

CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
SAN FRANCISCO
MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2018

TRADE NEW HIGHLIGHTS – November 2018

1. Trump Plan to Ban Asylum for Those Arriving on U.S.-Mexico Border Could Impact Indian Sikhs, South Asians

President Donald Trump Nov. 1 announced his intent to ban asylum for people arriving on the U.S.-Mexico border, ostensibly to punish the “caravan” of migrants arriving from Central America, but also impacting the thousands of Indian Sikhs and other South Asians who have increasingly been arriving on foot via those pathways. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is housing hundreds of South Asian asylum seekers at a medium security federal prison in Victorville, Calif., where Sikhs are banned from wearing their turbans and provided no access to vegetarian food, in violation of federal laws.

2. Tech Organizations Band Together to Oppose Lawsuit Seeking to End Optional Practical Training Program for International Students

Several technology advocacy organizations have banded together to oppose a lawsuit which seeks to end the Optional Practical Training program, used by many international students studying in the U.S. The OPT program allows foreign students to work for up to 20 hours a week, provided they are working in a capacity related to their field of study. OPT can be used while a student is studying, or after graduation for a period of 12 months. A student who has graduated in a STEM – science, technology, engineering, or math – discipline can apply for an additional 24-month extension of OPT status. Students from India represent the second-largest population of international students in the U.S. China is home to the first. About one-third of international students are enrolled in STEM studies, and about 14 percent stay on to do OPT, noted USCIS.

3. U.S. Colleges File Lawsuit against USCIS for New Policies Adversely Affecting International Students

Four U.S. colleges have filed a lawsuit against U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, stating that a new policy which was implemented Aug. 9 adversely impacts international students. Indians constitute the second-largest population of international students, behind China. About 190,000 students from India are currently studying in the U.S. or completing their Optional Practical Training.

Formerly, students who stayed on after their course of study was completed only began to accrue “unlawful presence” after the Department of Homeland Security issued a formal finding of a status violation, or the day after an immigration judge issued an order of deportation. But under the new policy, students begin accruing unlawful presence if they stay on even one day post-graduation. Accruing unlawful presence for

more than 180 days could bar them from returning to the U.S. for a period of three to 10 years.

4. New Indian Consul General in San Francisco Sanjay Panda Aims to Serve Community with Greater Efficiency

Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Panda, who arrived here Nov. 14 to serve as India's Consul General for the West Coast and Guam, hopes to eliminate the slow churn of consular bureaucracy during his three-year tenure in the U.S. Mr. Sanjay Panda replaces former Consul General Ashok Venkatesan, who has retired and moved back to Mumbai. The U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum hosted a welcome reception for the new consul general on Nov. 29, in Palo Alto.

His latest posting in the Indian Ocean region gave Panda ample opportunities to interact with the U.S. on maritime security concerns in the area, amongst other issues. Sri Lanka and the Maldives are strategically important to both countries but have a history of political instability, he said, noting that the U.S. and India have worked to develop a collaborative strategy for the region.

5. Arizona State Board of Education Approves Sikhism to Be Included in School Curriculum

The Arizona State Board of Education voted to include Sikhism and several other world religions for the first time in its K-12 curriculum. The Board of Education noted that there will be a two-year transition period to implement the revised standards, with full implementation in the school year 2020-2021. "As a result, the Arizona public school system has dramatically improved the state's diversity education and religious literacy relating to Sikhs, other minority faiths and marginalized communities," said the Sikh Coalition – the nation's largest Sikh advocacy group. The Sikh Coalition has worked for more than a year with the Arizona Sikh community to advocate for the inclusion of Sikhism in social studies material.

