

Jun - Aug 2025

INDIAN STONE



A journal from
the Federation
of Indian Granite
& Stone Industry

AESTHETICS, UTILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

As industry modernises and mining processes improve, stone remains a favoured choice as a building material

News, articles
& musings on

Stone industry

STONA Fair

Skill development

Sustainability

Spotlight on stars



FIGSI Office Bearers at the 306th Executive Committee meeting.



FIGSI members, industry representatives and Skill Centre students after the plantation drive at the Centre for Stone Excellence at Mahindra SEZ, Jaipur.



Indian Stone

An in-house journal of FIGSI.
Jun - Aug 2025 Edition

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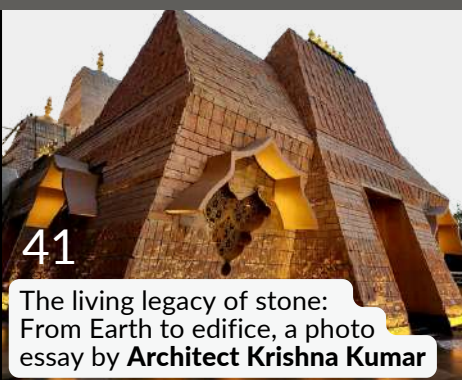
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Friends,

India has long been recognized as one of the global leaders in natural stone production. Our natural stone sector is not only a major contributor to the economy but also a symbol of India's rich geological diversity and craftsmanship.

In the face of global uncertainties, shifting trade dynamics, and domestic policy challenges, the Indian stone industry has continued to demonstrate strength, adaptability, and innovation.

Over the past year, FIGSI has focused on key strategic areas: sustainability, modernization, policy advocacy, and market expansion. We have made consistent efforts in engaging with government bodies to address long-standing concerns regarding environmental clearances, mining regulations, and export policies.

I am proud to share that our dialogue has resulted in some progressive changes, and we remain committed to ensuring a regulatory environment that supports growth while being environmentally responsible.

Another major thrust has been on embracing technology. The adoption of advanced machinery, digital tools, and sustainable quarrying methods is no longer optional—it is imperative.

FIGSI has taken initiative in organizing training sessions, trade delegations, and workshops aimed at bridging the knowledge gap and ensuring our members remain globally competitive.

At the same time, we must invest in value addition. Exporting raw blocks alone cannot be the future of our industry. We must aim to build brands, develop finished products, and explore niche markets where Indian stones can be positioned not just as commodities but as premium lifestyle elements.

I am very happy to inform that our Founder President Sri. R Veermani ji is elected as vice chairperson and

Panel Chairman, Natural Stone & Products Panel and will be shortly taking over as Chairperson CAPEXIL for a period of 2 yrs.

We wish him all the success in his new responsibility as chairperson and I am very sure our industry will benefit by his elevation.

GST Council: FIGSI gave inputs to the GST council chairman Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman ji and all other council members for the meeting held on 3rd and 4th Sep 2025 regarding the GST rate changes for natural stones from 18% & 12% to 5%. We are hoping that industry will be benefitted by reduction of rates.

GMDC Extension: The term of the GMDC has been extended for a period of five years from 25.04.2025 to 24.04.2030 as per the request of FIGSI. This order will help to prescribe a uniform framework for the systematic and scientific exploration of granite and marble minerals across the country.

Supreme Court ruling: Post the SC ruling, FIGSI delegation met the Honorable Minister for Environment and Forest Shri Bhupender Yadav Ji and brought to his notice about the damage caused to our industry.

The Hon'ble Minister gave us a patient and sympathetic hearing. He acknowledged the gravity of the situation and advised us to file an Interlocutory Application (IA) at the earliest.

He assured full support from the Ministry for a fair resolution of the matter in favor of the aggrieved quarry owners, who have been subjected to unintended discrimination due to the judgment.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Mandatory registration of all mines with DGMS: I am happy to update you all that the FIGSI is a member of the DGMS committee and working closely in bringing the issues of the industry to the committee. The time line is 90 days for implementation of the recommendations wef 01 Jul 2025.

The objective of this committee is to address the issues regarding the mandatory registration of all mines with the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) to enhance safety and compliance with statutory provisions for mine workers. FIGSI has shared the industry points / issues with DGMS.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): FIGSI has registered to undertake CSR activities and can receive the funds by FIGSI for the Industry.

The first CSR donation of Rs.5 lakhs has been received on 30th Aug 2025 from AAPT DISTRIBUTION PVT LTD, Chennai to buy CNC simulators for the Hosur and Jaipur Skill Centers.

Skill Council for Mining Sector (SCMS): The revised targets of 3000 - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and 240 Short Term Training (STT) are submitted to SCMS / National Skill Development Council (NSDC) / Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

The information from SCMS is that the targets are verbally approved but waiting for formal approval and letter.

Our young entrepreneurs are showing great promise, and I urge them to innovate, diversify, and bring fresh perspectives into this traditional industry.

I would also like to thank all members, stakeholders, and industry partners for their unwavering support. The strength of FIGSI lies in its unity.

As we move forward, let us stand together to build a more robust, sustainable, and globally admired stone industry.

Let this be the decade where Indian stone reclaims its rightful place on the world stage—not just as a product, but as a story of heritage, innovation, and excellence.

Thank You!!!

S Krishna Prasad
President



Scan this QR code to read the digital version of this letter from the President's desk.

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



Dear members,

Warm Greetings to all of you!!!

Over the years, the Indian natural stone industry has demonstrated resilience, innovation, and commitment to quality. Despite the global economic shifts and environmental challenges, we have continued to strengthen our position in both domestic and international markets.

Heritage Woven in Stone: Natural stone is not merely a building material—it is a living testament to time, culture, and craftsmanship. From the domes of ancient temples to masterful rural sculptures, stone embodies the artistry of our ancestors and the geological character of its land. They carry stories, epitomize stability, and serve as "ambassadors" of cultural identity across civilizations.

Moreover, many of these stones have been rightfully recognized under heritage conservation protocols like the International Union of Geological Sciences' Heritage Stones initiative, including several remarkable examples from India such as Deccan Basalt, Jaisalmer Limestone, and Alwar Quartzite.

Sustainability and Responsibility: As we embrace the beauty of natural stone, we must equally honour our responsibility towards environmental and social sustainability. The Naturally Sustainable Manifesto—championed by the Italian natural stone industry—sets a powerful precedent: guiding us to pursue circular economy practices, reduce waste, optimize water and energy use, and regenerate quarry landscapes through responsible planning.

Challenges and the Path Forward: Despite its value, our industry faces several headwinds. We continue to navigate raw material shortages, regulatory hurdles, and stiff competition from artificial alternatives—challenges that threaten both our traditions and future growth.

Our vision—embodied in the call for "One Nation, One Mineral, One Policy"—is to unify regulations, streamline quarry leases, rationalize royalties, and reduce GST burdens on raw stone blocks and slabs, thereby enabling industry stability and growth.

Investing in Innovation and Skill: The stone industry stands at an exciting crossroads, where tradition meets innovation. Technologies in mechanization, extraction, and finishing are revolutionizing efficiency and quality: a must if we are to remain globally competitive.

Simultaneously, we are investing in skill-building. Our twin training centres in Hosur (Tamil Nadu) and Jaipur (Rajasthan) are dedicated to empowering the next generation of artisans & technicians—ensuring that craftsmanship and competency move hand-in-hand.

Showcasing the Future: STONA 2027: Our flagship international fair, STONA 2027 to be held at the Bangalore International Exhibition Center, will be a global stage for showcasing the stone industry. With exhibitors, international pavilions, and artisan zones like Shilpgram, the fair embodies our collective ambition, creativity & resilience.

Legislators, industry leaders, and experts will convene for enriching dialogues—highlighted by events such as the "Geology Seminar on Skilling and Use of Technology for Safe and Sustainable Mining," and observed by dignitaries across government functions.

Our natural stones connect us to the land, to history, and to each other. They are at once symbols of cultural identity and economic potential. Let us steward them wisely—through policies that encourage sustainable extraction, by nurturing artisanal skill, and by promoting innovation in every facet of the value chain.

Together, we can ensure that natural stone remains a foundation not only for structures, but for heritage, livelihoods, and a greener future.

Thank you.

Warm regards,

Manoj Kumar Singh
General Secretary

CHAIRMAN OF EDITORIAL BOARD



Dear readers,

I hope this new edition of Indian Stone reaches you with renewed energy and inspiration!

We are delighted to present another issue that reflects the pulse of our vibrant industry, bringing together knowledge, visuals, and voices that showcase both the progress and the promise of natural stone.

This edition is especially rich and diverse:

- A stunning photographic feature from a leading architect, capturing stone in design through a creative lens
- Industry news stories covering the latest developments, projects, and global movements in stone
- A special contribution on sustainability, exploring the vital relationship between stone and responsible practices from FIGSI Vice President DS Yadav
- A data deep dive offering insights into trends, trade, and performance shaping the sector
- FIGSI updates from what has been an exceptionally busy quarter of activities and initiatives

As always, our content is thoughtfully organized with color-coded bands for easy navigation:

- Brown: FIGSI news and announcements
- Blue: STONA updates and highlights
- Maroon: Centre for Stone Excellence initiatives
- Gray: Industry features and market insights
- Green: Sustainability and environmental innovation

We are also continuing with the digital, mobile-friendly format, available on the FIGSI website, making it easier than ever to stay informed and engaged.

It continues to be our privilege to chronicle the ideas, efforts, and achievements that define our industry. Over the last few months, we have also sought feedback from our community to further improve and refine the contents of the Indian Stone magazine and all your suggestions have been taken into serious consideration.

On behalf of the editorial committee, I thank you for your continued support and for your feedback, contributions, and thoughts for future issues.

Warm regards,

Anuj Modi
Chairman, Magazine Sub Committee



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INDEPENDENCE DAY

FIGSI celebrates across India

FIGSI proudly celebrated the 79th Indian Independence Day at its headquarters in Bengaluru. The event was led by President S Krishna Prasad, General Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, and other esteemed office bearers of the Federation (right and below).

FIGSI members held flag hoisting celebrations in different parts of the country, with notable celebrations at the FIGSI Centre for Stone Excellence at Hosur and Jaipur. At the Jaipur Centre, Immediate Past President and Skill Sub Committee Chairman Ishwinder Singh led the celebrations (picture on bottom right).



FIGSI HQ, Bengaluru



FIGSI HQ, Bengaluru



Skill Centre, Jaipur



Skill Centre, Hosur



Skill Centre, Jaipur

306TH EC MEETING Term 2024-26

Tamil Nadu State Chapter felicitates FIGSI Executive Committee members at the meeting



L to R: Shri Pramod Bhandari, Treasurer, Shri Ishwinder Singh Immediate Past President, Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, General Secretary, Shri S Krishna Prasad President, Shri N Ashoken, Vice President, Shri Siva Subramanian, EC member, Shri N Mahesh, EC member, Shri S Shankaranarayanan, Joint Treasurer, Shri Arun Malhotra, Vice President & Shri Kalit Bhandari, Vice President FIGSI.



Shri S Krishna Prasad, President FIGSI, welcomed by Shri N Ashoken, Vice President.



Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, General Secretary, FIGSI welcomed by Shri N Ashoken, Vice President, FIGSI.



Shri Ishwinder Singh, Immediate Past President FIGSI, welcomed by Shri N Ashoken.



Shri Pramod Bhandari, Treasurer, FIGSI welcomed by Shri N Ashoken, Vice President FIGSI.



Shri Gurushastrimath, Vice President FIGSI, being welcomed by Shri Siva Subramanian, EC member.



Shri Madan Lal Jangid, Chairman STONA 2025, welcomed by Shri N Mahesh, EC member FIGSI.

306TH EC MEETING

Term 2024-26

306th Executive Committee Meet

30.08.2025

Hotel Radisson Blu Resort, Mamallapuram



Office bearers and EC members at the 306th Executive Committee meeting in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu on 30th Aug 2025.



Shri Ishwinder Singh Immediate Past President, Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, General Secretary, Shri S Krishna Prasad President at the Executive Committee meeting.



Shri S Krishna Prasad, President FIGSI, addressing the 306th EC meeting at Mamallapuram.

306TH EC MEETING

Term 2024-26



Shri Manoj Kumar Singh General Secretary FIGSI moderating the 306th EC meeting at Mamallapuram on 30th August, 2025.



Shri Ishwinder Singh with Shri Manoj Kumar Singh at the 306th EC meeting.



Shri Pramod Bhandari, Treasurer, FIGSI presenting the Audited statements for the year 2024-2025.



Shri Sunil Kumar Bhandari, Chairman Finance Sub Committee, FIGSI submitting the Finance Committee report.



Shri Ishwinder Singh, Immediate Past President, shares the report on Skill Development.



Shri N Ashoken, Vice President FIGSI, speaking at the 306th EC meeting in Mamallapuram.



Shri GM Hegde, EC member, presenting his views at the 306th EC meeting in Mamallapuram.



Shri N Mahesh, EC member, expressing his views at the 306th EC meeting.



Shri K Keshava Murthy EC member FIGSI giving his presentation at the 306th EC meeting.



Shri Rajesh Angara, EC member, presents his views at the 306th EC meeting.

CSR CONTRIBUTION

AAPT Distribution contributes to CSR funds

M/s. AAPT Distribution Private Limited donated Rupees Five Lakhs towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities of FIGSI. FIGSI Office bearers and EC members are seen receiving the cheque.



POLICY INTERACTIONS

MINES

Hon'ble Minister of Mines & Coal Shri G Kishan Reddy



A FIGSI delegation led by President Shri Krishna Prasad, along with General Secretary Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Shri Pramod Bhandari, Vice President Shri Arun Malhotra and FIGSI Advisor Shri Naresh ji Parikh had the privilege of meeting Shri G Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Minister of Mines and Coal, Government of India. The delegation apprised the Minister of the key issues concerning the natural stone industry and sought his support for the growth and sustainability of the sector. The delegation also apprised the Minister of the pending Amendments to GCDR. He promised to look into the matter. Our sincere thanks to Shri C P Joshi, Member of Parliament, Rajasthan, and Naresh ji Parikh for facilitating this meeting.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Mines Shri Satish Chandra Dubey



A FIGSI delegation comprising Shri Naresh Parekh, Shri Arun Malhotra, Shri Manish Poddar and Shri Sunil Malhotra met with the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Mines Shri Satish Chandra Dubey, and extended a formal invitation to him for the upcoming seminar-cum-interactive meeting to be held in Delhi.

Hon'ble Minister of Mines & Coal Shri G Kishan Reddy



Shri Sudarshan Rao, Executive Committee member, FIGSI invited Hon'ble Minister for Mines & Coal Shri Krishna Reddy for proposed Seminar in New Delhi.

Madam Sarala Ketineni, Corporator and BJP state Mahila President helped with the coordination.

POLICY INTERACTIONS GOVT



Meet with Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal

Shri Shivkumar, EC member FIGSI, met Hon'ble Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry on 5th July 2025 at New Delhi.



A FIGSI delegation comprising of General Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, Vice President Guru Shashtrimath, Andhra Pradesh & Telanagana State Chapter Chairman Rajesh Angara, Joint Secretary Sanjeev Modi & Joint Secretary Manish Poddar met the Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment and Forest Shri Bhupender Yadav on 23rd June in New Delhi.

Meet with Hon'ble Andhra Pradesh CM Shri Chandra Babu Naidu



Left: Shri Veeramani, Founder President FIGSI, thanks Mr Chandra Babu Naidu for quoting the best policy for minerals in Andhra Pradesh on 25th June 2025 at Vijayawada. Above: Shri Shiva Kumar, EC Member FIGSI, with Andhra Pradesh CM Shri Chandra Babu Naidu Garu on 24th June at his Office at Amravathi Vijayawada. The CM spared his precious time to discuss about SME Industry and the Minor Mineral Policy.



Tamil Nadu CM assures support on trade tariffs

Mr Ashoken, Vice President, FIGSI met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Mr MK Stalin and the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, and presented a report on the impact of US trade tariffs on

the Stone Industry in general and Monuments industry in particular. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu assured all necessary support on matters falling under the State's purview.

POLICY INTERACTIONS

GST

Meet with Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary



A FIGSI delegation led by President Shri Krishna Prasad, along with General Secretary Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Treasurer Shri Pramod Bhandari, Vice President Shri Arun Malhotra and FIGSI Advisor Shri Naresh Parikh had the privilege of meeting Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Government of India. The delegation discussed the challenges faced by the natural stone industry and submitted our request to reduce the GST on granite and marble from 18% to 5%. A special thanks to Shri CP Joshi, Member of Parliament, Rajasthan, and Naresh ji Parikh, for their efforts in organizing this meeting.

Meet with Shri Samrat Choudhary, Hon'ble Deputy CM, Bihar & Convenor of GST Group of Ministers for rate rationalization



A FIGSI delegation led by President Shri Krishna Prasad ji, along with General Secretary Shri Manoj Kumar Singh ji and FIGSI Advisor Shri Naresh Parikh ji, on September 3, 2025 had the privilege of meeting Shri Samrat Choudhary, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and Convenor of the GST High Power Committee. The delegation discussed the challenges faced by the natural stone industry and submitted our request to reduce the GST on granite and marble from 18% to 5%. A special thanks to Shri Naresh Parikh ji for his efforts in organizing this meeting.




Meet with Shri KK Vishnoi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Industry & Commerce and Skilling, Govt of Rajasthan

On September 3, 2025, a FIGSI delegation led by President Shri Krishna Prasad ji, along with General Secretary Shri Manoj Kumar Singh ji, Arun Malhotra ji, Vice President and FIGSI Advisor Shri Naresh Parikh ji, had the privilege of meeting Shri K K Vishnoi ji Hon'ble Minister of Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Member GST High power committee.

REPRESENTATION BY FIGSI TO GST COUNCIL

Letter to Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, Government of India



Federation of Indian Granite & Stone Industry

FIGSI/MoF/141 28.07.2025

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance
Room No.134,
North Block,
New Delhi - 110011

Respected Madam,



Subject: Request for Reduction in GST rates for Marble & Granite from 18% to 5% and other issues

Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) is a non-profit all India organization serving the natural stone industry of India from the last 42 years and having more than 1600 members across the country. The Federation works as a bridge between the Industry and Various Government Departments in Central and State level.

We want to bring it to the notice of your good-self the issues faced by the Indian Stone industry. Our industry is comprising of mining & processing of stones such as Marble, Granite, Sandstone, Limestone, Slates, Quartzite etc.

The industry is currently facing several significant challenges including a very high GST rate of 18%. We herewith present a comprehensive justification, detailed analysis, and compelling arguments in support of a reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate on Marble and Granite:

- 1. Employment-Intensive Sector:** The natural stone industry is a labour-intensive sector with more than 5 million workers engaged directly or indirectly. The sector comprising of both mining & processing provides employment in various states including Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. A lower GST ensures sustainability of jobs for rural & economically weaker communities.
- 2. Big Support to Rural Economy:** India is a global powerhouse possessing large reserves of various natural dimensional stones such as granite, marble, sandstone, limestone, slates & quartzite. Thousands of Micro & Small-Scale Enterprises thrive mostly in rural districts, making the

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stone industry the backbone of the rural Indian economy. A lower GST shall support the growth of Micro & Small-Scale units in the rural areas.

- 3. Sustainability & Eco-Friendliness:** Compared to materials like concrete, ceramics or engineered composites, natural stones like marble & granite require minimum processing translating to lower embodied energy and a smaller carbon footprint during production. A lower GST shall motivate the customer to opt for such sustainable and eco friendly alternative.
- 4. Historical Tax Structure:** Pre-GST, marble & granite attracted VAT of 5% in most of the stone producing states and an Excise Duty exemption was applicable to SMEs on turnover below Rs 1.50 crore. As most processing units engaged in the production would fall under the Micro & Small category the effective tax rate was 5% only. However, in the GST regime the tax rate has been enhanced to 18% resulting in higher cost which has resulted to a slowdown in sales in an otherwise growing construction / building material industry.
- 5. Natural Stone is not a Luxury:** With technological advancements in the natural stone mining and processing techniques the extraction of natural stone has become more efficient and less wasteful. This has lowered costs of most varieties of Indian Marble & Granite making these products affordable to low housing & rural household projects. Lower GST rates shall ensure reduction of the overall cost of rural & low budget household.
- 6. Utilization of Natural Stone Waste:** For the natural stone industry to achieve sustainable development, optimizing the use of natural stone waste is paramount. However, the prevailing high GST rates render the processing of lower-grade raw material economically unviable, resulting in its substantial disposal at quarries. Implementing a lower GST rate would provide the necessary economic incentive to transform this material into viable products like cobbles, kerb stones, and paving stones for landscaping and public works.
- 7. Ensuring Growth of Allied Industry:** The growth and vitality of India's natural stone sector are intrinsically linked to the prosperity of several allied industries, including manufacturers of machinery, equipment, chemicals, tools, and abrasives. A thriving natural stone industry creates consistent demand for these crucial inputs, fostering a symbiotic relationship. Notably, indigenous manufacturers within these allied industries have demonstrated significant capability. They've not only developed machines and equipment that are comparable to imported alternatives in terms of quality and performance but have also achieved this at a substantially lower cost. This indigenous capacity is a major asset, contributing to self-reliance and potentially reducing overall production costs within the natural stone value chain. Lowering GST rates on Marble & Granite shall not just benefit stone producers, but also empowers a

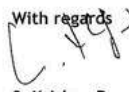
network of supporting industries, creating jobs and driving innovation across the manufacturing landscape in India.

