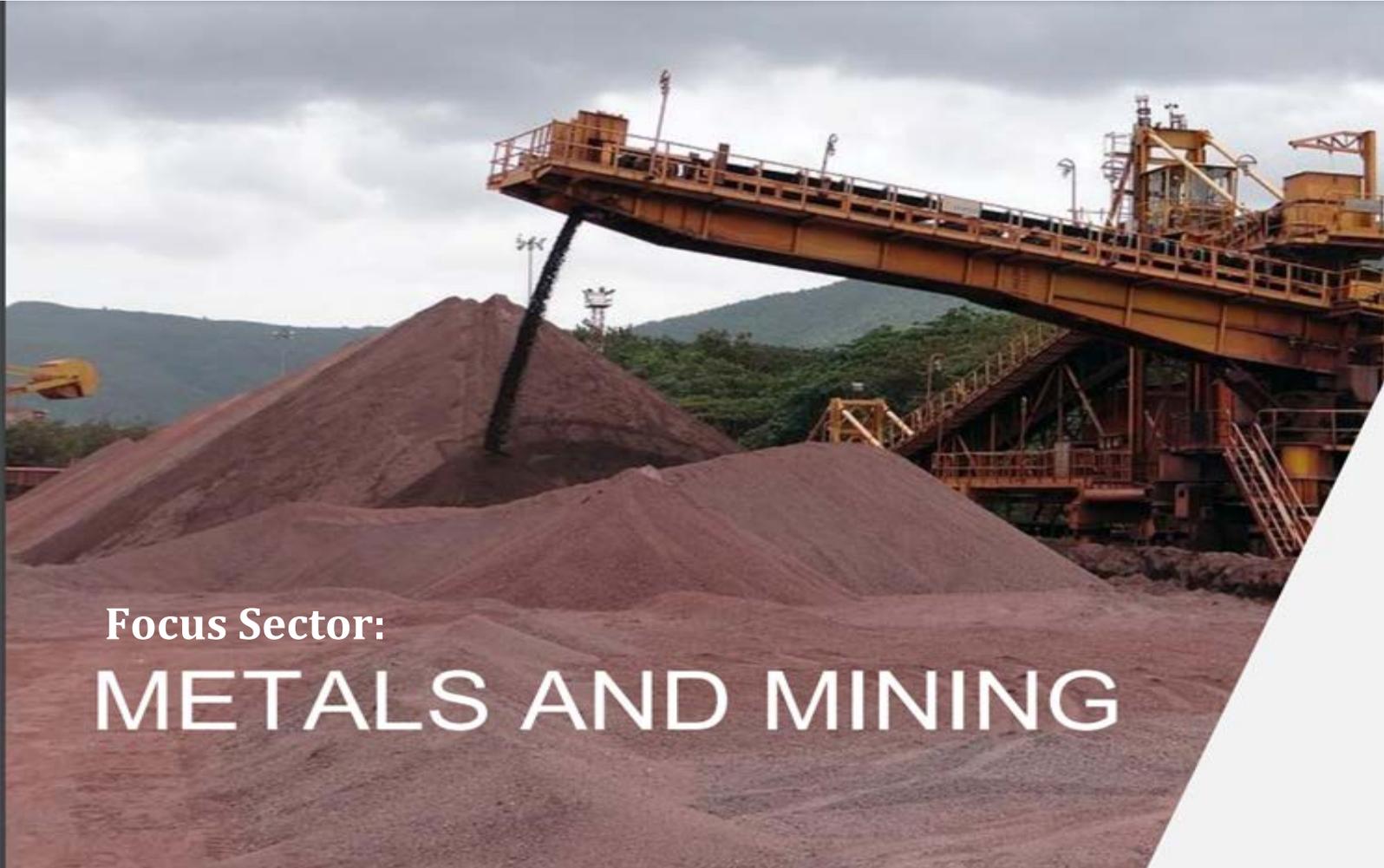




Indian Embassy Vienna

INDIA NEWSLETTER

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Year 11, Issue 99, January 2021



Focus Sector: METALS AND MINING

Find Inside:



MPEDA



Government of Sikkim
State Economic Profile

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Chhattisgarh
full of surprises
Chhattisgarh Tourism Board
Tourism



Virtual Exhibitions

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Consolidated FDI Policy 2020



सत्यमेव जयते

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Government of India



Consolidated FDI Policy 2020

**Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal
Trade Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Government of India
Consolidated FDI Policy
(Effective from October 15, 2020)
More information on: [FDI Policy 2020](#)**

News Flash

1 Tesla will come to India by early 2021, confirmed Mr. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and the Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. He added, "India is expected to become a number one manufacturing hub for auto in the next five years".

