Business Line, Dt. 10/6/25

As EU deforestation norms list India as low risk, coffee exports get a boost

Vishwanath Kulkarni
Bengaluru

The European Union's recent categorisation of India as a low-risk country under the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) is set to help coffee exports from the country.

Shipments have seen some improvement over the past few weeks, crossing the billion-dollar mark in the first five months, even as they trail the previous year's levels in volume.

"For the first time, we are seeing some improvement this year, and we are hoping that it will continue. The easing of prices in the recent past has helped, but now prices are going up again. The need to buy coffee is driving shipments. Also, the placement of India in the least risk category by the EU under the EUDR norms should help improve shipments," said Ramesh Rajah, President, Coffee Exporters Association.

ALREADY INSISTING

The EUDR norms, which are set to come into effect from December 30, 2025, are aimed at curbing the imports of certain products from deforested areas. It mandates that companies exporting commodities, such as coffee and cocoa, among others, along with their derived products to the EU markets, must conduct thorough deforestation analysis, detailed risk assessment and risk mitigation to ensure that these goods are not sourced from

deforested areas since December 31, 2020.

Buyers from Europe, which accounts for a major chunk of the Indian coffee exports, have already started insisting that the coffee shipped by Indian exporters from July 1 to be compliant with the EUDR norms.

Categorisation of India in the low risk category means simplified due diligence obligations for operators and traders. This means that they need to collect information for due diligence purposes but they do not need to assess and mitigate deforestation risks, Coffee Board sources said. A review of the benchmarking by EU is scheduled for 2026.

Rajah said once the Coffee Board App is released, it can help the Indian growers and exporters to comply with the EUDR norms without much difficulty.

As per the Board estimates, coffee exports in value have exceeded $1.01 billion during the January 1-June 6 period this calendar year compared with $780 million a year ago, an increase of 30 per cent. However, volumes are trailing at 1.8 lakh tonnes this year against 2.1 lakh tonnes a year ago.

Financial Express, dt. 10/6/25

India's FY25 magnet imports see 2x spike

AGGAM WALIA
New Delhi, June 9

INDIA'S IMPORTS OF permanent magnets — many containing rare earth elements (REEs) — nearly doubled to 53,700 tonne in FY25 from around 28,700 tonne the year before, according to official trade data. The surge in imports, with 93% coming from China, preceded Beijing's April 4 export restrictions on rare earth magnets, which have since disrupted production lines globally. In India, with just 2-3 weeks of REE magnet supply remaining, industry executives are expected to travel to China in a bid to ease the shortage, sources stated.

BEFORE CHINA'S CURB

- The import was 28,700 tonne in FY24
- Consumption of permanent magnets was 12,400 tonne in FY21
- It is 28,700 tonne in FY24
- The value of imports grew by 5% to ₹1,744 cr

- Imports from China increased by 95% y-o-y to 50,000 tonne in FY25
- A supply crunch is in the making, especially for neodymium-iron-boron magnets used in EV motors

Consumption of permanent magnets has grown significantly in India over the last five financial years — from just 12,400 tonne in FY21 to 28,700 tonne in FY24, before imports surged 88% to 53,700 tonne in FY25. Despite the large jump in quantity imported in FY25, the value of imports grew by only 5% to ₹1,744 crore, which could be suggestive of some dumping as well.

China is a dominant supplier of permanent magnets, accounting for upwards of 90% share. Imports from China increased by 95% year-on-year to 50,000 tonne in FY25. Permanent magnets, especially those made with REEs, are widely used in electric vehicle (EV) motors, wind turbines, aerospace, and defence.

In contrast to FY25, imports in the ongoing financial year are expected to be tempered, after China imposed export restrictions on rare earth magnets and related materials from April 4, as a direct response to US imposing tariffs.

In India, a supply crunch is in the making, especially for neodymium-iron-boron magnets used in EV motors. Over the past month or so, Indian carmakers are learnt to have used up inventories and there is likely to be a shortage going forward.

