



Activity Report





From the Chairman's desk

Dear Members of The Gem & Jewellery Skill Council of India,

The year 2014-15 has been a very eventful year with the commencement of a new Government and a hope for 'Acche Din' in our nation. Our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is strongly focussing on 'Skill India', thus increasing the importance of each Sector Skill Council. The Gem & Jewellery industry has been earmarked as one of the priority sectors which contributes to almost 7% of India's GDP, with employing approx. 4 million people and a need to train another 3-4 million individuals by the year 2022.

To achieve such a colossal target ahead of us, one of the key highlights was last year's Star Scheme, where 36,838 individuals were trained, assessed and certified by GJSCI. We have created National Occupational Standards for 117 Qualification Packs required to train artisans in this industry, which will cover 80% of the manpower requirements. We have also developed curriculums in multiple Indian languages to support the training in this regard. Another key highlight for our Council was the approval of 76 Qualification Packs by the Qualification Review Committee (QRC), which were validated by industry veterans, while the rest are under process for validation from Industry.

Last year, we signed an MoU with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) for collaboration on the WorldSkills Competition. The WorldSkills competition is the biggest vocational education and skills excellence event in the world that truly reflects global industry, held every 2 years for participants under the age of 22 years. GJSCI has taken the responsibility to identify and train India's candidates for the WorldSkills International event till the year 2021. In the year 2013, GJSCI supported Mr. Bhabesh Jana at Worldskills 2013, and earned a Medallion of Honor for India. This year, after regional rounds across various states in India, 2 shortlisted participants were announced at the India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) 2014. Mr. Surajith Rana was finalised to represent India for gem & jewellery making segment in August 2015 at Sao Paulo, and after winning a Silver Medal in Oceania Competition held in New Zealand, has recently won the Medallion of Honor for India.

We have also initiated conversation with Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) to collaborate and launch state government funded vocational training programs in the gem and jewellery sector. To support the industry in Rajasthan and encourage more vocational trainings in our sector, Indian Institute of Gem & Jewellery (IIGJ), Jaipur was upgraded to be our 'Centre of Excellence'. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with RSLDC this year to initiate various activities and promote the artisans in Jaipur and other states of Rajasthan.

During the year, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Kerala as well as Government of West Bengal. Prominent jewellers from each of these states have got on board as our State Skill Advisory Committee to help us reach out to small, medium and large scale jewellery organisations and co-ordinate with the state government.

We have initiated an Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) project in Kerala to target students at the school and college levels, encouraging them to make a career in the gem & jewellery industry. For the pilot phase, we have selected 2 job roles – Hand Sketch Designer and Jewellery Retail Sales Associate (JRSA) – Basic, where we have trained 273 candidates so far. Out of the candidates trained, 78 candidates got employed with various jewellery organisations.

GJSCI also tackled a concern among female students in Kerala where they were not permitted to leave homes to work. For such candidates, GJSCI arranged for remote internships. The objective of the programme is to help candidates work from their home with partnered companies who will give assignments to students via e-mail/skype. A stipulated time period will be given to students for completion, post which they can scan and send their work. Upon satisfactory completion, companies can even absorb students who excel in their work, and they can continue to work on salary basis from the convenience of their home.

While MoUs have been signed with Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM) and Pune University, there has been no progress so far, however GJSCI is closely working with local MPs and trade body to initiate process of a programme similar to ASAP in each of these locations.

The National Skill Development Agency (NSDA) along with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), organized a National Workshop on ‘Strategy Planning for Implementing RPL for Informal Sector Workers’. A very important outcome was the shortlist of Gem & Jewellery as one of the key sectors to conduct pilot studies on the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme. This also led to the signing of an MoU with Surat Diamond Association (SDA) to upskill 20,000 artisans under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme dedicated to Diamond Processing job roles.

This year also saw GJSCI go digital with a revamped website at www.gjsci.org along with entering social media platforms i.e. Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. As the world is going digital, we hope to increase our visibility and reach out to our target audience all across India.

We also held a Training Partners Meet this year to streamline the processes and systems among current and prospective Training Partners and help them understand procedures along with resolving any of their queries or concerns.

To promote GJSCI among the trade, we initiated participation in all Gem & Jewellery Trade shows and succeeded in reaching out to maximum exhibitors in this Trade Shows. This year too, we plan to participate in major trade shows across India as well as promote in key trade magazines through advertisements and press releases to circulate in the Gem & Jewellery Industry.

We have also initiated plans to prepare manuals and encyclopedias for the different tools used in the industry, suitability of each, how artisans can use them best and update on what is newly available in the Industry.

With a total of 135 Training Partners, 14 Assessment Agencies and over 400 Training Centres, we have taken a lot of progressive steps this year to make our G&J industry more organised. While it is still a very closed sector and we still have a long way to go to achieve the common goal of Skill Development, I thank all the members of GJSCI who are committed to this objective and continue to support us in making our nation a truly ‘Skilled’ one.

