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CHEMICAL & ACIDS UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2024



TABLE OF CONTENTS

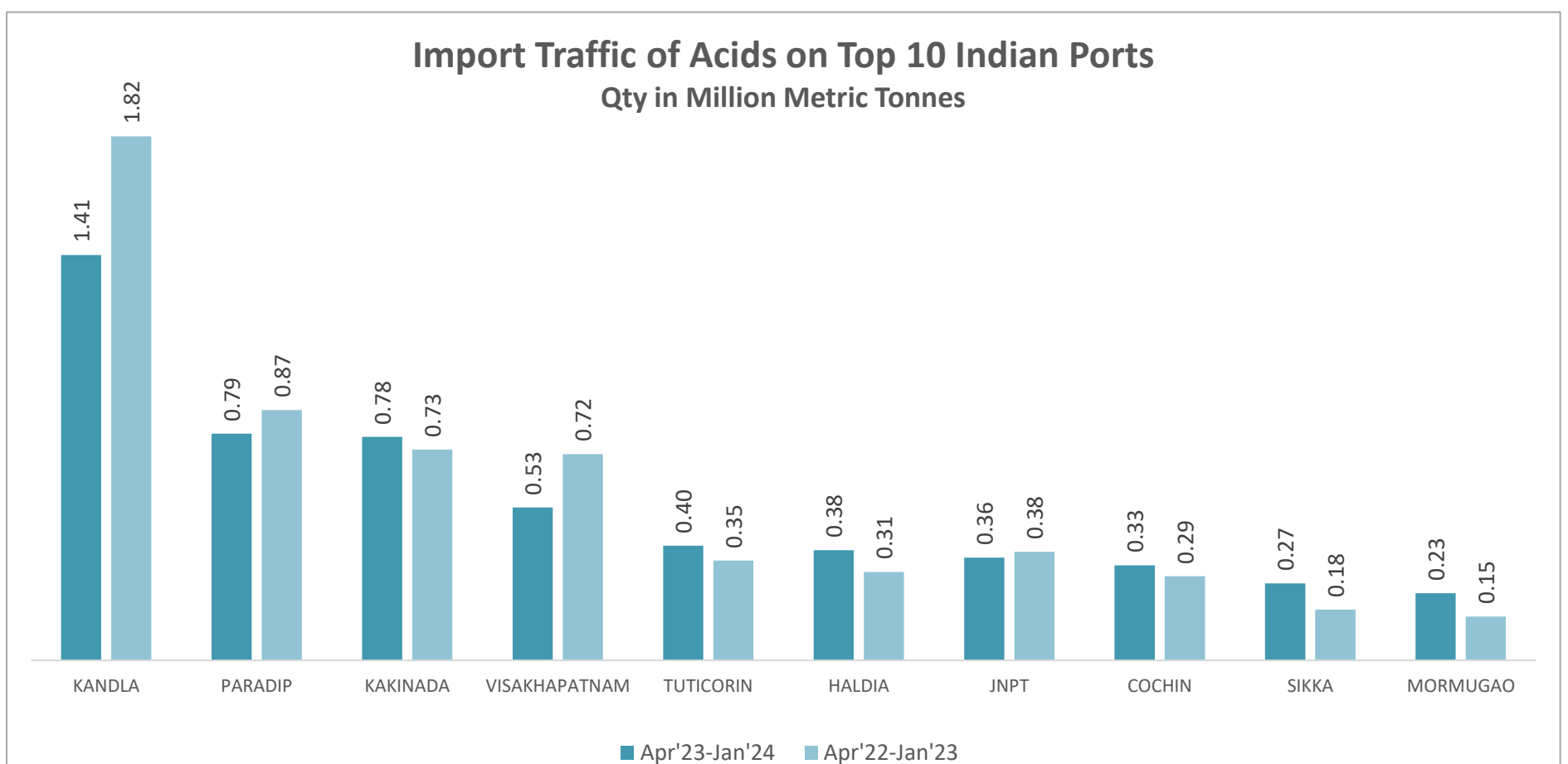
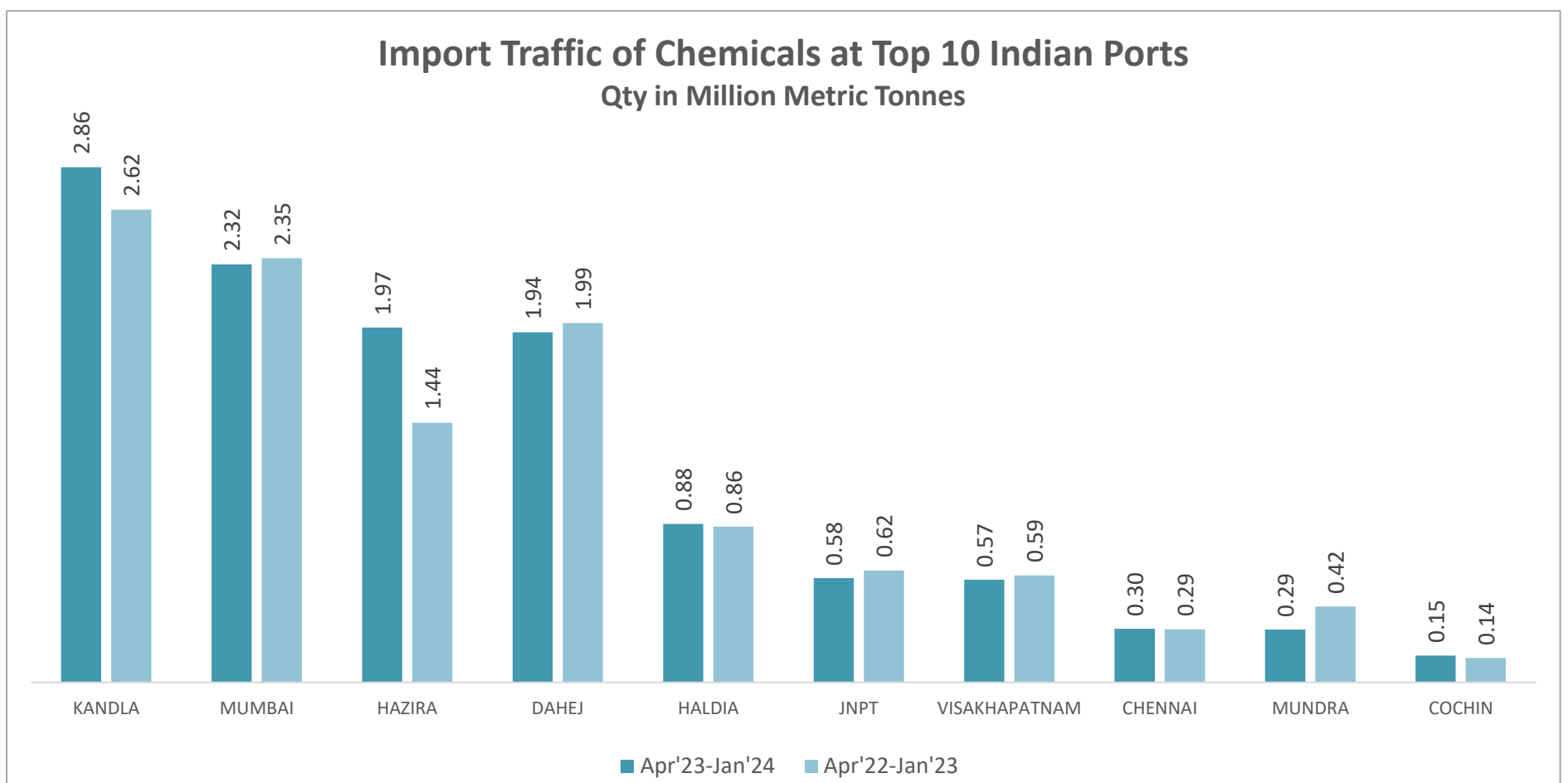
PORT ANALYSIS	3
MARKET OVERVIEW AND TRENDS	6
KEY HIGHLIGHTS	7- 10

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PORT ANALYSIS

- The port traffic for Chemicals & Acids was 25.62 MMT in Apr'23-Jan'24 and 2.48 MMT in Jan'24.
- The Import of Chemical for Jan'24 was 1.32 MMT and 12.56 MMT in Apr'23-Jan'24.
- Import of Acids for Jan'24 was 0.49 MMT and 6.09 MMT in Apr'23-Jan'24.

