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DGCIS

वाणिज्यिक जानकारी एवं सांख्यिकी महानिदेशालय
Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics

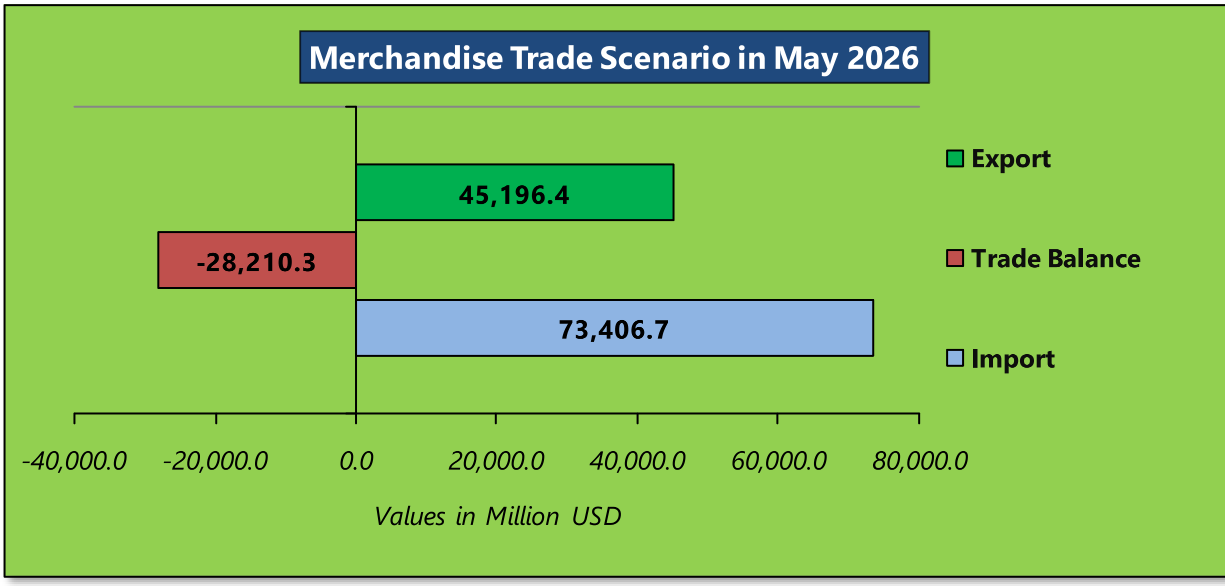
NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Commercial Intelligence (CI) Division
Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Government of India

Contents

Snapshot of India's Trade Scenario



- India's merchandise exports stood at 45,196.4 MUSD in May'26, while imports were significantly higher at 73,406.7 MUSD. The large gap between imports and exports reflects strong domestic demand for energy resources, electronic components, machinery, and other industrial inputs. Imports exceeded exports by a substantial margin, indicating continued reliance on overseas sourcing to support economic activity and manufacturing requirements.

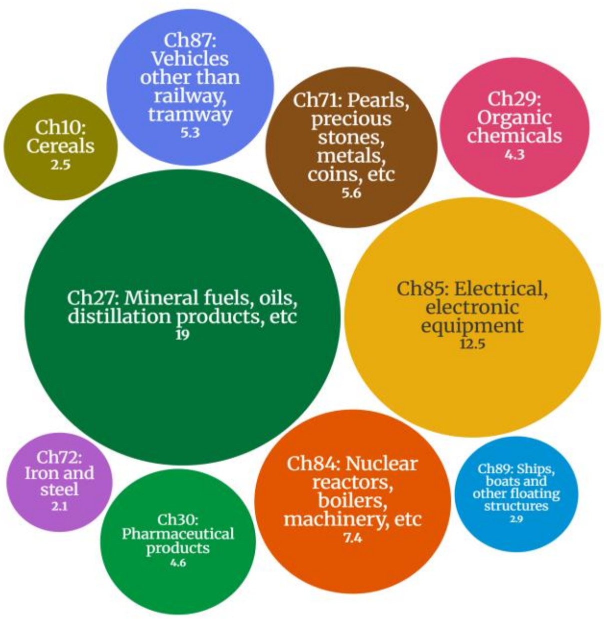
- As a result, India recorded a trade deficit of 28,210.3 MUSD in May'26. The negative trade balance was primarily driven by the elevated import bill, particularly for petroleum products and capital goods. The persistence of a sizeable trade deficit underscores the importance of export growth and import diversification in maintaining external sector stability.

- This periodical provides a detailed analysis of major 2-digit commodity groups and key trade partners in both export and import segments. It also identifies specific 8-digit HSN codes that witnessed notable increases or declines in imports during the period under review.

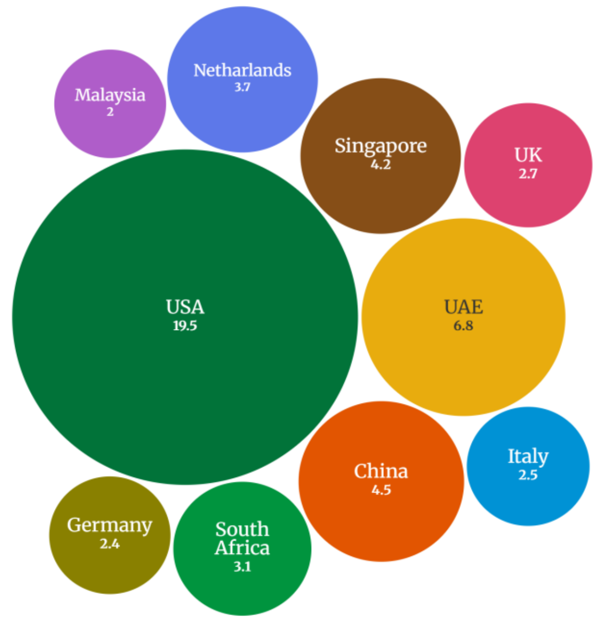
- To facilitate the understanding of international trade, the Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) is widely used for the classification of traded goods. It comprises 99 two-digit chapters, each further divided into four-digit headings and six-digit subheadings that define specific product categories. India adopts the Indian Trade Classification based on the Harmonized System (ITC-HS), which extends this framework to eight-digit codes to capture detailed commodity specifications and applicable tariff structures. This newsletter presents trade data at both the two-digit and eight-digit levels to enable a comprehensive analysis.

Export Profile

Top 10 2-digit commodity groups (Export) with their percentage shares in May 2026



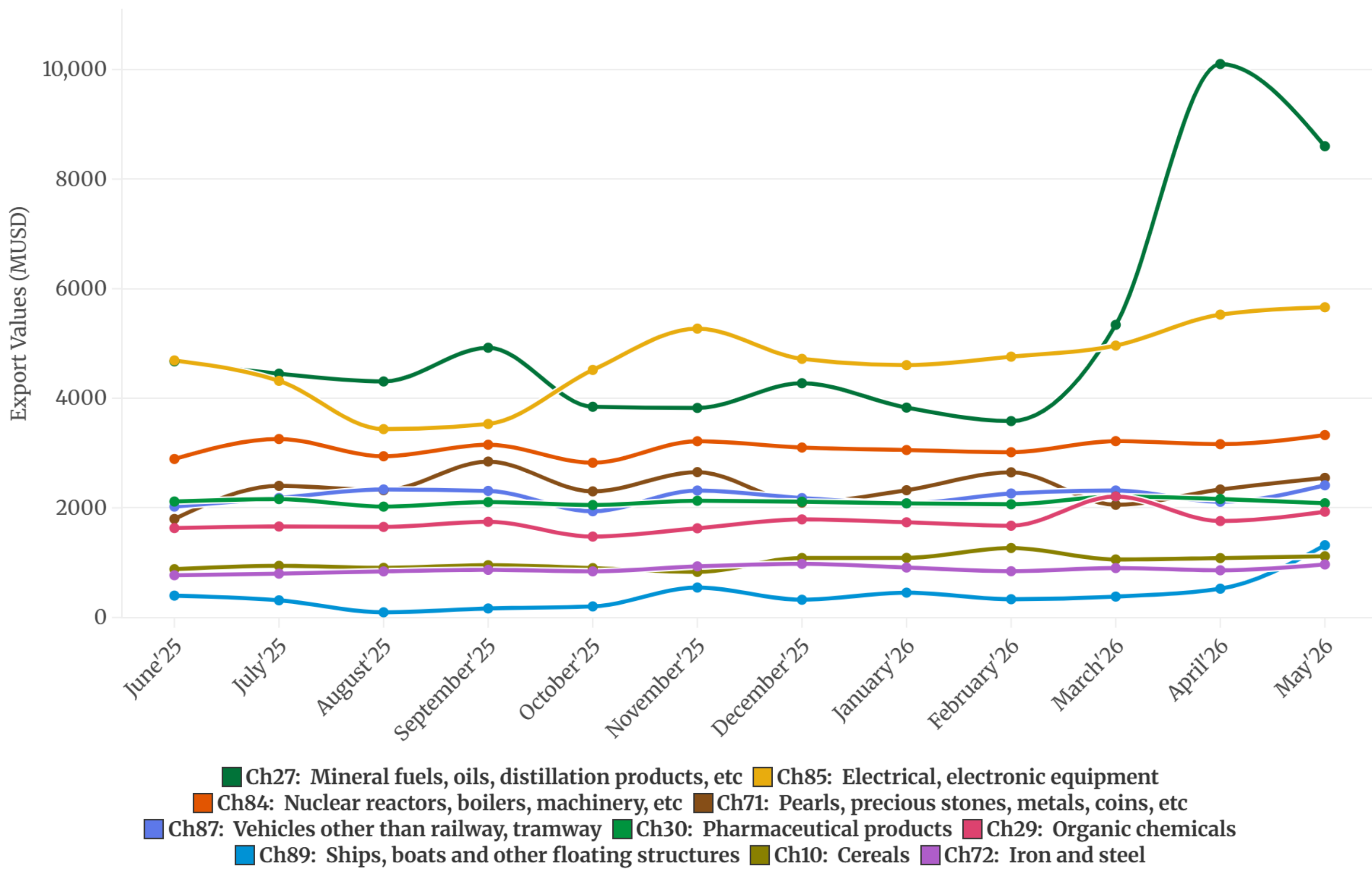
Top 10 Export country partners with their percentage shares in May 2026



