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e-CARGO NEWSLETTER

e-Newsletter from RIGHT LOGISTICS

UNCREWED NIGHTTIME CARGO FLIGHT WITH MIDSIZE EVTOL UNVEILED

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AIR CARGO DEMAND up 5.8% in APRIL

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for April 2025 global air cargo markets showing: Total demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTK), rose by 5.8% compared to April 2024 levels (+6.5% for international operations).

Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTK), increased by 6.3% compared to April 2024 (+6.9% for international operations).

"Air cargo demand grew strongly in April, with volumes up 5.8% year-on-year, building on March's solid performance. Seasonal demand for fashion and consumer goods—front-loading ahead of US tariff changes—and lower jet fuel prices have combined to boost air cargo. With available capacity at record levels and yields improving, the outlook for air cargo is encouraging. While April brought good news, stresses in world trade are no secret. Shifts in trade policy, particularly in the US, are already reshaping demand and export dynamics. Airlines will need to remain flexible as the situation develops over the coming months," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

Several factors in the operating environment should be noted:

Year-on-year, world industrial production rose 3.2% in March. Air cargo growth outpaced global goods trade, which increased by 6.5% over the previous month.

Jet fuel prices dropped 21.2% year-on-year and 4.1% month-on-month, the third consecutive monthly decrease.

The global manufacturing PMI rose to 50.5 in April, signaling expansion for the fourth consecutive month. However, the PMI for new export orders fell 2.8 points to 47.2, remaining below the 50 threshold for growth.

April Regional Performance

Asia-Pacific airlines saw 10.0% year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in April. Capacity increased by 9.4% year-on-year.

North American carriers saw 4.2% year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in April. Capacity increased by 4.6% year-on-year.

European carriers saw 2.9% year-on-year demand growth for air cargo in April. Capacity increased 3.3% year-on-year.

Middle Eastern carriers saw 2.3% year-on-year increase in demand for air cargo in April, the slowest among the regions. Capacity increased by 5.5% year-on-year.

Latin American carriers saw a 10.1% year-on-year increase in demand growth for air cargo in April, the strongest growth among the regions. Capacity increased 8.5% year-on-year.

African airlines saw a 4.7% year-on-year increase in demand for air cargo in April. Capacity increased by 9.7% year-on-year.

Trade Lane Growth: All international routes experienced growth in April, except for Middle East-Europe, Africa-Asia, and intra-European routes.

Air Cargo Market in Detail

April 2025 (%year-on-year)	World Share *1	CTK	ACTK	CLF (%-pt) *2	CLF (level) *3
Total Market	100%	5.80%	6.30%	-0.20%	43.90%
Africa	2.00%	4.70%	9.70%	-2.00%	41.60%
Asia Pacific	34.20%	10.00%	9.40%	0.30%	44.80%
Europe	21.50%	2.90%	3.30%	-0.20%	51.90%
Latin America	2.90%	10.10%	8.50%	0.60%	39.00%
Middle East	13.60%	2.30%	5.50%	-1.30%	43.50%
North America	25.80%	4.20%	4.60%	-0.20%	38.60%

(*1) % of industry CTKs in 2024 (*2) Year-on-year change in load factor (*3) Load factor level

INDIGO WILL BE THE FIRST AIRLINE TO OPERATE FROM NAVI MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

IndiGo to commerce flight operations with 18 daily departures (36 Air Traffic Movements - ATMs) to over 15 cities. By November 2025, IndiGo plans to increase the flight operations to 79 daily departures (158 ATMs), including 14 international departures.

By March 2026 to scale up to over 100 daily departures (200 ATMs).

By November 2026, Further built up to 140 daily departures (280 ATMs), including 30 international departures.

ETHIOPIAN CARGO WELCOMES 12TH BOEING 777 FREIGHTER

Ethiopian Airlines Group, Africa's largest airline and aviation group, has officially taken delivery of its twelfth Boeing 777 Freighter aircraft, marking another significant milestone in its cargo and logistics expansion strategy. The aircraft landed at Bole International Airport today, joining the airline's rapidly growing cargo fleet under its dedicated cargo division, Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services.

