

EPCH strengthens ties with Karnataka Government to resolve export challenges



Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH met with Smt. Uma Mahadevan IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Govt of Karnataka; Dr. S. Selvakumar IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood Department, Govt of Karnataka; and Smt. Gunjan Krishna IAS, Commissioner, Industries and Commerce Department, Govt of Karnataka. Also seen are Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. KN Tulasi Rao, Member COA, EPCH; and Mr. R K Verma, Executive Director, EPCH.

17th July 2025, Bangalore: Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH, along with Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. K N Tulasi Rao, Member COA, EPCH; and Mr. R K Verma, Executive Director, EPCH, held a series of high-level meetings with senior officials of the Government of Karnataka, to discuss strategic measures aimed at enhancing handicraft exports from the state.

Dr. Khanna met with Smt. Uma Mahadevan IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner Govt of Karnataka; Dr. S. Selvakumar IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood Department, Govt. of Karnataka and Smt. Gunjan Krishna IAS, Commissioner, Industries and Commerce Department, Govt. of Karnataka. During the discussions, he presented a comprehensive representation detailing opportunities, challenges and actionable recommendations for strengthening the state's handicrafts sector.

During the meeting, Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH, gave an overview of the handicrafts sector highlighting the sector's significant role in employment generation and rural development in major craft clusters. He also presented the sector's recent export performance and shared key challenges faced by exporters such as Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme and Exploring Handicraft Markets, Assistance for E- Commerce Exports, Engagement with e-commerce, freight subsidy on shipping of

containers, Export Credit Insurance Support, Interest Rate Subsidy, Assistance to Design Development Measures and Assistance to compliance and others. The officials gave a patient hearing and assured support to the issues raised.

Dr. Khanna extended a formal invitation to the Government of Karnataka to actively participate in the 60th edition of the IHGF Delhi Fair - Autumn 2025, to be held from 13th-17th October 2025, at India Expo Centre & Mart, Delhi-NCR. A dedicated thematic pavilion showcasing Karnataka's rich craft traditions is proposed to further expand market access for artisans from the state.

EPCH looks forward to a strong and collaborative partnership with the Government of Karnataka to boost the growth, competitiveness, and global visibility of its unique handicraft traditions.

Dr. Neeraj Khanna, along with Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. KN Tulasi Rao, Member COA, EPCH; and Mr. R K Verma, Executive Director, EPCH, also held an interactive meeting with prominent member exporters from Bangalore, Mysuru and nearby regions. The delegation engaged in meaningful discussions with leading member exporters to understand the key challenges and bottlenecks affecting handicraft exports from the region. Dr. Khanna assured the exporters of EPCH's full support and timely intervention to resolve the issues raised and to further facilitate the growth of handicraft exports from Karnataka. ■

UP International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025 Roadshow in Bangalore



Left: Mr. Rakesh Sachan, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of MSME, Khadi, Village Industries, Sericulture, Textile, Govt. of U P, being greeted by Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. K N Tulasi Rao, COA Member, EPCH; Mr. K L Ramesh, prominent member exporter from Bangalore; and Mr. R K Verma, Executive Director, EPCH at the Roadshow for the 3rd Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025, in Bangalore. Right: Dignitaries seen on the dias during the roadshow: Mr. Raj Kamal Yadav IAS, Addl. Commissioner Industries, Govt of U P; Mr. M G Srinivas, Director (Projects), IEM; Mr. B R Ganesh Rao, President, KASSIA; Mr. Danappa D P, President, Peenya Industrial Association; Mr. M G Balakrishna, President, FKCCI; and Mr. H V S Krishna, Chairman, IMS Foundation–LUB-K.

18th July 2025, Bangalore: Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. K N Tulasi Rao, COA Member, EPCH; and Mr. R K Verma, Executive Director, EPCH attended the Roadshow for the 3rd UP International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025, in Bangalore. The event was graced by Mr. Rakesh Sachan, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of MSME, Khadi, Village Industries, Sericulture, Textile, Govt. of UP and saw the presence of Mr. Raj Kamal Yadav IAS, Addl. Commissioner Industries, Govt of UP; Mr. Sudeep Sarcar, CEO, IEM; Mr. M G Srinivas, Director (Projects), IEM; Mr. B R Ganesh Rao, President, KASSIA; Mr. Danappa D P, President, Peenya Industrial Association; Mr. M G Balakrishna, President, FKCCI; and Mr. H V S Krishna, Chairman, IMS Foundation–LUB-K.

The roadshow aimed to raise awareness and encourage participation from south India's business community for UPITS 2025, scheduled from 25th to 29th September 2025, at the India Expo Centre. EPCH's leadership emphasised its commitment to forging regional collaborations, expanding market access and enhancing representation of India's handicraft sector on national platforms. During this visit, the EPCH delegation also held a focused interaction with members of the Aggarbatti Manufacturers Association, led by Mr. K L Ramesh, Mentor of the Association. The discussion focused on identifying potential synergies, understanding challenges, and exploring strategies to strengthen the handicrafts ecosystem. ■