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Local for Global - Make in India for the World

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacts with Heads of Indian Missions abroad and Stakeholders of the Trade & Commerce Sector, August 6, 2021





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The Council for Leather Exports was set up in July 1984. The Council functions under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. The Council is entrusted with export promotion activities and overall development of the Indian leather industry. The Council's activities also include promoting Foreign Direct Investments and Joint Ventures in the Indian leather industry. The CLE serves as a bridge between Indian leather exporters and buyers all over the world.

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Dear Members

I would like to inform you that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has set an export target of USD 400 billion for merchandise exports during this year i.e.2021-22. Out of this, the target fixed for leather industry is USD 5.89 billion. In fact, the Department of Commerce has fixed country-wise targets to be achieved this year.

In this context, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Interacted with Heads of Indian Missions abroad and Stakeholders of the Trade & Commerce Sector on August 6, 2021 on export growth and development in which CLE too participated. The Hon'ble Prime Minister stressed the importance of enhancing the exports.

You are kindly aware that on account of the adverse impact of the Pandemic, the export of leather, leather products and footwear during 2020-21 was USD 3.68 billion, registering a decline of 27.72% when compared to the export value of USD 5.09 billion in 2019-20. Hence, in order to achieve the export target of USD 5.89 billion, we need to



achieve 60% growth in exports when compared to 2020-21 and 15.72% growth when compared to 2019-20.

In this context, I would like to state that the exports during the first quarter of this year i.e. April – June 2021 registered an impressive 141.56% growth when compared to the same period last year, as per initial trade data available. Going by the positive export trends this year and also the huge opportunities available for us, I am sure that we are in a better position to achieve the export target of USD 5.89 billion this year.

CLE will undertake aggressive marketing efforts to ensure maximum buyer outreach. During this year, we have planned more than 30 marketing events, which includes virtual B 2 B events too. Besides, we will organize webinars with various overseas industry associations to understand the market trends and prospects. Further, K (Knowledge)-Series webinars have been planned on various topics. In July 2021, webinars on MSME Services of Yes Bank; Forex Trading Platform; Online Banking Services, Online Trading Services etc., were held and more such webinars have been planned.

We also need to explore innovative options like e-commerce to enhance our exports.

On the whole, we have to undertake maximum efforts to reach our export target of USD 5.89 billion during 2021-22, which I am sure we will be able to achieve.

With best wishes

Sanjay Leekha

Chairman

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS

Dear Members

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Interacted with Heads of Indian Missions abroad and Stakeholders of the Trade & Commerce Sector on August 6, 2021 on export growth and development. A report on this event is featured in the **National** section. This section also features reports on Brain Storming Session with Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi , Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, July 16, 2021 ; Visit of Dr. Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India to Leather Industry Clusters and Institutions - July 16-17, 2021 ; Meeting of DGFT with Export Promotion Councils, July 19, 2021 ; Meetings of Chairman, CLE ; Felicitation Programme of Chairman, CLE and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE 24th July 2021 , Bahadurgarh, Haryana; Grand Felicitation of Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE, Shri R.K. Jalan, Vice-Chairman, CLE and Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE by



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With the active support of Indian Missions, CLE has been organising many virtual business events. The International section has reports on such events which include Virtual Business Meet between Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products and Sudanese buyers, July 28, 2021; CLE-USFIA Webinar & Virtual Business Meet on "Sourcing Trends and Opportunities in the Footwear and Leather Sector in India: The Leather Market Today" & "Leather Products and Footwear Market Scenario in US: Opportunities available for Indian companies, July 29, 2021; Virtual Business Meet between Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products and Buyers from Oman & Gulf Region, Aug. 2, 2021 and Virtual Business Meet between Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products and Nigerian buyers, Aug. 5, 5021

In the **Regional** section, you will find reports titled Shri Motilal Sethi, Regional Chairman (Northern Region), Council for Leather Exports visited the CSIR-CLRI Design & Fashion Studio on 19th July 2021 and Regional Chairman – North Shri Motilal Sethi Visit to Council For Leather Exports (CLE), Head Office In Chennai on 13.07.2021.

I hope you will find information in this edition useful

With kind regards

R. Selvam IAS

Executive Director
COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS

LOCAL FOR GLOBAL -MAKE IN INDIA FOR THE WORLD

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri NARENDRA MODI

Interacts with Heads of Indian Missions Abroad and Stakeholders of The Trade & Commerce Sector



In a first of its kind initiative, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with Heads of Indian Missions abroad and stakeholders of the trade & commerce sector via video conference. The Union Commerce Minister and External **Affairs** Minister were also present during the interaction. The interaction also witnessed participation of Secretaries of more than twenty departments, state government officials, members of Export Promotion Councils and Chambers of Commerce.

Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Prime Minister said that this is the time for Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Along with celebrating the 75th

festival of independence, this is an opportunity to build a clear vision and roadmap for future India. In this, our Export Ambitions and all the stakeholders play a major role. He added that today the world is shrinking every day due to physical, technological and financial connectivity. In such an environment, new possibilities are being created around the world for the expansion of our exports. He lauded the stakeholders for this initiative and commended the enthusiasm, optimism and commitment shown by all of them to achieve our ambitious goals regarding exports. He reminded that one of the major reasons, India had the highest share in the global economy in the past was it's strong trade and exports. He stressed on the importance of strengthening our exports in regaining our old share in the global economy.