- 8. International Benchmarking:** Major stone-producing countries, that are also developing economies like ours, namely China, Vietnam & Indonesia offer lower VAT rates compared to us. India must maintain similar tax rates to stay globally competitive.
- 9. Reinroduce interest equalisation scheme** to be more competitive in the international market also to ease the cash flow.
- 10. One time market assistance:** Since our sector mostly comes under MSME that too under small scale we request one time market assistance to explore US market to finalise the right buyers.

We from industry have high expectations and request your good-self to look into the matter urgently and are very hopeful of early resolution and support.

Thanking you,

With regards



S. Krishna Prasad
President

The Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) has formally appealed to the Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, seeking a reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on marble and granite from the current 18% to 5%.

Representing more than 1,600 members nationwide, FIGSI has highlighted that the natural stone industry, spanning marble, granite, sandstone, limestone, slates, and quartzite, plays a critical role in India's economy by generating mass employment, supporting rural livelihoods, and strengthening allied industries.

In its representation, FIGSI President S Krishna Prasad emphasized that the high GST rate is severely impacting the growth of this labour-intensive and export-oriented sector.

REPRESENTATION ON GST

Letter to Commerce Ministry on GST RCM



Federation of Indian Granite & Stone Industry

FIGSI/MoC&I/184

20.08.2025

Shri Piyush Goyal
Hon'ble Minister for Commerce & Industry
Government of India
Room no. 501,
Vanijya Bhawan
New Delhi-110011

Respected Sir,

Sub: Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) under GST

Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) is a non profit all India organization serving the natural stone industry of India from the last 42 years and having more than 1600 members across the country. The Federation works as a bridge between the Industry and Various Government Departments in Central and State level.

Sir, we are forwarding some suggestions regarding the Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) under GST is a system where the recipient of goods or services is liable to pay the tax instead of the supplier. This mechanism aims to broaden tax compliance, especially in unorganised sectors, and cover specific services imports.

Key Features:

- Applicability:** RCM applies to specific goods and services notified by the government, such as legal services, transport services, Royalties on Mines and Minerals, Mining and Excavation Lease Rights of Mines and Minerals by Government and Local Authorities, Leasing and renting of motor vehicles.
- Recipient Liability:** The recipient of goods or services is responsible for paying the tax, which can be a registered person or a business entity.
- Registration Requirements:** The recipient must be registered under GST to pay tax under RCM.
- Record-Keeping:** Accurate records of all reverse charge transactions, including invoices and payment details, must be maintained.



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REPRESENTATION ON GST

Goods and Services under RCM:

- 1) **Goods:**
 - a) Cashew nuts: Agriculturist
 - b) Tobacco leaves: Agriculturist
 - c) Bidi wrapper leaves: Agriculturist
 - d) Silk yarn: Individuals processing raw silk,
 - e) Used vehicles, seized goods, old items, waste, and scrap
- 2) **Services:**
 - a) GTA services: Goods Transport Agency
 - b) Legal services: Provided by an advocate to a business entity
 - c) Rent-a-car services: Renting of motor vehicles
 - d) Manpower supply services: Services related to supply of manpower
 - e) Import of taxable services: Services imported from outside India.

Supply of Rights and Services for issue of Mines and Minerals Leases, Issue of Transit permits, Collection of Royalties/S.Fees on Minerals.

Compliance Requirements:

- a) **Payment of Tax:** Tax must be paid within the stipulated time frame, which varies for goods and services.
- b) **Invoice:** The supplier must mention on the invoice that the tax is payable under reverse charge.
- c) **Self-Invoicing:** Recipient generates an invoice for goods or services received from an unregistered supplier.
- d) **Input Tax Credit (ITC):** Recipient can claim ITC for tax paid under RCM, which can be used to set off tax liability.

The GST payments on payments made government and local authorities under RCM gives nothing but Revenue Neutrality, wastage of Valuable Administration Man hours and complicated process against ease of doing business environment.

Since the GST tax paid under RCM on the government and local authorities payments is taken as ITC by the tax payer, there is no GST tax revenue following the RCM procedures on payment for government services.

This high % rate of GST under RCM on Mines and Minerals should either be completely lifted and scrapped or else brought down to the lowest percentage to avoid the cash burdens on the taxpayers.

When the purpose of bringing RCM is only to track all the transactions made the tax payers, the percentage of the gst tax on RCM must be minimum like that of income tax TCS and TDS.

This will help reduce the burden on cash reserves of the taxpayers to make use of it for their business development.

The Discrepancy of tax percentages across the country is also causing confusion among taxpayers to consider following the RCM procedures for payments made to government and local authorities in the name of royalties/Seignorage fees and other taxes/services.

The demand notices issued for collection of GST under RCM on all the payments made to departments of mines and geology from 2017 by the GST authorities under rule 74 is causing grave situation and immense concern to the taxpayers.

This RCM process if lifted on payments made to government authorities it prevents any scope of opportunity to the GST enforcement authorities harassing taxpayers who failed to understand and comply the ever evolving guidelines of the new GST system.

If the GST council considers wavering all the demand notices issued for payment of GST under RCM on the payments made to government authorities from 2017 it will be a huge relief for the taxpayers who are subjected to agony and sufferings for the reasons beyond their knowledge and scope of the confusing GST under RCM for payments made to government authorities.

We request your goodself to kindly take up above suggestion in the GST council meeting.

With regards,

 S. Krishna Prasad
 President

GoM on GST Rate Rationalisation Reconstituted

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has reconstituted the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Rate Rationalisation.

The GoM, tasked with reviewing & recommending changes in GST rate structures to simplify the tax regime and address issues of revenue neutrality, will continue to function under the same terms of reference as before. Only the membership composition has been revised.

The GoM on Rate Rationalisation has been an important body within the GST Council, examining inverted duty structures, exemptions, and the need to streamline rates across goods and services.

With the revised composition, the group is expected to continue its role in preparing recommendations that balance state revenues with industry concerns.

F. No. IA3-3/7/2024-IA.III(Part) [E- 254652]
 Government of India
 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 (Impact Assessment Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
 Allgani, Jorbagh Road
 New Delhi-110 003


Dated: 26th May, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Circulation of the Judgement dated 16.05.2025 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P. 1394/2023 in the matter of Vanashakti vs. Union of India. – reg.

The Ministry issued the Notification S.O.804(E) dated 14/03/2017 providing a window period for the projects which were in violation to apply for the grant of EC.

2. Subsequently, the Ministry issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) dated 07/07/2021 for identification and handling of violation cases under the EIA Notification 2006, in compliance to the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in Appeal No. 34/2020 (WZ) titled Tanaji B. Gambhire vs. Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra.
3. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide its judgment dated 16.05.2025, in W.P. 1394/2023 titled Vanashakti vs. Union of India and connected matters, i.e. WP (C) 118 of 2019 titled Ajay Jajodia vs. Union of India, WP(C) 115 of 2024 titled One Earth One Life vs Union of India and Civil Appeal 381-382 of 2025 titled Fatima vs. Union of India has struck down the above mentioned Notification S.O. 804(E) dated 14/03/2017 and SoP dated 07/07/2021.
4. The copy of the order which is self-explanatory is enclosed herewith for compliance.
5. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.


 (Dr. J. D. Marcus Knight)
 Scientist E

Encl: As above.

To

1. The Chief Secretaries of all the States / UTs
2. Chairperson/ Member Secretaries of all Expert Appraisal Committees
3. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all SEIAs/SEACs
4. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/ UTPCCs
5. All Officers of IA Division

Copy for information to

1. PS to Hon'ble MEF&CC
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS, EF&CC
3. PPS to Secretary, EF&CC
4. PPS to AS (AG)/JS (RA)
5. Website, MoEF&CC iGuard file

REPRESENTATION ON GST

Letter to Shri Samrat Choudhary, Hon'ble Deputy CM of Bihar & Convenor, GST High Power Committee



Federation of Indian Granite & Stone Industry

FIGSI/GST/ 200

23.08.2025

Shri. Samrat Chaudhary
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Bihar
& Convenor - GoM
Patna Secretariat
Patna - 800001
Bihar

Respected Sir,

Subject: Request for Reduction in GST rates for Granite, Marble and other natural stones from 18% to 5% and other issues

Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) is a non-profit all India organization serving the natural stone industry of India from the last 42 years and having more than 1600 members across the country. The Federation works as a bridge between the Industry and Various Government Departments in Central and State level.

We want to bring it to the notice of your good-self the issues faced by the Indian Stone Industry. Our industry is comprising of mining & processing of stones such as Granite, Marble, Sandstone, Limestone, Slates, Quartzite etc.

The industry is currently facing several significant challenges including a very high GST rate of 18%. We herewith present a comprehensive justification, detailed analysis, and compelling arguments in support of a reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate Granite, Marble and other natural stones:

- 1. Employment-Intensive Sector:** The natural stone industry is a labour-intensive sector with more than 5 million workers engaged directly or indirectly. The sector comprising of both mining & processing provides employment in various states including Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil



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REPRESENTATION ON GST

Nadu. A lower GST ensures sustainability of jobs for rural & economically weaker communities.

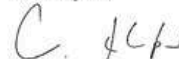
2. **Big Support to Rural Economy:** India is a global powerhouse possessing large reserves of various natural dimensional stones such as granite, marble, sandstone, limestone, slates & quartzite. **Thousands of Micro & Small-Scale Enterprises thrive mostly in rural districts, making the stone industry the backbone of the rural Indian economy.** A lower GST shall support the growth of Micro & Small-Scale units in the rural areas.
3. **Sustainability & Eco-Friendliness:** Compared to materials like concrete, ceramics or engineered composites, natural stones like granite, marble and other stones require minimum processing translating to **lower embodied energy and a smaller carbon footprint during production.** A lower GST shall motivate the customer to opt for such sustainable and eco friendly alternative.
4. **Historical Tax Structure:** Pre-GST, Granite, Marble and other natural stones attracted VAT of 5% in most of the stone producing states and an **Excise Duty exemption** was applicable to SMEs on turnover below Rs 1.50 crore. As most processing units engaged in the production would fall under the Micro & Small category the **effective tax rate was 5% only.** However, in the GST regime the tax rate has been enhanced to 18% resulting in higher cost which has resulted to a slowdown in sales in an otherwise growing construction / building material industry.
5. **Natural Stone is not a Luxury:** With technological advancements in the natural stone mining and processing techniques the extraction of natural stone has become more efficient and less wasteful. This has lowered costs of most varieties of Indian Granite, Marble and other natural stones making these products **affordable to low housing & rural household projects.** Lower GST rates shall ensure reduction of the overall cost of rural & low budget household.
6. **Utilization of Natural Stone Waste:** For the natural stone industry to achieve sustainable development, optimizing the use of natural stone waste is paramount. However, the prevailing high GST rates render the processing of lower-grade raw material economically unviable, resulting in its substantial disposal at quarries. Implementing a lower GST rate would provide the necessary economic incentive to transform this material into viable products like cobbles, kerb stones, and paving stones for landscaping and public works.

7. **Ensuring Growth of Allied Industry:** The growth and vitality of India's natural stone sector are intrinsically linked to the prosperity of several allied industries, including **manufacturers of machinery, equipment, chemicals, tools, and abrasives.** A thriving natural stone industry creates consistent demand for these crucial inputs, fostering a symbiotic relationship. Notably, indigenous manufacturers within these allied industries have demonstrated significant capability. They've not only developed machines and equipment that are comparable to imported alternatives in terms of quality and performance but have also achieved this at a substantially lower cost. This indigenous capacity is a major asset, contributing to self-reliance and potentially reducing overall production costs within the natural stone value chain. Lowering GST rates on Granite, Marble and other natural stones shall not just benefit stone producers, but also empowers a network of supporting industries, creating jobs and driving innovation across the manufacturing landscape in India.
8. **International Benchmarking:** Major stone-producing countries, that are also developing economies like ours, namely **China, Vietnam & Indonesia offer lower VAT rates** compared to us. India must maintain similar tax rates to stay globally competitive.
9. **Impact of tariff of 50% by US:** Due to the recent tariff of 50% imposed by US govt, the exports are severely affected and there is going to be a glut of material in the domestic market. This is going to seriously affect the markets and therefore it is very much necessary to reduce the GST rate to 5% to sustain the onslaught of the tariff.

We from industry have high expectations and request your good-self to look into the matter urgently and are very hopeful of early resolution and support.

Thanking you,

With regards



S. Krishna Prasad
President

The Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) appealed to the GST Council for a reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) on granite, marble, and other natural stones from 18% to 5%.

In a letter addressed to Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister and GoM Convenor, Shri Samrat Chaudhary, FIGSI highlighted the severe challenges faced by the industry due to the high GST slab.

The stone sector, employing over five million workers across states such as Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu, is labor-intensive and crucial to rural economies.

The Federation stressed that a lower GST rate would make Indian stone products more affordable, create rural employment, and support small-scale enterprises. It would also ensure sustainability by encouraging efficient use of natural stone waste and reducing the carbon footprint compared to alternative

materials like ceramics or concrete.

FIGSI pointed out that before GST, natural stones attracted VAT of just 5% in most states, with exemptions for small enterprises. The current 18% rate, however, has slowed down construction and building material sales.

Additionally, international competitors like China, Vietnam, and Indonesia levy lower tax rates, making Indian exports less competitive. The recent U.S. tariff of 50% on stone imports has further aggravated the crisis, threatening to flood the domestic market with unsold stock.

FIGSI emphasized that lowering GST would not only stabilize the industry but also boost allied sectors such as machinery, abrasives, and tools. It called on the government to act urgently, underlining that the move is essential to safeguard jobs, encourage sustainable practices, and keep India competitive globally.

POST GST REPRESENTATION

Letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Sri Narendra Modi ji



Federation of Indian Granite & Stone Industry

FIGSI/PM/214

05.09.2025

Sri. Narendra Modi Ji.
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
Government of India
Gate No 5, South Block
New Delhi-110001

Respected Sir,

Subject: Request for Reduction in GST Rates on Marble & Granite Slabs from 18% to 5% and Related Industry Issues.

Greetings from the Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI)!!!

FIGSI is a non-profit, pan-India organization representing the natural stone sector for over 42 years, with more than 1600 members nationwide. The Federation actively works as a vital link between the industry and various Central and State Government departments.

We write to seek your kind attention and urgent intervention on the critical issues faced by the Indian stone industry—particularly the **high GST rate of 18% on marble and granite slabs**. This is significantly impacting the competitiveness and sustainability of our sector.

The industry encompasses mining and processing of various natural stones such as Marble, Granite, Sandstone, Limestone, Slates, and Quartzite. Despite repeated representations, the GST burden on marble and granite slabs remains unaddressed, severely affecting the industry's viability.

We were encouraged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Independence Day assurance that the Government would consider GST rationalisation before Deepawali to promote indigenous industry and the 'Make in India' initiative. However, no relief was extended in the 56th GST Council meeting held on 3rd September 2025, except a reduction from 12% to 5% on marble blocks, which does not benefit the end-user or slab processing units.

We therefore earnestly urge your good-self to reconsider the matter before 22nd September 2025, and favourably reduce the GST rate on marble and granite slabs from 18% to 5%.

Below, we present a detailed justification for your kind perusal. Key Points in Support of GST Reduction on Marble and Granite Slabs:



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Website: www.figsi.in, www.stonaindia.co.in

POST GST REPRESENTATION

Letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Sri Narendra Modi ji

1. Employment-Intensive Sector

The natural stone industry directly and indirectly employs over 5 million workers, many in rural and economically backward regions across states like Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Gujarat, Odisha, and more. A lower GST rate is essential for sustaining these jobs.

2. Boost to Rural Economy

The industry supports thousands of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in rural areas. Reduced GST will directly aid these units, promote rural entrepreneurship, and drive local economic development.

3. Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Material

Natural stones have low embodied energy and a minimal carbon footprint, especially when compared to concrete or engineered materials. Encouraging their use through GST reduction aligns with the Government's sustainability and green building goals.

4. Historical Taxation Background

Before GST, natural stones attracted 5% VAT, with excise exemptions for units with turnover below ₹1.5 crore. The post-GST rate of 18% has led to increased costs, slowed sales, and dampened growth in a vital construction sector.

5. Natural Stone is Not a Luxury

Advancements in mining and processing have made marble and granite affordable, especially for the middle and upper-middle class. Lower GST will make these materials accessible for low-cost and rural housing projects.

6. Utilization of Stone Waste

High GST discourages the economic processing of lower-grade materials, resulting in wastage. A lower rate will incentivize recycling into cobbles, kerbstones, and other products for public infrastructure and landscaping.

7. Support for Allied Industries

The natural stone industry fuels demand for machinery, tools, abrasives, and chemicals. Indigenous manufacturers are now offering cost-effective, high-quality alternatives to imports. Lower GST will strengthen this entire manufacturing ecosystem, fostering innovation and job creation.

2

8. International Competitiveness

Competing economies such as China, Vietnam, and Indonesia offer much lower VAT/GST rates, giving their industries a price advantage. India must align its tax regime to retain global competitiveness.

9. Interest Equalisation Scheme

We request reintroduction of the Interest Equalisation Scheme to enhance international competitiveness and ease cash flow challenges for exporters.

10. One-Time Market Assistance

Considering our industry primarily comprises MSMEs, we also request one-time market assistance to explore opportunities in the U.S. market and identify genuine buyers.

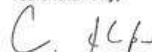
Recent Developments and Request for Reconsideration:

Despite industry expectations, the 56th GST Council Meeting on 3rd September 2025 did not address the GST on slabs. While the rate on marble blocks was reduced from 12% to 5%, this does not benefit processing units or end-users.

We appeal to you to reconsider this matter on priority, as the existing high GST rate continues to stifle growth, employment, and competitiveness in a key sector that supports both rural livelihoods and national economic goals.

We thank you for your continuous support and leadership and sincerely hope for a favourable consideration before 22nd September 2025. The industry places its trust in your commitment to inclusive, sustainable growth and remains confident of a positive resolution.

Yours faithfully,


S Krishna Prasad
President

3

After the historic GST reforms of September 3, 2025, the Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) has again formally appealed to the Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi, seeking a reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on marble and granite from the current 18% to 5%.

Representing more than 1,600 members nationwide, FIGSI has highlighted that the natural stone industry, spanning marble, granite, sandstone, limestone, slates, and quartzite, plays a critical role in India's economy by generating mass employment, supporting livelihoods and allied industries.

In its representation, FIGSI President S Krishna Prasad emphasized that the high GST rate is severely impacting the growth of this labour-intensive and export-oriented sector.

Key arguments presented include:

- **Employment impact:** The stone industry engages over 5 million workers, directly and indirectly.
- **Rural economy backbone:** Thousands of micro and small enterprises, mostly located in rural districts, thrive on stone mining and processing.
- **Eco-friendly material:** Natural stones are more sustainable than engineered alternatives.
- **Historical precedent:** Prior to GST, the effective tax burden on the sector was just 5%, due to VAT and excise duty exemptions for SMEs.
- **Affordability for mass housing:** Technological advances have reduced extraction costs, making Indian stone viable for low-cost housing.
- **Support for allied industries:** The stone sector drives demand for machinery, tools, abrasives, and chemicals.
- **Global Competitiveness:** Competing economies like China, Vietnam, and Indonesia levy significantly lower VAT rates on natural stones.

POST GST REPRESENTATION

Letter to Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, Government of India



Federation of Indian Granite & Stone Industry

FIGSI/MoF/213

05.09.2025

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance
Room No.134,
North Block,
New Delhi - 110011

Respected Madam,

Subject: Request for Reduction in GST Rates on Marble & Granite Slabs from 18% to 5% and Related Industry Issues.

Greetings from the Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI)!!!

FIGSI is a non-profit, pan-India organization representing the natural stone sector for over 42 years, with more than 1600 members nationwide. The Federation actively works as a vital link between the industry and various Central and State Government departments.

We write to seek your kind attention and urgent intervention on the critical issues faced by the Indian stone industry—particularly the **high GST rate of 18% on marble and granite slabs**. This is significantly impacting the competitiveness and sustainability of our sector.

The industry encompasses mining and processing of various natural stones such as Marble, Granite, Sandstone, Limestone, Slates, and Quartzite. Despite repeated representations, the GST burden on marble and granite slabs remains unaddressed, severely affecting the industry's viability.

We were encouraged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Independence Day assurance that the Government would consider GST rationalisation before Deepawali to promote indigenous industry and the 'Make in India' initiative. However, no relief was extended in the 56th GST Council meeting held on 3rd September 2025, except a reduction from 12% to 5% on marble blocks, which does not benefit the end-user or slab processing units.

We therefore earnestly urge your good-self to reconsider the matter before 22nd September 2025, and favourably reduce the GST rate on marble and granite slabs from 18% to 5%.

Below, we present a **detailed justification** for your kind perusal. Key Points in Support of GST Reduction on Marble and Granite Slabs:



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POST GST REPRESENTATION

Letter to Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, Government of India

1. **Employment-Intensive Sector**

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2. **Boost to Rural Economy**

The industry supports thousands of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in rural areas. Reduced GST will directly aid these units, promote rural entrepreneurship, and drive local economic development.

3. **Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Material**

Natural stones have low embodied energy and a minimal carbon footprint, especially when compared to concrete or engineered materials. Encouraging their use through GST reduction aligns with the Government's sustainability and green building goals.

4. **Historical Taxation Background**

Before GST, natural stones attracted 5% VAT, with excise exemptions for units with turnover below ₹1.5 crore. The post-GST rate of 18% has led to increased costs, slowed sales, and dampened growth in a vital construction sector.

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Advancements in mining and processing have made marble and granite affordable, especially for the middle and upper-middle class. Lower GST will make these materials accessible for low-cost and rural housing projects.

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High GST discourages the economic processing of lower-grade materials, resulting in wastage. A lower rate will incentivize recycling into cobbles, kerbstones, and other products for public infrastructure and landscaping.