2 Union Minister of Education, Mr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', has laid foundation stone of 'TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad', India's first Test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial). The hub's focus sectors include Intelligent, Autonomous Transportation and Systems, Agriculture, Surveillance, and Environmental & Infrastructure Monitoring.

3 Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has opened "Planet L&T", a digitally enabled Corporate Experience Centre that provides an immersive experience through 12 high-tech zones.

4 Paytm Payments Gateway aims to facilitate US\$ 811.55 million worth of transactions in business

volume next year. PPG has already partnered with Vodafone Idea Limited to be the telecom major's exclusive partner for retailer payments, a statement said

5 The Government has received over 120 foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals worth about US\$ 1.62 billion from China since April 2020.

6 Electric vehicle (EV) market in India is expected to reach over 6.3 million unit mark per annum by 2027, according to India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) report. The study elaborated on the electric bus industry, noting that vertical demand is expected to be driven by subsidy support from the central government due to high upfront costs.

7 Google has invested in two Indian startups - Glance and VerSe Innovation - as part of its US\$ 10 billion Google for India Digitisation Fund to help enable them scale up availability of content in different formats across various Indic languages.

8 The total shipment of

gem, jewellery shipments is projected to reach US\$ 21.69 billion in FY21, due to improvement in export market conditions.

9 Passenger vehicle retail sales in India increased by 4% in November 2020 driven by increased festive demand, According To The Federation Of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA). Due to good production coupled with Dhanteras-Diwali and the marriage season, the two-wheeler segment continued to see a shift from 100cc to 125cc and above category.

10 Equity mutual funds registered US\$ 1.75 billion, outflow in November 2020, with industry's assets under management (AUM) reaching Rs. 30 lakh crore (US\$ 409.9 billion) mark.

11 India is a preferred Global Capability Centres (GCCs) hub and 80% of top 100 global Retail/CPG companies plan to set up GCCs in India by 2022, according to NASSCOM-ANSR Report. The report predicts that over 25 new GCCs in the retail/CPG industry are planning to set up GCCs in 2021, tapping on the established talent ecosystem and global operating models.

Economic Diplomacy

Hallo

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Ola

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Привет

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The Government of India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) launched a website on Economic diplomacy. The website showcases India's economic, sectoral, and State-wise strengths that make for an attractive economic partnership. It aims to provide critical and relevant information on major economic indicators, central and state government policy updates as well as the latest business news and trade data.

For more information kindly visit: <http://indbiz.gov.in/>

The Marine Products Export Development Authority

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Government of India, the nodal agency for the promotion of Seafood Exports from India have launched an awareness video about the measures taken by Indian Seafood Industry to ensure quality and safety of its products post Covid-19 pandemic.



News Articles

Exports show signs of revival, up 16.22% during Jan 1-7: Official; The Economic Times

New Delhi: The country's exports grew 16.22 percent year-on-year to USD 6.21 billion in the first week of January, mainly driven by healthy growth in pharmaceuticals, and engineering sectors, reflecting signs of revival, an official said on Sunday. The exports during the first week of January last year were at USD 5.34 billion.

Imports during January 1-7 this year too increased by 1.07 percent to USD 8.7 billion as against USD 8.6 billion in the same period of 2020, the official said.

Imports, excluding petroleum, increased by 6.56 percent during the week, the official added.

Exports of pharmaceuticals, petroleum and engineering grew 14.4 percent (USD 61.62 million), 17.28 percent (USD 114.72 million), and 51.82 percent (USD 636.77 million), respectively.

The rate of contraction in the outbound shipments was 8.74 percent in November 2020. The country's exports had shrunk marginally by 0.8 percent in December 2020.

The improvement was mainly due to the increase in shipments of certain sectors such as gems and jewellery, engineering and chemicals.

After a gap of nine months, imports in December 2020 had recorded a positive growth of 7.6 percent at USD 42.6 billion.

India's Gems, Jewellery Exports Picking Up In Major Markets: GJEPC; BW Online Bureau

Gems and jewellery exports reached the pre-COVID levels in November and December as the demand picked up in all major markets, including the US where the spending on Thanksgiving Day rose by nearly 22 per cent, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said on Friday.

"The New Year has brought in good news on many fronts. On the business front, demand for gems and jewellery picking up in all major export markets. Jewellery was the highest selling luxury product in

China in 2020 and on the Thanksgiving Day spending in the US rose by nearly 22 per cent year-over-year to USD 5.1 billion, hitting a new record," GJEPC Chairman Colin Shah said at the inaugural of the second edition of India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) Virtual.

Shah said India's exports of gem and jewellery were back to the pre-COVID levels in November and December.

"I am sure that in a couple of months down the line, we will see more stable economic activities across the world which will further boost the gem and jewellery sector's growth," he added.

