

## Commerce, urban affairs ministries to focus on on logistics planning in 50 cities

By TIOL News Service

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he Ministry of Commerce and Industry will work with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to focus on 50 cities for logistics planning, which will ultimately enhance their ease of doing business, an official statement on Wednesday said.

The Department of Commerce organised the National Conference with States on Logistics on Tuesday, with the objective of initiating a consultative and collaborative framework for the Central and State Governments to work in a coordinated manner in the logistic sector.

The ministry said the conference was attended by more than 175 participants from across India, the Central ministries and industry bodies.

**"The conference emphasized that States have a key role to play in improving the country's logistics performance,"** it said.

A comprehensive 18-point agenda was presented to the States identifying the thrust areas for logistics improvements as city logistics, simplification of approvals for warehouses, facilitation for warehousing development, reducing burden on truck movement and addressing shortage of truck drivers.

The ministries of commerce and urban affairs were asked to work together on developing a plan to reduce the enforcement burden on truckers.

States appointed senior officials as nodal officers and agreed to establish State-level coordination committees on logistics. Central ministries looking after transportation were also asked to appoint state nodal officers for coordination.

**"The Logistics Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will embark on things on survey to assess and rank States on logistics performance. The State ranking will focus on data in addition to perspective on logistics performance,"** said the ministry, adding **"Support will be provided to the States to improve the capacity for logistics coordination."**

In his address Commerce and Industry Minister Mr Shri Piyush Goyal said that the National Logistic Policy, which is under consultation, will work as a template for better coordination and integrated development in logistics sector.

He said that the logistic team in the ministry is trying to integrate various means of transport, documentation and stakeholders through technology platforms, into a much-simplified way of working, which will enhance the ease of doing business.