

India Serves

A Monthly Newsletter by

SEPC

SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

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INDIA IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

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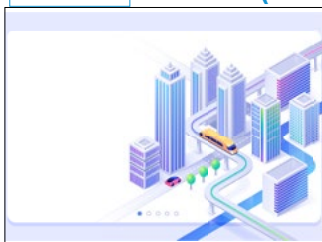
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Environmental goods and services can be broadly defined as consisting of activities 'that produce goods and services to measure, prevent, limit, minimize or correct environmental damage to water...

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India Serves

A SEPC NEWSLETTER

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Tap here for detailed profiles

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(Consultancy Services)

Editor

Dr. Abhay Sinha, DDG
abhay.sinha@servicesepc.org

Content

Ms. Geetanjali Nataraj, Director - Policy and Research
geethanjali.nataraj@servicesepc.org

Dr. Salahuddin Ayyub, Dy Director, Policy & Research
salahuddin.ayyub@servicesepc.org

Mr. Dhruv Singh, S. Executive Officer, Policy & Research
dhruv.singh@servicesepc.org

For membership:

Mr. Vikrant Wadhwa, Dy Director (Membership)
vikrant.wadhwa@servicesepc.org

For Events/Sponsorships/Advertisements

Mr. Mayank Sharma, Dy Director (Events)
mayank.sharma@servicesepc.org

SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

Phone: +91 11-41046327-28-29
+91 11-41734632

Email: info@servicesepc.org

Website: www.servicesepc.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Maneck E. Davar
Chairman, SEPC



Wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

I am delighted to share with you SEPC's relocation to its new state-of-the-art premises in New Delhi. We are sharing some pictures of the new office in the newsletter.

Our monthly newsletter, India Serves covers latest updates on market trends, industry news, government notifications, and other sectoral details with special focus on a specific services sector. This issue of India Serves focuses on Environmental Services. It is one of the champion services sectors identified by the government of India to promote exports and employment. Environment industry has developed significantly over the last 15 years, due in particular to growing environmental awareness, increasingly stringent environmental standards & regulations, multilateral commitments, etc.

Growing population, rapid urbanization and industrialization continues to create environmental challenges and it is indeed an issue for governments to foster a pace of development without compromising on environmental concerns and the commitments to the international community on subjects like global warming. This gives a lot of scope for growth of environmental services. The Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), New York, 1992, Kyoto Protocol, 1997, Paris Agreement, 2015 is a few of the multilateral agreements which continue to drive actions by various governments to implement projects for environment protection.

The global environmental consulting services market was valued at USD 36 billion in 2019. India's growth potential in Environmental services is remarkable because of increase in urbanization & industrialization

One of the major segments of Environmental Services is Environmental Consulting services. The global environmental consulting services market was valued at USD 36 billion in 2019. India's growth potential in Environmental services is remarkable because of increase in urbanization & industrialization. There has been a substantial growth in India's exports of environmental services. More than half of India's exports in environmental services is destined to 15 countries. Markets where India's environmental services providers have earned reasonable shares are USA, China, Nigeria, Mexico and Indonesia.

Besides facilitating members with research and analytics, capacity building exercises, buyer-seller meets, SEPC is closely co-ordinating with the Department of Commerce and Industry to formulate a suitable alternative to SEIS while pressing upon the need to issue the notification for 2019-20 in order to partially offset financial and business continuity distress caused by COVID. We look forward to the upcoming budget in Feb 2021 and proposed Foreign Trade Policy in March 2021 and believe that there will be a focus on the services sector from the point of view of resource allocation and incentives.

Please feel free to communicate to us.

Yours Sincerely
Maneck Davar



Services Export Promotion Council set up in 2006 by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India is an apex trade body to promote exports of services from India.

Overview of Services offered by SEPC

- Trade Intelligence
- Export Development
- Export Promotion/ Investment
- Enabling Business Environment

Nodal organisation of Service Export Promotion	
	Key role in Foreign Trade Policy, Export Strategy formulation by Department of Commerce and related Govt Departments.
	Interface between Services Sector and Government
	Provides inputs on Trade Negotiations
	Represents Services Sector in various Joint Trade Committees, Joint Business Councils and Joint Working Groups of Government of India to facilitate export.
	Creates Business opportunities in global market place for services exporters
	Providing commercially useful information and assistance to members in increasing exports.
	Organising visits of delegation of its members abroad to explore overseas market opportunities.
	Organising participation of Services exporters in specialised International Trade Fairs.
	Dissemination of government notification, orders, information on trade and other relevant information to members.
	Facilitates execution of Government Schemes like SEIS.

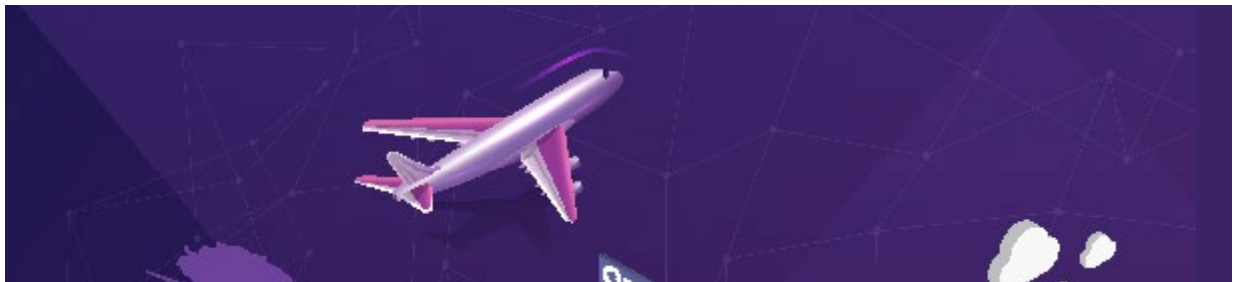


Services Covered under SEPC

In order to enhance the competitiveness of services exports and enable services industry to generate employment Union Cabinet chaired by Honourable **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** in 2018 identified 12 Champion Services Sector.