The first edition of IIJS Virtual, organised in October 2020, saw over 10,000 visitors and a business turnover of around USD 136.41 million, Shah said adding that "this surely has set a benchmark for us and our expectations from the second edition are high and we expect it to surpass the business generated in the first edition." The IIJS Virtual 2.0 have 250 exhibitors and over 8,000 registered buyers including international buyers from the US, the UK, UAE, Singapore, Bangladesh, Nepal, Hong Kong, Belgium, Sri Lanka, Thailand among others with more than 15,000 meetings to be held over the five days of the show.

Ease of doing business with Railway gets a solid boost: PTI

Indian Railways is the backbone of the country's logistics sector. During 2020, when most of the activities were under lockdown, Indian Railways was providing relentless services in Freight transportation in the country. Indian Railways achieved highest ever loading continuously in Sept, Oct, Nov, and Dec 2020.

Indian Railways has embraced a "Freight on Priority" policy by pushing for an aggressive customer-centric approach to expand the freight carried not only from the traditional segments but also by attracting new customers to its fold.

In its commitment to take level of customer services to new heights, Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister for Railways, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution has launched today (i.e. 05.01.2021) a Freight Business Development Portal as one stop solution for all the needs of freight customers.

The Minister said that Indian Railway is an invisible thread which connects the length and breadth of India. During the lock down, Railway showed it is resolve in delivering the essential supplies to the nation in most challenging times and keep national supply chains running. The new portal will be game changer in ensuring in ease of doing business with Railways. The portal will ensure that best services are available to the clients. The Minister said that last 6 years have seen an extra ordinary development in all spheres of Railway operations under the leadership of PM. Indian Railway is getting future ready. The commitment of Railways to further improve the services is unflinching. Greatness of Railways would not just be in being better than someone else but being the BEST.

Hyundai Motor India starts export of all-new i20 premium hatchback: IBEF

Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) stated it has begun exporting its all-new premium i20 hatchback as it continues to reinforce its 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' engagement. The first batch of 180 new i20 cars will be delivered to South Africa, Chile, and Peru, respectively.

The company launched the fourth generation of the i20 model in India in November 2019, priced between US\$ 9290 and US\$ 15290.

First introduced in 2007, the i20 was famous in global markets, with a total of 5.16 lakh units exported by HMIL until November 2020.

HMIL Managing Director and CEO, Mr. S S Kim said, "With the start of exports of the all-new i20 on the global markets, we are pleased to mark our strong commitment to 'Make in India'. Since its first release, with 5.16 lakh exports, the i20 is already a brand to be expected even in the international markets."

India's largest exporter of automobiles, HMIL, stated that it crossed the 3 million export threshold for vehicles earlier in 2020. Currently, the company sells cars across five continents to 88 nations.

A total of 98,900 units were exported by the company in 2020, compared to 1,81,200 units in 2019.

FDI equity inflow up 21% to USD 35.3 bn in April-Oct : DPIIT; Financial Express

Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows into India grew 21 per cent to USD 35.33 billion during April-October period of the current financial year, according to an official data. In the year-ago period, FDI equity inflows stood at USD 29.31 billion, as per the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). During the first seven months of the current fiscal, total FDI (including re-invested earnings) increased 11 per cent to USD 46.82 billion from USD 42.06 billion in April-October 2019, it said. Sectors which attracted maximum foreign inflows included computer software and hardware, services, trading, chemicals and automobile. The country attracts maximum funds from Singapore, the US, Mauritius, the Netherlands, the UK, France and Japan.

In the last one year, the Government has eased FDI policy in several sectors including insurance intermediaries and defence. "26 FDI applications marked to DPIIT have been disposed of in 2020," it added. The department also said total 84 plots admeasuring nearly 554.73 acres have been allotted to companies with investment to the tune of over Rs 16,100 crore including investors like HYOSUNG (South Korea), NLMK (Russia), HAIER (China), TATA Chemicals and AMUL so far. Nine companies have also started their commercial production, DPIIT said. It added that Project Development Cells (PDCs) have now been established in 29 ministries/departments of the government, headed by respective Joint Secretary-level nodal officers. "All PDCs have assumed a smooth functioning, executing clearly defined investor engagement strategies, which includes identification of prospective investors; multi-level engagements with investors that have shown interest; active engagement with a wide range of stakeholders to resolve existing investors' issues, to develop new projects/proposals and to promote existing investment opportunities," it added.

About startups, it said with the launch of the Startup India campaign, recognized startups have now spread across 586 districts with total 29 states and UTs having startup policies in place, creating more than 4.2 lakh jobs.

Focus Sector

Metals and Mining

India holds a fair advantage in production and conversion costs in steel and alumina. Its strategic location enables export opportunities to develop as well as fast-developing Asian markets.

India produces 95 minerals – 4 fuel-related minerals, 10 metallic minerals, 23 non-metallic minerals, 3 atomic minerals and 55 minor minerals (including building and other minerals).

