

India-Sri Lanka Handicraft Trade Set for Growth Through Joint Efforts

Minister Counsellor of Sri Lanka and EPCH Leaders Discuss Future Trade Initiatives



Mr. Lakshendra Geshan Dissanayake, Minister Counsellor (Commercial) at the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi, visited EPCH House and met with Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Additional Executive Director, EPCH; and Mr. Vikas Goyal, Joint Director, EPCH

on trade and industry. He noted that such an initiative would enable businesses from both countries to explore each other's markets more extensively and encourage participation in trade fairs and exhibitions held in India and Sri Lanka. This exchange, he added, would serve as a platform for mutual growth by broadening market access and enhancing visibility of handicraft products from both nations.

Minister Counsellor Mr. Dissanayake expressed his agreement and enthusiasm for the proposals. He

highlighted strong prospects for collaboration between Sri Lanka's Export Development Board (EDB) and India's EPCH, emphasising coordinated efforts to plan and implement trade promotion activities, including joint participation in trade fairs, export facilitation programmes and capacity-building initiatives for handicraft exporters.

The meeting concluded on a positive and forward-looking note, with both sides expressing a firm commitment to take concrete steps toward initiating the proposed barter delegation exchanges and collaborative trade promotion efforts. ■

19th November 2025, New Delhi: India and Sri Lanka share long-standing cultural ties and complementary strengths across home décor, natural materials, textiles, fashion accessories and giftware. Both sides acknowledge significant potential for deeper cooperation in design, quality enhancement, market access and logistics to serve institutional buyers, independent retail and e-commerce channels across South Asia and key global markets.

In a move to strengthen bilateral trade, Mr. Lakshendra Geshan Dissanayake, Minister Counsellor (Commercial) at the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi, visited EPCH House-head office of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and met Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Additional Executive Director, EPCH; and Mr. Vikas Goyal, Joint Director, EPCH. The meeting centred on expanding two-way trade in handicrafts and reinforcing buyer-seller linkages through joint activities in the coming months.

During the discussion, Dr. Neeraj Khanna proposed fostering stronger bilateral trade ties by encouraging the Commercial Wing of the Sri Lankan High Commission to work closely with the Commerce and Trade Department of the Government of Sri Lanka. He suggested facilitating a formal exchange of barter delegations focused



EPCH participates in Board of Trade Meeting with industry leaders from EPCs and trade associations

Presents key recommendations on behalf of the Indian Handicrafts Export Trade

23rd November 2025: An EPCH delegation including Mr. Ravi K Passi, Former Chairman and COA Member, EPCH; and Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Additional Executive Director, EPCH, met Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, along with Mr. Rajesh Agarwal, Secretary (Commerce); Mr. Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary & DGFT; Mr. Amitabh Kumar, Additional Secretary; Mr. Nitin Yadav, Additional Secretary; and Industry Ministers from various State Governments in New Delhi, during the Board of Trade Meeting with industry leaders from EPCs and trade associations. The meeting focused on aligning trade bodies, policymakers and EPCs to enhance India's export performance and global competitiveness.

Key recommendations to strengthen handicraft exports included building global market linkages with warehousing and fulfilment support, enhancing Interest Equalisation benefits, reviving income-tax incentives, fast-tracking Export Promotion Mission schemes, enabling B2B e-commerce exports, including handicraft HS codes

under RBI relief measures, and extending MGNREGA coverage to artisans for stronger livelihood security. The Hon'ble Ministers and senior officials gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured consideration of suitable measures to support the export sector. ■