This delivery comes just four months after the arrival of the 11th Boeing 777 Freighter in January 2025. With this latest addition, Ethiopian Cargo now boasts 12 Boeing 777 freighters in active service—making it one of the largest 777F operators on the African continent.

QATAR AIRWAYS LEADS WITH RECORD CARGO SURGE

Qatar Airways Cargo has once again proven why it continues to be the world's leading air cargo carrier. In a year defined by disruption and fierce competition, the world's largest cargo airline posted its strongest financial performance since the COVID era, with a 17.4% surge in cargo revenue and 1.5 million tons of chargeable weight transported. A bold strategy, relentless innovation, and unmatched operational reliability have kept the airline firmly ahead of the curve—and the industry.

Backed by a modern fleet of 28 Boeing 777 freighters and a network reaching over 60 freighter and 160 belly destinations, Qatar Airways Cargo has maintained its market-leading 7.11% global share.

CHINA AIRLINES FINALIZES DEAL FOR 4 BOEING 777-8 CARGO AIRCRAFT

Taiwan-based China Airlines has placed a firm order for 14 777X widebody aircraft – four 777-8 cargo jets and 10 777-9 passenger aircraft – Boeing announced Thursday.

The airline, a longtime operator of the Boeing 777 and 747-400 aircraft, will use the aircraft on long-haul flights to North America and Europe. It also has rights to purchase four additional 777-8 freighters and five 777-9 passenger jets.

AIR INDIA DELIVERS ITS FIRST AIRPORT-TO-DOOR INTERNATIONAL CARGO

In a significant milestone for its cargo operations, Air India successfully completed its first-ever airport-to-door international cargo delivery, transporting a temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical shipment from Delhi to Brussels in just 36 hours.

The shipment—six tonnes of life-saving drugs from SUN Pharma, a leading name in specialty generics—required meticulous handling to maintain a strict temperature range of 15 to 25 degrees Celsius. Packed into four lower-deck pallets, the cargo began its journey at Delhi airport's bustling cargo terminal.

Air India's cargo team, in coordination with ground partners, ensured the shipment's integrity through every leg of the journey. After arriving at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport, the pallets were swiftly moved into a temperature-controlled Road Feeder Service (RFS) truck for the final leg of the trip to Brussels.

Although Air India does not directly serve Brussels, the successful use of intermodal transport allowed the cargo to reach its destination seamlessly.

CBIC SIMPLIFIES AIR CARGO IMPORTS AND WAIVES TRANSSHIPMENT FEES

India's Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has announced a set of reforms to improve air cargo movement, according to a report from RuralVoice.

As part of the long-awaited changes, the CBIC has removed the fee for transhipment permits. The move aims to make it both faster and cheaper to move goods – especially high-value and time-sensitive products like grapes, mangoes, onions – through India's airports.

The CBIC has also introduced a new process for the temporary import of Unit Load Devices (ULDs). According to RuralVoice, the move mirrors existing marine container protocols and is seen as a step toward aligning Indian customs practices with global logistics standards. Finally, exporters and logistics agents can now file applications for cargo movement permits online through ICEGATE (the Indian Customs portal), following a digitisation update.

Trade experts told RuralVoice the CBIC reforms could provide a push for exporters by cutting costs and reducing delays. They're also likely to improve India's position in global agricultural trade. In the first 11 months of the 2024/25 financial year, India's exports of fresh produce rose over 5 per cent to US$3.39bn, the publication said.

The country produced 112mn tonnes of fruit and 204mn tonnes of vegetables last year and, while its global market share sits at about 1 per cent, it has the potential to be a global export powerhouse.

It is already the world's top producer of bananas, mangoes, papayas, onions, and okra and there is increasing demand for Indian produce thanks to improvements in cold storage, packaging, and quality control.