- The above two bubble charts highlight the ten major 2-digit commodity groups and the top ten country partners in India's export basket during May'26. Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. (Chapter 27) dominated the export basket with a 19% share of total exports, followed by Electrical, electronic equipment (Chapter 85) at 12.5%. Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc. (Chapter 84) ranked third with a 7.4% share, reflecting sustained exports of machinery, parts and components. Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc. (Chapter 71) and Vehicles other than railway, tramway (Chapter 87) accounted for 5.6% and 5.3% of exports, respectively, indicating robust global demand for luxury jewellery items, automobiles, parts and accessories. Pharmaceutical products (Chapter 30) and Organic chemicals (Chapter 29) contributed 4.6% and 4.3% shares, respectively, highlighting India's strong position in the global chemicals and healthcare sectors. Compared to the preceding month, Ships, boats and other floating structures emerged as a new entrant in the top ten export basket with a 2.9% share. Cereals and Iron and steel recorded relatively modest yet notable shares of 2.5% and 2.1%, respectively. Overall, India's export basket reflects a diversified mix of value-added manufactured goods and primary commodities, supporting a steady flow of merchandise trade across global markets. The presence of cereals and pharmaceutical products among the leading export groups also underscores India's contribution to global food security and healthcare accessibility.
- USA remained the dominant export destination during May'26, accounting for 19.5% of India's total exports. UAE secured the second position with a 6.8% share, despite weaker export performance in March'26 and April'26 due to trade disruptions arising from the West Asia crisis. China and

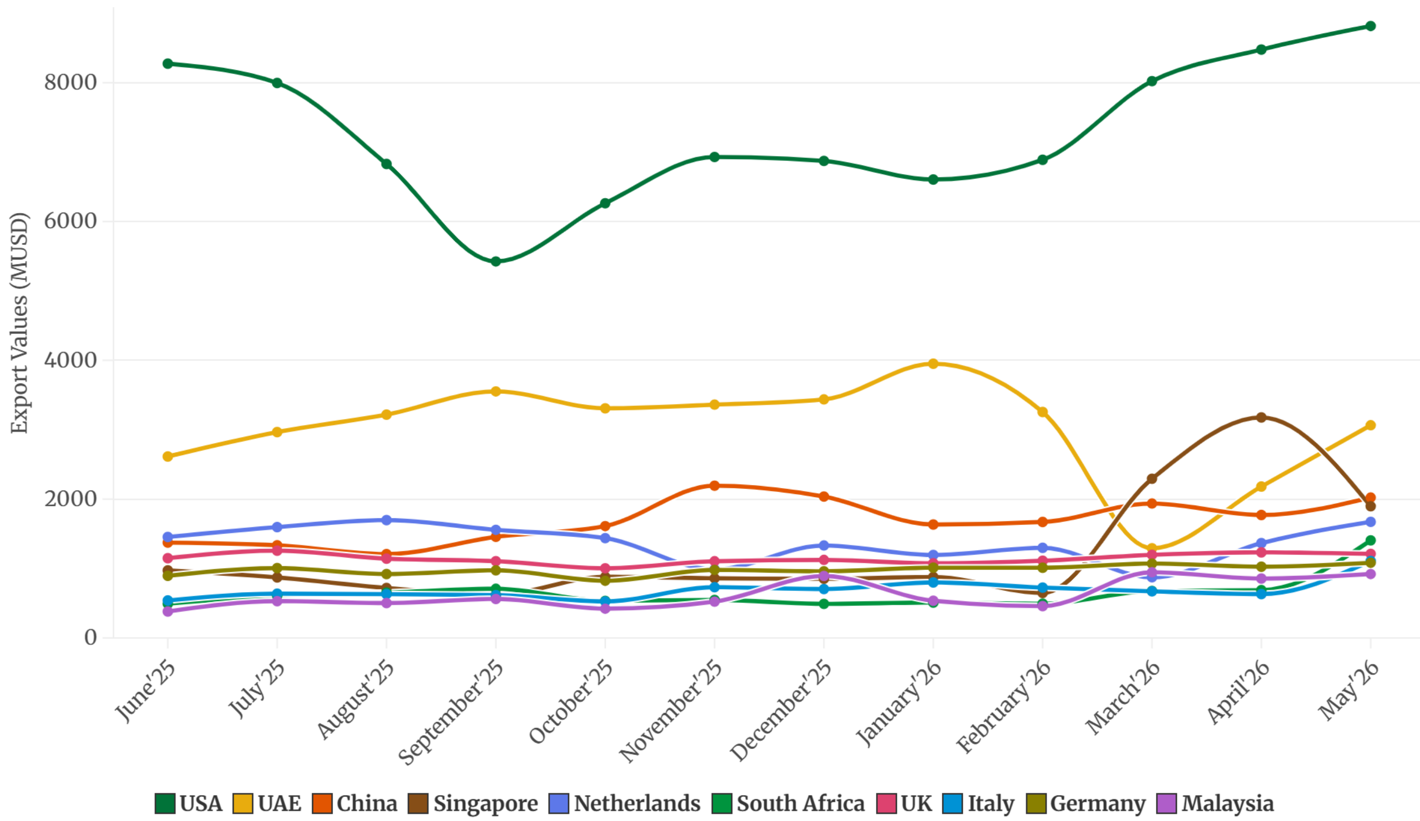
Singapore followed with shares of 4.5% and 4.2%, respectively, highlighting their continued importance in India's export basket. Netherlands and South Africa accounted for 3.7% and 3.1% of total exports, while the shares of the UK, Italy, Germany and Malaysia remained below the 3% threshold. The distribution of export destinations indicates a notable dependence on the USA, alongside a limited group of major trade partners across Asia and Europe. Such concentration exposes India's export sector to risks arising from geopolitical tensions, economic slowdowns and shifts in trade policies. Therefore, diversification of export markets through new trade agreements and stronger engagement with emerging economies remains essential for enhancing the resilience and sustainability of India's export growth.

