

NEWSLETTER

India sees remarkable growth in export of glassware since 2011

Glass and glassware have been integral part of the day to day life of mankind since it was invented at least 3600 years ago. The global glass manufacturing industry witnessed massive revolution in 1950s, when the British engineer Alastair Pilkington introduced commercial manufacturing of float glass, which is the most widely used form of glass as it provides a crystal-clear view. Today, float glass is widely used in showroom displays, retail shop windows, facades and wall panels in residential and commercial buildings.

India's exports of glass and glass products have witnessed strong growth of 53% from USD 558 million in 2011-12 to USD 854 million in 2019-20, compared to a modest growth of 2% in overall merchandise exports during this period. India's import of glass products declined from USD 770 million in 2011-12 to USD 721 million in this period. Subsequently, India became a trade surplus nation in glass and glassware sector, with a trade surplus of USD 132 million in 2019-20 compared to deficit of USD 211 million in 2011-12. Major destinations for India's glassware exports are USA, UAE, Nepal, Germany, UK, China, Brazil and Spain. Major categories of glass products exported by India are: glass bottles, float glass, fibre glass, mirrors, safety glass, glass beads, scientific glassware used in laboratory etc.

Glass products are widely used in construction, automobile, food and pharmaceutical packaging, scientific instruments, medical devices and consumer goods such as bangles and beads. Glass products are broadly classified into container glass (used for packaging pharmaceuticals, food, soft and hard drinks), specialty glass (used in engineering, electronics and optical instruments), flat glass (automotive and construction sectors) and fibre glass. Demand for flat glass will get a boost with growth in construction and automobile sector. On the other hand, demand for glass packaging materials will pick up with growth in modern retail and urbanization. Demand for glass packaging material will get a fillip if manufacturers and retailers of food products start replacing plastic packaging materials to eco-friendly materials such as glass. However, users continue to prefer plastic packaging materials because of its light weight and handling comfort. Manufacturers are inventing new technology to produce glass packaging materials that are as comfortable as plastics in handling.

Reports suggest that India's per capita consumption of glass packaging is hardly 1.8 kg and there is scope for growth in demand for glass containers for packing food, drugs, soft drinks, spirits, beer and wine.

India has several micro and small enterprises engaged in manufacturing glass containers (used in packaging). Some of the leading companies in this segment are: Hindustan National Glass & Industries Ltd, HSIL, Piramal Glass, Haldyn Glass, MBDL etc. On the other hand, manufacturing of flat glass is dominated by large companies such as Saint-Gobain, Asahi and Gujarat Guardian.

One of the major imported product categories in the glassware segment is glass beads and imitation pearls, which accounts for 15% of total glassware imports into the country. Other prominent products imported are float glass, fibre glass and vacuum flasks. Import of glassware is already showing signs of deceleration. India can further reduce its import dependence for these products by encouraging domestic manufacturing, inviting foreign players to increase investment in India, supporting R&D in manufacturing technology and promoting MSME manufacturing clusters.

Through focused policy support, India can not only reduce imports of glassware, but also increase its share in world exports. Currently, India's share in world exports of glassware is hardly 1.2%. China, Germany, USA, France, Japan, Hong Kong are leading exporters, with respective share of 23%, 9.3%, 7.2%, 4.4% and 4.1%.

Notifications

PIB

- [Government announces graded relaxation in visa and travel restrictions](#)
- [Ministry amends ROFR licensing condition for chartering of vessels](#)

DGFT

- [Amendment in export policy of Nitrile/NBR Gloves](#)