7. **Support for Allied Industries**

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8. **International Competitiveness**

Competing economies such as China, Vietnam, and Indonesia offer much lower VAT/GST rates, giving their industries a price advantage. India must align its tax regime to retain global competitiveness.

9. **Interest Equalisation Scheme**

We request reintroduction of the Interest Equalisation Scheme to enhance international competitiveness and ease cash flow challenges for exporters.

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Considering our industry primarily comprises MSMEs, we also request one-time market assistance to explore opportunities in the U.S. market and identify genuine buyers.

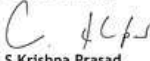
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S Krishna Prasad
President

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After the historic GST reforms of September 3, 2025, the Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) has again formally appealed to the Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi, seeking a reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on marble and granite from the current 18% to 5%.

Representing more than 1,600 members nationwide, FIGSI has highlighted that the natural stone industry, spanning marble, granite, sandstone, limestone, slates, and quartzite, plays a critical role in India's economy by generating mass employment, supporting livelihoods and allied industries.


In its representation, FIGSI President S Krishna Prasad emphasized that the high GST rate is severely impacting the growth of this labour-intensive and export-oriented sector.

Key arguments presented include:

- **Employment impact:** The stone industry engages over 5 million workers, directly and indirectly.
- **Rural economy backbone:** Thousands of micro and small enterprises, mostly located in rural districts, thrive on stone mining and processing.
- **Eco-friendly material:** Natural stones are more sustainable than engineered alternatives.
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- **Affordability for mass housing:** Technological advances have reduced extraction costs, making Indian stone viable for low-cost housing.
- **Support for allied industries:** The stone sector drives demand for machinery, tools, abrasives, and chemicals.
- **Global Competitiveness:** Competing economies like China, Vietnam, and Indonesia levy significantly lower VAT rates on natural stones.

US TARIFFS

Letter to Minister for Commerce & Industry



Federation of Indian Granite & Stone Industry

FIGSI/MoCEI/ 1 u 8 04.08.2025

Shri Piyush Goyal
Hon'ble Minister for Commerce & Industry
Government of India
Room no. 501,
Vaniyia Bhawan
New Delhi-110011

Respected Sir

Subject: Representation on the Adverse Impact of the Recently Imposed 25% Tariff by the USA - Indian Natural Stone Exports

We would like to bring to your kind attention the significant challenges currently faced by the natural stone industry consisting of Granite, Marble, Sand stone, Quartzite and Slate – in the form of granite monuments, building slabs, and floor tiles – following the imposition of a 25% tariff by the United States on Indian imports.

FIGSI

The Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI), established over four decades ago, stands as the unified voice of the natural stone sector in India. Formed with the core purpose of representing and advancing the interests of the industry, FIGSI spans the entire value chain of natural stone—from quarrying to processing and exports. Today, we proudly operate as a pan-India organization, representing more than 1,600 members from across the country.

Why the Natural Stone Industry is Unique?

The Natural Stone Industry is distinct and stands out in several key ways:

- Highly Labour-Intensive**

Unlike many other sectors, our production processes are not amenable to mechanisation. As a result, the industry remains heavily reliant on manual labour, providing employment to lakhs of workers consistently.

FIGSI
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Phone: +91-80-2381 2541
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The Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) has urged the Government of India to intervene after the United States imposed a steep 25% tariff on Indian natural stone imports, including granite, marble, sandstone, quartzite, and slate.

In a letter to Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, FIGSI highlighted the severe challenges posed by the tariff hike. Exporters are facing shrinking profit margins, acute working capital stress, and a sharp decline in new orders. Importers in the US are pressing Indian suppliers to absorb 5–10% of the tariff burden, even as input costs and global competition from Chinese exporters continue to rise.

The industry, which is highly labour-intensive, predominantly rural-based, and largely MSME-driven, provides employment to lakhs of workers. FIGSI emphasized that the sudden tariff escalation threatens both livelihoods and foreign exchange earnings.

To help the sector withstand the crisis, FIGSI requested three key interventions: reintroduction of the Interest Equalisation Scheme, upward revision of RoDTEP rates from 1.1% to 2%, and a one-time 25% enhancement in working capital limits.

FIGSI President S Krishna Prasad called for urgent government support to safeguard competitiveness, protect jobs, and sustain India's position in the global stone market.

2. Predominantly Rural-Based

The industry is predominantly located in rural areas, thereby contributing significantly to rural employment, boosting local demand, and supporting rural development—which is vital for balanced national growth.

3. Largely MSME-Driven

A substantial portion of the industry falls under the Micro and Small Enterprises category within the MSME sector, making it an important driver of grassroots economic activity.

Impact of 25% tariff by USA

Effect of 25% Tariff on Natural Stone Industry

A) Profit Margins Under Severe Pressure

U.S. buyers have already been managing a baseline 10% tariff. With the recent escalation, most importers are now urging Indian exporters to absorb 5%-10% of the tariff burden by reducing our prices accordingly.

It is important to emphasize that, despite a steady increase in input costs over the past decade, we have not been able to adjust our export prices upward—primarily due to sustained pricing pressure from Chinese exporters in the U.S. market. A forced reduction of 5%-10% at this stage would drastically erode our already constrained profit margins, threatening business viability.

B) Acute Working Capital Stress

At present, we offer credit periods of 30 to 40 days to U.S. buyers. However, in light of the prevailing uncertainty, importers are now demanding extended credit terms of 90 to 120 days. This shift poses a serious challenge to our working capital cycle and liquidity, as export realization timelines are being significantly prolonged.

C) Sharp Decline in Export Orders

The current ambiguity surrounding U.S. tariff enforcement is prompting many importers to defer or scale down their order volumes. They are hesitant to commit due to uncertainty about the applicable duties at the time of goods' arrival in U.S. ports. Given their fixed-price contracts with end customers, importers are unable to pass on any additional costs—forcing them to adopt a "wait and watch" approach.

Urgent Appeal for Government Intervention and Support

In light of the above challenges, we humbly request the following interventions to help the natural stone industry withstand the impact of the tariff hike:

1) Reintroduction of Interest Equalisation Scheme

In this context, we earnestly appeal for the reintroduction of the Interest Equalisation Scheme, which previously played a vital role in making Indian products globally competitive. Its revival will greatly support small exporters in overcoming financial strain and scaling up production for international markets. This revision will enable exporters like us to better withstand global pricing pressures, maintain sustainable margins, and continue contributing to India's export growth.

2) Upward revision of RoDTEP

The natural stone industry, particularly in the processing of granite and marble, is highly energy-intensive. Our operations rely on heavy-duty machinery that consumes substantial amounts of electricity. Moreover, transporting huge stone blocks from remote quarries to processing facilities involves considerable fuel expenditure, primarily through long-distance haulage by heavy vehicles.


Hence the embedded cost on energy and logistics in our sector is significantly higher than in many other industries.

We humbly request the RoDTEP refund rate for the natural stone sector to be revised upward from 1.1% to at least 2%.

3) Ad-hoc One-Time Enhancement of Working Capital

A one-time 25% enhancement in working capital limits for a defined period, backed by existing collateral. This measure will help mitigate immediate liquidity constraints and ensure uninterrupted business operations.

We request our Government to kindly consider the above support measures to help the natural stone industry to navigate this challenging period. Your timely intervention would greatly assist in sustaining competitiveness in the global market, protecting employment and also generating rural employment in labor and earning valuable foreign exchange. We remain hopeful for your kind support and guidance.

Thanking you,
With regards,

S. Krishna Prasad
President

US TARIFFS

FIGSI appeals to NSI, USA as tariffs double

James A. (Jim) Hieb, CAE
 Chief Executive Officer
 Natural Stone Institute
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 440-250-9222 · FAX: 440-774-9222
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Dear Mr. James A Hieb;

Greetings from FIGSI!!!!!!

Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) is a All India body having 1,600 members throughout the country serving for the benefit of Natural Stone Industry of India for the last 42 years. FIGSI conducts International Stone Fair popularly known as STONA once in 2 years.

The Chief objective of the Federation being promotion of the Natural Stone Industries, which come under the category of Ornamental or Decorative building stones like Granites, Marbles, Sandstones, Slates, Quartzite and ancillary and auxiliary Industries of Machinery, Tools, Abrasives, Consumables related to stone Industries and conduct Conferences, workshops on each and every aspect of Stone Industry.

The US government has increased the tariffs on imports from India from 25% to 50%. These new tariffs take effect on 27 August 25.

It is to be noted that USA is highly dependent on India as far as Natural Stone imports are concerned.

The tariffs were the highest the US charged on any of its other trading partner. This high tariff has caused a lot of worry in India because it puts their \$87 billion worth of exports to the US at risk and is making the relationship between the two countries tense. August 1st, 2025. This is how the tariffs stand as of today in the stone processing most relevant countries/regions:

Brazil: 50% for granite and marble, 10% for quartzite, China: 30%, Egypt:10%, EU: 15%, India: 25% plus undefined penalty for buying Russian oil, Turkey 15%, Vietnam: 20 %, These are base tariffs plus country specific tariffs.

Special exemptions or special product tariffs unknown. Most likely these rates also apply to artificial stones.

New tax will hit exporters as they will lose around USD 2000 per container.

USAs punitive tariff imposed on Indian goods has severely affected the granite industry in India. Some container loads are in transit through sea and some of the goods have piled up at Indian ports leading to uncertainty.

Many exporters are now waiting and watching the developments, and they will decide their future moves after the three-month tariff break.

Export from India to USA from 1 Aug 2024 to 19 July 2025		
Sl no	Item	Value (USD)
1	Granite	\$201,972,368.83
2	Marble	\$269,010,384.03
3	Sandstone	\$40,163,106.31
4	Slate	\$26,760,968.11
TOTAL		\$537,906,827.28

Perhaps more important, with inflation in USA likely to shoot up, cost of building materials having increased, the much-anticipated construction boom will fizzle out.

New housing prices, already high, will become even more unaffordable. Interest rates in US will surely increase.

Overall demand will decrease. Cash flow pressures on US importers of stone in USA will increase. It is possible many smaller importers will go bankrupt, if the US market slows down considerably.

In other words, unless the new tariffs are removed or lowered considerably, and soon, big trouble lies ahead.

Exports

Currently, all monument exports have been put on hold by U.S. customers due to uncertainty over the applicable duties at the time of arrival at U.S. ports.

Our industry is already under considerable pressure, with both profit margins and working capital severely strained due to multiple challenges.

US extended a tariff truce with China for another 90 days means there is going to be lots of front loading from China which again bad for our business.

Exports about 2 billion dollars and more than 2.5 million people employed in our industry.

Recommendation

We request the NSI to take the matter with the US authorities for an amicable solution at the earliest also to ensure that there is good and conducive atmosphere for STONE trade to continue and grow.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MINES SAFETY (DGMS)

FIGSI part of high-level committee for mandatory mines registration & safety


In a significant step towards strengthening mine safety and worker welfare, the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India has set up a high-powered committee under the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS).

The committee has been tasked with exploring and recommending measures for the mandatory registration of all mines across the country.




Mining has long been a backbone of India's economy, providing essential raw materials for industries such as steel, cement, and power. However, the sector also faces recurring challenges of safety, accountability, and compliance with statutory provisions.

The new initiative seeks to close these gaps by bringing every mine under a unified registration and monitoring system.

A Broad-Based Committee
The committee is chaired by Shri Niraj Kumar, Deputy Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS, NZ, Ghaziabad), and includes senior government officials, technical experts, state-level representatives, and industry leaders.



भारत सरकार / Government of India
श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय / Ministry of Labour & Employment
खान सुरक्षा महानिदेशालय / Directorate General of Mines Safety

Dhanbad, dated 30.06.25

OFFICE ORDER NO.27(1)2025-ADM.I/ 101 OF 2025

A committee was constituted alongwith Terms of Refrence of the Committee with a view to examine and suggest ways for mandatory registration of all mines with DGMS to ensure safety of mines and compliance of the statutory provisions concerncing safety and welfare of mine workers by mine owner vide Ministry's Order No. Z-16025/40/2025-ISH.II(e-163567) dated 27.06.2025 (copy enclosed).

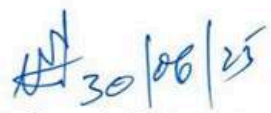
The Committee will submit its Preliminary report within a period of 60 days and final report within a period of 90 days from the date of constitution of Committee.

Sd/-
Director General of Mines Safety

Memo No.27(1)2025-Adm.I/ 6374-87 /Dhanbad, dated 30.06.25

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to :

1. Shri Niraj Kumar, Dy.Director General of Mines Safety, DGMS, NZ, Ghaziabad.
2. Shri M.D.Mishra, Director of Mines Safety, DGMS, HQ, Dhanbad.
3. Shri Minhaz Ahmad, Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Labouour & Employment, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi -
4. Shri A.K.Makadia, GM (Tech.), GMDC, Gujrat.
5. Shri Pankaj Satija, Tata Steel.
6. Shri B.K.Bhatia, Director General, Federation of India Mineral Industries (FIMI)
7. Shri Navneet Kumar, COO & Officiating CEO, Skill Council of Mining Sector (SCMS)
8. Shri S.Krishna Prasad, President, Federation of India Granite & Stone Industry (FIGSI).
9. Dr.C.H.Rao, Secretary General, Federation of Minor Minerals Industry (FEMMI).
10. Shri Akshaydeep Mathur, Hon.Secretary General, Gederation of Mining Association of Rajasthan.
11. Shri Deepak Tanwar, Director (Geology), Rajasthan.
12. Shri Jitendra Solanki, Director (Geology), Madhya Pradesh.
13. Shri Maheveera K.A., Dy.Director(Geology), Karnataka.
14. Shri Rohit Lenka, DMG, Odisha.


 Director General of Mines Safety

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MINES SAFETY (DGMS)

No. Z-16025/40/2025-ISH-II (e-163567)

Government of India

Ministry of Labour and Employment

Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi, dated the 27th June, 2025.

Order

With the approval of competent authority in the Ministry of Labour & Employment the following Committee is constituted with a view to examine and suggest ways for mandatory registration of all mines with DGMS to ensure safety of mines and compliance of the statutory provisions concerning safety and welfare of mine workers by mine owners:

Sl. No.	Name (S/ Shri) and Designation	Organization	Role	Contact Mob. No.	Email Id
1	Niraj Kumar, DDG(NZ)	DGMS	Chairman	9490458288	nkumar@dgms.gov.in
2	M.D. Mishra, Director of Mines Safety	DGMS	Member Secretary	9425570119	mdmishra@dgms.gov.in
3	Minhaz Ahmad, Deputy Secretary	M/o L&E	Member	8763860695	minhazahmad@ord.gov.in
4	A representative from M/o Coal	M/o Coal	Member		
5	A representative from IBM	IBM	Member		
PSU:					
6	A.K. Makadia, GM (Tech)	GMDC, Gujarat	Member	9727792640	akmakadia@gmdcltd.co.in
Private:					
7	Pankaj Satija	TATA Steel	Member	8092084533	pk.satija@tatasteel.com
8	B K Bhatia, Director General	Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI)	Member	9993000750	fimi@fedmin.com
9	Mr. Navneet Kumar, COO & Officiating CEO	Skill Council for Mining Sector (SCMS)	Member	8700547381	coo@skillcms.in; sems@skillcms.in
10	Mr. S. Krishna Prasad, President	Federation of Indian Granite & Stone Industry (FIGSI)	Member	9902414163	figsi@figsi.in; stona@figsi.in
11	Dr. C.H. Rao, Secretary General	Federation of Minor Minerals Industry (FEMMI)	Member	9493734888	drchrao@gmail.com; femmiindia@gmail.com
12	Mr. Akshaydeep Mathur, Hon. Secretary General	Federation of Mining Associations of Rajasthan (FoMAR)	Member	9414078411	fomarjp@rediffmail.com; mail@fmar.in
State Level:					
13	Deepak Tanwar	Director (Geology), Rajasthan	Member		director.uda.mg@rajasthan.gov.in
14	Jitendra Solanki	Director (Geology), Madhya Pradesh	Member	9425150846	jsolanki74@gmail.com
15	Maheveera K A	Dy. Director (Geology), Karnataka	Member	9972111002	qldmndmg@gmail.com
16	Rohit Lenka	DMG, Odisha	Member	7750005909	kjr@rediffmail.com

Contd.-

2. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:-
 - i. To suggest ways to ensure registration of all mines with DGMS.
 - ii. To integrate state government's portal for granting mine leases, with Shram Suvidha Portal (SSP) or to develop a new portal/common platform with state governments.
 - iii. To examine the need/possibility of the amendment of Mines Act and/or related Rules and Regulations thereunder to make it mandatory for all mine owners to register their mines with DGMS before starting operations and to prescribe the minimum extent (size and number) of mining leases granted by the state governments in the interest of the safety of mines and compliance of the statutory provisions.
3. The committee may co-opt experts to assist it in the process.
4. The Committee will submit its Preliminary report within a period of 60 days and Final report within a period of 90 days from date of its constitution to DG, DGMS.

Ravi Shankar Nirala
27/06/2025
(Ravi Shankar Nirala)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tele.: 011-23766937
Email-ravis.nirala@nic.in

Copy to:-

1. Respective Members of the Committee.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Coal- with a request to nominate an officer (not below the rank of Director) from M/o Coal for the above Committee.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Mines- with a request to nominate an officer from IBM for the above Committee.
4. DG, DGMS - with a request to furnish the report once it is received to him along with his comments within 10 days from the date of receipt of report.

This diverse representation ensures that the perspectives of government, industry, and regional stakeholders are reflected in the recommendations.

Timelines and Deliverables

The committee has been asked to work on a strict timeline:

- Preliminary Report: within 60 days of constitution.
- Final Report: within 90 days to DGMS, Dhanbad.

This urgency signals the government's intent to fast-track reforms that can make mining operations safer and more transparent.

Why this matters

India's mining sector has witnessed several safety lapses and accidents in recent years, often linked to poor regulation, unregistered small-scale mines, and lack of accountability. By mandating registration and linking it with state and central systems, the government hopes to:

- Improve safety outcomes for mine workers.
- Ensure compliance with statutory welfare provisions.
- Promote transparency and reduce illegal mining.
- Strengthen data-driven oversight of the sector.

The inclusion of industry bodies like FIMI, FIGSI, and leading corporates highlights that the move is not just about compliance, but also about building a collaborative framework where safety and growth go hand in hand. As India positions itself as a global leader in mineral production, balancing growth with safety will be crucial. The formation of this committee marks an important step in modernizing mining governance, making it more accountable, digital-first, and worker-centric.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MINES SAFETY (DGMS)

FIGSI note on DGMS Committee

12.07.2025

FIGSI NOTE ON DGMS COMMITTEE

Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry
 "STONA", No.429/7, 12th Cross, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru - 560080, India
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 Website: www.figsi.in, www.stonaindia.co.in

Reference is made to the virtual meeting held on 09th Jul 2025, the following key points are submitted to the committee for consideration and deliberations:

1. Integrating the Registration procedure for Minor Mineral Mines - Single window policy

- Integration of DMG, DGMS, MoEF & IBM websites to a single Window for registration
- Mandatory and fixed time lines for statutory approvals.

2. Consideration of specific policies for small size quarries

- The registration criteria for quarries of very small size, which are below 5 Hectares Hard rock quarries. It is suggested that a specific policy / rules and conditions to be defined for registration with DGMS.

3. Cluster approach for registering small quarries:

- Defining clusters size and number of small natural stone quarries per cluster.
- Appointment of Mines Manager / statutory special personnel should be allowed within the cluster. As Individual quarry / mines to appoint mines manager it is additional financial burden.

4. Special Insurance coverage for quarry resources:

- Quarry Employees to be covered under the special Pradhana Mantri Insurance Schemes.

The DGMS Committee is constituted under the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), which is the national regulatory body for safety and health in the mining and mineral sector.

- DGMS works under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India.
- Its role is to enforce the Mines Act, 1952 and related regulations to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of mine workers.
- From time to time, the DGMS forms expert committees (often called DGMS Committees) that include representatives from government, mining companies, trade unions, and technical experts.

These committees are tasked with:

- Reviewing safety standards, codes, and guidelines in mines (coal, metal, stone, and other minerals).
- Recommending measures for accident prevention and safer mining operations.
- Advising on training, technology adoption, and skill development for mine workers.
- Suggesting amendments to mining laws and regulations.

5. Special consideration of existing quarries:

- Existing and approved mines of small area which are below 5 hectares should be allowed to continue mines till the expiry of mines lease as per the present conditions.

6. Other pending points submitted by FIGSI, letter dated 16.09.2024

The following points were submitted for consideration.

a) Granite deposit - Bench Cutting:

- It is a fact that granite deposits are naturally formed in hard and compact homogenous rock formation. Granite deposit cannot be equated at par with other deposits viz., coal, iron, magnesite, limestone and etc.
- The Officials of Directorate General of Mines Safety insist that the bench height shall not exceed six meters and width shall not be less than six meters.
- Whereas, Metalliferous Mines Regulations 1961, Regulation 106 (3) provides that "In an excavation in any hard and compact ground or in prospecting trenches or pits, the sides shall be adequately benched, slopped or secured so as to prevent danger from fall of sides".
- Modern mining equipment like Crawler Crane which is capable of lifting granite blocks up to thirty (30) meters are being used. Latest sophisticated wire-saw technology is being used for dislodging from parent rock.
- Hence, by mentioning Regulation 106 (3) the bench height may be increased up to ten (10) meters. It is suggested to reduce the safety zone width from seven and half (7.5) meters to one (1) meter, since granite is a hard material and can withstand the load in the final pit wall.

b) Authorization under Regulation 34(6) of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961

We, being granite quarrying lessee facing difficulties that the second-class manager who are authorized under the above regulation are soon after they join, because of their personal reasons, leave the assignment which caused much hardship in appointing another second-class manager in that place.