Performance of top 10 2-digit commodity groups (Export) in last 12 months



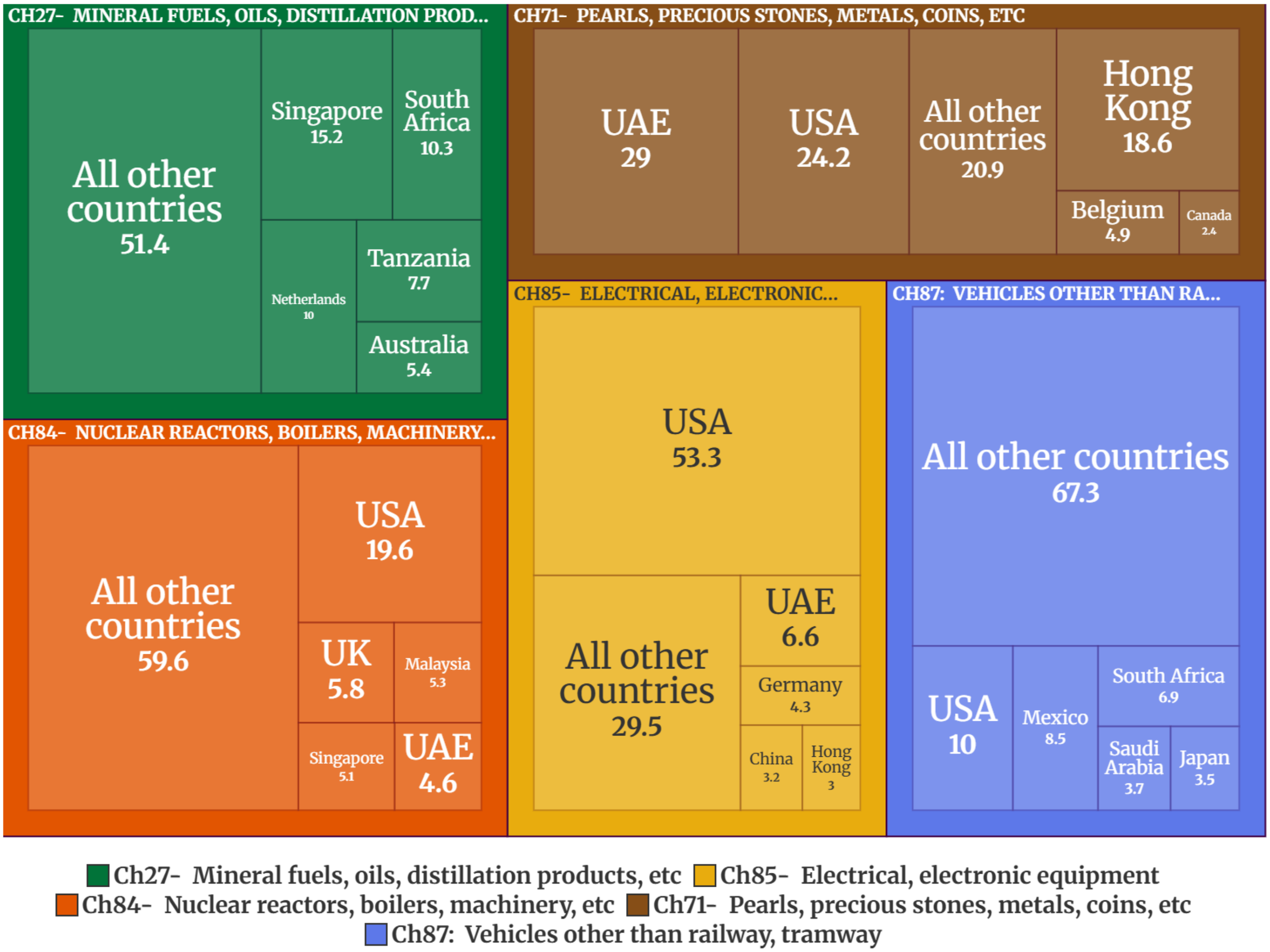
❖ During the 12-month period from June'25 to May'26, Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. (Chapter 27) remained the dominant export commodity group, though export values fluctuated considerably, culminating in a sharp surge in April'26 before easing in May'26. Electrical, electronic equipment (Chapter 85) exhibited a generally upward trajectory, particularly from early 2026 onwards, while Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc. (Chapter 84) maintained a relatively stable trend around the 3,000 MUSD level. Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc. (Chapter 71) experienced frequent month-on-month fluctuations throughout the period. Vehicles other than railway, tramway (Chapter 87) and Pharmaceutical products (Chapter 30) remained broadly stable, with the latter consistently generating export earnings of around 2,000 MUSD. Cereals (Chapter 10) recorded noticeable growth from January'26 onwards, indicating strengthening global demand. Although Ships, boats and other floating structures (Chapter 89) remained a lower-value export category for most of the period, exports rose sharply to above 1,300 MUSD in May'26. Organic chemicals (Chapter 29) and Iron and steel (Chapter 72) continued to occupy the lower tier of the export basket, displaying only modest fluctuations in export earnings.

Performance of top 10 Export country partners in last 12 months



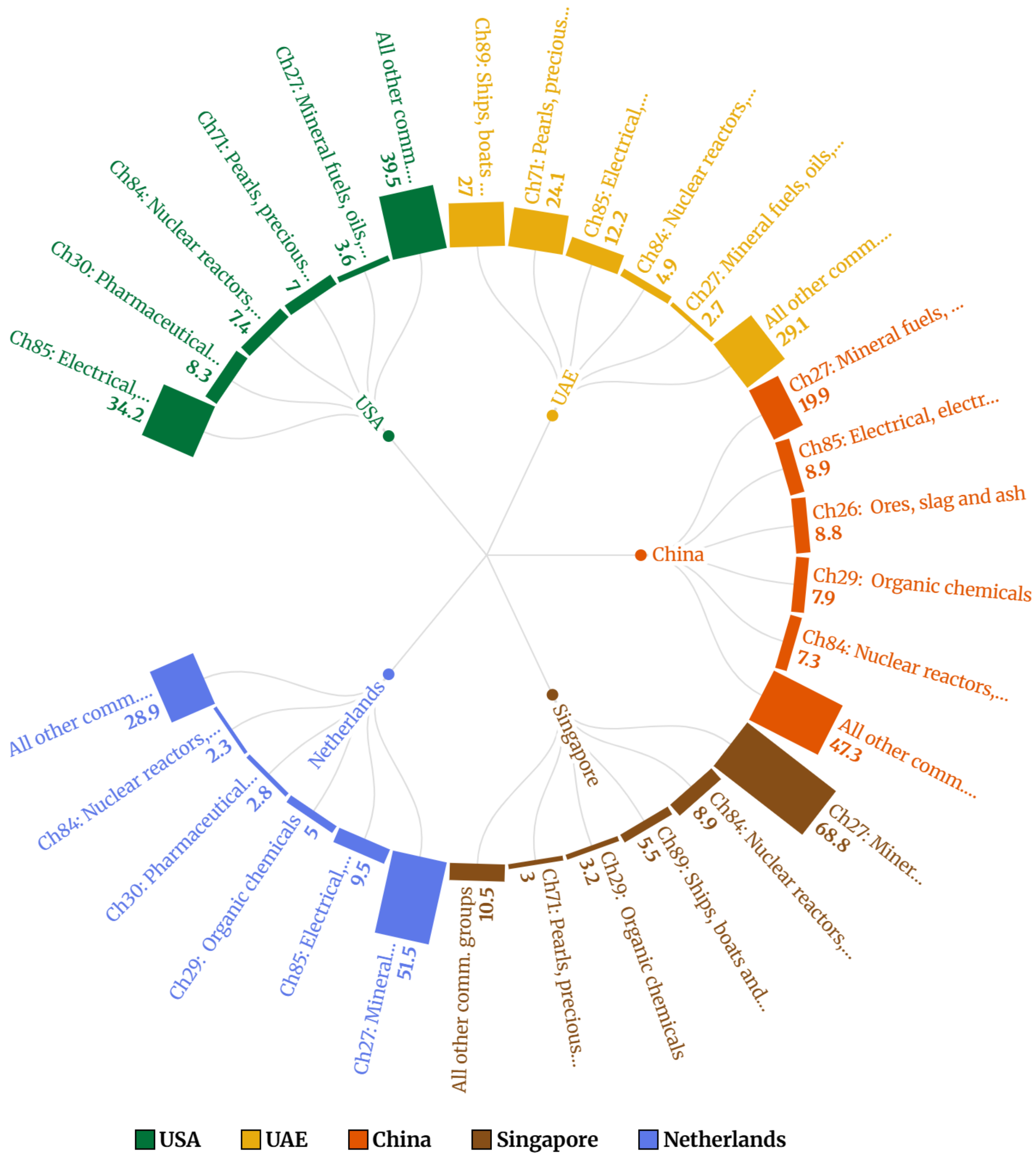
- During the 12-month period from June'25 to May'26, USA consistently remained India's largest export destination, although shipment values exhibited considerable volatility during 2025 before entering a growth phase from January'26 onwards. UAE, one of India's key trading partners in Asia, recorded a gradual rise in outbound shipments until January'26, followed by a substantial decline amid the West Asia crisis and a subsequent recovery in May'26. Merchandise flows to China displayed noticeable fluctuations from late 2025 through early 2026. While shipments to Singapore remained below 1,000 MUSD for most of the period, they surged sharply above 2,000 MUSD in March'26 and further exceeded 3,000 MUSD in April'26, largely driven by strong sales of Chapter 27 commodities. Significant volatility was also observed in trade flows to the Netherlands and South Africa. The UK maintained relatively stable merchandise inflows from India, with bilateral trade expected to strengthen further following the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement from July'26. Meanwhile, outbound trade with Germany witnessed noticeable fluctuations in the latter half of 2025 before stabilizing at around 1,000 MUSD from January'26 onwards.

- **Top 5 Commodity Groups with their respective leading Export Country Partners and their percentage shares in May 2026**



- The above chart highlights the major destination country partners for India's five leading export commodity groups during May'26. Singapore emerged as the largest destination for Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. (Chapter 27), accounting for 15.2% of total shipments, followed by South Africa (10.3%) and Netherlands (10%). Electrical, electronic equipment (Chapter 85) was heavily concentrated towards USA, which alone accounted for 53.3% of exports under the commodity group. In contrast, Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc. (Chapter 84) and Vehicles other than railway, tramway (Chapter 87) exhibited a diversified market structure, with 'All other countries' contributing 59.6% and 67.3% shares respectively. Despite this diversification, USA remained the largest individual destination for both commodity groups. UAE featured prominently across multiple commodity groups, particularly Chapter 71, Chapter 85 and Chapter 84. For Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc. (Chapter 71), UAE (29%), USA (24.2%) and Hong Kong (18.6%) were the leading destinations, highlighting their significance as major trading and re-export hubs. Overall, the chart reflects a mix of concentrated and diversified destination markets across India's key export sectors.