"There is only 2-3 weeks of supply left. At present, complying with China's rules seems to be the only option. There may be a delegation of industry representatives going to China to resolve the issue," sources said.

Earlier, a senior executive from the Indian car industry said that importers are now required to give their Chinese suppliers an undertaking that the rare earth magnets procured from that country would only be used in vehicles and not for defence or military applications.

Currently, IREL (India), a PSU under the Department of Atomic Energy, refines rare earth oxides from heavy metal ores, containing REEs like cerium, lanthanum, neodymium, and praseodymium. However, production is limited. Moreover, the processing of refining oxides into alloys — and then into magnets — is highly technical and virtually non-existent in India.

Sources said an oxide-to-magnet plant of a subsidiary under the Midwest Group, a top natural stones player in India, is expected to get operationalised in Hyderabad in the next six months. Initially with just 500 tonne per annum (TPA), the plant's capacity is expected to increase to 5,000 TPA by 2030.

Figuring out the supply chain for rare earth ores is a key challenge, with players looking at importing ores from Sri Lanka, Mongolia, and Myanmar, sources said. Another challenge for domestic players would be to remain viable as China significantly cuts prices of rare earth magnets.

For instance, while the quantity of permanent magnet imports from China increased by 95% y-o-y in FY25, the total value of imports increased by only 12% — from ₹1,274 crore to ₹1,425 crore. In other words, China massively cut prices of magnets it exported to India in FY25.

According to the US Geological Survey's January 2025 data, India held the world's third-largest rare earth reserves in 2024— estimated at 6.9 million tonne—behind Brazil (21 million tonne) and China (44 million tonne). However, on the production front, India ranked seventh at 2,900 tonnes, well behind China (255,000 tonnes), Myanmar (43,000), the US (41,600), Australia, Nigeria, and Thailand.

In the January 2024 report, India ranked fifth in reserves. The latest revision reflects reduction in other countries' estimates — Vietnam's reserves were cut from 22 million tonne to 3.5 million, and Russia's from 10 million to 3.8 million.

Over the past year, the Ministry of Mines has auctioned three rare earth blocks—one each in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. But with further exploration still required, commercial production remains a few years away.

Business Line, dt. 11/6/25

Duty on steel imports drags shipments by 40% in May

Abhishek Law
New Delhi

A month after imposition of safeguard duty on steel imports, shipments coming into India saw a 40 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) decline in May to 0.43 million tonnes (mt), as against the 0.7 mt in the year-ago-period. On a sequential basis, imports declined by nearly 20 per cent as compared to 0.52 mt in April, indicating reduced buying from China.

Finished steel include alloy, non-alloyed and stainless steels.

In May, as per Ministry sources, 0.3 mt of non-alloyed metal were imported, down 15 per cent sequentially and 40 per cent y-o-y; while alloy and stainless steel imports were at 0.13 mt, down 24 per cent sequentially and 44 per cent y-o-y.

"Post January, talks around imposition of safeguard duty picked up pace. Post imposition, imports from some countries are down, as the numbers show," a Steel Ministry official said.

According to market intelligence firm BigMint (formerly SteelMint), in May, South Korea and China are amongst the top two importers. While shipments from South Korea saw a 24-25 per cent increase y-o-y as per provisional data, Chinese shipments dropped by 27-30 per cent.

SEQUENTIAL DECLINE

Ministry of Steel's internal data, accessed by *businessline*, show imports witnessing a sequential decline since January.

Import peaked in the first month of this calendar year to 0.95 mt and has since then been on a decline as talks of safeguard duty gained traction. In February, alloy imports had come down to 0.6 mt, and came down further to 0.56 mt in March.

On April 21, India imposed a 12 per cent provisional safeguard duty on metal shipments coming in specially from China and Vietnam, in a bid to ensure better pricing power for mills in domestic markets. The duty imposition is for a 200-day period. A safeguard duty is a trade restriction measure – a sort of tax.