In order to avoid such situations, we request that while giving authorization to the second-class manager additional condition may kindly be incorporated that the second-class manager should work in the quarry where appointed for a period of one year from the date of authorization.

c) Digitalization of maintenance of Statutory Records & Registers in Mines:

We express our hearty thanks for already digitalized regarding Company Registration Particulars (LIN), Annual Return and any permission for quarrying operations through Shram Suvidha Portal.

We request that the Statutory Records & Register which are to be maintained physically in the Mines may be allowed to be digitalized.

d) HEMM Permissions:

We request that HEMM permission validity for the whole lease period instead of five years.

e) Appointment of second class manager is sufficient for granite quarrying:

The activities involved in mine viz., coal, iron ore and etc., is entirely different from the activities involved in quarrying of granite where extent of lease area is very less and deployment of quarrying equipment is minimal and therefore, appointment of second-class manager is sufficient to cater the needs of granite quarrying operations.

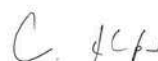
Majority of Granite quarries are of small extent in nature, which is below 2 hectares. Hence to appoint 1st and 2nd class managers to each quarry will increase the financial burden on the quarry owners. Hence, we request to consider the appointment of managers on cluster basis in the area of 5 km range.

f) DGMS - Skilling & Safety Trainings:

FIGSI is having more than 1600 members across the country. Two Skill Development Centres are ready at Hosur, Tamil Nadu and Jaipur, Rajasthan. FIGSI is closely working with SCMS on Skill Development Trainings, as required by DGMS.


The approved trainings of DGMS will be conducted and Certificate will be issued to these resources to work in the mines. This will mandate with National Education Policy.

FIGSI needs support from DGMS for fund allocation to these centers, so that the safety skill trainings are delivered free of cost.


 S Krishna Prasad
 President

LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT MoEFCC

Representation to Ministry of Environment



Federation of Indian Granite & Stone Industry

FIGSI/MoEF&CC/ 13.06.2025

To
The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC),
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dear Sir,



Subject: Representation seeking relief and clarity for mining proponents affected due to procedural delays in EC processing - Reference to Supreme Court Judgment in WP(C) No. 1394 of 2023

We, the members of the Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI), humbly submit this representation with reference to the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 21st May 2024 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1394 of 2023, which has resulted in sudden closure of mining operations across several states due to non-possession of valid Environmental Clearance (EC), even in cases where applications were already made but remained pending due to procedural delays.

Background

The Hon'ble Court, while interpreting the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006, has ruled that mining operations without a valid EC are impermissible, irrespective of the procedural status or pendency. This has inadvertently affected a large number of genuine leaseholders and entrepreneurs who:

- Had duly applied for EC with the competent authorities (SEIAA/SEAC or MoEFCC).

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The Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) has submitted a representation to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) seeking urgent relief and clarity for mining operators affected by procedural delays in obtaining Environmental Clearances (EC).

The appeal follows the Supreme Court judgment in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1394 of 2023, delivered on May 21, 2024, which mandated that mining operations without a valid EC are impermissible. The ruling has led to widespread closure of mines, even in cases where leaseholders had already applied for ECs but were awaiting approvals due to administrative delays.

FIGSI emphasized that many operators had duly applied for ECs, continued paying royalties, and operated under valid state leases, yet were penalized for no fault of their own. The sudden shutdowns have caused significant economic distress, forced closure of compliant units, disrupted employment, and adversely impacted exports in key sectors such as granite, marble, limestone, quartz, and laterite.

- Have been operating under valid lease rights granted by respective State Governments.
- Continued paying statutory royalties and other dues.
- Were awaiting EC due to administrative delays beyond their control.

This situation has now caused economic hardship, forced closure of compliant mining units, and disrupted employment and exports, especially in sectors such as granite, marble, limestone, quartz, laterite, and other minor minerals.

Our Submissions & Requests

1. Relief for Genuine Applicants:

We respectfully request the Ministry to issue temporary operational relief or a deemed clearance mechanism, subject to final EC approval, for all cases where:

- EC application has been duly filed before the cut-off dates.
- No violations or illegal mining is reported.
- The pendency is solely due to delay in processing by SEIAA/SEAC or technical committees.

2. Directive to States for Prioritized Processing:

Kindly instruct SEIAAs to immediately fast-track all pending EC applications, especially where field inspections, EIA studies, or public hearings were already conducted or scheduled.

3. Data Transparency & Publication:

We seek the state-wise and sector-wise data of:

- Pending EC applications in minor mineral sectors (granite, marble, sandstone, etc.).
- Applications pending for over 6 months, 1 year and more.
- Number of leases affected due to the recent Supreme Court judgment.
- SEIAA/SEAC-wise pendency reasons (if possible).

This will help stakeholders and industry bodies like ours to understand the spread of impact and assist the Ministry in formulation of targeted policy responses.

4. Consideration for a One-time Regularization Scheme:

As was done previously in 2017 and 2018 via Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for EC violation cases, a one-time opportunity may kindly be extended to all pending applicants to regularize their status with retrospective EC issuance or fast-track processing.

Conclusion


We reiterate that the intent of leaseholders has always been to comply with EC norms, but repeated procedural revisions, capacity constraints at SEIAAs, and lack of clarity in central/state coordination have led to the present hardship.

Hence, we seek urgent intervention from your esteemed Ministry to protect the livelihood of thousands of workers, exporters, and MSME mining units, and to prevent further economic disruption in key sectors.

We are also open to jointly convening a stakeholder consultation meeting at your convenience to share on-ground insights and propose implementable solutions.

With sincere regards,


Yours faithfully,



Manoj Kumar Singh
General Secretary

LETTERS TO GOVERNMENT

Seeking relief on dead rent and other mineral dues in Andhra Pradesh



Federation of Indian Granite & Stone Industry

FIGSI/DMG-AP/ 03.07.2025

To

The Commissioner and Director,
Department of Mines & Geology,
Government of Andhra Pradesh,
5th Floor, Anjaneya Towers,
Ibrahimpattanam, Vijayawada,
Andhra Pradesh


Respected Sir,

Subject: Colour Granite Quarry Leases ADR and Mineral Dues - Request for waiver of dead rents and other accumulated mineral dues, seeking administrative relief for leaseholders affected by delays in processing and past policy hardships in the colour granite mining sector-Req.

Ref: 1. Hon'ble Supreme Court Order Dt.16/5/2025 in Writ Petition (C) No.1394 of 2023.
2. G.O.Ms.No.100 Dt.26/06/2025 AP Minor Mineral Policy, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

On behalf of FIGSI, we extend our sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation to your esteemed office and the Government of Andhra Pradesh for bringing new progressive minor mineral policy that prioritizes transparency, viability, and revival of long-struggling granite quarry operations. This renewed commitment to industry welfare has created a wave of optimism among leaseholders who had almost given up due to prolonged distress.

FIGSI, Federation of Indian Granite And Stone Industry with over 1,800 members representing granite and natural stone quarrying and processing industry and exporters across India, It is committed to working closely with the Governments to promote sustainable mining, generate employment, and contribute meaningfully to the State's mineral revenue and development.

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The Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) has formally approached the Commissioner of Mines and Geology, Andhra Pradesh, requesting relief on dead rents and accumulated mineral dues that have burdened quarry and mining operators across the state.

In its representation, FIGSI highlighted that many leaseholders and stone businesses are facing financial stress due to prolonged delays in policy clearances and procedural bottlenecks. These delays, often beyond the control of quarry owners, have resulted in statutory dues that are proving unsustainable for small and medium operators.

FIGSI emphasized that the industry is a major employment generator and foreign exchange earner through natural stone exports, especially granite.

However, the imposition of high fixed rents and penalties during non-operational periods has weakened sectoral growth & investment confidence.

The appeal now awaits the Commissioner's consideration and policy-level review.

We wish to bring the below mentioned issues seeking your kind consideration:

- We respectfully highlight a pressing concern arising from the recent judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (C) No. 1394 of 2023, Dt.16/5/2025, wherein it was held that any operations continue with valid Environmental Clearances (ECs) and all pending EC applications, regardless of how advanced in process, stand rejected.
- While we uphold the Hon'ble Court's decision in principle, its implementation has resulted in an unintended form of discrimination.
- Those leaseholders who applied in time and complied with all requirements are being denied the opportunity to operate—not due to any omission on their part, but only because of long-standing procedural delays by the authorities and State Environment Boards.

This has had a cascading impact on several hundreds of livelihoods.

Quarries are now not to allow operations in any condition due to lack of prior EC.

Though the quarries held inoperative for lack of EC and statutory conditions, they continue to receive demands for payment of dead rents and other mineral fees from the Mines Department.

This is an unjust scenario, where the leaseholder is being penalized for factors entirely outside and beyond their scope and control.

The delay caused in getting the EC and other statutory permissions are purely due to administrative procedures and ever changing guidelines by MoEF.,

The leaseholder now has become a victim of a stalled process.

In view of the above, we earnestly request that no dead rent be charged for the period during which operations are suspended solely due to the unavailability of statutory clearances like EC, Consent for Establishment (CFE) and Consent for Operation (CFO), Department clarifications or permissions, court cases etc.,

We further draw your kind attention on judicial precedents where courts have acknowledged that leaseholders cannot be held liable for dead rent payments when they are prohibited from operating their leases due to statutory obligations or delays beyond the scope and control of mineral leases holders.

Lease holders accounts got accumulated dead rents and mineral dues due to the legacy of impractical and burdensome policies introduced by the previous government, such as:

- Mandatory payment of ADR and consideration amounts for lease areas irrespective of their status.
- Three times ADR as security deposit for achieving mining plan target volumes.
- Quarterly deduction of annual dead rents without considering the facts that several market, socio, political and economic factors influence the operations of Quarry.
- Levying Exorbitant and unbearable CFE and CFO fees on lease extents or production volumes over and above any industry norms which is discrimination in nature and rule.
- Lack of response or clarity from SEIAA's on pending applications and their fate.
- Several Quarry leases are suffering from the liability of unjustified mineral dues and accumulated interests over the dues for the genuine reasons beyond their scope and control.

These hostile conditions, worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, forced many leaseholders to cease their operations, and in several cases, they were forced to seek judicial protection from the lease terminations and means of mineral dues recovery.

The accumulated mineral dues like dead rents during this period are not wilful default, but they are reflection of policies that made compliance or operation commercially unviable.

Now that these earlier policies have been corrected or abolished by the current government, it is also justifiable to consider waiver of outstanding mineral dues and dead rents from the periods where the quarry leases have stopped for the reasons beyond their scope and control.

The mining community who were denied their fair chances of obtaining statutory rights humbly wishes and prays to get an opportunity to rebuild themselves and start contributing to the state's economic revenues.

Kindly, instruct the mining officers authorized to issue transit permits for working quarries and to the entities facing the mineral dues scenario for the

above reasons and also instruct them to refrain from initiating lease determination proposals which will make them suffer irreparable damage and losses.


if reasonable opportunity is given and adequate time is provided for lease holders from abrupt stoppage of quarry operations—often without sufficient time to resolve or comply—to avoid following bad consequences.

- Disruption of committed supply schedules to national and international projects,
- Immediate job loss for laborers and dependent families,
- Default on machinery EIMs and vendor dues,
- Loss of investor and buyer confidence in Andhra Pradesh's granite supply chain,
- And long-term damage to the state's image as a stable and professional mining destination.

Hence, we earnestly appeal to your kind selves to consider our above pleas and save the minor mineral quarrying and processing industry as we once again convey our thanks to the present government and your administration for reversing the earlier policy errors and for working actively toward a more equitable regulatory environment.

We are confident that under your leadership, further such reforms will continue to promote investment, employment, and economic growth in the state's mining sector.

With Regards and Best Wishes,


S. Krishna Prasad
President



Destroying of Election papers 2024-26

2024-26 election papers destroyed on 12th July, 2025 in presence of President and General Secretary. The sealed covers containing the valid and invalid voting papers (Ballot papers) shall be preserved in the Office of the Federation for a period of three months after the date of the voting and shall thereafter be destroyed unopened, by the Executive Committee in one of their meetings, provided there is no dispute and no challenges pending by the members.



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Or email us at figsi@figsi.in. Our team will be in touch.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF FEDERATION OF INDIAN GRANITE AND STONE INDUSTRY



AIGSA - Reg. date - 21.06.1983

As FIGSI celebrates 42 years of dedicated service to the Indian stone industry, we take a moment to reflect with pride on our collective journey – one marked by unity, progress, and global recognition.

A heartfelt thank you to our Founder President **Sri R Veeramani ji** and all founder members – your vision, courage, and commitment have laid the foundation of this strong and respected organization. Your contribution continues to guide and inspire us every day.

Let's continue striving together toward new milestones and a brighter future for the natural stone industry of India.

Long Live FIGSI!

S. Krishna Prasad
President

Manoj Kumar Singh
General Secretary

Pramod Bhandari
Treasurer

Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members

REPORT FROM THE SKILL SUB COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



Dear members and valued readers,

It gives me great pleasure to share the recent highlights & updates at our Skill Centres.

Plantation drive at Jaipur Centre: On 19th July, 2025 we hosted a mega plantation drive at the Jaipur Centre, bringing together students, businesses and FIGSI members. Over 150 saplings were planted. The initiative reinforced our commitment to sustainability. I am thankful to General Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh who travelled from Bangalore for the plantation drive. His presence emphasized FIGSI's vision for a greener & healthier India.

Visit by Telangana Minister: On 31st July, 2025, we had the privilege of hosting Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Telangana, Shri Tummala Nageswara Rao at our Jaipur Centre. The Minister commended FIGSI's pioneering role in skill development for the stone sector and admired the state-of-the-art infrastructure. He also proposed FIGSI's association as an advisor to the upcoming Telangana State Skill University, with plans to create a dedicated Stone cluster department.

Independence Day celebrations: On 15th August, 2025, our centres in Jaipur and Hosur celebrated Independence Day with flag hoisting and student-led activities. These events were a reminder of our shared responsibility to build a strong, skilled, and self-reliant nation.

Fresh admissions have begun for two new courses on Mining and Stone Processing, which will commence shortly. To spread awareness among students, the Skill Centre management team led by VGU participated in Job Fairs at Baba Ganga Das Govt Girls College in Shahpura on August 25th, on August 29th was participating at Government Bangur PG College in Pali and on August 30th was at GICE Computer Education Narnaul, Haryana.

We are also conducting preliminary studies to explore hybrid (online & offline) skilling programs to reach more students. A concept to set up start-up incubation hubs at the centres is also in early discussion.

Some businesses are already hiring trained candidates from the institute. I once again invite more companies to engage with us, be it through placements, guest lectures, short internships, or even helping shape course content.

Looking ahead, we are focused on skill development, sustainability and innovation for our sector.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Ishwinder Singh
Chairman,
Skill Development Sub Committee

Scan this QR code to learn more and register your interest in partnering with and hiring from the Centres for Stone Excellence.



JAIPUR SKILL CENTRE

Telangana Minister all praise for Skill Initiative

Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Telangana, Shri Tummala Nageswara Rao, recently visited the FIGSI Center of Skill Excellence in Jaipur, acknowledging the organization's pioneering work in skill development for the natural stone industry.

During the visit, Shri Rao expressed deep admiration for FIGSI's state-of-the-art training infrastructure.

The Hon'ble Minister proposed to enroll FIGSI as an official advisor to the upcoming Telangana State Skill University.



Hon'ble Telangana Cabinet Minister Sri Tummala Nageswara Rao visited the FIGSI Skill Centre at Jaipur and also participated in a plantation drive at the Institute on July 31, 2025.



Scan or click the QR code to learn more about the Minister's visit.



540 posts

tummalaofficial
Tummala Nageswar Rao

Politician
Minister of Agriculture, Marketing, Co-operation, and Handlooms & Textiles | MLA-Khammam



Hon'ble Minister posts about visit to Jaipur Centre on social media @Tummalaofficial July 31, 2025

Hon'ble Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao's post on Instagram in Telugu said:

ఈ రోజు ప్రైవేట్ కార్యక్రమంలో పాల్గొనడానికి జైపూర్ వెళ్ళిన తెలంగాణరాష్ట్ర వ్యవసాయ శాఖ మంత్రి శ్రీ తుమ్మల నాగేశ్వరరావు గారు ఈ సందర్భంగా చిన్న పరిశ్రమ భారతి రాజస్థాన్ ప్రతీనిధి బృందం ఆయనను మర్యాద పూర్వకంగా కలవడం జరిగింది. సోల్, దుపట్టు, శిఫిల్ మరియు స్టాన్ మార్ట్ 2026 మొమెంటోను బహుకరించి మంత్రి శ్రీ తుమ్మల నాగేశ్వరరావు గారికి స్వాగతం పలకడం జరిగింది. ఆ రాష్ట్రంలో అమలులో ఉన్న పలు చిన్న తరహా పరిశ్రమల గురించి తెలుసుకొని తెలంగాణలో పలు పరిశ్రమలు ఏర్పాటుకు ముఖ్యమంత్రి శ్రీ రేవంత్ రెడ్డి గారి ఆధ్వర్యంలో ప్రజాప్రభుత్వం సహకరిస్తుంది అని మంత్రి శ్రీ తుమ్మల నాగేశ్వరరావు గారు తెలియజేసినారు.

Training the next generation of stone experts



Sri Krishna Prasad
President, FIGSI

కంపెనీలు ఈనాగలీ తరబీతి పడేద అబ్బ డిఎన్లన్న నేమిసికొళ్ళుత్తివే ఎందు ఊళలు నావు ఊమ్మే పడుత్రేవే. ఇదు ఒందు ఊగ్గురుతు లుపక్రమవారిదే.



Sri R Veeramani
Founder President, FIGSI

నాంబత్తు ఆణ్ణండుకణ్ణుక్కు గుంబు FIGSI ఒరువొక్కకబ్బట్టబోతు. ఇంతత్తు ట్రాణ్ణెక్కాణ్ణ ఒరు పయీరశి నిరుణ్ణతణ్ణె నాంబ్కణ్ణ కణ్ణపణ్ణె శెశ్యత్తిరుణ్ణతొణ్ణం. అతు ఇట్టబోతు నిజ్ణుమొకీవిట్టతు.



Sri Manoj Kumar Singh
General Secretary, FIGSI

FIGSI has always worked for the benefit of the industry. These Skill Centres show our commitment to the sector and will help take our sector forward, globally.



Sri Ishwinder Singh, IPP & Chairman, FIGSI Skill Committee

अत्यधिक कुशल कार्यबल को बढ़ावा देकर, यह केंद्र न केवल रोजगार सृजन कर रहा है, बल्कि वैश्विक स्तर पर उद्योग को भी बढ़ावा दे रहा है। यह पत्थर उद्योग में कौशल अंतर को दूर करने की दिशा में एक बड़ा कदम है।

FIGSI-VGU discuss next steps for skilling initiative

On June 25, 2025, a FIGSI delegation met with Mr Onkar Bagaria, CEO of Vivekananda Global University (VGU), at the VGU campus in Jaipur.

The meeting focused on the future roadmap for FIGSI's skill centres, with a special emphasis on the Hosur Centre.

The session concluded with a lunch hosted by VGU at their campus.



FIGSI General Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, Immediate Past President & Skill Chairman Ishwinder Singh, Vice Presidents Guru Shastrimath and N Ashoken, Joint Secretary Laxmikant Jain and Executive Committee members Anuj Modi and Rajesh Angara met with Mr Onkar Bagaria, CEO of Vivekananda Global University.

FIGSI delegation visits Skill Centre at Jaipur



JAIPUR SKILL CENTRE VISIT

FIGSI delegation during a visit to the Skill Centre at Jaipur.



From right: FIGSI Vice President Guru Shastrimath, General Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, Immediate Past President and Skill Committee Chairman Ishwinder Singh and STONA 2025 Chairman Madan Jangid during a meeting on FIGSI's skilling initiative at the Jaipur Centre.



From right: STONA 2025 Chairman Madan Jangid, FIGSI Executive Committee member Anuj Modi, FIGSI Joint Secretaries Sanjeev Modi and Laxmikant Jain and Centre in-charge Mr Sona Singh interact during the meeting on FIGSI's skilling initiative at the Jaipur Centre.

FIGSI General Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, Vice President Guru Shastrimath, Immediate Past President and Skill Committee Chairman Ishwinder Singh, STONA 2025 Chairman Madan Jangid and Executive Committee members of the Federation visited the Jaipur Centre for Stone Excellence and had a healthy discussion about taking FIGSI's flagship skilling initiative forward. The discussion was rich with insights and resulted in actionable plans to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and increase awareness about the initiative.



A snapshot of focused learning as students at the FIGSI Skill Development Centre at Jaipur engage in a Digital Marketing class. Empowering the next generation with skills for the evolving digital landscape.

Digital Marketing

Computer Numerical Control Class

Plantation drive at Jaipur Skill Centre

The FIGSI Skill Centre in Mahindra SEZ, Jaipur, hosted a plantation drive. The event saw an enthusiastic turnout and reaffirmed FIGSI's commitment to a cleaner, greener future.

Joining the cause from Bengaluru, Mr Manoj Kumar Singh, General Secretary of FIGSI, emphasized the organization's commitment to sustainability and its vision for a greener and healthier India.

"Planting trees is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways to give back to the planet. FIGSI is proud to champion such causes," he said.

Initiated by Mr Ishwinder Singh, Chairman of the FIGSI Skill Committee and Immediate Past President of FIGSI, the initiative aimed to instil ecological consciousness among the younger generation and industry professionals alike.

Over 150 saplings were planted during the drive, with active participation from executive committee members of FIGSI, local industry representatives, and the vibrant student community of the Skill Centre at Mahindra SEZ, Jaipur.



