

A Study of Market Scenario of Sand Stone Industry of Rajasthan

Mahesh Vishwanath

Research Scholar, Om Kothari Institute of
Management & Research

Dr. Amit Singh Rathore

Director and Professor, Om Kothari Institute
of Management & Research

ABSTRACT

India possesses a wide spectrum of dimensional stones that include granite, marble, sandstone, limestone, slate, and quartzite, in various parts of the country. The stone industry in India has evolved into the production and manufacturing of blocks, flooring slabs, structural slabs, monuments, tomb stones, sculptures, cobbles, pebbles and landscape garden stone. In the Rs 60,000-crore stone industry of the country, Rajasthan is a leading player occupying over 30% of the business. While exports constitute about 35% of the total production, revenues from the domestic market is a big driver. High exports growth has come off in the past 4-5 years. But there was still some growth although it was marginal. But now, this will also be wiped out. As per the latest reports by CAPEXIL (Export Promotion Council for Stones), exports from India in 2017-18 stood at \$1,939 million and Dhoot estimates the growth in the past couple of years to be in lower single digits. As per Volza's India Export data, Stone export shipments from India stood at 2.5M, exported by 35,469. The main purpose of the article is to study the market scenario of Sand Stone Industry in Rajasthan.

Keywords: Market Scenario, Rajasthan, Sand Stone, Mines, Exports.

1. INTRODUCTION

India is a major exporter of natural stone, which is the second largest foreign exchange earner for India besides iron ore in minerals category. The EOU scheme, which was introduced in 1980,

helped the industry to modernize as it opened a window to usher in latest technologies for stone processing. India has immense potential for growth of exports in this sector. The purpose of this research paper is an attempt to study the trend of export of natural stones from India to various countries on the basis of its past export performances to these countries. The sandstone is a hard and resistant rock hence a great variety of products are prepared and demanded by users worldwide. The sandstone of India is in good demand from various countries due to its quality and the artwork of our artisans. The county produces great variety of products and are used in Monuments, and buildings etc. The International Market demand of sandstone is growing continuously observed from in this study. The quantity of export of sandstone from India and revenue collection is consistently increasing. The stone companies export 90% of the stone production and have a strong experience of the global business environment.

India has been known for decades for its stone industry and it is one of the biggest exporters of natural stone in the world. There is something about natural stones, particularly Indian natural stones that turn them so attractive before all the natural stone lovers across the world. It is this fascination to have them that bring out such a fabulous business opportunity. Indian natural stones exporters are doing a fine job by trying to tap that market. India is a major exporter of natural stone and granite, which is the second largest foreign exchange earner for India besides iron ore in minerals category.

Sandstone is the classic stone of the sedimentary rock family. If you want to give a retro look to your kitchens, offices, homes or any other interior/exterior you can surely go for sandstone. The Indian sandstone tile gives a castle like environment around or something like the woods which would trigger your nostalgia. Sandstone primary comprises sand-sized minerals or rock grains. The primary components of sandstone are quartz and feldspar and these are the primary components of the earth's crust too. Although sandstone is obtained in any color the most popular colors in which the stone is available are tan, white, K. black, brown, yellow, red, gray and Bansi Pink.

2. SANDSTONE DEPOSIT IN INDIA

Geologically the sandstone rocks are found in almost the geologic formations from Proterozoic to Recent. The Precambrian rocks lack in sandstones because all the rocks of this era are

