

CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
SAN FRANCISCO
MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT February 2019

TRADE NEW HIGHLIGHTS – FEBRUARY 2019

1. One hundred and thirty Indian Students Arrested in ‘Pay-and-Stay’ University Sting Operation

One hundred and thirty students were arrested for their association with Farmington University in Michigan, a fake university set up by the Department of Homeland Security to target foreign students who were staying in the U.S. without proper authorization. All of the arrested students face immediate deportation and could also face criminal charges. A grand jury will next determine whether there is sufficient evidence to charge the students with knowingly committing immigration fraud. The recruiters are charged with conspiracy to commit visa fraud and harboring aliens for profit. They each face maximum sentences of five years, according to ICE. India’s Ministry of External Affairs said that it had gained access to 117 of the students arrested by DHS. Indian Embassy and Consulates have obtained consular access to the 117 of them, by proactively visiting 36 different detention sites through the length and breadth of the country.

2. USCIS Launches Online Feature for Checking Asylum Status; Applications for Citizenship

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that it has launched a new feature whereby asylum applicants can check the status of their application online. Only asylum applicants with an application pending with USCIS will be able to use this new feature to check their case status online. It will not cover defensive asylum applicants whose cases are pending in immigration court, the government entity added.

3. DHS Finalizes New Rule Favoring H-1B Applicants With Advanced U.S. Degrees The Department of Homeland Security announced that it has finalized a rule reformatting the H-1B visa program, giving preference to applicants with advanced U.S. degrees. The new rule — which received 814 responses during a 30-day required comment period — will go into effect April 1, just ahead of the 2020 H-1B filing season. Currently, 65,000 H-1B visas are annually allotted via lottery per the H-1B cap; applicants need only an undergraduate degree to be eligible. 20,000 additional visas are currently available for those with advanced U.S. degrees. Beginning April 1, USCIS will now choose those with advanced U.S. degrees first, before selecting other applicants.

4. Indian American Team from MIT, Microsoft Develops Model for Safer Self-Driving Cars

A team of Indian American researchers has developed a novel model that uses human input to uncover Artificial Intelligence "blind spots" in self-driving cars, so that the vehicles can avoid dangerous errors in the real world. The model developed by MIT and Microsoft researchers identifies instances in which autonomous systems have "learned"

from training examples that don't match what's actually happening in the real world. Engineers could use this model to improve the safety of AI systems, such as driverless vehicles and autonomous robots.

5. 12th Annual US Global Business Forum and Summit Pitches Investment in Green Technology

The 12th Annual US Global Business Forum and Investment Summit, with a focus on America and Asia, was held on the iconic Queen Mary luxury liner in Long Beach, California, presented by US Global Holding Enterprises in association with Friends of South Asian American Communities, Armao Global and LA LA Land Development Inc., and Los Angeles Bioscope Film Festival. USGBF is a platform established by leaders of the Indian and American communities with the objective of promoting trade, commerce, investments and joint ventures between the various countries.

TOP COMMODITIES OF EXPORTS/IMPORTS TO STATES UNDER THIS POST'S JURISDICTION YTD FEBRUARY 2019

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 FEBRUARY 2019

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 February 2019 and they have been attended to appropriately.

Company	Exports from India
Silver Apparels	Ladies wear
Bala's Enterprise	Tamarind, Jaggery & Peanut Chikki
Morning Star Exports	Jeans, Shirts, inner wear, spices
Sarvasva Industries	Pharmaceutical, Furniture,
T.T. Limited	Readymade garments
Sonata Ceramics	Ceramic wall tiles
Genuine Global Exports	SSB Tech innovation
SSB Tech innovation	Coconut shell based steam activated Carbon
R S International	Indian snacks
UAV Systems International	Camera Drones
Sunbond Ceramics	Ceramic Tiles