TOP COMMODITIES OF EXPORTS/IMPORTS TO STATES UNDER THIS POST'S JURISDICTION IN NOVEMBER 2018

Top Commodities of India Exports to States under this Post's Jurisdiction

HS Code	Product	Value \$	State
82079010	PRIMARY METAL MFG	3,207,648	Alaska
99979100	MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED COMMODITIES	53,059,134	Arizona
03021100	FISH, FRESH/CHILLED/FROZEN & OTHER MARINE PRODUCTS	753,416,134	California
84452011	TEXTILE MILLS PRODUCTS	4,011,886	Hawaii
84713010	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	9,970,805	Idaho
98020000	CHEMICALS	2,425,747	Montana
99979100	MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED COMMODITIES	176,484,154	Nevada
61011010	APPAREL MANUFACTURING PRODUCTS	41,179,827	Oregon
98020000	CHEMICALS	20,159,903	Utah
84452011	TEXTILE MILLS PRODUCTS	83,467,161	Washington
84379090	MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	923,334	Wyoming

Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census Bureau as per 2018 data

Top Commodities of India Imports from States under this Post's Jurisdiction

HS Code	Product	Value \$	State
73110090	TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	464,242,227	Alaska
84713010	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	39,389,423	Arizona
99979100	MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED COMMODITIES	3,584,443,411	California
03021100	FISH, FRESH/CHILLED/FROZEN & OTHER MARINE PRODUCTS	9,157,136	Hawaii
98051000	FOOD MANUFACTURES	2,885,660	Idaho
73110090	TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	2,936,782	Montana
82079010	PRIMARY METAL MFG	1,589,885,323	Nevada
84713010	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	71,486,784	Oregon
98051000	PRIMARY METAL MFG	142,742,768	Utah
73110090	TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	1,393,133,318	Washington
98020000	CHEMICALS	21,246,585	Wyoming

Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census Bureau

TOTAL EXPORTS/IMPORTS TO STATES UNDER THIS POST'S JURISDICTION YTD NOVEMBER 2018

Exports from India to States under this Post's Jurisdiction

State	2015 (\$)	2016 (\$)	2017 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Alaska	2,152,153	5,273,335	2,944,686	8,379,939
Arizona	224,399,081	213,932,075	237,183,347	246,607,790
California	3,855,630,622	3,632,108,749	3,949,537,323	4,022,183,963
Hawaii	8,839,393	5,790,710	7,353,103	11,471,822
Idaho	14,100,519	11,273,403	17,815,286	20,600,944
Montana	21,649,743	2,281,820	4,979,671	6,103,863
Nevada	221,396,873	262,817,749	389,764,827	300,114,899
Oregon	140,653,944	132,326,754	172,763,994	184,818,796
Utah	85,084,540	98,595,480	103,552,344	120,069,098
Washington	452,733,326	361,830,153	424,890,608	481,638,479
Wyoming	6,957,939	3,386,747	2,651,827	5,160,833

Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census Bureau *Latest data as per Dec 2018

Imports by India from States under this Post's Jurisdiction

State	2015 (\$)	2016 (\$)	2017 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Alaska	1,320,449	2,026,284	769,332	646,532
Arizona	102,718,442	114,368,708	157,528,131	131,356,052
California	4,568,402,045	5,129,286,116	5,014,214,769	6,117,423,164
Hawaii	9,766,185	15,308,110	10,070,427	11,546,406
Idaho	27,794,604	33,904,830	43,634,543	10,426,063
Montana	33,391,085	52,150,420	23,590,911	8,546,025
Nevada	1,720,866,386	812,179,250	1,798,617,635	1,672,340,779
Oregon	90,702,304	123,006,058	110,592,122	149,823,528
Utah	201,899,345	101,459,188	58,710,833	224,249,705
Washington	1,150,560,756	816,180,471	980,670,243	1,839,236,822
Wyoming	6,552,562	12,912,385	17,098,991	21,601,728

Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census Bureau *Latest data as per Dec 2018

TRADE ENQUIRES

Here are some of the trade enquiries that this post received during month of NOVEMBER 2018 and they have been attended to appropriately.

Company	Exports from India
VIP BK International	Rice, Vegetables, Nuts
KLM Fashion	Knitted Garments
PNB Traders	Garment
PPH.1International	Polished loose Diamond
Allen Moshiri	Indian Spices
Royal Woods Global LLp	Pine logs
ShivShakti Enterprises	Human Hair & PVC scraps
Amurae International	Gherkins, Cashew, PVC products
HSS Exports & Imports	Fresh Fruits