

Department of Textiles & Handicrafts, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh signs MoU with EPCH to boost State's Handicrafts Sector

23rd April 2026, Itanagar: The Department of Textiles & Handicrafts, Government of Arunachal Pradesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on 23rd April 2026, marking a significant milestone towards the holistic development of the state's handicrafts sector.

The MoU outlines a comprehensive framework for collaboration, focusing on skill development through structured capacity-building programmes, product diversification aligned with global market trends and strengthening branding, packaging and storytelling of traditional crafts. It also aims to facilitate participation of artisans and entrepreneurs in national and international trade fairs, including the IHGF Delhi Fair, while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and enhancing market linkages.

On the occasion, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles & Handicrafts, Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Nyato Dukam lauded the initiative and expressed confidence that the partnership would play a crucial role in empowering artisans and showcasing Arunachal Pradesh's unique handicrafts on the global stage.

Mrs. Mimum Tayeng IAS, Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh, highlighted the state's rich heritage of traditional crafts such as bamboo, cane, textiles and tribal artefacts, noting their vast potential in both domestic and international markets. She said the collaboration with EPCH would enable structured interventions in capacity building, design innovation and market access, thereby strengthening the entire value chain.



Signing of the MoU: Hon'ble Minister of Textiles & Handicrafts, Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Nyato Dukam; Mrs. Mimum Tayeng IAS, Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh; Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Executive Director, EPCH; and Director of Textiles & Handicrafts, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Dorjee Phuntso

Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Executive Director, EPCH reaffirmed the Council's commitment towards supporting Arunachal Pradesh in transforming its handicrafts sector into a sustainable, export-oriented ecosystem. He added that focused interventions would be undertaken in areas such as product development, quality improvement, branding, packaging and export readiness.

Ms. Jesmina Zeliang, Regional Convenor, NER-EPCH, emphasised the importance of building strong market linkages for artisans. She noted that handholding support, exposure to wider markets and participation in platforms like the IHGF Delhi Fair would help make artisans export-ready and globally competitive.

Earlier, Director of Textiles & Handicrafts, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Dorjee Phuntso, in his welcome address, described the MoU as a historic step towards strengthening the handicrafts ecosystem in the state. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by senior officials from the state government and EPCH.



Mr. Dorjee Phuntso, Director of Textiles & Handicrafts, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh; Ms. Jesmina Zeliang, Regional Convenor, NER-EPCH; and Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Executive Director, EPCH, with entrepreneurs from Arunachal Pradesh who had put up an exhibition of their products for the occasion