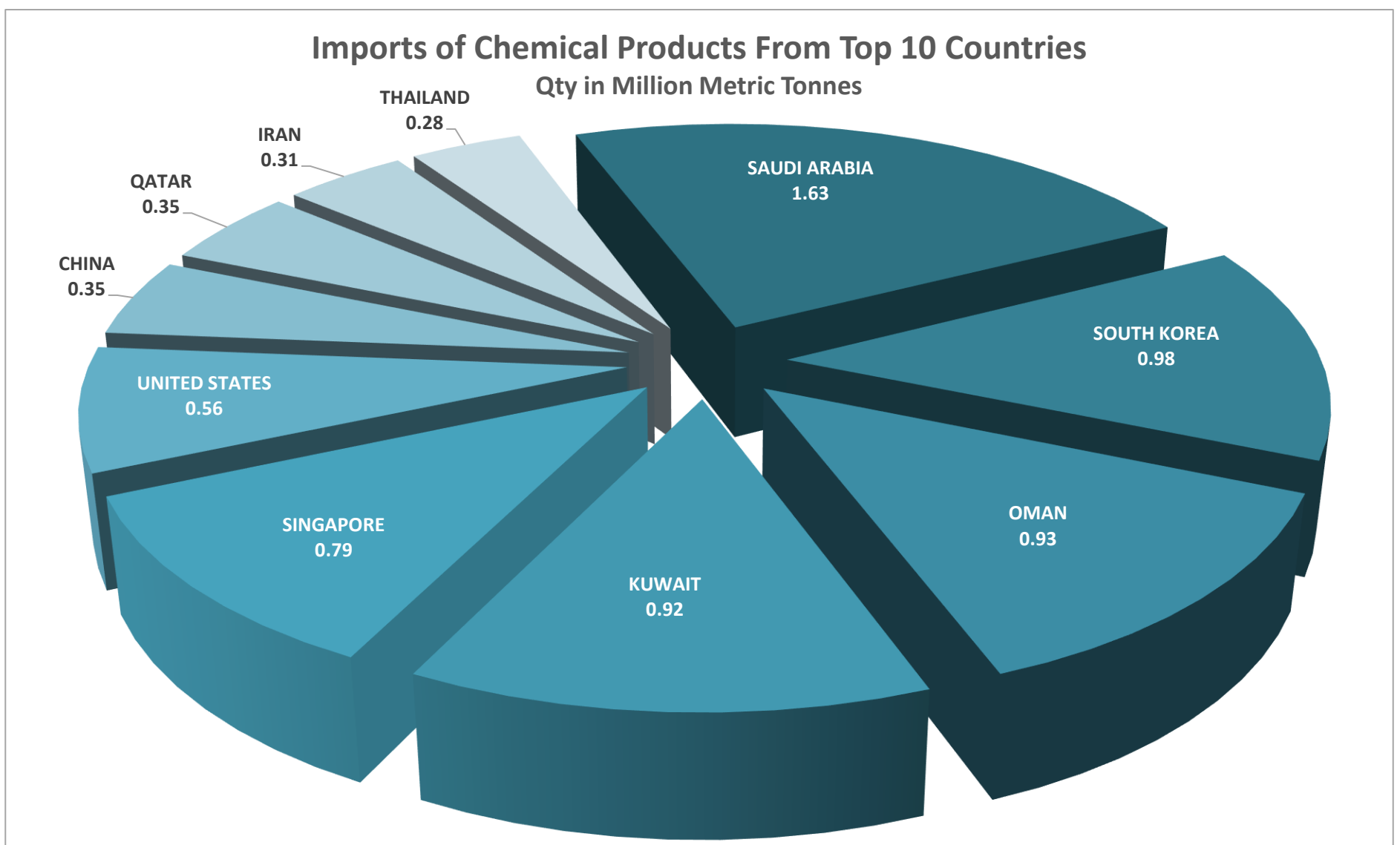




PORT ANALYSIS

- India Imported highest qty of Chemicals from Saudi Arabia at 1.63 MMT in the period of Apr'23-Jan'24.

