

Skill Mapping for a Stronger Handicrafts Ecosystem

Interactive Session at Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh; 26th June 2026



The programme was attended by Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. K.L. Ramesh, Chairman, HCSSC; Mr. Lekh Raj Maheshwari, Senior Exporter and Past Chairman, EPCH; Mr. O.P. Prahaladka, COA Member and Eastern Region Convenor; EPCH COA Members and prominent members from Moradabad

On 26th June 2026, EPCH organised an interactive session with the Board Members of the Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC) on the theme "Skill Mapping for a Stronger Handicrafts Ecosystem" at EPCH House, Moradabad.

The session focused on identifying the current and emerging skill requirements of the handicrafts export industry, addressing workforce gaps, and strengthening the sector through skill development, certification, reskilling and upskilling initiatives.

The programme was attended by Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. K.L. Ramesh, Chairman, HCSSC; Mr. Lekh Raj Maheshwari, Senior Exporter and Past Chairman, EPCH; Mr. O.P. Prahaladka, COA Member and Eastern Region Convenor; EPCH COA Members – Mr. Rohit Dhall and Ms. Rashmi Duggal; Mr. Nazmul Islam, Chief Patron, MHEA; Mr. J.P. Singh, Chairman, YES Moradabad; Mr. Vivek Agarwal, Mr. Gagan Duggal, Mr. Vikas Arora, President, SEZ Association; and other prominent exporter members from Moradabad.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Neeraj Khanna emphasised that skilled manpower is the foundation of the handicrafts industry and announced that EPCH would provide space for establishing a



handicrafts training centre. Mr. K.L. Ramesh informed participants that HCSSC has trained 19,686 candidates to date and reiterated the Council's commitment to developing a future-ready workforce aligned with industry requirements.

On the occasion, EPCH felicitated Padma Shri awardee Mr. Chiranjeev Lal Yadav, who received the prestigious Padma Shri from the Hon'ble President of India on 23rd June 2026 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to traditional handicrafts and artisan empowerment.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthening the handicrafts ecosystem through skill development, industry collaboration, and capacity-building initiatives. ■