"The domestic still industry in India is concerned about the growing reliance on imports, especially from countries like South Korea and Japan, that benefit from preferential tariffs under FTA," the BigMint report stated.

Sequentially, exports are up in May at around 0.4 mt versus 0.38 mt in April. However, exports remained depressed by 10 per cent on a y-o-y basis.

PRODUCTION TRENDS

Steelmakers are currently focusing on the domestic market, which continues to have stable demand.

Consumption increased by 7 per cent y-o-y to 25.1 mt (April and May), while production of finished steel was up 7.4 per cent during this period.

However, despite the demand, steel-makers have rolled over prices in June on bearish sentiments and upcoming monsoons.

Prices were in the ₹52,000-54,000 per tonne range for benchmark hot rolled coils; while for cold rolled coils it was around ₹60,000 per tonne.

Business Line, Dt. 11/6/25

Sugar exports top 5.5 lakh tonnes, may fall short of allocation

Our Bureau
New Delhi

India exported 2.29 lakh tonnes (lt) of sugar in the past two months, taking total shipments to 5.38 lt since the government allowed 10 lt exports on January 20 for the current season ending September 30.

However, as 23,219 tonnes are in transit or waiting for loading at ports, the total quantity can be pegged at over 5.61 lt.

In the ongoing 2024-25 sugar season until May 31, the position on physical sugar dispatches from sugar mills for export was 5.17 lt as per the provisional data sourced from Dr Amin Controllers, the All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA) said in a statement on Tuesday.

The quantity included 4.1 lt of white sugar, 25,382 tonnes of raw sugar and 81,845 tonnes of refined variety.

NATION-WISE EXPORTS

Further, over 21,000 tonnes of raw sugar was also delivered to refineries in SEZs, which is deemed as export, AISTA said.

The maximum quantity of 1,18,553 tonnes has been sent to Somalia, followed by 76,401 tonnes to Sri Lanka, 72,833 tonnes to Afghanistan, 69,609 tonnes to Djibouti, 37,842 tonnes to the UAE, 30,729 tonnes to Libya and 26,919 tonnes to Tanzania.

PRODUCTION DIP

AISTA had earlier projected sugar exports in the 2024-25 season to touch 8 lt, of the 10 lt permitted by the government.

SOUR SEASON

AISTA pegs sugar output at 26.52 mt, down 16.9 per cent from 31.9 mt estimated for the previous season

According to the trade body, sugar production this season may be 26.52 million tonnes (mt) with an error margin of 2 per cent (plus/minus), down by 16.9 per cent from 31.9 mt estimated for the previous season, reducing the closing stock to 4.5 mt as on September 30, 2025.

"The main reasons for decline in sugar production in Uttar Pradesh in the current season are the spread of the red rot disease in the western region and floods in the eastern region, with cane having lower polarisation leading to low sugar recoveries," AISTA Chairman Praful Vithalani said.

In Maharashtra, farmers realised lower yield in sugarcane due to erratic rain and flowering problems in the crop, he added. Factories in Maharashtra and elsewhere closed earlier than normal, with a reduced number of days when mills undertook the crushing operation.

Business Line, Dt. 11/6/25

Palm oil falls on rising stocks, strong exports limit losses

Reuters
Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur

Malaysian palm oil futures fell on Tuesday, snapping two sessions of gain as rising May-end stock weighed down, but strong export data in June lent support for the contract.

The benchmark palm oil contract for August delivery on the Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Exchange lost 1.55 per cent to 3,864 ringgit ($912.83) at closing.

"Market participants expecting stockpiles to further build up in the coming months after MPOB confirmed May 2025 stockpiles rose to an 8-month high, but higher export may cushion some losses," a Kuala Lumpur-based trader said.

Malaysia's palm oil stocks at the end of May rose to 1.99 million tonnes in a third consecutive month of increase despite surging exports, data from the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) showed.

