One port's coastal cargo made 59.39 per cent of the October 2026 rise at the Major Ports

Deendayal Port's coastal cargo rose from 2.03 million tonnes in October 2025 to 12.29 million tonnes in October 2026, which is 5.57 times its highest month from April 2024 to September 2026. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways' own report for October 2026 does not say what that cargo was, or why it rose.

59.39 per cent

per cent of the rise in cargo at the twelve Major Ports in October 2026 came from Deendayal Port's coastal cargo

On the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways' own figures, one line of one port made 59.39 per cent of the rise in cargo at the twelve Major Ports in October 2026. That line is Deendayal Port's coastal cargo, which was 12.29 million tonnes in October 2026. It is 5.57 times the line's highest month in the thirty months from April 2024 to September 2026 that the Ministry's monthly reports print.

Sources: Read on 22 November 2026. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, report for October 2026, file dated 11 November 2026.

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This brief reads the Ministry's monthly reports on cargo at the twelve Major Ports from April 2025 to October 2026. It asks how much of the October 2026 rise came from one line of one port, and what the Ministry's own report says about that line.

One port's coastal cargo made most of October's rise

In October 2026, one line of one port made 59.39 per cent of the rise in cargo at the twelve Major Ports: Deendayal Port's coastal cargo, which rose from 2.03 million tonnes in October 2025 to 12.29 million tonnes. That is 5.57 times the line's highest month in the thirty months from April 2024 to September 2026 that the Ministry's monthly reports print, which was 2.20 million tonnes in January 2026. October 2026 alone equals 56.04 per cent of the port's coastal cargo in the whole of 2025-26, which was 21.93 million tonnes.

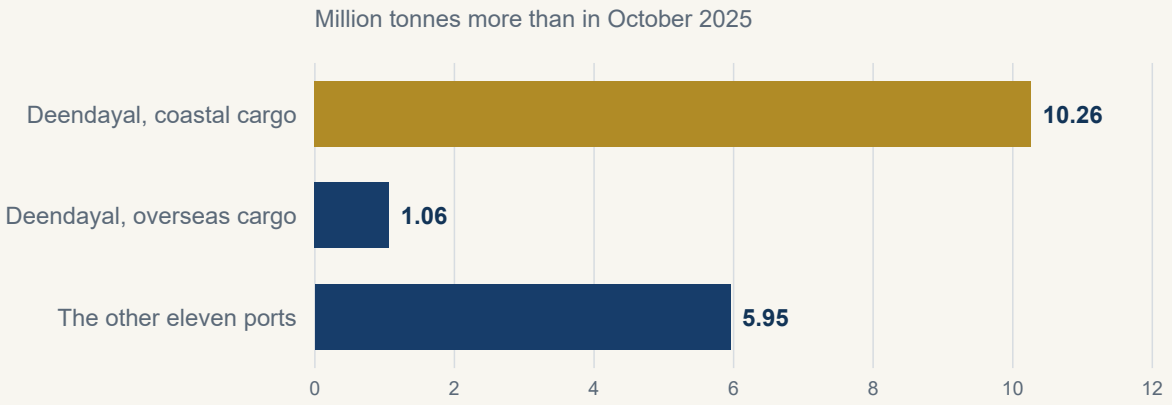
The figures are the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways' own. October's figures are from Table-1 of its report for October 2026, whose file is dated 11 November 2026. Each monthly report from April 2025 to March 2026 also prints the same month of 2024-25, and the report for March 2026 prints the whole of 2025-26.

Finding	What the Ministry's own figures show
One line of one port	Deendayal's coastal cargo rose by 10.26 million tonnes between October 2025 and October 2026. That one line of one port made 59.39 per cent of the whole rise at the twelve Major Ports, which was 17.28 million tonnes. It also made 72.64 per cent of the rise in coastal cargo at all twelve ports, which was 14.13 million tonnes.
Far outside the port's own record	From April 2025 to September 2026, Deendayal's coastal cargo was never below 1.44 million tonnes, which it carried in April 2025. It was never above 2.20 million tonnes, which it carried in January 2026. The Ministry's reports for 2025-26 also print each month of 2024-25, and none of those twelve months passed 1.55 million tonnes. The highest was 1.54 million tonnes, in January 2025. Deendayal's coastal cargo averaged 1.85 million tonnes a month over April to September 2026, which were the six months before October. October 2026 brought 12.29 million tonnes, which is 6.65 times that average and 5.57 times the highest month before it.
No reason in the Ministry's report	The report does not say why Deendayal's coastal cargo rose.
Overseas cargo grew more slowly	Overseas cargo, the part that moves with foreign trade, grew more slowly in April to October 2026-27 than in the same seven months of 2025-26, at 5.95 per cent against 6.76 per cent.