Hon'ble Prime Minister urged the stakeholders to put all their efforts to take advantage of the new opportunities created by the changes in the Global Supply Chain in the Post Covid Global World. Considering the size of our economy and potential, our manufacturing and service industry base, there is tremendous potential for export growth. He added that when the country is moving towards the mission of Atmanirbhar Bharat, one of its goals is to

increase India's share in exports manifold. He said that to achieve this we have to make sure that we get access to the global supply chain, so that our business can scale and grow. He added that our industry will also have to move towards the best technology, focus on innovation and increase share in R&D. He said our share in the Global Value Chain will grow only by following this path. While encouraging competition and excellence, we have to prepare global champions in every sector, he stressed.

Hon'ble Prime Minister listed four factors that are very important for increasing exports. Manufacturing in the country has increased manifold and that has to be qualitatively competitive. Second, The problems of transport, logistics should be removed for that centre, states and private stakeholders will have to work continuously. Third, The government should walk shoulder to shoulder with the exporters and, finally, the international market for Indian products needs to be expanded. He said only when these four factors are synergized, India will be able to achieve the goal of Make in India for the world in a better way.

Hon'ble Prime Minister said today, the government in the country, in the states is moving forward, understanding the needs of the business world. He listed the initiatives of the Government to boost MSMEs like many relaxations compliances in Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and provision of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme of Rs 3 lakh crore. He also noted that the Production Linked Incentive Scheme will not only help in increasing the scale of our manufacturing but also increase the level of global quality and efficiency. This will develop a new ecosystem of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The country will get new Global Champions in Manufacturing and Export. He

elaborated how Production Linked Incentives helped to strengthen the mobile phone manufacturing sector. The mobile phone sector, we are also experiencing its impact. 7 years ago, we used to import mobile phones worth about \$ 8 billion. Now, it has come down to \$2 billion. 7 years ago, India used to export mobile phones worth only \$ 0.3 billion. Now it has increased to more than 3 billion dollars.

Hon'ble Prime Minister said the government, both at centre and states are also focussing to reduce the time and cost of logistics in the country. For this, work is going on at a rapid pace in every level to create a multimodal connectivity.

Hon'ble Prime Minister said continuous efforts are being made by the government to minimize the impact of Pandemic. It is our best effort to keep the virus infection under control. The work of vaccination is going on at a fast pace in the country today. Every possible step has been taken to solve all the problems of the countrymen and the industry. He added that our industry and business has also innovated during this period, by adapting itself to new challenges. The industry also helped the country deal with the medical emergency and also played a role in reviving growth. This is the reason that today along with drugs and pharmaceuticals, our exports have reached a new level in sectors like agriculture. He said today we are seeing positive signs not only of recovery in the economy but also about high growth. Therefore, this is a good time to set high targets for exports and achieve them. He said the Government is taking necessary steps at every level to achieve this. Recently, he said the Government has taken a major decision for our exporters to get a boost of about Rs 88000 crore rupees in the form of insurance cover. Similarly by rationalizing our export incentives our exports would be WTO compliant and will also get a boost.

Hon'ble Prime Minister stressed on the importance of stability in doing business. He said the decision taken by India to get rid of retrospective taxation shows our commitment, shows consistency in policies and gives a clear message to all the investors that India is not only opening the doors of new possibilities but the decisive Government of India, has the will to fulfill its promises.

Hon'ble Prime Minister stressed on the role of states in achieving the export targets and implementing reforms, attracting investment, easing of doing business and creating last mile infrastructure. He said the central government is working closely with the states to minimize the regulatory burden so as to increase export and investment. He said a healthy competition is being promoted between the states to make export hubs in the states. States are being encouraged to focus on one product in each district.

Hon'ble Prime Minister said our ambitious target regarding exports can be achieved only through a holistic and detailed action plan. He urged the stakeholders to accelerate our existing exports and also work to create markets, new destinations for new products. At present, almost half of our exports are to only 4 major destinations. Similarly, about 60 percent of our exports are related to Engineering Goods, Gems and Jewellery, Petroleum and Chemical Products and Pharmaceuticals. He urged them to find new destinations and also take our new products to the world. He added that with the opening of sectors like Mining, Coal, Defense, Railways, our entrepreneurs are also getting new opportunities to increase exports.

Hon'ble Prime Minister said to the Ambassadors, officials from the Ministry



Hon'ble Ministers attending the event

of External Affairs that in whichever country they are representing India, they understand the needs of that country very well. He asked them to act as a bridge for the commerce industry here. He urged that India Houses present in different countries should also be representative of the manufacturing power of India. He requested the Ministry of Commerce to put in place such a system so that there is a constant communication between our exporters and our missions.

Hon'ble Prime Minister said for maximum benefit to our economy from our exports, we have to build a seamless and high quality supply chain within the country as well. For this we need to build a new relationship and a new partnership. He requested all Exporters to strengthen partnership with our MSMEs, farmers and our fishermen, promote our Startups and support them.