Rise in infrastructure development and automotive production are driving growth. Power and cement industries are also aiding growth for the sector. Demand for iron and steel is set to continue given the strong growth expectations for the residential and commercial building industry.

Production of aluminium stood at 3.65 MT in FY20. Aluminium

export from the country reached 1.50 MT in FY19 and 0.52 MT in FY20. In value terms, aluminium export from the country stood at US\$ 20.18 million in FY20.

Coal production in the country stood at 729.10 million tonnes (MT) in FY20 and reached 304.88 MT in FY21 (as of October 2020).

The index of mineral production was 132.7 in March 2020. Mining group under Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 109.7 for FY20, witnessing a growth of 1.7% y-o-y. Mineral production in India reached Rs. 68,577.09 crore (US\$ 9.73 billion) in FY20E (till February 2020).

Government of India has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the mining

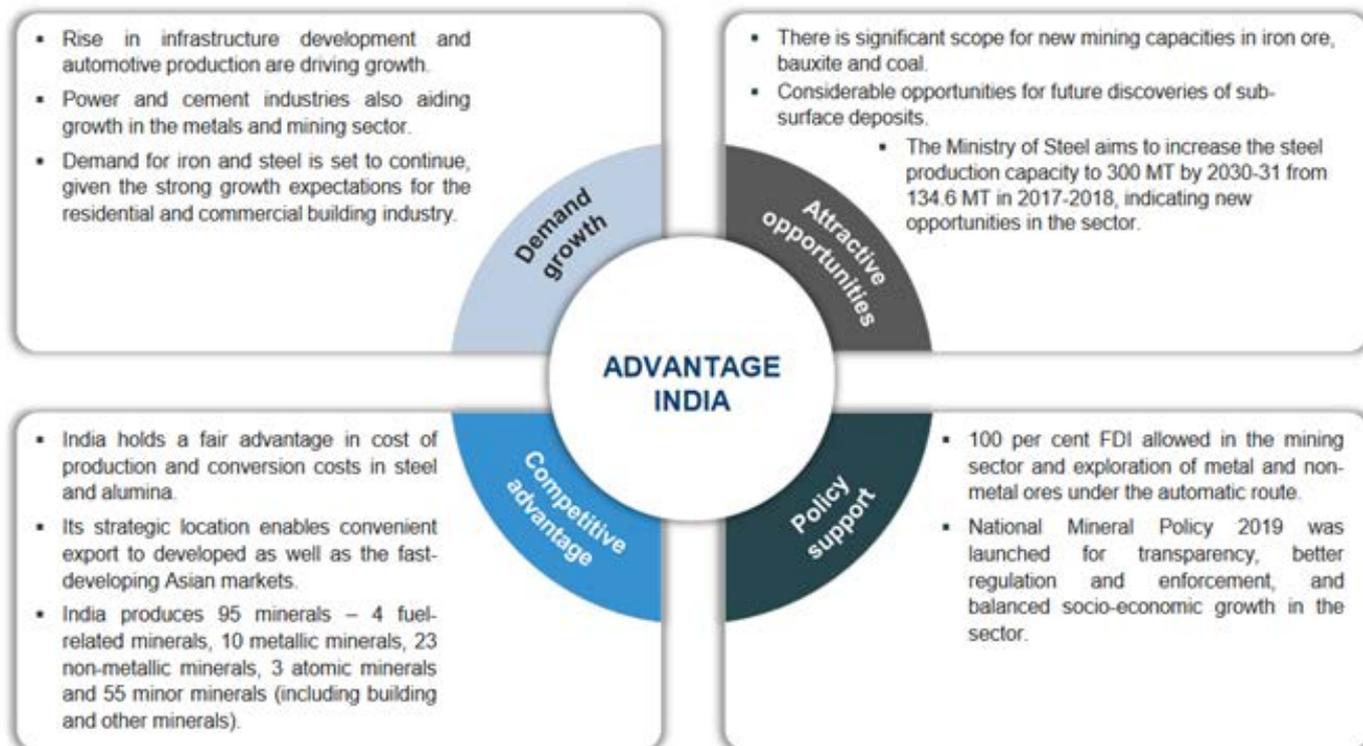
sector and exploration of metal and non-metal ores under the automatic route, which will propel growth in the sector. Power and cement industries also aiding growth in the metals and mining sector. Given the strong growth expectations from residential and commercial building industry, demand for iron and steel is set to grow.

From April 2000 to June 2020, FDI inflows in metallurgical industries stood at US\$ 14,227.21 million. In the same period, FDI inflows in mining, diamond and gold ornaments and coal production sectors stood at US\$ 2,786.32 million, US\$ 1,179.40 million and US\$ 27.73 million, respectively.