Top Ten Indian Importers	Import Quantity in MMT
RELIANCE INDUS. LTD.	2.44
MCPI PVT. LTD.	0.65
EARNEST ENERGY PVT. LTD.	0.43
C. J. SHAH AND CO.	0.33
KLJ RESOURCES LTD.	0.31
JUPITER DYCHEM PVT. LTD.	0.28
INDIAN OIL CORPN. LTD.	0.22
B. K. SALES CORPN.	0.18
CHER LIFE HELTHCARE PVT. LTD.	0.18
SUPREME PETROCHEM LTD.	0.16

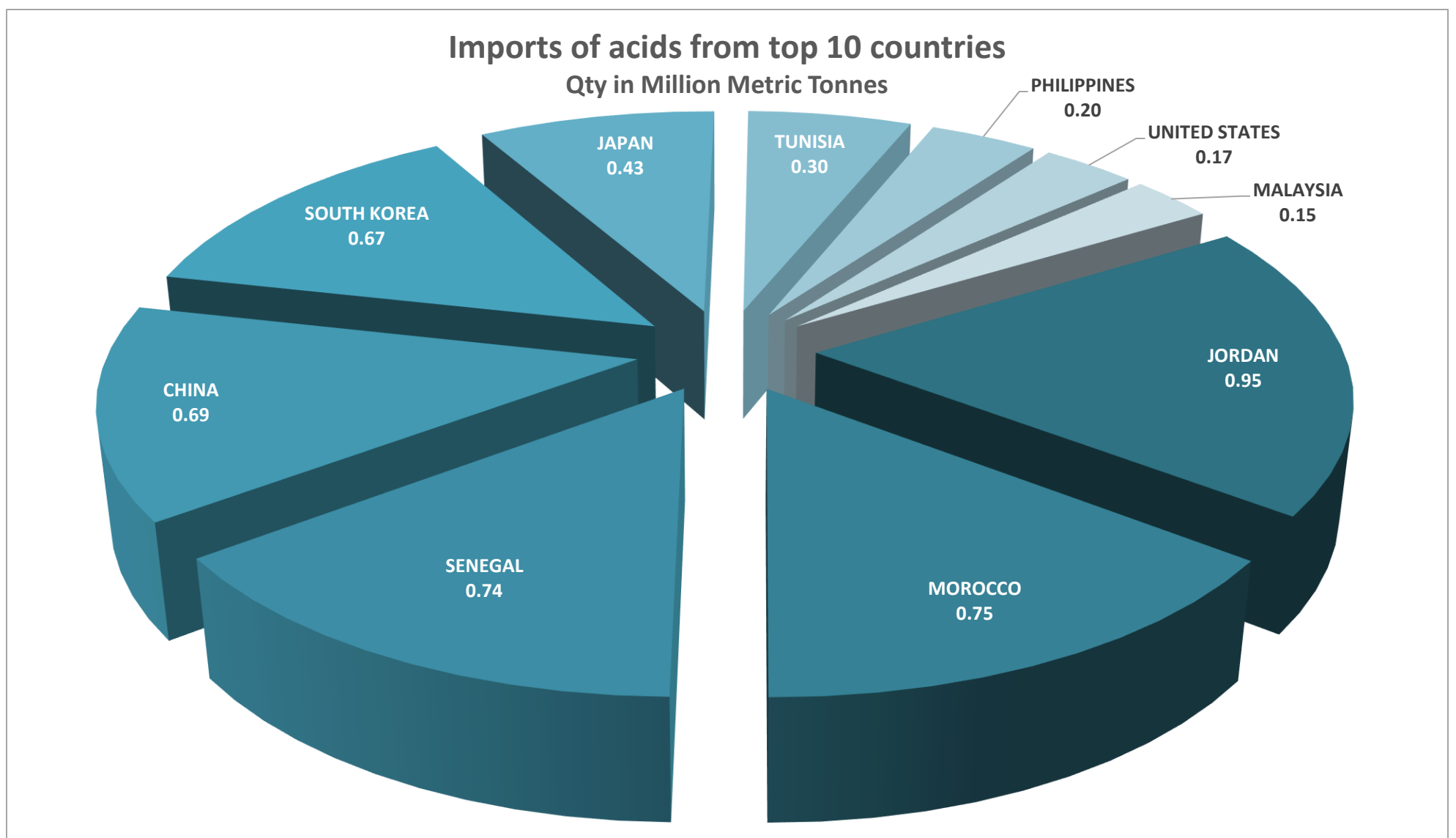




PORT ANALYSIS

- India Imported highest qty of Acids from Jordan at 0.79 MMT in the period of Apr'23-Jan'24.