Warm Regards,



Premkumar Kothari
Chairman

Our Activities:

9th April 2014:

The GJSCI CEO attended a meeting of all the Sector Skill Councils at the NSDC office in Delhi. The meeting was called to review the performance under the STAR Scheme and plan the way forward for the new financial year 2014-15. GJSCI's target under the STAR Scheme was revised downwards to 20,000 enrolments from 50,000 allocated earlier. The targets would be reviewed on a periodic basis and revised targets for GJSCI would be considered on further review.

10th April 2014:

The Chairman and the CEO of GJSCI had a meeting with the senior level officials of the Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) at Jaipur. RSLDC is the Rajasthan State Governments nodal body for skill development. The meeting was held with Mr. M.L. Mehta, Chairman RSLDC and Mr. Gaurav Goyal, MD RSLDC. The Chairman briefed the RSLDC team about the need for skill development in the state of Rajasthan in the gems and jewellery sector. The Chairman also indicated GJSCI's keenness to collaborate with RSLDC to launch state government funded vocational training programs in the gems and jewellery sector. The RSLDC also indicated its willingness to fund and create a Centre of Excellence for gems and jewellery at Jaipur. Rather than setting up a Greenfield project the GJSCI Chairman suggested that IIGJ Jaipur be considered to be upgraded as this Centre of Excellence.

10th April 2014:

The Chairman and the CEO of GJSCI had a meeting with the Board of Directors of IIGJ Jaipur at their Sitapura Campus. The meeting was attended by Mr. Pramod Agarwal Chairman, Mr. Vijay Chordia Honorary Secretary and Prof. Dhiraj Kumar - Principal on behalf of IIGJ Jaipur. Mr. Sanjay Singh Regional Director GJEPC was also present. The Chairman visited the campus and reviewed the infrastructure at the institute. He also shared the details of the meeting with RSLDC. The GJSCI Chairman also shared a copy of the common curriculum developed by GJSCI for the 3 year programme in jewellery design and manufacturing.

11th April 2014:

Gem and Jewellery Skill Council of India signed an MoU with the National Skill Development Corporation for collaboration on the WorldSkills Competition. As per the MoU the GJSCI will take up the responsibility in identifying and training India's candidate for the WorldSkills International event till the year 2021. The MoU was signed by Mr. Dilip Chenoy, MD & CEO on behalf of NSDC and Mr. Prem Kothari, Chairman on behalf of GJSCI. Ms. Bhavna Chopra, Head – Strategic Projects, NSDC was also present at the signing ceremony. The signing of the MoU took place at the Chairman's office in Mumbai.



15th - 16th April 2014:

A Training of Trainer session was organised for Aaruthal Trust for the job role of JRSA. The training session was organised at Chennai and was attended by 7 trainers of Aaruthal. Training session was conducted by the CEO & the Regional Manager, South India of GJSCI.

24th April 2014:

The National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), along with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), organized a National Workshop on “Strategy Planning for Implementing RPL for Informal Sector Workers” The meeting was chaired by Mr. J.P. Rai, Executive Director, NSDA and Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS. This workshop was organised at NIOS Campus in New Delhi. The GJSCI CEO attended the meeting.

The primary objective of the workshop was to develop an action plan for the implementation of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for informal sector workers in India. The workshop comprised of presentations on international and national experiences related to implementation of RPL, followed by interactive question and answer sessions.



29th April 2014:

The GJSCI CEO had a meeting with Dr. Radha Chauhan, Joint Secretary Ministry Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India. Dr. Chauhan is in-charge the Secondary Education at the Ministry of HRD. The meeting was to get the acceptance of the Ministry to introduce Gems and Jewellery Designing Courses under the National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF). The Central Board of Secondary Education works under the MHRD. GJSCI’s discussions with CBSE also needed the go-ahead from Dr. Radha Chauhan. Dr. Chauhan agreed to issue a communication of acceptance to all the state governments.

30th April 2014:

The GJSCI had a meeting with Ms. Surina Rajan, Additional Chief Secretary to the Haryana State Government. Ms. Rajan is in-charge of the School Education Department of the Government of Haryana. Haryana is one of the most progressive states and is at the forefront of introducing Vocational Training for the Haryana School students. They had initiated pilot batches for 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th students in collaboration with Automobile, Retail, Security and IT / ITES Sector Skill Councils. This meeting was to update the Haryana government on GJSCI’s discussions with the Ministry of HRD & the CBSE. The objective was to introduce Jewellery Designing as an optional subject for the students.

7th May 2014:

The Chairman of GJSCI, Mr. Premkumar Kothari and the CEO had a meeting with Mr. Sanjay Bhatia, Vice Chairman and MD and Mrs. V. Radha Rao, Joint Managing Director of City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (CIDCO). CIDCO is the nodal body for developing the new International Airport coming up at Navi Mumbai. As part of the process CIDCO has acquired land from villagers for constructing the new Airport. CIDCO wants to provide a career option to the project affected personnel by providing them skill training. CIDCO will pay for the cost of the training and provide opportunities to these people for employability. CIDCO wanted to introduce Gems and Jewellery courses as well. The Chairman suggested Jewellery Design and Jewellery Retail as courses.

