

## 2<sup>nd</sup> successful batch of Guild Certified Framers from India get their Certificates at IHGF Delhi Fair-Autumn 2018

Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for MSME, Shri Giriraj Singh graces ceremony and gives away the Certificates

Hon'ble Minister, Shri Giriraj Singh graced the IHGF Delhi Fair-Autumn 2018 on day 2 of the fair with Mr. Santosh Ranjan Rai; Mr. Rajesh Chaudhary and Mr. Naveen Kumar. He also gave away Certificates to Guild Certified Framers (GCF). The dignitaries were welcomed and hosted by Mr. O P Prahladka, Chairman, EPCH; Vice Chairmen, EPCH-Mr. Ravi K Passi and Mr. Sagar Mehta; Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH and Chairman, IEML; President, Reception Committee, IHGF Delhi Fair-Autumn 2018- Ms. Jesmina Zeliang; Vice Presidents, Reception Committee, IHGF Delhi Fair-Autumn 2018-Mr. Mohan Singh Bhati and Mr. Ahmed Akberali Sundrani; and Mr. Manish Gourisaria, Joint Managing Director, Lion India (leading specialists in picture framing technology in India).

EPCH in collaboration with Mr. Manish Gourisaria has taken a unique initiative to upgrade the picture framing industry in India by conducting GCF training programme for the Indian framers in association of Fine Art Trade Guild, London, UK to enable the framers in acquiring higher skills and quality of workmanship and accommodate different levels of framing with the bespoke market to International standards.

The GCF, a qualified professional picture framing training course cum examination was launched for the first time in India by Lion India, in association with the Fine Art Guild, London, UK. The 1<sup>st</sup> training was successfully conducted in November 2017. The 2<sup>nd</sup> training was conducted from 12th to 17th March 2018 and out of 18 candidates who took the course from across India, 9 successfully passed as Guild Certified Framers in India. The training programme was conducted by Mr. Stephen Finney GCF (APF) Advanced, a world renowned master trainer from Germany. The vocational course seeks to upgrade the skills of framers with a view to bring world class expertise to them. Recipients of the Certificates were: Mr. Vivek Dhar from Meghalaya; Mr. J Anto Amalraj and Mr. S K R Ramesh from Tamil Nadu; Mr. Chandrashekar, Mr. Shailesh Udupi and Mr. Krishnamoorthy Manivannan from Karnataka; Mr. Awani Saraogi from Telangana; Mr. Nihal Sayed from Goa; and Mr. Richie Robert from UAE. The Hon'ble Minister also took a round of the fair and interacted with the participants. ■



**Giriraj Singh**

Minister of State (I/C) for MSME, Govt. of India

*The soul of India resides in the handicrafts sector and this sector keeps us close to our culture and roots. India's MSME sector that forms the backbone of the handicrafts sector involves 7 million artisans and 6 crore micro, small and medium sized enterprises working in different craft clusters. I appreciate EPCH for giving them the opportunity to display their craftsmanship at the show, helping them generate employment as well as providing them technical support towards design & product development to make them stand up to global competition. Today Indian handicrafts have immense recognition and patronage in the international market that is only growing with time. However, there is a lot of potential to be harnessed. I urge the stakeholders of this industry to foster our age old craft skills as well as our artisans so that all segments of the value chain may be benefitted. I believe, the sector can flourish if artisans continue to get the real worth for their labour and skills. I congratulate the recipients of the Certificates and appreciate the initiative taken in this direction.*

