

Containerised cargo imports drop 2.2%

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Mumbai: India's imports through containerised cargo witnessed a 2.2% fall in the first quarter (January-March) of 2019 as against a 6% increase in exports during the same period. This de-growth is primarily attributed to a decline in certain products like waste paper, paper-board and plastic imports.

"The waste paper, paper-board and plastic imports saw a decline, as the Indian government early this year levied additional duties. Concurrently, China restarted importing low-quality papers like craft paper and boards in the first quarter, resulting in a lower supply to India," said Steve Felder, MD, Maersk South Asia.

A P Moller - Maersk is among the global leader in shipping services and operates in 130 countries.

Maersk in its Q1 2019 report on export-import (Exim) trade through shipping lines also added that India has also announced a ban on the import of solid plastic waste,



including in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Oriented Units (EOUs) with a view to close the gap between waste generation and recycling capacity of the country and safeguarding the impact on the environment and domestic paper industry.

The import demand was buoyed by pharmaceuticals, metal, appliances and kitchenware, paper, chemicals and fruit and nuts, mainly from Northern Europe, South Asia, China and Russia.

On the export front, the stable growth during the quarter was propelled by robust performances in refrigerated cargo, engineering and pharmaceuticals sectors.