“This project is a major achievement for GJSCI as it not only help to source manpower for the jewellery industry, but will also give the women inmates a new approach to life and a rehabilitated way of living”-Mr. PremKumar Kothari, Chairman, GJSCI on signing Tihar inmates skilling project

**GJSCI signs a tri-party agreement with IIGJ and JAJ, Jaipur for its RPL Program under PMKVY-2 scheme**

**15th March 2017, Mumbai:** Gem & Jewellery Skill Council of India (GJSCI), Indian Institute of Gems & Jewellery (IIGJ), Jaipur and Jewellery Association, Jaipur (JAJ) signed a Tri-Party Agreement to train and certify the artisans of Jaipur under the RPL programme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) Scheme. The signing of MoU was witnessed by Mr. Pramod Agrawal of IIGJ - Jaipur, Mr. Nirmal Bardiya of JAJ and Mr. Premkumar Kothari, Chairman, GJSCI. According to the MOU, IIGJ – Jaipur will act as an RPL training facilitator, JAJ as Mobilization Agency and GJSCI will act as Project Implementation Agency (PIA). As per the MoU, GJSCI undertakes to certify minimum 10,000 artisans in the next 6 months.

The MOU signing ceremony was followed by a panel discussion on the topic - ‘Essentiality of Skills’. The panel comprised of industry experts including Mr Nirmal Bardiya (President-JAJ), Mr. Rajesh Dhamani (Honorary General Secretary), Mr. Pramod Agrawal (President- IIGJ-Jaipur), Mr. Premkumar Kothari(Chairman-GJSCI) and Mr. Dhiraj Kumar (Principal,IIGJ-Jaipur) being the moderator.
SURAT: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today called upon the diamond industry in Surat to take a lead in making India emerge as number one in the gems and jewellery sector.

Surat is popularly known as the diamond city of the country. "Enough of just diamond cutting and polishing work. The country has expectations from Surat. Should the country have it or not?" Modi asked after inaugurating a diamond cutting unit of a gems and jewellery firm here. He said the jewellery designed in the country needs to be promoted across the globe.

"We have become a diamond in diamond cutting. But now we have to be number one in gems and jewellery, and not only 'made in India' jewellery, but 'designed in India' jewellery needs to popularised across the world," Modi said.

"Our jewellers have worked hard over the generations to design jewellery as per the seasons and moods. Our traditional jewellery designs have the potential to attract customers across the world," he said.

"Enough of just diamond cutting and polishing. We need to make consumers across the globe interested in 'designed in India' jewellery," Modi said.

"You can ask for any help from my government (in achieving this goal)," he told the diamond barons of Surat.

Despite Surat being India's diamond cutting and polishing hub, the jewellery is made elsewhere owing to which the merchants here get less profit. The Prime Minister was speaking after inaugurating a diamond polishing unit of Hari Krishna Exports at 'Hira Bourse SEZ' in Icchapore village on the city's outskirts.
25th March 2017, Delhi: Gem & Jewellery Skill Council of India (GJSCI) signs a MOU with Delhi Prison for the ‘Tihar Women Inmates Skilling’ that aims at teaching the skillset of jewellery making to the women inmates of Tihar Jail. The MOU was signed by Mr. Premkumar Kothari – Chairman, Gems & Jewellery Skill Council of India, Mr. Ajay Verma Director, IBJ India and Mr. Sudhir Yadav (I.P.S), Director General – Delhi during GJSCI`s Skill Conclave that took place in the esteemed presence of Ms. Nirupa Bhatt, Mr. Manoj Dwivedi, Mr. D.D. Karel, Mr. Gaurav Kapoor, Mr Rajendra Bhola, Mr. V.K. Murti, Mr. Avnish Goel and other eminent personalities from Ministry, NSDC and Gems & Jewellery Industry.

Majorly, these women end up committing a crime due to poverty and lack skills. A program like this would empower these women and make them more independent that will eventually rehabilitate them back into a normal life of a respectable citizen. This project is developed with an aim to train women inmates of Tihar Jail with Jewellery making skills, enabling them to have fresh perspective in life and be independent.

GJSCI`s Skill Conclave saw a number of presentations by experts on various topics related to Jewellery industry which was succeeded by a Panel Discussion. The aim of the conclave was to trigger a shift from an unorganized sector to an organized gems & jewellery industry.
Surat to have gem of a link with Dubai after May 15

SURAT: Surat's diamond industry is all set to glitter with the direct business links with the world's second largest diamond centre in Dubai following the proposed launch of international connectivity by the Air India (AI) starting from May 15.

For diamond traders and jewellery makers over the world, Dubai remains an important trade centre for pearls. But, of late, a growing portion of trade in rough diamonds is getting shifted from the Belgian port city of Antwerp to Dubai, a constituent of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Earlier, the rough diamond cutting and polishing business had moved from Antwerp to Surat in Gujarat and a few other places, due to cost considerations. Now, in the last couple of years, Dubai has emerged as the second biggest market for rough diamond trading, with many Indian diamond companies and leading export houses setting up offices at the Dubai Multi Commodity Centre (DMCC).

Besides UAE-based banks promising finance to merchants, what is to aid Dubai gain stature as a diamond trading centre is proximity to India, the world's largest importer of rough gemstone.

Promise of easy financing by UAE-based banks is encouraging traders, many of whom of Indian origin, to patronise Dubai. Nearly 80% of the world's rough diamonds are polished at Surat, where factories are now facing the heat of demand fall in China and India.

DMCC, which operates a diamond certification scheme, is the entry and exit point for roughs. From virtually next to nothing at the beginning of the century, UAE's share in diamond imports climbed to $5.9 billion in 2014, compared with $16 billion for Antwerp.

Regional chairman of Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Dinesh Navadiya said, "More than 30 to 35 diamond traders are daily travellers to Dubai. They drive down to Mumbai, catch a flight to Dubai and return to Mumbai in the evening. They visit Dubai to buy rough diamonds. Now, that there will be a direct flight from Surat to Dubai, it will be a win-win situation for the entire trade." Managing director of Dharmanandan Diamonds, Hitesh Patel said, "We will no longer have to visit our Mumbai offices to meet the buyers. They can directly come down to Surat via Dubai. We are expecting that more international flights in the future will certainly give a fillip to the diamond centre here."