13th May 2014:

The Chairman and the CEO visited Thrissur, Kerala. The GJSCI formed the Kerala State Skill Advisory Committee. The Committee comprises of representatives from jewellery manufacturers and retailers of Kerala. The committee also has representation from the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme, a Kerala State Government enterprise. The objective of the Committee is to provide on-ground support to GJSCI activities in Kerala and guide the GJSCI board on requirements specifically pertaining to Kerala. The Government of Kerala through ASAP has funds available for skills training and they would like to ensure that the funds are well utilized under the aegis of the GJSCI and this new committee. The members of the first Kerala State Skill Advisory Committee are: Mr. James Jose, Managing Director, Chemanur Gold Refinery; Dr. K. M. Abraham (IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala), Mr. Riyas (Additional Skill Acquisition Program, Govt of Kerala), Mr. Raphy Antony (Peeyar Exports, Thrissur), Mr. PV Jose (State President, Jewellers Manufacturers Association, Kerala), Mr. Rajesh Kalyanaraman (Executive Director, Kalyan Jewellers, Thrissur), Mr. A. K Nishad (Executive Director, Malabar Group, Kochi), Mr. Ravinath Mohandas (Managing Director, VNM Jewel Crafts Ltd. ,Kochi), Mr. Antony Thottan (Thottan Group, Thrissur).

Mr. P.V Jose was elected as the first convener and Mr. Ravinath Mohandas as the co-convener. The first meeting was a success and the committee pledged support for the Recognition of Prior Learning pilot project at Thrissur for a 1000 goldsmiths. The committee also pledged full support to the WorldSkills regional Competition which will be held at Thrissur on 16/17/18 June 2014 at Mr. Antony Thottan's manufacturing unit.

The inauguration was presided by **Smt. M.S Jaya, IAS, District Collector**, Thrissur who extended her fullest support to Council in making the efforts successful in Kerala especially at Thrissur where approximately 55000 workers are involved in jewellery making in Kerala. She welcomed Shri. Prem Kothari, Chairman for his foresight in forming the first State Advisory Committee of the Council at Kerala. She was glad to note that the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to assess and certify 1000 workers will be implemented at Thrissur as the pilot project. There was tremendous response from the industry with more than 100 jewellers attending the event.



20th May 2014:

The Chairman and the CEO of GJSCI visited Kolkata to finalise the Venue for hosting the WorldSkills India Jewellery Regional Competition for Eastern India as well as to seek support of the industry for the Competition. The Chairman and the CEO also had meetings with influential industry leaders like Mr. Bachraj Bamalwa, Mr. Shankar Sen (SESCO), Mr. Suvro Chandra (P.C.Chandra), Mr. Subir Sen (B.C.Sen) regarding sponsorship and support for WorldSkills Regional Competition. The Chairman also briefed these industry leaders on his plans for setting up a West Bengal Skill Advisory Committee. The Chairman and the CEO also visited Sindhar Gems and Jewellery Institute (SINGEM) and Savansukh Institute of Gems and Jewellery to study their infrastructure and feasibility of hosting the WorldSkills Regional Competition. Savansukha Institute of Gems and Jewellery was finalised for the same and regional competitions will be held on 11th, 12th and 13th June 2014.

21st May 2014:

GJSCI was invited to make a presentation to the entire Board of Directors of NSDC on the progress of GJSCI as well as discuss upcoming plans. The Chairman and the CEO of GJSCI attended the meeting in Delhi. The Chairman shared his vision regarding upgrading the jewellery manufacturing units. The presentation of GJSCI was very well appreciated by the NSDC board led by Mr. S. Ramadorai, Chairman NSDC.

26th May 2014:

The CEO of GJSCI attended the convocation of the Graduating students at the Indian Institute of Jewellery (IJJ), Mumbai. The Convocation was attended by Mr. Vijay Jatia, Chairman, Modern India Ltd. and the Chief Guest for the event was Mr. Rajendra Jain, Managing Director, Swarovski Gems, India.



5th - 6th June 2014:

The Chairman and the CEO visited Titan Industries Limited unit at Hosur to understand the layout and costings of Mr. Perfect and the Karigar Centre model of Titan Company Limited. GJSCI is intending to adapt this model to create a Gems and Jewellery Centre of Excellence titled - Dakshagraam. The Senior Management Team of Titan Industries, Mr. Sanjay Ranawade and Mr. Santhosh shared all details with the GJSCI Team. They also shared the research regarding increased productivity, reduces gold loss and other statistics related to upgrading traditional manufacturing units. The Chairman also requested the Titan Team to suggest layouts for the Dakshagraam initiative.

12th June 2014:

The Chairman visited traditional gold jewellery manufacturing units in Domjur and Sinthee, Kolkata. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the Dakshagraam concept with the artisans and validate the hypothesis for the Dakshagraam initiative. The Chairman received very enthusiastic response to the concept.