Over 150 saplings were planted during the drive, with active participation from executive committee members of FIGSI, local industry representatives, and the student community of the Centre.



Members also took the opportunity to celebrate the birthday of FIGSI Executive Committee member Samprati Singhvi.



SKILLING FOR SUCCESS

Kobelco delegation visits Skill Centre at Jaipur



On July 14, 2025, a delegation from Kobelco visited the Jaipur Skill Centre. The visit highlighted the centre's training initiatives for the natural stone industry, showcasing hands-on learning facilities and advanced equipment.

FIGSI & ACE Micromatic teams visit Hosur

A FIGSI delegation visited Hosur on 18th July 2025 along with members from a ACE Micromatic's marketing team.

The teams visited the FIGSI Centre for Stone Excellence at Hosur and also the Kaveri monument factory at Krishnagiri.



Skilled trainees find new homes

Vivekananda Global University

3 candidates hired for digital marketing roles

Pacific Quartz Surfaces LLP

3 candidates hired from campus

Your company next?

Trained & skilled candidates available for hire

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TRIBUTE TO A GEM

The 'Pitamaha' of the Natural Stone sector

Sri R Veeramani

Sri Veeramani ji is called the 'Pitamaha' of the Natural Stone sector, in actuality, he is much more than that having steered not just the Indian natural stone sector, but also internationally. Mr. Veeramani is the fountainhead of the sector and testimony is the discovery of hundreds of varieties of granites that now rock the world of natural stone sector.

It all began in the 1960s. In those years, only Black and Gray granites were exported to Japan for monuments, while all colour materials were used for buildings. One man who transformed that was Mr. Veeramani who enhanced the value of the ornamental / dimensional stones by bringing colour and life to them.

In the next decade (1977-78 to be precise), having found success in the granite sector....Discovered over 100 varieties of granites. Mr. Veeramani, however, continued his pursuits in the natural stones sector and single handedly marketed over 100 varieties of Indian granites from India, a pioneer all the way. His marketing technique, very down to earth and aggressive, saw him carrying granite samples to international fairs and the world was amazed at the Indian stones and the FIGSI's (AIGSA) founder's zeal and business acumen.

Wealth and Employment

His efforts had a cascading effect. Several of them in the granite sector turned exporters, some farmers / villagers became successful quarry owners, all inspired by the Gem of the



industry – Mr. Veeramani. Above all, the natural stones sector became a thriving business and a global business, attracting many investors and importantly the sector became not just a wealth generator, but also employment generator.

Believer in Modern Technology

Mr R Veeramani himself trained in Sweden. Having travelled far and wide, Mr. Veeramani brought the best of technologies into India from time to time and this certainly catapulted the sector's efficiency, productivity and ease of doing business. He was catalyst in policy changes of Central and State Governments.

Not an easy journey

It was not an easy journey, one had to fight many battles, one had to get policies in place, one had to think of value addition and Mr. Veeramani did all of these. He took up issues with both the Central and State Governments and only he could convince, though it may have taken some time, the government officials. At the end of the day, the government officials saw reason in his arguments which he put before them in lucid

TRIBUTE TO A GEM

manner, having been a leading lawyer, before becoming the pioneer in the natural stones sector.

One man army

He was a one-man army, fighting in the International Court where some countries wanted to ban import of natural stones from India on the pretext that Child Labour existed in the quarries.

He himself argued convinced them with documentary evidence that India was a responsible nation.

The industry was in its fledgling state and there were many challenges from the government and outside.

Founder of AIGSA, Now FIGSI

In 1980, along with few quarry owners, he became the founder of the All India Granite and Stone Association (AIGSA) and he was elected unanimously as the Founder President.

He was so involved in transforming the industry, he frequently travelled to New Delhi and other States, at his own expense, to sort issues out. Later AIGSA was renamed as the Federation of Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI).

Income Tax Exemption for 100% Export Units

Many noteworthy changes he brought was - Income Tax exemption for 100% exports, besides other incentives for units in export processing zones. This helped the industry enormously.

When the association was formed - Natural Stone Industry was doing Rs 50 Crores business... Presently our Natural Stone Industry is doing business of over Rs. 1 lakh crores.

Mr Veeramani is the fountainhead of the sector and testimony is the discovery of hundreds of varieties of granites that now rock the world of natural stone sector.

STONA-Fourth Largest International Fair

Seeing the phenomenal growth and the potential for further expansion, Mr. Veeramani and Mr. Y.R.Shah and others decided to organize an international exhibition and named it STONA which has been a major milestone in the natural stones sector.

STONA has helped almost all the stakeholders of the Natural Stone sector- whether it is the quarry owner, processor, stone artists, designers, exporters, freight forwarders and many others directly or indirectly.

Thanks to such efforts, now STONA is the world's Fourth largest event, attracting the best of best from all over the world.

Mr. Veeramani is a true GEM, EVERGREEN STAR of our Natural Stone Industry and he continues to work hard, despite having achieved international success.

That is his commitment and his passion that keeps him going. A true Gem of the international stones sector.

We salute Mr Veeramani for all the inspiration he has been for the past, present and coming generations for the Natural stone Sector.



Authored by
Guru Shastrimath
Vice President, FIGSI

DATA DEEPCDIVE SEAPORT ANALYSIS

India's stone trade sees dynamic port activity


Seaport-wise Analysis | Jan 2025 – Jul 2025

India's natural stone industry continues to play a vital role in global construction and design, with marble and granite exports and imports reflecting both the strength and challenges of the sector. Data from January to

July 2025 highlights key port activity and trade patterns across the country.


On the export front, Mundra Port (Gujarat) led significantly, handling marble exports worth

USD 75.1 million, followed by Nhava Sheva at USD 19.3 million. Smaller contributions came from Kandla SEZ, Ennore (Chennai), and Cochin, while ports like Vishakhapatnam showed minimal volumes.




Marble Export-Import

JNPT Geographical Location
Latitude 18 Degrees 57 minutes N
Longitude 72 Degrees 57 minutes E




Export of Marbles from India by port analysis (Jan to July 2025)		
Sl No	Name of the Port	Value (K USD)
1	MUNDRA (Gujarat)	75194.68
2	NhavaSeva, Maharashtra	19317.01
3	KANDLA EPZ / SEZ (Gujarat)	1426.71
4	Ennore, Chennai	1,241.09
5	Cochin Sea, Kerala	192.52
6	Kolkata Sea (West Bengal)	80.49
7	Tuticorin Sea, Tamilnadu	78.20
8	Chennai EPZ/SEZ, Chennai	64.78
9	Mangalore Sea, Karnataka	4.16
10	Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	1.25

Import of Marbles from India by port analysis (Jan to July 2025)		
Sl No	Name of the Port	Value (K USD)
1	MUNDRA (Gujarat)	120989.97
2	ChennaiEPZ/SEZ, Chennai	32,672.11
3	NhavaSeva, Maharashtra	18352.56
4	Kolkata Sea (West Bengal)	2430.80
5	Tuticorin Sea, Tamilnadu	1,371.60
6	Cochin Sea, Kerala	875.87
7	Ennore, Chennai	734.35
8	KANDLA EPZ / SEZ (Gujarat)	140.27
9	Mangalore Sea, Karnataka	0.90
10	Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	



Granite Export-Import

JNPT Geographical Location
Latitude 18 Degrees 57 minutes N
Longitude 72 Degrees 57 minutes E



Export of Granite from India by port analysis (Jan to July 2025)		
Sl No	Name of the Port	Value(K USD)
1	Chennai) EPZ / SEZ Chennai	3,03,412.56
2	MUNDRA (Gujarat)	83177.79
3	Ennore, Chennai	71704.36
4	Tuticorin Sea, Tamilnadu	52,532.29
5	KANDLA EPZ / SEZ (Gujarat)	12543.29
6	NhavaSeva Maharashtra	3443.12
7	Mangalore Sea, Karnataka	1600.77
8	Cochin Sea, Kerala	279.85
9	Vishakhapatnam, AP	223.49
10	Kolkata Sea (West Bengal)	5.67618

Import of Granite from India by port analysis (Jan to July 2025)		
Sl No	Name of the Port	Value(K USD)
1	Chennai)EPZ/ SEZ, Chennai	10,550.50
2	NhavaSeva, Maharashtra	8238.65
3	MUNDRA (Gujarat)	3797.25
4	Tuticorin Sea, Tamilnadu	1,111.56
5	Ennore, Chennai	207.44
6	Cochin Sea, Kerala	148.83
7	Kolkata Sea (West Bengal)	58.95612
8	KANDLA EPZ / SEZ (Gujarat)	5.90
9	Mangalore Sea, Karnataka	0.00
10	Vishakhapatnam, AP	0.00

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DATA DEEPCIVE SEAPORT ANALYSIS

Sandstone Export-Import



Export of Sandstone from India by port analysis (Jan to July 2025)		
Sl No	Name of the Port	Value(K USD)
1	MUNDRA (Gujarat)	53832.89
2	Chennai/EPZ/SEZ, Chennai	706.76
3	NhavaSeva, Maharashtra	330.75
4	Ennore , Chennai	80.85
5	Kolkata Sea (West Bengal)	10.41615
6	Tuticorin Sea , Tamilnadu	1.08
7	Mangalore Sea, Karnataka	0.00
8	Vishakapatnam , Andhra Pradesh	0.00
9	Cochin Sea , Kerala	0.00
10	KANDLA EPZ / SEZ (Gujarat)	0.00

Import of Sandstone from India by port analysis (Jan to July 2025)		
Sl No	Name of the Port	Value(K USD)
1	Chennai/EPZ/SEZ, Chennai	253.53
2	NhavaSeva , Maharashtra	204.72
3	MUNDRA (Gujarat)	12.02
4	Kolkata Sea (West Bengal)	0.1618
5	Tuticorin Sea , Tamilnadu	0
6	Ennore , Chennai	0.00
7	Mangalore Sea, Karnataka	0.00
8	Vishakapatnam , Andhra Pradesh	0.00
9	Cochin Sea , Kerala	0.00
10	KANDLA EPZ / SEZ (Gujarat)	0.00

Slate Export-Import



Export of Slate from India by port analysis (Jan to July 2025)		
Sl No	Name of the Port	Value(K USD)
1	MUNDRA (Gujarat)	9572.85
2	NhavaSeva , Maharashtra	2524.86
3	Ennore , Chennai	1411.60
4	Cochin Sea , Kerala	24.41
5	Chennai/EPZ/SEZ, Chennai	12.23
6	Tuticorin Sea , Tamilnadu	5.33
7	Kolkata Sea (West Bengal)	4.78
8	KANDLA EPZ / SEZ (Gujarat)	4.02
9	Mangalore Sea, Karnataka	0.00
10	Vishakapatnam , Andhra Pradesh	0.00

Import of Slate from India by port analysis (Jan to July 2025)		
Sl No	Name of the Port	Value(K USD)
1	NhavaSeva , Maharashtra	4965.37
2	Chennai/EPZ / SEZ, Chennai	547.35
3	Cochin Sea , Kerala	219.98
4	Tuticorin Sea , Tamilnadu	116.92
5	Kolkata Sea (West Bengal)	48.68
6	Ennore , Chennai	37.94
7	MUNDRA (Gujarat)	36.79
8	Mangalore Sea, Karnataka	0.00
9	Vishakapatnam , Andhra Pradesh	0.00
10	KANDLA EPZ / SEZ (Gujarat)	0.00

Source: Ex-Im Cloud

Marble imports were even more striking, with Mundra again dominating at USD 120.9 million, more than triple the nearest competitor, Chennai SEZ (USD 32.6 million).

Other active import hubs included Nhava Sheva and Kolkata, with Tuticorin, Cochin, and Ennore handling smaller

volumes. The heavy skew towards imports underlines India’s rising domestic demand for high-quality marble varieties.

Granite exports presented a slightly different picture. Chennai SEZ emerged as the undisputed leader with USD 303.4 million, nearly four times higher than Mundra’s USD 83.1

million. Ennore (USD 71.7 million) and Tuticorin (USD 52.5 million) also contributed strongly. Smaller but steady flows came from Kandla SEZ, Nhava Sheva, and Mangalore. The data reflects a clear geographic specialization: Mundra dominates marble trade, while Chennai leads granite exports.



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pioneer since 1975**

HJS Granites Pvt Ltd

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Quarries



Warehouse



Monuments plant



Gang saw & vertical plant



ARCHITECTS ARENA

The Living Legacy of Stone From Earth to Edifice

Exclusive article by Architect Krishna Kumar

Stone is more than a building material—it is a storyteller, a bearer of memory, and a symbol of permanence. Across centuries and civilizations, natural stone has served as the cornerstone of architectural expression, evolving from its raw, rugged form into sculpted elegance that graces monuments, temples, modern buildings and landscapes.

As an architect deeply inspired by the tactile and timeless nature of stone, I am honored to share insights into how natural stone continues to shape and elevate our built environment.

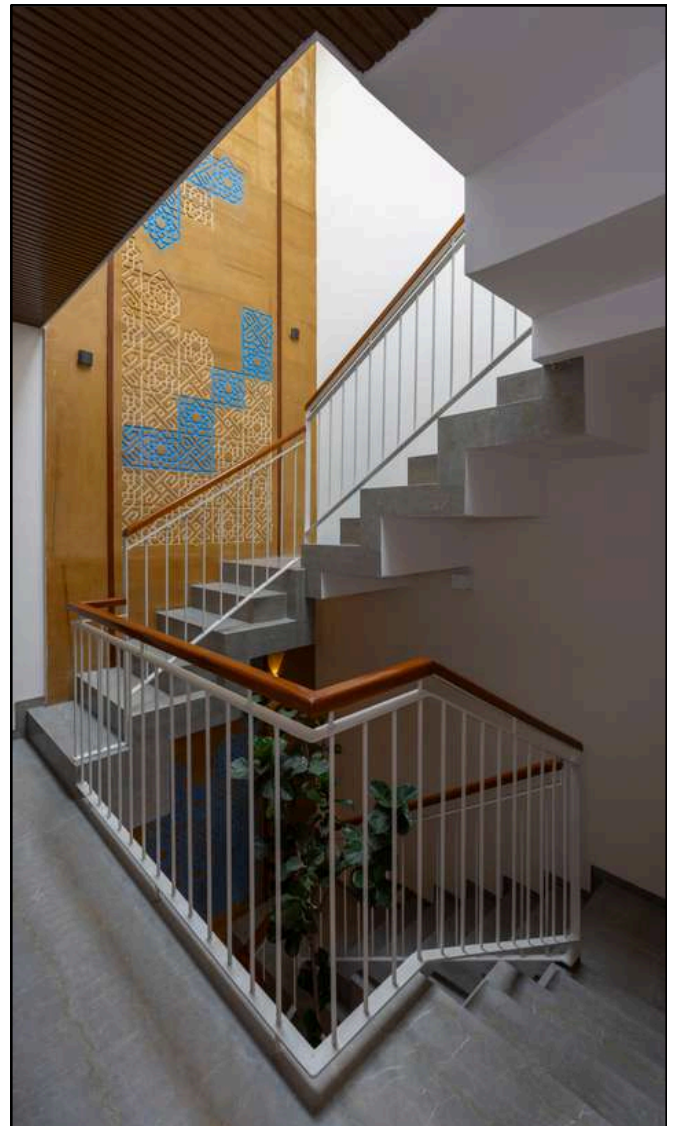
The Journey: From Quarry to Masterpiece

The story of every stone begins deep within the Earth's crust, shaped by millennia of geological processes. When extracted, these raw stones bear the markings of nature—cracks, mineral veins, and irregularities—that hint at their ancient origins. It is this rawness that holds both challenge and charm.

Through careful quarrying, cutting and polishing, stone transforms. A coarse granite block becomes a gleaming countertop. A weathered limestone slab, when honed, turns into a smooth facade that breathes warmth. The metamorphosis is both scientific and poetic, combining the skills of artisans, engineers and designers.

Stone in Traditional Architecture

In India, stone has long played a central role—from the chiseled elegance of Cholas temples to the intricate marble inlays of Mughal masterpieces. In these historical contexts, stone was not just a material but also a medium of devotion, craftsmanship and cultural identity. We see sandstone and laterite breathing life into



temples of South India, while marble adorns the timeless Taj Mahal. These examples remind us that stone, when shaped with care becomes eternal.

Contemporary Use of Stone

Today, natural stone continues to inspire modern architecture. Its applications are wide and diverse:

Exteriors: The various advantages of external stone cladding are aesthetic appeal, durability and protection from weather, insulation properties & low maintenance.

Interiors: Use of natural stone in the interiors gives unique texture and unrepeatable beauty.

Few examples of the spaces and buildings designed using wide variety of natural stones are as follows.

ARCHITECTS ARENA PUBLIC & COMMERCIAL

Public building: Temple Complex, Bangalore



PINK SANDSTONE



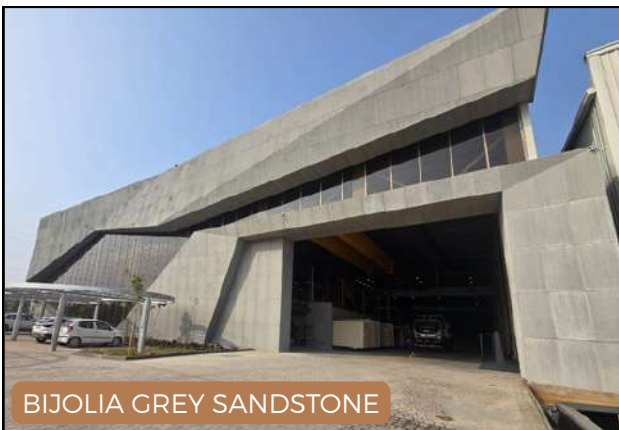
ILKAL RED GRANITE

The exterior of the temple has pink sandstone and interiors have red granite, which has been imported from Rajasthan. The layered sandstone gives an impression that it is written in hieroglyphics, recalling images of the inscription on ancient temple monument.

Sandstone results from the deposition of sand, which after process of compaction and cementation transforms into rocks. The colours vary from yellow to reddish. The surface is rough, non-slip and athermic, which make it a great option for outdoor cladding



Commercial building: Marble Showroom, Kishangarh, Rajasthan



BIJOLIA GREY SANDSTONE

Bijolia grey sandstone with rain drop texture for external cladding and marble for internal wall cladding.

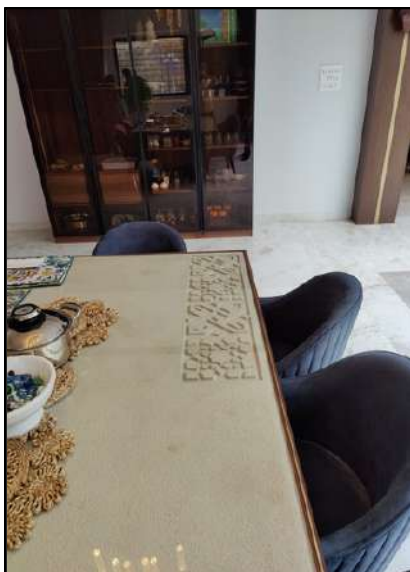
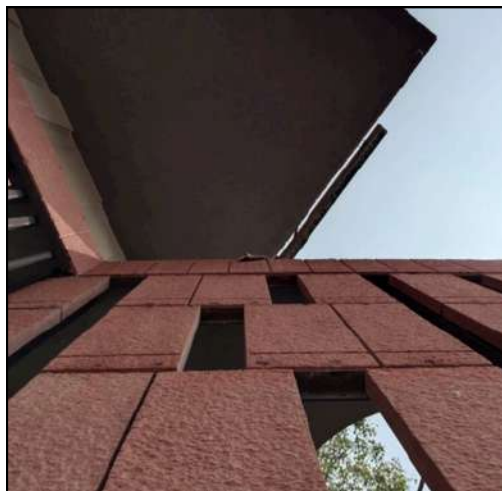
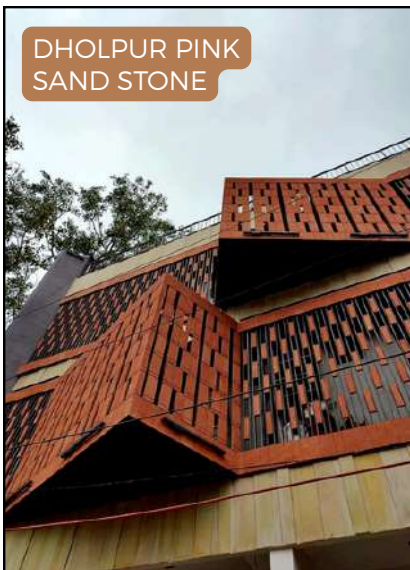


ARCHITECTS ARENA PUBLIC & COMMERCIAL

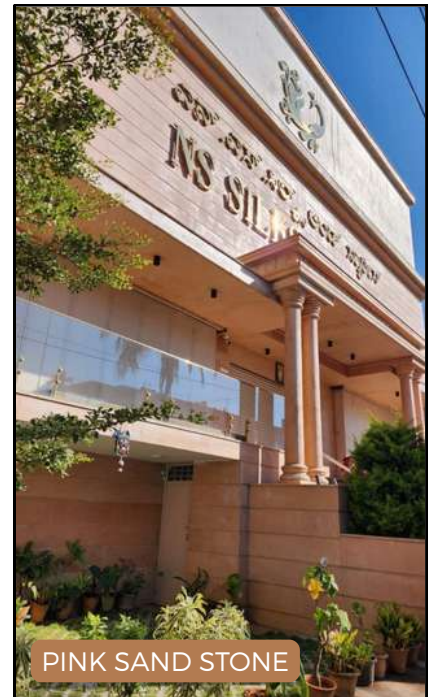
Public building: Tumakuru, Karnataka



Residential: Residence in Bellary



Retail: Tumakuru, Karnataka



ARCHITECTS ARENA RESIDENTIAL

Residential: Residence in Bangalore, Karnataka



INDIAN THUNDER GREY GRANITE



JAISALMER STONE

Residential: Residence in Bangalore, Karnataka



ONYX

Onyx being a translucent stone is a popular choice for adding a touch of luxury and sophistication to the interior spaces.



