

Major port cargo grew 6% in May

Overseas cargo handling seen as major factor

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Cargo handling at India's major ports was up by 6 per cent in May to 72 million tonnes (mt), buoyed by a 7.3 per cent rise in overseas cargo handling, even as several global factors have constrained supply chains, especially in Asia.

While experts and reports suggest that the current congestion at several Asian ports has benefitted Indian ports in the form of spillover transshipment cargo reaching Indian ports, it remains unclear whether major ports have benefitted from this.

According to provisional and advance estimates data released by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways for April-May 2024-25, cargo handled at major ports increased by 4.02 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to 139.3 mt.

In comparison, cargo volumes grew by only 2 per cent in April, and around 4.4 per cent through 2023-24.

Major ports are those owned by the central government through the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, while non-major ports are owned by state governments and private players.

In May, crude oil and petroleum, oils and lubricants (POL) products accounted for 29 per cent of the total cargo volumes and registered a near 7 per cent growth. While foodgrains accounted for a smaller base, their movement increased nearly 270 per cent to 431,000 mt.

After a tumultuous 2023-24, Gujarat's Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) is looking to stage a comeback as a major port with the highest cargo handling. In May, the port's overseas cargo volumes rose by nearly a fourth

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Commodity	Volume in May '24 (in mt)	% change Y-o-Y
Crude oil	20.8	6.8
Thermal coal	10.5	-2.3
Iron ore	4.9	6.9
Foodgrains	0.4	269
Containers	15.5	0.4
Other commodities	7.6	38.2

Source: MoPSW

Coal import rose 13% to 26 mt in April: mjunction

India's coal import rose by 13.2 per cent to 26.10 million tonne (mt) in April 2024 as buyers took fresh positions amid early onset of summer. The country had imported 23.05 mt of coal in the year-ago period, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce company mjunction services. **PTI**

(23 per cent) to reach 11.8 mt. It also handled 18 per cent of total major port volumes in the same month.

Amid concerns over the port failing to compete with its peers in the state such as Mundra Port, Pipavav Port, and others owned by private companies, the DPA has been looking to recapture some of its lost ground. Earlier this year, it announced incentives and concessions to improve its cargo volumes under a new scheme – Strategic Action to Aid Growth and Rewards.