The following table provides the mapping of identified Champion Services vis-a vis the services covered under SEPC.

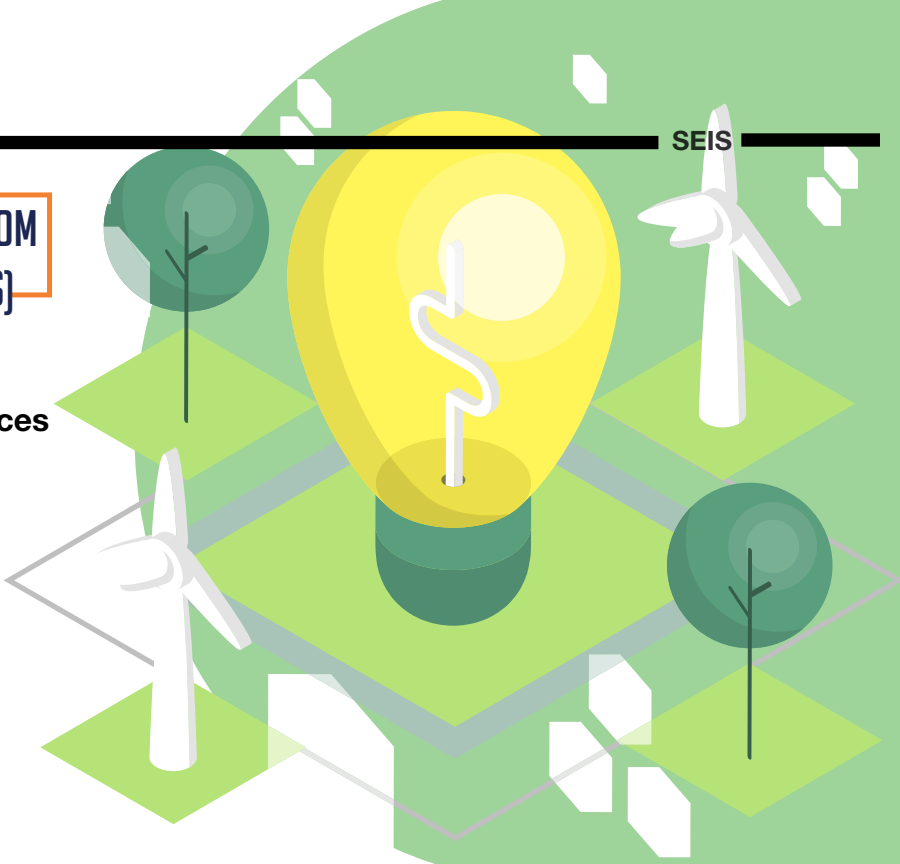
Services covered under SEPC	Champion Services
Hotel and Tourism related Services	Tourism and Hospitality Services
Healthcare services including services by nurses, physiotherapist and paramedical personnel	Medical Value Travel Services
Maritime Transport Services	Transport and Logistics Services
Accounting/Auditing and book keeping services	Accounting and Finance Services
Entertainment services including Audio-Visual Services	Audio - Visual Services
Legal Services	Legal Services
Architectural Services and related services	Construction and Related Engineering Services
Environmental Services	Environmental Services
Others Services	Information Technology & Information Technology Enabled Services
	Communication Services
	Financial Services
Educational Services	Education Services
Consultancy Services	
Distribution Services	
Advertising Services	
Marketing Research and Public Opinion Polling Services/Management Services	
Printing and Publishing Services	



SERVICE EXPORTS FROM
INDIA SCHEME (SEIS)

Sector coverage

Environmental Services



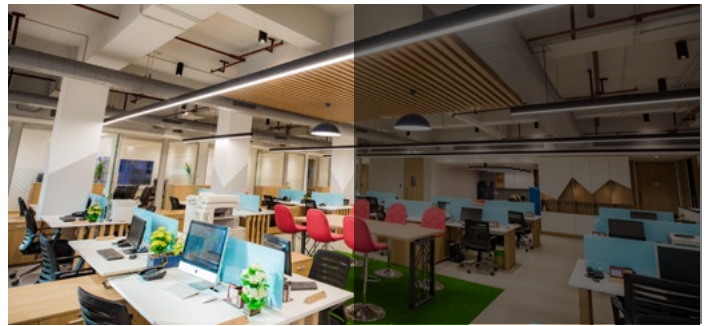
Champion Sectors	SEPC Sectors	GATS (WTO) Classification	UN CPC Provisional CODE	Services Description	Covered under Appendix 3D of SEIS?
Environmental Services	Environmental Services	Sewage services	94010	Sewage treatment services	Covered
		Refuse disposal services	94020	Refuse disposal services	Covered
		Sanitation and similar services	94030	Sanitation and similar services	Covered
		Cleaning Services	94040	Cleaning Services of Exhaust Gases	Not covered
		Noise Abatement Services	94050	Noise Abatement Services	Not covered
		Nature and Landscape protection services	94060	Nature and Landscape protection services	Not covered
		Other environmental protection services n.e.c.	94090	Other environmental protection services n.e.c.	Not covered





NEW SEPC OFFICE

SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL



INDIA SERVES



ENVIRONMENTAL Services

GENERAL WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES



COLLECTION SERVICES OF NON-HAZARDOUS RECYCLABLE MATERIALS



COLLECTION SERVICES OF HAZARDOUS WASTE (MEDICAL, BIOLOGICAL, INFECTIOUS, INDUSTRIAL)



WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SERVICES



WASTE PREPARATION, CONSOLIDATION AND STORAGE SERVICES



HAZARDOUS AND NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SERVICES

SEWERAGE, SEWAGE TREATMENT AND SEPTIC TANK CLEANING SERVICES

SANITATION AND SIMILAR SERVICES

SWEEPING AND SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES

OTHER SANITATION SERVICES N.E.C.