Exports of Malaysian palm oil products are estimated to have risen between 8.1 and 26.4 per cent for June 1-10 from the same period in May, according to independent inspection company AmSpec Agri Malaysia and cargo surveyor Intertek Testing Services.

RIVAL OILS

Dalian's most-active soya oil contract was down 0.05 per cent, while its palm oil contract lost 0.47 per cent. Soya oil prices on the Chicago Board of Trade were up 0.46 per cent.

Palm oil tracks price movements of rival edible oils as it competes for a share of the global vegetable oils market.

Business Line Dt: 12/06/25

Rice exports slump in April-May on slack demand

LOSING STEAM. Shipments down 60% in first two months of this fiscal; prices at multi-year lows as buyers hold huge inventories

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

India's rice exports have dropped by nearly 60 per cent in the first two months of the current fiscal on slack demand.

In the global rice market, prices continue to rule at multi-year lows, with some buyers still holding huge inventories, traders and analysts said.

"Rice exports have been low over the past two months (April and May). Per tonne prices have dropped below the prices at which the inventories were purchased. Huge volume was purchased in the last quarter of 2024 and first quarter of 2025 as there was a rush to buy after India lifted its curbs on exports in September," said BV Krishna Rao, President of The Rice Exporters Association.

The situation was such that there was no space to unload in January and there was too much cargo floating on the sea, he said.

"India's record production and high stocks are keeping global prices low. With supplies exceeding demand, pressure is being exerted in the global market," said New Delhi-based trade analyst S Chandrasekaran.

In the case of India, the slack overseas demand is telling. Data show that parboiled (boiled) rice exports jumped from 4.35 lakh tonnes (lt) in September 2024 to 11.35 lt in October, 10.13 lt in November, 11.01 lt in December and 12.52 lt in January 2025 before slipping to 7.92 lt in April and 2.07 lt in May. Similarly, white (raw) rice exports increased to 6.91 lt in October 2024 from a meagre 30,000 tonnes in September. It further surged to 8.07 lakh tonnes in November before settling around 6 lt in December and 5.22 lt in January 2025. This dropped to 3.04 lt in April 2025 and to 2.92 lt in May.

Global rice price trend

(in $/tonne)

	5% broken white		25% broken white		Parboiled	
	Jun 10	May 21	Jun 10	May 21	Jun 10	May 21
India	384	382	369	367	377	376
Pakistan	392	388	360	359	412	412
Vietnam	393	397	364	368	-	-
Thailand	401	403	380	378	445	443

Source: Vietnam Food Association, Thai Rice Exporters Association

MONTHLY SHIPMENTS

This points to overall exports dropping from around 13 lt a month to a little less than 5 lt. "India exports 16-17 million tonnes (mt) of rice annually. This means around 1.3-1.4 mt a month. What we are witnessing is a huge fall," said Chandrasekaran.

"Due to oversupply in the global market, the trend is bearish," said Rajesh Jain Paharia, a New Delhi-based exporter.

Currently, India's 5 per cent broken white rice is ruling at a five-year low of $384 a tonne free-on-board (f.o.b). Parboiled rice is quoted at $377 f.o.b. Barring 25 per cent broken white rice, India's offerings are the most competitive.

"Since February, f.o.b prices are down 20 per cent and the net drop is 40 per cent if you look at the prices when India curbed exports," said Rao.

M Madan Prakash, Director of Rajathi Group, which exports agricultural produce, said, "There are hardly any enquiries now. Demand is totally lacking."

"The slack demand seems universal. India is reporting a drop in exports. At the same time, its competitors are not reporting any increase in shipments," said Chandrasekaran.

PANIC SIGNAL?

"The declining trend in exports continues till this day," said Paharia.

Chandrasekaran wondered if the Food Corporation of India (FCI) sent a panic signal of its granaries being full by offering rice to the States and for ethanol production at ₹22.50 a kg.

As of June 1, FCI had record stocks of 37.99 mt rice and 32.26 mt of unmilled paddy.

