16th May 2026

India Trade Data: April 2026

I. India's Trade Snapshot – As on April 2026 :

In April 2026, India's merchandise exports declined by 7.44% to $38.92 billion from $42.05 billion in April 2025, while merchandise imports fell by 6.51% to $59.59 billion. This resulted in a slightly improved merchandise trade deficit of $20.67 billion compared to $21.69 billion in the previous year. Service exports stood at $35.20 billion (down 1.21%), and service imports were $16.96 billion (down 2.97%), leading to a services surplus of $18.24 billion, marginally better than the previous year. Overall, total exports declined 4.58% to $74.12 billion, total imports dropped 5.75% to $76.55 billion, and the overall trade deficit narrowed to $2.44 billion from $3.55 billion, showing monthly improvement.

(All figures in US$ Billion)

Category	April 2025	April 2026	% YoY
MERCHANDISE EXPORTS	42.05	38.92	-7.44%
MERCHANDISE IMPORTS	63.74	59.59	-6.51%
TRADE BALANCE (Merchandise)	-21.69	-20.67	Improved
SERVICE EXPORTS	35.63	35.20	-1.21%
SERVICE IMPORTS	17.48	16.96	-2.97%
TRADE BALANCE (Services)	+18.15	+18.24	Improved
TOTAL EXPORTS (M+S)	77.68	74.12	-4.58%
TOTAL IMPORTS (M+S)	81.22	76.55	-5.75%
TRADE BALANCE (M+S)	-3.55	-2.44	Improved

II. Core Deficit Widens 26% despite Modest Export Growth!

In April 2026, India's non-petroleum exports rose 9.02% YoY to $33.97 billion, while non-petroleum imports increased at a much faster pace of 19.34% to $53.32 billion. On a core basis (excluding petroleum and gems & jewellery), exports grew 10.40% to $31.64 billion, but core imports surged 15.40% to $45.87 billion. As a result, the core trade deficit widened sharply by 29.36% from $11 billion in April 2025 to $14.23 billion in April 2026.

Trade excluding Petroleum and Gems & Jewellery during FY 26 (USD Billion)			
Items	April 26	April 25	% YoY
Non- petroleum exports	**33.97**	**31.16**	**+9.02%**
Non- petroleum imports	53.32	44.68	**+19.34%**
Non-petroleum & *Non Gems & Jewellery exports	31.64	28.66	**+10.40%**
Non-petroleum & Non Gems & Jewellery imports	45.87	39.75	**+15.40%**
Core Trade Balance (Non-petroleum & Non Gems & Jewellery)	***-14.23***	***-11***	***-29.36% (Deficit Widened)***

** Gems & Jewellery Imports include Gold, Silver & Pearls, precious & Semi-precious stones*

This data reflects robust domestic economic momentum, as strong import growth signals healthy demand for raw materials, intermediates, and capital goods. However, the significantly faster rise in imports compared to exports indicates a widening external imbalance on the goods trade front, which could exert pressure on the current account deficit in FY26 if the trend persists. Overall, the April 2026 numbers point to solid growth alongside rising concerns over trade sustainability.

III. Sectoral Export Performance - At a Glance

Top 4 drivers alone contributed significantly to the overall 13.78% growth!

Rank	Sector / Commodity	YoY % Growth	Value Apr'26 (US$ mn)	Contribution
1	**Other Cereals**	**+210.19%**	55.39	High base effect
2	**Meat, Dairy & Poultry**	**+48.03%**	551.28	Strong
3	**Electronic Goods**	**+40.31%**	5,177.51	**Very High**
4	**Petroleum Products**	**+34.66%**	9,593.42	**Very High**
5	**Handicrafts**	**+26.21%**	154.73	Moderate
6	**Marine Products**	**+14.74%**	668.05	Solid
7	**Ores & Minerals**	**+13.85%**	520.57	Solid
8	**Engineering Goods**	**+8.76%**	10,349.72	**Very High**

