

Report and update on item no. 2.0 (ii) of the Minutes of the 23rd Hybrid meeting of the National Shipping Board held on 25th June 2023 at 1500 hours - “Container Tracking and Tracing system.”

NLDSL Logistics Data Services - Driving India's Logistics Transformation

Date: June 1, 2025

Executive Summary: NICDC Logistics Data Services (NLDSL), formerly DMICDC Logistics Data Services Limited, stands as a crucial enabler in modernizing India's logistics sector. A joint venture between the Government of India and NEC Corporation, Japan, NLDSL was established to enhance efficiency, transparency, and predictability within the nation's supply chain. Through its flagship initiatives like the Logistics Data Bank (LDB) and the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), NLDSL provides critical data-driven insights, real-time cargo visibility, and a unified digital gateway for various stakeholders. This report delves into NLDSL's history, organizational structure, services, significant achievements, and future trajectory, highlighting its pivotal role in India's economic development and its contribution to improving the ease of doing business.

1. Introduction: The Mandate for a Modern Logistics Backbone

India's economic ambitions are intrinsically linked to the efficiency of its logistics network. Recognizing the challenges posed by high logistics costs, operational bottlenecks, and a lack of real-time visibility, the need for a transformative digital intervention became paramount. NLDSL emerged as a strategic response to these challenges, tasked with leveraging technology to create a seamless, transparent, and competitive logistics ecosystem.

2. Genesis and Rationale: Addressing Inefficiencies

History of Creation: NLDSL was incorporated on **December 30, 2015**. It was conceived as a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to develop and operate a logistics data bank, initially focusing on the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) region, and subsequently expanding its services pan-India.

Why it was Created: The primary objectives behind establishing NLDSL were:

- **To Enhance Visibility:** Provide end-to-end tracking of containerized cargo across the supply chain.
- **To Improve Efficiency:** Reduce dwell times at ports, Inland Container Depots (ICDs), and Container Freight Stations (CFSs), thereby speeding up cargo movement.

- **To Reduce Logistics Costs:** By streamlining processes and minimizing delays, contribute to lowering the overall cost of logistics in India, which has historically been higher compared to global benchmarks.
- **To Promote Data-Driven Decision Making:** Offer analytical insights and performance metrics to logistics operators, importers, exporters, and policymakers.
- **To Improve Ease of Doing Business:** Create a more predictable and transparent trade environment, aligning with the government's broader economic agenda.
- **To Foster Integration:** Bring various stakeholders in the fragmented logistics sector onto a common digital platform.

3. Governance and Leadership: Steering the Digital Transformation

Investors: NLDSL is a **joint venture** with a 50:50 equity participation between:

- **National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT):** Representing the Government of India. NICDIT is responsible for the development of various industrial corridors across the country.
- **NEC Corporation, Japan:** A global leader in IT and network technologies, bringing technological expertise to the venture.

Board of Directors and Key Management: NLDSL's Board of Directors comprises representatives from both NICDIT and NEC Corporation.

- **Chairman, NLDSL:** This position is typically held by the CEO & MD of the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC). As of the latest available information, **Shri Rajat Kumar Saini, IAS**, serves as the CEO & MD of NICDC and Chairman of NLDSL. He is an IAS officer of the 2007 batch (Telangana Cadre) with extensive experience in public administration and policy execution.
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director, NLDSL: Mr. Girish Kumar Surpur** leads the executive team at NLDSL. He has over two decades of experience in the ICT sector, particularly in leadership roles focused on sales, presales, and business development within the logistics domain.
- **Other Key Directors (as per available information):**
 - **Mr. Tomohisa Terakado:** Director, representing NEC Corporation. He has a long-standing career with NEC, focusing on logistics solutions for various industries in Japan and globally.
 - **Shri. Ajay Sharma:** Director, Project Management Expert at NICDC. He has a background in civil engineering and management.

4. Services Offered and Impact on Industry

NLDSL provides a suite of innovative services aimed at digitizing and optimizing India's logistics operations:

a) Logistics Data Bank (LDB): This is NLDSL's flagship service and was one of its initial offerings.

- **Functionality:** The LDB system provides **pan-India visibility of EXIM (Export-Import) containers**. It utilizes RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology, with tags affixed to containers and readers installed at strategic locations such as ports, ICDs, CFSs, and major toll plazas. This allows for near real-time tracking of container movements.
- **Industry Impact:**
 - **Enhanced Transparency:** Stakeholders (importers, exporters, shipping lines, customs brokers, freight forwarders) gain clear visibility into their cargo's journey.
 - **Reduced Dwell Times:** By identifying bottlenecks and providing performance data, LDB has contributed to significant reductions in container dwell times at ports and inland terminals.
 - **Improved Predictability:** Better planning for inventory, transportation, and last-mile delivery due to more accurate ETAs.
 - **Performance Benchmarking:** The system generates reports on transit times and operational efficiency, allowing for benchmarking across different routes and facilities.

b) Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP): ULIP is a transformative initiative launched under the National Logistics Policy.

- **Functionality:** ULIP serves as a **digital gateway** that integrates data from various government and private systems related to logistics. It allows stakeholders to access a wide array of logistics-related information and services through API-based integrations. This includes data from ministries overseeing roads, railways, shipping, aviation, customs, and commerce.
- **Industry Impact:**
 - **Single Window Access:** Reduces the complexity of interacting with multiple government portals by providing a unified interface for data access.
 - **Streamlined Documentation and Compliance:** Facilitates easier and faster regulatory compliance.