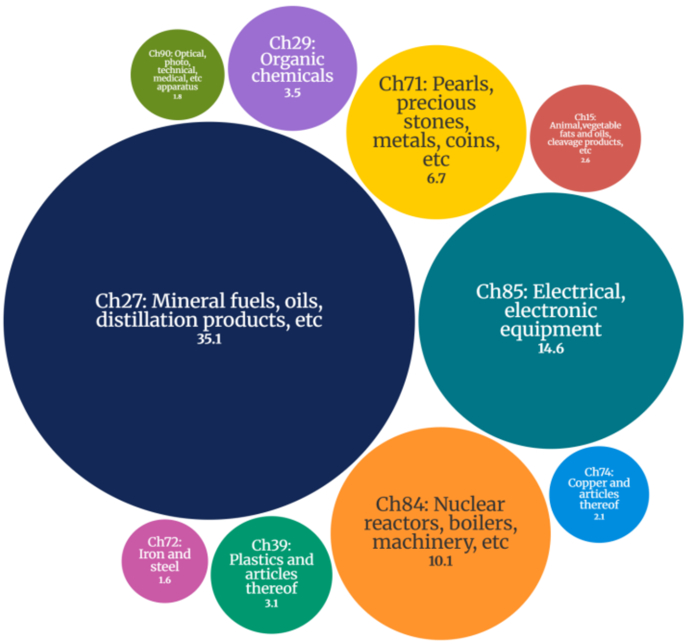
➢ **Top 5 Export Destinations and Corresponding major Commodity Groups(Export) and their percentage shares in May 2026**



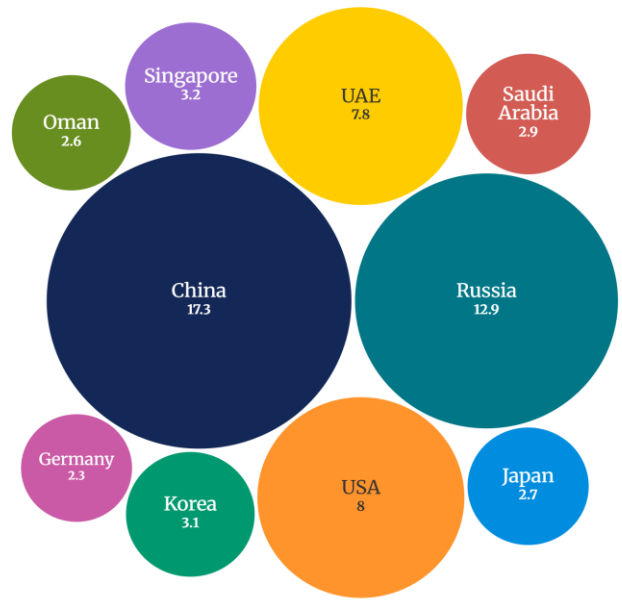
- The export basket to USA was heavily dominated by Electrical, electronic equipment (34.2%), largely driven by strong smartphone shipments, while Pharmaceutical products (8.3%), Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc. (7.4%), Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc. (7%) and Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. (7.6%) contributed notable shares. Exports to UAE were led by Ships, boats and other floating structures (27%) and Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc. (24.1%), reflecting the country's importance as both a trading and transit hub. India maintained a diversified export basket to China, led by Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. (19.9%), followed by Electrical, electronic equipment (8.9%), Ores, slag and ash (8.8%), Organic chemicals (7.9%) and Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc. (7.3%).. In contrast, trade with Singapore and Netherlands was highly concentrated in Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc., which accounted for 68.8% and 51.5% of total shipments respectively.

Import Profile

Top 10 2-digit commodity groups (Import) with their percentage shares in May 2026



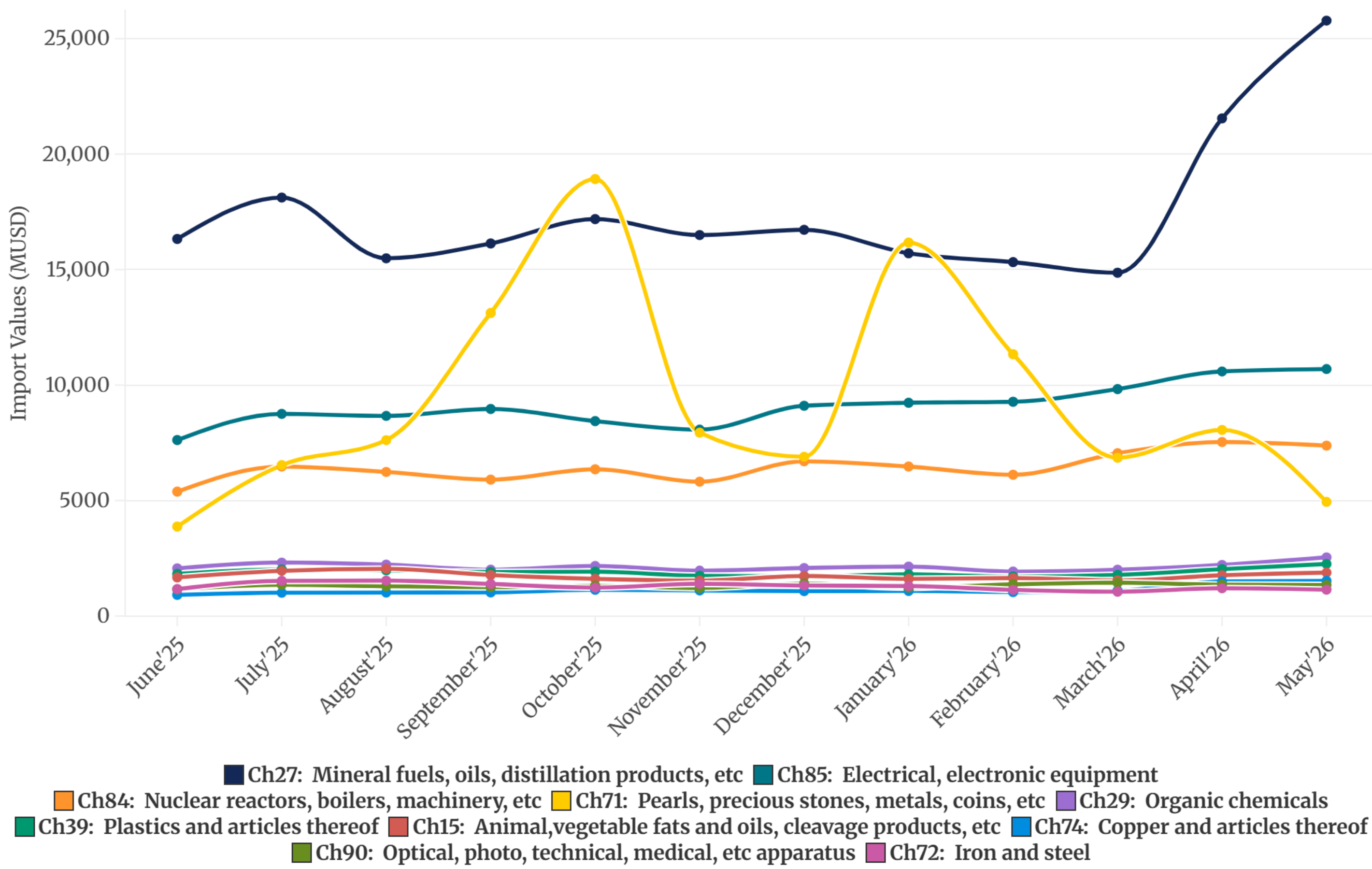
Top 10 Import country partners with their percentage shares in May 2026



- The above bubble charts illustrate the top ten 2-digit commodity groups in India's import basket and the ten major source countries during May'26. Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. dominated imports with a 35.1% share, highlighting India's continued dependence on imported energy resources. The next two major commodity groups were Electrical, electronic equipment and Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc., which accounted for 14.6% and 10.1% of total imports, respectively. Their substantial shares indicate strong domestic demand for semiconductors, integrated circuits, and capital machinery used in manufacturing and infrastructure development. Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc. contributed 6.7% to the import basket, reflecting significant imports of precious metals and gemstones that support India's gem and jewellery export industry. The remaining six commodity groups formed a lower tier, with each contributing less than 4% of total imports. Among them, Organic chemicals and Plastics and articles thereof accounted for 3.5% and 3.1% shares, respectively, emphasizing their importance as industrial inputs. Other notable groups included Animal or vegetable fats and oils at 2.6% and Copper and articles thereof at 2.1%, while Optical, photographic, technical and medical apparatus represented 1.8% of total imports. The smallest contribution came from Iron and steel at 1.6%, indicating a relatively limited role in the overall import basket during the month.
- The top ten import country partners accounted for nearly 63% of India's total imports in May'26, highlighting a relatively concentrated sourcing pattern. China emerged as the largest import partner with a 17.3% share, reflecting its importance as a supplier of electronic components, machinery, and industrial inputs. Russia ranked second with a 12.9% share, primarily driven by robust crude oil