Market Size

- India is the third largest producer of coal. Coal production

ADVANTAGE INDIA



in the country stood at 729.10 million tonnes (MT) in FY20 and reached 304.88 MT in FY21 (as of October 2020).

- India ranks fourth in terms of iron ore production worldwide, and the production of iron ore in FY20 stood at 206.45 MT. India has ~8% of the world's iron ore deposits.

- India became the world's second largest crude steel producer in 2019 with production at 111.2 MT.

- Production of aluminium stood at 3.65 MT in FY20. Aluminium export from the country reached US\$ 18.24 million in FY20 (till January 2020).

Investments/ Developments

- In November 2020, MS Agarwal Foundries (MSAF) announced its plan to set up a steel plant in Andhra Pradesh. The company entered a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Andhra Pradesh for commissioning a new ultramodern steel plant at Mantralayam in Kurnool district. The plant will entail an investment of US\$ 162.40 million and be ready by second half of 2021.

- On October 1, 2020, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) announced that steel manufacturers in the country can avail duty drawback benefits on steel supplied through their service centres, distributors, dealers, and stock yards.

- For FY20, JSW Steel set a target of supplying around 0.15 million tonne of TMT Rebars to metro rail projects across the country.

- India's iron and steel export in FY20 stood at US\$ 9.28 billion.

Government Initiatives

- Government introduced Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020, to open a new era in Indian coal & mining sector, especially to promote "ease of doing business".

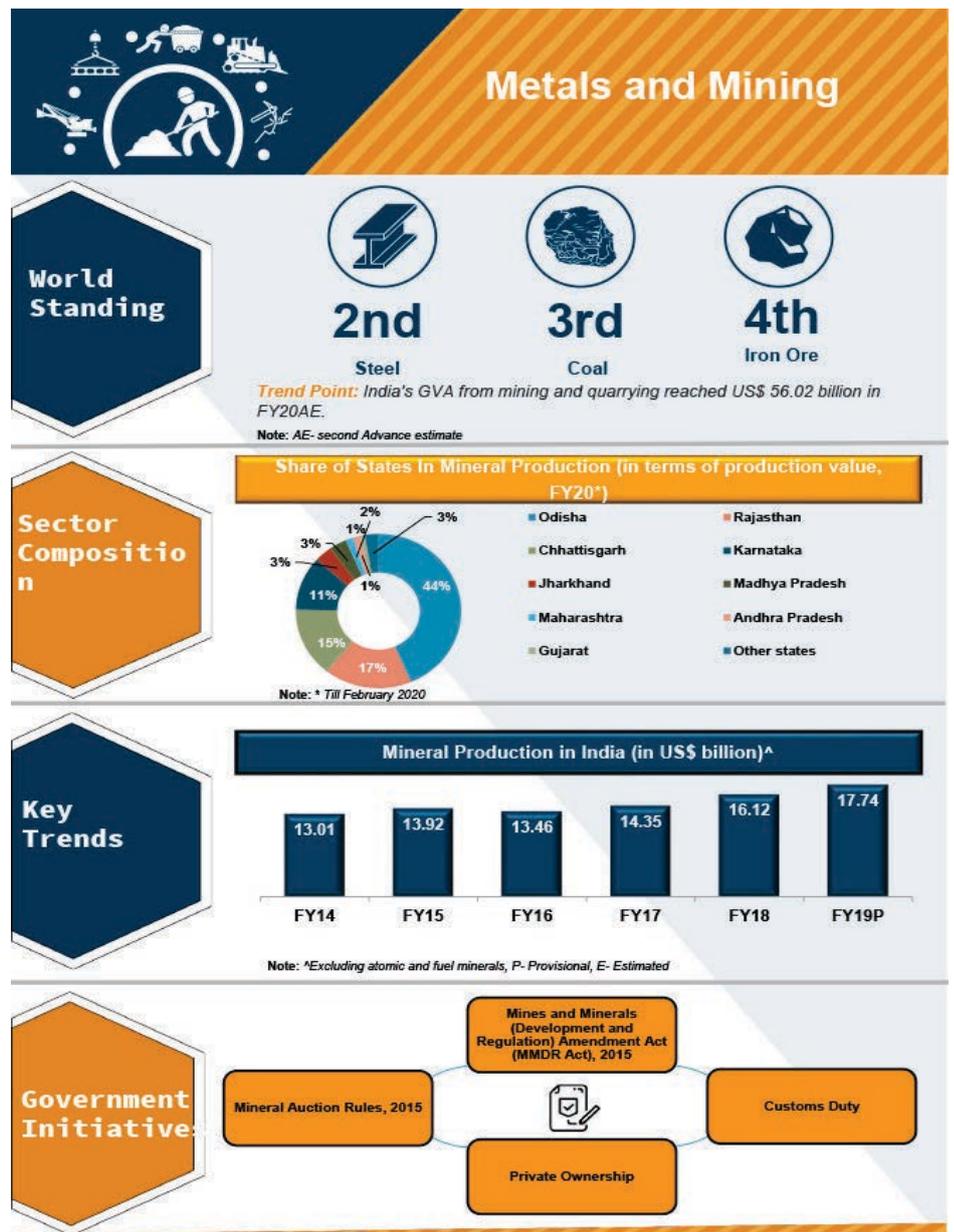
- Government introduced National Infrastructure Pipeline in 2019 with plans to invest US\$ 1.43 trillion over the next five years.