13th June 2014:

The Chairman, CEO and Regional Manager – South of GJSCI met Mr. Hirdyesh Mohan, I.A.S. Secretary Technical Education and Training Department Government of West Bengal. The Chairman appraised Mr. Mohan about the activities and plans of GJSCI. The Chairman also invited Mr. Mohan to be a part of the West Bengal Skill Advisory Committee. The Chairman also discussed the Dakshagraam in detail and discussed to possibilities of the Technical Education and Training Department funding the capital expenses for the manufacturing units in Dakshagraam. Mr. Mohan indicated the possibility of jointly approaching NSDC for funding. He also indicated that the West Bengal government could play the role of Guarantors (if required). The Chairman also discussed the RPL initiative and sought the department's funding for certifying 50,000 Goldsmiths in West Bengal. Mr. Mohan also offered space at the Karigari Bhaban Salt Lake, Kolkata for GJSCI's Regional Office at no cost. He also offered GJSCI to takeover some ITIs for exclusively running Gems and Jewellery Training.

13th June 2014:

The Chairman and the CEO of GJSCI had a meeting with Mr. S. P. Yadav (Executive Director) and Mr. Jayanta Chakraborty (DGM) of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. at their office in Kolkata. A detailed presentation on the Dakshagraam project was made to WBIDC. Mr. Yadav briefed the GJSCI Chairman about the Ankurhati Gems and Jewellery Park, Domjur. Mr. Yadav indicated the possibility of providing space for the Dakshagraam project at Ankurhati. The final decision would be taken by Dr. Amit Mitra, Minister for Finance, Commerce and Industries, Government of West Bengal who is also the Chairman of WBIDC.

13th June 2014:

The First meeting of the West Bengal Skill Advisory Committee was held at Taj Bengal, Kolkata. The objective of the Committee is to provide on-ground support to GJSCI activities in West Bengal and guide the GJSCI board on the skill development needs for the state of West Bengal. The Committee will also work closely with the government of West Bengal for the Skill Development initiatives in that state. The meeting was chaired by the GJSCI Chairman Mr. Prem Kothari and Mr. Dilip Chenoy, MD and CEO of NSDC also attended the meeting as an invitee. The Committee comprises of:

- Mr. Ashok Kumar Bengani, President, Calcutta Gem & Jewellers Welfare Association 2002
- Mr. Bachraj Bamalwa, Partner, Nemichand Bamalwa & Sons
- Mr. Chinmaya Mukherjee, Dy. Director of Vocational Educational Training, Govt. of West Bengal
- Mr. Jaysukh Parekh, Partner, Ramesh Chandra Parekh Jewellers
- Mr. Mahesh Soni, Director, Bhagya Laxmi Jewellers
- Mr. Pankaj Parekh, Partner, Alankar Exports
- Mr. Bablu De (Samar), Partner, Guinea Emporium
- Mr. Sankar Sen, Chairman & MD, Senco Gold Ltd
- Mr. Siddhartha Sawansukha , CEO , Sawansukha Jewellers
- Mr. Subir Sen, Director, B.C Sen Jewellers
- Mr.Sanjay Dugar, Director, VTC Jewels Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Ashok Kumar Bengani was appointed as the Convener while Mr. Siddhartha Sawansukha as the Co-convener. The Chairman discussed the Dakshagraam and RPL initiatives which the Committee agreed to support.



13th June 2014:

The inaugural function of the West Bengal Skill Advisory Committee as well as the award Ceremony of the Regional Round of the WorldSkills India Jewellery Competition at Taj Bengal, Kolkata. Dr. Amit Mitra was the Chief Guest and Mr. Dilip Chenoy, MD and CEO was the Guest of Honour. The Minister committed to provide land and building for the Dakshagraam project at the Ankurhati Gems and Jewellery Park, Domjur. The minister also felicitated Dr, Parag Vyas and the Regional Winners of the WorldSkills India Jewellery Competition.



13th June 2014:

The National Mission on Education through Information and Communications Technology (NMEICT), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has funded a few programs for development of e-content on Skill Development which have been successfully completed. Since the need for e-content for vocational education is vast, it has now been decided to create a consortium of institutions who can together develop e-content for Computerised Vocational Education and Training.

Towards this, a National Workshop was organised on 13th June, 2014 at New Delhi. Panellists were from educational institutions, certification agencies, government departments, and industry and sector skill councils. The workshop led to brainstorming on various issues including e-Content for VET, Engaging with Sector Skill Councils, Lessons learnt from NMEICT Consortiums and finally move towards creation of a consortium for e-content development for VET. The Joint Secretary MHRD, Mr. Praveen Prakash Chaired the meeting. GJSCI was represented at the meeting by the Manager - Quality Assurance. Gem and Jewellery SSC was selected in pilot phase.

