

Non-Fuel Minerals and Mining in India

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 this sector in alignment with the welfare of affected communities. This research is being led by Rajesh Chadha, Program Director, Natural Resources, Brookings India.

The research agenda of this project is conceptualised under three broad questions:

- A. **What is the status of the efficiency of mining activities?** The topics under the 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 the normative economics realm include environment, local communities, cooperative mining, mine closures, and Sustainable Development Goals.

Activities

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.

The program has constituted an **Advisory Council** in September 2019, with representation from various stakeholders in the industry, with the aim of the team and Council members to share ideas on new research questions. Two meetings of the Advisory Council have been held. The following are the 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

Team Members



Rajesh Chadha
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Rajesh Chadha was formerly a Professor & Research Director at National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). He has worked extensively on regional and multilateral issues pertaining to international trade. His other areas of interest include foreign direct investment and agricultural markets.



Srestha Banerjee
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Srestha Banerjee was formerly the Program Manager at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). She has written on issues of mining governance, green clearance, forest rights, environmental justice, community rights and empowerment, and reviewed relevant judicial actions.



Ishita Kapoor
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Ishita Kapoor holds a Master of Economics degree from the University of Warwick, with a focus on development economics and micro-econometrics. Her research interests are in trade, development economics and public policy along with renewable energy.



Ganesh Sivamani
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Ganesh Sivamani holds a Master of Engineering degree from the University of Cambridge, with a specialisation in Energy, Sustainability, and the Environment. He has additional research interests in renewable energy and environmental engineering.

Consultants



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Distinguished Fellow, India
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