

Exports jump 17% to \$24.5 bn

New Delhi, March 15

RECORDING positive growth for six months in a row, India's exports soared 17.48% to \$24.5 billion in February led by petroleum, engineering and chemicals.

The trade deficit widened as well to \$8.89 billion as imports expanded.

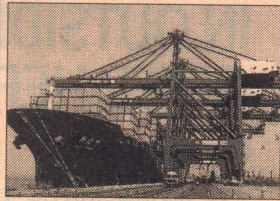
"In continuation with the revival exhibited by exports since September 2016, exports during February for the first time exhibited a double digit positive growth," the commerce ministry said in a statement.

Imports were up 21.76% to \$33.38 billion, leaving a trade deficit of \$8.89 billion as against \$6.57 billion in February last year.

During the April-February period of the current fiscal, exports have grown by 2.52% to \$245.4 billion.

Imports however dipped 3.67% to \$340.7 billion.

Trade deficit during the 11-month period stood at \$95.28 billion as against \$114.3 billion



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in the same period of last fiscal.

Oil imports grew by 60% to \$7.68 billion in February. Non-oil imports too increased by 13.65% to \$25.7 billion.

Gold imports too jumped manifold to \$3.48 billion in February as against \$1.4 billion in the same month last fiscal.

PTI