

Releasing the Handbook on Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council 'Nurturing Individual Skill, Fostering Collective Growth', L to R: Mr. Rajesh K Jain,
Vice Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, IEML and Executive Director,
EPCH; Mr. Lekhraj Maheshwari, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. SK Biswas, Development
Commissioner (Handicrafts); Mr. SK Panda, Secretary (Textiles), Ministry of Textiles,
Govt. of India; Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Skill
Development & Entrepreneurship (IC) & Parliamentary Affairs; Mr. Santosh Kumar
Gangwar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textiles(IC), Ministry of Textiles, Govt.
of India; Mr. Dileep Baid, Chairman, Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council; and
Vice Chairman, EPCH-Mr. Prince Malik

Coinciding with the distribution of handicraft export awards, Hon'ble Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship & Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, also launched the Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council. This has been set up to promote skill development amongst artisans, crafts persons and workers of handicrafts and carpet products. This Council will be responsible for developing occupational standards, setting up labour market information and introducing certification & assessment mechanism as well as guidance in all aspects of skill development to the artisans, crafts persons and workers.

Mr. Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (IC) & Parliamentary Affairs and Mr. Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Union Minister of State for Textiles(IC), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, launch the Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council portal www.hcssc.in

While launching this new Council, Mr. Rudy highlighted the importance and role of skill development in the Indian economy, keeping in view the fact that percentage of skilled manpower in India is very low as compared to China, Korea, Japan, Germany, etc. There is therefore, great need to develop skills in all sectors of the economy so that India becomes competitive in manufacturing good quality products. He added, "if India has to implement the slogan of 'Make in India', the first step is to skill India."