- National Mineral Policy 2019 was launched for transparency, better regulation and enforcement

and balanced socio-economic growth of the sector.

- On October 9, 2020, the government launched a website for entities involved in research and development (R&D) in the coal sector. The website is likely to help in disseminating and promoting the knowledge and research work in the coal sector.

- In July 2018, Union Minister of Coal, Railways, Finance & Corporate Affairs launched a mobile application, 'Khan Prahari' and Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS), developed by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI).





Indian State Economic Profile

SIKKIM

Sikkim is surrounded by vast stretches of Tibetan Plateaus in the north, the Chumbi Valley of Tibet and the Kingdom of Bhutan in the east, the Kingdom of Nepal in the west and Darjeeling district of West Bengal in the south.

The state is richly endowed with rare and exotic flora and fauna, which includes 5,000 species of flowering plants, 515 rare orchids, 60 primula species and 36 rhododendron species. This makes it one of the leading states in the Northeast region in terms of production and supply of cut flowers to mainland consumer markets. Of the 6,000 medicinal plants in India, over 424 plants (including the famous *Artemisia vulgaris* that is used as an antiseptic) are grown in Sikkim.

Sikkim has several snow-capped peaks including Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest peak, that attracts a large number of tourists from across the globe. Tourism in Sikkim has emerged as the new profession of the Sikkimese people with its vast natural potential. Promotion of village tourism, homestay, cultural tourism, trekking tourism,

ecotourism, wellness tourism, flora-tourism and adventure tourism has given fillip to the tourism trade in the state.

In September 2018, Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi inaugurated Pakyong airport in Sikkim, the state's first airport, which is expected to significantly boost the state's connectivity. In 2019-20, passenger and aircraft movements reached 3,749 and 60, respectively.

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Sikkim expanded at a high CAGR of 15.86% between 2015-16 and 2019-20.

In 2018-19, the secondary sector contributed 61.56% to the state's GSVA at current prices. It was followed by the tertiary sector at 26.82% and primary sector at 11.62%. Moreover, at a CAGR of 21.48%, the primary sector has been the fastest growing among the three sectors between 2011-12 and 2018-19.

As of August 2020, Sikkim had a total installed power generation capacity of 674.43 MW, of which 166.25 MW was under central utilities, 96.07 MW was under

private utilities and 412.11 MW was under state utilities.

The state attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflow worth US\$ 5.85 billion during April 2000 and September 2019 according to the data released by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Key Sector:

- As per the budget 2020-21, Rs. 611.11 crore (US\$ 82.38 million) was allocated to develop the agriculture and allied services sector. Sikkim will become self-sufficient in terms of food grains production within the next five years.

- Sikkim's geographical and environmental conditions are conducive for development of floriculture at a higher altitude. The state is also considered to be the Kingdom of flowers and is an innovator in cultivating *Gladiolus*.

- Tourism in Sikkim has emerged as the new profession of the Sikkimese people with its vast natural potential. Promotion of village tourism, homestay, cultural tourism, trekking tourism, ecotourism, wellness tourism, flori-tourism and adventure tourism has given fillip to the tourism trade in the state.



Indian Trade Fairs/ Webinars

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In case your company is interested in visiting a tradeshow/B2B event in India, be it one listed here or another one that came to your attention, get in contact with us via comm1.vienna@mea.gov.in to get more information about possible assistance/subsidies.



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Specialty fibres

Yarns :

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(Cotton, wool, silk & linen/ramie)
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(Regenerated & Synthetics)
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 - Knitting Yarns
 - Specialty Yarns

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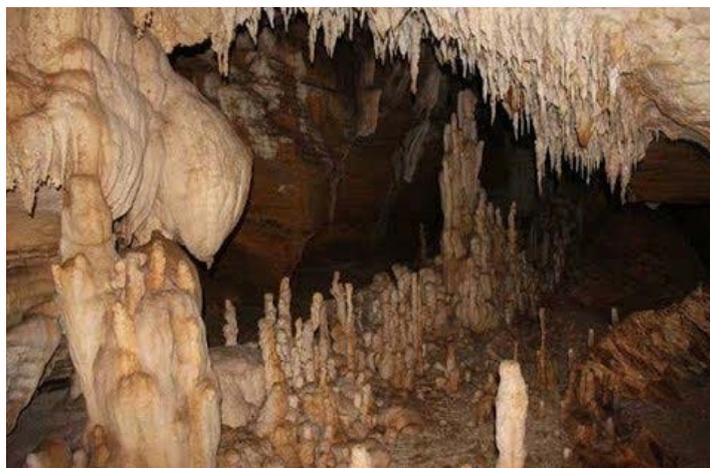
Tourism