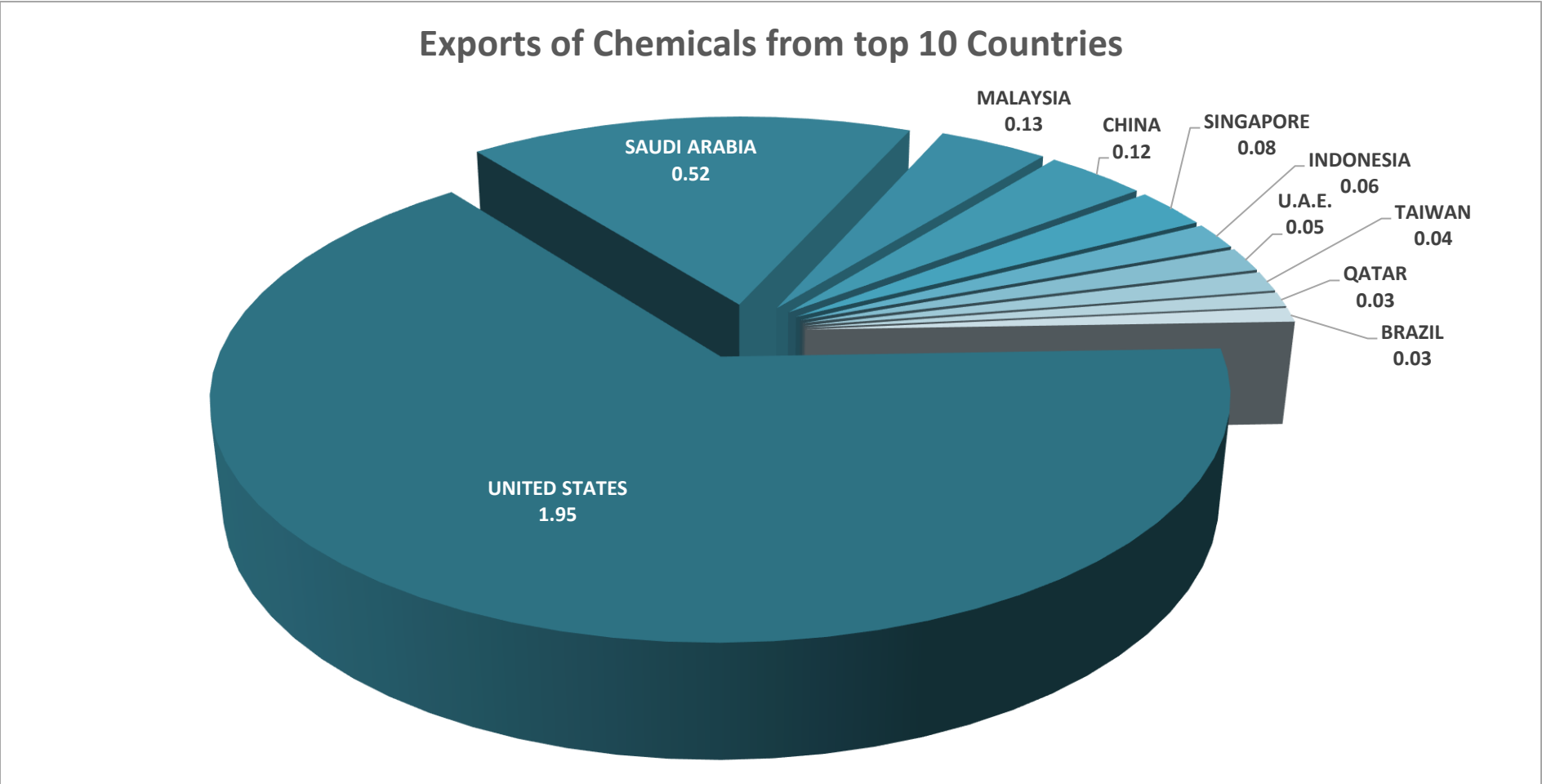
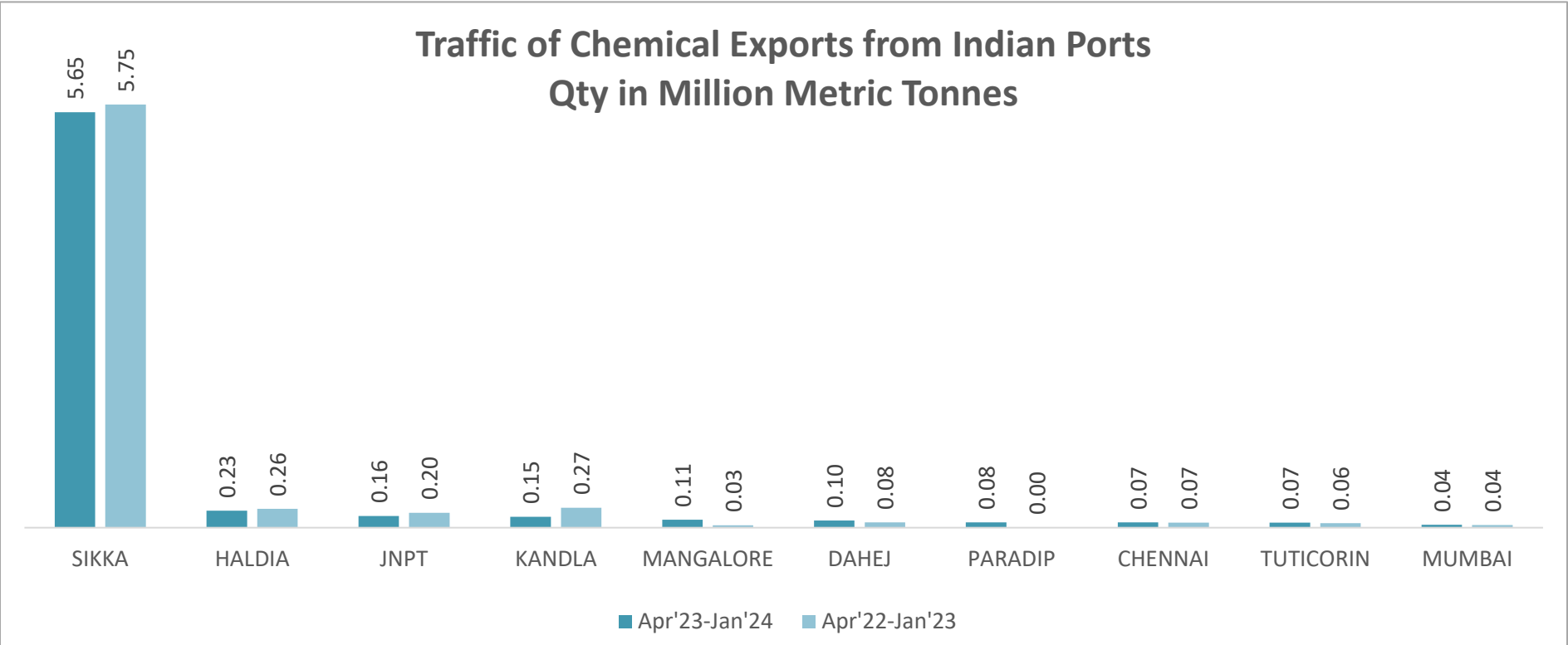
Top Ten Indian Importers	Import Quantity in MMT
INDIAN FARMERS FERTILIZERS CO OP LTD.	1.75
COROMANDEL INTL. LTD.	1.31
PARADIP PHOSPHATES LTD.	0.52
GREENSTAR FERTILIZERS PVT. LTD.	0.40
FERTILIZERS & CHEMICALS TRAVACORE LTD.	0.33
INDORAMA INDIA PVT. LTD.	0.32
GUJARAT STATE FERTILIZERS CO. LTD.	0.27
MANGALORE CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS LTD.	0.18
SMARTCHEM TECHNOLOGIES LTD.	0.15
C. J. SHAH AND CO.	0.09