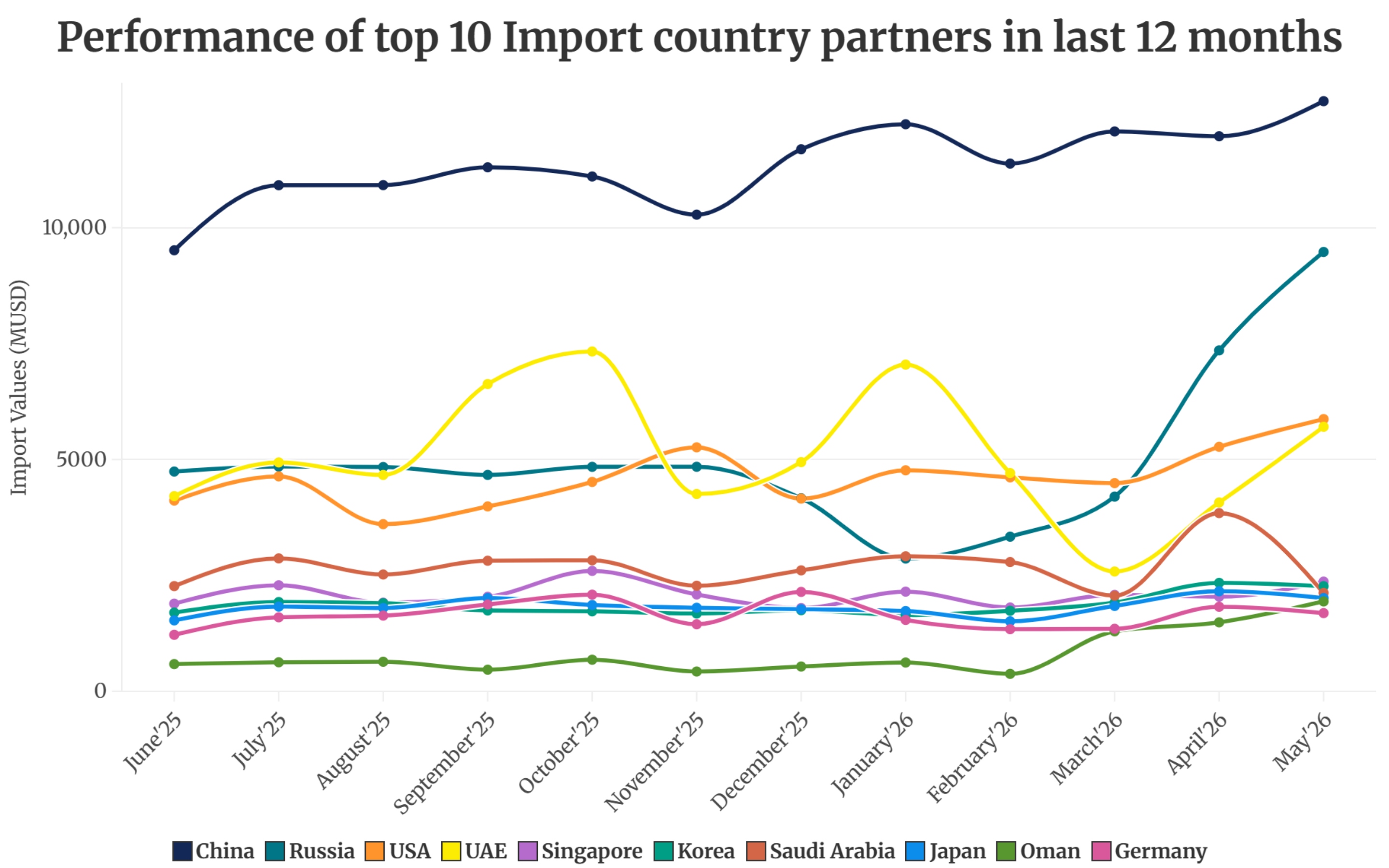
imports that continued to support India's energy requirements. USA and UAE occupied the next tier with shares of 8.0% and 7.8%, respectively, underscoring their significance in supplying energy products, precious metals, machinery, and technology-related goods. The share of Saudi Arabia declined to 2.9% in May 2026 from 5.3% in the previous month, indicating a moderation in imports from the country. Singapore and Korea followed with 3.2% and 3.1% shares, respectively, with Singapore maintaining its role as a major transshipment and logistics hub for goods entering India. The lower-tier group comprised Japan (2.7%), Oman (2.6%), and Germany (2.3%), each contributing relatively modest shares to the import basket.

Performance of top 10 2-digit commodity groups (Import) in last 12 months



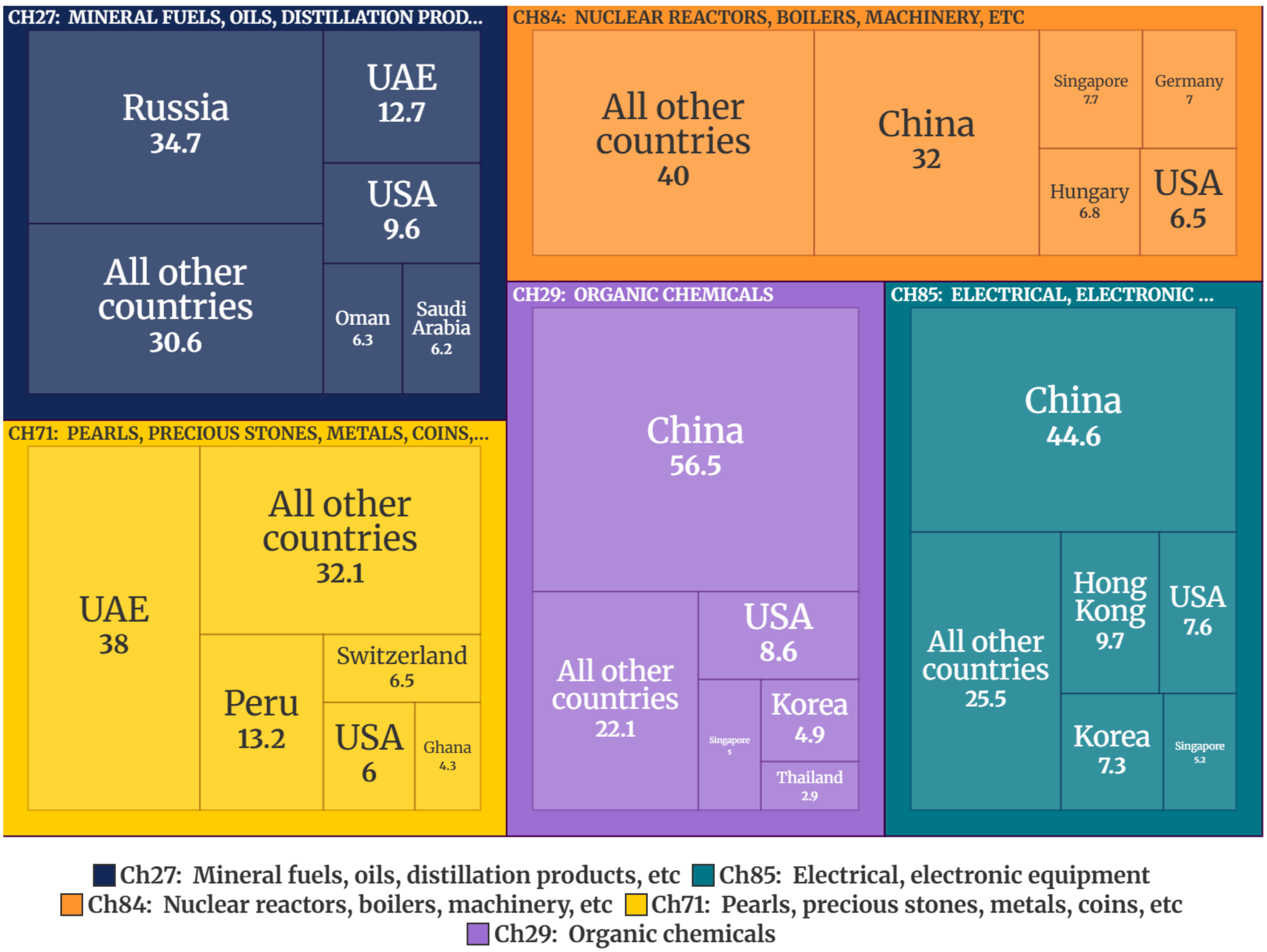
- ❖ Imports of Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. remained the dominant commodity group throughout the last 12 months, fluctuating between 15,000 MUSD and 18,000 MUSD until March'26 before surging sharply to over 25,000 MUSD in May'26. Electrical, electronic equipment followed a steady upward trajectory, particularly from November'25 onwards, reflecting sustained demand for electronics and related components. Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc. exhibited moderate fluctuations but maintained a generally stable trend around the 6,000–7,500 MUSD range.

