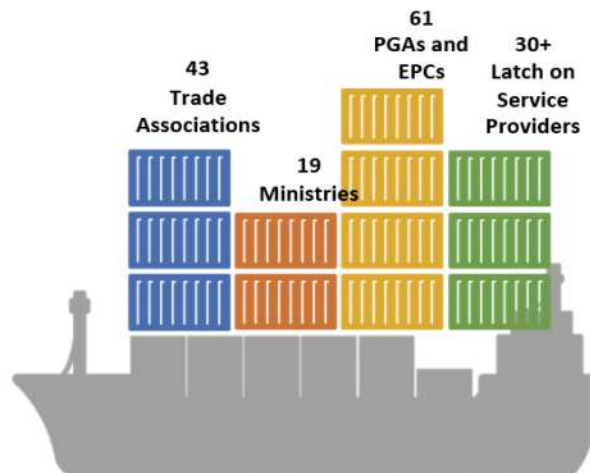
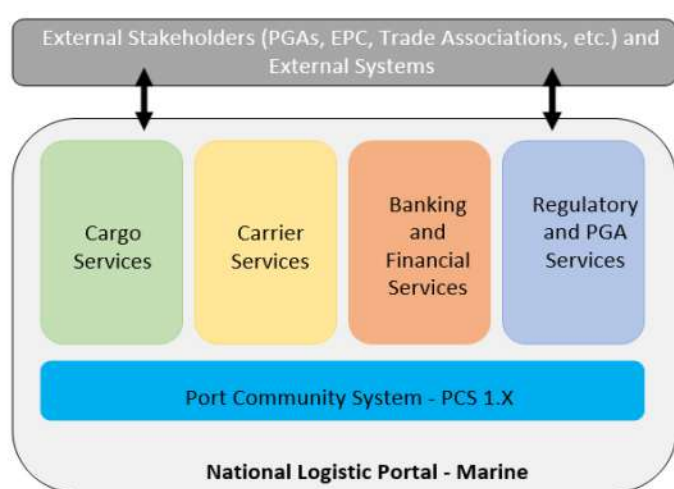
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## Overview of National Logistic Portal (NLP)

Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways (MoPS) and Indian Ports Association (IPA) have envisaged a **National Logistics Portal – Marine**, which will integrate further in future, with Air Logistic Portal, Land Logistic Portals and e-marketplace.



NLP Marine

## Export Process

