

**CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA**  
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT MAY 2018**

**TRADE NEW HIGHLIGHTS – May 2018**

**1. USCIS Receives 190K H-1B Petitions, Allots Less Than Half Via Lottery**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced April 12 that it had received 190,090 H-1B visa applications for fiscal year 2019. The agency announced April 5 that it had met the numbers needed to meet the congressionally-mandated cap of 65,000 regular H-1B visas, and 20,000 “master’s cap” visas. USCIS said it has allotted in total 85,000 visas via a randomized lottery. Immigration analysts had predicted there would be a severe drop in applications this year, given the anti H-1B and “Hire American” rhetoric of the Trump administration. But this year’s numbers represent a roughly four percent drop over last year’s application numbers: 199,000. However, numbers of applicants have been declining since President Donald Trump took office. For FY 2017 – applications were accepted beginning April 1, 2016 and closed shortly after – 236,000 H-1B petitions were filed. In 2015, applications for FY 2016 totaled 233,000, according to USCIS data.

**2. Reforms Help India Retain Fastest Growing Economy Spot, Says IMF Report**

The International Monetary Fund says that India will retain its top spot as the world's fastest growing economy, helped by structural reforms and the fading of the effects of demonetization and the new Goods and Services Tax system. According to the World Economic Outlook report released April 17, India's economy is expected to grow at 7.4 percent in 2018 from 6.7 percent in 2017. As per the report, the country's economic growth is expected to be 7.8 percent in 2019. The report predicted that the current year's economic growth will be pushed higher by "strong private consumption as well as fading transitory effects of the currency exchange initiative and implementation of the national Goods and Services Tax.

**3. Walmart Makes bid Bet in India, pays \$16B for Flipkart 77% Stake -**

Walmart Inc announced that it would pay \$16 billion for an initial stake of approximately 77% in homegrown e-commerce company Flipkart. The deal values Flipkart at \$20.8 billion, according to sources. “India is one of the most attractive retail markets in the world, given its size and growth rate, and our investment is an opportunity to partner with the company that is leading the transformation of e-commerce in the market,” said Doug McMillon, Walmart’s president and chief executive officer, in a statement. While Walmart and Flipkart will leverage their combined strengths, they will maintain distinct brands and operating structures. Walmart are facing the heat from Amazon in the U.S market. They don’t want to repeat the mistake they did in the U.S where they gave a lot of time to Amazon to get access to the customer wallets.

#### 4. India's Biggest Renewable-Energy Deal Has Been Sealed -

Goldman Sachs-backed ReNew Power has acquired three-year-old Ostro Energy to create the country's largest clean energy firm by installed capacity, Quartz reported. In what is the biggest ever deal in the Indian renewable energy sector, ReNew Power will spend about \$1.5 billion for the acquisition. Ostro Energy's 1,100 megawatt of capacity is spread across Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, the report said. This deal could be the first in a wave of consolidation India's renewable sector is likely to witness this year. This deal could be the first in a wave of consolidation India's renewable sector is likely to witness this year. The main triggers are the sharp decrease in clean energy tariffs and the consequent fall in the internal rate of return — the yield an investor gets on his investment, the report said. "Consolidation is inevitable.

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

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

HS Code	Product	Value \$	State
84379090	MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	354,868	Alaska
84193100	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	35,215,769	Arizona
03021100	FISH, FRESH/CHILLED/FROZEN & OTHER MARINE PRODUCTS	743,217,639	California
61011010	APPAREL MANUFACTURING PRODUCTS	1,232,229	Hawaii
84713010	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	7,766,052	Idaho
98051000	FOOD MANUFACTURES	1,614,928	Montana
59031010	LEATHER & ALLIED PRODUCTS	25,972,967	Nevada
61011010	APPAREL MANUFACTURING PRODUCTS	40,002,478	Oregon
84452011	TEXTILE MILLS PRODUCTS	16,256,200	Utah
98020000	CHEMICALS	49,200,147	Washington
65069100	PLASTICS & RUBBER PRODUCTS	332,669	Wyoming

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

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

HS Code	Product	Value \$	State
98020000	CHEMICALS	537,339	Alaska
73110090	TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	51,268,056	Arizona
84193100	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	890,265,006	California
72042920	WASTE AND SCRAP	5,669,839	Hawaii
84713010	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	37,779,249	Idaho
84193100	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	18,249,034	Montana
82079010	PRIMARY METAL MFG	1,589,885,323	Nevada
84713010	COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	59,149,196	Oregon
98051000	FOOD MANUFACTURES	16,695,979	Utah
98020000	CHEMICALS	9,723,881	Wyoming

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

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

**Exports from India to States under this Post's Jurisdiction**

State	2014 (\$)	2015 (\$)	2016 (\$)	YTD (DEC) 2017 (\$)
Alaska	4,747,146	2,152,153	5,273,335	2,944,686
Arizona	193,560,967	224,399,081	213,932,075	237,183,347
California	4,397,270,816	3,855,630,622	3,632,108,749	3,949,537,323
Hawaii	5,568,812	8,839,393	5,790,710	7,353,103
Idaho	18,530,812	14,100,519	11,273,403	17,815,286
Montana	66,540,359	21,649,743	2,281,820	4,979,671
Nevada	169,465,648	221,396,873	262,817,749	389,764,827
Oregon	189,840,228	140,653,944	132,326,754	172,763,994
Utah	116,596,460	85,084,540	98,595,480	103,552,344
Washington	386,811,401	452,733,326	361,830,153	424,890,608
Wyoming	7,333,503	6,957,939	3,386,747	2,651,827

Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census Bureau \*Latest data as per Dec2017

**Imports by India from States under this Post's Jurisdiction**

State	2014 (\$)	2015 (\$)	2016 (\$)	YTD (DEC) 2017 (\$)
Alaska	255,806	1,320,449	2,026,284	769,332
Arizona	73,130,917	102,718,442	114,368,708	157,528,131
California	5,270,535,205	4,568,402,045	5,129,286,116	5,014,628,185
Hawaii	794,002	9,766,185	15,308,110	10,070,427
Idaho	14,012,128	27,794,604	33,904,830	43,634,543
Montana	42,318,205	33,391,085	52,150,420	23,590,911
Nevada	567,849,540	1,720,866,386	812,179,250	1,798,617,635
Oregon	153,495,498	90,702,304	123,006,058	108,037,248
Utah	240,348,276	201,899,345	101,459,188	58,710,833
Washington	2,134,362,701	1,150,560,756	816,180,471	982,216,769
Wyoming	11,221,271	6,552,562	12,912,385	17,098,991

Source: Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census Bureau \*Latest data as per Dec 2017

**TRADE ENQUIRES**

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

Company	Exports from India
Swiftcad	Diamond Jewelry Manufactures
Ghati International	Agricultural & industrial Products
Mohiva	Herbal food Supplements & Fruits
Ajvinakar Exports	Tamarind
Selvam organic Exports	Vermi Compost
Diligent Impex	Induction Motors
Khodiyar Scientific	Lab Glassware
GRC Exports	Fresh Vegetables
MetalCraft Inc	Machine Manufactures( Interior Design products for Aircraft, textile etc