In contrast, Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc. was the most volatile commodity group, recording pronounced spikes in October'25 and January'26 before declining significantly by May'26. Organic chemicals and Plastics and articles thereof remained the leading groups among the lower-tier commodities, displaying relatively stable performance. Meanwhile, Animal or vegetable fats and oils, Copper and articles thereof, Optical, photographic and medical apparatus, and Iron and steel remained clustered at the bottom of the chart with limited month-to-month variation. Overall, the import basket was primarily driven by energy, electronics, and machinery imports, while most other commodity groups maintained comparatively stable and modest import levels throughout the period.



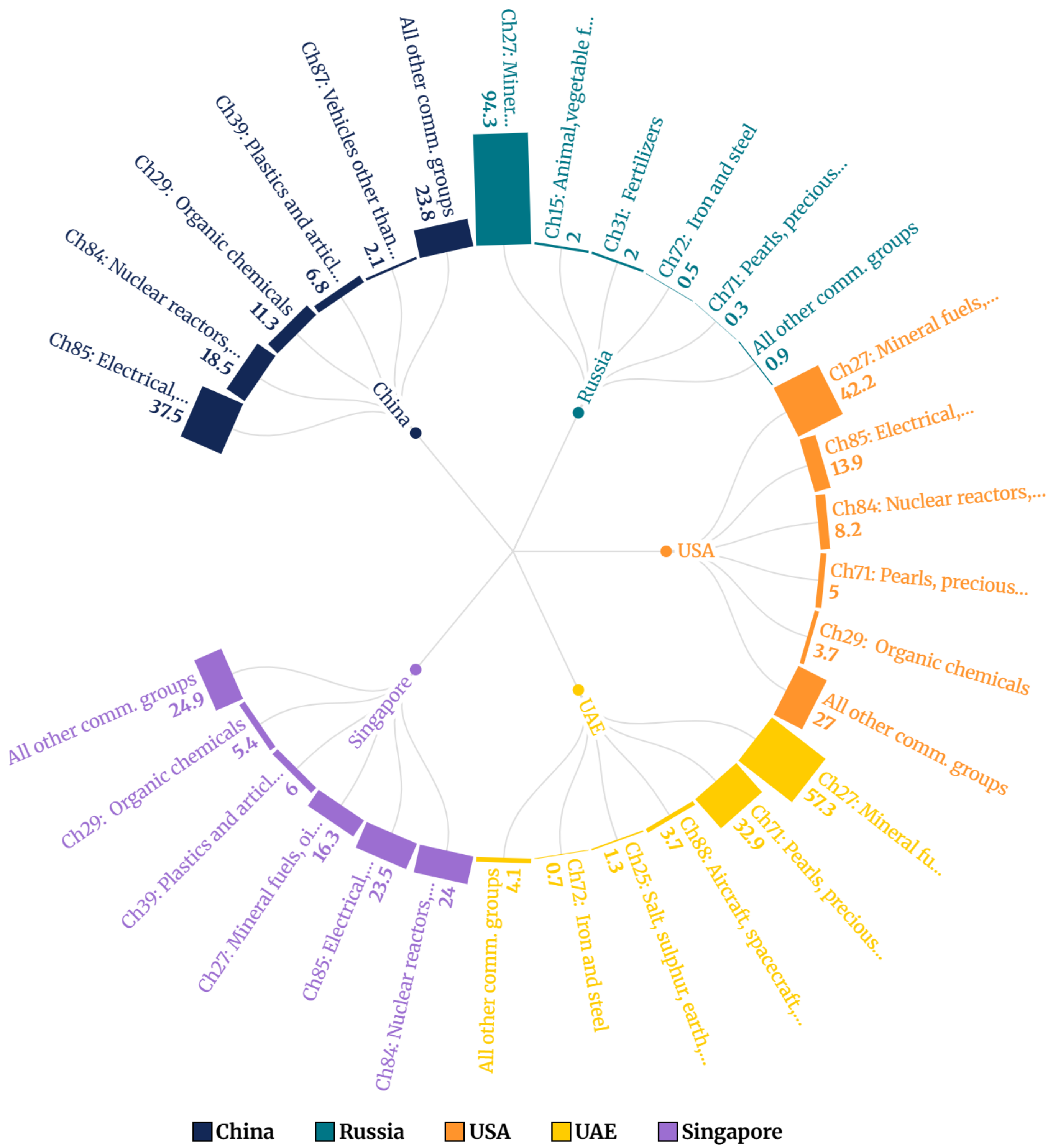
❖ China consistently remained India's largest import partner throughout the 12-month period, with imports showing a gradual upward trend and reaching their highest level in May'26. Imports from Russia remained broadly stable during the latter half of 2025 before declining sharply between January'26 and March'26, reflecting the impact of sanctions on Russian crude imports. However, imports from Russia rebounded strongly from April'26 onwards amid the geopolitical developments in West Asia, making it the second-largest import source by May'26. USA exhibited a relatively stable pattern, with imports fluctuating between 3,500 MUSD and 6,000 MUSD over the period. In contrast, UAE displayed the highest volatility among the major partners, with pronounced import surges in October'25 and January'26, followed by a decline to its lowest level in March'26 before recovering to 5,700 MUSD in May'26. Saudi Arabia maintained a moderate import trajectory with only limited fluctuations, although imports increased noticeably in April'26. Imports from Oman remained largely flat for most of the period but gained momentum from March'26 onwards, driven by substantial shipments of petroleum crude, LNG, and fertilizers to build inventories ahead of the Kharif season.

➢ **Top 5 Commodity Groups with their respective five leading Import Country Partners and their percentage shares in May 2026**



❖ The treemap highlights the major source countries for India's five leading import commodity groups in May'26, revealing distinct sourcing patterns across sectors. Russia dominated imports of Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. with a 34.7% share, significantly ahead of UAE (12.7%) and USA (9.6%), underscoring its pivotal role in India's energy imports. China emerged as the principal supplier of Electrical, electronic equipment, accounting for 44.6% of imports, while Hong Kong, Korea, and USA contributed relatively smaller shares. Similarly, China held a commanding 56.5% share in Organic chemicals imports, indicating a high dependence on Chinese chemical inputs. For Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc., China remained the leading source country with a 32% share, followed at a considerable distance by Singapore, Germany, Hungary, and USA. In contrast, imports of Pearls, precious stones, metals, coins, etc. were more diversified, with UAE accounting for 38%, followed by Peru (13.2%) and several other suppliers. The presence of large "all other countries" segments in several commodity groups also suggests a degree of diversification beyond the leading partners.

➢ **Top 5 Import sources and corresponding major imported Commodity Groups and their percentage shares in May 2026**



❖ India's import basket from China was dominated by Electrical, electronic equipment (37.5%), reflecting India's continued dependence on imports of semiconductors, electronic components, and advanced hardware from China despite its expanding domestic electronics manufacturing base. Other major imports from China included Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc. (18.5%) and Organic chemicals (11.3%). In contrast, India's imports from Russia were overwhelmingly concentrated in Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. (94.3%), highlighting Russia's role as a critical energy supplier. Chapter 27 also constituted the largest commodity group imported from USA (42.2%) and UAE (57.3%), underscoring India's strategy of diversifying crude oil procurement to strengthen energy security and mitigate supply risks. India's import basket from USA was relatively diversified, with notable contributions from electrical equipment and machinery. Meanwhile, imports from Singapore were more balanced, led by Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc. (24%), Electrical, electronic equipment (23.5%), and Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, etc. (16.3%).

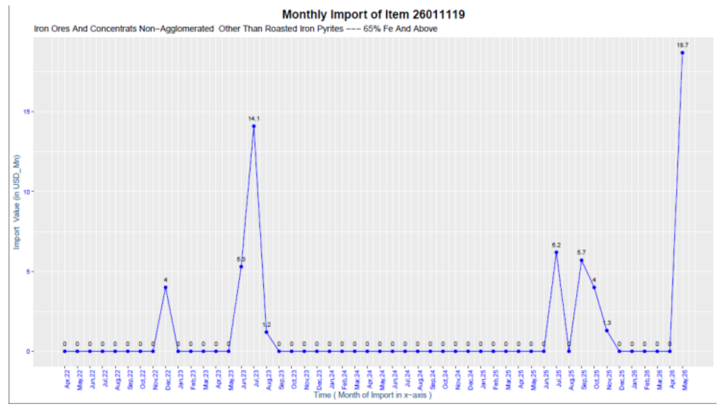
The following two sections provide a brief analysis of selected 8-digit HSN codes that witnessed significant surges or declines in import payments in May'26.

Import Surge Monthly Bulletin – May 2026 (All Country Analysis)

26011119: *Iron ores and concentrates, other than roasted iron pyrites-65% and above*

Imports of this HSN remained sporadic during the period under review, with negligible imports in most months and no imports recorded during FY 2023-24. The import pattern exhibited some seasonality, with consignments largely concentrated around June–July and November–December in FY 2022-23 and FY 2024-25.

All consignments were routed through Kandla seaport, indicating a highly concentrated import structure in terms of both importer and port of entry.