Chhattisgarh

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CHITRAKOTE WATERFALL



KUTUMSAR CAVES

Chhattisgarh, India's 10th largest state is endowed with a rich culture, heritage and attractive natural diversity. Situated in the heart of India with a ten thousand years old civilisation it is a land 'Full of Surprises' that attracts tourists who look forward to experience the pristine. Chhattisgarh is an uniquely Indian experience. Home to the country's widest waterfalls, caves, lush green forests, ancient monuments, rare wild life, exquisitely curved temples, Buddhist sites and hill plateaus. Chhattisgarh boasts of more than 80% of bio diversity that is not found anywhere across the country. The state has 44% of forest cover with 32% of tribal population. Chhattisgarh has become a magnet of nature enthusiasts who wish to explore unique tribal arts, crafts and traditions. For centuries its tribal communities have played a pivotal role in nurturing and protecting the natural habitat through the eco-friendly practices. Chhattisgarh offers everything to a traveller - art and architecture, heritage, handicrafts, cuisine, fairs and festivals. Chhattisgarh figures in numerous tales that form part of the two great Indian epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The state boasts of the widest waterfall in India, Chitrakote. In monsoon when the Indravati River is in full flow, this waterfall in Bastar District becomes almost 980 ft wide!!! Chhattisgarh has a legacy of gods and goddesses and numerous temples, both ancient

and modern which attracts devotees, pilgrims and travellers throughout the year. The annual mega event 'Sirpur International Dance and Music Festival' which is held every year at the Buddhist site of Sirpur is particularly noteworthy. This state presents a curious mixture of modern and traditional way of life.

Places to visit:

Chitradhara Falls

Chitradhara Waterfalls is shaped like a horseshoe and is a popular picnic spot among locals and tourists. It is located in a village called Potanar, about 19 km from Jagdalpur. The sound of gushing water echoes beautifully through the remote village and one can unwind in this serene setting. The place is bestowed with abundant natural beauty comprising dense forests and pristine waters. The source of the waterfalls is a stream of River Indravati, which winds its way through thick forests and rough terrain and finally takes a plunge from the highest point. The waterfalls is among the eco-tourism sites in Chhattisgarh and attract visitors in hordes. The best time to visit this waterfalls is in monsoon when it is flowing furiously.

Kutumsar Caves

Famous for unique stalactite and stalagmite formations, the Kutumsar Caves are hidden amid a dense sal forest inside the Kanger Valley

National Park. Around an hour away from Jagdalpur, the prehistoric caves are also a spiritual site, attracting devotees who come here to worship Lord Shiva. Located at the end of the cave, the place of worship is accessed through a narrow passageway that runs along limestone rocks. The red-gravelled path to the caves winds through the forest and gigantic mounds of termites! Inside the caves, adventure-seekers strap on headlamps to negotiate their way avoiding the wet needle-shaped limestone formations. Inside, several species of frogs and fish can be spotted. The caves make for an intriguing experience that can be enjoyed at any time.

Chitrakote Waterfalls

Surrounded by the majestic Vindhya ranges, Chitrakote Waterfalls on River Indravati in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh, cascades down a height of 32 m. It is believed that herds of deer once lived in its scenic surroundings and this is how it derives its name - chitar is the word for deer in the local Halbi dialect. The waterfalls is situated around 275 km from the city of Raipur. It is often called the Niagara Falls of India as it is the widest waterfall in the country and has a horse-shoe shape. Spectacular at any time of the year, this waterfalls is at its roaring best during monsoons (July to October). Surrounded by dense sal forests, the falls is a sight to

behold as the sheer water curtain drops down in a roar, which reverberates through the craggy hills, the cliffs and the neat paddy fields. During the rainy season, the otherwise white water turns into various shades of brown, heavy with silt. If you are lucky, you will catch a rainbow or two hanging above the water, emerging from its misty depth. You can hire a local fisherman's boat to take you as close as possible to the falls. You can also swim in the river downstream or try water rafting. A popular picnic spot, most tourists prefer making a day trip to the falls from Jagdalpur (around 40 km away). You can also explore the surrounding region for a glimpse of the local tribal culture.

Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary

Situated about 175 km from Raipur, this sprawling green haven is covered by small hills and lush sal forests. It was established in 1974 and derives its name from River Sitanadi that originates in the middle of the sanctuary and joins River Mahanadi near Deokhut. Besides River Sitanadi, the Sondur and Lelang rivers also flow through its expanse and the huge Sondur Dam is worth a visit. Renowned for rich flora and fauna, it is one of the finest wildlife stopovers in the country. The animals you can spot here include tigers, leopards, jackals, flying squirrels, jungle cats, blackbucks, bisons, sloth bears, chitals, sambars, nilgais, cobras and pythons. The sanctuary is also a birdwatcher's paradise, with nearly 175 species of avifauna including crimson breasted barbet, egret and heron.

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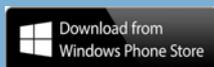
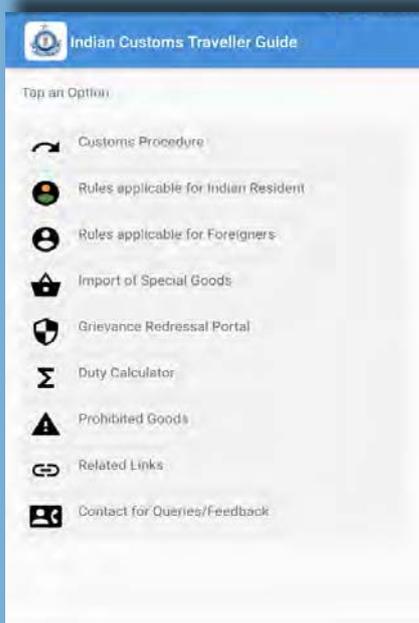
Guide for Travellers- Baggage Rules



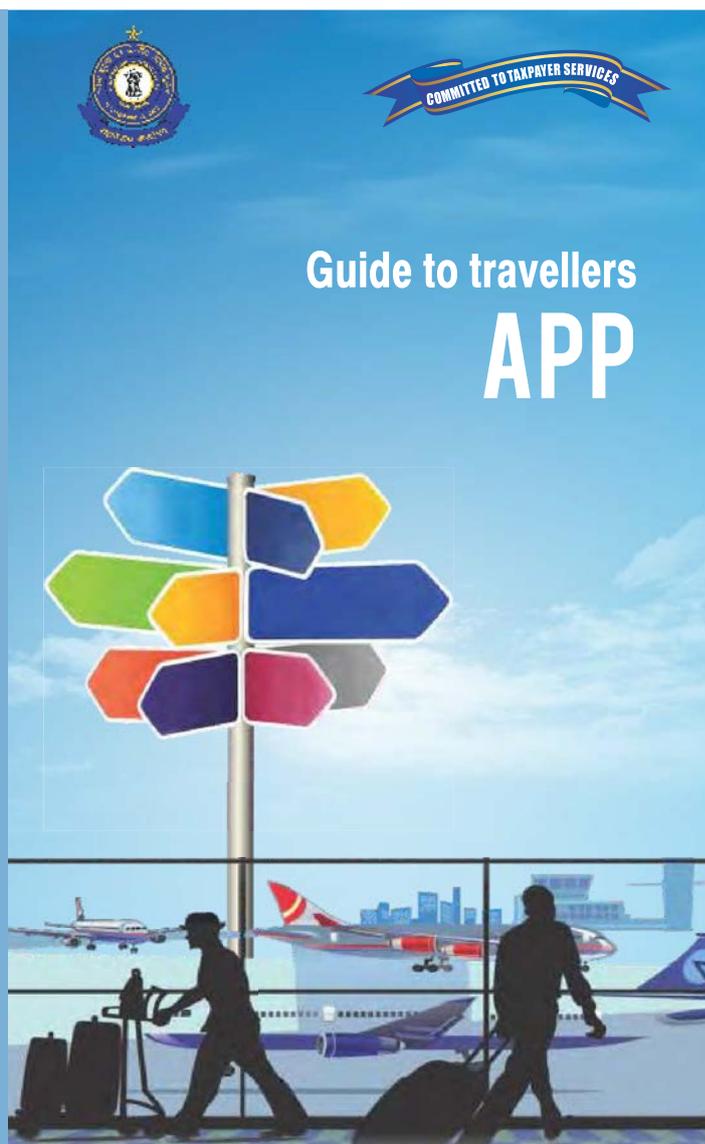
The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has launched mobile app "Indian Customs- Guide to Travellers" for dissemination of information about Customs Baggage Rules, 2016.

The application has been launched to inform traders, exporters and importers about Customs Baggage Rules, 2016.

It has been developed by Bengaluru Customs and is available on Android Play store, Apple Store and Windows Store.



CENTRAL BOARD OF EXCISE & CUSTOMS



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STUDENTS WELFARE OFFICER

- Mr. Rishi Tripathi, Third Secretary in this Embassy has been designated as Officer to look after welfare of Indian Students in Austria and Montenegro.
- His contact details are: 0043 1 505 866 and ccl.vienna@mea.gov.in

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