

# Recovering from Biparjoy, 12 govt ports witness 4.5% uptick

**DHRUVAKSH SAHA**  
New Delhi, 13 August

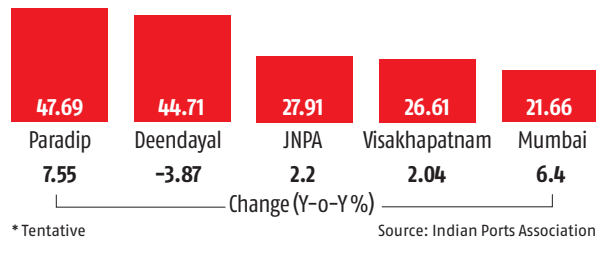
After remaining nearly flat in June because of cyclone Biparjoy, traffic at major central government-owned ports witnessed a rebound in July and grew 4.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY), provisional data from the Indian Ports Association (IPA) shows. The 12 major ports across the country handled approximately 66.2 million tonnes (mt) during the month.

These ports cumulatively handled 266.51 mt of raw materials and goods in FY24 so far, up 2.35 per cent from the year-ago period.

In 2023-24 so far, cargoes of major commodities like crude oil and coal have witnessed little growth or contraction, while coking coal (10 per cent), iron ore pellets (30 per cent), and fertilisers (54 per cent) have seen strong growth.

## WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

Traffic (in million tonnes) in 2023\*



Container movement grew 4 per cent during the period under review.

Before the July rebound, traffic growth in the first quarter of FY24 was 1.7 per cent. The government port sector, which had been seeing steady growth between 7 per cent and 9 per cent every year after the Covid pandemic, has been dwindling this financial year. On a year-on-year basis, April and June witnessed almost negligible growth.

The Centre has been undertaking several projects to increase both private participation and efficiency parameters at major ports, as historical deficiencies have kept state-owned ports congested over decades.

Meanwhile, non-major ports – owned by state governments or private players – witnessed uneven growth trajectories.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, India's

largest private port operator, showed cargo growth of 12 per cent in April-June 2023, the company said in its Q1 results.

Ports operated by the company handled 101 mt cargo in the first quarter, increasing its revenue by 24 per cent.

While the July traffic data for all non-major ports has not been released yet, these ports witnessed 3.8 per cent growth year-on-year in the first quarter of FY24, according to data by the transport research wing of the shipping ministry.

Global trade has been less than steady as India's exports fell 22 per cent Y-o-Y in June and imports dipped 17 per cent. Trade data for July has not been released yet. Global container demand, used to ascertain the movement of finished goods internationally, has also failed to show signs of optimism for the industry.