India curbed rice exports in 2022 and 2023 as wheat production fell and the government thought rice supplies could fall short of demand, which increased on wheat output woes.

However, since the second half of 2024, rice stocks have been bulging. This resulted in India removing curbs on rice exports, including on 100 per cent broken rice.

India also became the top producer of rice in 2024-25, producing over 149 mt.

Chandrasekaran said neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, too, have cut purchases from India. But Rao said Dhaka has always been buying rice on and off. "Demand has not picked up even after a drop in prices," he said.

Chandrasekaran and Rao said India's rice exports may not touch 24 mt as projected by the US Department of Agriculture.

Business Line. Dt: 12/06/25

Basmati export prices at 17-year low, higher volumes cushion the blow

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

Basmati rice exporters have sustained earnings this marketing year (starting October 2024) on the back of higher export volumes, despite a sharp fall in contracted rates and the absence of a minimum export price (MEP).

Trade sources indicate that May's average basmati export price fell over 23 per cent to $831/tonne from $1,080 a year ago.

Though the season began with a 20 per cent drop in October 2024 to $977/tonne from $1,226 a year ago, prices have fallen 15 per cent in the last eight months.

"In 2007-08, the annual average basmati export price jumped over 53 per cent to $907/tonne. It crossed $1,000 for the first time the very next year.

"Since then, there's been little variation, except in 2014-15 when the average rate exceeded $1,220/tonne," said a veteran exporter.

Trade policy expert S Chandrasekaran stressed the need for deeper introspection into the second-generation basmati rice reforms.

POLICY REFORMS

"We must seriously deliberate how to accelerate, navigate, and benefit from the global market scaling while managing quality and authenticity," he stated.

Though the season began with a 20% drop in October 2024 to $977/tonne from $1,226 a year ago, prices have fallen 15% in the last eight months

He said revisiting the current, quarter-century-old basmati rice export standards might be necessary.

According to Dinesh Chhatra, COO of GRM Overseas, last year's high demand, driven by the Russia-Ukraine war, significantly boosted prices of the aromatic rice.

However, despite robust buying this year due to anticipated similar demand, prices are now depressed. This is largely because of last year's bumper kharif output.

While some experts advocate maintaining a price standard for Indian basmati, Chhatra believes retaining an MEP could have reduced export volumes.

He noted that some basmati consignments sold well above the average rate. The government removed the $950/tonne MEP on basmati rice in September last year, following exporters' requests for a reduction.

Official data show basmati export volume jumped 16 per cent to 3.99 million tonnes (mt) during October 2024-April 2025, up from 3.43 mt a year ago.

Basmati remains one of India's top three agri-export items over the past few decades.

Business Standard. Dt:- 12/06/25

India seeks to import two key materials from China

Dysprosium, terbium on wish list for domestic magnet production

PUJA DAS & SHINE JACOB
New Delhi, 11 June

Amid reports that at least 10 applicants are in advanced stages of receiving rare earth licences from China, sources indicate that the industry and the Indian government are pushing for the import of two key materials — dysprosium and terbium — critical for domestic magnet production.

India requires several rare earth elements, especially neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium, and terbium, primarily for use in permanent magnets. Dysprosium and terbium, two heavy rare earth elements (HREEs) with unique properties, particularly in the realm of magnetism, are not available in extractable quantities in India. While India possesses some rare earth elements (REEs) like lanthanum, cerium, neodymium, and praseodymium, it is heavily dependent on imports for HREEs, including that of dysprosium and terbium. Indian officials are in touch with their counterparts in Beijing to schedule appointments for the Indian delegation, which will not include any government official. At present, nearly 40 applications are reportedly awaiting clearance from China. One source said that the team of industry officials has not yet zeroed in on any negotiating points, as the appointment with the Chinese government is yet to be scheduled.

"Suppliers have to meet end-use clauses based on new norms. If the previous status is not restored, we are looking to push for dysprosium and terbium," said a source.