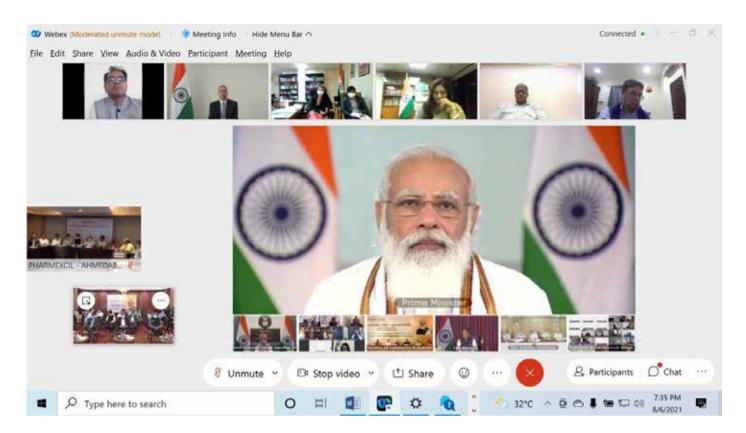
Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a call to establish a new identity of Quality and Reliability. He said it is our endeavor to create a natural demand for high value-added products of India in every nook and corner of the world. He assured the industry, all the exporters that the government will support them in every way. He urged the industry to prove the resolve of Atmanirbhar Bharat and a prosperous India!

Dr.S. Jaishankar, Hon'ble Union Minister of External Affairs highlighted the unique character of the event. He said that while the theme of the event is local goes global, the Indian Missions also need to be globally local to help connect our producers with the demand in specific countries.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Textiles said that the global environment is favourable and we should look at leveraging comparative and competitive advantages with respect to other countries for increasing our exports.



Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Textiles



Heads of Indian Missions gave their inputs and suggestions to increase India's exports. They talked about setting sector and region specific trade targets, the need to focus on value addition, quality standards of products, supply chain diversification, ensuring reliability in supplies and improving connectivity. They said that there is a need to focus on new markets and region specific products, while at the same time, maintaining our competitive edge in the regions and products where we are doing well currently.

CLE PARTICIPATION

NEW DELHI

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE participated in the interaction meeting of Hon'ble Prime Minister through Virtual mode in New Delhi along with member exporters.

KANPUR

In Kanpur, Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Vice – Chairman, CLE participated in the Virtual meeting with Hon'ble Prime Minister along with member exporters.





CLE in the Virtual meeting (New Delhi)

CHENNAI

In Chennai, Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE and Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE participated along with member exporters

CLE REQUEST

During the meeting, Chairman, CLE presented the following online request.

Chairman, CLE informed that the leather and footwear industry is a labour intensive sector, providing employment to 45 lakh people, 45% of whom are women. The sector has a total turnover of USD 17.09 billion, which includes exports of USD 5.09 billion and domestic industry turnover of USD 12 billion during 2019-20. He shared with the media that ministry of commerce & industry has set up a reasonable target of USD 5.88 bn. for the leather & footwear export sector and CLE is confident to achieve the target comfortably by the end of FY 2021-22.

He also added that the sector has the potential to reach a total turnover of USD 30 billion in next five years, which includes domestic turnover of USD 20 billion and export turnover of USD 10 billion and generate additional employment for 15 lakh more people.

Considering the need to ensure sustainable growth and development of the industry both at the domestic and export front and to attract investments, it is requested to government of India that the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) may kindly be extended to the leather and footwear sector.



CLE in the Virtual meeting (Kanpur)



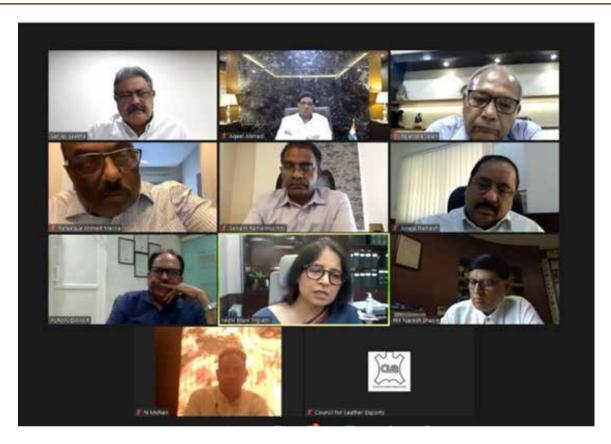
CLE in the Virtual meeting (Chennai)

Chairman CLE also informed that the Leather and footwear sector is fully committed to achieve the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India's vision of USD 400 bn. target of merchandise exporters set up for the FY 2021-22.

He urged on behalf of members of CLE that exporter members feel that non availability of the liquidity is the major concerns as of now which may be immediately corrected by releasing exporters due funds in the shape of last year's MEIS and this year's RODTEP. Similarly, this year's All Industry Rates of Drawback should be immediately revised of Chapter 41, 42, 43 & 64 to compensate the duties imposed on wet blue, crust, and finished leather as well as embellishments used in production.

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Brain Storming Session with Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Jt. Secretary, Department of Commerce, July 16, 2021



Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India had a brainstorming session with leather & footwear industry stakeholders on 16.7.21. This event was organised by CLE.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE, Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Vice – Chairman, CLE; Shri R. Selvam, ED & industry members attended.

Welcoming the Joint Secretary and the participants, Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE stated that the leather and footwear industry is capable of reaching the export value of USD 10 billion by 2025. There is huge potential for ladies, children and non leather footwear. The exports are showing encouraging signs with overall growth witnessed during first quarter of this year.

