Pulses import down 23.5% in April

Business Line, dt. 20/5/25

DEEP DIP. Value declined to $314.4 m on fall in yellow peas, lentils purchases; trend to slow down going forward

Vishwanath Kulkarni
Bengaluru

After record imports last fiscal, India's purchase of pulses from abroad is likely to slow down in the current financial year.

In April, the import value of pulses declined by 23.5 per cent on a sharp fall in imports of yellow peas and lentils compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

As per the Commerce Ministry's quick estimates, pulses imports in value terms declined to $314.4 million in April against $411 million a year ago.

Analysts expect that imports will slow down going forward in the fiscal on improved availability and the forecast of above normal monsoon improving the prospects for domestic production.

IN FULL SWING. Tur procurement is also being done from pre-registered farmers on the e-Samridhi portal of Nafed and the eSamyukti portal of NCCF

The import of yellow peas, a near substitute for chana, saw a sharp decline during April this year.

Imports volume of yellow peas in April have been projected at 29,308 tonnes compared with 4.02 lakh tonnes a year ago, said Rahul Chauhan of IGrain India.

Imports of yellow peas almost doubled during FY25 at over 21.45 lakh tonnes against 11.69 lakh tonnes in FY24. The government opened up yellow pea imports in December 2023 to boost the pulses supplies in the wake of a lower chana crop in 2024.

The duty-free window for yellow pea imports is scheduled to end on May 31.

Similarly, the import of lentils has been pegged lower in April at 36,007 tonnes against 64,583 tonnes a year ago, Chauhan said.

TUR IMPORT UP

However, imports of tur and urad increased in the first month of the fiscal.

Imports of tur were projected at 98,162 tonnes (61,978 tonnes in April last year), while urad imports rose to 89,212 tonnes (55,435 tonnes).

The duty-free import window for tur and urad continues till March 31, 2026. The Centre has imposed import-duty on lentils and chickpeas from April 1.

While the duty on lentils is 5% besides 5% agricultural infrastructure cess, the levy on chickpeas is 10 per cent.

Chauhan said overall pulses imports are likely to be lower this year.

India's pulses import bill had crossed the $5.4-billion mark during 2024-25 against $3.74 billion in 2023-24 as the country made record purchases to boost the domestic supplies and keep prices under check.

FY25 PURCHASES

In volume terms, pulses imports in 2024-25 are expected to have touched a record 67.05 lakh tonnes, an increase of 52.2 per cent over 44.03 lakh tonnes the previous year.

Besides yellow peas, imports of desi chickpea, tur and urad increased significantly during the year.

Desi chickpea imports were 13.13 lakh tonnes against 1.63 lakh tonnes a year ago.

Tur imports increased to 12.39 lakh tonnes (7.71 lakh tonnes) and urad tov8.23 lakh tonnes (6.24 lakh tonnes).

Lentil imports decreased to 12.86 lakh tonnes (16.76 lakh tonnes) in 2024-25.

Business Line, dt. 20/5/25

Oilmeal exports flat in April on slack demand

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

Oilmeal exports from the country were flat in April due to the lack of demand in the international market.

Data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) showed that 4,65,863 tonnes of oilmeal were exported in April against 4,65,156 tonnes in April 2024.

BV Mehta, Executive Director of SEA, said India harvested a record crop of soyabean in the kharif season and rape-mustard in the rabi season. This led to higher crushing and increased the availability of meal.

Stating that the export demand is lacking due to disparity in international market, he said the total exports of soyabean meal decreased to 13.35 lakh tonnes (lt) during the first six months of the current season (November to April) from 16.58 lt in the corresponding period a year ago. Export of rapeseed meal also decreased to 9.11 lt during November-April of the current season (9.30 lt during the same period of the previous season).

CHINA OPPORTUNITY

Stating that there is an export opportunity of rapeseed meal to China, he said Beijing relies on imports from Canada and the EU. Given the prevailing supply constraints and rising costs, India now has a valuable opportunity to regain its foothold in the Chinese market, if China relaxes its stringent import conditions on Indian rapeseed meal and India could emerge as a key supplier to China, he said.

Currently, international price of rapeseed meal

stands at $308 a tonne (ex-Hamburg). However, the Indian rapeseed meal (ex-Kandla FAS) is available at just $202 a tonne.

He said the SEA has represented to the Union Ministry of Commerce to take up this matter with the Chinese government for relaxation of import condition. Only three units, which are registered with the General Administration of Customs of China, are now exporting rapeseed meal to China, he said.