REMEDIAL SERVICES

CONTAINMENT, CONTROL AND MONITORING SERVICES AND OTHER SITE REMEDIATION SERVICES N.E.C.

SITE REMEDIATION AND CLEAN-UP SERVICES

BUILDING REMEDIATION SERVICES

OTHER SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES

RENEWABLE ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SERVICES

MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WATER SUPPLY

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING SERVICES

AIR POLLUTION



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

A GLOBAL VIEW OF



Focus Sector



by Raj Kumar Gupta

CGC MEMBER & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PANEL HEAD, SEPC, CEO, TOSHIBA SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED (TWS)

Environmental services refer to qualitative functions of natural non-produced assets of land, water and air (including related ecosystem) and their biota. These services include the provision of raw materials and energy used to produce goods and services, the absorption of waste from human activities, and the basic roles in life support and the provision of other amenities such as landscape. (OECD, 2005)

It is a sector where most trade takes place through commercial presence (Mode 3). Due to technological developments, cross-border supply (Mode 1) is of increasing importance in this sector. Compared with other sectors, such as tourism, financial services or telecommunications, the level of environmental services commitments bound under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) is modest.

Growing population, rapid urbanization and industrialization continues to create environmental challenges and the governments around the world are working overtime to meet these challenges without bottlenecking the pace of development. While the developing world is speeding up their new infrastructure projects, the developed world is continuously revamping, rehabilitating and upgrading their existing infrastructure to meet the environmental challenges and also to meet the local regulations and their commitment to the international community.

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), New York, 1992, Kyoto Protocol, 1997, Paris Agreement, 2015 are few of the multilateral agreements which continues to drive the actions by various governments to implement projects for environment protection.

Multilateral funding agencies like World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and many other continue to fund environment projects liberally thus accelerating the pace of implementation of such projects.

Environmental services industry comprises companies that operate by providing advice and assistance to businesses and other organizations on environmental issues. Major environmental consulting services include:

- Environmental assessment which determines the environmental condition of a particular site
- Site remediation which includes cleaning up polluted areas
- Natural resource management which includes strategies for managing a particular environment



- Environmental auditing which includes determining an organization's environmental impact
- Waste management
- Environmental policy development.

According to an assessment of the revenues of the world's top 20 firms by Environment Analyst, consulting-specific revenue of environmental services worldwide is distributed among sectors in the following manner;

- Water and waste management services - 30%
- Contaminated land services - 29%
- Environmental management, compliance, and due diligence - 14%
- Environmental impact assessment and sustainable development - 14%
- Climate change and energy - about 8%

According to ENR, the top 200 total environmental services revenue, based on what

firms reported in 2018, hit USD 57.24 billion—up 7.3% from the previous year. Top 15 companies generated around USD 28 billion revenue in 2018. Out of top 15 companies, 11 are only from United States, and one each from Italy, Canada, Netherlands, and UK. Many of these companies have their subsidiaries or branch offices in India. The US and Western Europe are major markets for environmental consulting services but future growth is expected to come from Africa, China, India, and Southeast Asia. In developing economies like Brazil, Russia, India and China, there is rising demand for waste treatment due to urbanization.

As per ENR The Top 200 Environmental Firms data, most of the revenue generated in Environmental services is from Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Services which are common source of revenue globally are Hazardous waste, water supply, and waste water related services.

FIGURE 1: REVENUE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES WORLDWIDE, BY REGION - 2018

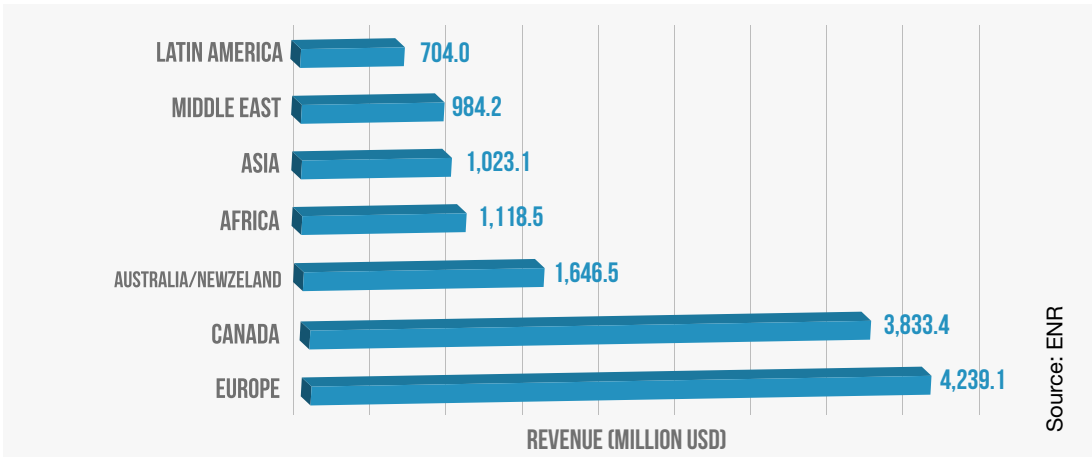
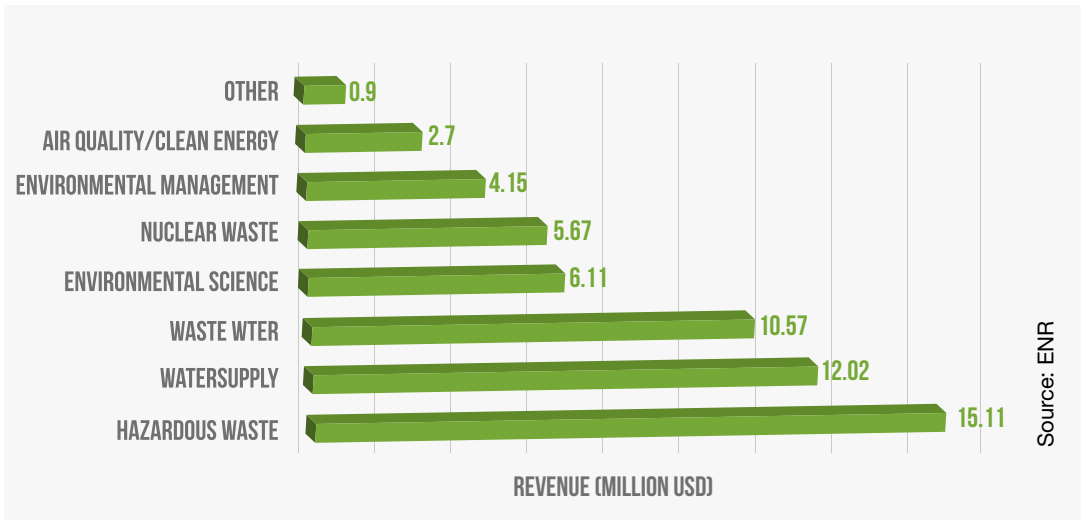