Chairman, CLE stated that scaling-up of our operations is very essential to achieve growth and for this a change of mind-set is essential. We should be looking at modernising our production facilities and also bringing in new systems. Skilling and productivity should be enhanced. Aggressive marketing and branding is also required. There is immense potential to enhance our exports due to shift of business and we need to make optimum use of this opportunity.

Chairman, CLE stated that FTAs can be game changer and hence we need to have FTAs with EU, USA and UK. The removal of US GSP to India is a disadvantage to us. The non availability of raw materials for non leather footwear in the country is also a major issue and hence should be looked into.

Dr. M. Rafeeque Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE

Dr. M. Rafeeque Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE stated that scaling-up, penetrating markets and producing new goods are the three vital areas for growth. Dr. Ahmed stated that how we are going to increase value, sales and employment is important. Dr. Ahmed stated that India is a contract manufacturer supplying to major overseas brands. Hence, there is need for promoting our brands to move-up the value chain. Building of brands takes minimum 6-7 years. Hence, Govt. may provide funding support for acquiring a well established overseas brand, as this requires huge investment. Acquiring

a brand will facilitate development of co-brands. Dr. Ahmed also stated that product engineering has to be stepped-up to facilitate product design and development. Support in this regard is required for individual companies. In order to promote domestic and overseas investments, Micro Clusters with plug-and-play model i.e. ready to use factories need to be set-up near existing leather and footwear clusters, with Government funding. Dr. Ahmed also suggested SEZs for non leather footwear sector with warehousing facility.

Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Vice - Chairman, CLE

Shri Jalan stated that there is definitely shift of business from China . Shri Jalan stressed the importance of using digital platform to promote business. Stating that his company is now giving access to online material bank to buyers and is also making online presentation of prototypes to buyers, Shri Jalan stated that support is required to be provided for Digitization and Digital marketing for B2B. This includes putting-in place systems like digital access of the buyer to the material bank and prototypes of the exporter for finalizing the samples, having 3 D printers

Shri Jalan stated that we need to upskill and re-skill our workforce, for which we need very good trainers. We have to outsource trainers from overseas. The container shortage in the last few months is a major problems. We need to have a stable and predictable policy to stay competitive. For instance, the interest equalisation on rupee export credit is now extended only upto Sept. 2021 and this needs to be implemented for the next five years so that the exporters can accordingly workout their future plans. Jalan also stressed the importance of developing fully sustainable products.

Shri P.R. Ageel Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE

Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed stated that we cannot wait till Covid 19 Pandemic is over as we have to achieve the export target of USD 10 billion. We need to have a separate policy for exports. China's total exports is about USD 3 trillion, as against India's SD 320 billion. Hence, Government needs to develop production clusters and also finalize the FTAs with UK and EU. Digital marketing will be the future and hence support to be provided for this. Duty free import of raw materials should be ensured. In India we have only about 5.4% of skilled workforce as against 96% in Korea. Hence, we a target of 15% in Skilling has been set and have sought funds under PMKVY from NSDC. Mapping of labour availability needs to be done. The Production Linked Incentive Scheme should be implemented for leather and footwear sector. Shri P.R.

Shri Ramesh Kumar Juneja, Regional Chairman (East), CLE

Shri Juneja stated that with I 00 acres area, the Calcutta Leather Complex (CLC) is the biggest production facility. Shri Juneja requested for implementation of IFLADP and also the e-wallet scheme for GST, besides reinstatement of Duty Free Import Scheme (DFIS) for import of critical inputs.

Shri Puran Dawar, Former Regional Chairman (North), CLE

Shri Dawar stated that we need to have globally competitive funding, atmosphere and also raw material availability in the country. In order to promote Make in India, we need to develop clusters.

Shri Naresh Bhasin, Regional Chairman (West), CLE

Shri Naresh Bhasin stated that we need to analyse the bargaining powers of our suppliers and buyers and find out what distinguishes our company. We need to accordingly devise our action plan. We need to focus on digitization and e-commerce.

Dr. N. Mohan, CEO, Clarks India

Dr. Mohan stated that 86% of the footwear sold in the market now in volume terms is non leather footwear and hence we need to concentrate on this product. During interactions with overseas industry Associations, they have expressed their keenness on FTAs..

Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Commerce

Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Commerce stated that the leather and footwear industry already has a huge exposure in the global market and we need to prepare an action plan for further growth. As far as FTAs are concerned, the FTA with UK is on priority and negotiations with EU have resumed.

Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE

Shri R. Selvam, ED , CLE stated that CLE will prepare the action plan in four broader areas namely Marketing, Design, Policy and Infrastructure and will submit to Department of Commerce.

Visit of Dr. Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India to Leather Industry Clusters and Institutions - July 16-17, 2021

Dr. Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India has undertaken a visit to leather clusters of Chennai & Ranipet during July 16-17, 2021. Shri Suman Kumar, Section Officer, DPIIT has accompanied the Joint Secretary in the visit programme. The Council for Leather Exports (CLE) has coordinated the visit programmes consisting of Joint Secretary's visit to CLE for Interaction Meeting with the Industry, visit to CLRI for discussion, visit to few manufacturing units of leather footwear, leather goods & accessories in and around Chennai on July 16,2021, and Visit to tannery, CETP and sports footwear manufacturing plant etc on July 17, 2021. On behalf of CLE, Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE has coordinated the visits and accompanied the Joint Secretary DPIIT.

