

## REPORT ON INITIATIVE TAKEN BY EPCH FOR OPENING OF BANK ACCOUNTS FOR KARIGARS AND ARTISANS AND MOTIVATING THEM IN MAKING CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has taken initiatives for opening of bank accounts and Jan Dhan Accounts in various craft cluster of handicrafts sector to combat the impact of demonetization on handicrafts sector and to facilitate timely payment to the karigars and artisans who are backbone of the Handicrafts sector.

In the series, camps for opening of bank accounts of karigars and artisans camps was organised at **Kolkata on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 in office of EPCH.**

Large number of artisans turned up and their accounts were opened by Oriental Bank of Commerce.





Six such camps have already been organised by EPCH two at Moradabad and Andhra Pradesh and one each Agra, and Bangalore. Nationalized Oriental Bank of Commerce sent a team of their officials at these craft clusters for the purpose. Apart from opening of bank accounts, they also motivated artisans and karigars to make cashless transaction, Onlne payments, mobile banking [services like paytm, buddy, e-wallet etc.].

One of the cashless transaction companies namely Paytm have also joined the movement and set up an information kiosk during some of the camps to motivate the karigars and artisans about the benefits of making cashless transactions.

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is an apex organization of trade & industry engaged in promotion of Indian Handicrafts from the Country and project India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high quality handicrafts items. More than 7 million artisans skilled, semi-skilled and un-skilled work force is engaged in manufacture of handicrafts specially women folk and weaker section of the society.

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