FIGURE 2: REVENUE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES WORLDWIDE BY SECTOR - 2018



Overview

The environment industry has developed significantly over the last 15 years, due in particular to growing environmental awareness and increasingly stringent environmental standards and regulations. Technology has evolved, shifting to more prevention. As a result, the scope of the negotiations in this sector is broader now than during the Uruguay Round, which concluded in 1994.

More than 40 WTO members, at all levels of development, have undertaken specific commitments on environmental services. Most have commitments in several sub-sectors while some have commitments in all sub-sectors. Compared with other sectors, such as tourism, financial services or telecommunications, the level of environmental services commitments bound under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) is modest.

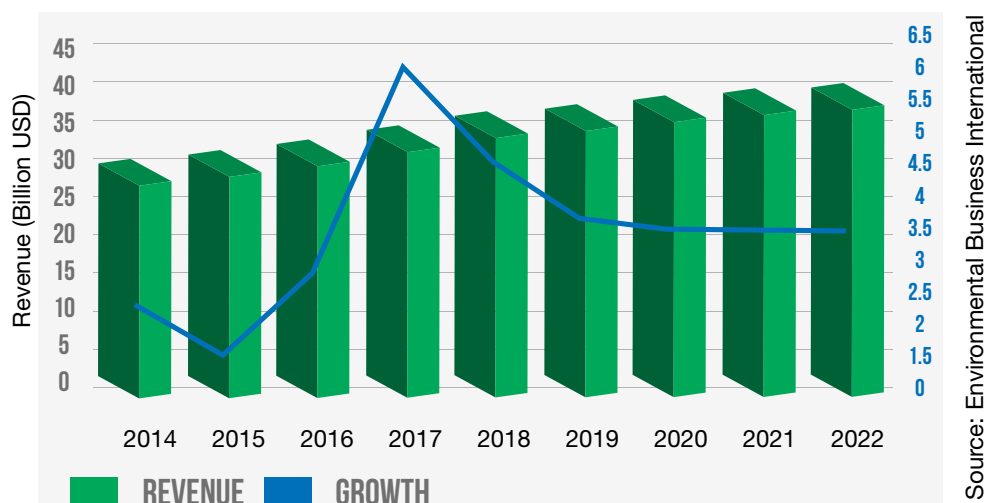
Environmental services is a sector where most trade takes place through commercial presence (Mode 3), with the accompanying presence of natural persons (Mode 4). Due to technological developments, cross-border supply (Mode 1) is of increasing importance in this sector.

Environment consulting services is one of the emerging environmental services accounting for huge revenues worldwide. The Global Environmental Consulting Services Market was valued at USD 36 billion in 2019 and is expecting to grow at the rate of around 4 per cent by the year 2022 (Environment Analyst). The environmental consulting firms primarily work on a contractual basis for clients from both private and public sector to address environmental issues such as water pollution, air quality, and soil contamination and also provide a roadmap for sustainable and efficient resource management system.

INDIA IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

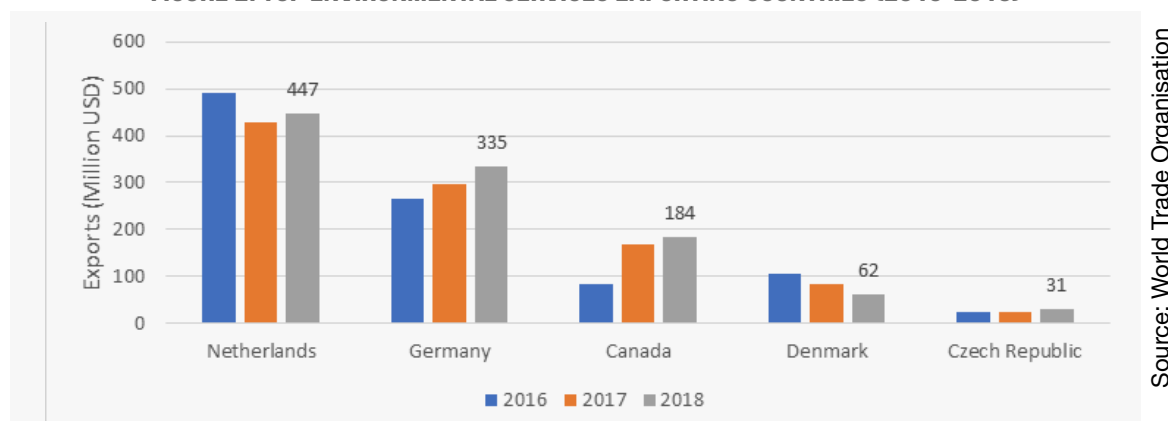


FIGURE 1: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY REVENUE AND GROWTH (2014-2022)



As per an assessment of the aggregated revenues of the world's top 20 firms by Environment Analyst, water and waste management services account for 30%, contaminated land services - 29%, environmental management, compliance and due diligence - 14%, Environmental impact assessment and sustainable development - 14% and climate change and energy nearly about 13%.