Sources: Read on 22 November 2026. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, monthly reports on cargo at the Major Ports, for April 2025 to October 2026. Annexure A lists each file with its date.

October's rise, in three parts

Deendayal's coastal cargo rose by 10.26 million tonnes between October 2025 and October 2026. That one line of one port made 59.39 per cent of the whole rise at the twelve Major Ports, which was 17.28 million tonnes. It also made 72.64 per cent of the rise in coastal cargo at all twelve ports, which was 14.13 million tonnes.



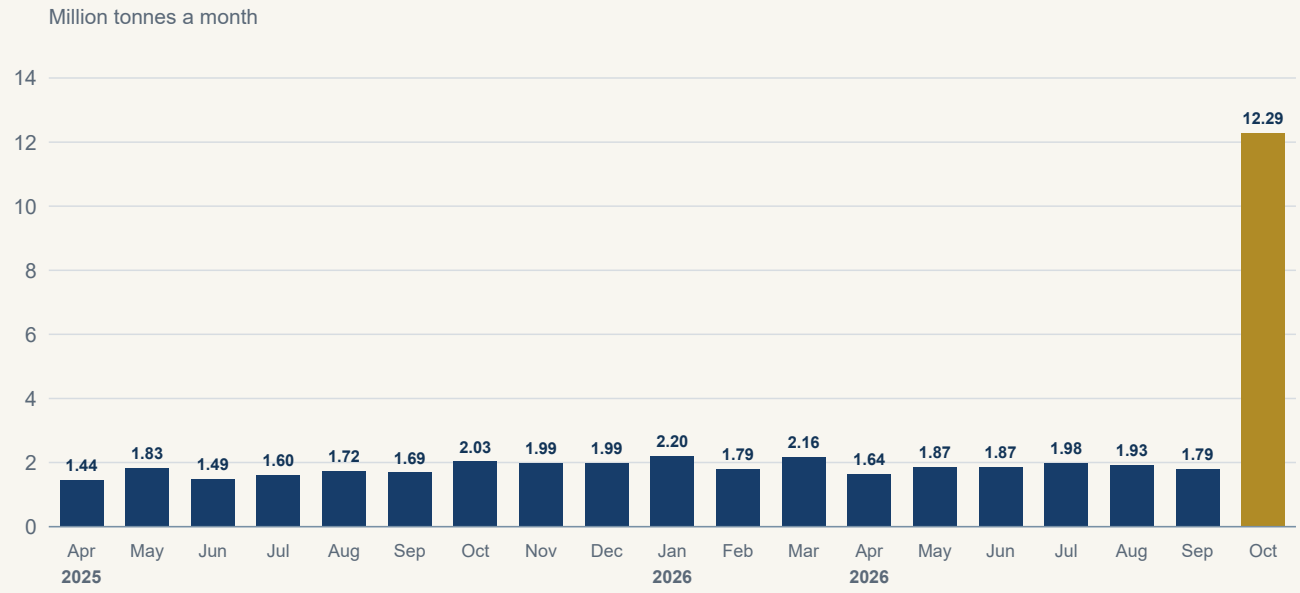
Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, monthly reports, Table-1; arranged by the office of Shri Ajay Maken.

The three bars divide the rise of 17.28 million tonnes at the twelve Major Ports in October 2026. The gold bar is Deendayal's coastal cargo, and the blue bars are Deendayal's overseas cargo and the other eleven ports. Each part is rounded on its own, so the three parts as printed add to one hundredth of a million tonnes less than 17.28.

Sources: Read on 22 November 2026. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, report for October 2026, file dated 11 November 2026.

Deendayal's coastal cargo, month by month

From April 2025 to September 2026, Deendayal's coastal cargo was never below 1.44 million tonnes, which it carried in April 2025. It was never above 2.20 million tonnes, which it carried in January 2026. The Ministry's reports for 2025-26 also print each month of 2024-25, and none of those twelve months passed 1.55 million tonnes. The highest was 1.54 million tonnes, in January 2025. Deendayal's coastal cargo averaged 1.85 million tonnes a month over April to September 2026, which were the six months before October. October 2026 brought 12.29 million tonnes, which is 6.65 times that average and 5.57 times the highest month before it.



Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, monthly reports, Table-1; arranged by the office of Shri Ajay Maken.

Each bar is one month of coastal cargo at Deendayal Port. Eighteen months sit between 1.44 and 2.20 million tonnes, while the gold bar for October 2026 stands at 12.29 million tonnes. The months to October 2025 carry the Ministry's Provisional figures, and the later months carry its Advance Estimates.

Deendayal Port, coastal cargo	Million tonnes
Lowest month, April 2025 to September 2026 (April 2025)	1.44
Highest month, April 2025 to September 2026 (January 2026)	2.20
Average month, April to September 2026	1.85
October 2025	2.03
October 2026	12.29

Sources: Read on 22 November 2026. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, monthly reports on cargo at the Major Ports, for April 2025 to October 2026. Annexure A lists each file with its date.

What the Ministry's report says, and what it does not

The Ministry's report says, on its second page, that the month's rise at Deendayal was "driven mainly by coastal cargo".

The Ministry's own chart for October 2026 makes the same point about coastal cargo in its caption, which reads "Coastal cargo: 33.77% of volume, but 81.76% of the growth" (report for October 2026, pdf:2, Chart 2). The caption is part of the chart's picture and has no text behind it, so the office read it from the image of the page.

The report does not say why Deendayal's coastal cargo rose. The office searched every page of the Ministry's reports for October and September 2026 for words that would give a reason. It looked for words such as "due to", "because" and "transhipment", and it found none of them. Annexure C gives the full list. The report also has no table of cargo by port and by commodity, so it cannot show what the extra coastal cargo was.

So the Ministry's own record leaves the main questions open. It does not say what was carried, through which terminal, or from where. It also does not say whether anything changed in the way coastal cargo at Deendayal is recorded.

The Ministry's tables also show a change at Deendayal between September and October 2026. In September 2026 its overseas cargo was 54.74 per cent higher than a year earlier, while its coastal cargo was 5.33 per cent higher. In October 2026 its overseas cargo was 8.76 per cent higher, while its coastal cargo was 505.90 per cent higher. From September to October its overseas cargo fell by 4.41 million tonnes, while its coastal cargo rose by 10.50 million tonnes.

Deendayal Port	Overseas cargo, change on a year earlier	Coastal cargo, change on a year earlier
September 2026	54.74 per cent	5.33 per cent
October 2026	8.76 per cent	505.90 per cent

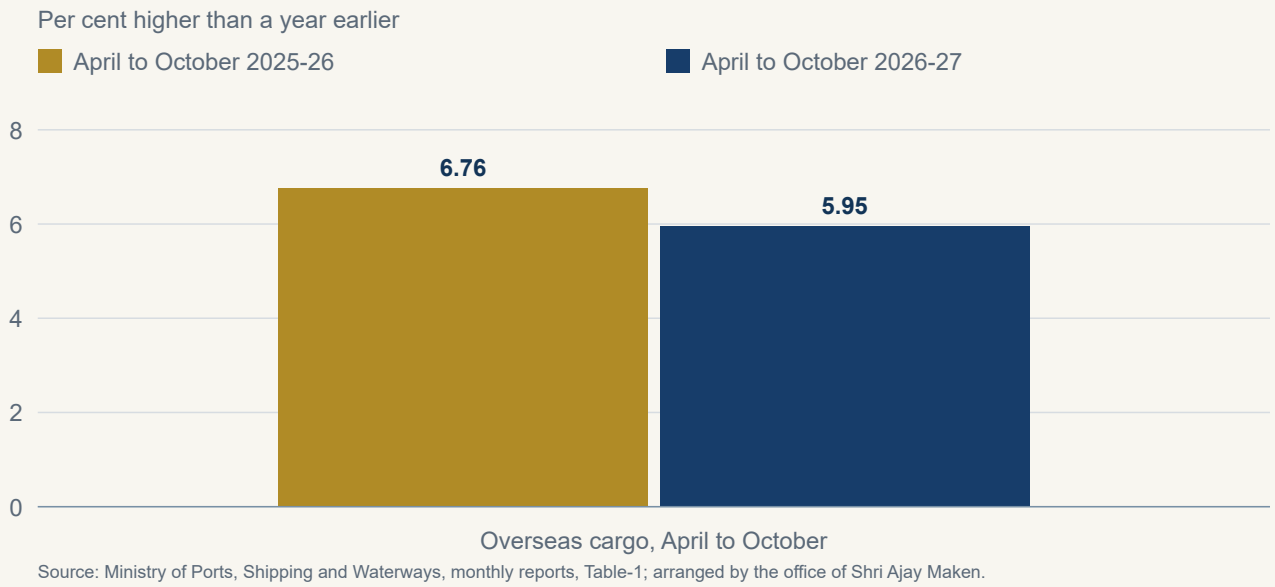
In October 2026, four ports had less overseas cargo and more coastal cargo than in October 2025. They were V.O. Chidambaranar, New Mangalore, Mormugao and Mumbai. Deendayal was not one of them, because its overseas cargo was 8.76 per cent higher than in October 2025. Its overseas cargo fell only against September 2026. At Mumbai, overseas cargo was 23.05 per cent lower, by 1.25 million tonnes, while coastal cargo was 79.12 per cent higher, by 1.41 million tonnes.