"Our first negotiating point could be resumption status. We will have to get what we need to manufacture automotive parts. It cannot be replaced by anything else. If they are not convinced, heavy rare earth elements may be pushed. We will bring raw materials and do it (processing) ourselves without depending on China," a top executive in the automotive industry said.

Neodymium is used in magnets for electric motors, wind turbines, and electric vehicles (EVs); and praseodymium is used in magnets along with neodymium. Dysprosium and terbium, two high-value REEs, are crucial for applications like EV motors, wind turbine generators, and various industrial devices requiring heat resistance and long-term performance.

"If we have to get magnets, apart from China, the US possibly is the other source from where you can get these rare earth elements. But the processing will have to be done either in China, which has 90 per cent of the processing capacity, or by Malaysia and Vietnam, which have another 7-8 per cent of the capacity. Malaysia and Vietnam can also give us processed magnets, but it is difficult to say whether we will be in a position to get supplies from them, because the entire world will be looking at them as an alternative," said Hemal N Thakkar, senior practice leader and director, Crisil Intelligence. Around 90 per cent of the refining comes from China, and 7-8 per cent of the rest comes from Vietnam and Malaysia. If REEs or raw materials are taken from China and sent to Malaysia and Vietnam, it may involve higher cost and a longer duration of at least three-four weeks, Thakkar said.

"We are going to ask for every possible thing if China is not ready to approve certification for rare earth magnet exports to India. So, that may involve asking for dysprosium and terbium elements," another senior industry executive said.

"But that is not a sustainable thing to do for India, and more than that, a bigger question is: do Malaysia and Vietnam have spare capacities to take up that magnet for processing," Thakkar added.

Auto Inc gears up to visit China

A delegation of auto industry representatives is gearing up for a China visit to expedite the import of rare earth magnets to Indian entities, as per the industry sources. "Around 40-50 executives, representing both auto OEMs and component firms, have received visas and are now awaiting a go-ahead from China's Ministry of Commerce for a meeting," an industry source stated. No approvals have been granted so far, another source added.

PTI

FINANCIAL EXPRESS. Dt:- 12/06/25.

COMMERCE SECY HOLDS MEET

Task force on textile explores strategies to boost exports

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, June 11

THE FIRST MEETING of the Task Force on Textile Exports set up to create a unified platform for addressing critical issues concerning the textile sector discussed issues related to European Union's regulations regarding sustainability, separate codes for GI products and strengthening e-commerce for exports.

The meeting of the task force held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal also discussed simplifying the regulatory framework, labour, cost competitiveness for productivity enhancement, skilling and branding, a statement by the commerce ministry said.

Issues related to the upgradation of Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) infrastructure in garment manufacturing units, use of renewable energy was also discussed. Suggestions regarding Interest Subvention Schemes, assistance for Certification and Testing, collateral Support for export Credit for MSME Exporters were also made by stakeholders during the meeting.

The task force also discussed issues around exhort promotion schemes like RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) and RoSCTL (Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies), Duty Drawback and PM MITRA Textile Parks.

After the discussions, it was decided that relevant sub-task forces would be formed on the issues discussed at the meeting. The sub-task force shall be led by the concerned Ministry along with participants from Export Promotion councils and the Industry to work on and provide actionable recommendations to the Task force.

AT A GLANCE

- Meeting discussed simplifying regulatory framework, labour, skilling & branding among others
- The task force also discussed issues around exhort promotion schemes like RoDTEP and RoSCTL, Duty Drawback and PM MITRA Textile Parks

Business Line. Dt: 13/06/25

India notifies WTO about its open-ended export curbs on wheat, sugar

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

India has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) about its export curbs on wheat and sugar, calling these temporary measures to prevent critical shortage of items in the domestic market and stabilise prices.

But New Delhi gave no indication of the time frame for removal of the export control measures asserting that the procedures would continue till the conditions, which led to them, persist.