FIGURE 2: TOP ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES EXPORTING COUNTRIES (2016-2018)



Currently the environment consulting services market is dominated by some developed countries from Western Europe and North America. Netherlands, Germany, Canada and Denmark are amongst the top exporters in the segment capturing more than 40% of the total exports in environment consulting services according to WTO estimates. However, developing and emerging markets in Asia and Latin America are growing rapidly as protection of the environment is becoming a higher priority as many countries see the urgency for low carbon economy putting greater emphasis on sustainable development and environmental performance in their funding support programmes with the

increasing involvement in climate control accords.

For example, The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. To achieve this long-term temperature goal, countries aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible to achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century.



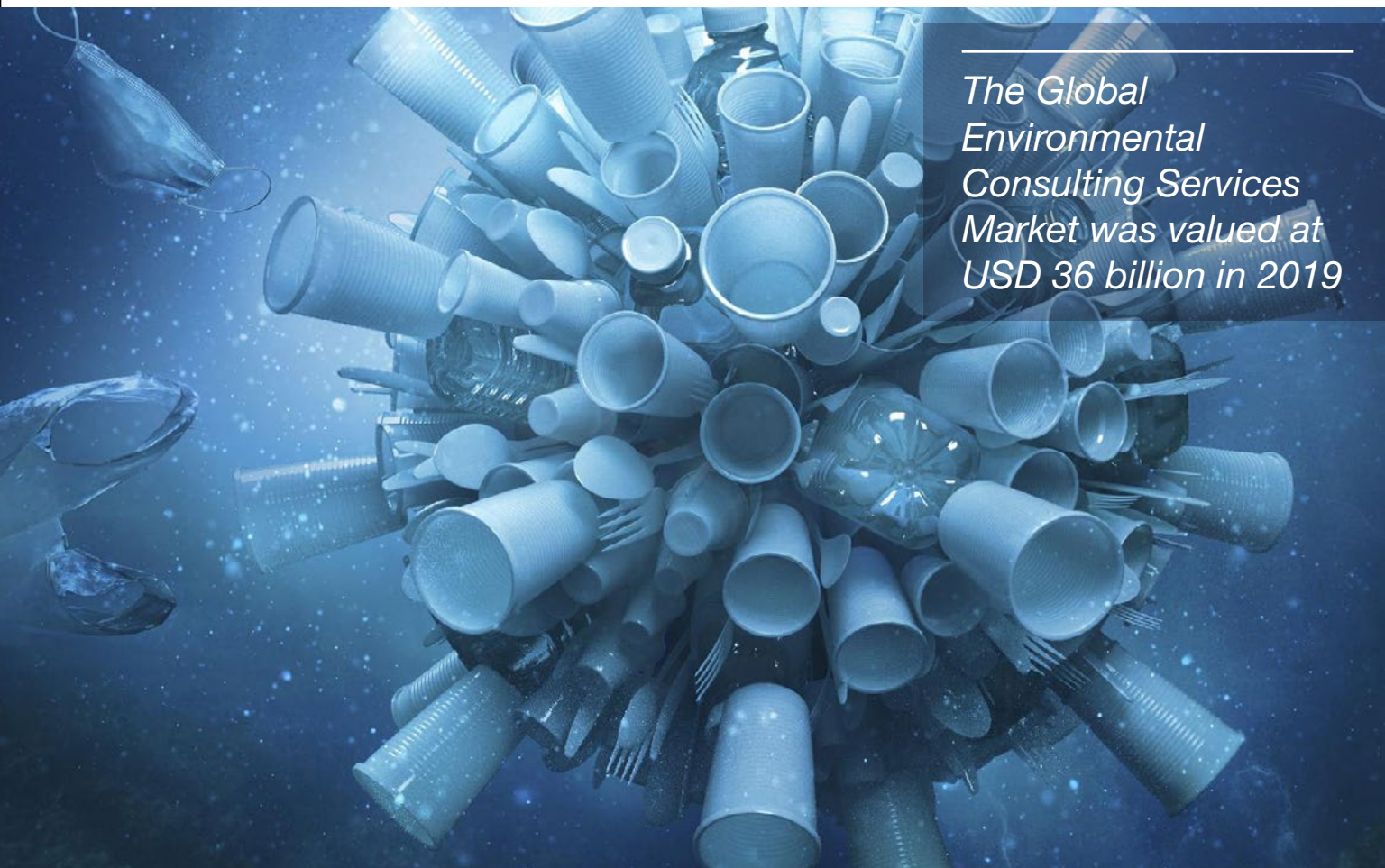
- Growth is driven by a resurgence in Asia Pacific (+12.5%) and, crucially, recovery in the sector's largest and dominant North American market (+4.1%), boosted by the unexpected volume of disaster recovery and climate resilience work (in a year of record-breaking storm activity).
- The Global 22 together employ approximately 82,000 EC staff (FTEs) worldwide, servicing around 220,000 EC contracts per year, with an average contract value of USD 77,000.
- Japanese government has announced a fresh USD 708 billion economic stimulus package to speed up the recovery from the country's deep coronavirus-driven slump, while targeting investment in new growth areas such as green and digital innovation. The new package will include about 40 trillion yen (USD 384.54 billion) in direct fiscal spending and initiatives targeted at reducing carbon emissions and boosting adoption of digital technology.
- The United Overseas Bank (UOB) of Singapore has launched a new framework which aims to make sustainable financing more accessible to companies which contribute to the creation of smart cities in Asia. The framework sets out the criteria that clients, including SMEs and large corporates, must meet to access sustainability-linked loans and trade finance facilities. For instance, companies must have a clear sustainability strategy and objectives; achieve their sustainability performance targets; and use the proceeds to further their sustainability agenda for example, renewable energy, green building construction, improved energy efficiency, green transportation, sustainable water and waste management, and climate change adaptation.