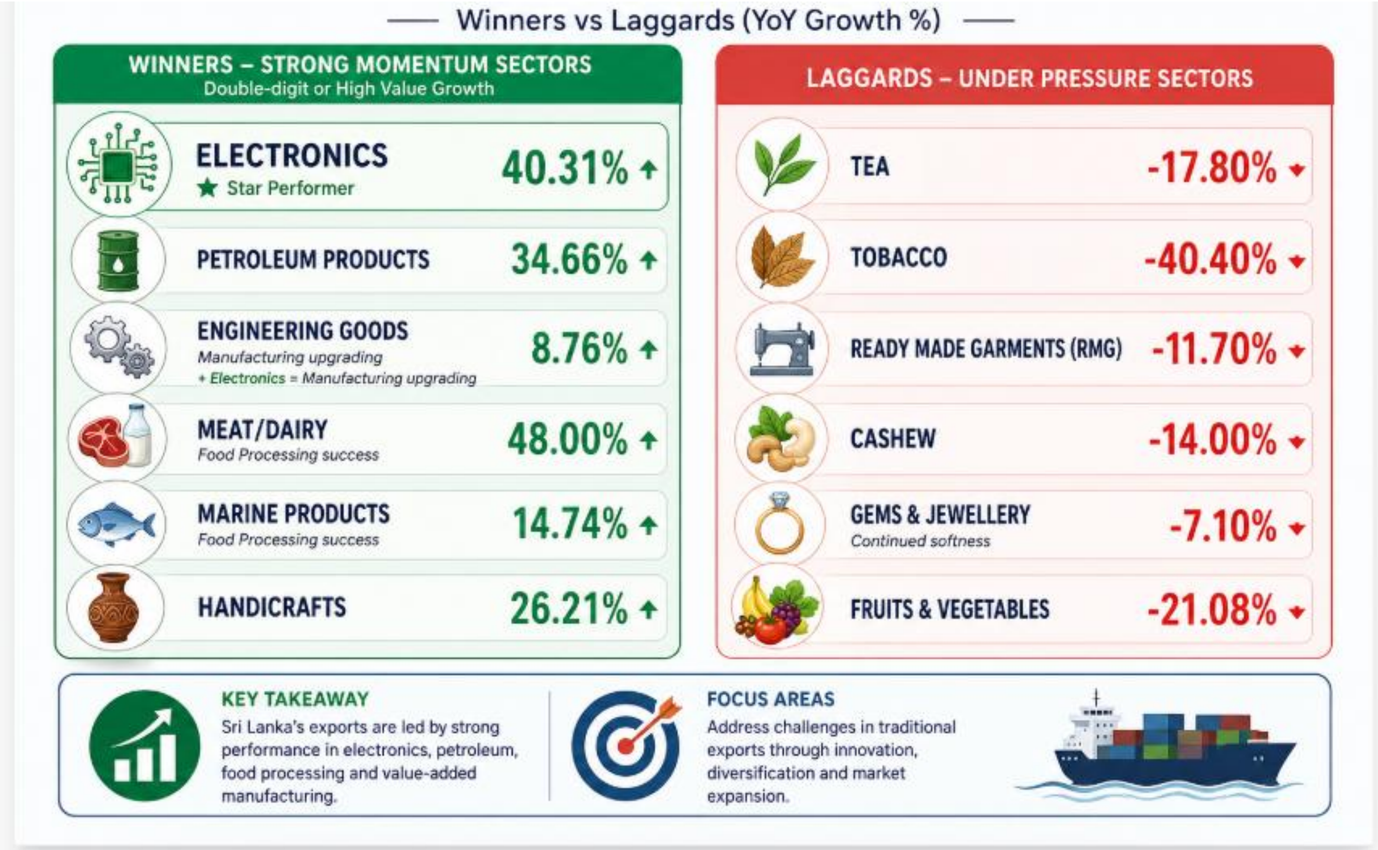
Insights

- ✓ ***Overall Merchandise Exports: US$ 43.56 bn | +13.78% YoY***
- ✓ ***18 out of 30*** *major commodities recorded* ***positive growth***
- ✓ ***High-value & diversified*** *growth driving the momentum*
- ✓ *Strong performance in* ***Emerging High-Tech & Value-Added*** *sectors offsetting weaknesses in traditional agri & textile categories*