AIR COMPLETES FIRST UNCREWED NIGHTTIME CARGO FLIGHT WITH MIDSIZE EVTOL

AIR, the Israeli electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) manufacturer, has completed its first uncrewed nighttime cargo demonstration.

The test flight, carried out at a remote site with limited infrastructure, saw AIR's midsize cargo eVTOL aircraft successfully operated in the dark while being loaded and managed by ground staff with minimal prior training.

The demonstration aimed to finalise new standard operating procedures for nighttime use and verify the aircraft's compatibility with ground operations under low-light, low-support conditions.

This is believed to be the first time a midsize eVTOL has completed a night cargo mission without a pilot onboard, AIR said. The unmanned flight follows a series of tests for AIR's logistics platform, which is being developed alongside the company's piloted AIR ONE aircraft aimed at the personal aviation market.

According to AIR, the ability to carry out missions day or night, in isolated or infrastructure-poor locations, is critical to real-world deployment of eVTOLs for cargo applications.

"Operations don't stop once the sun goes down. We recognised early on that ensuring safety and efficiency at night is just as essential as in the daytime," said Rani Plaut, CEO and co-founder of AIR.

"We're proud to have completed this rigorous round of nighttime flight operations showcasing that AIR's eVTOL for cargo use is ready for 24/7 use. The aircraft adapts to almost any environment due to its simple ground handling requirements and the ease with which any ground crew can quickly get up to speed. The new SOPs we established lay the foundation for a future of uninterrupted, on-demand cargo mobility."

CMA CGM EXPANDS AIR CARGO OPERATIONS AFTER AIR BELGIUM ACQUISITION

The French liner CMA CGM expands its European air fleet through the integration of Air Belgium's aircraft. The French group announced that it has completed the transfer of assets from Air Belgium, following the approval by the Brabant Wallon Commercial Court of its binding offer for the takeover of Air Belgium's cargo operations and the conclusion of the asset transfer agreement with the liquidator.

CMA CGM Group today operates an air cargo fleet of 9 aircraft: four Boeing 777Fs, three Airbus A330Fs, and two Boeing 747Fs. The fleet will soon be reinforced by an additional Boeing 777F and further expanded from 2027 onward with the arrival of eight Airbus A350Fs. These aircraft operate from strategic hubs in France, the United States, and Belgium.

GREATER NOIDA TO HOST Rs 5000 CRORE MULTI-MODAL LOGISTICS PARK NEAR JEWAR AIRPORT

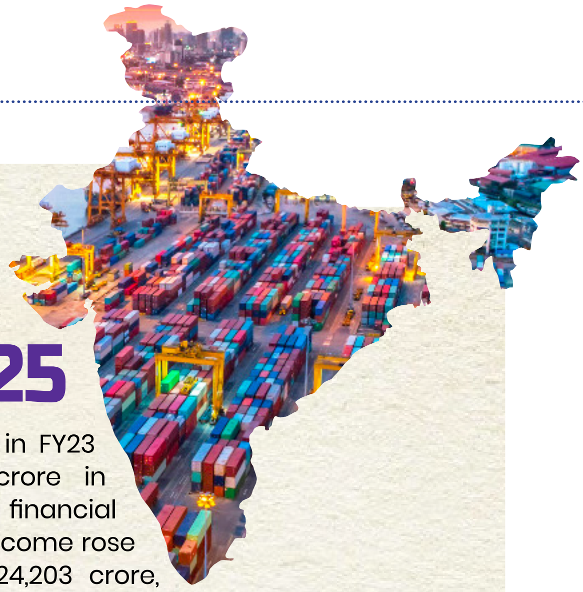
The project, a significant component of Greater Noida's Master Plan 2041, aims to enhance regional connectivity and economic growth. The MMLP will be developed over 174 acres in Sector Kappa 2, Dadri, strategically located near the Noida International Airport in Jewar. This proximity positions the park as a critical node in India's multimodal cargo movement network, offering seamless connectivity to both the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC). Adjacent to a 250-acre Inland Container Depot (ICD) operated by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), the MMLP is poised to integrate road, rail, and air transport, facilitating efficient logistics operations.

