

EPCH's VRIKSH reaches out to a global audience at The International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards (ICSTS)



Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Joint Director, EPCH, seen speaking about VRIKSH; the occasion also saw the presence of Mr. Ravi K Passi, Vice Chairman, EPCH; and Mr. D Kumar, immediate past Chairman, EPCH

New Delhi; 17th & 18th Sept. 2018 : The International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards (ICSTS), was organised by the Quality Council of India in collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), and Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India. It is the first of its kind multi-stakeholder Convention in the world dedicated solely to the practical questions of leveraging trade, standards, and global value chains as engines of sustainable development.

The ICSTS 2018 was convened on 17 and 18 September 2018 at New Delhi. The Convention has committed participation from the Steering Committee members of the UNFSS, which include the UNCTAD, ITC, UNIDO, FAO, and UNE. Participation of high-level governmental and intergovernmental participation from SAARC, ASEAN, AU,

OECD, EU, WTO, members of state governments in India, stakeholders from international and national businesses, policy-making, research institutions and think-tanks, standards organisations & alliances, national standards bodies, major industry associations from around the world, producers and MSMEs who form different parts of value chains, smallholders, civil society and major group stakeholders were also present at the Convention. EPCH promoted its "VRIKSH" - Indian Timber Legality Assessment & Verification Scheme" in the Convention, through a detailed presentation by Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Joint Director, EPCH. The occasion also saw the presence of Mr. Ravi K Passi, Vice Chairman, EPCH; and Mr. D Kumar, immediate past Chairman, EPCH. ■

"Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign" under "Swachh Bharat Mission"

Cleanliness drive observed in Assam; 15th & 19th September, 2018

Dhubri, Assam; 15th September 2018



"Swachhata Hi Seva Movement" as part of the "Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)" was observed on 15th September 2018 at Terracotta Craft Cluster, Kahridagosai Gaon, Chapar, District - Dhubri, Assam. The Program was organised by EPCH's North Eastern Regional Office in association with Handicraft Service Centre, RD & TDC, Guwahati.

Ms. NL Palai, Regional Director (NER), O/o DC (Handicrafts); Mr. Khangsti HPO, O/o DC (Handicrafts), HSC, Gauripur; Mr. Bhaskar Baruah, Project Officer (NER), EPCH; and other officials were part of the program along with 50 artisans. All the officials of DC (Handicrafts) and EPCH along with the artisans performed "Shramdaan" and



contributed towards cleaning of the toilets and the surroundings at Kahridagosai Gaon, Chapar, District - Dhubri, Assam. 10 medicinal trees of different varieties were also planted as part of the program.

Morigaon, Assam; 19th September 2018



"Swachhata Hi Sewa Movement" as part of the "Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)" was observed on 19th September 2018 at Hatiutha Village, District - Morigaon, Assam. The Program was organised by EPCH's North Eastern Regional Office in association with Handicraft Service Centre, Jorhat, Assam.

Ms. NL Palai, Regional Director (NER), O/o DC (Handicrafts); Mr. Rajen Singh, Assistant Director, O/o DC (Handicrafts), Handicrafts Service Centre, Jorhat; Mr. Bhaskar Baruah, Project Officer (NER), EPCH; Mr. Kanak Haloi, Retd. Professor, NIRD & PR, NERC, Guwahati; and other officials were part of the program along with 40 artisans. All the officials of DC (Handicrafts) and EPCH along with the artisans performed "Shramdaan" and contributed towards cleaning of the community Namghar Campus and the surroundings at Hatiutha Namghar, Hatiutha Village, District - Morigaon, Assam. 5 medicinal trees of different varieties were also planted.

Shared Goals : Activities carried out as part of the campaign in both the places:

1. Cleaning of village roads, drains and back alleys through awareness drives.
2. Organised awareness campaigns for better sanitation practices like using toilets, hand washing, etc. to live in a healthy and hygienic environment.
3. Organised waste collection drives in households and common places or shared spaces with the help of villagers.
4. Created awareness about health issues specifically related to activities of craft practising artisans and how simple pranayama regularly can be helpful for keeping good health was discussed. Life insurance schemes under DC(H) were discussed.
5. Disposing and burning of unwanted waste materials.

