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PRESS RELEASE

CRAFTS AND SKILL EXCHANGE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN AT DASTKARI HAAT

New Delhi – January 02, 2013 - - A 15-day long Crafts & Skill Exchange programme opened here today at Delhi Haat by Mr. Salman Bashir, High Commissioner of Pakistan in India, in the presence of Smt. Rita Menon, Chairman & Managing Director-ITPO & former Secretary (Textiles).

Also present on the occasion were Mr. S.S. Gupta, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Smt. Jaya Jaitly, President of Dastkari Haat Samiti, Mrs. Abida Malik, Vice President of Behbud Association of Pakistan and Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director – Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts(EPCH).

The Skill exchange programme is a part of Dastkari Haat Crafts Bazaar which will be displaying a large variety of Handicrafts of India and Pakistan. There will be a special display of Pakistani crafts particularly from Sind region of Pakistan emphasizing on embroidery and crochet work etc.

The objective of the participation of Pakistani craftswomen in this Haat is to exchange ideas, knowledge, skills and techniques of designs, colours and embroidery with the Indian craftswomen and artisans and vice-versa.

EPCH, which is a premier organisation for promotion of Indian Handicrafts, has organized the visit of Pakistani craftpersons for this Haat to enable them to interact closely with the Indian counterparts so that both have enriching experience for devising and developing new product lines.

The O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has provided financial support for this craft exchange programme. The Dastkari Haat Samiti has organized the Dastkari Haat Bazar including participation of Indian craftpersons and display of Indian merchandise and coordination with the Pakistani NGO.

While addressing the Dastkari Haat Bazar, Mr. Salman Bashir, High Commissioner of Pakistan in India, stated that, "this Bazaar can be a starting point for dismantling the barriers between India and Pakistan and with the New Year will begin a new chapter in collaboration between the two countries in the field of Handicrafts."

Mr. Rakesh Kumar, ED-EPCH, stated that, "India and Pakistan have shared a common cultural heritage for many years and crafts of each other are more or less the same except for differences in patterns and colours. He expressed his confidence that this Bazaar will provide opportunities to craftpersons of both the countries to exchange their knowledge and skills which will help craftpersons from both the sides to develop new ideas, techniques, new designs and new type of embroidery".

The Dastkari Haat Bazaar will be opened for 15 days and provide an extravaganza for shopping of different types of crafts from India and Pakistan besides cultural performances every day.

For further information, please contact:
Mr. Rakesh Kumar, ED-EPCH at 91-9818272171



DELHI HAAT -1 : From left to right: Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director-EPCH, Mrs. Abida Malik, Vice President of Behbud Association of Pakistan, Smt. Rita Menon, Chairman & Managing Director-ITPO & former Secretary (Textiles), Mr. Salman Bashir, High Commissioner of Pakistan in India, Mr. S.S. Gupta, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) at the 15-day-long Crafts & Skill Exchange programme between India and Pakistan which opened here today at Delhi Haat.



Mr. Salman Bashir, High Commissioner of Pakistan in India at the Crafts & Skill Exchange Programme