The logistics park is designed to feature state-of-the-art infrastructure, including an intermodal container terminal for road, rail, and air cargo, modern cold storage facilities with automated systems, dedicated cargo yards, and specialized terminals for bulk and break-bulk cargo. Additionally, the park will house bonded and non-bonded warehousing, freight forwarding services, and customs clearance operations. A skill development centre will also be established to train manpower for modern logistics and digital cargo management, addressing the growing need for skilled professionals in the sector. The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) has launched a land allotment scheme for the MMLP, inviting applications from logistics firms and industry players.

The plots, priced at ₹11,000 per square metre, are expected to attract significant interest from national and international logistics operators. To qualify, applicants must pledge a minimum investment of ₹1,200 crore (excluding land cost) and have at least a decade of experience in managing logistics operations, particularly ICDs or rail terminals. The development of the MMLP is supported by the Uttar Pradesh government's Multi-Modal Logistics Park Policy 2024, which offers attractive incentives to eligible investors. The policy provides for a 30% upfront land subsidy for projects with a minimum investment of ₹1,000 crore, complete exemption from stamp duty on leased land, and waivers of development fees. A single-window clearance mechanism simplifies the approval process, ensuring efficient and transparent interactions with investors.

The MMLP is projected to attract investments exceeding ₹5,000 crore and is expected to generate over 15,000 employment opportunities across various sectors, including construction, logistics management, transportation, and warehousing. The initiative aims to bolster regional economic growth, decongest existing logistics hubs around Delhi NCR, and leverage the proximity to the upcoming Jewar airport to facilitate international trade. The establishment of the Multi-Modal Logistics Park in Greater Noida marks a significant step towards transforming the region into a major logistics and industrial hub. With its strategic location, advanced infrastructure, and supportive policy framework, the project is poised to enhance India's competitiveness in global markets and contribute to the country's economic development.

Cargo handling at major Indian ports rises 4.3% to 855 mn tonnes in FY25



India's 12 major ports handled a record 855 million tonnes (MT) of cargo in FY25, registering a 4.3% increase from 819 MT in FY24, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways announced on Tuesday.

The rise was fuelled by strong growth in container movement (up 10%), fertilisers (13%), petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) (3%), and miscellaneous cargo (31%). Two major ports—Paradip Port Authority (PPA) and Deendayal Port Authority (DPA)—crossed the 150 MT cargo handling mark for the first time, marking a significant operational milestone. Meanwhile, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) handled a record 7.3 million TEUs, a 13.5% year-on-year growth, setting a new benchmark for container traffic. Among commodity categories, POL cargo led with 254.5 MT, accounting for nearly 30% of total cargo, followed by container cargo at 193.5 MT (22.6%) and coal at 186.6 MT (21.8%).

The ports collectively allocated 962 acres of land for industrial use in FY25, expected to generate ₹7,565 crore in revenue, with lessees projecting ₹68,780 crore in investments—a clear indicator of robust investor confidence in port-led development. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) investments also saw a significant jump—from ₹1,329 crore in FY23 to ₹3,986 crore in FY25. On the financial front, total income rose by 8% to ₹24,203 crore, while operating surplus increased by 7% to ₹12,314 crore, reflecting greater operational efficiency.

The Ministry highlighted several key operational improvements:

Turnaround time (TRT) dropped from 96 hours in FY15 to 49.5 hours in FY25. Pre-berthing detention improved by 24% to 3.8 hours. Idle time as a share of total time fell from 23.1% to 16.3%. Output per ship berth day (OSBD) rose from 12,458 tonnes to 18,304 tonnes.

Over the decade (FY15–FY25), cargo volumes rose from 581 MT to 855 MT, at a 4% CAGR, while container traffic surged 70%, and total income more than doubled from ₹11,760 crore to ₹24,203 crore, with an operating ratio improvement from 64.7% to 42.3%. A senior ministry official noted that continued investments in mechanisation, digitisation, and multi-modal logistics have made India's ports more efficient and globally competitive. "Our major ports are now better positioned to meet rising trade volumes and drive national economic growth," the official said.

