

## EPCH signs MoU with CAPEXIL

**Facilitates export documentation for animal products/ derivatives**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Export Promotion Council For Handicrafts (EPCH) & Chemicals and Allied products EPC (CAPEXIL) towards issuance of export facilitating documents for trade in animal products/ derivatives. The Notification No. 34/2015-2020 issued by DGFT on Export Policy of Animal by-products (handicrafts of bone, horn and coral, etc. (<http://dgft.gov.in/Exim/2000/NOT/NOT16/NOT13417.pdf>)) mandates that the exports of such products to European Union is allowed subject to issuance of Shipment Clearance Certificate and Health certificate. These are issued by CAPEXIL and in order to facilitate, the handicrafts exporters obtain these certificates, EPCH has signed an MOU with this Council.

In case any member exporter of EPCH wishes to obtain the abovementioned certificates, they can directly approach CAPEXIL and pay requisite fees for Plant Approval Certificate (PAC) and Shipment Clearance Certificate (SCC) directly to CAPEXIL. EPCH member exporters are not required to become members of CAPEXIL for this purpose, as the RCMC of EPCH will be enough for availing this facility. ■

## Indian handicrafts sector exempted from minimum salary condition for foreign designers

**Exemption valid upto 2020, decision hailed by sector**

The Indian handicrafts sector has been exempted from minimum salary condition (Rs. 16.25 lakhs per annum) for grant of employment visa to foreign designers. This is applicable for a period of 2 years i.e. till 30th June 2020.

EPCH had sought the intervention of Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, for getting the exemption from the minimum salary condition for grant of employment visa to foreign designers. Her prompt action has helped the sector obtain the exemption, which would help handicraft exporters hire international designers from across the globe as per their requirement. Said Shri Rakesh Kumar, ED, EPCH.

Shri Ratnesh Kumar Jha, Additional Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) O/o DC (Handicrafts), West Block 7, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110 066 Ph. No. 011-26191659 / 26177781 has been nominated as nodal authority for the purpose of furnishing recommendation to the Indian Mission/Post concerned in respect of each individual case of foreign designers to be granted employment visa. On receipt of the recommendation, the applicant will have to upload the recommendation letter with the visa application. ■

## USA's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to benefit exporters from developing countries

US Generalized System (GSP) programme designed to promote economic growth in the developing world was in process since 1976 and India is one of the beneficiary countries under this programme. The programme expired on 31st December, 2017 and normal tariff duties are to apply for import of GSP eligible goods. The renewal of GSP programme is law making process that requires US Congressional approval and will be taking time to be in process in again. Pending renewal of GSP programme, Law Makers of United States of America have recommended that exporters exporting commodities under GSP to US should clearly mention and tag appropriately GSP eligible importations with the Special Program Indicator (SPI) "A" so that if US decides to extend the GSP programme, it should facilitate ease of tracking and passing on benefit retrospectively by US authorities concerned to the exporters. ■

## UV curable coating facility at CFC-Saharanpur

Managing an industrial wood finishing operation is demanding, and survival in today's business climate is not possible by ignoring these issues. For the wood finisher, it is essential to use finishes that are less labour intensive and are applied and dried fast to facilitate high-production speeds. They must also have a low impact on the work and natural environment. New technology is making a dramatic impact, but the transition to new finish and their associated processes can be costly to implement and time consuming to learn. EPCH taken an initiative in this direction by Setting up UV Curable Coating plant at CFC-Saharanpur. The plant is functional to provide its services to members w.e.f. 5th May 2018. Members are requested to avail the services. Contact : Mr. Mohd Asif, Incharge, CFC-Saharanpur; Tel.: 0132-2613093; 09027463858. ■

# EPCH celebrates International Yoga Day 2018

**His Excellency, Ambassador of Turkey to India, Mr. Sakir Ozkan Torunlar  
graces occasion as Chief Guest**



Chief Guest at the session, His Excellency, Ambassador of Turkey to India, Mr. Sakir Ozkan Torunlar, being welcomed by Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH



Left : The Yoga session in progress

Below: HE, Ambassador of Turkey to India, Mr. Sakir Ozkan Torunlar, flanked by Mr. O P Prahladka, Chairman, EPCH; Mr. Ravi K Passi, Vice Chairman, EPCH; COA member, Mr. Rajesh Jain; and Mr. R K Verma, Director, EPCH

EPCH observed the International Yoga Day (21 June 2018) with an invigorating therapeutic yoga session at the Panch Shila Club, New Delhi, with around 100 exporters and their families. His Excellency, Ambassador of Turkey to India, Mr. Sakir Ozkan Torunlar, was the Chief Guest and was greeted by Mr. OP Prahladka, Chairman, EPCH and Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH. Turkey was one of the initial countries that supported the Indian resolution to United Nation for declaration of 21st June as International yoga day.

This session was conducted by a Hath Yoga practitioner, having expertise in Vinyasa Yoga. During the one-hour session various breathing exercises and Yoga asanas were performed and their benefits explained to the participants. A Naturopathy expert was also present on the occasion and explained the benefit of eating healthy and eating right.



HE, Ambassador of Turkey to India, awarding best performers at the session



A commemorative photograph of the Chief Guest with the participants

Best Yoga performer awards were also given on the occasion in various categories like, best yogic body, best flexible body, best yoga pose, best youngest yogi boy, best youngest yogi girl and best elderly yogi. The objective of the programme was to recognise Yoga as a holistic approach to health and well-being and raise awareness on the benefits of practicing it on a daily basis. ■