

# **Non-Fuel Minerals and Mining in India**

## **Brookings Institution India Center**

### **Brief outline of the study**

Brookings India has expanded its mandate of research under the Natural Resources, Energy, and Sustainability vertical by starting a new work program focusing on the Non-Fuel Minerals and Mining in India (NFM&MIN) to impact government policies that enable sustainable growth of the non-fuel mining sector in alignment with the welfare of affected communities. This program is being led by Prof. Rajesh Chadha, Program Director, Natural Resources, Brookings India.

**The research agenda is conceptualised under three different broad questions:**

**A. What is the status of the efficiency of mining activities?** The topics under positive economics realm include exploration, allocation of mines, extraction, foreign direct investment, regulation and governance, royalties and taxation, logistics and operations, and public-private partnerships.

**B. What are the international good practices?** Experiences of countries including Australia, Canada, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, South Africa, and China will be studied with a view to imbibe some good practices in alignment with domestic conditions and constraints.

**C. What are the externalities and what ought to be done?** The topics under normative economics realm include environment, local communities, cooperative mining, mine closures, and Sustainable Development Goals.

The program will have multiple activities including brainstorming sessions, lectures and seminars, focus group discussions, and national and international visits. The focus will be on discussions with stakeholders including mining companies, affected communities, governments, research think tanks, international organisations, and NGOs. The outputs of the program shall include commentary briefs, case studies, papers, and a comprehensive report.

An Advisory Council was constituted in September 2019 with the following members:  
*Suman Bery*: Non-resident Fellow, Bruegel – The Brussels-based economic think tank  
*Scott Caithness*: Director of Exploration, Vedanta Group  
*Arun Kumar*: Board of Petronet LNG Ltd and former Secretary, Ministry of Mines  
*Vikram Singh Mehta*: Chairman, Brookings India  
*Ajit Ranade*: President and Chief Economist, Aditya Birla Group  
*Rajiv Shekhar*: Professor and Director, IIT (ISM), Dhanbad