Shipping SNIPPETS

DP WORLD NHAVA SHEVA EXPANDS ASIA CONNECTIVITY

WITH NEW WEEKLY SHIPPING SERVICES TO CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

DP World, a leading global provider of smart end-to-end supply chain solutions, welcomed the inaugural calls of the CI6/SIS/CISC2 and SI8/AIS5 service at its Nhava Sheva (JN Port) terminal, strengthening the terminal's connectivity with key Asian economies and enhancing trade efficiency through improved maritime links, it highlighted in a communique.

The new services - CI6/SIS/CISC2 and SI8/AIS5 – offer expanded market access for Indian exporters and importers. Operated by a group of regional carriers, the CI6/SIS/CISC2 service deployed six vessels with a weekly capacity of 5,600 TEUs, connecting Shanghai, Ningbo, Shekou, Port Kelang, Nhava Sheva, and Mundra. The SI8/AIS5 service deploys another four vessels with a weekly capacity of 2,800 TEUs, linking Jakarta, Surabaya, Singapore, Port Kelang, Mundra, and Nhava Sheva.

These services will offer Indian exporters and importers faster, more direct access to major markets in China, Indonesia and Southeast Asia, further streamlining supply chains and reducing transit times

CMA CGM PSS FROM INDIAN SUBCONTINENT TO US WEST COAST

In a continued effort to provide reliable and efficient service, CMA CGM has informed its customers of the following Peak Season Surcharge from June 15, 2025 (gate-in date) until further notice:

Origin range: From Indian Subcontinent
Destination range: To US West Coast except Honolulu. **Cargo:** All types
Amounts: USD 3,600 per 20' | USD 4,000 per 40' | USD 5,065 per 45

WAN HAI LINES ANNOUNCES INDIA – EAST MED 2 SERVICE (IM2)

Wan Hai Lines has announced the launch of the India – East Med 2 Service, known as the "IM2 service," commencing on June 1, 2025. This service will help expand Wan Hai Lines' network by offering direct routes from India to the Eastern Mediterranean, enhancing port coverage and connectivity.

The IM2 service will be jointly operated with Emirates Shipping Line FZE, utilising two vessels with a nominal capacity of 2,700 to 2,800 TEU. Wan Hai Lines will deploy one vessel out of the four-vessel system. The maiden voyage of the IM2 service will set sail from Mundra Port on June 1, 2025, following a fixed 28-day round trip schedule. The port rotation will be as follows: Mundra – Jeddah – Suez – Alexandria – Mersin – Suez – Jeddah – Mundra.

MEGA SHIPBUILDING HUB LIKELY AT THOOTHUKUDI WITH Rs 10,000 CR.

India has identified land parcels in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat for the development of Mega Shipbuilding facilities, with CSL and HD Hyundai currently finalising the location for this ambitious shipbuilding facility. Thoothukudi (Tuticorin) in Tamil Nadu is emerging as the likely site for this mega infrastructure project, which is expected to attract an investment of around Rs 10,000 crore upon completion. Progress aligns with the Indian government's broader strategy, supported by key financial mechanisms. The Finance Ministry's Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) is close to completing appraisals for an enhanced shipbuilding financial assistance policy valued at Rs 18,090 crore, alongside a maritime development fund of Rs 25,000 crore, both announced in the Budget 2025-26. Companies from the Netherlands, France and the Middle East have expressed interest in setting up manufacturing facilities in India, as per a report.

FREIGHT RATES SEEN GOING UP AFTER IMO'S CARBON LEVY

The International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s carbon levy is going to raise India's freight rates by 5 pc, said the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) in a guidance note to maritime stakeholders. The total compliance cost is projected at $87-100 million annually by 2030, assuming partial reliance on remedial units. This is equivalent to a 14% increase in fuel cost and a 5% rise in freight rates—well within the industry's operating margins, it added. There is no cause for concern, said the DGS, the country's shipping regulator. It has said that added costs would be well within the industry's comfort zone, adding that the India-Singapore proposal agreed upon by the United Nations maritime body (IMO) will save the sector over $2 billion till 2030 as compared to the European Union's proposal, as per a report.

