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The Gem & Jewellery Skill Council of India (GJSCI) will reach out to industry bodies in traditional jewellery manufacturing clusters as well as to training institutes already offering courses in the field during the next phase of its growth and development. Sanjay Kothari, the new Chairman of GJSCI in an exclusive interview with AOJ's Bina Thakur shares his immediate priorities, vision and plan of action to achieve the target. An excerpt.

AOJ: As the new Chairman of the council what would be your first and foremost initiative for the betterment of GJSCI?

Sanjay Kothari: The whole mandate of GJSCI is to upgrade the skills of the existing workers whether it is in diamond manufacturing, colour stone manufacturing, jewellery manufacturing, hand-made or machine made manufacturing. We would take all the possible steps to upgrade the skill of all the people connected with industry. This would be applicable for retail sector too. That is the main mandate. Apart from this, the other mandate is to train the new people, who are joining the industry. These are the main two objectives. Diamond,



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colour stone jewellery, imitation jewellery are few sectors where we have to impart training to the new comers as well as the existing one to upgrade their knowledge.

AOJ: What are the initiatives taken by the council to produce skilled workforce in gem and jewellery sector?

Sanjay Kothari: GJSCI since its inception in 2012 has done a commendable job. They had started from scratch, but they also laid a foundation for implementing the vision of the government. We have to take the leadership forward. Current GJSCI team is now gearing up to take this to the next level. With the help of Govt we will take this mission to a new direction. I have called a press meet with all institutes. The main idea is to connect with the entire institutes of the industry. It is a pan India project.



Mission of Council

- Identification of skill development needs including preparing a catalogue of types of skills, range and depth of skills to facilitate individuals to choose from them.
- Development of a sector skill development plan and maintain skill inventory.
- Determining skills / competency standards and qualifications.
- Standardization of affiliation and accreditation process.
- Participation in Affiliation, accreditation, examination and certification.
- Plan and execute Training of Trainers.
- Promotion of academies of excellence.
- Establishment of a well-structured sector specific Labour Market Information System (LMIS) to assist planning and delivery of training.

AOJ: Please share your plan of action to achieve this target?

Sanjay Kothari: GJSCI has drawn up a plan for the next few months and in addition to specific events, it planned to hold meetings in all important jewellery manufacturing clusters across the country to educate owners and workers about the importance of skill upgradation.



Recently I called all the institutes based in Mumbai and discussed how they can take advantage of schemes. We will hold similar meeting with all the institutes in India in different phases to discuss this matter. I want to see Indian Jewellery to be appreciated in world arena. To achieve this target, first I want to involve as many people as possible. Involvement is important to upgrade the skill.

In the first two months we will market it all across the country. There is a show in Chennai tomorrow. GJSCI will give presentation to the people there. We will try to reach every state of the society and see how we can market it properly.

AOJ: What are the initiatives taken by the council to produce skilled workforce to meet the global quality standards?

Sanjay Kothari: My vision is to develop a vast number of skilled specialists across the industry, so that the world's top brands would be confident about sourcing their jewellery from manufacturers in India. Today there are hardly few manufacturers who supply to the

world class brand like Tiffany or Cartier. We want to upgrade skill to the international level. That is the next objective of the council. To meet this objective we will call the international experts from Italy and Germany to train our people. So the training to trainers would be the objective. The plan is to organise a Santa Fe Symposium in India like USA. This show is organised every year in Las Vegas, USA. Lots of people visit the seminar and upgrade their skill. It is not possible for all to visit Las Vegas so we are planning to bring this symposium to India in 2019. This will help a large number of people to enhance their skill.

The Chairman shared his vision for GJSCI which is as follows:

- to ensure that all the current workforce is certified based on NSQF aligned QP/NOS; at least one train the trainer institution per cluster;
- improving the skills of workforce to make them ready for modern factories;
- improving the company management skill so that they can be ideal entrepreneurs on their own;
- ensure that the next generation of workforce comes into the business;
- make India a world leader in jewellery manufacturing after attaining leadership position in diamonds and some varieties of coloured stones.