metamorphosed whereas the sandstone rock is of sedimentary origin. The sandstones of Precambrian Time are now found as quartzite which also a tough stone hence used as dimensional stone and as road metal. The most popular sandstones are found in the Vindhyan Supergroup and in the Marwar Supergroup. Sandstone reserves in India are found over the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal etc. Over 90% of the workable deposits of sandstone are in Rajasthan, spread over the districts of Bharatpur, Dholpur, Kota, Sawai-Madhopur, Karauli, Bundi, Jhalawar, Chittorgarh, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Nagaur and Jaisalmer. India is among one of the leading countries when it comes to mining and export of sandstone rock. The best part with Sandstone from India is that it is available in different colours and considered best for interior as well as exterior use. Some commercially popular sandstone products from India include names like: Tint Mint, White Mint, Mint Fossils, Modak, Agra Red, Rainbow Sandstone, Raj Green, Teak, Buff Brown, Dhoplur Chocolate, Beige, Dholpur Pink, Mandana Red, Jodhpur Pink, Jodhpur Red, Jaisalmer Yellow etc. The varieties of sandstones are available in a number of finishes and come with great strength. However, a commercial variety of sandstone called Rainbow is found in layered form, so is not suitable when good thickness and toughness is required. The Jodhpur Sandstone is best when used in front elevation and it also possesses high compressive strength.

Rajasthan accounts for 70 per cent of the country's stone production and more than 10 lakh people are getting employment. There are 4,920 mining leases in the state. Rajasthan produces 90 percent of the marble and sandstone in the country. In recently held Investment Rajasthan summit had signed a major chunk of MoUs worth Rs. 800 crore related to the stone industry. Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme-2022 (RIPS) has recently been launched in the sequel to the environment that the state government has created for employment and economic development by implementing NERIPS-2019.

Sandstone is one of the most common types of sedimentary rock and is found in sedimentary basins throughout the world. It is often mined for use as a construction material or as a raw material used in manufacturing.

For centuries sandstone is being used, not only in India but all over the world for landscaping and cladding. The wide-scale architectural application of sandstone can be seen in different

monuments, temples, and buildings in India: Suryagarh Hotel, Jaisalmer; Lalgarh & Laxmi Niwas Palace, Bikaner; Hindaun Fort, Hindaun; Amer Fort, Jaipur; Secretariat Building, New Delhi and many other historical and modern architectural buildings in India.

Rajasthan has an abundant reserve of sandstone & more than 90% share of Indian sandstone deposits are found here.

Sandstone resources in India are found over the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. Over 90% of the deposits of sandstone are in Rajasthan, spread over the districts of Bharatpur, Dholpur, Kota, Jodhpur, Sawai-Madhopur, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Bikaner, Jhalawar, Pali, Shivpuri, Khatu and Jaisalmer.

India is among the leading countries when it comes to mining and export of sandstone. The best part with Sandstone from India is that it is available in different colors and considered best for interior as well as exterior use. Few most popular sandstone products from India include names like Tint Mint, White Mint, Mint Fossils, Modak, Agra Red, Rainbow Sandstone, Raj Green, Teak, Buff Brown, Dholpur Chocolate, Beige, Dholpur Pink, Lalitpur Pink, Mandana Red, Jodhpur pink, Jodhpur red, Jaisalmer yellow, etc.

3. SAND STONE IN RAJASTHAN

Geologically Rajasthan is the largest sandstone producing state of India where sedimentary formations are exposed in its 17 districts, covering an area of about 34,000 sq m. Large deposits of splittable sandstone are confirmed in an area of 16,000 sq km out of which 10,000 km lies in eastern and south-eastern Rajasthan covering districts of Dholpur, Bharatpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Bundi, Kota, Jhalawar, Baran, Bhilwara, and Chittorgarh. The scattered sandstone exposures of western Rajasthan are confined to Jodhpur, Nagaur, Churu, Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts covering about 6,000 sq km area.

Jodhpur Sandstone

Jodhpur Sandstone:- Jodhpur Sandstone formation is the oldest nomenclature in Western Rajasthan. It is a part of the trans-Aravalli Vindhya. Western Rajasthan is fortunate to possess large deposits of Sandstone found in Jodhpur, Nagaur, Bikaner Jaisalmer, Barmer districts. The sandstone of various colours, textures, and patterns are found and exploited. Large scale mining of sandstone in the form of dimensional as well as masonry stone is well known in Jodhpur

district. One of the world's finest sandstone locally known as 'Chhittar' is available in whitish pink colour, it is extensively quarried near Fidusar, Sursagar, Balsamand, Barli, Keru, Kali Beri, Bhuri Beri, Sodon ki Dhani, etc. The common colours of sandstone are pink, beige, red, brown, etc.

