

# GJEPC Elects Pramod Agarwal As Chairman, Colin Shah As Vice Chairman



Pramod Kumar Agarwal



Colin Shah

**P**ramod Kumar Agarwal has been elected as the chairman of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), and Colin Shah was elected as the vice chairman for the 2018-2020 period.

Thanking the industry and GJEPC members for electing him, Agarwal said, "It is my proud privilege to be nominated and elected as chairman of the very dynamic GJEPC. I am committed to bring in a favourable environment for the Indian gem and jewellery trade in the next two years. My special emphasis would be on facilitating a definitive and stable taxation for diamonds through presumptive taxation. Others would include reduction in GST rates for cut and polished diamonds and withdrawal of GST on supply of gold and silver for export purposes.

"I would also work towards exploring new resources for rough diamond and coloured gemstones while streamlining the existing supply. I strongly believe that generic diamond and diamond jewellery promotion is a must for the industry to attain growth. It would be my sincere effort to work closely with the industry and the government to bring in reforms that would

provide the Indian gem and jewellery industry a competitive edge in the world market.

"Currently, the industry is at a critical juncture, where it needs to be more organised and transparent in terms of doing business, which would help it to achieve a more dynamic role in our economy. The MSME sector of this industry has contributed immensely to the success of this industry, and it would be our responsibility to facilitate better



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infrastructure and affordable access to the latest technology and enhance production in terms of quality and quantity at that level," he added.

Pramod Agarwal has more than 30 years of experience in the gem and jewellery industry. He has worked as a member of the GJEPC committee of administration for many years and was regional chairman of GJEPC – Rajasthan Region before getting elected as chairman at the national level.

Agarwal has also been chairman of the GJEPC institute Indian Institute of Gems & Jewellery (IIGJ), Jaipur for almost 5 years. In addition, he is associated with other trade bodies like GJF and Jewellers Association Jaipur.

Commenting on his appointment, Colin Shah said, "First of all, I would like to thank our industry members for giving me this opportunity to serve you. I believe that to achieve the next level of growth and to be competitive in the world market, the Indian gem and jewellery industry needs a complete transformation.

"For example, improved infrastructure by setting up Jewellery Parks across the country, modernise GJEPC education institutes by setting up a Jewellery