18th June 2014:

A telephonic conference meeting of the GJSCI board was held, which was chaired by Mr. Prem Kothari. The other Directors who attended the meeting were Mr. C.V.Venkataraman, Ms. Nirupa Bhatt, Mr. Ashok Minawala and Mr. Vinod Hyagriv. The Chairman updated the Board on the STAR Scheme and the WorldSkills India Jewellery Competition progress. The Board also approved the formation of the West Bengal and Kerala Skill Advisory Committees of the GJSCI.

20th June 2014:

The GJSCI had attended a workshop on RPL organised by NSDA on April 24 2014. Subsequent to the meeting GJSCI had submitted a proposal to NSDA for Certifying Goldsmiths. NSDA in principal had approved the GJSCI proposal and requested a meeting in Delhi on 20th June, 2014 to finalise the same. The CEO of GJSCI attended this meeting. Mr. J.P.Rai Executive Director NSDA, Dr. Paul Comyn from International Labour Organisation and Mr. Parth S. Banerjee from Deft Advisory and Research Pvt. Ltd. were on the panel that reviewed the GJSCI proposal. GJSCI was the first SSC to have the project approved.

27th June 2014:

The Chairman of the GJSCI, Mr. Premkumar Kothari who had visited United Kingdom for personal reasons, had meetings with the Holts Academy, The Goldsmith Centre, The UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) and Dr. Chris Corti. The Holts Academy and The Goldsmith Centre are training institutes imparting Gems and Jewellery training in London. The Chairman had discussions on possible exchanges of students and faculty on a reciprocal basis. The Chairman also studied the model followed by them for the WorldSkills International Jewellery Competition. Discussions were held regarding a scholarship being provided to the India Winner of WorldSkills for further training in the UK. UKCES plays a role in UK similar to NSDC in India. The Chairman had the discussion with UKCES regarding travel grants under the UK-India Education and Research Initiative. The Chairman also had a meeting with Dr. Chriss Corti who was earlier heading the Gold Technology Initiative of the World Gold Council and is also considered one of the foremost experts in Gold Manufacturing worldwide. The Chairman discussed bringing a panel of international experts to India for Technology upgradation of Indian Manufacturing units. They also had a discussion regarding bringing the Santa Fe Symposium to India.

9th - 10th July 2014:

NSDC called for a meeting of all Sector Skills Councils at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The CEO of GJSCI attended this meet. All SSCs shared their Annual operating Plans, Learning and achievements of STAR, Progress and achievements in various Projects. 20 other Sector Skill Councils also participated in the meeting. Presentations were made by Mr. Rajiv Mathur (Principal - Standards and QA, NSDC), Mr. Jaikant Singh (Head – Partnership & State Alliances, NSDC) and Mr. Basab Banerjee (Head, Standards and QA, NSDC). Presentation on International Projects was shared by Ms. Bhavna Chopra (Head – Strategic Projects, NSDC). Presentation on SDMS & Non STAR Certification was shared by Dr. Sapna Poti (Principal - MIS and Monitoring, NSDC). The session was closed by Mr. Atul Bhatnagar.

23rd - 24th June 2014:

In continuation with the meetings held with Ms. Radha Chauhan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of HRD and Dr. Biswajit Saha of the CBSE regarding introduction of Gems and Jewellery Courses in CBSE schools, GJSCI was invited to the workshop in order to finalise the curriculum and content for the CBSE courses developed by us. The meeting was Chaired by Dr. V.S. Mehrotra, Professor and Head, National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) Cell of The PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education at the PSSCIVE's office at Bhopal. Mr. Devindar Layal, Consultant attended the meeting on behalf of GJSCI.

24th June 2014:

The MD and CEO of NSDC, Mr. Dilip Chenoy called for a one-on-one meeting of all the SSC CEOs to discuss the progress on the STAR Scheme. This meeting was crucial as the STAR Scheme was entering its last quarter. The GJSCI CEO attended this meeting in Delhi at the NSDC office.

14th July 2014:

The Chairman and the CEO of GJSCI attended a meeting with Mr. Jageshwar Saharia, I.A.S, Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra. This meeting was arranged by Mr. Dilip Chenoy, CEO and MD, NSDC. The meeting was

also attended by the BFSI and Retail Sector Skill Councils. Mr. Rajiv Mathur from NSDC also attended the meeting. The main purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Mumbai based SSCs to the Maharashtra Government and explore the possibility of working together for Skill Development initiatives in the state. The response from the State Government was not very encouraging.

17th July 2014:

The Finals of the WorldSkills India Jewellery Competition were being held at the India International Jewellery Show 2014 at the NSE Grounds, Mumbai. The IJS is the biggest platform for the Gems and Jewellery Industry and is ranked one of the top gems and jewellery shows in the world. The GJSCI had taken up space at this prestigious exhibition venue for holding the finals of the WorldSkills India Jewellery Competition. The finals saw the participation from 8 winners of the regional rounds. The names of the finalists were: Aditi Varshnay, Anuj Kumar Yadav, Balwan Soni, Banthia Ayush Deepa, Shiv Chandan, Surijithrana. H, Vicky K. and Vinodh Kumar C.