PORT ANALYSIS

- India exported 6.70 MMT of Chemicals in the period of Apr'23-Jan'24. Exports saw a decrease by 2.69% as compared to the same period of the previous year.
- Sikka port saw the highest export traffic at 5.65 MMT in Apr'23-Jan'24.
- India exported the highest qty of chemicals to U.S.A at 1.95 MMT in Apr'23-Jan'24.





MARKET OVERVIEW AND TRENDS

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **SEA calls for import restrictions on finished products to protect oleochemicals industry**
- **Tamilnadu Petro to license INEOS technology for caustic soda expansion project**
- **NTPC Green Energy to set up green hydrogen-ammonia projects in Maharashtra**
- **Deepak Nitrite arm inks pact with Gujarat government to invest Rs. 9,000-crore**
- **RSPL's soda ash unit served closure notice by GPCB**



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

SEA calls for import restrictions on finished products to protect oleochemicals industry

- The Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) of India has urged the government to protect the domestic oleochemicals industry by curbing

import of finished products, including stearic acid and refined glycerine, or by imposing import duties. In a representation made to Union Food and Commerce Minister Mr. Piyush Goyal, SEA noted that the domestic oleochemicals industry is facing “severe existential threat” due to “large scale import” of finished products like stearic acid and refined glycerine at 5% duty and soap noodles, oleic acid at nil duty from countries in South-East Asia - Mainly Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. SEA has requested the government to take immediate steps to safeguard the interests of the domestic industry. “Imports of finished products should be placed under restricted items list or the government should impose import duty on these products with additional duty of 25 percent on imported raw material like refined palm stearin,” it said. The industry body has urged the government to allow duty free imports of all required raw materials to oleochemical players having splitting, distillation and hydrogenation plants.

Source: Chemical weekly

Tamilnadu Petro to license INEOS technology for caustic soda expansion project

INEOS Electrochemical Solutions (IES), a global leader in electrolyser manufacturing for chlor-alkali applications has announced a new contract with Tamilnadu Petroproducts (TPL), a leading Indian manufacturer of industrial intermediate chemicals at their Chennai facility. As per the contract, IES will provide cell room process design services and Bichlor electrolysers to TPL for its expansion of caustic soda capacity to 250 tonnes per day, “This contract underscores our dedication to pioneering electrolyser technologies that redefine industry standards for high volume production with low energy consumption and the highest safety standards,” commented Mr. Terry Healy, Business Manager at INEOS Electrochemical Solutions, in a press release.

“Tamilnadu Petroproducts looks forward to partnering with INEOS in this strategic initiative. The technology contract reflects our commitment to innovation and shaping the future of caustic soda production. The new cell room aligns with our ESG-oriented strategy, emphasising the implementation of the latest and most efficient technology to support business growth and ensure customer satisfaction,” said Mr. Ashwin Muthiah, Vice-Chairman, TPL.

