

# Ships moved 9% faster at major ports in FY24 on better infra

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The turnaround time at major ports improved by 9 per cent to 48 hours, compared to 52.9 hours a year before, as infrastructure and processes strengthened in the financial year ended March 31, 2024 (FY24).

“Faster movement through major ports has also resulted in a higher cargo loading ability as well, as major ports saw a 4.5 per cent increase in total traffic at 819 million tonnes (mt) in FY24,” said a senior government official.

Major ports are owned by the central

government through the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, while non-major ones are with state governments and private players. The average output of each vessel per day at berth increased by 7.5 per cent in FY24 year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to 18,925 tonnes, according to the shipping ministry. Total vessels handled by major ports increased by 6.32 per cent to 23,240 ships.

“Ports have invested in newer, technologically advanced cranes, which are able to do more moves per hour. Monitoring and tracking systems installed by major ports enable real time data points, improving operational efficiencies and processes. Digital services such as the Sagar-Setu

mobile app facilitate real-time port operations and monitoring. Further, various process reforms have been implemented, such as transitioning to a paperless system for various clearances at ports, implementing faceless assessment by the customs department, introducing provisions for e-way bills etc,” said Sushu S Shyamal, investment banking partner (ports and shipping) at EY.

India’s underperformance in the maritime space has been cited as a factor for its high cost of logistics. According to experts, the country is now doing better due to improved infrastructure at major ports and greater private participation.