These movements are a pattern in the Ministry's tables, and they do not explain the October figure. This report draws no cause from them. They are questions that the Ministry's own figures raise.

Sources: Read on 22 November 2026. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, report for September 2026, file dated 12 October 2026 and report for October 2026, file dated 11 November 2026.

Overseas cargo grew more slowly than a year earlier

The Ministry's report divides cargo into two parts. It calls overseas cargo the "global" part and coastal cargo the "domestic" part. Overseas cargo, which is the part that moves with foreign trade, grew more slowly in April to October 2026-27 than in the same seven months of 2025-26, at 5.95 per cent against 6.76 per cent.



Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, monthly reports, Table-1; arranged by the office of Shri Ajay Maken.

The two bars show how fast overseas cargo grew over April to October, which are the same seven months in each year. The gold bar is 2025-26 and the blue bar is 2026-27.

The Ministry's own Chart 1 for April to October 2026-27 says in its caption "Coastal cargo: 25.70% of volume, but 55.08% of the growth" (report for October 2026, pdf:1, Chart 1). The office read this caption from the image of the page, because it has no text behind it.

Sources: Read on 22 November 2026. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, report for October 2025, file dated 18 November 2025 and report for October 2026, file dated 11 November 2026.

Which ports carried the rise in overseas cargo

Five of the twelve ports handled less overseas cargo in April to October 2026-27 than a year earlier. The Ministry's own report names the five, which are New Mangalore, V.O. Chidambaranar, Paradip, Chennai and Kamarajar.

Deendayal alone made 83.50 per cent of the rise in overseas cargo at the twelve Major Ports in April to October 2026-27. At the other eleven ports together, overseas cargo grew 1.22 per cent, against 8.09 per cent over the same months of 2025-26.

Sources: Read on 22 November 2026. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, report for October 2025, file dated 18 November 2025 and report for October 2026, file dated 11 November 2026.

The dashboard's own cards on people, each in its own period

MoSPI's PAIMANA dashboard prints two cards on people at the ports, and each card has its own period. Card 60 is titled "Employment Major & Non-Major Ports" and prints 27,144 persons for calendar year 2025, which is 9.7 per cent lower than a year earlier. The card does not say which ports the 27,144 covers. Its own description says that the two kinds of port are "counted separately by port category", so the figure cannot be read as a count for the Major Ports alone or for all ports together. Card 58 prints 5,85,900 passengers at the Major Ports for the financial year 2024-25, which is 7.9 per cent lower than a year earlier.

Employment, on the card titled "Major & Non-Major Ports"

27,144 persons

9.7 per cent lower than a year earlier, for calendar year 2025. The card does not say which ports the figure covers.

Passengers, labelled "(Major Ports)"

5,85,900 passengers

7.9 per cent lower than a year earlier, for FY 2024-25.

The two periods differ from each other and from the cargo months. The dashboard does not link either card to cargo, so each card needs its own dated explanation from the Ministry.

Sources: Read again on 22 November 2026. MoSPI, PAIMANA dashboard, ports page, saved on 16 October 2026.

What to read first in November 2026

The Ministry's report for November 2026 is due between about 9 and 22 December 2026, if its last six monthly files are a guide. The first line to read in it is Deendayal's coastal cargo. That line was 1.99 million tonnes in November 2025, and it ran from 1.44 to 2.20 million tonnes in the eighteen months to September 2026.

If the line returns to that range, October 2026 stands as a single month. If it stays near October's 12.29 million tonnes, the question becomes what changed in the way the port's cargo is carried or counted, and from which month.

