

**EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR HANDICRAFTS**

EPCH HOUSE, POCKET 6 & 7, SECTOR 'C', LOCAL SHOPPING CENTRE, VASANT KUNJ, NEW DELHI-110070

Tel: +91-11-26135256

Fax: +91-11-26135518,26135519

Email: press@epch.comweb: www.epch.in

09 Nov, 2020

EPCH PRESS RELEASE**DIRECTOR GENERAL EPCH SHRI RAKESH KUMAR'S CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMITMENT GET RECOGNISED BY THE ACADEMIC WORLD**

NEW DELHI – 9th November' 2020 – In a convocation ceremony held at Madurai, Tamilnadu, which was well attended. International Tamil University Honolulu Hawaii USA conferred with a Honoris Causa D. Litt By the chancellor Dr Selvin Kumar to Mr Rakesh Kumar, Director General-EPCH.

In the citation read on the occasion Rakesh Kumar's contribution to the handicrafts sector and the Handicrafts Industry were lauded as a game changer for millions of Artisans and also the positive impact on the Export Industry.

In his acceptance speech Rakesh Kumar said "As for the honour conferred on me today I can only say to this august gathering that I accept it with Humble modesty. I have been sincerely and passionately involved with the livelihood of 7 millions of craftspersons spread over the length and breadth of the country. My job is satisfying and compassionate. At EPCH in last 30 years we have carried out various activities to give a phillip to Indian Handicrafts Exports by continuously upgrading skills, backward integrations, forward integrations and imparting training at various levels."

Immediately after the convocation ceremony Mr Kumar was felicitated by the Handicrafts association of Tamil Nadu both for receiving the Honoris Causa and for his contribution to the handicraft sector.

For more information, please contact :

MR. RAKESH KUMAR, DIRECTOR GENERAL – EPCH - +91-9818272171



L-R - Dr Selvin Kumar, chancellor- International Tamil University, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Director-General-EPCH & Dr. Ravi Tamilvanan MD, Manimekalai Pirasuram, chennai





L-R - Mr.SubbuRam Managing Director Fedcrot Madurai, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General – EPCH & Dr.Tirupati, Regional Director EDI Madurai

ई.पी.सी.एच. प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

महानिदेशक ई.पी.सी.एच. श्री राकेश कुमार के योगदान और प्रतिबद्धता को अकादमिक जगत में मान्यता प्राप्त हुई।

नई दिल्ली - ९ नवंबर २०२०, मदुरई, तमिलनाडु में आयोजित एक दीक्षांत समारोह में, जिसमें उपस्थिति काफी अच्छी रही. अंतर्राष्ट्रीय तमिल विश्वविद्यालय होनोलुलु हवाई, यू.एस.ए के चांसलर डॉ. सेल्विन कुमार द्वारा श्री राकेश कुमार, महानिदेशक-ईपीसीएच को ऑनरेरी कॉसा डी-लिट के साथ सम्मानित किया।

इस अवसर पर राकेश कुमार के हस्तशिल्प क्षेत्र और हस्तशिल्प उद्योग में योगदान के बारे में पढ़े गए दृष्टान्त में उनकी सराहना करते हुए कहा गया की यह लाखों कारीगरों और निर्यात उद्योग के लिए सकर्तमक रूप से प्रभावशाली और एक गेम चेंजर रहे है.

राकेश कुमार ने अपने स्वीकारोक्ति भाषण में कहा, “मुझे इस मानद द्वारा सम्मानित करने के लिए, इस भव्य सभा से मैं केवल ये कह सकता हूं कि मैं इसे विनम्रता के साथ स्वीकार करता हूं। मैं ईमानदारी और लगन के साथ देश की लंबाई और चौड़ाई में फैले 70 लाख शिल्पकारों की आजीविका से जुड़ा हुआ हूं। मेरा काम संतोषजनक और सवेदनिया है। पिछले ३० वर्षों में ई.पी.सी.एच. में हमने विभिन्न स्तरों पर निरंतर कौशल, पिछड़े एकीकरण, आगे एकीकरण और प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करके भारतीय हस्तशिल्प निर्यात को एक गति और प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए विभिन्न गतिविधियों को अंजाम दिया है.”

दीक्षांत समारोह के तुरंत बाद श्री कुमार को मानद कौसा प्राप्त करने और हस्तकला क्षेत्र में उनके योगदान के लिए तमिलनाडु के हस्तशिल्प संघ द्वारा सम्मानित किया गया।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया संपर्क करें :

श्री राकेश कुमार, डायरेक्टर जनरल - ई.पी.सी.एच. - + 91-9818272171

BRIEF PROFILE OF SHRI RAKESH KUMAR

Strong imagination, coupled with wisdom, dedication and hard work often creates history. Life sketch of Rakesh Kumar, Director General-EPCH and Chairman of India Expo Centre & Mart (IEML) proves this theory stoutly. His contribution towards developing Jodhpur, Jaipur, Moradabad, Saharanpur as well as other pockets of our country as the hub for handicraft items is simply unparalleled. If any single entity is to be mentioned as the driving force behind strong presence of India in global handicraft arena, it is Rakesh Kumar whose tireless efforts have created wonders. His innovative capacity is also par excellence which has benefitted handicraft industry immensely.