On the impact of DDGS (distillers dried grains with solubles) on cattle and poultry feeds, he said the increasing adoption of DDGS in animal feed is influencing the demand for traditional oilmeals, particularly in cattle and poultry feed sectors. Being a cost-effective and protein-rich alternative, DDGS is being increasingly used as a partial substitute for soyabean meal, rapeseed meal and de-oiled rice bran in feed formulations. This trend may moderate the growth in oilmeal exports necessitating targeted strategies to sustain demand, he said.

South Korea imported 68,948 tonnes of oilmeals from India in April 2025. This included 59,071 tonnes of rapeseed meal, 6,307 tonnes of castor seed meal, and 3,570 tonnes of soyabean meal.

Business Standard, Dt; 20/5/25

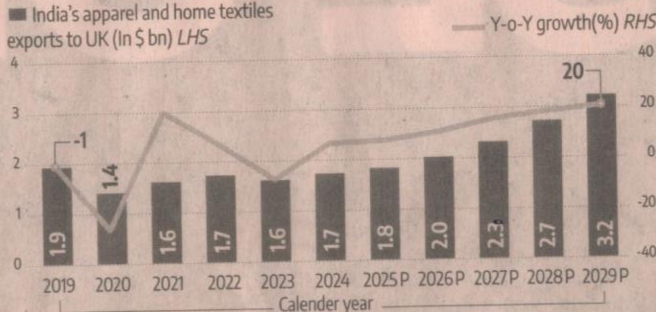
UK FTA: Textiles exports to pip Pak, Turkiye

VIKAS DHOOT
New Delhi, 19 May

India's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom should enable it to surge past Pakistan and Turkey to emerge as the third largest supplier of apparel and textiles to the UK, with its exports set to get a level-playing field against rivals like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Pakistan that enjoy duty-free market access.

India's apparel and home textiles shipments to the UK attract an 8-12 per cent import duty, that would be scrapped under the FTA expected to come into force in calendar year 2026, with tariffs eliminated on 99 per cent of Indian goods. While the EU and the US are India's largest markets for apparel and home textiles, accounting for about 61 per cent of such exports in 2024, UK's share in

Upward trajectory



P: Projected
Source: Icra

such exports from India has hovered between 7 per cent to 8 per cent in the last five calendar years, rating firm Icra said in a report on Monday.

Last year, the UK market's dominant supplier was China with a share of about 25 per cent, followed by Bangladesh with a 22 per cent share, Turkey with an 8 per cent share and Pakistan with an approximate 6.8 per cent of the market. With exports of $1.4 billion in 2024, Indian textiles were just a tad behind with a 6.6 per cent market share.

Icra expects India's textile export volumes to the UK to double from their current levels in the next 5-6 years after the revised zero tariffs kick in, requiring exporters to ramp up their capacities. While such exports to the UK grew 6 per cent last year, Icra expects the compound annual growth rate of about 13 per cent over the next five-six years, with 2029 expected to record a 20 per cent growth with shipments worth $3.2 billion.

"The UK's share in India's textile exports is anticipated to rise from 7-8 per cent to 11-13 per cent by CY2027. This growth will be supported by incremental capacity additions in the garmenting segment, creating employment opportunities and improving earnings for exporters," reckoned Icra's analysts, led by senior vice president and group head Jitin Makkar.

Financial Express, dt. 20/5/25

Govt allots quota for UAE gold imports

• 1,400 applications rejected, say traders

RAJESH BHAYANI
Mumbai, May 19

THE GOVERNMENT ON Monday allotted quota for 180 tonne of gold imports from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at a concessional duty under the comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA), with a traders' association claiming that around 1,400 applications were rejected.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) received a record number of applications seeking 25 times more than the available quota for gold imports from the Gulf nation in 2025-26. Under the agreement with the UAE, gold can be imported with a 5% duty. The DGFT in a trade notice said the last date for submitting the applications for 2025-26 was February 28 this year.

GOLD RUSH

- The UAE-India comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) came into force on May 1, 2022
- Under CEPA, India agreed to import up to 200 tonne of gold annually with a 1% tariff concession
- DGFT reveiced 2,960 applications — a rise of 253% year-on-year — for **180 tonne** of gold imports in 2025-26
- Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association claimed only one application from each applicant was considered

According to traders, the concessional import facility usually draws a larger number of applications, but the number reached 2,960 this time — a rise of 253% year-on-year.

They claimed that the authorities took into account the condition of an average annual turnover of above ₹25 crore over the previous three financial years while allotting the import quota to traders. "DGFT ignored its public notice issued in June 2023, which had dropped the condition of turnover above ₹25 crore in the past three years," Surendra Mehta, national secretary, Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association, said.