Visit of Joint Secretary, DPIIT to CLE office at Chennai

Dr. Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, DPIIT had visited the CLE Office on 16.07.2021. Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE has welcomed the Joint Secretary and presented the floral bouquet. The CLE office structure, HO, Regional Offices, Extension Offices, role and activities of the CLE etc have been briefed to the Joint Secretary.

Interaction Meeting held by Joint Secretary with Industry representatives:

CLE has organized an interaction meeting with the industry



Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE welcoming the Joint Secretary



Shri M. Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman (South) welcoming Dr Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary DPIIT

representatives on 16.07.2021 at 11.30am at CLE Office, Chennai. Shri M. Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman (South), CLE has presided over the meeting. The meeting was participated by (1) Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE (2) Padmashri M. Rafeeque Ahmed Sahib, Former Chairman of CLE & Chairman of Farida Group (3) Shri K.R Vijayan, Managing Director, Good Leather Company, and President of Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association (4) Shri M. Abdul Wahab, Managing Director, K.H



Shri M. Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman (South), CLE interacting in the meeting with Dr Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary DPIIT. Shri R. Selvam, IAS, ED, CLE and Dr. M. Rafeeque Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE are seen.

Exports India Private Limited (5) Shri V. Muthukumaran, Global Business Head (Leather Products), Tata International Ltd, and President of Indian Shoe Federation (6) Shri Vimalan, Managing Director, Ayyappa Enterprises (7) Shri Manish Kawlra, Shoe Line (8) Shri K. Umair Ahmed, Caldes Fashions (9) Shri Sanjay M. Lulla, S.M. Lulla Industries World Wide (10) Shri Ajay Bawa, Managing Director, Tritan Leather Works Pvt Limited. Shri Suman Kumar, Section Officer, DPIIT was present in the meeting, along with Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director-CLE & Shri E.L Samson, Regional Director (South), CLE.

Shri R Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE, gave welcome speech. Shri M Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman (South) in his speech has highlighted the current status of the industry, and the various issues concerning the leather, footwear and leather products industry. The industry participants have outlined the status of their respective product segments, current issues and growth potential etc. In general, the issues discussed by the industry were on IDLS Scheme, establishment of Mega Leather, Footwear & Accessories Cluster (MLFAC) in the country, need for plug-n-play modelin the proposed newmega clusters, HRD, Promotion of Indian Brands, setting up of salt processing plants in the CETPs for addressing the issue of salt disposal etc. Most importantly, the industry has requested for re-consideration and re-appraisal of the 230 rejected applications of IDLS Scheme, and approval for 125 applications which have not completed the appraisal process of PIUs, and approval for 19 applications which have already completed the appraisal and are under-process with DPIIT. The industry referred to the collective representation submitted by Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE to the DPIIT on 28.06.2021.

Dr. Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, in her speech, has informed that DPIIT is taking necessary action for obtaining the approval for implementing Integrated Footwear, Leather & Development Programme (IFLADP) for the next 4-year period 2021-2025, and process is already started at the DPIIT. The industry suggestions earlier received from CLE and other industry bodies will be duly examined. Further, Dr Vandana Kumar, JS, DPIIT has advised the the industry to move up the value chain from contract-manufacturing to have their own Brandsfor manufacturing and export products in their own brands. Besides exports, manufacturers may target the domestic industry also in view of enormous growth potential in the years ahead. Dr Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, DPIIT thanked the CLE for organizing the interaction meeting and field visits to manufacturing units in a very short notice, and looked forward to seeing the footwear, leather goods manufacturing clusters and to see the operation of the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) and tannery. Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE has proposed vote of thanks, and meeting concluded thereafter.

After the interaction meeting, Joint Secretary had undertaken the field visits as under:

- 1.Visit to India Shoes Exports Private Limited, Chennai on 16.07.2021 to see the manufacturing of leather footwear. Shri M Israr Ahmed, Managing Director, India Shoes Exports Pvt Ltd has interacted with Joint Secretary, DPIIT.
- 2. Visit to K H Exports India Private Limited, Chennai on 16.07.2021 to see the manufacturing of leather goods & accessories. Shri M. Abdul Wahab, Managing Director of K.H Group, has interacted with Joint Secretary, DPIIT

Visit of Joint Secretary, DPIIT to CSIR-CLRI, Chennai on 16.07.2021

Dr Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, DPIIT has visited the CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) and interacted with the senior officials of CLRI. Dr. Gautham Gopalakrishna, Project Manager has explained the overview of the project "Survey on Indian Foot Sizing System in the presence of Shri Md. Sadiq, Head- Fashion Studio and Principal Investigator, Footwear Sizing Project along with project dealing officials. Shri R. Suthanthararajan, Chief Scientist & Head, Environmental Technology Division and Dr. S.V Srinivasan, Principal Scientist, Environmental Technology Division interacted on the current status of upgradation of CETP projects currently under implementation under IFLADP. Team Design & Fashion Studio presented the Evolution of the Design Studio and the need to have a Hub & spoke model of a Design Studio at CLRI. Dr. Raghava Rao, Chief Scientist led the presentations of each team.

Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE & Shri E.L. Samson, Regional Director (South), CLE has coordinated the visit of Joint Secretary to the CSIR-CLRI.





Shri M Abdul Wahab, Managing Director, K H Exports India P Ltd interacting with Dr Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, DPIIT





Dr Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, DPIIT interacting with officials of CSIR-CLRI

Visit to Lotus Footwear (Feng Tay Group) on 17.07.2021

Dr. Vandana Kumar, JS visited M/s Lotus Footwear Enterprises (Feng Tay Group)located at SIPCOT Industrial Park, Mangal Village, Vembakkam Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District. Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE has joined this visit programme along with Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE. Dr N Mohan, CEO, Clarks India was also present on the occasion.

Feng Tay is a leading manufacturer of Nike Sports Footwear headquartered in Taiwan while its manufacturing base and other operations have expanded to include factories in China, Indonesia, Vietnam and India. Feng Tay Group is one of the largest Foreign Direct Investment(FDI)units of the footwear industry in India. Feng Tay has established 3 companies in India namely:(1) Lotus Footwear Enterprises Ltd, Cheyyar SEZ (2) East Wind Footwear Company Ltd, Cheyyar SEZ & Fairway Enterprises Company Ltd, Bargur SEZ and they are planning to expand their production unit in Bargur.Shri S. Arul, Vice-President (Operation), Cheyyar SEZ Developers Pvt Ltd, has welcomed the Delegation and presented floral bouquet and shawl in honour of visiting dignitaries. Shri S. Arul, has introduced about the operations and functionaries of Feng Tay Group, Structures, Number of employees working, opportunities for women employment assembly line production, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities undertaken by the team for social development etc. After discussion meeting, the Delegation was taken to the shop floor to see the production of Nike sport shoes. Besides seeing the manufacturing operations, the loint Secretary, DPIIT has interacted with few workers for on-thespot assessment of their training background, mode of transport and distance from home to office and back, and facilities available for employees at the factory premises etc.





Visit to K.H Exports India Private Limited (Tannery Division) @ Ranipet on 17.07.2021



Visit to RANITEC CETP, Ranipet on 17.07.2021

Dr Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, DPIIT has visited the RANITEC Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at Ranipet. On the occasion, an interaction meeting was organized by CETPs of Ranipet District & Tirupattur District on 17.07.2021.









Shri R Ramesh Prasad, Chairman, RANITEC, giving welcome speech











View of participants in the Interaction Meeting

Tree Plantation ceremony at RANITE CETP campus

Shri R. Ramesh Prasad, Chairman-RANITEC has welcomed the Joint Secretary DPIIT and initiated the interaction session. Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE and Shri C.M Zafarullah, Managing Director, RANITEC CETP has shared the Dias with the Joint Secretary DPIIT. The meeting was attended by Shri R. Suthanthararajan, Chief Scientist & Head, Environmental Technology Division, CSIR-CLRI and Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE. The meeting was attended by representatives of SPV Chennai

Environmental Management Company of Tanners (CEMCOT), Indian Leather Industry Foundation (ILIFO), 7CETPs of Ambur, Vaniyambadi, Pernambut& Ranipet.Each CETP has briefly informed the status of their on-going upgradation projects under IFLADP. Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE has stated that the tanning industry is exploring the possibility of setting up of salt processing plants as a solution for salt disposal, and this has the potential to take the industry to a new level of zero waste discharge from the present zero liquid dischargesystem. Shri C M Zafarullah, Managing Director, South India Tanners & Dealers Association (SITDA) has proposed vote of thanks to the dignitaries and participants of this meeting.

On the occasion, the Vacuum Swing Absorption (VSA) plant for generation of pure oxygen was commissioned by the Joint Secretary, DPIIT. 4 MW solar power plant created as part of the on-going upgradation project under IFLADP was also commissioned by the Joint Secretary DPIIT.

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Meeting of DGFT With Export Promotion Councils July 19, 2021

Shri Amit Yadav, Director General of Foreign Trade conducted a Virtual Meeting with Export Promotion Councils.

Shri Anil Aggarwal, Additional DGFT highlighted about various initiatives made by DGFT including Electronic Portal for issue of Certificate of Origin. Shri Anil Aggarwal urged all exporters to update their IECs within the deadline of July 31, 2021 as IECs which are not updated by this date will be suspended until it is updated.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE participated in the meeting and presented the requests concerning leather and footwear industry.

Subsequent to the meeting, CLE submitted its proposals in connection with the upcoming Foreign Trade Policy 2021-25 which includes the following requests

- India is a contract manufacturer supplying to major overseas brands. Hence, there is need for promoting our brands to move-up the value chain. Building of brands takes minimum 6-7 years. Hence, Govt. may provide funding support for acquiring a well established overseas brand, as this requires huge investment. Acquiring a brand will facilitate development of cobrands.
- Support to be provided for Digitization and Digital marketing for B2B. This includes putting-in place systems like digital access of the buyer to the material bank and prototypes of the exporter for finalizing the samples, having 3 D printers

