

## Mr. O P Prahladka elected as Chairman and Mr. Arshad Mir elected as Co-Chairman of Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC)



Mr. O P Prahladka has been elected as new Chairman and Mr. Arshad Mir has been elected as new Co-Chairman of Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC), during the 21st GC meeting held on 4th July 2019.

Mr. Prahladka, from M/S Hitaishi KK Manufacturing Company Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, ex-Chairman, EPCH and a leading handicrafts exporter from the Eastern Region of the country, has been instrumental in the establishment of the Handicrafts and Carpet Skill Development Council (HCSSC). He is also the founder member of HCSSC. He has also played a significant role in driving the growth of handicrafts in the Eastern Region, in the North East, and at national level by mentoring several artisan groups and new handicraft enterprises.

Mr. Arshad Mir of M/s. Mir Handicrafts Pvt. Ltd., is a successful entrepreneur who has long been supporting the people of Jammu & Kashmir by way of developing a strong social business enterprise. He has numerous achievements and laurels to his credit despite being from the toughest terrain of the country, both from the logistic point of view as well as the conditions. Alongside being an active social worker, philanthropist and exporter, he has been the Vice Chairman of EPCH, and has also represented various Boards and Committees. Mr. Mir is very passionate about working for the development of artisans in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He intends to bring these artisans into the mainstream by facilitating them with skill development opportunities under Skill India Mission of the Govt. of India. His vision is to empower all the artisans of Jammu and Kashmir through creating better livelihood opportunities for them and contribute to the development of the state. His efforts are directed towards strengthening the handicrafts value chain in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and make it a sustainable livelihood option for the youth of the state. ■

## EPCH raises handicraft sector's issues in a meeting with Minister of State for Commerce and Industries

New Delhi; 2nd July 2019 : A delegation of handicraft exporters led by Mr. Ravi K. Passi, Chairman, EPCH, met Shri Som Prakash, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industries and raised various issues pertaining to the handicrafts sector and also suggested measures to enhance exports of handicrafts in the country. Important issues raised during the discussion included classification problem related to MEIS incentives for stone and marble handicrafts, additional funds for branding and promotion under Market Access Initiative scheme of Ministry of Commerce, inclusion of buyers from developed countries in MAI scheme for invitation to RBSMs in India, sale to foreign tourist to be considered as deemed exports, GST refunds, handicrafts to be included under Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL), exemption from 100% examination of shipments getting opened on account of Risky Exporters Listing, cover to handicrafts exporters under ECGC schemes to be prioritised, opening of warehouses in markets like Latin America and CIS countries. The Hon'ble Minister gave a patient hearing to all the issues raised during the meeting and assured all necessary intervention in the matter. ■