The Finals were inaugurated by Mr. Atul Bhatnagar, COO, NSDC and the GJSCI Chairman Mr. Premkumar Kothari. The inauguration was also attended by Col. Arora, Head of Indian Institute of Gems and Jewellery, Mumbai, Mr. Prabir Chatterji, one of India’s leading Jewellery Manufacturers and Mr. Siddhartha Sawansukha, Co-convener, GJSCI’s West Bengal Skill Advisory Committee and Head of Sawansukha Institute of Jewellery, Kolkata.



17th July 2014:

The GJSCI was invited by the IJS organisers to host a panel discussion at the IJS Seminars. The topic of the panel discussion was on skill development “Train to Gain”. The panellists for the discussion were Mr. Premkumar Kothari, Chairman – GJSCI and CMD Fine Jewellery Manufacturing Ltd.; Ms. Nirupa Bhatt, MD - India and Middle East, GIA; Mr. C.K. Venkataraman, CEO Jewellery, Titan Company Ltd.; Mr. D.D. Karel Director N.M. Karel & Co. The panel discussion was moderated by the GJSCI CEO. The discussions were attended by over a 100 visitors and were very well received.

20th July 2014:

The Finals of the WorldSkills India Jewellery Competition were being held from 17th – 20th July 2014 at the GJSCI booth of IJS 2014. After four days of intense competition amongst the 8 finalists, a jury comprising of Mr. Devinder Loyal, Ms. Afshan Adlakha and Mr. Murari Gandhi evaluated the performance. Mr. Surajith Rana from Coimbatore and Mr. Vinodh Kumar C. from Bengluru were declared the winners. These two winners will undergo extensive training for a period of 1 year and then compete amongst each other to represent India at the WorldSkills International Competition 2015 being held in August at Sao Paulo, Brazil. The two winners are undergoing training at the Grau Bar Studios, Indore under the able guidance of WorldSkills Jewellery Expert Dr. Parag Vyas. A glittering ceremony to announce the names of winners was held at the GJSCI booth on 20th of July 2014. The winners were announced by Mr. Premkumar Kothari, Chairman, GJSCI, GJF Chairman Mr. Haresh Soni and the GJEPC Vice Chairman Mr. Pankaj Parekh. Other dignitaries in attendance were Mr. Nirmal Barmecha and Mr. Vasant Mehta from

GJEPC, Mr. P. V. Jose Convener GJSCI's Kerala Skill Advisory Committee and Mr. Sumesh Wadhera, Managing Editor, Art of Jewellery Magazine.

29th - 30th July 2014:

The GJSCI had initiated a pilot project for RPL Certification of Goldsmiths as part of the MoU signed with NSDA. GJSCI's Head – Industry Affiliations and General Manager – South visited Coimbatore and Thrissur to have discussions with the local jewellery associations and mobilise goldsmiths for this certification.

4th August 2014:

The GJSCI signed an MoU with the Uttar Pradesh State Government through the Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM). UPSDM is the nodal body for skill development in the state of Uttar Pradesh and has a target of skilling 6.72 lakh candidates in this financial year. 70% of these assessments will be carried out by the various Sector Skill Councils. The training will be provided by either NSDC or UPSDM affiliated Training Partners. UPSDM intends to provide vocational skills training to 45 lakh youth by 2016-17. Currently, 7 job roles have been identified for training in the gems & jewellery sector. GJSCI's responsibility is to conduct the assessments of the trainees as per the National Occupational Standards and provide joint certification along with UPSDM to the successful candidates. UPSDM will pay GJSCI Rs. 1,000 per trainee for job roles in the service sector and Rs.1, 500 per trainee for job roles in the manufacturing sector for assessments and certification.

4th - 5th August 2014:

NSDC organised the 7th NSDC Partners Meet at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. This event is attended by all NSDC Training Partners and all the Sector Skill Councils. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of State Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Youth Affairs and Sports Government of India. Shri V K Duggal, Honourable Governor, Manipur; Shri Mukul Sangma, Honourable Chief Minister, Meghalaya; Shri S Ramadorai, Chairman, National Skill Development Corporation; Dr Arvind Mayaram, Finance Secretary also attended the inaugural event. GJSCI was represented in this meeting by Head – Industry Affiliations.

13th August 2014:

The GJSCI has developed Qualification Packs for 117 unique job roles in the gems and jewellery sector. The first set of the Occupational Standards of 76 job roles in the Indian Gems & Jewellery Sector were promulgated as National Occupational Standards in July 2013. A further set of Occupational Standards for 41 job roles in the Indian Gem & Jewellery Sector were presented to the Qualifications Review Committee (QRC) of the NSDC on 13th August, out of which only 31 are now pending QRC approval.

25th August 2014:

After GJSCI signed an MoU with UPSDM on 4th August, NSDC organised a meeting with Mrs. Ritu Maheshwari, Mission Director and the Sector Skill Councils to discuss the way forward. The meeting was held at the NIOS office in Delhi on 25th August. Head – Industry Affiliations represented GJSCI at this meeting.