Mr. Rakesh Kumar not only conceptualized the need of traceability requirement of Timber legality of wooden handicrafts exporters and introduced "VRIKSH" as its standard which is accepted by UN International organization "CITES" for 186 countries, but also initiated several innovative steps to boost up this industry. Conferred with several prestigious awards & accolades for his contribution in this direction, Rakesh is equally inclined towards social cause. In fact, this dynamic personality has contributed a lot for welfare of society too.

Born to Smt. Vyasa Devi & BR Sharma on 30th April 1958 at Delhi, Kumar got his school as well as college education there only. After Post graduation in Public Administration and International Foreign Trade, he joined EPCH. He has done commendable job in the field of export promotion during last three decades of his service. He is the person responsible for initiation of world renowned Indian Handicrafts & Gifts Fair (IHGF) in 1994 which is visited by over 10,000 overseas volume buyers for sourcing and about 3,250 exhibitors from all over India participate in the same. The significance of this fair can be gauged from the fact that it is recognized as 'World's largest congregation of handicrafts exhibitors under one roof' by Limca Book of World Records. Kumar is also instrumental in organizing Product specific shows like Home Expo comprising - Indian Furniture & Accessories Show, Indian Furnishings, Floorings & Textiles Show and Indian Houseware & Decorative show and Indian Fashion Jewellery & Accessories Show (IFJAS) at India Expo Centre, Greater Noida. These shows are eagerly awaited by the buyers from all across the globe. He has played a pivotal role in development of various craft pockets of handicrafts like Jodhpur, Jaipur, Saharanpur, Narsapur (A.P.), Moradabad North East & others. One of the noble efforts of providing design, skill and entrepreneurship to the craftspersons of boarder villages has been well known contribution specifically at Barmer in Rajasthan to about 11000 women craftspersons and Manna Village which is the last village on the Indo-China boarder.

Apart from being conferred with D. Litt. by International Tamil University- USA, he is also recipient of SUPER ACHIEVER AWARD for his contribution to the Handicrafts sector by Indiasgreatest.com. He is also credited with introducing the web-based Electronic Voting System for first time in the country for election of 10,000 members of the Council. EPCH being the first council to do so. The Council was also awarded e-India Award for this initiative. Has served as a Member-Steering Committee of Asian Development Bank-ADB'2013 constituted by Ministry of Finance, Dept. of Economic Affairs, Government of India for holding ADB general meeting in India. He has also been awarded Safari India South Asia Travel Award in individual category being "the best Professional in MICE" towards his contribution to conceive, implement and run successfully state-of-the art

exhibition centre called India Exposition Mart Ltd (IEML) at Greater Noida spread over of 58 acres and has built up complex of 2.5 million sq. ft. area having 900 permanent showrooms and 16 exhibition halls and also his overall contribution towards promoting exhibition Industry. Other notable awards he received include "THE IRON MAN" of The Exhibition Industry For 2016 at Exhibition Excellence Awards, "Best MICE person" of the year in 14th Annual International Hospitality and Travel Awards 2018 & 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his tremendous contribution to the handicrafts sector during the 'Handicraft Summit' organized by the 'Handicrafts Exporters Association.'

Kumar is key architect for setting up of several important organizations in India such as setting up of National Centre for Design & Product Development (NCDPD) in New Delhi for design and product development. He is also instrumental in creation of Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC) to bridge the skill gap in the handicrafts & carpet sector. He has also being the Chairman of Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA), Founder Chairman of Buying Agents Association of Indian (BAA) and founder governing committee of Network for Certification and Conservation of Forest (NCCF). He is also re-elected as Governing Board member of The Council of EU Chambers of Commerce in India.

In recognition of his services as instrumental in establishing & enhancing trade with Japan, the Japanese Government conferred him with 'JETRO'S COMMENDATION AWARD' for International exposure to Japan. Incidentally, Kumar was 1st Indian to receive this distinction. A renowned & well-known figure in international trade, Kumar has represented various important trade committees & boards in India & abroad.

In spite of his most busy schedule, Kumar spares considerable time for social causes. He has been engaged with several programmes related to craft clusters and bodies such as Gautam Budha Welfare Society, Greater Noida, Divya Seva Mission, Haridwar and has been organizing a number of social activities in Himachal Pradesh. He has also been staunch believer of Swadeshi and associated with several related organizations. He is also associated for promotion of yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopathy and traditional Indian medicine and organize one of the largest congregations on World Assembly on Ayurveda, yoga and Naturopathy which is popularly known as Ayur Yog Expo. Apart from this, he was very active member of NCC and Scout and therefore led the school in both. During college time, was active with the student movement as active member of the NSS and also ABVP.

Rakesh is also fond of music & books, particularly literature & biographies. His better half Indu Sharma is a Lecturer of Economics while daughter Dr. Era is MBBS & MD and serving doctor and his son Esh is studying.

Follow us on #epchindia