Consequently, 1,400 applications were turned down, he added. According to Mehta, only one application from each applicant was considered, and priority was given to those who used 80% of the CEPA quota in the last financial year.

Scheduled commercial banks are allowed to directly import gold as nominated agencies, and hence a separate quota allocation for them was not considered.

Since its introduction in 2022, the concessional import programme has gained popularity. Market sources, however, claim that a large number of applications this time were submitted by people who had not previously dealt in gold.

Under the CEPA, India agreed to import up to 200 tonne of gold annually from the UAE with a 1% tariff concession under the tariff rate quota.

In the latest round, the applicants were asked to to indicate the purpose of gold import — for manufacturing, trading or both.

Financial Express, dt. 20/5/25

Smartphones exports ring louder than diamond, apparel in FY25

MUKESH JAGOTA
New Delhi, May 19

INDIA'S SMARTPHONE EXPORTS have been growing 40-50% a year for the past three years and have now overtaken traditional sectors like diamonds, apparel and rice.

In FY24, the overseas shipments of smartphones recorded a growth of 55% year-on-year to $24.14 billion.

This performance has propelled smartphones to become one of India's top exported goods, overtaking traditional ones for the first time, a senior official said.

With exports now exceeding $24 billion and the sector outpacing traditional export heavyweights, India is firmly on the path to becoming a leading player in the global smartphone market, he said.

"India has become a very consistent and significant player in the mobile market. We have created an ecosystem which is good for modern assembly making, as sophisticated assembly making as modern mobile phones require," commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal had said.

India's smartphone export has experienced an extraordinary surge, transforming the country into a major global manufacturing and export hub with a large credit going to the government initiatives, most notably the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, a senior official said.

The PLI has spurred investments, scaled up local production and integrated India more deeply into global value chains, the official added.

In the FY23, India's smartphone exports stood at $11 billion, which then soared to $15.6 billion in FY24, marking a 42% y-o-y increase.

The momentum continued into FY25, with exports surpassing $24 billion — a 55% jump over the previous year.

Business Line, Dt. 21/5/25

April coffee exports up 48%

Vishwanath Kulkarni
Bengaluru

India's coffee exports in value terms increased 48 per cent in April to $202.95 million due to high prices for the commodity, while volumes were a tad lower during the period. In April last year, the exports stood at $137.27 million.

Export volumes during April, based on the permits issued by the Coffee Board, were lower at 35,259 tonnes, down 11 per cent from same period last year's 39,827 tonnes.

In the current calendar year from January 1 to May 15, the volume of shipments was down 13 per cent at 1.54 lakh tonnes, from 1.77 lakh tonnes a year ago. Arabica shipments witnessed growth during the period while robusta shipments declined.

The shipments of instant coffee were down at 19,122 tonnes, while imports for re-exports were down at 34,160 tonnes during January 1-May 15

INSTANT COFFEE DOWN

Arabica parchment shipments were up during the period at 24,136 tonnes (16,795 tonnes in the same period last year). Similarly, the arabica cherry shipments also increased to 5,727 tonnes (3,657 tonnes). However, the shipments of robusta declined. Robusta parchment shipments were lower at 10,796 tonnes (12,059 tonnes) while robusta cherry shipments dipped to 60,321 tonnes (85183 tonnes).

The shipments of instant coffee were down at 19,122 tonnes (19,713 tonnes) while imports for re-exports were down at 34,160 tonnes (39,820 tonnes) during the January 1-May 15 period.

Ramesh Rajah, President, Coffee Exporters Association, said the increase in shipment value is on account of higher prices while the volumes are down. Arabica shipments are higher because of the earlier orders; at present, the buyers are staying away from the pricey Indian robustas, Rajah said. The order book remains weak as the buyers are still buying on a need basis.

In the financial year ended March 2025, India exported 3.89 lakh tonnes of coffee, valued at a record $1.82 billion.

Business Line, dt. 21/5/25

Raising domestic cocoa output will help cut imports by 50%: DCCD chief

V Sajeev Kumar

Kochi

Surging prices, rocketing demand and the potential to boost rural income generation make a strong case for considering cocoa as a strategic crop in India's agricultural portfolio, according to experts. India is currently a net importer of cocoa beans and products to sustain its booming chocolate industry.

Femina, Director, Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development (DCCD), said the cocoa sector has the potential to emerge as a vibrant, self-sustaining industry providing strategic interventions such as scientific area expansion, robust planting material production, intensive capacity building and collaborative stakeholder action.

