

# Scope of Limestone Mining in India

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**Abstract:** This paper presents an overview on the scope of limestone mining in India.

**Keywords:** limestone mining

## 1. Introduction

There are huge resources of limestone distributed over various parts of the country. It is placed in terms of production of cement and annual capacity. The import of limestone from different countries like Bangladesh, UK, Bhutan etc. has increased in the past decade. The consumption of limestone in Steel and Iron industry has also increased. This denotes that the overall consumption of limestone has increased dramatically over the years. This increase in the consumption is characterized with increasing the scope of limestone mining in India.

## 2. Current status of limestone mining

Limestone is a sedimentary rock and the two most important components of it are dolomite and calcite. The total reserves of limestone of all the grades and categories according to NMI data as on 2017 is estimated at 2,02,114 million tonnes. Karnataka has the largest reserves of limestone with about 27%, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan are second in rank with about 12% each. Gujrat, Meghalaya and Telangana have 10%, 9% and 8% respectively. Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have 5% reserves and the remaining 12% is present in other states. It must also be noted that the production of limestone is increasing every year.

Limestone mines in india are worked by opencast method. The captive mines are mechanised and supply feed to iron & steel and cement units. Limestone production from Kurnool (AP) and Adilabad (Telangana) are used in steel plants, paper mills, cement and sugar plants.

## 3. Uses of Limestone

As per Mines and Minerals Act, 1957, limestone falls under 'minor minerals' and 'major minerals' categories. The total consumption of limestone by different industries was 242.45 million tonnes. The major use of limestone is in cement industry. Other industries where limestone is used are glass industry, iron & steel industry, chemical industry, sugar industry, fertilizer industry and foundry industry. One of the major reasons behind increase in the demand of limestone is that it is widely used in cement industries. The increased demand on infrastructural project increased the demand of the

cement and that has increased the demand of limestone.

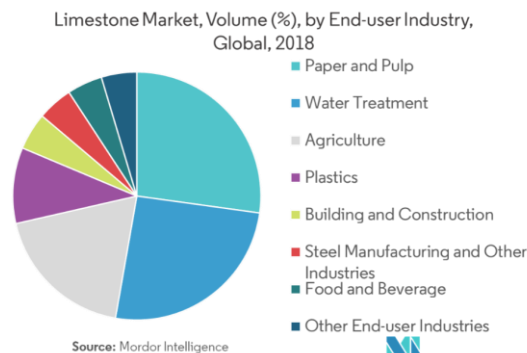


Fig. 1. Uses of Limestone

## 4. Future of limestone mining

The scope of limestone mining in India will widen because of various reasons. The domestic as well as the international demand for limestone in different industries has increased and it is estimated that it will keep on increasing. At present, India is the largest importer of limestone. The demand for paper is likely to increase at rapid rate by 2020 in India because of increasing number of schools and packaging industry. The consumption of limestone in food and beverages and pharmaceutical industries is also expected to increase. This denotes that the consumption of limestone will increase with a rapid rate in India.

### A. Strong growth for cement in construction industry

The major driver that is boosting the growth of limestone on increasing demand for cement in construction industry. The huge investment in construction and infrastructure has increased the demand for cement. The forecast also reveals that the demand for cement in construction industry will increase in coming years that will further increase the demand for limestone. The infrastructural projects like rail, water, transport, electricity, telecom, etc. will have an increased investments and that also arise the need of limestone.

### B. Increasing demand of GCC and PCC in packaging industry

The demand for bulkier and brighter paper has increased to a very great extent and that is also a key driver to prefer limestone in the paper industry. The increasing demand for tissue products and paper packaging will drive the market in India. The demand will be driven by increasing production in packaging sector and application of PCC to manufacture the graphic papers like writing paper, printing and newsprint.

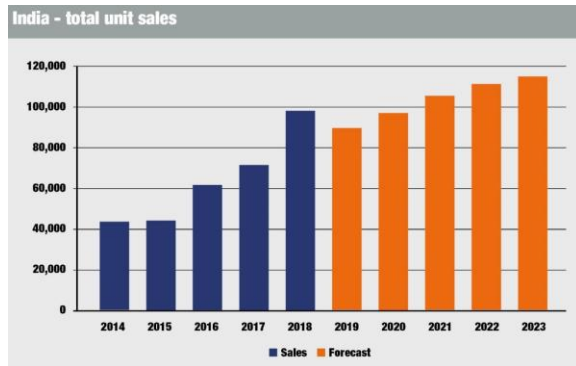


Fig. 2. Forecast for increasing demand of cement

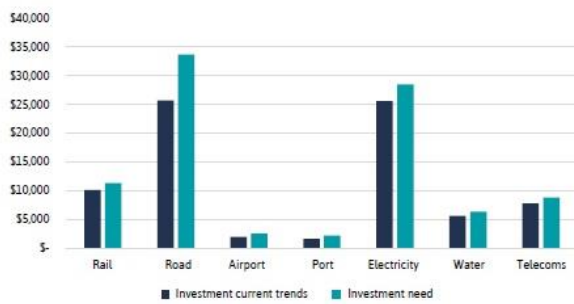


Fig. 3. Infrastructure investment forecast for 2014-2040

### 5. Conclusion

On the basis of available statistics, it can be said that the limestone mining has a great scope in India. It is clearly seen that the demand of limestone will keep on increasing in India.

### References

[1] Mining Industry – The Way Forward, FICCI Mines and Metals Division, October 2013.