- The import duty exemption on wet blue, crust and finished leathers should be reinstated, as these are of different colour, texture and thickness which are not available in the country and imported as per buyer requirements.
- EPCG scheme may be continued in next Foreign Trade Policy also, with IGST exemption, without the annual average export obligation condition and without any negative list.
- Duty Free import scheme @ 5% on FOB for footwear and leather products and 3% for Leather Garments to be reinstated to facilitate import of critical inputs required by brands.
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme may be implemented for leather and footwear industries to promote investments.
- A new policy extending ECGC coverage for pre-shipment period also may be announced in the new FTP, to cover any cancellation of export orders after production, so as to protect the exporters.
- Interest equalisation on rupee export credit should be extended for the next five years. This is now extended upto Sept. 30, 2021. This provides 5% equalisation for MSMEs and 3% for non MSMEs of 416 tariff lines including footwear under Chapter 64 and leather products under 4201 and 4205.
- Support to be provided for individual companies and to existing Design Studios for engaging overseas experts for product engineering.
- There is a need for having a separate industrial policy for the export sector, covering all issues including labour laws .Provision to be made for import duty and GST exemption for exporters in this Policy.
- There is Huge potential in Ladies and Children Footwear as these account for 70% of global footwear imports, as compared to about 35% share in our exports. Incentives including five year tax holiday for JVs and FDIs in these segments to be provided.
- Non leather footwear accounts for 60% of global footwear imports in value terms. India's share in global market is only 0.5%. There are few manufacturers of PU, which is the basic raw material for non leather footwear. Hence, Duty free import of PU to be considered.
- Inadequate common Infrastructure like port connectivity, water, electric supply etc,. at production clusters also affects the production and cost competitiveness. Hence, existing clusters should be converted into SMART CLUSTERS on par with global standards.
- In order to facilitate incremental exports, the incremental exports incentivization scheme may be re-introduced with a scrip of 2% on incremental exports
- Currently, status holders are classified as One Star, Two Star etc., based on
 export performance. Status Holders may be classified as Trading House,
 Star Trading House, Super Star Trading House, Premier Trading House etc,.
 or through any suitable terminology befitting their status. Also, the export
 performance may be calculated in rupees to ensure uniformity, as export
 invoices are made in different currencies



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MEETINGS OF CHAIRMAN, CLE

MEETING WITH SHRI SOM PRAKASH, MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri Som Prakash, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi on July 29,2021 and discussed about measures for growth of Leather and Footwear industry.



MEETING WITH SMT ANUPRIYA PATEL, HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED met Smt Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry at Udyog Bhawan on 30.7.21 and discussed about strategies for leather and footwear sector export growth.



MEETING WITH SHRI NARAYAN RANE, HON'BLE MINISTER FOR MSME

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri Narayan Rane, Hon'ble Union Minister for MSME, Govt. of India at Udyog Bhawan on 30.7.21 and discussed Leather and Footwear sector growth and development issues.



MEETING CONVENED BY SHRI B.V.R SUBRAHMANYAM, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Shri B.V.R Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Dept. of Commerce held a meeting on export target at Udyog Bhawan on 4.8.21 with EPCs. Secretary, DOC & Ms Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary briefed the participants. Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE attended



MEETING WITH SHRI BB SWAIN, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF MSME

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri BB Swain, Secretary, Ministry of MSME at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi on 30.7.21 to discuss Leather and Footwear Sector issues related to adopting green technologies and PLI scheme.



MEETING WITH SHRI DK SINGH, DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER, MSME

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE, and Shri R Selvam, ED, met Shri DK Singh, Development Commissioner, MSME at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi on 30.7.21 to discuss infrastructure development & sustainable technologies for leather and footwear sector.



Felicitation Programme of Chairman, CLE and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE 24th July 2021, Bahadurgarh, Haryana

Footwear Park Association of Bahadurgarh organized a felicitation programme to honour the newly elected Chairman, CLE Shri Sanjay Leekha and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE Shri Moti Lal Sethi. The programme was organized on 24th July 2021 at Common Facility Center of Footwear Park Association at Bahadurgarh, Haryana.

Shri Subhash General lagga, Secretary, Footwear Park Association welcomed Chairman. Northern Regional Chairman, COA Members, Northern Regional Committee (NRC) Members, Special Invitees of Council for Leather Exports and the august gathering. He expressed his pleasure to honour the newly elected Chairman and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and thanked them for taking initiative to visit Bahadurgarh cluster. He conveyed that Footwear Park Association will help CLE in all aspects and will support the organization to take the leather industry forward.

Shri Moti Lal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE thanked Shri Subhash Jagga for organizing this felicitation programme and proactively taking initiative for long time to bring CLE and members of Footwear Park Association together. He conveyed that Government of India and CLE are acting very closely to promote footwear exports from country both leather and non-leather footwear. These two sectors are very promising and have a good demand in international market. Currently, global footwear export market is to the tune of USD 120 billion dollar and India is the significant exporter of footwear in the world.



Shri Jagdish Raj Sharma welcoming Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE by presenting a shawl





Shri Moti Lal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE addressing the members of Footwear Park Association during the meeting

Shri Sethi informed that non-leather footwear alone accounts for almost USD 66.68 billion and is exported by all the above mentioned countries.

- For the last 10 years global nonleather footwear export is growing on an average more than 7%.
- India has a very minimal presence in the global export and accounts less than 0.5% share of the total global export of non-leather footwear.
- It is estimated that India's nonleather footwear export is to the tune of USD 356 million in the year 2020.