Presenting a paper at the national level training on cocoa at the Kerala Agricultural University, she said, "With a focused cluster-based approach for scientific area expansion in both traditional and non-traditional States, the country holds significant potential to reduce its reliance on cocoa imports by 50 per cent while unlocking new economic opportunities for farmers."

MODEST EXPORTS

India imports over 1.26 lakh tonnes of cocoa annually, valued at ₹4,247 crore, to meet its growing domestic demand, driven by the rise in chocolate and confectionery consumption.

Exports of cocoa bean and products were 36,186 tonnes, valued around ₹1,522 crore in 2023-24. The domestic production as of 2023-24 meets only 22 per cent of the national demand for cocoa beans, estimated at 1,33,000 tonnes annually. The shortfall of nearly 1,02,600 tonnes is met through imports from African countries, she said.

Business Standard, dt. 21/5/25

Focusing on exports instead of deep discounts in domestic mkt: Hyundai

Firm has announced a pipeline of 26 product launches by FY30. These include new models and facelifts

DEEPAK PATEL
New Delhi, 20 May

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) is currently focusing on boosting exports to its key markets in West Asia and Africa instead of offering deep discounts in the domestic market, which is showing signs of stress. This, overall, shows a balanced approach between volume sales and profit, its chief operating officer (COO) Tarun Garg told *Business Standard* in an interview on Tuesday.

"OUR MAJOR THRUST IS TOWARDS ELECTRIC CARS, AND IT IS EVIDENT FROM THE WAY WE ARE LOCALISING THE SUPPLY CHAIN AS WELL AS THE CHARGING INFRA"

Tarun Garg
COO, Hyundai Motor India

"We have the flexibility that whenever the domestic market is showing signs of stress, instead of going after discounts too much and compromising the quality of sales, we have this lever of exports. So, we have accelerated that lever, increasing our export volumes. This has helped keep discounts under check," Garg said.

HMIL's domestic sales declined 4.2 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to 153,550 units in the fourth quarter of 2024-25 (FY25), while its exports grew 14.1 per cent Y-o-Y to 38,100 units during the same period. Currently, about 21 per cent of HMIL's total production is exported and it wants to take it up to 30 per cent by FY30.

"Our new plant is coming up in Talegaon, Pune. Our new model cycle will come up in the second half of FY26, and that will again give us an opportunity to grab back the lost domestic market share. While volumes are very important, and we are very passionate about our ranking in the domestic car market, we want to have a balanced approach," Garg said.

HMIL's third manufacturing facility, located in Talegaon, is expected to begin production in the third quarter of FY26.

"Siam has projected around 1 per cent growth in the industry's car sales for the entire FY26. Our growth is also expected to be in the range of 0-1 per cent. However, for exports, we anticipate a stronger growth of 7-9 per cent in FY26," Garg said.

Last Friday, HMIL reported a 3.8 per cent Y-o-Y decline in consolidated net profit to ₹1,614 crore in the fourth quarter of FY25, citing a high base effect and macroeconomic uncertainties that affected consumer sentiment and purchase decisions.

"From our Q4 results, you can observe that Hyundai has always had a very balanced approach towards volume and profit. The domestic market has been tough...Our Ebitda margin was 12.9 per cent for the entire FY25 but in the fourth quarter, it stood at 14.1 per cent. We were able to keep our discounts at two per cent in the fourth quarter. We focused on exports in the fourth quarter, recording 14 per cent growth, because in the past few years, the export volumes had not grown. Even in April, our exports from India increased by 20 per cent," Garg stated.

As part of its long-term strategy, the carmaker last week announced an aggressive pipeline of 26 product launches by FY30, including a mix of new models and facelifts. Garg added that the company was planning to launch hybrid cars in India and they would be over and above the aforementioned 26 products.

However, the thrust will remain on electric vehicles (EVs). Out of the aforementioned 26 scheduled launches, six would be EVs. "You can very clearly see that the major thrust of the company is towards electric cars, and it is evident from the way we are localising the supply chain as well as the charging infrastructure. We have already localised battery packs and we are in process of localising the cells along with an Indian partner," Garg said.

Financial Express, Dt: 21/5/25

Mango exports to US back to normal

MUKESH JAGOTA
New Delhi, May 20

EXPORTS OF MANGOES from India to the US are back to normal after the rectification of an error in one of the irradiation facilities, a senior official said Tuesday. The error was rectified on May 10.

The error had resulted in the eventual rejection of 12 mango consignments that was shipped to the US.