Unique combination of Greek marble with calcite or dolomite crystals contributes to its various colours and tones.



Onyx is known for its rich colours, striking patterns and translucent quality which allows light to pass through creating a dramatic effect when backlit. Backlighting onyx enhances its natural beauty and creates a visual impact making it a focal point in any room. Here onyx is paired with purple precious stone.

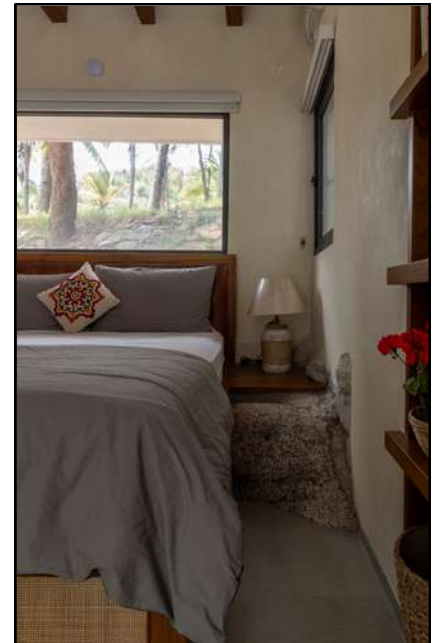
ARCHITECTS ARENA

FARM

Farmhouse: DD Hills, Karnataka



Natural stone rubble claddings to give rustic and raw finish.



The boulders present on the site are restored thus minimal disturbance to the natural terrain. They are incorporated for aesthetic appeal thus adding a natural and robust element to the built environment.

Landscapes: Raw boulders, stone pavers, and gravel find their place in garden designs, creating a dialogue between built form and nature.

Preserving the natural terrain in Mr. Ravi's residence and enhancing it in a way where nature remains undisturbed. The raw boulder, which was present on the site, were tested for the load bearing capacity and used for construction.



ARCHITECTS ARENA

LANDSCAPE

Crafted landscape features



Jaisalmer Sand stone with geometric pattern.



Beige Sand stone in ashlar masonry pattern

Art & Installations

Sculptors and designers use stone as a canvas for public art, creating tactile and visual landmarks in urban spaces.

CNC cutting and water jet technologies now enable intricate stone work that was once unimaginable, making stone relevant in minimalistic and futuristic designs as well.



Sustainability and Timelessness

In an age of rapid construction and disposable materials, stone offers an antidote—durability, natural beauty, and sustainability. It ages gracefully, often looking better over time.

Locally sourced stones reduce the environmental footprint and connect architecture to its context.

When we choose natural stone thoughtfully, we contribute not just to the longevity of buildings but to a more grounded and responsible form of design.



SUSTAINABILITY

GRANITE MINING

Path to Sustainability in Granite Mining

Expert view:

Granite industry rethinks waste, turning dust and slurry into resources for construction, agriculture, and ceramics, driving sustainability and circular growth.



Dedipya Singh Yadav
IIT Madras



Dr HS Yadav
West India Granite, Gujarat

Granite has always stood for strength and durability. From ancient monuments to modern skyscrapers, its timeless look and lasting nature have made it a popular choice in design and architecture.

Today, granite plays a major role in construction across the world. It is used in flooring, wall cladding, kitchen countertops, and decorative facades in homes, offices, and public spaces. With new advancements in quarrying, cutting, and polishing, granite has become more available and affordable than ever.

As a result, global production now exceeds millions of tonnes each year. Countries like India, Brazil, and the United States are among the leading producers. India, in particular, is known for its large reserves and the wide variety it offers. However, behind the growth of this industry lies an environmental challenge that can no longer be ignored.

At every stage of mining and processing, a large amount of granite ends up as waste. Estimates suggest that anywhere between 25 to 40 percent of the quarried material is lost in the form of fine dust, slurry, or broken pieces. Most of this waste is either dumped in open areas or left near quarry sites.

Over time, it leads to air pollution, groundwater contamination, and damage to the landscape. As global discussions around climate change and sustainable industry practices grow stronger, it is time for the granite sector to rethink how it handles its waste.

Rethinking Granite Waste

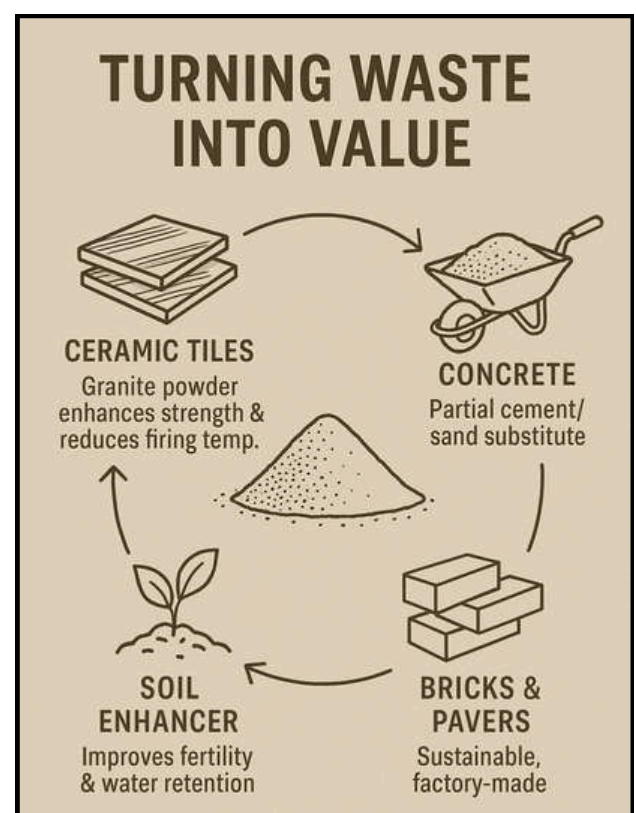
A much-needed shift in mindset is already underway. Instead of seeing granite waste as a problem that needs to be dumped, more companies are beginning

to view it as a useful resource. With the right methods and technology, this waste can be repurposed across different sectors, bringing both environmental and economic benefits.

In the ceramic industry, for example, granite powder is now being added during tile production. It improves the strength and surface finish of the tiles, while also reducing the energy needed to manufacture them. This results in a process that is both cost-effective and more environmentally friendly.

In construction, granite waste is being used as a partial replacement for sand or cement in concrete mixes. This helps create more sustainable building materials and reduces pressure on natural resources, especially in areas facing sand shortages.

Bricks and paver blocks made from granite slurry are also being tested and used in low-rise buildings and roadwork, giving new life to material that would otherwise be discarded.



There is also growing interest in using granite powder in agriculture. When finely ground, it becomes rich in minerals like potassium, calcium, and silica. Farmers have started using it to improve soil health and water retention, particularly in dry or sandy areas. This natural option could become an effective alternative to chemical fertilizers in the future of eco-friendly farming. In road construction and large infrastructure projects, crushed granite chips and dried slurry are being used as base layers and filler material. This not only helps manage waste on a bigger scale but also reduces the need to extract new raw materials.

The next big step lies in building a circular economy for granite. This means designing production where materials are reused and nothing goes to waste.

Role of Technology & Policies

Technology is playing a central role in making these changes possible. Many modern granite factories now use water recycling systems that clean and reuse the water used during polishing and cutting. This helps reduce freshwater use by a large amount. At the same time, precision cutting tools are improving the yield from each granite block, which means less waste is created right from the start.

Some factories are also introducing mobile processing units that dry the slurry and turn it into usable powder. A few have gone a step further and begun producing bricks and tiles directly from their own waste. This allows them to close the loop and manage waste entirely within their operations.

For this transition to happen across the industry, supportive government policies are just as important as technology. Rules that promote the use of recycled materials

in construction can help create steady demand for these products. Incentives for factories that reduce their environmental impact, along with certification programs for eco-friendly producers, can push more companies to make the switch.

Several forward-looking granite companies have already started setting new standards. They are investing in cleaner technology, working with researchers to find new uses for waste, and offering sustainable products to customers. International buyers are asking more questions about how granite is sourced and whether it meets sustainability goals. Even regular consumers are becoming more aware and showing a preference for responsible sourcing.

Building a Circular Future

The next big step lies in building a circular economy for granite. This means designing production in a way where materials are reused and nothing goes to waste. The granite industry has mostly followed a one-way model for years. Stone is extracted, processed, sold, and whatever is left over gets discarded. But that model is beginning to change.

To fully shift to a circular approach, it will take effort from everyone involved. Quarry owners, builders, architects, policymakers, and customers all have a role. Architects can choose materials that include recycled granite. Builders can work with certified suppliers. Governments can lead by example by including sustainable products in public construction. And everyday consumers can help by asking questions about how and where their materials are made.

Granite has lasted through the centuries, and it will continue to shape our built environment for years to come. But for the industry behind it to thrive, it must keep evolving. By finding smarter ways to use waste, adopting better tools, and taking real responsibility for its impact, the granite sector can build a future that stands not just for strength and beauty, but also for sustainability and care for the planet.



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SUSTAINABILITY

ORNAMENTAL STONE

India's Ornamental Stone Wealth Balancing Growth and Sustainability



Dr. Prabhakar Sangurmath
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Stone carving and shaping have been done in India since time immemorial. The extent of carving and shaping ranges from granite pillars of megalithic dolmens to the massive Gommateshwara statue at Shravanabelagola, from forts to the flooring material, ornamental and building stones have been an integral part of India's heritage. Even today, the same is a booming business and one of the fastest-growing mineral economic sector.

The Rise of Dimension Stone

Natural stones are widely used of late due to the boom in the global construction, urban infrastructure, highway and decorative architecture. The demand for the stones that are quarried, popularly called the dimension stone (stone quarried and cut into blocks, slabs, and polished surfaces), has increased manifold in recent decades. This industry is dominated by some countries which have both natural resources and state-of-the-art technology.

Global Scenario

China is in the leading position with large-scale quarrying and mechanised shaping. Further, the low dead rents and massive export-oriented polishing clusters support it to be at the forefront. Italy stands in the next position and continues to command the market, despite its high labour and energy costs, through branding and craftsmanship. Carrara Marble from Italy is globally recognised as a symbol of luxury and quality. The next prominent place is marked by Brazil, endowed with vast granite reserves. Brazil has made huge investments in modern quarrying equipment and logistics. Its competitive pricing strategy attracts the North American, European, and Asian markets easily. Spain occupies the next leader path, balancing international trade along with the

strong domestic requirement. Spain, with marble (Crema Marfil) and slate resources, enjoys steady demand worldwide. The success stories of all these countries lie in one critical truth – geology alone does not guarantee leadership; policy frameworks, technological innovation, and branding are equally decisive in determining who dominates the global stone trade.

Indian Context

India also stands tall as one of the top five producers of dimension stone in the world, backed by an impressive resource base of more than 4.6 billion cubic meter. Yet, when it comes to global exports and value addition, the country still lags. The reasons lie less in geology and more in governance, technology, and market strategy. Thus, India, with its vast geological diversity, is attempting to leap to the forefront with robust and strategic policies.

Two states, Karnataka and Rajasthan, account for more than 40% of the nation's granite resources. Rajasthan, being in the lead position among the two, has over a thousand granite quarries with a net annual income of ₹950 crore. But here in Karnataka, despite having the largest resource base has only about 200 active quarries and generates only one-tenth of the revenue generated by Rajasthan. This disproportion emphasises the

India stands tall as one of the top five producers of dimension stone in the world, backed by an impressive resource base of more than 4.6 billion cubic meter.

need for better quarry development and management with allied policies adopting modern state-of-the-art technology.

Science Behind the Stone

Cutting the natural rock to the desired shape and size is not simple. This requires a thorough geological survey, which specifies the resource quantification, fracture patterns, engineering properties, etc. The rocks thus quarried are transformed into the export-grade slabs using High-speed diamond saws, jet-piercing drills, and precision polishing techniques. Research and development are equally crucial—studying rock mechanics, designing indigenous equipment, and finding ways to recycle quarry waste.

Another crucial challenge faced by the stone industry is energy efficiency. Many quarries rely on diesel generators, which consume nearly 7 litres of fuel per hour, adding both cost and pollution. Cleaner power solutions could drastically reduce environmental impacts.

Regulatory framework: How States Differ?

The ornamental stone industry in India operates within a highly diverse regulatory framework. Lease durations, quarry sizes, and related costs are not standardised across the country but instead vary widely from state to state. These differences influence not only investment decisions but also the overall growth and competitiveness of the sector.

Lease periods and quarry size limits for ornamental stone vary significantly across Indian states, shaping the attractiveness of quarrying as an investment (Table 1) given below.

Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh offer the most liberal framework with leases extending up to 50 years, while Karnataka grants 20 years for non-captive mines and 30 years for captive ones. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana impose stricter terms for gravel (5–10 years) but allow 20–30 years for granite, whereas Odisha has the shortest duration at just 10 years Gujarat follows a flexible system, ranging from 5 years for some minerals to as much as 30 years for others.

Table 1. The state-wise lease period granted

State	Lease period
Karnataka	Period varies from 20 years for Non-Captive Mines to 30 years for Captive Mines.
Andhra Pradesh	5 years (Gravel etc.), Road Metal Non-Captive 20 years, captive purpose 30 years, Granite and other 31 minerals 20 years for non-captive and 30 years for captive.
Telangana	5 years (Gravel etc.), Road Metal non-captive 10 years, captive purpose 15 years, Granite and other 31 minerals 20 years for non-captive and 30 years for captive.
Rajasthan	50 years for all minerals except river sand.
Odisha	10 years for all minerals.
Gujarat	5 years for certain minerals, 30 years for certain minerals.
Chhattisgarh	50 years



In many other states, quarry size limits are either loosely defined or not fixed at all, reflecting a patchwork of regulations across the country.

In terms of quarry size, Andhra Pradesh permits areas between 5 and 50 hectares, extending up to 100 hectares for captive mines, while Karnataka mandates a minimum of 1–12 acres with no upper ceiling. Rajasthan sets a minimum of 1 hectare without an upper cap, and Gujarat allows quarrying over areas as large as 5 square kilometres for certain minerals. In many other states, quarry size limits are either loosely defined or not fixed at all, reflecting a patchwork of regulations across the country.

State-wise Minimum and Maximum Extents.

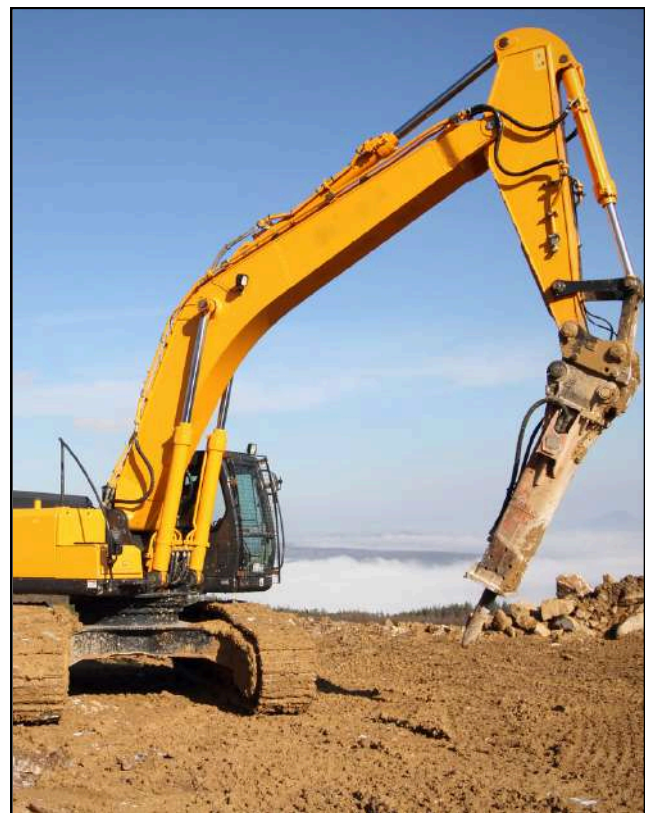
State	Procedure
Karnataka	Minimum area specified ranges from 1 acre to 12.2 acres. No restrictions with regard to maximum area.
Andhra Pradesh	Minimum area specified 5 Ha., Maximum area 50 Ha., for non-captive, 100 for captive purpose. The maximum sealing limit is too low in AP.
Telangana	Not specified
Rajasthan	Minimum 1.00 Ha, Maximum no ceiling prescribed.
Odisha	Not fixed.
Gujarat	Minimum 1.00 Ha, Maximum 50 Ha., for some minerals and 5 sq. kms. for some minerals, with permission to relax.
Chhattisgarh	Not prescribed.

Dead Rent: The Price of the Ground Beneath

Dead rent is the minimum fixed payment quarry operators make to state governments, whether or not production takes place. Rates vary widely across states and minerals, shaping how attractive quarrying is for investors. Granite and marble prices in India vary significantly across states, reflecting differences in quality, demand, and market orientation (Table 3).

Granite ranges from as low as ₹200–600 per metric ton (MT) in Andhra Pradesh to among the highest in Rajasthan at ₹1,128–1,361/MT, with Karnataka commanding ₹300–1,700/MT, particularly for export-grade stone. Marble too shows wide variation, from just ₹120–130/MT in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to ₹1,000/MT in Karnataka, while Rajasthan, the country’s largest marble producer, has a broad range of ₹23–475/MT.

Gujarat remains relatively moderate in both granite (₹240/MT) and marble (₹230/MT). In contrast, stone aggregates are fairly uniform across states, priced between ₹40–70/MT. The annual dead rent for minor minerals also differs, with Telangana imposing the highest range (₹20,000–2,00,000 per hectare), followed by Andhra Pradesh (₹20,000–1,30,000), Rajasthan (₹20,000–1,00,000), Gujarat (₹30,000–1,00,000), and Karnataka, which maintains a slightly lower bracket of ₹13,585–92,625 per hectare.



State-wise Quarry Data

Mineral	Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh	Telangana	Rajasthan	Gujarat
Granite (useful for cutting and polishing)	₹ 300 to 1700 (Export) MT ₹ 200 to 600 MT	₹ 420 to 450 Per Ton	₹ 1128 to 1361	₹ 240 MT 90 to 280MT	₹ 210 MT
Marble	₹ 1000 MT	₹ 120 MT	₹ 130MT	₹ Ranges from 23 to 475 MT	₹ 230MT
Stone aggregate	₹ 40 TO 70 MT	₹ 60 MT	₹ 65 MT	₹ 65 MT	₹ 50MT
Barites	₹ 200 to 400MT	₹ 222 to 1100 MT	₹ 780 MT	₹ 55 to 70 MT	₹--
Ball clay	₹ 80 MT	₹ 75 MT	₹ 78 MT	₹ 60 MT	₹ 60 MT
Calcite	₹ 80 MT	₹ 90 MT	₹ 91 MT	₹ 120MT	₹ 60 MT
Dolomite	100MT	100 MT	130 MT	₹90 - 240	₹ 75MT
Feldspar	100MT	100 MT	97 MT	₹ 60 MT Blocks 250	₹ 40 MT
Laterite	₹160MT	₹100 to 200MT	₹ 130MT	₹ 12% PMV	₹ 70 MT
Lime concur / limestone	₹ 80MT ₹60MT	₹ 90MT	₹123 MT	₹ 20 MT / 135 MT	₹--
Limestone slabs	₹ 50MT	₹110 to 120MT	₹ 130MT	₹110 MT	₹--
Mica	₹ 500 to 1500 MT	₹750 to 120 MT	₹2600 MT	₹500 MT	₹--
Quartz	₹100 MT	₹90 MT	₹ 78MT	₹60 MT	₹60 MT
M sand	₹ 80 MT	₹60MT	₹130 MT	₹	₹45MT
Gravel	₹ 40 MT	₹ 30 MT	₹ 20 MT	₹25 MT	₹40MT
Steatite	₹ 80 MT	Rs to 550 MT	₹ 390 MT	₹ 30	₹45MT

The Human and Environmental Dimension

Quarrying is as much a social process as a geological one. Thousands of workers are engaged in cutting, polishing, and transporting stone. Skill training, safety practices, and mechanisation are vital to reduce accidents and improve livelihoods.

Environmentally, quarrying alters landforms, water regimes, and air quality. If unmanaged, waste dumps can destabilise slopes and pose hazards. On the other hand, scientific reclamation, afforestation, and sustainable water use can turn abandoned quarries into reservoirs or community spaces.

Communities living near quarries deserve fair compensation, civic education on environmental rights, and participation in decision-making. Some states, like Rajasthan, promote cluster quarrying to minimise scattered impacts. A nationwide framework for sustainable stone quarrying could help harmonise rules and protect both people and landscapes.

Towards Sustainable Growth

India’s ornamental stone industry has enormous potential. With better technology, supportive governance, and sustainable practices, the country

could not only meet its booming domestic demand but also expand its footprint in global markets.

The future of India’s ornamental stone sector lies in carving a triple path that balances technological innovation, effective governance, and sustainable community–ecology relations. Mechanisation, precision cutting, and waste recycling can make the industry more efficient, while uniform lease policies, single-window clearances, and strict environmental compliance will ensure transparency and accountability. At the same time, fair rehabilitation, robust environmental management plans, and a focus on long-term sustainability are crucial to balance development with ecological well-being.

