



Hon'ble Commerce Minister Shri Piyush Goyal Lays Foundation stone for the Mega Common Facility Centre at SEEPZ

- *Commerce Minister urges the gem and jewellery industry to focus on 3 Ts – Technology, Trade and Training*
 - *Make the Indian gem and jewellery industry a global champion!*
- *Mega CFC is a step closer towards attaining the Atmanirbhar Bharat dream*

Mumbai, 18th December 2021: Honourable Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal laid foundation stone for Mega Common Facility Centre at Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone Special Economic Zone on Saturday in the presence of Shri Colin Shah, Chairman GJEPC and Shri Shyam Jagannathan, The Zonal Development Commissioner SEEPZ, SEZ along with others.

The stone laying ceremony marked the onset of the Mega CFC, Mumbai Project which is a dream project worth Rs. 70 crore and would be an epicentre of skill training and an important business facilitation centre situated in the heart of the country's significant manufacturing centre for gems and jewellery.

Commenting on this occasion Shri Piyush Goyal said, I have rarely seen a faster execution of any project like the Mega CFC. Today's stone laying ceremony should culminate in the inauguration of Mega CFC on 1st May 2023, which is an important date – Labour Day, Maharashtra Day and the 50th anniversary of SEEPZ. However, do not compromise on quality and purchase the best equipment. The CFC building should be an iconic design. We need to have much bigger ambitions. The Govt. will do everything to reach the outstanding export numbers that GJEPC aims to achieve. SEEPZ will have an important role in our plans going forward. I urge the industry to focus on 3 Ts - technology, Trade and Training.

“The gem and jewellery sector has power, promise and potential to truly realise the dream of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It's time now to make this gem and jewellery sector in India truly a global champion, reflecting India's promise, capabilities, trust and let's make the next decade, the defining decade for the gem and jewellery sector.”

Shri Colin Shah, GJEPC Chairman, said, “The mega CFC at SEEPZ will redefine the future of the G&J industry. We are thankful to the commerce Ministry, it has been a strong pillar of support to resolve our issues and understand our requests to help fulfil this dream of the Mega CFC, Mumbai Project. There is a commitment of Rs 200 crore for the rejuvenation and redevelopment of SEEPZ-SEZ, and the establishment of a mega CFC with a budget of Rs 70

crore. This project aims to bring the gem and jewellery sector one step closer to the Atmanirbhar Bharat envisioned for the nation.”

“Currently the SEEPZ contributes around USD 3 billion to our total gem and jewellery exports annually, but with better infrastructure and technology, the SEEPZ definitely can contribute to USD 7 billion to USD 10 billion annually. I am sure the Mega CFC will facilitate the required technology to boost the exports from the SEEPZ.” adds Colin.

Shri Shyam Jagannathan, The Zonal Development Commissioner SEEPZ, SEZ stated that Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India laid the foundation stone for the Mega Common Facility Centre for Gems and Jewellery sector at SEEPZ, SEZ. The new Mega CFC will give a fillip to small manufacturers to scale up their quality of production and this, in turn, will further contribute substantially to the exports of the country. The Mega CFC would not just be a facility for imparting training and skills, but a strong symbol of progression.”

The mega Common Facility Centre (CFC) for gems and jewellery will be one of two such facilities (the other being at Surat) that shall provide cutting edge technology for manufacturing and other allied processes in gems and jewellery, and also support skilling and training for a competent workforce in the sector since the Indian gems and jewellery industry has the largest and skilled workforce of 4.3 million as on date.

The mega CFC, will provide common manufacturing processes and related services to jewellery units. This will not only help to reduce the cost of production in a big way but also lead to the transfer of know-how amongst these units, thereby providing a competitive advantage to them.

The centre will provide access to a common pool of high-end capital-intensive state-of-art machines. It will provide a wide spectrum of ancillary services such as Cad cam, electroplating, fire assaying, manufacturing, 3D metal printing, etc. along with providing consultancy, R&D and training. Mega CFC facilities will be made available at a reasonable rate not only to SEEPZ-SEZ units but also to factories outside the zone which will improve the output in terms of quality, productivity and yield of the finished jewellery. The mega CFC will serve as a platform for technology transfer and re-skilling of the existing artisans by providing them training on various aspects pertaining to manufacturing studded jewellery.

About The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), set up by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India (GoI) in 1966, is one of several Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) launched by the Indian Government, to boost the country's export thrust, when India's post-Independence economy began making forays in the international markets. Since 1998, the GJEPC has been granted autonomous status. The GJEPC is the apex body of gems & jewellery industry and today represents 7000 exporters in the sector. With headquarters in Mumbai, GJEPC has Regional Offices in New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Surat and Jaipur, all of which are major centres for the industry. It thus has a wide reach and is able to have a closer interaction with members to serve them in a direct and more meaningful manner. Over the past decades, GJEPC has emerged as one of the most active EPCs, and has

continuously strived to both expand its reach and depth in its promotional activities as well as widen and increase services to its members.

ABOUT SEEPZ

Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ), one of the largest and oldest export processing zone, was set up on 1st May, 1973 as a uni-product EPZ exclusively for manufacture and export of electronic items in an area of 111 acres of land leased through the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Andheri (East), which over the years has become a landmark of Mumbai. The objective was to accelerate the progress of electronics manufacturing in India.

Considering the high potential of the Gems & Jewellery Industry, the Government of India decided to permit the manufacture and export of Gems & Jewellery items from SEEPZ during 1987-88, which soon gave it a glamorous twist.

There are over 150 jewellery units within, making it a single largest cluster in the country and possibly in the world. The Gems & Jewellery sector within the zone employs about 50,000 people, of which one-third are women.

The main objectives of the SEZ Act are to promote export, attract investment from domestic and foreign sources, instil investor confidence, generate employment opportunities, create industry-friendly infrastructure, among others.

SEEPZ SEZ has a well-connected network of central roads, business facilitation centre, central warehouse, foreign post office, offshore banking unit, authorised dealer of foreign exchange, convention centre, in-house custom clearance facility, uninterrupted power supply, among others.

For more information contact:

Dolly Choudhary, Director, PM&BD, GJEPC; M: +91 9987753823; e-mail: dolly@gjepcindia.com

Pradeesh Gopalan; M: +91 7045795199; e-mail: pradeesh.gopalan@gjepcindia.com