"There was no impact on the other two irradiation facilities," the official clarified. The error and its cause is being examined at senior level by the facility management.

Mangoes are exported to the US under the Cooperative Service Agreement between APEDA and the USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service(APHIS). As per the work plan, mangoes are procured from registered farms, which are then graded and sorted at recognised packhouses. Subsequently, this is followed by fungicidal treatment of hot water and finally irradiated at USDA approved irradiation facilities. There are three irraditaion facilities in the current year. India's exports of mangoes to the USA have shown an increase, registering a growth of 130%, with export value increasing from $4.36 million in 2022–23 to $10.01 million in 2023–24.

India is the sixth largest exporter of mangoes in the world. India's exports of fresh mangoes, in terms of value, have increased by 66% to the world in the last four years from $ 36.22 million in FY21 to $ 60.14 million in FY24. India achieved its highest exports of mangoes in 2023–24, with 32,104 metric tonnes of fresh mango exports, generating $60.14 million—the highest export value in the last five years. As per available data and trend, in 2024-25 mango exports are expected to be higher than last year.

India currently exports mangoes to 48 countries, with the UAE accounting for 31% and the US at 23%.

Export realisations for mangoes have increased significantly from $1130/MT in 2019-20 to $1846/MT in 2024-25, registering an absolute growth of 63%. India's export footprint has also expanded into newer markets such as Iran, Czech Republic, Nigeria and South Africa.

India's crude import dependence hits a record 90% in April on dip in local output

Business Line, dt. 22/5/25

Rishi Ranjan Kala
New Delhi

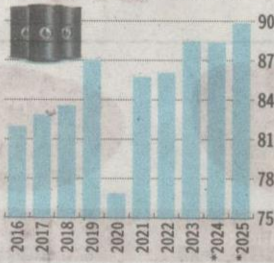
India's crude oil import dependence rose to an all-time high of 90 per cent in April as it procured more cargoes to meet the demands of an expanding industrial and commercial complex.

The rising dependence is also due to the continuously declining production in the nomination blocks operated by state-run E&P majors — ONGC and OIL — which account for more than 75 per cent of India's overall output. Production by private/JV companies in the production sharing contracts (PSC) or revenue sharing contracts (RSC) regime has also been languishing.

According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), India's import dependence of crude oil, on POL (petroleum, oil and lubricants) basis, rose to its highest on record at 90 per cent in April, up from 88.5 per cent and 88.6 per cent during the same month in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

On the rise

Crude oil import dependence (%)



Source: Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell
*Provisional

In FY25, the country's crude oil import dependence rose to 88.2 per cent compared with 87.4 per cent and 85.5 per cent during FY24 and FY23, respectively, data from PPAC show.

STUMBLING BLOCKS

According to the recent India Energy Scenario report, brought out by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Power Ministry, crude oil production, which accounts for roughly one-fourth of India's gross imports, declined by 3 per cent per annum in the last seven years, ending FY24.

"In FY24, the domestic production of oil was 29.4 million tonnes (mt), decreasing significantly from 36 mt in FY17, declining at the annual rate of 3 per cent," the report said.

It attributed the decline to several factors, including natural depletion of older and marginal fields, accessibility and technical challenges in certain reservoirs and disruptions in field activities.

India's estimated balance recoverable crude oil reserves in the country was 671.4 mt as of April 1, 2024, reflecting a 0.3 per cent increase from the previous year's reserves of 669.47 mt.

Business Line, dt. 22/5/25

Lower castorseed production may affect exports, says SEA chief

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) has said the reduction in the production of castorseed could impact its export from India in 2025.

In his monthly letter to the members of SEA on Tuesday, Sanjeev Asthana, SEA President, said India remains the world's leading exporter of castor oil, meeting nearly 90 per cent of global demand. "However, production has declined to 15.6 lakh tonnes from 19.6 lakh tonnes due to reduced acreage and adverse weather. This may impact exports in 2025," he said.

On the ban on export of de-oiled rice bran (DORB), he said the government imposed a ban in July 2023 due to high domestic prices.

With the prices now below ₹9,000 a tonne and reduced demand due to the increasing use of DDGS (distillers dried grains with solubles), a surplus had emerged. This had severely impacted rice bran processors and millers in States such as West Bengal and Odisha.

The SEA urged the government to lift the ban.

A virtual meeting was held with Arun Kumar, Senior Economist, Ministry of Agriculture, after the SEA's representation to Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, he said.

DUTY DIFFERENTIAL

Further, he said the excessive import of refined palmolein had led to underutilisation of domestic refining capacity.