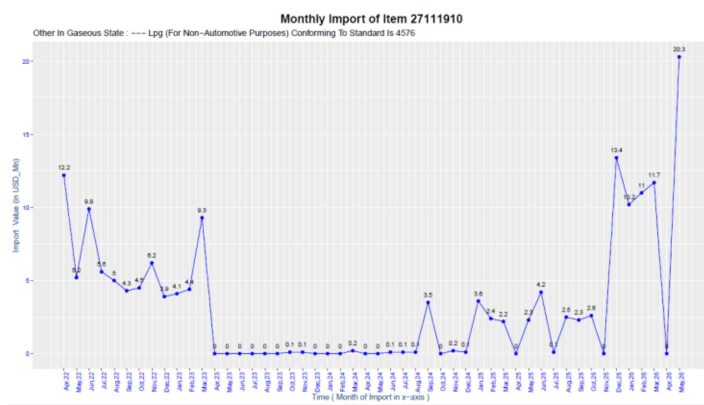


27111910: *LPG (for non-automotive purposes) conforming to standard IS 4576*

Imports of LPG mixture displayed a fluctuating pattern across the period under review. Import values remained relatively high during FY 2022-23, declined sharply in FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 with only sporadic consignments, and rebounded significantly in FY 2025-26 with several large import shipments.

Congo emerged as a new/dormant Country of Consignment (CoC), and all shipments were routed through **Mangalore seaport**, which also functioned as a new/dormant port for this commodity.

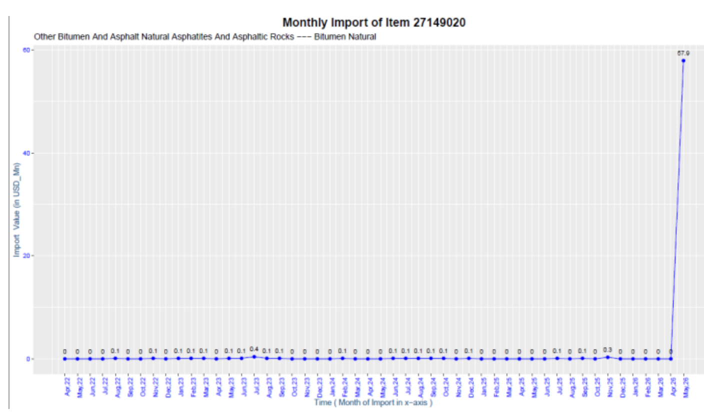
Amid the crisis in the domestic economy caused by limited supply from West Asia, India imported LPG mixture from Congo to divert the impact of the Hormuz closure.



27149020: *Other-Bitumen, natural*

Imports of this HSN remained negligible throughout the period under review, with only sporadic consignments recorded until an unprecedented surge of 57.9 MUSD was observed in May'26.

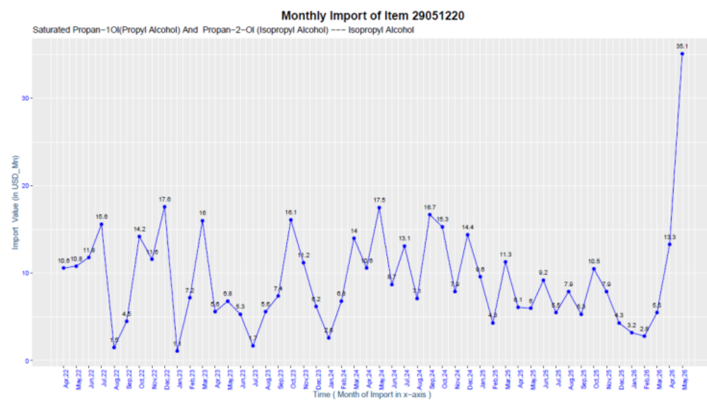
Canada emerged as a new/dormant Country of Consignment (CoC) for this commodity.



29051220: *Isopropyl alcohol*

Imports of Isopropyl Alcohol remained consistently high during FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24, with monthly imports generally ranging between 5–18 MUSD. Import levels moderated somewhat in FY 2024-25 but remained substantial, before registering a sharp surge in May’26 (35.1 MUSD), indicating a significant rise in demand or stock-building activity.

The primary countries of consignment were USA (54%), China (33%), Taiwan (7%) and Korea (3%).

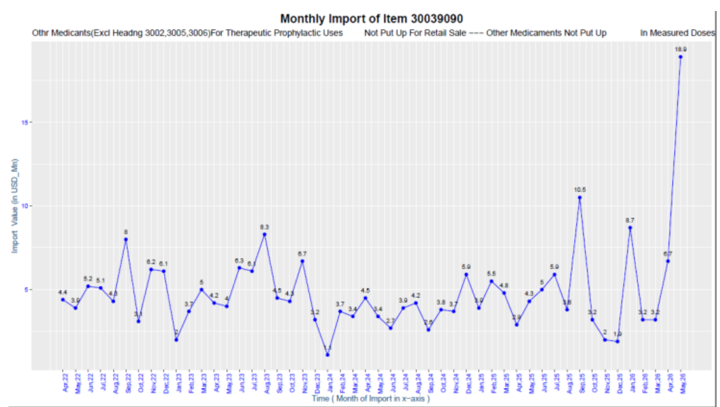


30039090: *Other- medicaments consisting of two or more constituents which have been mixed together for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, not put up in measured doses or in forms or packing for retail sale*

Imports under this HSN remained relatively stable during FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25, generally ranging between 2–8 MUSD per month, before surging sharply to a record high of 18.9 MUSD in May’26.

Portugal (45%) emerged as a new/dormant Country of Consignment (CoC), followed by the Netherlands (21%) and Ireland (20%); consignments imported from Netherlands had Country of Origin (CoO) as **Germany**.

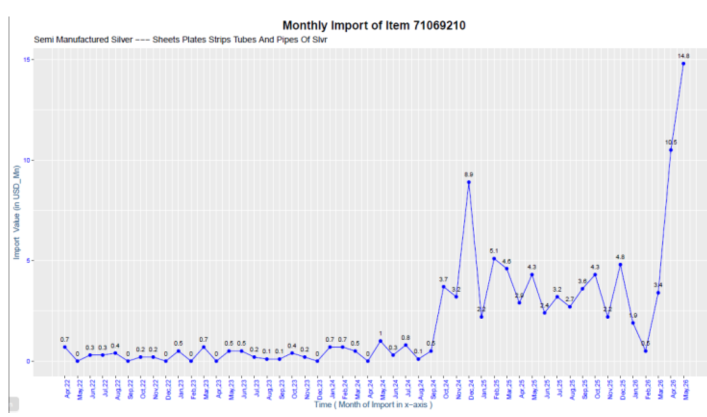
APIIC Multi Product SEZ Vizag DC (67%) and Mumbai Airport (25%) were the principal ports of import and imports from SEZ Vizag surged significantly.



71069210: *Sheets, plates, strips, tubes and pipes of silver (including silver plated with gold or platinum), unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms, or in powder form*

The monthly import value of semi-manufactured silver remained consistently flat and low until a massive surge began in early 2024, eventually climbing to an all-time peak of 14.8 MUSD by May’26.

Silver plate, silver target, silver wire of 99.99% purity were imported for industrial use.



Surges in some other ITCHS

85423200: ***Memories-*** The surge in imports of this commodity was highlighted in the Apr’26 bulletin and continued in May’26, with total imports reaching 1131.9 MUSD. The top two importers accounted for 42% of total imports. China (41%), Korea (26%), and Hong Kong (11%) were the leading CoCs.

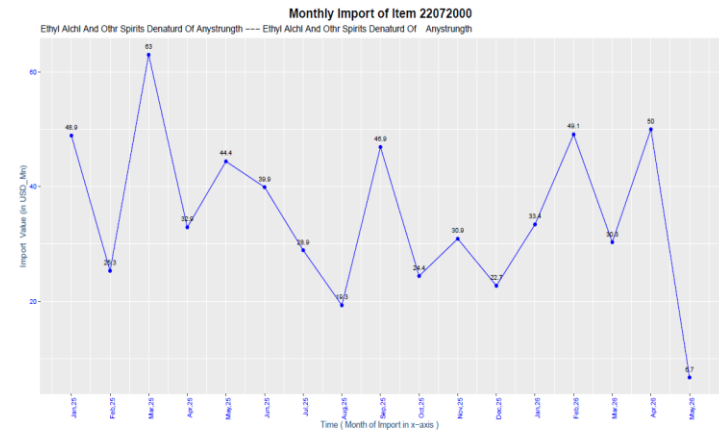
Import Dip Monthly Bulletin – May 2026 (All Country Analysis)

22072000 :- *Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength*

Since Jan'25, monthly imports never dipped below the 20 MUSD mark, except Aug'25 (19.3 MUSD), but suddenly it dipped to 6.7 MUSD in May'26.

USA was the traditional top supplier of this commodity, and imports from USA decreased significantly.

The main imported commodity under this HSN is DENATURED ETHYL ALCOHOL (ETHANOL).