Jodhpur Sandstone is resistant to acids, alkalies, salinity, and thermal variance and is therefore suitable for buildings near the seashore. It is commonly used as a roofing material but it is a beautiful stone for pillars, arches, wall facings, and other exteriors. Workable sandstone deposits are found over about 150 sq. km. The area around Jodhpur and there are 25 identified boundaries of sandstone comprising 11,305 quarry licenses. Today Jodhpur sandstone is exported to Sharjah, Dubai, Korea, Singapore, and the USA in processed form.

Bhilwara sandstone

Bhilwara Sandstone:- Bhilwara Grey Sandstone is of medium to fine-grained sandstone. This stone is especially good for Building stone, sinks, interior, exterior, wall, floor, paving and other design projects. It also called Budhpura Grey Sandstone, Bhilwara Sandstone, Kandla Grey Sandstone,, Kandhla Grey Sandstone, Bundi Grey Sandstone, Bundi Sandstone, Kandla Grey Sandstone.

Dholpur Sandstone

Dholpur Sandstone:- This band covers 25,000 sq km area. The sandstone from the band is quarried in Sar-Mathura, Bari, Baseri, Hindaun, Sapotra, Masalpur, Rupwas, Bund Baratha, and Bansi Paharpur areas. It is also famously called Agra Red Sandstone. In the ancient era, it was widely used in building monuments, forts, temples, and Havelis. The finest example of it is the majestic Agra Fort and captivating red fort.

As the name suggests Dholpur Red Sandstone has red texture. It is due to the presence of iron oxides. The red sandstone is used in a variety of applications like flooring, roofing, wall cladding, paving, and stone sills. Its qualities like durability, strength, resistance to acids and saline water makes Dholpur Red Sandstone a popular choice for construction projects.

Kota Sandstone

Kota Sandstone:- Kota Stone is a fine-grained variety of sandstone quarried in Kota, Rajasthan, India. The total area of the cluster is 120 sq km where Kota stone is quarried. It is available in attractive, earthy colours, which include white to buff, pale grey, red, cream, brown and spotted brown. It is non-slippery, water-resistant, non-porous, can be rough finished or polished to a high

shine. However, it does not have the sophisticated appearance of Marble or Granite. It is more rustic looking. It is used both in interiors and in exteriors, commercial spaces, external staircases, pathways, corridors, driveways, and balconies, etc.

Jaisalmer sandstone

Jaisalmer Sandstone:- The fine-grained stone imparts a yellowish colour roughly resembling gold and hence the name golden stone or yellow sandstone. It is extremely hard in texture and water-resistant; thus preventing water seepage and ensures durability. This stone is widely exported worldwide for its golden glaze and texture. It is ideal for paving, flooring and exterior wall cladding, Jaisalmer yellow sandstone is extensively used in sea-side construction projects.

APPLICATION

Owing to its strength, durability, resistance to abrasion and environmental weathering, acid and alkali resistance and advantage of easy handling and availability have made Indian Sandstone the material of choice for construction and making artifacts and decorative items. It has variety of applications in roofing, flooring, paving, panelling, beams, pillars, doors and window sills. It has been found most suitable for carving screens. It is most suitable for use in chemical factories.

Finishes

Sandstones are available in Natural, Sawn, Honed, Bush Hammered, Sandblast, and Polished finishing with global meltdown in financial markets beginning to shake the Indian stock markets badly, the sandstone industry of Jaipur has also come under its affect. Major clients in the US and UK have cancelled their orders following which the local markets of sandstone in Rajasthan are facing recession. About a million people, related to the sandstone industry, are confronted with the possibility of getting badly affected here. The number of people directly or indirectly faced with the crisis amounts to 70 per cent of the total workforce involved in this industry.

