

EPCH initiates dialogue with Maharashtra Govt. on expanding handicrafts export potential, gets support for establishing Training & Development Centres



Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH along with Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. Ravi K Passi and Mr. Pradeep Muchalla, COA members, EPCH; and Mr. Ashok Boob, leading member exporter from Mumbai, with Mr. Deependra Singh Kushwah IAS, Development Commissioner (Industries), Govt. of Maharashtra, at Mantralaya, Mumbai.

assistance; Compliance grant; Plug & play infrastructure; Inclusion in state schemes; Promotion and support for women entrepreneurs; and Promotion of ODOP and Geographical Indication (GI) products.

During the meeting, the potential for expanding the handicrafts sector through the establishment of incubation centers in cities such as Mumbai, Thane, and Pune was discussed. A proposal to sign a MoU with EPCH was also put forward, dedicated to promoting handicrafts from Maharashtra. These incubation centers would offer design facilities, skill development programs, and other initiatives aimed at fostering growth and innovation in the sector. During the meeting, Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH and Mr. Ravi K Passi, COA Member, EPCH, invited the Government of Maharashtra to actively participate in the upcoming 60th IHGF Delhi Fair - Autumn 2025, scheduled from 13th-17th October 2025, where thematic displays from Maharashtra's crafts sector can be showcased.

24th July 2025, Mumbai: An EPCH delegation comprising Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH, Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH, Mr. Ravi K Passi and Mr. Pradeep Muchalla, COA members, EPCH; and Mr. Ashok Boob, leading member exporter from Mumbai, met Mr. Deependra Singh Kushwah IAS, Development Commissioner (Industries), Government of Maharashtra, at Mantralaya, Mumbai. The meeting was held to discuss strategies and present detailed suggestions for the growth and promotion of the handicrafts sector in the State of Maharashtra with a focus on enhancing exports of handicrafts from the country.

During the meeting, Dr. Khanna highlighted Maharashtra's significant contribution to India's handicrafts exports, and emphasised the rich heritage of the state reflected in its diverse range of craft products such as tribal jewellery, Warli paintings, musical instruments, bamboo & coconut shell crafts, pottery, Ajanta paintings and more. Dr. Khanna submitted a formal representation on behalf of EPCH, outlining actionable suggestions to overcome current challenges faced by member exporters and artisans in the state. Key recommendations included support through: An Export Policy tailored for the handicraft export sector; Enhanced MDA Scheme; E-commerce export support; Freight subsidy; Export credit insurance reimbursement; Interest subsidy; Design development



EPCH delegation with Ms. Renu Shome, Director, The Council of EU Chamber of Commerce in India, Mumbai

Mr. Deependra Singh Kushwah, IAS, Development Commissioner (Industries), Government of Maharashtra appreciated EPCH's initiatives and assured of the Government's support in fostering growth and employment through the handicrafts sector.

The EPCH delegation also met with the Director, Ms Renu Shome of The Council of EU Chamber of Commerce in India, Mumbai and discussed strategy for promotion of exports of handicrafts in the European Union.

UP International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025 Roadshow in Mumbai

25th July 2025, Mumbai: At a later development, at the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025 Roadshow held on 25th July 2025 at Mumbai, Mr. Deependra Singh Kushwah IAS, Development Commissioner (Industries), Govt. of Maharashtra, lauded EPCH's efforts and contribution to the handicrafts industry. He further announced that the Maharashtra Government will extend full infrastructure support in Mumbai, Thane and Pune for EPCH to establish state-of-the-art incubation centers. These centers will include design and innovation facilities, skill development programs, and other initiatives to foster the growth and development of the handicrafts sector.



Mr. Deependra Singh Kushwah IAS, Development Commissioner (Industries), Govt. of Maharashtra, at Mantralaya, Mumbai, in discussion with Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH along with Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. Ravi K Passi and Mr. Pradeep Muchalla, COA members, EPCH; and Mr. Ashok Boob, leading member exporter from Mumbai.



Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH, addressing the gathering at the UPITS 2025 Roadshow in Mumbai

In response to this, Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH, shared "we are grateful to the Government of Maharashtra and Mr. Deependra Singh Kushwah IAS, for his proactive support in strengthening the handicrafts ecosystem in the state. The commitment to provide fully developed infrastructure in Mumbai, Thane and Pune for establishing Handicrafts Innovation, Design Development, Technology Upgradation, and Artisans' Training Centres is a landmark step. These state-of-the-art centers will not only enhance skill development and design innovation will empower artisans and entrepreneurs, boosting India's handicraft exports. EPCH looks forward to collaborating closely with the state government to make these initiatives a success and create sustainable opportunities for artisans." Mr. Sagar Mehta, Vice Chairman, EPCH also joined the delegation at the UPITS Road Show in Mumbai. ■