

Awareness Seminar on European Union Deforestation Prevention Regulation (EUDR) - compliance requirement and challenges

IHGF Delhi Fair Spring 2026 strategically timed, with special focus on Furniture, Jodhpur



Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH alongwith Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General in the role Chief Mentor, EPCH and Chairman IEML, addressing the august gathering at the seminar on European Union Deforestation Prevention Regulation (EUDR) - compliance requirement and challenges . The event also saw presence of Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. Hansraj Baheti, COA Member, EPCH; and prominent member exporters from Rajasthan: Mr. Naresh Bothra, Mr. Nirmal Bhandari, Mr. Lekhraj Maheswari, Mr. Radheshyam Ranga, Mr. Raju Mehta and Mr. Priyesh Bhandari.

Key Issues and New Export Opportunities Amid US Tariff Challenge addressed

23rd August 2025; EPCH organised an awareness seminar on European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), implication of US Tariff on exports of Handicrafts in Jodhpur under the chairmanship of Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH, along with Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General in the role of Chief Mentor, EPCH and Chairman, IEML; Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. Hansraj Baheti, COA Member, EPCH; prominent EPCH member exporters from Rajasthan - Mr. Naresh Bothra, Mr. Nirmal Bhandari, Mr. Lekhraj Maheswari, Mr. Radheshyam Ranga, Mr. Raju Mehta and Mr. Priyesh Bhandari.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 200 exporters and stakeholders across Rajasthan as well as Mr. R K

Verma, Executive Director, EPCH; Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Additional Executive Director, EPCH; and Mr. Sachin Raj, Convenor, NCCF - Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests.

The deliberations focused on compliance requirement and challenges faced by wooden exporters with respect to EUDR and concerns around global trade volatility, production constraints and recent US tariffs impact.

The seminar focused on EUDR compliance, emphasising traceable sourcing, documentation and risk mitigation to access EU markets. It also addressed global trade volatility, US tariff impacts, and MSME concerns on compliance and supply chain documentation.

Highlighting the strategic rationale, Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General in the role of Chief Mentor, EPCH and Chairman IEML shared, "the European Union's deforestation regulations present a critical challenge for wooden handicraft exporters, particularly MSMEs and



Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General in the role Chief Mentor, EPCH and Chairman IEML, urges exporters to expand footprint in emerging & high-potential regions such as EU, the Middle East, East Asia and Latin America

artisan-based enterprises. While we fully support sustainable and responsible trade, it is essential to recognise the unique nature of our wooden handicrafts sector, which relies on agroforestry and does not contribute to deforestation." He further added "the sector must also navigate issues like the recent US tariff hike. The US accounts for over 40% of India's handicrafts exports, and the new tariff could reduce shipments by nearly one-third. At this juncture, targeted interventions, combined with market alignment, are crucial and EPCH is committed to balance export promotion with policy advocacy to protect our handicraft exporters."

Dr. Kumar urged exporters to expand footprint in emerging and high-potential regions such as the European Union, the Middle East, East Asia and Latin America. This diversification would not only reduce dependence on a single market but also open new growth opportunities for Indian exporters.

Highlighting the importance of awareness seminar on EUDR Mr. Hansraj Baheti, COA Member, EPCH shared, "it is essential for Indian exporters, especially those in the wooden handicrafts and furniture segments, to understand the implications of this new regulation. Through this seminar, we aim to equip our stakeholders with the right knowledge to navigate these evolving compliance frameworks, mitigate risks and remain competitive in environmentally sensitive markets like the EU."

Design & Technology Development Workshop (DDW) on Metal Craft inaugurated

The dignitaries also inaugurated a Design & Technology Development Workshop (DDW) on metal craft. This initiative aims to upgrade technical skills, design innovation and product diversification in metal handicrafts—one of India's strongest traditional segments.

Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH shared that "in addition to fair planning and policy dialogue, skill development remains our top priority. Through workshops like DDW, we are helping artisans and MSMEs modernise their offerings and compete globally. At the same time, we are actively working with government agencies to seek urgent relief from the impacts of the retaliatory tariff imposed by the U.S. on Indian handicrafts. Mr. Agarwal also shared IHGF Delhi in february is going to be mega fair for Jodhpur".



Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH alongwith Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General in the role of Chief Mentor, EPCH and Chairman, IEML; Mr. Raviveer Choudhary, Assistant Director, O/o Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles; Mr. Avdesh Agarwal, Chief Convenor, EPCH; Mr. Hansraj Baheti, COA Member, EPCH; and prominent member exporters from Rajasthan: Mr. Lekhraj Maheswari and Mr. Radheshyam Ranga; Mr. R K Verma, Executive Director, EPCH, inaugurate the Design & Technology Development Workshop (DDW) & Guru Shishya Hastshilp Prashikshan Program on Metal Craft at Jodhpur





Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH shares that the 61st IHGF Delhi Fair Spring 2026 will deliver a more business-centric and productive platform for Indian furniture exporters

New Dates for 61st IHGF Delhi Fair as Special Furniture Edition announced

This was followed by the announcement of the 61st IHGF-Delhi Fair "Special Furniture Edition," scheduled from 14th to 18th February 2026 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida. Stakeholders, participants and visitors have always been waiting to explore new business opportunities through this highly anticipated trade event, which welcomes overseas buyers, buying and sourcing professionals, as well as large-volume domestic retail buyers.

Announcing new dates Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, EPCH shared, "this decision comes in response to detailed consultations and feedback received from overseas buyers, the Buying Agents Association and leading exporters from major furniture-producing hubs like Jaipur, Jodhpur and Saharanpur. Exporters had expressed concerns over the traditional March dates, citing production slowdowns during Ramadan and Holi and the tendency of buyers to shift focus to Far East sourcing during that time. IHGF Delhi Fair

right after Ambiente would ensure maximum participation from international buyers, particularly those sourcing furniture and home products. He further added, "with additional spaces, dedicated halls exclusively for Indian furniture exhibitors-both established and emerging and a theme-driven approach; the 61st IHGF Delhi Fair Spring will deliver a more business-centric and productive platform for Indian furniture exporters. I have a special appeal to Jodhpur's exhibitors and exporters renowned worldwide for their wooden furniture, lifestyle products and unique craft traditions to display and leverage this unparalleled platform to expand global market reach and make 61st edition a milestone edition of the fair."

Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General in the role of Chief Mentor, EPCH and Chairman IEML, said, "by holding the IHGF Delhi Fair immediately after Ambiente, we are capturing the peak of global sourcing momentum. It allows Indian exporters to secure timely orders and meet international demand schedules more effectively." He further added, "With 61st edition being specially focused on furniture, the fair will offer an expanded platform to showcase India's manufacturing strengths at a time when global buyers are actively sourcing for the upcoming seasons." Exporters were also encouraged to explore the domestic market and the to be launched India's first B2B Cash & Carry store in Jodhpur, Jaipur & Moradabad.

Mr. R K Verma, Executive Director, EPCH shared "rescheduling of the 61st IHGF Delhi Fair - Spring 2026 reflects EPCH's responsiveness to the evolving needs of the handicrafts sector. The fair's rescheduling is not just about new dates, it's about renewed focus. On the other hand, the recent retaliatory tariff imposed by the United States poses a serious concern. EPCH has taken proactive steps by engaging with the government, recommending emergency relief measures and fast-tracking trade dialogues. We are also focused on market diversification and building long-term competitiveness to support our exporters during this challenging phase", he added.