India has the stone, the skills, and the heritage; what it needs now is a clear vision to transform this wealth into a model of responsible global leadership. As Dr. C. V. Raman wisely observed, “Unless we know the value of minerals, know how to utilise them and promote the welfare of the country, we should let them lie in the ground. The making use of a mineral is as important as finding it.” His words remind us that true progress lies not merely in extraction, but in the wise, safe, eco-friendly and sustainable use of our natural resources.

STONA 2025 Co-Chairman Hemanshu Sehgal elected Secretary of Jaipur Club

The prestigious Jaipur Club elected **Mr Hemanshu Sehgal**, STONA 2025 Co-Chairman and FIGSI Executive Committee member as its new Secretary.

Mr Sehgal is known for his dynamic leadership and organizational skills.

FIGSI congratulates Mr Hemanshu Sehgal and wishes him the very best for his future endeavours.



**FROM FIGSI ARCHIVES
MOMENTS OF INDUSTRY HISTORY**



During November 1992: AIGSA team met then Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Veerappa Moily along with Shri Vinay Podar, President AIGSA, Late Shri Rajinikanth General Secretary, Shri Krishniah Setty then Treasurer, Past President Shri R Sekar and Shri Shiv Kumar, EC Member FIGSI.

A Geologist Beyond Boundaries

Dr. HS Yadav, currently serving as Vice President of FIGSI and actively associated with the federation for the past 15 years, has also distinguished himself as a mountaineer.

Alongside his son and daughter-in-law, he successfully summited Mt. Kilimanjaro (5,895 m), the highest peak of the African continent, and most recently Mt. Elbrus (5,642 m), the highest peak of Europe, on 16th August 2025, both ranked among the top five of the world's Seven Summits. Their climbs tested endurance in sub-zero conditions on Kilimanjaro and an extreme, 25 °C on Elbrus, a remarkable testament to shared resilience and determination.

Dr Yadav is a geologist who believes in turning challenges into milestones. What began as a simple fitness routine of 5 km daily walk grew into running 10km each day during the pandemic, progressing to multiple half marathons, and eventually leading him to scale some of the world's most challenging summits.



• **Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m)**, the "Roof of Africa." Braving the freezing winds of the summit night. Standing at Uhuru Peak after this grueling journey was a triumph of patience, strength, and mental willpower.



• **Mount Elbrus (5,642 m)**, the highest peak in Europe. Known for its brutal cold, icy slopes, and unpredictable blizzards, it demands endurance, grit & unwavering determination.

Conquering Elbrus was not just about physical preparation but also mental toughness against nature's extremes. Through these summits, Dr Yadav has shown that true achievement lies not only in reaching the peak but in the courage to start, the discipline to persist, and the strength to overcome every obstacle along the way.



Buhariwala Logistics
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New Income Tax Act to come into force from April 1, 2026

The central government has formally notified the Income-Tax Act, 2025 that will come into force from April 1, 2026 replacing the over six decade old legislation on the country's indirect tax system.

The Act, which was passed in Parliament earlier this month, received the President's assent on August 21, 2025. The Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification in this regard with the same date.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Supreme Court strikes down Ex Post Facto Environmental Clearances

The Supreme Court of India has struck down the practice of granting ex post facto environmental clearances (ECs) for projects operating in violation of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.

The ruling came in Writ Petition (C) No. 1394 of 2023, Vanashakti vs. Union of India, along with connected matters including Ajay Jajodia vs. Union of India (2019), One Earth One Life vs. Union of India (2024), and Fatima vs. Union of India (2025).

Key points of the Judgment

The Supreme Court declared the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)'s Notification S.O.804(E) dated March 14, 2017, and the Office Memorandum dated July 7, 2021, illegal and unconstitutional.


The Court clarified that ECs already granted under the 2017 Notification and the 2021 OM will remain valid and unaffected.

Ministry's Response

Following the judgment dated May 16, 2025, the MoEF&CC issued an Office Memorandum on May 26, 2025, directing all states, Union Territories, appraisal committees, and pollution control boards to comply with the order. The Ministry emphasized that no future circulars or orders will permit post-facto clearances.

Significance

This ruling is expected to bring major changes to the way environmental clearances are processed. By prohibiting regularisation of violations, the judgment strengthens environmental governance.

<p>F. No. IA3-3/7/2024-IA.III(Part) [E- 254652] Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Impact Assessment Division) *****</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Aigangj, Jorbagh Road New Delhi-110 003</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dated: 26th May, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICE MEMORANDUM</p> <p>Subject: Circulation of the Judgement dated 16.05.2025 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P. 1394/2023 in the matter of Vanashakti vs. Union of India. – reg.</p> <p>The Ministry issued the Notification S.O.804(E) dated 14/03/2017 providing a window period for the projects which were in violation to apply for the grant of EC.</p> <p>2. Subsequently, the Ministry issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) dated 07/07/2021 for identification and handling of violation cases under the EIA Notification 2006, in compliance to the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in Appeal No. 34/2020 (WZ) titled Tanaji B. Gambhire vs. Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra.</p> <p>3. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide its judgment dated 16.05.2025, in W.P. 1394/2023 titled Vanashakti vs. Union of India and connected matters, i.e. WP (C) 118 of 2019 titled Ajay Jajodia vs. Union of India, WP(C) 115 of 2024 titled One Earth One Life vs Union of India and Civil Appeal 381-382 of 2025 titled Fatima vs. Union of India has struck down the above mentioned Notification S.O. 804(E) dated 14/03/2017 and SoP dated 07/07/2021.</p> <p>4. The copy of the order which is self-explanatory is enclosed herewith for compliance.</p> <p>5. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> (Dr. J. D. Marcus Knight) Scientist E</p> <p>End: As above.</p> <p>To</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chief Secretaries of all the States / UTs 2. Chairperson/ Member Secretaries of all Expert Appraisal Committees 3. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all SEIAs/SEACs 4. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/ UTPCCs 5. All Officers of IA Division <p>Copy for information to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PS to Hon'ble MEF&CC 2. PS to Hon'ble MoS, EF&CC 3. PPS to Secretary, EF&CC 4. PPS to AS (AG)/JS (RA) 5. Website, MoEF&CC /Guard file 	<p style="text-align: center;">IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WRIT PETITION (C) NO.1394 OF 2023 VANASHAKTI ...PETITIONER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNION OF INDIA ...RESPONDENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WITH WRIT PETITION (C) NO.118 OF 2019 WRIT PETITION (C) NO.115 OF 2024 AND CIVIL APPEAL NO.381-382 OF 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J U D G M E N T</p> <p>Order passed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)a) We hold that the 2017 notification and the 2021 OM as well circulars/orders/OMs/notifications as issued all for giving effect to these notifications are illegal and are hereby struck down; b) We restrain the Central Government from issuing circulars/orders/OMs/notifications providing for grant of ex post facto EC in any form or manner or for regularising the acts done in contravention of the EIA notification; c) We clarify that the ECs already granted till date under the 2017 notification and the 2021 OM shall, however, remain unaffected. <p>Writ Petition (C) No. 1394 of 2023, etc.</p> <p>2)The writ petitions and civil appeals are accordingly allowed on the above terms.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">.....J. (Abhay S. Oka)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">.....J. (Ujjal Bhuyan New Delhi; May 16, 2025</p>
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INDUSTRY NEWS

US tariffs may harm Indian natural stone sector

दैनिक भास्कर

जयपुर

ट्रंप टैरिफ का असर; प्रदेश से क्वार्ट्ज स्टोन, स्लैब और टाइल निर्यात ठप, 225 से अधिक इकाइयां बंद होने की कगार पर

प्रमोद कुमार शर्मा | जयपुर

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा भारतीय उत्पादों पर 50 फीसदी टैरिफ से प्रदेश की करीब 225 क्वार्ट्ज प्रोसेसिंग और क्वार्ट्ज स्टोन इकाइयों पर ताला लगने की नौबत आ गई है।

दरअसल, राजस्थान से होने वाले क्वार्ट्ज स्टोन के निर्यात में अमेरिका हिस्सा 95 फीसदी तक है। वहीं, टैरिफ के बाद दूसरे देशों के मुकाबले भारतीय क्वार्ट्ज स्टोन और अन्य उत्पाद अमेरिका में महंगे हो गए। इससे अमेरिकी खरीदारों ने राजस्थान के निर्यातकों को दिए क्वार्ट्ज

स्टोन के सभी ऑर्डर रद्द कर दिए। इसके चलते 20 अगस्त बाद क्वार्ट्ज स्टोन इकाइयों के पास लोडिंग के लिए कुछ नहीं होगा। बता दें, देश क्वार्ट्ज खनन में राजस्थान का हिस्सा लगभग 75 फीसदी है। यहां निकलने वाले क्वार्ट्ज की प्रोसेसिंग अजमेर, ब्यावर, डुंगरपुर, बांसवाड़ा, उदयपुर और जयपुर समेत प्रदेश में लगभग 200 इकाइयां कर रही है। क्वार्ट्ज पाउडर से जयपुर समेत अन्य जिलों में लगी करीब 25 फैक्ट्रियां क्वार्ट्ज स्टोन, स्टोन स्लैब व टाइल बनाकर निर्यात करती हैं। प्रदेश से क्वार्ट्ज स्टोन का सालाना निर्यात करीब 2,000 करोड़ है।

तुर्की, वियतनाम, चीन, इंडोनेशिया और मलेशिया पर अमेरिका में टैरिफ कम होने से अमेरिकी खरीदार अब इन देशों का रुख कर रहे हैं। इसका राजस्थान के निर्यातकों को नुकसान हो रहा है।

डेढ़ लाख श्रमिकों पर संकट

अमेरिका को निर्यात बंद होने से लगभग डेढ़ लाख श्रमिकों का रोजगार छूटने की आशंका है। लोडिंग में लगे लोगों की दिहाड़ी भी बंद हो जाएगी। क्वार्ट्ज मिनरल की दुलाई में लगे वाहनों काम कम होगा। अमेरिकी टैरिफ के बाद प्रदेश की लगभग 200 क्वार्ट्ज प्रोसेसिंग इकाइयों में सन्नटा

ट्रंप के टैरिफ ने क्वार्ट्ज निर्यातक सदमें में है। कड़ी मेहनत और भारी निवेश से खड़ा किया गया यह उद्योग अब 50 फीसदी टैरिफ से संकट में फंस गया है। इसके मद्देनजर केंद्र और राज्य सरकार

को तत्काल हस्तक्षेप कर निर्यातकों को राहत पैकेज देना चाहिए। हम लाभ मार्जिन को कम करने के लिए तैयार हैं, ताकि संकट से उबर सकें।

राकेश कुमार गुप्ता, वहास शेखरमेन, सोडोस अमेरिकी टैरिफ के बाद प्रदेश की लगभग 200 क्वार्ट्ज प्रोसेसिंग इकाइयों में सन्नटा



व्यापारी बोले- ₹1500 करोड़ सालाना के निर्यात को बचाने के लिए सरकार कदम उठाए

पसर गया है। मशीनें बंद और श्रमिक बिना काम बैठे हैं। इसलिए क्वार्ट्ज प्रोडक्ट के निर्यात को पट्टी पर लाने की जरूरत है। अन्यथा प्रदेश के निर्यात पर तो असर पड़ेगा ही। बेरोजगारी भी बढ़ेगी। -सुरेंद्र सिंह राजपुरोहित, सरखक, राजस्थान मिनरल संघ

यहां पर है मौका : उधर, विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि यूरोपीय संघ, मध्य पूर्व और दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई देशों में भी क्वार्ट्ज उत्पादों की मांग बढ़ रही है। सरकार को इन वैकल्पिक बाजारों तक पहुंच बनाने के लिए निर्यातकों को प्रोत्साहन और सहायता देनी चाहिए।

Joint Group for Rajasthan's stone industry solutions

In a decisive move for the natural stone sector, Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Hon'ble Minister of Industries & Commerce, Government of Rajasthan, has announced the formation of a joint working group of policymakers and industry representatives.

The group will collect solutions and suggestions from stakeholders to address pressing challenges in the sector and chart a roadmap for growth.

This announcement comes alongside the launch of a series of industry outreach seminars being organized by the Government of Rajasthan and RIICO in the run-up to India StoneMart 2026, scheduled from 5-8 February 2026 at JECC, Jaipur.

The seminars will serve as a forum to deliberate on issues such as GST rationalization, global competitiveness, sustainable quarrying, skill development, and MSME empowerment. By aligning policy discussions with StoneMart promotion, the state government is ensuring that the expo becomes both a global business showcase and a platform for long-term industry problem-solving.

Industry leaders have welcomed the government's proactive approach, particularly at a time when the sector faces headwinds like rising global tariffs, operational costs, and regulatory bottlenecks. At the same time, the stone sector is seeing new opportunities with increasing global demand for eco-friendly, natural building materials and India's expanding role as a trusted exporter.

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व्यापार को आसान और सस्ता बनाने के लिए सरकार की निर्णायक पहल

औद्योगिक समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए ज्वाइंट ग्रुप गठित होगा

विकास के लिए प्रदेश के इंडस्ट्री कॉन्फेडरेशन उद्योग में आमने-सामने बैठे हैं। उद्योगों राजस्थान में हुए 35 अनुकूल माहौल

हस्तशिल्प महोत्सव व स्टोन मार्ट लघु उद्योग अदालती के राष्ट्रीय अख्यत महोत्सव और स्टोन मार्ट-2026 में संगठन को अग्रणी एंटीवैट कायाकाल प्राप्त है। 14वीं एडिशन स्टोनमार्ट-2026 का यह अवसरक कर्मा के लिए उद्योग सरकार का अग्रणी उद्योग

खनिज नीति क्रियान्वयन में चुनौतियां खनिज नीति देश में लागू करने वाली पहली है। इसके लक्ष्य करने में अब नए, पर्यावरण और खान विभाग से जुड़े विभिन्न सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों के साथ सहयोग के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। संगठन के राष्ट्रीय सचिव नरेश पारीक ने कहा कि पहली बार वन, पर्यावरण और खान विभाग से जुड़े विभिन्न अधिकारियों ने उद्योगों की समस्याओं पर खुलकर संवाद किया।

इंडियन स्टोन मार्ट-2026 को लेकर उत्साह स्टोन मार्ट-2026 के संयोजक नटवरलाल अजमेरा ने बताया कि देश-विदेश में आयोजित कार्यक्रमों की बढ़ती संख्या अब तक 55% वृद्धि हो चुकी है, जो उत्साहजनक है। कार्यक्रम का संचालन अंजु सिंह ने किया, जबकि आभार प्रदेश अख्यत योगेंद्र शर्मा ने व्यक्त किया। सत्रों का संचालन सीए योगेश था, जिसे उनके प्रयासों से रोक गया। उन्होंने कहा

लघु उद्योग भारती की राज्य स्तरीय संगोष्ठी आयोजित

उद्योगों की समस्याओं के त्वरित समाधान के लिए जॉइंट ग्रुप बनेगा: राज्यवर्धन

जयपुर। प्रदेश के उद्योग मंत्री राज्यवर्धन सिंह राठी ने कहा कि राजस्थान सरकार उद्योगों की समस्याओं के त्वरित समाधान और व्यापार को अधिक सुलभ व किफायती बनाने की दिशा में प्रतिबद्ध है। वे बुधवार को लघु उद्योग भारती, राजस्थान द्वारा आयोजित राज्य स्तरीय संगोष्ठी को संबोधित कर रहे थे। कार्यक्रम में उद्योग, वन, पर्यावरण और खान विभाग एक मंच पर पहली बार एक साथ आए। राठी ने घोषणा की कि उद्योगों से जुड़ी समस्याओं के त्वरित समाधान के लिए उद्योग, वन, खान और मिन्कल डेवलपमेंट विभाग के साथ-साथ लघु उद्योग भारती जैसे संगठनों को शामिल कर एक जॉइंट ग्रुप बनाया जाएगा।

संगोष्ठी में उद्योग राज्य मंत्री केके विश्वने ने बताया कि जीएसटी कार्डमिल में पत्थर पर टेक्स 18% से बढ़ाकर 28% करने का प्रस्ताव रखा गया है, जिसे उनके प्रयासों से रोक गया। उन्होंने कहा

INDUSTRY NEWS

Rajasthan announces new rules to develop mining areas

A majority of Rajasthan's earmarked funds for mining-affected areas will be used for works like drinking water distribution, environmental protection and health facilities, said a senior civil servant. The District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) will use 70 percent of funds in "high-priority areas", said T Ravikant, principal secretary of mines and petroleum department.

The rest of the amount will be used for development works in other places in mining areas. For DMFT, 30 percent of royalty amount is collected from old mines of major minerals and 10 percent each from auctioned major mineral mines and minor mineral mines.

The state government has issued a notification on new DMFT rules that will enable better use of funds for mining-affected areas, said Ravikant. Public welfare works will be done within a 25 km radius of a mining-affected area, according to the new rules.

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, who holds the mining portfolio, aims to develop mining by simplifying approvals for investments. "The Chief Minister believes that the amount collected in the DMFT fund from a mining areas should be used in the overall



development of the residents of the same area," Ravikant said. Ravikant said that the new rules state 70 percent of DMFT funds in high priority areas can be used for drinking water distribution and purification, environmental protection, health facilities, education, child development, skill development of youth and other purposes.

As much as 30 percent of the amount can be used for other priority works, especially infrastructural development, including road, bridge, rail projects and irrigation projects, energy and watershed-related works.

Appointments

- **Shri Piyush Goyal**, IAS has been appointed as Secretary Ministry of Mines Government of India.
- **Ms Debashree Mukherjee**, IAS has been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.



2nd Edition of Karnataka Real Estate Conference

The 2nd Edition of the Karnataka Real Estate Conference, held on 31st July 2025 at Sheraton Grand, Bengaluru, proved to be a forward-looking platform for addressing South India's real estate growth.

Industry leaders, policymakers, and experts convened to discuss themes such as infrastructure, urban planning, and emerging asset classes, including co-living, data centers, and logistics, as part of the White Paper titled "Shaping the Future: The Real Estate Vision 2030"

INDUSTRY NEWS

Meet with Hon'ble Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman

Under the leadership of Shri Naresh Ji Parik, National Secretary of Laghu Udyog Bharati, a delegation met Hon'ble Minister for Finance Smt Nirmala Sitharaman at the Parliament House in New Delhi. The main issue raised was the reduction of GST on granite and marble from 18% to 5%. Hon'ble Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman assured that this matter would be examined in detail.



इंडिया स्टोन मार्ट में धार्मिक शिल्प व कला का प्रदर्शन करेगा स्वामीनारायण सम्प्रदाय

जोधपुर, 2 जुलाई (कासं)। लघु उद्योग भारती प्रतिनिधिमण्डल ने स्वामीनारायण (अक्षरधाम मंदिर) सम्प्रदाय के स्वामी ईश्वरदास महाराज और अक्षरधाम महाराज से भेंट की। प्रतिनिधिमण्डल ने भेंट में जवपुर में 5 से 8 फरवरी 2026 तक आयोजित होने वाले इंडिया स्टोन मार्ट-2026 प्रदर्शनी में स्वामीनारायण (अक्षरधाम मंदिर) सम्प्रदाय प्रथम बार अपनी सहभागिता निभाकर मंदिर निर्माण की अद्भुत कला व धार्मिक

Swaminarayan pavilion at StoneMart '26

For the first time ever, the Swaminarayan institution will hold a historic pavilion at India StoneMart 2026, showcasing the intricate art of temple construction.

The dedicated stall will span 450 square meters, blending traditional craftsmanship with modern stone-working technologies.

India StoneMart 2026, the 13th edition of this international stone industry fair, is set to

take place between 5–8 February 2026 at the Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre.

This innovative pavilion aims to spotlight the spiritual and architectural heritage of Swaminarayan temples, many of which are crafted from Rajasthan stone, reflecting regional pride and craftsmanship excellence. Organizers anticipate visitors will be enthralled by the combination of art, culture, and stone craftsmanship.

India's mining and construction equipment sector set to grow to USD 45 billion by 2030



India's mining and construction equipment (MCE) sector is anticipated to witness a sharp upswing over the next five years, with its market value expected to surge from USD 16 billion to USD 45 billion, as revealed in a collaborative report by the confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and consultancy firm Kearney.

The global mining and construction sector currently commands a colossal USD 18 trillion market and contributes approximately 16 percent to global GDP. Within this landscape, India plays a significant role

contributing 22% to its national GDP, second only to China, and supporting more than 70 million jobs. Over the past five years, India's MCE market has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12 percent, firmly positioning the country as a critical player in the global ecosystem.

Looking ahead, the sector's expansion is forecasted to contribute over USD 100 billion to the Indian economy by FY 30, generating an estimated 20 million jobs, both directly and indirectly.

Prop News Time, June, 2025
via FIMI News Bulletin

INDUSTRY NEWS

Union Minister Shri G Kishan Reddy launches 'Mining Dashboard' to fast-track auctions

Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy launched the 'Mining Dashboard' a centralized digital platform developed by the Ministry of Mines to monitor the operational status of auctioned mineral blocks and track statutory clearances across the country.

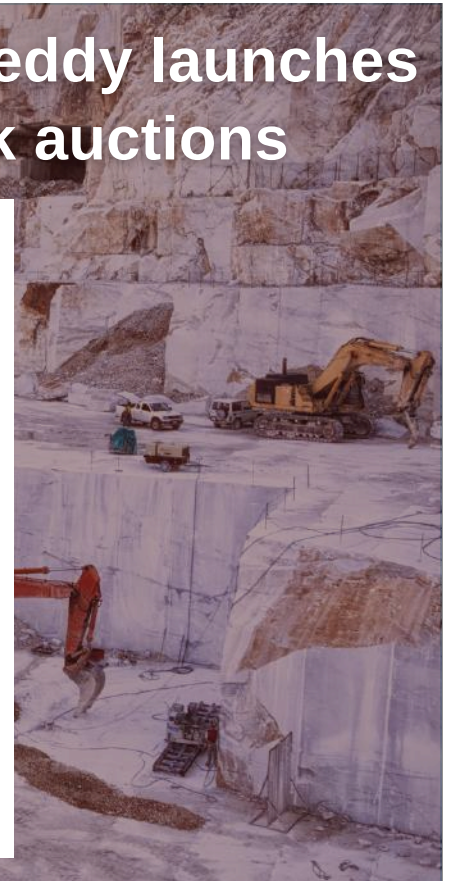
The initiative is part of the Government of India's ongoing efforts to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the mineral sector.

