



*For immediate release*

## **Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray Agrees To Partner With Industry For Building Iconic Jewellery Park In Mumbai**

**4<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Mumbai:** A GJEPC delegation met with Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri. Uddhav Thackeray on 4th June at his official residence Varsha, in Mumbai to brief him about the India Jewellery Park Mumbai (IJPM) mega cluster project, and to request immediate support from the state government on certain pressing issues.

Led by GJEPC Chairman Colin Shah, the delegation included Vice Chairman Vipul Shah, Kirit Bhansali, Chairman, India Jewellery Park Mumbai, and Committee of Administration Member Russell Mehta.

Mr Aditya Thakeray, Minister for Environment and Tourism, Mr Sitaram Kunte, Chief Secretary, Mr Ajoy Mehta, Senior Advisor to Chief Minister, Mr Ashish Singh, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister were present from the Govt of Maharashtra in the meeting.

The Chief Minister responded positively to a proposal from GJEPC to partner with it on the IJPM project. Shri. Thackeray went a step further and noted that the IJPM building should be conceived as an iconic and visionary edifice with the potential to become a famous Mumbai landmark and tourist attraction in the state of Maharashtra.

Shri. Thackeray advised GJEPC that in order to keep manufacturing activities running and to prevent any adverse economic impact to the state caused by lockdown-type situations in the long run, the IJPM project should provide on-site low-cost housing facilities to workers. This will ensure that the workers would remain safe in the city and there would be little or no loss to jewellery manufacturers or the economy.

The Council briefed Shri. Thackeray about the IJPM's potential to contribute to Maharashtra's economic development by attracting investments of over

Rs.14,000 crore (\$1.9 billion) and enhancing India's global competitiveness. The project is expected to create employment opportunities for over 1 lakh workers in the state. GJEPC has already deposited the earnest money and first instalment to MIDC and the Honourable CM also consented to be the Chief Guest for handover ceremony of the land to GJEPC. The State Govt has also assured for a meeting in coming weeks with all concerned departments to thrash out different modalities of the project.

During the meeting, Colin Shah raised other key concerns such as difficulties faced when opening current accounts with non-lending banks; waiving of stamp duty on imports of gold bullion in Maharashtra; stamp duty exemption on registration of sub-lease agreements by the SEEPZ-SEZ Units; and waiving of stamp duty on loan and security documents executed to avail export finance.

The Council also appealed to the Chief Minister that the Parichay Card (identity card) issued to every industry worker should be recognised by the Home Department of the Government of Maharashtra.

### **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.

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