Source: Chemical Weekly



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

RSPL's soda ash unit served closure notice by GPCB

Amid complaints by farmers that the soda ash manufacturing plant of RSPL Ltd in the Devbhumi Dwarka district has been causing pollution, the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) has issued a closure notice to the firm known for its brand of Ghadi detergent. GPCB's Jamnagar unit issued the closure notice to RSPL Ltd's (formerly known as Rohit Surfactants Pvt Ltd's) soda ash manufacturing plant on January 12. The company has been warned of a shutdown if it fails to take corrective measures within 30 days suggested in the GPCB's Notice of Direction (NOD), which was issued on November 23, 2022. The closure notice to Gujarat's largest single-location soda ash manufacturing plant came following a nudge by the Gujarat High Court to the GPCB after the sarpanch of coastal Kuranga village, who is also a farmer, moved the court.

The farmers led by Mr. Balubha Ker, the village sarpanch, had submitted complaints to the GPCB. In March 2023, Mr. Ker moved the High Court with a special civil application (SCA), alleging that the state pollution watchdog was not acting against the unit despite complaints. The unit has the monthly capacity to produce 40,300 metric tonnes of soda ash, which is used widely in manufacturing glass, detergents, and cosmetics. In its closure notice, the GPCB cited inspection reports prepared after visits to the unit by officers authorised by the GPCB on October 5, and December 9, 2023. The closure notice stated that during the inspection visits, it was found that RSPL had not complied with its NOD of 2022 even as the company contended that the farmers were not cooperating. The notice said that not only land and water pollution, but air pollution was also noted. RSPL has been asked to comply within 30 days with the directions in the November 2022 NOD, submit a time-bound action plan for its implementation, and submit a bank guarantee equivalent to 10 percent of the estimated cost of activities mentioned in the action plan. If the company fails to comply with the order, its power connection will be cut and it will not be allowed to run and operate even on power generated by its 50-megawatt captive power plant or diesel-fired power generator sets.

Source: Chemical weekly



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

NTPC Green Energy to set up green hydrogen-ammonia projects in Maharashtra

State-run NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Maharashtra for the development of green hydrogen, and its derivatives such as green ammonia and green methanol, of up to 1 million tonne capacity per annum. “The MoU has been signed as part of the government of Maharashtra’s green investment plan for the next five years. The agreement envisages a potential investment of approximately Rs. 80,000-crore,” said an official statement from the Union Ministry of Power. As per the statement, the agreement also includes the creation of pumped storage projects of 2 gigawatts (GW) and the development of renewable energy projects with or without storage up to 5-GW in the state. The agreement was signed between NGEL’s CEO Mr. Mohit Bhargava and Deputy Energy Secretary of the government of Maharashtra, Mr. Narayan Karad in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and other eminent officials. NGEL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC and aims to be the flag bearer of NTPC’s renewable energy journey with an operational capacity of over 3.4-GW and 26-GW in pipeline, including 7-GW under implementation.

Source: Chemical weekly

Deepak Nitrite arm inks pact with Gujarat government to invest Rs. 9,000-crore

Deepak Chem Tech, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Deepak Nitrite, said it has inked an agreement with the Gujarat government to invest around Rs. 9,000-crore to establish projects in the State. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the company will invest the amount to set up units to manufacture chemicals at Dahej. These units are expected to commence operations in 2027, Deepak Chem Tech (formerly Deepak Clean Tech) said in a regulatory filing. The investment is likely to create about 1,300 direct and indirect employment opportunities, it added. Earlier, the company had expressed its intention to invest around Rs. 9,000-crore during Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 held on January 10-12. The proposed investment will help the country reduce chemical imports, the company said.

Source: Chemical weekly



OTHER REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

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- » J. M. BAXI & CO. Monthly Automotive Logistics Update
- » J. M. BAXI & CO. Monthly Cement Update
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