SEA requested the Department of Food to increase the duty differential between crude and refined palm oil from 7.5 per cent to 15 per cent. SEA held discussions with Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Business Line, dt. 22/5/25

SPICED scheme to assist sustainable exports

Our Bureau
Kochi

The Spices Board has launched the 'Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development' (SPICED) scheme for the financial year 2025–26.

It offers financial assistance across various components, aiming to enhance sustainability, foster innovation, and promote export development. Online applications will open on May 26.

The scheme aims to enhance the productivity of small and large cardamom, improve the quality of post-harvest processes and encourage the production and export of value-added, GI-tagged and organic spices.

Exporters can apply under the export development and promotion components until June 30, while farmers and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) can submit applications under development components until September 30.

The financial assistance will support farmers and FPOs with replanting, micro-irrigation, and improved post-harvest infrastructure

The scheme offers support for replanting and rejuvenation of cardamom plantations, development of water resources, micro-irrigation, promotion of organic farming, and expansion of good agricultural practices.

Business Line, dt. 23/5/25

Steel imports fall 11% to 0.52 mt in April on drop in shipments

SUPPLY STRAIN. First major month of decline post imposition of the safeguard duty

Abhishek Law
New Delhi

The country's finished steel imports saw a 11 per cent-odd decline in April to 0.52 million tonnes (mt), predominantly led by a fall in shipments from China and Japan and other Asian nations like Vietnam, which have been used for routing shipments of the metal from China.

This was the first major month of yearly decline in imports, following imposition of the safeguard duty, even though the steel trade deficit — difference between exports and imports — stood at nearly ₹2,216 crore, as per a report of the Steel Ministry accessed by *businessline*.

Import in the year-ago period (April 2024) was 0.6 mt.

Finished steel imports for April were valued at ₹5,301 crore ($620 million), and include non-alloyed offerings, alloyed ones and stainless steel. Flat product shipments, the key item tapped, declined by over 13 per cent to 0.5 mt.

Total steel imports saw a near 4 per cent decline, too, to 0.64 mt, as against 0.7 mt in the year-ago-period.

TRADE CHECK. Steel shipments from China, Japan and other Asian nations fell significantly during the month

For April, India was a net importer of the metal. Exports stood at 0.4 mt, down 26 per cent y-o-y and were valued at ₹3,084 crore ($361 million).

In terms of price, the Steel Ministry, in its report mentioned that domestic rebar prices moved up month-on-month as both bids and offers strengthened amid improving market sentiment, and hot-rolled coil prices edged higher "amid a wave of bullish sentiment triggered by the government's recent imposition of a safeguard duty on flat steel products".

CHINESE SHIPMENTS

Incidentally, steel shipments from China saw a near 27 per cent decline to 1,02,700 tonnes, as against 1,39,800 tonnes in the year-ago-period.

In value terms, shipments declined by nearly 42 per cent to $109 million from $187.3 million in the same month last fiscal.

Imports from Japan also witnessed a sharp decline. Steel volume dropped to 85,600 tonnes, down 60 per cent from 2,13,500 tonnes in April last year. In value terms, alloy shipments fell by nearly 30 per cent y-o-y to $117.5 million in April 2025 as against $167.2 million in the year-ago-period.

Korea was India's top supplier with 1,54,000 tonnes of the metal coming in (1,50,400 tonnes), up 2 per cent-odd y-o-y, and valued at $135 million ($126.5 million), up 6.7 per cent y-o-y.

There was just 13,000 tonnes of import from Vietnam (primarily in the stainless steel category), a significant decline over April last year. Import from Indonesia was just 1,100 tonnes, practically insignificant. Incidentally, France and Germany saw some jump in imports — up 905 per cent and 485 per cent y-o-y to 30,300 tonnes and 30,600 tonnes.

EXPORTS OUTLOOK

Traditional European markets of Spain saw a 121 per cent jump in export shipments to 46,900 tonnes while Italy and Belgium saw 60 per cent and 6 per cent decline y-o-y to 50,200 tonnes (126,700 tonnes) and 83,800 tonnes (89,200 tonnes) respectively.

Nepal and the UAE saw an increase too — of 110 per cent to 47,800 tonnes and 3.6 per cent to 27,700 tonnes.

Business Line, dt. 23/5/25.

As copra, coconut prices soar on supply shortage, trade seeks nod for their import

V Sajeev Kumar

Kochi

Hit by the spiralling price of coconut and copra triggered by a sharp plunge in availability, coconut oil manufacturers are considering seeking permission to import them to meet the requirements.