Sources: Read on 22 November 2026. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, report for November 2025, file dated 18 December 2025 and report for October 2026, file dated 11 November 2026. the Ministry's listing page of monthly cargo reports.

Annexure A: sources

Source	File dated	Where in it
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, listing of monthly cargo reports	2026-11-22	the page
MoSPI, PAIMANA dashboard, ports page	2026-10-16	cards 58 (passengers), 60 (employment), 229 (cargo), 262 (coastal)
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during April 2025	22 May 2025	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during May 2025	19 June 2025	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during June 2025	15 July 2025	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during July 2025	14 August 2025	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during August 2025	22 September 2025	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during September 2025	24 October 2025	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during October 2025	18 November 2025	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during November 2025	18 December 2025	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during December 2025	16 January 2026	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during January 2026	18 February 2026	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during February 2026	20 March 2026	Table-1 and the text

Annexure A: sources, continued

Source	File dated	Where in it
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during March 2026	23 April 2026	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during April 2026	18 May 2026	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during May 2026	18 June 2026	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during June 2026	9 July 2026	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during July 2026	10 August 2026	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during August 2026	22 September 2026	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during September 2026	12 October 2026	Table-1 and the text
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Cargo Handling Status for Major Ports during October 2026	11 November 2026	Table-1 and the text

Annexure B: how the figures were made

Every cargo figure in this brief comes from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways' monthly reports on cargo at the twelve Major Ports, for the months from April 2025 to October 2026. The office of Shri Ajay Maken saved each report from the Ministry's website and read it on 22 November 2026.

Table-1 of each report prints the cargo of each port in tonnes, as overseas cargo and coastal cargo. The office took Deendayal Port's coastal cargo from that table for each month. Each report for 2025-26 also prints the same month of 2024-25, so the line can be read for the thirty months from April 2024 to September 2026, before October 2026.

Each report gives the month's Advance Estimate and sets it against the Provisional figure for the same month a year earlier. This brief compares October 2026 with October 2025 in the same way as the Ministry does.

The office worked every share and every multiple from the tonnes that Table-1 prints. Each figure is rounded once, so the parts of a total as printed can differ from the total by one hundredth of a million tonnes.

Two chart captions quoted in this brief are part of a picture in the Ministry's report. The office read them from the image of the page and checked each per cent against Table-1.

The office searched the text of every page of the reports for October and September 2026 for words that would give a reason for the rise in Deendayal's coastal cargo. It found none of them, and Annexure C lists the words.

The two cards on people at the ports come from MoSPI's PAIMANA dashboard, ports page, as saved on 16 October 2026 and read again on 22 November 2026. No figure in this brief was estimated.

Annexure C: the words quoted

Each quotation below was found again, word for word, in the saved file of the Ministry's report. The two chart captions are part of a picture, so the office read them from the image of the page and checked each per cent against Table-1. Where a quotation is cut, three dots mark the cut. The locator is the page of the PDF file.

Where	The words
Report for October 2026, pdf:1	The volume of seaborne cargo handled by ports is comprised of the global (i.e. overseas cargo) and domestic (i.e. coastal cargo) activities.
Report for October 2026, pdf:1	This publication provides data for October 2026 (Advance Estimates) compared with provisional estimates of October 2025.
Report for October 2026, pdf:2	... driven mainly by coastal cargo (12.29 MMT, up from 2.03 MMT). The words before the cut give Deendayal's extra cargo of every kind, overseas and coastal together, as a share of the rise at the twelve ports. This brief counts the coastal line alone, which made 59.39 per cent of the rise.
Report for October 2026, pdf:6	Five of the twelve Major Ports (New Mangalore, V.O.C, Paradip, Chennai and Kamarajar) recorded a decline in overseas The printed page continues the sentence past a bullet mark, where the file's text layer breaks it.
Report for October 2026, pdf:1	Coastal cargo: 25.70% of volume, but 55.08% of the growth This caption is part of the chart's picture. It has no text behind it, so the office read it from the image of the page.
Report for October 2026, pdf:2	Coastal cargo: 33.77% of volume, but 81.76% of the growth This caption is part of the chart's picture. It has no text behind it, so the office read it from the image of the page.

The office searched the text of every page of the reports for October and September 2026 for these words: "due to", "because", "on account of", "owing to", "reclassif", "transhipment", "trans-shipment", "transshipment", "shift", "diverted", "diversion". None of them occurs in either report.

Sources: Read on 22 November 2026. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, report for October 2026, file dated 11 November 2026.