

PRESS RELEASE

EPCH ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN LEKHRAJ MAHESHWARI AND ABDUL AZIM



**LEKHRAJ MAHESHWARI
CHAIRMAN**



**ABDUL AZIM
VICE CHAIRMAN**

New Delhi – May 13, 2013 – The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) has unanimously elected Mr. Lekhraj Maheshwari as new Chairman and Mr. Abdul Azim as Vice Chairman in its 136th meeting of Committee of Administration (COA) held on May 13, 2013.

Mr. Maheshwari representing M/S RAJASTHAN HANDLOOM & HANDICRAFT INDUSTRIES, is a leading exporter of handloom and handicrafts from Rajasthan. He has been associated with the Handicrafts sector for more than four decades.. He has served in various capacities as member of the Committee of Administration, President - Trade Fairs and Vice-Chairman-EPCH. Mr. Maheshwari is also Director of India Exposition Mart Ltd, Greater Noida.

He is engaged since his early age in social services uplifting the poor population of the desert area of Barmer by providing them necessary guidance and assistance for their livelihood through various developmental organizations on State/National level. He has also served as a member of All India Handicrafts Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

Mr. Maheshwari expressed his gratitude to members of Committee of Administration of EPCH for electing him as Chairman of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, an apex organization for promotion of Exports of Handicrafts from the Country.

Mr. Abdul Azim, Member COA representing M/s JAVAIDBHAI PVT. LTD., Moradabad has been elected unanimously as Vice Chairman of the Council. Mr. Azim is also President of Moradabad Handicrafts Exporters Association.

The exports of Handicrafts have shown an increase from Rs. 12,975.25 crores (2011-12) to Rs. 17,970.12 crores during the year 2012-13 showing an increase of 38.50% over previous year. The handicrafts export has surpassed the target of US \$ 3300 million and has achieved of US \$ 3306 million during the year 2012-13 - a growth of 22.15%

The New Chairman, Mr. Lekhraj Maheshwari said, keeping in line with the growth trend of the last two financial years it is expected that the export growth will touch higher levels in the year ahead. He further added that in order to sustain this growth the international marketing initiatives, cluster development projects, design and product development, new policy initiatives are needed to be pursued more vigorously.

For further information, please contact:

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