Rajasthan's Kota area, which used to export around 1200 to 1250 containers per month, is today exporting between 200 to 250 containers in the same period only. "The economic recession in the US has affected the stone business by 80-90 percent. The volume of stone was 2,000 containers but the exporters who used to do business around 35 containers have reduced to 30-35 this time. The buyers already have enough stock with them and are not

demanding for more, as they have less product value. The Government projects also have shut down due to recession.

Hundreds of empty trailers parked outside the Inland container depots in Jaipur are basically waiting for cargo. But the cargo movements are very slow at dry ports in Rajasthan. Construction industry is affected due to the recession where stone plays a major role. Our orders have also reduced by 50-60 percent and the coming year also does not promise good results. Rajasthan contributes 65 per cent of the total national production of sandstone in India. "There are 500 exporters involved in the sandstone industry. Over 10 lakh people are directly or indirectly involved in this industry like labour, crane, tractor, transport and mine. India stands at the third place next to China and Italy in sandstone industry. India's green marble is the pride of marble industry in the world.

4. MARBLE INDUSTRY KEY PLAYERS

a) R.K. MARBLES

R.K. marbles producing high-priority sandstone, its most popular stone for exterior flooring. Sandstone We also offer an exclusive range of natural quality sandstones such as gold, red and teakwood sandstone.

Teakwood Sandstone is the best quality sandstone. Basically a calsite stone, Teakwood is durable and with time and usage. It originates and produced in Rajasthan, India. R.K. Marbles largest producer of teakwood sandstone in india.

We have a superior quality range of **Red Sandstones**. The Red Sandstones is widely demanded for its elegant finishing and stain free nature. Heat Resistance, smooth edges and its easy to clean nature are the reasons of its success. These stone are designed under the guidance of experts.

We are the leading producer and manufacturer of **Gold Sandstone**. Gold Sandstone are recommended and approved for flooring. When place in the right direction, they make beautiful patterns. This type of Sandstone is known for its shine and colour.

b) SHRI KRISHNA MARBLES

Sandstone is known for being a popular building material for paneling, doors, pillars, fence posts, arches, and more. It has been utilized for both residential and commercial construction, but as of late many homeowners and interior designers are understanding the advantages it has for indoor applications. Due to this recent shift, sandstone is back in the spotlight as a popular countertop material that's spanning the globe.

When it comes to installing any type of indoor countertop material, there are certain criteria that it should meet. For those undergoing new construction, you want a product like sandstone, especially in your kitchen or bathrooms that can hold up and last for decades. Homeowners who are considering a replacement countertop?

d) SONNET STONE PVT LTD

Established in year 1998. Registered in Udaipur city of Rajasthan. Manufacturers and suppliers of natural granite, marble, sandstone, slate, in tiles, slabs, countertops, steps, risers, skirting's etc. The company have been in the stone business for the last 10 years and have been exporting our products to 17 different countries. They have 5 factories in India at Udaipur (Raj) , Jalore (Raj) , Khammam (A. P.) , Ongole (A. P.) , Madurai (T. N.) where The company manufacture the Indian stones as per the requirements of the customer. The company have strategic tie-UPS with factories in India from where The company can supply you imported natural stones of China, Egypt, Spain and Italy. They can also supply engineered stones manufactured in China, Spain and Italy like Compac, Stone Italiana, Bitto, Technistone etc.

With a cumulative experience of more than 225 years in the stone industry, The company can assure you consistent quality, high service levels, timely delivery and complete satisfaction on our products. As The company have our own manufacturing units, The company can give you the price advantage by eliminating the middleman and also a consistent quality in terms of the color variation.

Furthermore, The company have strengthened our existing range of marble and granite by adding exiting new range in the form of Quartzite (grey and Brown coloured) which would give us a definite edge over our competitors.

In order to enable us give more information on our products, prices and delivery time, the company would request you to kindly let us know about the current requirements for the stone products.

d) Agarwal Marble & Art Stone

Established in the year 1985, The company, Agarwal Marble & Art Industries are one of the distinguished manufacturers and suppliers of Marbles Stones, Granite Stones and other natural stones. Our product range meets the demands of various industries for applications like roofing, flooring and cladding.