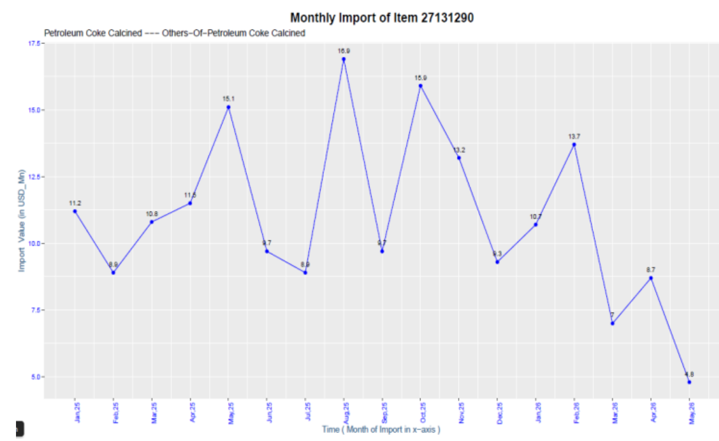


27131290 :- *Other petroleum coke calcined*

In past trends, monthly imports mostly hovered around 10 MUSD mark with previous dip observed in Mar'26 (7 MUSD). In May'26 import stood at 4.8 MUSD which is lowest since Jan'25.

UK and Japan were the top suppliers of this commodity, and imports from these countries decreased significantly in the current month.

The main imported commodity under this HSN is CALCINED NEEDLE PETROLEUM COKE HUMBER BASE PREMIUM GRADE IN BULK.

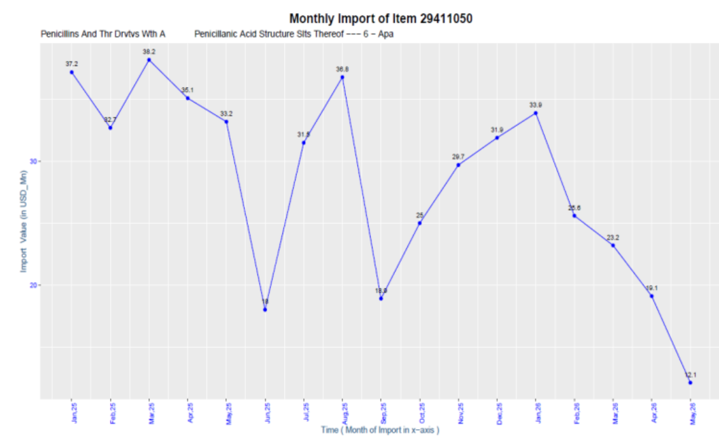


29411050 :- *Penicillin and their derivatives (6-APA)*

In past trends, monthly imports mostly hovered around 30 MUSD mark with previous dip observed in Jun'25 (18 MUSD). In May'26 import stood at 12.1 MUSD which is lowest since Jan'25.

China was the traditional top supplier of this commodity and import from China decreased significantly.

The primary imported commodity under this HSN is 6-AMINO PENICILLANIC ACID (6-APA).

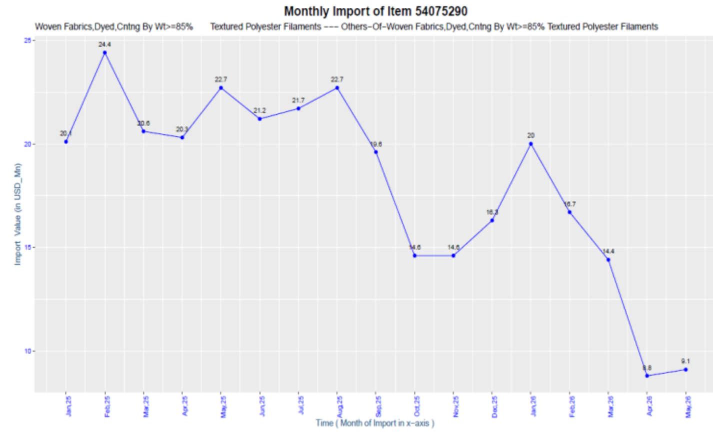


54075290:- Others-of-woven fabrics, dyed, containing by weight >=85% textured polyester filaments

During calendar year 2025, the average monthly import value of this commodity was around the 20 MUSD mark. The import value started decreasing gradually from Jan'26 and reached a low of 8.8 MUSD in Apr'26. In May'26, the import value stood at 9.1 MUSD, which is still lower than previous levels.

China, Indonesia, and Malaysia were the top 3 traditional suppliers of this commodity, and imports from these countries decreased significantly in the current month.

The primary imported commodity is WOVEN FABRICS OF SYNTHETICS FILAMENT YARN

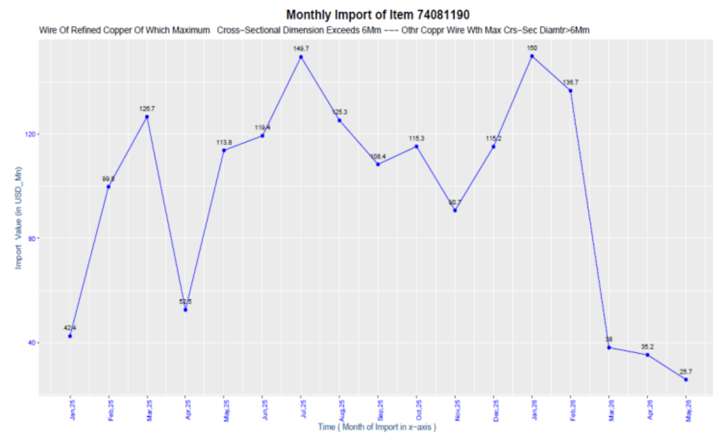


74081190:- Other Copper Wire with a Maximum Cross-Sectional Diameter exceeding 6mm.

In past trends, imports of this HSN maintained a monthly average of more than 100 MUSD. The import value suddenly dropped to 38 MUSD in Mar'26 and further decreased to 25.7 MUSD in May'26, which is the lowest since Jan'25.

UAE, Japan, Korea, and China are the traditional top suppliers of this HSN, and apart from Japan, the import value from the remaining three countries decreased significantly.

This imported commodity primarily consists of copper wire rods for electrical applications.

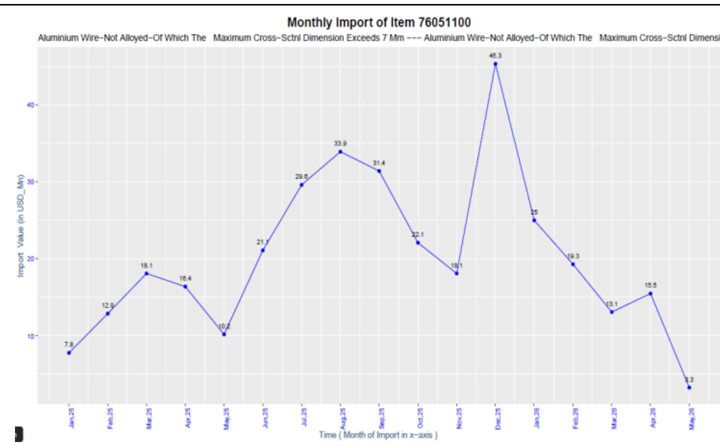


76051100:- Aluminium wire, not alloyed, maximum cross-sectional dimension > 7 mm

In FY 2025-26 the average monthly import value of this commodity was around the 24 MUSD mark. In May'26 import stood at 3.3 MUSD which is lowest since Jan'25.

China and Indonesia are the traditional top suppliers of this HSN, and the import value from these two countries decreased significantly in May'26.

This imported commodity primarily consists of EC GRADE ALUMINIUM WIREROD.

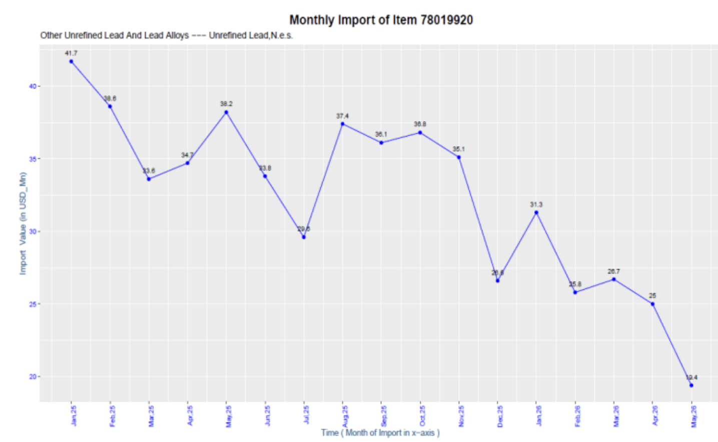


78019920:- Other unrefined lead and lead alloys-unrefined lead, n.e.s.

This HSN has an overall gradual decreasing trend in monthly import payments since Jan'25 and in May'26 import stood at 19.4 MUSD, which is the lowest since Jan'25.

Indonesia, UAE and Togo are the traditional top suppliers of this HSN, and the import value from these three countries decreased significantly in the current month.

This imported commodity primarily consists of LEAD INGOTS.



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