ASIA-US CONTAINER RATES RISE; CARRIERS BRING BACK CAPACITY AMID TARIFF PAUSE

Asia-US rates for shipping containers rose this week, leading ocean carriers to rush to ramp up capacity to handle an expected surge in bookings. Rates from online freight shipping marketplace and platform provider Freightos rose by 3% to both US coasts, while rates from supply chain advisors Drewry showed a 2% increase on rates from Shanghai to Los Angeles and a 4% rise in rates from Shanghai to New York.

Following the latest US-China trade developments, Drewry expects an increase in spot rates in the coming week as carriers are re-organizing their capacity to accommodate a higher volume of cargo bookings from China.

VADHAVAN PORT TO BE THREE TIMES BIGGER THAN JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT

The upcoming Vadhavan Port in Palghar will be three times bigger than the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Nhava Sheva in Raigad, which is the premier container-handling port in India, accounting for around 50 per cent of the total containerised cargo volume across the major ports of India.

Vadhavan (Wadhawan) in Palghar district is located some 140 km away from downtown Mumbai, along the Maharashtra-Gujarat boundary. The Wadhawan Port is a greenfield, all-weather port coming up in Vadhavan, for which Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed the groundbreaking ceremony last year. The total project cost, including the land acquisition component, is Rs 76,220 crore. The project will be constructed by Vadhavan Port Project Ltd (VPPL), an SPV formed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and the Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), with a shareholding of 74 per cent and 26 per cent, respectively, official sources said. This will include the development of core infrastructure, terminals, and other commercial infrastructure in public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

There would also be road connectivity between the Vadhavan Port and national highways of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and rail linkage to the existing rail network and the upcoming Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor by the Ministry of Railways. The port will comprise nine container terminals, each 1,000 metres long; four multipurpose berths, including the coastal berth; four liquid cargo berths; a Ro-Ro berth; and a Coast Guard berth.

50% OF INDIA'S EXPORTS COMPRISED AGRI, PHARMA, ELECTRONICS, ENGG IN FY25

Agriculture, pharma, electronics and engineering goods together accounted for over 50% of India's merchandise exports in 2024-25, according to government data, highlighting the country's growing strength in diverse sectors amid efforts to boost manufacturing and value-added exports. Engineering goods contributed the highest share of 26.67% to India's USD 437.42 billion exports in 2024-25, while agriculture, pharmaceuticals and electronics accounted for 11.85%, 6.96% and 8.82%, respectively. Engineering goods' shipments rose 6.74% year-on-year to USD 116.67 billion. Drugs and pharmaceuticals exports grew 9.4% to USD 30.47 billion while that of agri and allied sectors increased 7.36% to USD 51.86 billion in 2024-25. Data showed that the electronic goods sector saw the highest export growth rate at 32.46%, as per a report.

CARGO SHIP ACCIDENT OFF KERALA COAST: HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FALLS INTO SEA

A Liberian-flagged cargo ship en route from Vizhinjam in Trivandrum to Kochi met with an accident in the Arabian Sea off the Kerala coast on Saturday, May 24, resulting in containers carrying hazardous substances falling into the sea. The vessel was later scheduled to continue to Thoothukudi.

As per reports, the maritime accident occurred due to rough sea conditions caused by the onset of the southwest monsoon. The ship was expected to dock at Kochi by 10 pm on Saturday but is currently seen listing and lying tilted in the sea, close to the Kerala coast.

In light of the situation, authorities have issued a public safety alert urging residents along the coast to report any containers or suspicious materials that may wash ashore. The public has been asked to call the emergency number 112 in case such items are spotted.

For feedback / enquiries, please contact :

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