Thalath Mahmood, President of the Cochin Oil Merchants Association (COMA), told *businessline* that manufacturers were planning to approach the government to lift the restrictions on import of coconut and copra as the industry is reeling under a severe crisis due to an acute supply shortfall.

Currently, there is a shortage of 30-35 per cent in availability, which is steadily getting acute.

The crisis can be dealt with by importing coconut and copra from countries such as Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka to meet the industry demand, he said.

OIL PRICES SOAR

The shortage of raw material has pushed up the retail prices of coconut oil to ₹350 per litre. This is expected to soar to ₹400 soon. Likewise, copra prices are also moving up and have reached ₹188 per kg in Tamil Nadu and ₹186 in Kerala.

As many as 25,000 workers are engaged in the small and medium coconut oil manufacturing sector and the rising prices of the raw material have hit the functioning of many units in the State, he said, adding that the price of coconut is now ₹62 per kg in Kerala. It was hovering around ₹20 last year.

Admitting a shortage in the market, official sources said that there has been a crisis across the producing countries with climate change being a major contributor hitting production.

Besides, the rising demand and consumer awareness for coconut-based value-added products have also led to the slump.

The climbing demand for tender coconut in the summer also aggravated the shortage. The production in the 2023-24 crop season was 21,374 million nuts.

There are also reports that China is procuring large quantities of coconuts from Indonesia to manufacture value-added products, an industry source said, adding that product diversification and export opportunities under FTAs have generated demand for coconuts. However, the production was not commensurate with the demand.

Financial Express, dt. 23/5/25

Exports of processed food products surge 15% in Apr

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, May 22

INDIA'S EXPORT OF agricultural and processed food products have commenced on a brisk note in the current fiscal with the shipments rising by over 15% on-year to $2.13 billion in April 2025.

The rise in farm-sector shipments were driven primarily by a sharp increase in exports of rice, meat and fruits and vegetables last month.

The rice exports, including basmati and non-basmati varieties, rose by over 13% to $ 1.08 billion in April 2025 compared to previous year. In FY25, the rice exports were at a record $12.47 billion, an increase of over 20% compared to 2023-24.

"We anticipate rice exports to grow in the range of 10-15% in the current fiscal because of a possibility of a surge in global demand due geo-political reasons," Amit Goel, managing director, KNAM Foods, an exporter of basmati rice, told *FE*.

The government started easing restrictions on rice exports in September 2024 on prospects of bumper output and significantly higher stocks, around a year after they were imposed. It has since removed all export restrictions, including the minimum export price, on rice shipments.

Trade sources say India's dominance in global rice trade has been restored with a spike in shipments, especially to Africa and Southeast Asian countries.

BRISK PACE

Source: DGCIS, #including items - cashew, oil meals & other cereals, excluding items - marine, tobacco, coffee & tea

India has been the largest exporter of rice for a decade now.

With a projection of bumper harvest due to prospects of above normal monsoon rains this season, the rice output and exports is likely to rise in the current fiscal.

According to data provided by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the shipment of fresh fruits and vegetables in April, 2025 increased by over 30% to $0.38 billion, and cereals preparation by more than 7% to $0.26 billion.

The exports of buffalo meat, dairy and poultry products last month rose by close to 16% on year to $0.37 billion compared to April, 2024.

Officials said that in the past decade, there has been a rise in demand for the Indian bovine meat across the globe due to its quality and nutrient value.

The exports of products under the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) basket rose to $25.14 billion during the 2024-25, an increase of over 12% on-year.

The share of exports of products under the APEDA basket is around 51% in the total shipments of agricultural produce.

The rest of the agricultural product exports include marine, tobacco, coffee, and tea.

The Economic Times. Dt: 26/05/25

FOR FIRST TIME, DRIVEN BY LOCAL UNITS OF SMC & HONDA

Japan among Top 5 Export Mkts for India-made Cars

Vehicle shipments to country rise to $616.5 m in Apr-Dec 2024

Sharmistha Mukherjee

New Delhi: Japan has emerged one of the top five export destinations for Made-in-India cars for the first time in the last fiscal year, underscoring steadily growing global acceptance of cars built in the country, including developed markets.

Key Indian exporters include the local units of Suzuki Motor Corp and Honda Motor Co, seeking to increasingly leverage the country as a production hub. Vehicle shipments to Japan rose to $616.45 million in the first nine months of FY25, from $220.62 million in FY24, showed commerce ministry data, collated by SIAM.