"India's export ban on wheat and restrictions on sugar have been questioned by several countries, including the US and Australia, at the WTO," a source tracking the matter told *businessline*.

"India has been consistent in its position that the controls were temporary measures to take care of domestic situation, and would be subsequently removed when there is no need for it. This is what has been notified at the WTO," added the source.

BAN SINCE 2022

New Delhi has also notified export restrictions imposed in the past on other agricultural items, such as onion and broken rice, which have been subsequently removed.

India imposed a ban on wheat exports in May 2022, after an unseasonal heat wave affected the crop and increased domestic prices. Since then, the ban has been in place as the government is focusing on replenishing its stocks that had depleted due to various factors.

"Wheat is a staple food for millions, and ensuring its availability at affordable prices is crucial. Several factors have made the global price of wheat volatile, putting the food security of India, neighbouring countries and vulnerable countries at risk," according to the notification made by India to the Committee on Agriculture on June 10.

"In light of this, a temporary export control measure has been introduced to prevent a critical shortage of wheat in India," added the note.

Wheat exports may be allowed by the government of India upon requests from importing countries to meet their food security needs, it added.

"The measure will apply until the conditions which made it necessary persist," per the submission.

TO TACKLE CRUNCH

In case of sugar, India pointed out that a temporary export control measure has been in place since June 2022.

It was done by amending the export policy of sugar from 'free' to 'restricted'. Now, the sugar export is allowed only with specific permission from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

"Sugar plays a significant role in the diets of millions, making it vital to ensure that it remains accessible and affordable for all Indians.

"The temporary export restriction measure is introduced to prevent a critical shortage of sugar and stabilise its domestic price in India," it said justifying the measure.

Like in the case of wheat, the export restrictions on sugar, too, will apply until conditions persist, stated the notification.

Business Line Dt 13/06/25

May palm oil imports up; overall edible oils shipments slip

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

India's import of edible oils declined by 21.56 per cent on lower shipments of palm oil and sunflower oil in May 2025.

However, data showed that palm oil imports surged to the highest this season, which began on November 1, to 5.93 lakh tonnes (lt).

Overall, edible oil imports declined by 10.39 per cent in the first seven months of the current oil season. The share of palm oil in the total edible oil imports decreased to 43 per cent (58 per cent) during the first seven months of the oil year 2024-25, and soft oils increased to 57 per cent (42 per cent).

LOSING GROUND. The share of palm oil in total edible oil imports decreased by 15 per cent to 43 per cent during the first seven months of oil year 2024-25

The data did not include edible oil import from Nepal.

Data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) showed that India imported 11.75 lt of edible oil in May 2025 against 14.98 lt in May 2024, a decline of 21.56 per cent.

India imported 76.77 lt of edible oil during November-May of the season to October against 85.67 lt in the same period a year ago.

BV Mehta, Executive Director of SEA, said the total palm oil imports decreased to 33.29 lt during November-May 2024-25 from 49.77 lt in the corresponding period of the previous oil year.

However, palm oil imports increased due to the pipeline lacking ample stocks and palm oil being offered at a discount to rival soya oil and sunflower oil.

During the first seven months of the oil year 2024-25, India's refined, bleached and deodorised (RBD) palmolein import decreased to 8.19 lt (12.36 lt in November-May of 2023-24) and crude palm oil (CPO) to 24.70 lt (36.65 lt).

Import of soft oils jumped to 43.47 lt (35.90 lt) during November-May of the oil year 2024-25. While the import of sunflower oil declined to 16.76 lt (19.79 lt), soyabean oil jumped to 26.70 lt (15.92 lt) during the period.

DUTY CUT EFFECT

Mehta said the May 30 notification of the government slashed the basic import duty on crude edible oils — palm, soyabean and sunflower — from 20 per cent to 10 per cent — effectively reducing the total import duty from 27.5 per cent to 16.5 per cent.