Developments in the Sector

- In an effort to better understand air pollution and design effective policies to combat pollution exposure, Seoul's Gangnam City Government and Kaiterra, have developed an official partnership to develop a network of outdoor air quality monitors throughout the Gangnam district. The partnership begins with a one-year pilot program during which 44 outdoor air quality monitors will be installed throughout a 400 km² area in Gangnam, located in the center of Seoul. It is one of the rare program on global scale which works upon air quality monitoring effort.
- S&P Global Trucost has announced the launch of its Paris Alignment dataset on the Market Intelligence Platform. Trucost's Paris Alignment allows clients the ability to assess company alignment with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature increase to below 2°C. The dataset examines whether company emissions reductions and targets are line with a 1.5°C and 2°C carbon budget and can be used by investors to measure the alignment of their portfolios with global climate goals.
- Jacobs is integrating innovative artificial intelligence (AI)/machine learning into their EHS Information Management (IM) which will greatly reduce compliance costs and risk for industrial, commercial and government sector clients their platform will harnesses AI, specifically natural language processing (NLP), to automate the conversion of regulatory documents up to 100 times faster than current state of the art permit deconstruction and data entry/processing, while maintaining better than human accuracy and consistency. This includes the latest OSHA regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic compliance.
- Singapore has become the second country, after UK, where Landscape Architects have teamed up for a joint declaration. Architects, Environmental Consultants and Structural Engineers pledge to design landscapes with a more positive impact on the environment, which should then be part of a larger self-sustaining system.

*The Global
Environmental
Consulting Services
Market was valued at
USD 36 billion in 2019*



India Overview

The International Trade Administration’s 2019 Top Markets Report on Environmental Technologies ranks India as the sixth largest world market overall, with subsector rankings of second for water/waste-water management, ninth for air pollution control, and eighth for solid waste and recycling segments.

The market for environmental services in developing countries like India has been growing due to increased environmental regulations, urbanization, industrialization and international commitments. Services such as performance monitoring and maintenance of renewable energy infrastructures are more likely to be internationally traded because of the widespread use of advanced information technologies in global value chains, increasing urban-

ization and greater environmental consciousness in countries are leading to a growing demand for modern environmental technologies and services which in return would result in large investments to develop and upgrade the environmental services.

With a view to promote environment services sector, the government has identified it as one of the ‘12’ champion services sectors and realising its real potential they have establishment a Rs 5,000 crore dedicated fund in order to increase value addition and promote exports and push the MSME companies in the sector.

Indian environment companies are poised for a big leap forward in the Solar PV power development area in the foreseeable future. The Govt. has recently

ramped up previous target of 175 GW to achieve 225 GW of RE power capacity by 2022 as a part of its Paris agreement commitments. In addition to this, the government has introduced schemes for small, mini & micro enterprises in the sector. It is estimated that with India’s prowess in the sector it is endowed for a hydro potential of about 2,50,000 MW and various other programmes like Namami Gange, Smart city programmes in accord to the United Nations Sustainable goals and various other schemes by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change which has helped build indigenous capacities and strengthened manpower in multi-disciplinary aspects and work upon new and emerging areas of environmental services.

FIGURE 3: INDIA’S EXPORTS IN ENVIRONMENT SERVICES



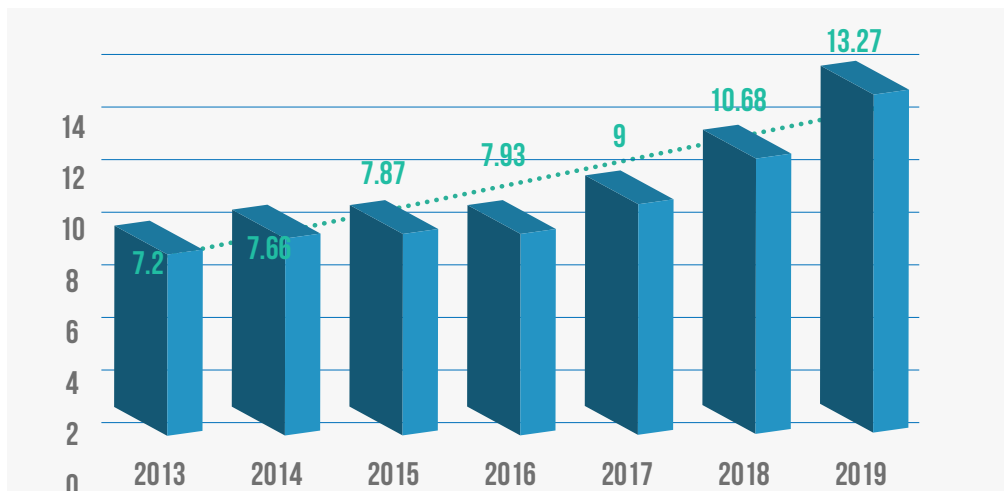
Source: World Trade Organisation

In case of environment services, data is primarily collected with the Harmonized System codes associated with the environment services related products and mostly services data is not available as it is embedded in the total cost of the product, making statistical assessments for environment services challenging. With the available data at WTO, India's export in environment services is concentrated in Netherlands, USA, Sweden and Poland. However, with industries excerpts Indian environment related services exports are

also targeted to countries in ASEAN and African region with a rapid pace. As per UN-ESCAP, (WTO) Environmental services are often supplied in conjunction with environmental goods, representing about 65% of the package value, an analysis of market trends in Environmental goods will be helpful in understanding the market. India's growth potential both in Environmental goods & services is remarkable because of increase in urbanization & industrialization, as we can observe from the Figure 4, that there has been a substantial growth

in India's exports in environmental goods from 2013 to 2019 i.e., 84%. There is an upward trend in India's exports throughout the period. More than 50% of India's exports in environmental services is destined to only 15 countries, out of which 15% goes to the United States and 5% to China. There has also been a tremendous growth in the India's exports to the United States and China, as shown in the Figure 5. Other destinations where India's exports has seen high growth are Nigeria, Mexico and Indonesia.