The Indian government is yet to release detailed data for vehicle exports and imports for the March quarter. However, industry insiders expect the trend to accelerate given Maruti Suzuki began exporting the Jimny SUV to Japan this January.

"Over decades, we have built a base in quality, cost, efficiency and technology in car manufacturing. This has given us volumes and economies of scale," said Rahul Bharti, senior executive officer at Maruti Suzuki India, adding that going ahead, the company would also export a "large number" of e Vitara electric SUVs, manufactured in India, to the developed markets of Europe and Japan.

Japan is itself a major carmaker and top exporter, shipping out 5.12 million vehicles in 2024.

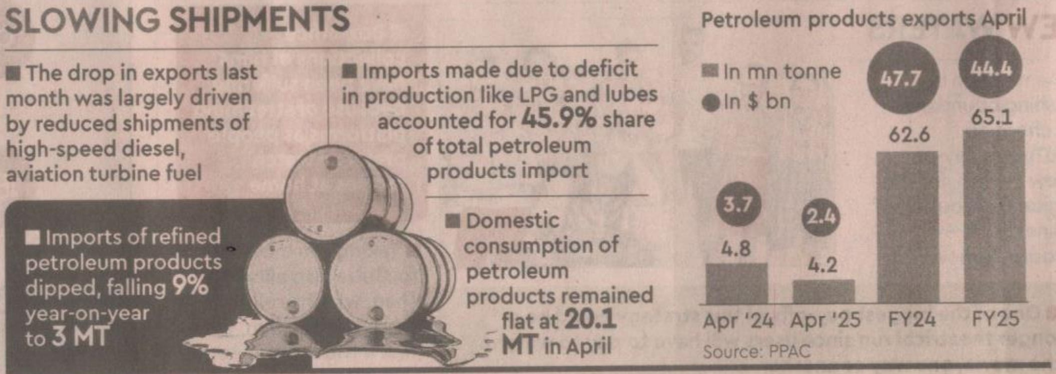
While Honda Cars India exported 45,167 units of SUV Elevate — mostly to Japan — more than double of the 22,321 units it sold in the local market, Maruti Suzuki has on sale SUVs Fronx and Jimny in the country. Notably, parent Suzuki had to initially pause fresh bookings for the Jimny five-door due to higher-than-expected demand post launch.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS. Dt: 26/05/25

Petroleum exports volume down 12.5% in April

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, May 25

SLOWING SHIPMENTS



INDIA'S EXPORTS OF petroleum products declined by 12.5% in volume terms to 4.2 million tonne (MT) in April 2025, down from 4.8 MT in April 2024, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).

The drop in exports last month was largely driven by reduced shipments of high-speed diesel (HSD) and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), the data showed.

In value terms, the export declined by nearly 35% to $2.4 billion in April 2025 from $3.7 billion a year earlier.

Imports of refined petroleum products also dipped, falling 9% year-on-year to 3 MT. The import bill dropped 14% to $1.8 billion, PPAC data revealed.

"Imports made due to deficit in production like LPG and lubes accounted for 45.9% share of total petroleum products import during April 2025 as compared to 43.0% during April 2024," PPAC said. Petroleum coke (petcoke) accounted for 29.3% of total imports during the month, with the entire volume being brought in by private sector players.

India's domestic consumption of petroleum products remained flat at 20.1 MT in April—unchanged from the same month last year. However, for FY26, domestic demand is projected to reach a record 252.9 MT.

According to data from global real-time analytics firm Kpler, India's petroleum product exports in April fell by 22% month-on-month to 1.12 million barrels per day, compared to 1.44 million barrels per day in March. On a year-on-year basis, exports were down over 7% from 1.20 million barrels per day in April 2024.

The United Arab Emirates, Singapore, and the Netherlands remained the top destinations for India's petroleum exports last month. However, shipments to all three countries saw a decline in April.

Kpler anticipates a temporary dip in crude processing volumes—by about 250,000 barrels per day—in the second quarter of 2025, as major refiners including Reliance Industries, Indian Oil Corporation, and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals undertake planned maintenance shutdowns.

"However, export volumes are expected to remain strong," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling at Kpler.

A more significant rise in crude processing is expected by late 2025 or early 2026, as several brownfield expansion projects at refineries in Koyali, Barauni, and Panipat come online.

Meanwhile, India's petroleum sector may be spared from recent trade tensions with the United States. While the US has imposed a 26% reciprocal tariff on several Indian goods, key commodities including energy products and certain minerals have been exempted. Industry stakeholders view this as a positive development that could shield petroleum exports from major disruption.