Terming the widened duty differential of 19.25 per cent between crude and refined oils as a strategic masterstroke, he said it would reinvigorate domestic refining, reduce dependency on cheap imports, and firmly place 'Make in India' efforts at the heart of the agri-value chain.

Stating that SEA truly appreciates this decisive step, Mehta said it would discourage imports of refined palmolein and shift demand back to CPO, thereby revitalising the domestic refining sector.

"This move will not impact the overall volume of edible oil imports and is unlikely to cause any upward pressure on edible oil prices. On the contrary, the reduction in duty on crude edible oil will help reduce domestic prices, benefiting consumers. The association has appealed to the members to pass on the duty cut benefits to the consumers," Mehta said.

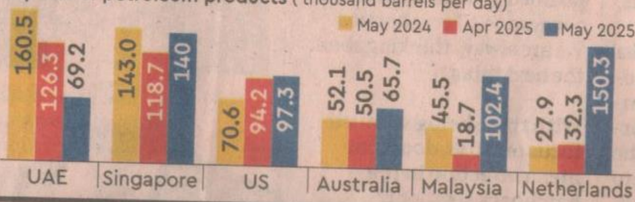
FINANCIAL EXPRESS. Dt:- 13/06/25

Petro product exports grow in May

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ
New Delhi, June 12

MORE SHIPMENTS

Exports of petroleum products (thousand barrels per day)



Source: Kpler

AFTER A DIP in April, India's petroleum product exports rebounded in May, reaching 1.34 million barrels per day (bpd), a 31% increase from 1.02 million bpd in April, according to global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler. The surge was supported by higher refinery runs and improved operational uptime. On a y-o-y basis, exports rose by 5.7% from 1.27 million bpd in May 2024.

Malaysia, Singapore, and the Netherlands emerged as the top destinations for India's petroleum product exports in May. Fresh data indicates a significant rise in shipments to key markets such as Singapore, Europe, and Australia.

Exports to Singapore climbed to 140,000 bpd from 118,700 bpd in April. Shipments to Australia rose to 65,700 bpd from 50,500 bpd, while exports to Europe nearly doubled, surging to 360,000 bpd from 190,000 bpd. "While flows to the UAE declined, the overall export basket remained robust and geographically diversified," said Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst, refining & modeling at Kpler.

Ritolia stated that the recovery was primarily driven by a decline in maintenance-related shutdowns, most notably at Reliance's Jamnagar refinery, which completed its turnaround by end-April. The resulting ramp-up in crude intake boosted product output across the board, including gasoline and diesel.

India primarily supplies petroleum products to countries in Europe and Asia. The nation has become a key fuel exporter to Europe in recent months, following the region's boycott of Russian energy imports after the invasion of Ukraine. Kpler anticipates that India's refined product exports will remain resilient in the near future.

"Looking forward, refinery utilization remains elevated, though not at peak, as key exporters like MRPL undergo maintenance. If current crude intake levels are sustained, India is well-positioned to maintain its strong export momentum, particularly to demand centers across Southeast Asia, Europe, the US, and Australia. That said, the outlook remains contingent on product margin strength and unplanned disruptions, with India's product trade flows continuing to be shaped by operational agility and global price signals," Ritolia said.

A more significant increase in crude processing capacity is expected toward late 2025 or early 2026, as several brownfield expansion projects—at Koyali, Barauni, and Panipat—begin to come online.

The country exports a variety of goods via the Red Sea including petroleum products. However, the traffic diversion from the Red Sea and around the Cape of Good Hope owing to geopolitical tensions over the region has added ten days to Asia-Europe journeys while also increasing fuel costs, the government had earlier said.

India's refined oil product exports to the US also grew by 3% in May, reaching 97,300 bpd. The two countries have recently agreed to deepen energy cooperation and trade.

While the US has imposed reciprocal tariffs of 26% on India, certain categories—including energy and specific minerals—have been exempted. These exemptions have provided relief to energy markets, with industry players expecting Indian petroleum product exports to experience only a limited impact.