FIGURE 4: INDIA'S EXPORTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS



Source: World Integrated Trade Solution, World Bank

FIGURE 5: MAJOR IMPORTERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS FROM INDIA (MILLION USD)

Partner Name	2017	2019	Growth	Share
United States	653	1,380	111%	15%
China	234	594	154%	5%
Bangladesh	175	292	67%	4%
Nigeria	62	224	259%	1%
Indonesia	107	220	105%	2%
United Arab Emirates	184	213	16%	4%
France	131	203	55%	3%
Germany	150	188	25%	3%
Nepal	86	169	97%	2%
Japan	91	131	44%	2%
United Kingdom	109	128	18%	2%
Vietnam	156	127	-19%	3%
Saudi Arabia	105	124	18%	2%
Mexico	47	123	163%	1%
Singapore	115	118	2%	3%

Source: World Integrated Trade Solution, World Bank

FIGURE 6: TOP ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS EXPORTED BY INDIA TO WORLD (2017-19) - MILLION USD

Product HS Code	Description	2017	2019	Growth	Share
853710	Electrical apparatus; photosensitivity	660	2,372	259%	18%
841989	Machines and mechanical appliances	344	1,385	302%	10%
850490	Electrical static converters	412	862	110%	7%
847989	Instruments, appliances and machine	734	754	3%	6%
841919	Regulating or controlling instrument	10	690	7086%	5%
903289	Electrical transformers, static con	416	564	35%	4%
850440	Boards, panels, consoles, desks and	1,108	554	-50%	4%
850300	Electric motors and generators	517	453	-12%	3%
847990	Machines and mechanical appliances	314	429	36%	3%
841990	Instruments and apparatus	175	362	107%	3%
842199	Machinery; parts for filtering	251	321	28%	2%
850239	Machinery; for filtering	38	288	650%	2%
841790	Microtomes & parts and accessories	48	275	473%	2%
840290	Machinery, plant and laboratory	219	260	19%	2%
730820	Regulating or controlling instrument	638	213	-67%	2%
841090	Chromatographs and electrophoresis	79	206	162%	2%
841290	Instruments, appliances and machine	124	196	58%	1%
841182	Instruments and apparatus	89	193	116%	1%
840682	Spectrometers	113	187	65%	1%
902690	Machinery; for filtering or purifying	59	174	197%	1%
841939	Machinery, plant & laboratory equip.	32	144	347%	1%
851490	Instruments and apparatus	41	144	254%	1%
840681	Machines and appliances, instrument	27	136	404%	1%
842129	Pumps; rotary positive displacement	104	135	30%	1%
902620	Electrical machines and apparatus	53	125	136%	1%
903300	Engines; parts, for engines	154	114	-26%	1%
851430	Turbines; parts of steam and other	52	104	97%	1%
847982	Machines; for mixing, kneading	76	103	36%	1%
840690	Electric generating sets	92	89	-4%	1%
841011	Instruments and apparatus	21	85	296%	1%
841090	Instruments and apparatus	19	83	342%	1%
902720	Furnaces and ovens	13	80	519%	1%
902780	Instruments and apparatus	55	77	42%	1%
854140	Instruments and apparatus	277	76	-72%	1%
850161	Turbines; gas-turbines	36	71	95%	1%

The top 35 environmental goods capture more than 90% share in India's exports to world. Out of which Electrical Apparatus, machines & mechanical appliances, Electrical static converters cover major proportion around 35 percent of total exports. The classification of Environmental goods is based on the definition of environmental goods, categorized by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, 2012)



Opportunities

There are ample opportunities coming up in environment services in various regions across the globe. South America, CIS countries like Georgia, Belarus and Armenia, ASEAN countries like Philippines, Malaysia and Myanmar and African countries like Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Senegal and Ghana have shown promising economic growth over the years witnessing a rapid population increase in their cities and towns and due to projects for urbanisation and multipurpose projects which push upon sustainable development goals agenda securing loans from multilateral agencies. The market for Indian environment services have requisite competitive strength to cater to the global market.

Success Stories

- L&T has commissioned one of the largest Sewage Treatment Plant in Jebel Ali, UAE with 375 minimal liquid discharge and successfully undertaking its operation and maintenance.
- WAPCOS is registered with various international funding agencies for participating in the funded projects like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, United Nations Office for Project Services, French Development Agency and German Development Bank securing new business in countries like Afghanistan, Burundi, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.
- Ensys India was commissioned to develop Odour Abatement Systems under the air pollution control category for the Sultanate of Oman and Thailand.

