

**EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR HANDICRAFTS**

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PRESS RELEASE**ROADMAP FOR HANDICRAFTS EXPORT GROWTH FROM UTTAR PRADESH DISCUSSED DURING EPCH'S FIRST CENTRAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

NEW DELHI – 2nd November 2020 –The first meeting of the EPCH Central Regional Committee was held today over video conference which was attended by Shri Ravi K. Passi - Chairman EPCH, Shri Rakesh Kumar - Director General EPCH, Shri Raj Kumar Malhotra – Vice Chairman EPCH, Shri Kamal Soni - Vice Chairman EPCH, Shri R. K. Verma Executive Director EPCH, Shri Avdesh Chandra Agarwal, Coordinator of the Central Regional Committee, Shri Nabeel Ahmed - Convener of the Central Regional Committee & Member - CoA EPCH and 32 nominated members of Central Regional Committee including two women entrepreneurs.

The proceedings of the meeting were initiated by Shri Avdesh Chandra Agarwal Coordinator of EPCH Central Regional Committee by giving an overview of the handicrafts sector of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Nabeel Ahmed - Convener of the Central Regional Committee and Member - COA EPCH welcomed all the committee members for the first meeting and urged everyone to contribute to the fullest to have a meaningful dialogue in the meeting.

While speaking on the occasion, Shri Rakesh Kumar – Director General EPCH put forward the objective of creation of the Regional Committee and also the expectations from the Committee so as to augment exports of handicrafts from the state of Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Kumar requested all the committee members to actively engage in the discussions and place the problems and the suggestions before the Committee which can be addressed and taken up at the highest level so that solutions to problems can be achieved. Some of the key issues discussed during the meeting include the following:

- Norms & procedures of pollution & fire department
- Regularisation of Factory Maps by Moradabad Development Authority (MDA)
- High charges by forwarding & shipping lines.
- Identification of alternate varieties of wood for usage by the sector with FRI & state forest department.
- Non-availability of containers for exporters
- Delay in settlement of ECGC claims
- Non-provision of container freight subsidy.
- CFC requirement at Firozabad handicrafts cluster
- High electricity charges
- Maximisation of the benefits of ODOP schemes for U.P. exporters
- Requirement of industrial land for Aligarh exporters
- Providing skill and design support to the artisans.
- Identification of new and latest technologies by the exporters to be introduced in handicrafts sector.

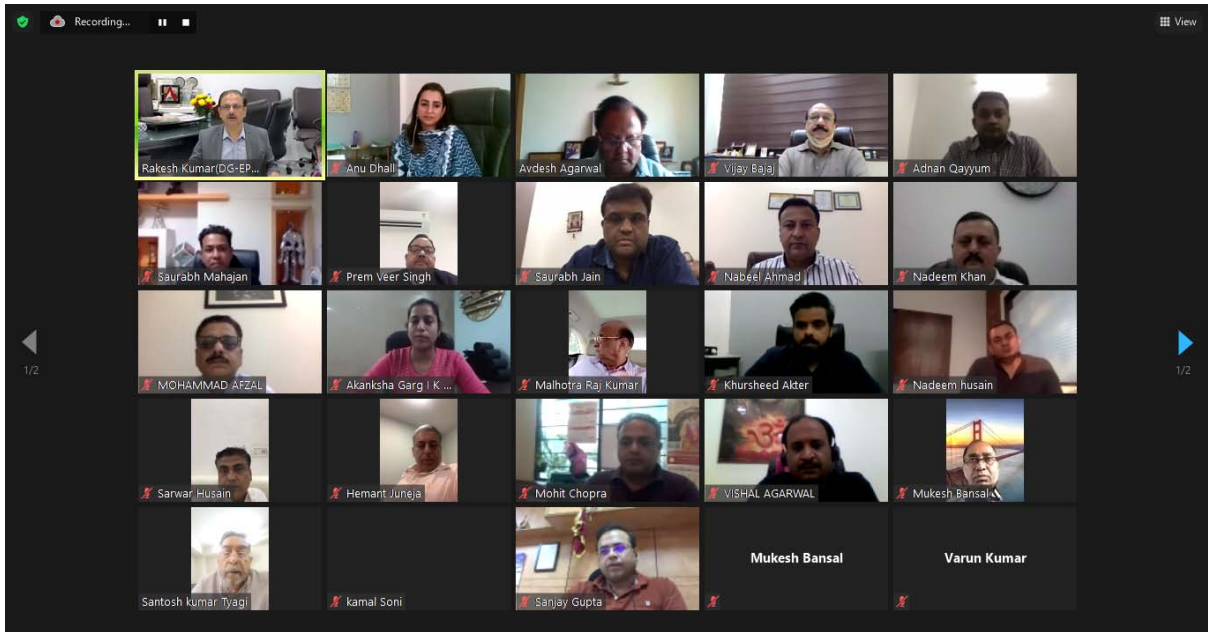
The meeting concluded with thanks to all the participants and with a resolve that with active participation of everyone, the exporters will be able to garner maximum support from the government.

For more information, please contact:

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Caption 1 : Members of EPCH Central Regional Committee during 1st Virtual Meeting



Caption 2 : Shri Rakesh Kumar Director General EPCH Addressing the EPCH Central Regional Members