- **Improved Inter-Agency Coordination:** Enhances data sharing and collaboration among different government departments and logistics service providers.
- **Fostering Innovation:** Enables private sector players, including startups and tech companies, to develop value-added services and applications by leveraging the integrated data.
- **Enhanced Efficiency for MSMEs:** Provides smaller players with access to digital tools and information that were previously accessible only to larger corporations.

c) Track Your Transport (TYT) Application:

- **Functionality:** An application powered by ULIP, designed to empower small-scale transporters and traders. It offers features like cargo tracking across different modes, verification of vehicle and driver details, and other logistics management tools, without requiring heavy IT infrastructure.
- **Industry Impact:**
 - **Digital Inclusion:** Brings the benefits of digital logistics to the unorganized and smaller segments of the transport industry.
 - **Operational Efficiency:** Helps small businesses improve their operational visibility and management capabilities.

Overall Contribution to the Industry: NLDSL's services collectively contribute to:

- **Lowering India's high logistics costs.**
- **Improving the country's ranking in global logistics performance indices.**
- **Facilitating smoother and faster trade operations.**
- **Supporting the 'Make in India' initiative by making domestic manufacturing more competitive.**
- **Creating a more resilient and efficient national supply chain.**

5. Major Achievements

Since its inception, NLDSL has recorded several significant accomplishments:

- **Pan-India LDB Implementation:** Successfully scaled the LDB system to cover nearly all major ports and a vast network of inland terminals and toll plazas, tracking a very high percentage of India's EXIM container volume.

- **Tracking Milestones:** The LDB system has tracked tens of millions of containers. For example, by October 2024, it had achieved the milestone of tracking over **75 million EXIM containers**.
- **Tangible Reduction in Dwell Times:** Data from LDB has consistently shown improvements in reducing average container dwell times at ports and ICDs, leading to faster cargo clearance and reduced congestion.
- **Successful Launch and Rapid Adoption of ULIP:** ULIP has seen remarkable progress, integrating with numerous (35+ as of late 2023, and 43 systems from 11 ministries via 129 APIs as of early 2025) government systems and onboarding a significant number of private companies (over 1300 by early 2025). It has processed a massive volume of API transactions (surpassing **100 crore API transactions by March 2025**), underscoring its wide acceptance and utility.
- **Contribution to Improved Logistics Performance:** Initiatives by NLDSL, particularly LDB and ULIP, are recognized as key contributors to India's improved ranking in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI), which rose from 44 in 2018 to 38 in 2023.
- **Fostering Innovation through Hackathons:** NLDSL has successfully organized ULIP Hackathons (e.g., Hackathon 1.0 and 2.0) to encourage the development of innovative digital solutions for the logistics sector by startups and developers.
- **Industry Awards and Recognition:** NLDSL has received accolades for its pioneering work in leveraging digital technology to transform the logistics sector, such as the "Digital Technology Award-Logistics Sector" at the Business Leaders Award by CMO Asia in 2021.
- **Strategic Collaborations:** Entered into MoUs with state governments (e.g., Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board) to leverage ULIP for enhancing state-level logistics ecosystems.

6. Future Plans and Outlook

NLDSL is poised to continue its transformative journey with ambitious plans:

- **Deepening ULIP Integration:** Expanding the scope of ULIP by integrating more data sources from various government departments and private entities, covering a wider spectrum of logistics activities including warehousing, first-mile, and last-mile connectivity.
- **Leveraging Advanced Technologies:** Increasingly incorporating Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Big Data analytics, and potentially Blockchain to offer more sophisticated insights, predictive analytics (for demand forecasting, route optimization, risk management), and enhanced security.

- **Focus on Multimodal Logistics:** Further strengthening the integration of various modes of transport (road, rail, maritime, air, and inland waterways) within its platforms to provide a truly seamless, end-to-end view and operational capability for multimodal cargo movement.
- **Expanding Service Portfolio:** Potentially extending tracking and data services to other types of cargo beyond containers, such as bulk cargo and other specialized logistics segments.
- **Facilitating Cross-Border Logistics Data Exchange:** Exploring possibilities for secure and standardized data exchange with other countries to streamline international trade.
- **Supporting Sustainability Initiatives:** Developing tools and providing data that can help the logistics industry adopt more environmentally sustainable practices, such as optimizing routes to reduce fuel consumption and emissions.
- **Skill Development and Capacity Building:** Playing a role in promoting digital literacy and skills within the logistics workforce to ensure effective adoption of new technologies.
- **Continued Support for National Logistics Policy:** Aligning its initiatives closely with the evolving goals of the National Logistics Policy to further drive down logistics costs and improve India's global competitiveness. This includes supporting the development of Industrial Smart Cities and Integrated Manufacturing Clusters.

7. Conclusion

NICDC Logistics Data Services has firmly established itself as a cornerstone of India's logistics modernization efforts. Through its innovative platforms like LDB and ULIP, NLDSL is not just tracking containers but is fundamentally reshaping how logistics operations are conducted in the country. By championing transparency, efficiency, and data-driven decision-making, NLDSL is making a significant contribution to India's economic growth, enhancing its trade competitiveness, and improving the overall ease of doing business. Its continued focus on technological advancement and stakeholder collaboration will be crucial in realizing the full potential of India's logistics sector in the years to come.

End of report.