The launch of the Mining Dashboard marks a significant milestone following the introduction of the auction regime

under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957(as amended). Till date, 500 mineral blocks have been successfully auctioned across 16 states with 466 blocks auctioned by State Governments and 34 critical mineral blocks by the Central Government. Of these, 64 blocks have been operationalized.

The Dashboard provides a structured and real-time monitoring mechanism that enables identification of bottlenecks, supports timely interventions, and helps accelerate the commencement of mining operations.

via FIMI News Bulletin



Rajasthan Mines department to adopt advanced technology, modern equipment to boost efficiency

Rajasthan's Principal Secretary of Mines, Geology and Petroleum department, T Ravikant, said that the department will be made technically advanced to enhance operational efficiency and deliver better results through the use of modern technology.

To accelerate mineral exploration at the field level, the department will ensure the availability of advanced equipment such as Brunton Compasses, Field GPS devices, Field XRF analysers, and geological hammers. These tools will support geologists and field teams in conducting more precise and efficient surveys, Ravikant added.

via FIMI News Bulletin, Aug 2025

50% US tariff stumps nascent engineered quartz stone sector

Indian engineered quartz stone manufacturer find themselves caught between the devil and the deep sea as the 50% tariff imposed by the US delivered a severe blow to an industry still stabilizing after initial challenges.

Unlike most Indian exports that have diversified international markets, engineered quartz represents the only sector with complete dependence on the American market, a singular reliance that has proven catastrophic following the US President Donald Trump's tariff announcement.

All consignments are now halted at ports, creating unprecedented uncertainty for an industry that began operations less than a decade ago. The engineered quartz industry in India is relatively young, with most manufacturing units established between 2015 and 2016. This expansion aligned with America's growing preference for quartz stone

The industry's current scale is significant with approximately 2,500 containers of quartz stone exported to the US monthly, generating an annual turnover of around Rs 6,000 crores.

over traditional granite, prompting many granite exporters to make the strategic and capital-intensive shift to engineered quartz manufacturing. However, many of these units are yet to reach profitability.

"Roughly 20,000 people are directly employed and 60,000 indirectly dependent on this industry. We are only stabilizing now. Some units launched operations just a year ago," Govindaraju Krishna Rao, founder president of the Federation of Indian Quartz Surface Industries said.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Summary of interaction with the Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman

A high-level delegation from the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), led by its President Shri S.C. Ralhan, called on the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, on August 28, 2025 to discuss the pressing challenges confronting Indian exporters in light of the recent hike in tariffs imposed by the United States.

The delegation comprised:

- Shri S.C. Ralhan, President, FIEO
- Shri Ravi Kapur, Vice President, FIEO
- Dr. Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO, FIEO
- Shri Israr Ahmed, Director, Farida Group
- Shri Pankaj Chaddha, Chairman, EEPC India

Key Points Discussed:

1. Immediate Impact on Exports and Competitiveness

Shri SC Ralhan opened the discussion by highlighting the significant setbacks Indian exporters are experiencing due to the elevated tariff barriers. He emphasized that the increased tariffs have not only restricted market access but also hampered the competitiveness of Indian goods in global markets. This, in turn, is impacting employment and growth. He urged the Finance Minister to consider swift, strategic interventions to alleviate the burden on exporters—recognizing their vital role in driving economic development and employment.

2. Financial Relief and Credit Access

Vice President Shri Ravi Kapur called for a one-year moratorium on loan repayments for exporters and proposed a credit facility akin to the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to provide collateral-free working capital. This, he explained, would ease liquidity pressure and prevent export accounts from slipping into the NPA category. He also advocated for encouraging banks to extend Gold Card status to eligible exporters, which comes with various benefits related to credit and operational flexibility.



3. Workers' Concern

Representing the leather sector, Shri Israr Ahmed drew attention to the sector's vulnerability, particularly its employment-heavy nature. He cautioned that prolonged export losses could lead to large-scale layoffs. To prevent this, he appealed for wage support, statutory contribution relief, and Government-backed re-skilling and up-skilling initiatives during the downturn, ensuring the retention and readiness of the workforce.

4. Engineering Sector & MSME Support

Shri Pankaj Chaddha, Chairman of EEPC India, flagged the acute exposure of India's engineering exports to the US market. Given the engineering sector's significant MSME presence, he requested enhanced marketing and promotional support to facilitate market diversification and risk mitigation, thereby safeguarding small and medium exporters from excessive dependence on a single geography.

5. Export Promotion Mission: Call for Early Implementation

Dr. Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO of FIEO, urged for the expeditious roll-out of the Export Promotion Mission, which was announced in the Union Budget. He stated that this mission could provide vital support in the areas of export

financing, market development, and regulatory compliance, enabling Indian exporters to remain competitive and resilient.

Hon'ble Finance Minister's Response:

The Hon'ble Finance Minister reaffirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to Indian exporters and assured the delegation that all necessary steps would be taken to address their concerns.

She acknowledged the situation and conveyed that the Government is actively exploring multi-pronged strategies to safeguard the interests of exporters, particularly those from employment-intensive and MSME-dominated sectors.



The Hon'ble Finance Minister also emphasized the importance of preserving livelihoods during these challenging times.

She urged industry leaders to stand by their workforce and maintain job continuity, even amid external economic pressures.

She concluded by assuring the delegation that the Government remains steadfast in its efforts to support exporters and sustain India's growth trajectory in global trade.

Lower GST remains a key demand across the sector



Architect delegates visit EC member Sri Hari Mohan Sharma's factory



Architect delegates through the Centre for Development of Stone, Jaipur visited FIGSI Executive Committee member Sri Hari Mohan Sharma's factory to see latest finishes in natural stones.

BUSINESS NEWS

Two GST slabs to rule them all

S No	HSN Codes	Description of Products	Previous GST%	Revised GST %
1	25161100	Granite Blocks	12	5
2	68022310	Granite Slabs	18	18
3	25151210	Marble Blocks	12	5
4	68022190	Marble Slabs	18	18

The simplification of India's goods and services tax (GST) structure took a significant step forward with the group of ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation unanimously accepting the Centre's proposal to move to a two slab structure of 5% and 18% with a special 40% levy for sin goods, paving the way for next-generation reforms in the country's eight year old indirect tax regime.

The GST council, the apex decision making body for the tax, could meet in the first week of September instead of the second half of next month as planned earlier, to ensure early implementation of the reform in time for Diwali, people familiar with the matter said.

The GoM, chaired by Bihar deputy CM Samrat Chaudhary, approved the Centre's proposal to abolish the 12% and 28% rates, shifting goods to the 5%, 18% and 40% slabs. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the six members present three each from states ruled by the BJP and opposition as they all favoured giving relief to the people.

All states want ultra-luxury cars and high-end products in the big hest slab of 40%. However, some-states also wanted the Centre to assess the revenue loss to states due to the reform and

Historic Diwali Gift for the Nation
NEXT-GEN GST REFORM
 for Ease of Living & to build Aatmanirbhar Bharat

From farmers to enterprises, from households to businesses, the Next-Gen GST brings happiness for all!

Items	From	To
Hair Oil, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toilet Soap, Bar, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Creams	18%	5%
Butter, Ghee, Cheese & Dairy Spreads	12%	5%
Pre-packaged Namkeens, Bhuja & Mixtures	12%	5%
Utensils	12%	5%
Feeding Bottles, Nappies for Babies & Clinical Diapers	12%	5%
Sewing Machines & Parts	12%	5%

Items	From	To
Tractor Tyres & Parts	18%	5%
Tractors	12%	5%
Specified Bio-Pesticides, Micro-Nutrients	12%	5%
Drip Irrigation System & Sprinklers	12%	5%
Agricultural, Horticultural or Forestry Machines for Soil Preparation, Cultivation, Harvesting & Threshing	12%	5%

Items	From	To
Individual Health & Life Insurance	18%	Nil
Thermometer	18%	5%
Medical Grade Oxygen	12%	5%
All Diagnostic Kits & Reagents	12%	5%
Glucometer & Test Strips	12%	5%
Corrective Spectacles	12%	5%

Items	From	To
Petrol & Petrol Hybrid LPG, CNG Cars (not exceeding - 1200 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
Diesel & Diesel Hybrid Cars (not exceeding - 1500 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
3 Wheeled Vehicles	28%	18%
Motor Cycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
Motor Vehicles for transport of goods	28%	18%

Items	From	To
Maps, Charts & Globes	12%	Nil
Penicils, Sharpeners, Crayons & Pastels	12%	Nil
Exercise Books & Notebooks	12%	Nil
Eraser	5%	Nil

Items	From	To
Air Conditioners	28%	18%
Television (above 32") (including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%
Monitors & Projectors	28%	18%
Dish Washing Machines	28%	18%

PROCESS REFORMS

Registration
 Automatic registration within 3 working days for applicants:
 * Identified by the system based on data analysis
 * Who determines that he would not pass Input Tax Credit exceeding ₹2.5 Lakh per month and opts for the Scheme

Refund
 Sanction of Provisional Refunds by proper officer, through system based risk evaluation for:
 * Zero Rated Supplies
 * Supplies with Inverted Duty Structure

The next generation of GST reforms are a gift for every Indian this Diwali. Taxes for the general public will be reduced substantially. Our MSMEs & small entrepreneurs will get huge benefit. Everyday items will become cheaper and this will also give a new boost to the economy.

Narendra Modi
 Prime Minister

Next-Gen GST - Better & Simpler!

For the complete list of recommended revised rates & other GST changes, please scan: QR CODE

www.cbic.gov.in

ways of compensating them, something they said was missing in the Centre's proposal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the plan to reform GST during his Independence Day address on August 15, calling it a Diwali gift.

A revamped GST is expected to lower prices, boost consumption and drive economic growth amid global economic uncertainty.

REVENUE CONCERN

The biggest concern for states is the revenue loss on account of the changes and the absence of a mechanism for compensation as most of them depend heavily on GST revenue. A recent SBI research report suggested that the Centre's GST reform proposal could cost Rs 85,000 crore to the exchequer annually. The Department of Revenue will conduct an assessment of revenue loss that will be presented to the GST Council.

BUSINESS NEWS

India-UK FTA: 99% Indian exports to benefit from Zero duty

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Sir Keir Starmer have announced the successful conclusion of a mutually beneficial India – UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This forward-looking Agreement is aligned with India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and complements the growth aspirations of both the countries.

Indian Register of Shipping expands Operations with Office in Saudi Arabia

Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), a leading international ship classification society and member of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), is proud to announce the opening of

its new office in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This strategic expansion highlights IRS's commitment to supporting the Kingdom's rapidly growing maritime and oil & gas sectors.

Nearly 88% of Employees in India in Low-Skill Jobs

Nearly 88% of India's workforce is in low-competency occupations in 2023-24 with just five sectors accounting over 66% of vocational training, the Institute for Competitiveness (IPC) said in its report, suggesting need for targeted policy interventions to develop a resilient and future-ready workforce.

As per the report, IT and ITeS, textile and apparel, electronics, healthcare and life sciences, and beauty and wellness are the five sectors which accounts for 66% of the country's overall vocational training on the basis of periodic

labour force survey (PLFS) data. The report further said that only 9.76% of the population has completed education beyond the secondary level, whereas more than 52% remain at or below the primary level.

The report 'Skills for the Future: Transforming India's Workforce Landscape' recommended a dedicated, standardized data collection system to generate estimates about skill requirements, enable targeted evidence-based reforms and policies.

Economic Times

SNIPPETS

India & EU reaffirms commitment to conclude ambitious FTA

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry of India, and Mr. Maroš Šefčovič, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, engaged in a forward-looking and substantive dialogue to address global trade challenges and reaffirm their shared resolve to conclude the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of 2025.

India's exports grow by 6.01% to reach \$824.9 bn in 2024-25

India's total exports have touched an all-time high of US\$824.9 billion in the financial year 2024-25, as per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India on services trade for March 2025. This marks a growth of 6.01% over the previous year's figure of US\$778.1 billion, setting a new milestone.

US unlikely to budge as India lobbies for sectoral tariff exemptions

The United States (US) hasn't yet budgeted to repeated requests to exempt India from steeper sectoral tariffs, especially on steel and aluminium in return for concessions New Delhi plans to provide through the proposed trade deal between them, a source privy to the development said.

Triton Logistics & Maritime plans to increase turnover to ₹500 cr

Triton Logistics & Maritime is aiming to increase its turnover to ₹500 crore from the current ₹150 crore in the next two to three years, its CEO Jitendra Srivastava said. "Triton is still in a very early stage. Right now, we're touching around ₹150 crore in turnover. The aim is to scale this up to ₹500 crore in the next two to three years," the CEO said.

Hon'ble Minister Amit Shah sets ₹2 trillion export target for NCEL

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah directed the National Cooperative Exports Ltd (NCEL) to work towards an ambitious export target of Rs 2 lakh crore and identify three specific products not currently being exported from India.

Economic Times, Trade News, FIMI

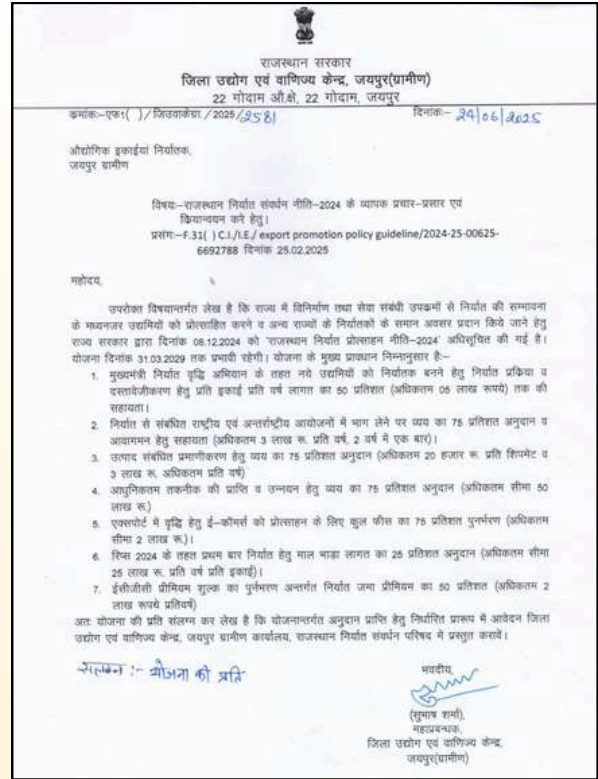
NOTIFICATIONS

Rajasthan reforms export promotion policy

On 24 June 2025, the Government of Rajasthan issued a pivotal notification detailing far-reaching reforms under the Rajasthan Export Promotion Policy 2024, aimed at transforming the state into a leading export hub by 2029.

Key provisions introduced include:

- **Enhanced subsidies & reimbursements:** Exporters now benefit from substantial assistance— 75% reimbursement (up to ₹3 lakh annually) for international trade fairs, 50% subsidy (max ₹5 lakh/year) for quality certifications and documentation, and freight support of up to ₹25 lakh/year per unit.
- **Support for MSMEs & first-time exporters:** New exporters and MSMEs gain access to logistics subsidies, e-commerce fee reimbursements (75%, up to ₹2 lakh over two years), and export credit insurance levy support (50% subsidy up to ₹2 lakh annually).
- **Institutional strengthening:** The revamped framework features the Rajasthan Export Promotion Coordination Council (REPPC) chaired by the Chief Secretary, District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs), and the Project Management Unit (PMU) for execution and review.
- **Export development fund & trade events:** The policy launches a dedicated fund, sourced from state, central, and CSR contributions, to support international expos, Buyer–Seller Meets, Reverse BSMS, trade delegations, and exporter awards.
- **Strategic focus sectors:** Emphasis is on high-potential domains like engineering goods, gems & jewellery, dimensional stones, textiles, handicrafts, agro-processing, tourism, and health & wellness services.



Niti Aayog Moots Bringing ITIs under Industry Chambers

Government think-tank Niti Aayog is working on a new framework for skilling that may include handing over industrial training institutes (ITIs) to industry chambers or companies, conducting a nationwide skills census and issuing skills passports to track upskilling and reskilling of every individual over the years.

This is a significant shift from the current regime, under which the government runs these institutes. However, the Aayog envisages continued funding support to these institutes from the government.

A senior government official said that the Aayog will come up with a restructured skilling framework for the country, in line with the needs of Viksit Bharat @2047.

At present, there are 15,034 ITIs functioning in the country, of which 3,298 are government ITIs and 11,736 are private.



Though ITIs come under the financial and administrative control of the respective state or union territory governments, the central government runs schemes to provide financial support to the state or UT government for strengthening the infrastructure of ITIs and improving the quality of the training provided by them.

via Economic Times dated 5th June 2025

Obituary

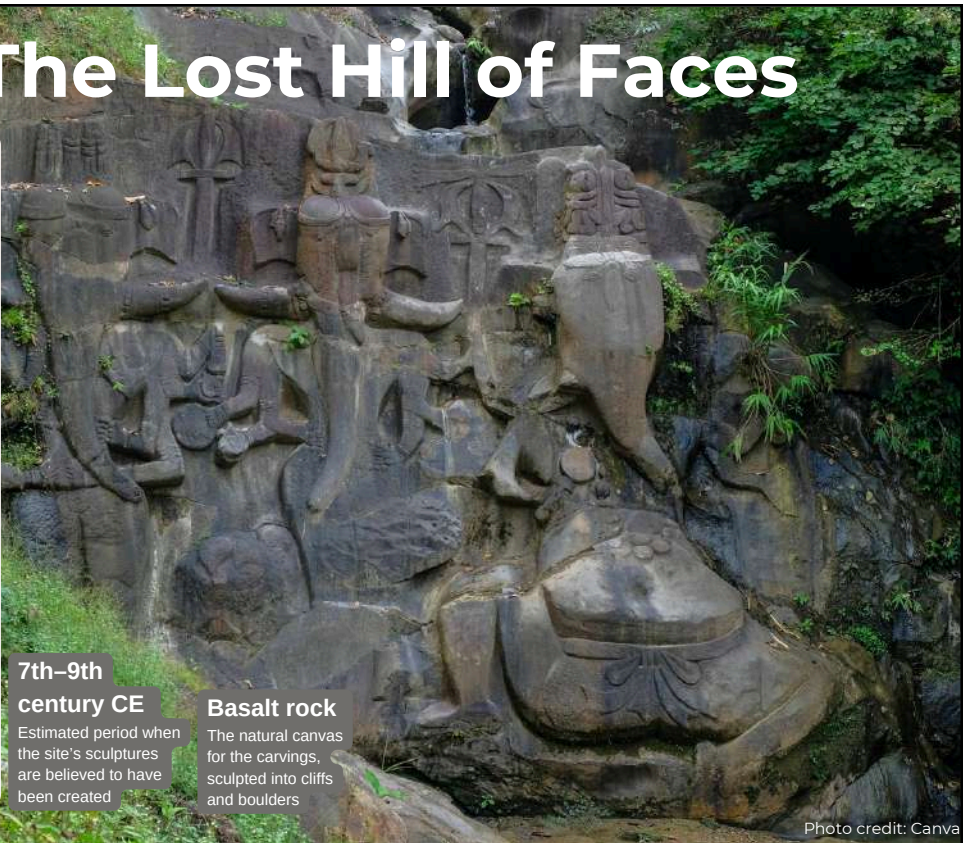


Ms Manju Nahar
Passed away on 13.08.2025
Sister of Jagdish Chandra Jagetia,
Ashish Exports, Udaipur
Life Member

Unakoti: The Lost Hill of Faces

Tucked away in the lush hills of **Tripura**, Unakoti is a mysterious archaeological site famed for its colossal rock-cut reliefs and stone carvings. Blending Shaivite traditions with tribal artistry, it is also called the "Ajanta of the East." **The name Unakoti means "one less than a crore,"** tied to a legend of 99,99,999 gods and goddesses who were turned into stone.

30-foot-high Shiva head
Unakotiswara Kal Bhairava
The most iconic sculpture at the site



7th-9th century CE
Estimated period when the site's sculptures are believed to have been created

Basalt rock
The natural canvas for the carvings, sculpted into cliffs and boulders




Photo credit: Canva

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QUIZ TIME!!!

- Pneumatic hand tools in quarries are powered by:
 - a) Diesel
 - b) Hydraulic oil
 - c) Compressed air
 - d) Electricity
- Which type of saw is most commonly used to cut granite blocks into slabs?
 - a) Gang saw
 - b) Band saw
 - c) Chain saw
 - d) Circular saw
- Multi-wire saw machines use what to cut stone blocks?
 - a) Abrasive sand
 - b) Diamond-impregnated wires
 - c) Water pressure
 - d) Steel wires only
- What is the advantage of using multi-wire saws over traditional gang saws?
 - a) They are lighter
 - b) Fast & reduce waste
 - c) Less noise
 - d) Only for small-scale
- Diamond segments in cutting tools are bonded using:
 - a) Cement
 - b) Sintered metal powders
 - c) Resin only
 - d) Sand-lime mixture

Answers: 1. c) Compressed air; 2. a) Gang saw; 3. b) Diamond-impregnated wires; 4. b) Fast & reduce waste; 5. b) Sintered metal powders



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