25th August 2014:

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has signed an MoU with NSDC to offer a QP NOS based course as a fifth subject for its class 10th and 12th students. The students have an option to drop one of the main school subject and instead opt for a Sector Skill Council Certified Course. NIOS intends to implement this as a pilot project in the Delhi NCR region for 1Lakh students from the current academic year. A meeting between NIOS and all Sector Skill Councils was arranged at the NIOS office in New Delhi on 25th August. Head – Industry Affiliations represented GJSCI at this meeting.

25th August 2014:

Further to the meeting on 13th June 2014 regarding the e-content development for Sector Skill Councils a follow-up meeting was called for by the Ministry of HRD Government of India at New Delhi to further discuss the pilot project. The Ministry has shortlisted only 4 sectors where the pilot project on e-content development will be initiated. These sectors are Telecom, Automobile, Capital Goods and Gems and Jewellery. For Gems and Jewellery two job roles have been selected for the pilot phase: Filer & Assembler and Jewellery Retail Sales Associate. GJSCI was represented in this meeting by Head – Industry Affiliations. The Jewellery Retail Sales Associate e-content has been designed by Qustn Technologies, and is expected to be launched by end September 2015.

28th August 2014:

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the GJSCI was held on 28th August 2014 at Fine jewellery Manufacturing Ltd., SEEPZ SEZ, Mumbai. Mr. Premkumar Kothari chaired the meeting. The other directors that attended the meeting were Ms. Nirupa Bhatt, Mr. Ashok Minawala, Mr. Rajiv Mehta and Mr. Colin Shah. Mr. Bhaskar Kalra from the Ministry of Commerce attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Siddharth, Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce. Mr. Mohan Reddy from NSDC also attended the meeting. Mr. Reddy presented an update on NSDC's projects. The balance sheet P&L and Auditor's report of GJSCI were approved. The date for the 2nd AGM was finalised in the meeting.

12th September 2014:

The Pune University has signed an MoU with NSDC to offer QP NOS based training as a compulsory subject for all its 1Lakh+ post graduate students speared over 567 colleges from this academic year. 10 Sectors have been identified by the University of Pune for the current phase. From next year the project will spread to both post graduate and under graduate students. It is expected to reach 7 Lakh students in next academic year. A meeting with the Vice Chancellor of Pune University and the Principals of all the 567 colleges was organised on 12th September 2014. The GJSCI's CEO attended the meeting.

22nd September 2014:

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Gem and Jewellery Skill Council of India was held on 22nd September 2014 at Fine Jewellery Manufacturing Ltd, SEEPZ SEZ, Mumbai. Mr. Premkumar Kothari chaired the meeting. The other board of Directors who attended the meeting were Mr. Jatin Chedda and Prof. V.K. Murti. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Bhaskar Kalra, Ministry of Commerce on behalf of Mr. Siddharth, Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. On behalf of the shareholders Mr. T.P. Gopalakrishanan represented the SEEPZ Gems and Jewellery Manufacturers' Association; Mr. Sandeep Sharma and Mr. Rajesh Narvekar represented the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council and Mr. Manish Jain & Mr. Sribash Dasmahopatra represented the All India Gems and Jewellery Trade Federation.



29th September 2014:

NSDC organised a project planning meeting to finalise the details of the Pune University project at the NSDC office, New Delhi. All the Training Partners affiliated to Pune University, representatives of the selected Sector Skill Councils, NSDC officials and the Pune University team attended the meeting. Head – Industry Affiliation represented GJSCI at the meeting. The proposed Fee structure as discussed at the meeting were Rs. 2,900. (Rs. 2,000 to TP, Rs. 500 to SSC as Assessment fees and Rs. 400 to Pune University as administrative charges) per course per semester. The first round of assessments have been completed.

6th October 2014:

The Gem & Jewellery Skill Council of India initiated the mobilization of artisans for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) certification of pilot phase as per the MoU signed with NSDA. Till date, GJSCI has completed certification of 1,500 candidates and the rest are in process.

8th January 2015:

An MoU signed between GJSCI & the Govt. of West Bengal in the Department of Technical Education & Training on 8th January by COO, GJSCI to certify 50,000 artisans from that state under Recognition to Prior Learning (RPL). These projects/placement based training programmes would be implemented by GJSCI through its affiliated training providers and assessment agencies wherein the Department of TE&T, Government of West Bengal will extend marketing support, infrastructural facilities with utilities and other supports. A documentary film as per the MoU is already in process and is expected to be ready by end of September 2015.



5th February 2015:

On 5th February 2015, Gem & Jewellery Skill Council of India signed a landmark MoU with the Surat Diamond association to certify 30,000 artisans from the diamond cutting & polishing industry based in the city. Through this agreement, artisans performing nine different job roles in the process of diamond cutting & polishing would be certified with the 'Recognition of Prior Learning' certificate.