Leveraging on our sophisticated infrastructure, and meticulous professionals, the company have been able to gain a strong position in the market. Use of technology in our processing unit has helped us not only in customizing the products, but in reducing the production cost considerably. Moreover, our flawless products have helped us in satisfying our widespread client base. Due our organization's ethical culture, the company have been able to gain rich clientele across the country.

Under the dynamic leadership of the mentor, Mr. Vishal Garg, the company have been able to gain an enviable reputation in the industry. Due to his proficient experience and business acumen, the company have successfully developed cordial relationships with our reputed clients.

e) SURESH SANDSTONES

The company are Manufactures and Exporter of all types of Natural stones and products thereof. Suresh Sandstone is one of the major exporter of exclusive range of natural stone and products thereof i.e. sandstone, lime stone, quartzite and Marble.

Our Products strengths are: Floor and Facade Stone Tiles in all finishes polished, Honed, Bush Hammer, Sand Blast, Brushed and antique finish.

Architectural Building Objects, Garden Furniture made of Stones, Landscape Articles.

The company manufactures Sandstone tiles & Slabs, lime stone products, quartzite and Marble tiles, pebbles, blocks, strips, bricks, pavement stone, sculptures, landscaping, edges, handicrafts. The major demand of products from Jodhpur Pink stone sandstone, Jodhpur Red stone is from our overseas customers.

The company was established in 1990, and since then The company have earned recognition as a leading enterprise dealing in high quality Sandstone products. The company were beginners in the group of those entrepreneurs who have jointly established Stone Park in RIICO Industrial Area at Jodhpur. This Stone Park having 10 nos. big stone companies which are mainly producing and exporting stone products in various countries. Our major market for our stunning range of beautiful Desert Jodhpur Sandstone / Lime stone are U.K, Europe, Gulf countries, South East Asian countries, Australia, New Zealand and USA.

The company are mainly exporting for big projects, Wholesalers, Contractors and also for retail sellers.

f) CHROMAS STONES PRIVATE LIMITED

The company are manufacturers and suppliers of granite, marble, sandstone, slate with our head office in Rajasthan, India. With our own manufacturing unit for slabs, tiles and other cut to size requirements, the company are able to deliver quality goods at affordable prices and a minimum delivery time. The company have been supplying our products to countries like US, Canada, Italy, Germany, Spain, Hong Kong, China etc. The company have 5 factories in India where The company manufacture the Indian stones as per the requirements of the customer. The company have our own quarries for the Beige quartzite , Grey quartzite. With a cumulative experience of more than 250 years in the stone industry, the company can assure you consistent quality, high service levels, timely delivery and complete satisfaction on our products. As The company have our own manufacturing units, the company can give you the price advantage by eliminating the middleman and also a consistent quality in terms of the color variation.

5. CONCLUSION

The demand for export of sandstone is continuously growing in the current scenario. Amidst all the ups and downs of daily business in the natural stone industry, economic crises that are local, or regional, or global, the disruptions caused by Covid-19, etc.it is easy to forget there are some megatrends that have been taking place over several years, sometimes imperceptible, but which end up having a profound effect on the prospects of individual stone companies and for a particular industry cluster. The huge quantity is required to maintain the supply in the International Market with upcoming requirement for sandstone but government's concerned departments are deducing proper policies to control and facilitate quality and quantity for

demand and supply of sandstone. The government departments are also developing policies for proper management of waste and scrap of utilization sandstone for supply in National and International Market. The Attention and awareness is also required for the exploration and prospecting of present and new sandstone deposits to maintain the mining and supply for the upcoming and future National and International Market Sandstone. Government support is also required to promote the sand stone industry. Still the sandstone industry is facing lot of challenges which can be overcome by some special policy formulation to facilitate the stone industry of Rajasthan.

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