INDUSTRY • NEWS

- Tata Sons will enhance its shareholding in low-cost carrier AirAsia India by buying 32.67 per cent equity stake of its JV partner AirAsia Group Berhad. The budget airline is a JV in which Tata Sons owns 51 per cent stake, while 49 per cent is held with AAIL. After the transaction, Tata's shareholding will go up to 83.67 per cent (Economic Times)

- The Union Cabinet, has approved to merge four of its film media units, namely Films Division, Directorate of Film. Festivals, National Film Archives of India, and Children's Film Society, India with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd. by expanding the Memorandum of Articles of Association of NFDC, which will then carry out all the activities hitherto performed by them. The merger of Film Media Units under one corporation will lead to convergence of activities and resources and better coordination, thereby ensuring synergy and efficiency in achieving the mandate of each media unit. (PIB)

- Portfolio manager ASK Investment Managers has received approval from the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) to set up a branch in GIFT City in Gandhinagar. The move will help in bringing investments from global investors, including non-resident Indians (NRIs). (Outlook)

- Seaways Shipping and Logistics Ltd and MOL Logistics (Japanese Subsidiary) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide supply chain and turnkey logistics services in India. The collaboration seeks to enable the two companies to participate in prospective bids and project proposals with clients in India and abroad. (Business Lines)

- Music record label Tips Industries Ltd. announced a global deal with social media giant Facebook to license its music for videos and other social experiences across Facebook and Instagram. (Bloomberg)

- Fourteen States have given their consent to be part of the single window clearance system and the investment clearance cell that the Centre hopes to launch in April 2021 to provide all requisite clearances to investors at one point. The Department of Policy for Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is driving the exercise of building the single window system of clearances for investors and trying to get all stakeholders together. (BusinessLines)

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION

- Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding between India and Suriname on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine. The main areas of cooperation between the two Governments include the following:
 - Exchange and Training of medical doctors, officials, other health professionals and experts.
 - Assistance in development of human resources and setting up of health care facilities.
 - Short term training of human resources in health;
 - Digital health and Tele-medicine; and
 - Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.
- India and the United Kingdom have expressed the resolve to further strengthen their educational collaboration, the two countries agreed to deepen their engagement in the field of education and research, and work collaboratively on mutual recognition of academic qualifications over the next year. India and UK have agreed to set up a joint Task Force consisting of designated higher education organizations from both countries to work towards mutual recognition of academic qualifications.
- In view of the challenges faced by taxpayers in meeting the statutory and regulatory compliances due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Government brought the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance, 2020 ("the Ordinance") on 31st March, 2020 which, inter alia, extended various time limits. The Ordinance has since been replaced by the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain Provisions) Act.
 - The due date for furnishing of Income Tax Returns for the Assessment Year 2020-21 for the taxpayers who are required to furnish report in respect of international/ specified domestic transactions [for whom the due date, as per the provisions of section 139(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, was 30th November, 2020 and which was extended to 31st January, 2021] has been further extended to 15th February, 2021.
 - The date for furnishing of various audit reports under the Act including tax audit report and report in respect of international/specified domestic transaction for the Assessment Year 2020-21 has been further extended to 15th January, 2021.
 - The last date for making a declaration under Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme has been extended to 31st January, 2021 from 31st December, 2020.
- Prime Minister of the Republic of India and H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam co-chaired a Virtual Summit where they exchanged views on wide-ranging bilateral, regional and global issues and set forth the following Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People to guide the future development of India - Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Few of the MOU/ Announcements were on:
 - MOU between National Solar Federation of India and Vietnam Clean Energy Association.
 - MOU between Tata Memorial Centre and Vietnam National Cancer Hospital.
 - Announcements:
 - Enhancing the number of Quick Impact Projects from currently 5 per year to 10 per year commencing FY 2021-2022.

- New Development Partnership projects in heritage conservation in Vietnam (F-block of Temple at My Son; Dong Duong Buddhist Monastery in Quang Nam and Nhan Cham Tower in Phu Yen)

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is approved between the Government of the Republic of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan on Cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. This MoU shall enable India and Bhutan to pursue cooperation in potential interest areas, such as remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication and satellite based navigation; Space science and planetary exploration; use of spacecraft and space systems and ground system and application of space technology. This MoU would lead to set up a Joint Working Group, drawing members from DOS/ISRO and the Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC) of Bhutan, which will further work out the plan of action including the time-frame and the means of implementation.

- The Union Cabinet approved the opening of 3 Indian Missions in Estonia, Paraguay and Dominican Republic in 2021. The Opening of Indian Missions in these countries will help expand India's diplomatic footprint, deepen political relations, enable growth of bilateral trade, investment and economic engagements, facilitate stronger people-to-people contacts, bolster political outreach in multilateral fora and help garner support for India's foreign policy objectives.

- Cabinet approves signing of revised air services agreement between India and Philippines. This will provide enabling environment for enhanced and seamless connectivity while providing commercial opportunities to the carriers of both sides ensuring greater safety and security. It has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

- Cabinet approves the proposal of Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to sign Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding between India and Luxembourg. The MoU is likely to strengthen cross border cooperation in the area of securities regulations and facilitate mutual assistance, contribute towards efficient performance of the supervisory functions and aid in imparting technical domain knowledge and enable effective enforcement of the laws and regulations governing the securities markets of India and Luxembourg.

- India, USA sign MoU on Intellectual Property cooperation. The MoU aims at increasing IP co-operation between the two countries by:
 - Facilitating exchange and dissemination of best practices, experiences and knowledge on IP among the public, and between and among the industry, universities, research and development (R & D) organizations, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises through participation in programs and events organized singly or jointly by the Participants;
 - Collaboration in training programs, exchange of experts, technical exchanges and outreach activities;
 - Exchange of information and best practices on processes for registration and examination of applications for patents, trademarks, copyrights, geographical indications, and industrial designs, as well as the protection, enforcement and use of IP rights;
 - Exchange of information on the development and implementation of automation and modernization projects, new documentation and information systems in IP and procedures for management of IP Office services;

Cooperation to understand various issues related to traditional knowledge, and the exchange of best practices, including those related to traditional knowledge databases and awareness raising on the use of existing IP systems for the protection of traditional knowledge.



SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

DPT - 417, 4th Floor, DLF Prime Towers,
Plot No. 79 & 80, Pocket - F, Okhla Phase-I,
Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi - 110020

Phone: +91 11-41046327-28-29, +91 11-41734632
Email: info@servicesepc.org
Website: www.servicesepc.org