SDA, as per GJSCI's requirements, will ensure that all assessments conform to assessment guidelines and that these are undertaken as per the pre-defined format and in accordance with each of the performance criteria outlined in respective qualification packs. SDA will also develop question banks/ test papers in Gujarati as required as per guidelines based on QP/NOS of the job roles and get the same validated by GJSCI. Till date, we have assessed all artisans and certified 6,000 of them, while the rest are in process of certification.



10th February 2015:

GJSCI revamped its website www.gjsci.org and became more informative. GJSCI also went digital to facilitate daily updates about various Government Schemes announcements for skill development in Gem & Jewellery Sector, GJSCI events and activities organised to promote skill development. Pages were created on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. So far, we have 10,000+ likes on Facebook, 300+ followers on Twitter and LinkedIn.



20th February 2015:

GJSCI has signed n MoU with IIGJ, Jaipur to recognise it as “Centre of Excellence”. This MoU has been signed in presence of Mr. Premkumar Kothari (Chairman – GJSCI), Mr. Pramodkumar Agarwal (Chairman – IIGJ Jaipur) and Mr. Binit Bhatt (COO - GJSCI)

IIGJJ under this MOU will be the center of Excellence for Gems and Jewellery sector will deliver the following:

- Will execute the certification programs for ‘Training of the Trainers’ NOS for Gem and Jewellery sector.
- Will take over existing underperforming / sick Gems and Jewellery Training centers in the country as per the instruction of GJSCI and execute 360 degree development to make them deliver quality trainings. All infrastructural, curriculums, faculty training, continuous quality monitoring will be done as per schedule and requirement.
- As per GJSCI’s directive IIGJJ will handhold and develop new Gems and Jewellery training centers right from scratch to self-sustenance and then conducting periodic quality monitoring as per schedule and requirement.
- To execute certification programs for RPL (Recognition of prior learning) for Gems and Jewellery Sector in various parts of the country at nominal (agreed) fee.
- To be the Assessment agency on behalf of GJSCI for other institutes for various certification programs as per NOS.
- To make available all the trainers of IIGJJ to be certified as Master Trainer certification.

- To develop special program's for business start-ups, entrepreneurship, incubation centers, and new business development jointly with GJSCI.
- To develop program's to promote and advocate quality consciousness, strong work ethics, hallmark /quality mark in the industry.



12th March 2015:

Gem & Jewellery Skill Council of India hosted a Training Partner Meet on 12th March 2015. Special Invitee Mr. Aashish Batra from NSDC - National Skill Development Corporation, had attended this meet and supported GJSCI team in explaining to all training partners about various Government schemes for upskilling people in Gem & Jewellery sector. Mr. Premkumar Kothari, Chairman, Mr. Binit Bhatt, COO & Ms. Tanvi Shah, Head – Affiliations & Assessments, represented & introduced GJSCI, explained about the GJSCI Board Members and Objectives of GJSCI.

They explained about importance of affiliating as a Training Partner. GJSCI affiliation is recognised as SSC (Sector Skill Council) affiliation and can help to create a sustainable industry aligned ecosystem by promoting gem & jewellery skill development, benefiting millions in India to get respectable employment opportunities.

In this session the Training Partners have been updated about Basic additional compliance requirements such as to invest in Wi-Fi or Internet enabled Biometric infrastructure for permanent Registration of candidates, Training Partners and Assessment Agencies. Every GJSCI affiliated Trainer and Assessor would be given ID card and they should compulsorily wear it during Training & Assessment session.

A demonstration of Bio-metric registration had been presented to the Training Partners and all their logical/technical queries were resolved. Most of the Training Partners believed that, this Bio-metric registration system would help them to prepare unique candidates database and these details could be uploaded on the GJSCI website. Digitisation of Jewellery Retail Sales Associate Job role was discussed in the meeting. The main purpose of developing this e-learning platform would be training and assessing Counter Sales Executives on Mobile (Android), without disturbing their working hours. This e-learning platform contains eighty hours of training videos. All GJSCI approved Training Partners, individual, retailer or an association could register themselves online and access the content.



17th March 2015:

The Gem & Jewellery Skill Council of India conducted a surprise visit to Surat to verify whether assessments were as per GJSCI quality standards. GJSCI team also met up with retailers in Surat to create awareness of training & Sector Skill Council (SSC) certification of retail staff.



20th – 22nd March 2015:

Gem & Jewellery Skill Council of India participated in Gem & Jewellery India International Exhibition, 11th Edition, 20-22, March 2015 at Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai.

More than 300 exhibitors - retailers, artisans and wholesalers from all over India and international markets were showcasing their product offerings ranging from gold, diamonds, pearls, gem stones, silver and allied machinery products. GJSCI conducted various marketing activities including distributing brochures, playing GJSCI audio visuals, showcasing GJSCI issued Certificates etc. GJSCI succeeded in creating awareness and reaching out to maximum exhibitors in this Trade Show.



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