

Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India, visits TFC Jodhpur, interacts with region's exporters

27th July 2024; Jodhpur, Rajasthan



Mr. Dileep Baid, Chairman, EPCH, welcoming Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India, at the Trade Facilitation Centre, Jodhpur



Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India, addressing the august gathering along with Mr. Dileep Baid, Chairman, EPCH; EPCH COA Members - Mr. Hansraj Baheti and Mr. Nirmal Bhandari; Mr. Radhe Shyam Ranga, prominent member exporter and Mr. R. K. Verma, Executive Director, EPCH

Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Government of India, visited the Trade Facilitation Centre in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, on July 27, 2024, marking his first visit after assuming charge as the Hon'ble Minister of Textiles. He was welcomed by Mr. Dileep Baid, Chairman of EPCH. Also present on the occasion were Mrs. Prajakta Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; EPCH COA Members Mr. Hansraj Baheti and Mr. Nirmal Bhandari; Mr. Radhe Shyam Ranga, a prominent member exporter of the region; Mr. R. K. Verma, Executive Director, EPCH; and other member exporters from Jodhpur.

During his visit, the Hon'ble Minister interacted with member exporters, during which various issues pertaining to the growth and development of the handicraft sector were raised, such as relaxation for exporters under MSME provisions related to the timely receipt of payments, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the Handicraft Sector, high container charges levied by shipping lines, requests for flexible labor laws for handicrafts to accommodate seasonal workloads, financial assistance for necessary compliance with certifications related to wood, EU regulations on deforestation-free products (EUDR), the establishment of testing labs for wood, incentives for Geographical



Indications (GI) products, and a request for a double-stack container train from Jodhpur to Mundra Port, among others.

In his address, Shri Giriraj Singh expressed his satisfaction in learning that EPCH has set an ambitious target of tripling exports by 2030. He assured that he would consider the requests made by handicraft exporters and coordinate with other ministries to find solutions. He urged all member exporters to collaborate and work towards achieving this target.

Mr. Dileep Baid, Chairman of EPCH, in his address, said, "we at EPCH realise that new opportunities have emerged as global companies adopt the China-plus-one policy. The Council has set an ambitious yet achievable target of tripling the exports of handicrafts to 1 lakh crores by 2030. We are adopting a multipronged strategy to kick-start growth in the sector, which includes a focus on new product and design development, productivity enhancement, better packaging, and brand building."

Mr. Hansraj Baheti, Member of the COA, EPCH, stated that all the exporters from Jodhpur are committed to enhancing exports from this important craft cluster. He raised the issue regarding the railway container depot being set up in Jodhpur by the Government of India and a container depot being set up by the Government of Rajasthan, which needs to be made operational at the earliest.

Mr. Nirmal Bhandari, Member, COA, EPCH, shared that the Trade Facilitation Centre serves as a platform for holding trade fairs, retail exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, special promotional events, workshops, and conferences. He further added that this center is an important landmark in Jodhpur, helping nurture entrepreneurship, facilitate handicraft exports, and provide livelihoods to many.

Mr. R. K. Verma, Executive Director of EPCH, remarked, "It is our honor to welcome the Hon'ble Minister, Shri Giriraj Singh Ji, at the TFC in Jodhpur. EPCH, under the guidance of the Ministry of

Textiles, has always taken important initiatives to support the handicrafts sector. We are confident that under the vision of the Hon'ble Minister, we will achieve tremendous success in the future." He highlighted EPCH's dedication to enhancing exports and supporting the growth of the nation's handicraft industry.



Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Govt. of India, planting a sapling at the TFC

During the visit, the Hon'ble Minister also witnessed the display of Rajasthan's handicrafts, including live demonstrations by artisans. He interacted with them, appreciated their craft, and acknowledged that handicraft artisans are truly the backbone of the sector. He emphasised that for the sector to grow, it is important to encourage and promote artisans at both national and international levels.