IV. Broad Sectoral Classification & Performance :

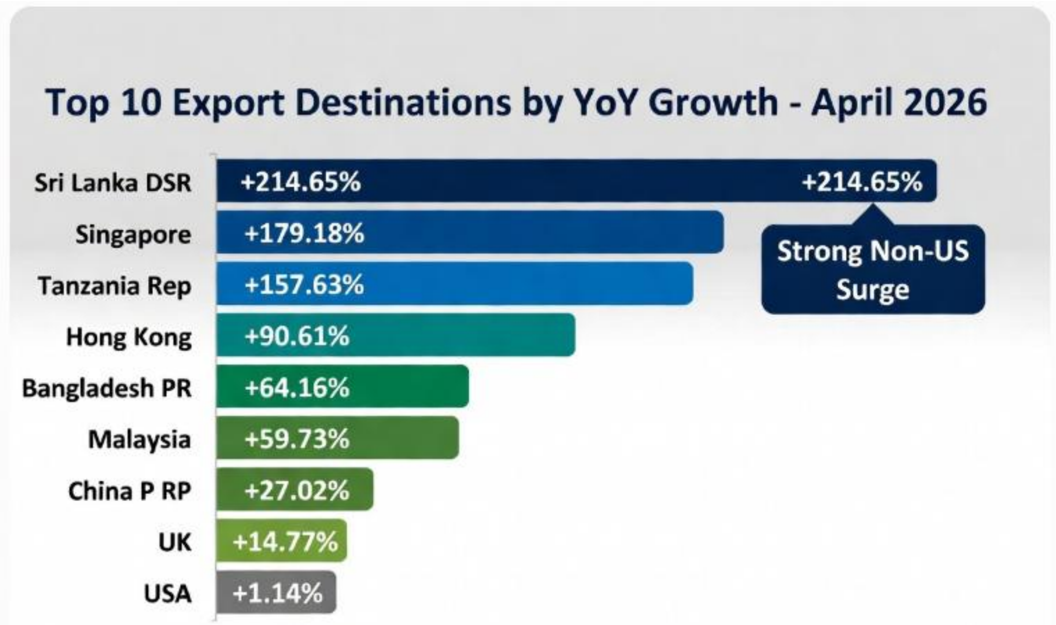
Broad Sector	Key Commodities	Avg. Growth	Trend	Remarks
Petroleum & Chemicals	Petroleum Prod., Organic/Inorg. Chem., Plastic	**+15–35%**	**Strong**	Oil refining + downstream strength
Electronics & Engineering	Electronic Goods, Engineering Goods	**+24.5%**	**Very Strong**	Structural shift visible
Agri & Allied	Meat/Dairy, Marine, Oil seeds, Other Cereals	**+20–50%**	**Strong**	Diversified & value-added agri
Pharma	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	**+7.12%**	**Steady**	Consistent performer
Gems & Jewellery	Gems & Jewellery	**-7.12%**	**Weak**	Global demand softness
Traditional Textiles	RMG, Cotton Yarn, Man-made Yarn	**-3% to +2%**	**Weak**	Structural challenges
Plantation Crops	Tea, Coffee, Spices	**Mixed**	**Soft**	Tea & Spices down
Ceramics & Glass	Ceramic products	**-41.38%**	**Sharp Decline**	Demand slump

V. Winners vs Laggards Details:



VI. Export Diversification :

India's export growth showed a striking divergence across destinations.



VII. Top Export Destination & Top Import Destination :

Top Export Destination			
Country	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	% Change
USA	8382.86	8478.70	+1.14%
Singapore	1144.96	3196.45	**+179.18%**
UAE	3434.88	2185.07	-36.39%
China	1394.50	1771.32	+27.02%
Bangladesh	847.44	1391.12	+64.16%
Sri Lanka	326.24	1026.50	**+214.65%**

Quick Fact

5 Growth Destinations: Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Hong Kong

Top Import Sources (April 2026)			
Country	Apr 2025	Apr 2026	% Change
China	9905.94	11971.78	**+20.85%**
Russia	6229.03	7363.32	+18.21%
USA	5532.55	5274.00	-4.67%
UAE	6231.62	4073.40	-34.63%
Saudi Arabia	2951.97	3846.18	+30.29%

Highest Growth: Oman (+246%), Peru (+315.56%)

VIII. Implications:

- ✓ The April 2026 trade data is broadly positive. It signals that India's external sector is on a structurally improving path — growing faster, becoming more diversified, and moving up the value chain.
- ✓ This is supportive for monetary policy, forex reserves, and corporate profitability in export-oriented industries
- ✓ It also reinforces macro stability and creates attractive lending opportunities for the Bank.

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Economic Research Vertical

Madhavankutty G (Chief Economist)
Samir Kumar (Senior Manager)
Shalini Paul (Manager)

For Suggestions and views please contact, Economic Research Vertical

080-2222 3169 (Chief Economist)
080-2227 3275 (Section)
chiefeconomist@canarabank.com
hoersection@canarabank.com