Shri Motilal Sethi informed that Chairman, CLE is very active and instrumental in increasing export of the country. He has been attending various meetings webinars and highlights the issues and suggestions for the growth of the footwear industry. He informed that Government focus is to increase Global share of Footwear, both Leather & Non-Leather, so recently as an initiative the name of Leather Sector Skill Council has been renamed as Footwear and Accessories Council to have broader scope. Also, other organizations like NIFT, CLRI, FDDI and LSSC are also focusing on nonleather products and growth of nonleather footwear sector.

Shri Sethi further briefed about establishment of footwear cluster/ Park in the Kharkhoda area of Sonepat district. He informed that CLE has already sent a letter to Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Government of Haryana regarding the same and also requested for a meeting to discuss about Kharkhoda cluster and other issues of Haryana state.

He encouraged more and more entrepreneurs from Bahadurgarh to join the non leather footwear panel of CLE to increase the collective strength of non-leather footwear and help in achieving the objective of both the organizations.

Shri Subhash Jagga requested Chairman, CLE to take up the issue of foreign investment policy of Government of Haryana during the meeting. Changes may be made in foreign investment policy for the growth of footwear sector and Haryana state.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE expressed his pleasure to be a part of this meeting. He conveyed that this is a moment of pride that members and entrepreneurs of this Bahadurgarh cluster are present in today's programme to take the industry forward and help CLE and Footwear Park Association as well as to this country in realizing the dreams of our Hon'ble Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Haryana to generate more business and provide more employment to the skilled labour force of this country.

Chairman, CLE praised Footwear Park Association for creating such a cluster having good infrastructure, common facility center, maintained laboratories, training facilities, etc. This is encouraging for all and a good example to have a cluster in an organized manner. He conveyed that there should be more growth of this cluster as the non-leather footwear industry has the potential to grow and reach a new height.



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE giving key note address during the programme

Chairman, CLE suggested the following:

- Increase the individual capacities in order to increase the export of the country.
- Joint Marketing of Leather and Non-Leather Footwear sectors in international market which will create presence of India in overseas countries.
- Government policies to be utilized for creating better infrastructure, skilling, low cost financing, etc.
- For production use latest technology, machineries, new designs, etc.
- Focus on Product Engineering

Chairman, CLE conveyed that CLE as a primary body will help to take up the issues of this non-leather footwear sector at a national level. Moreover, CLE is preparing to create a roadmap for short-term and long-term. Chairman, CLE thanked Shri Subhash Jagga for organizing this felicitation programme.





Mementos being given to Chairman, CLE (left) and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE (right)

Subsequently, interactive session was organized wherein members present in the meeting raised their queries regarding various schemes and policies available for non-leather footwear sector, reason for decline in export of leather industry, opportunities for India when the world is going towards anti-China products, etc.

Shri Atul Kumar Mishra, Regional Director – North, CLE welcomed all on behalf of CLE. He gave a brief introduction of CLE and benefits of becoming a member of CLE. He requested the members of Footwear Park Association to become member of CLE and avail various benefits.

The programme was attended by CLE Northern Regional Committee members and Special invitees, Shri. Anil Kumar Sondhi, Shri. Vipan Seth, Shri. Vishal jagga, Shri. Manoj Tuli, Shri. Sushil Singla, Shri. Inder Chhabra, Shri. Satish Ranchal and Shri. Gajender Singh.

Shri H.S. Bahety from M/s. UnistarFootwears Pvt. Ltd gave a formal vote of thanks.

Chairman, CLE along with Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and other Regional Committee Members of CLE also visited Laboratories and Testing Centers at Common Facility Center and factories of M/s.Welcome Footwear and M/s. Today Footwear Pvt. Ltd.

Chairman, CLE visit to Laboratories and Testing Centers at Common Facility Center and factories of M/s. Welcome Footwear and M/s. Today Footwear Pvt. Ltd. along with Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and other Regional Committee Members of CLE













Grand Felicitation of Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE, Shri R.K. Jalan, Vice-Chairman, CLE and Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE by Confederation of Footwear and Leather Industry (CFLI), 31st July, 2021, Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi.

Shri Subash Kapoor, President & Managing Committee, CFLI organized the felicitation programme to honour newly elected CLE Chairman Shri Sanjay Leekha, Vice-Chairman Shri. R.K. Jalan and Northern Regional Chairman Shri Motilal Sethi.

Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Former Chairman-CLE was the Guest of Honour. Shri Javed Iqbal, Central Regional Chairman-CLE also graced the occasion.

Shri Subash Kapoor welcomed all dignitaries and as a mark of felicitation greeted them with Special Turbans & Strolls.

Northern Region Committee Members of Council for Leather Exports, Special Invitees and Members of Northern Region attended the programme with great enthusiasm.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman,CLE, Shri R.K.Jalan, Vice-Chairman,CLE, Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE, Former Chairman-CLE Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Shri Javed Iqbal, Central Regional Chairman, CLE and Shri Subash Kapoor President & Managing Committee, CFLI briefly addressed the gathering and assured them of all support from CLE for increasing the global share of Indian Leather Industry.

Shri Subash Kapoor, President, CFLI in his speech conveyed that it will be a great experience to work with newly elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman, CLE and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE



From (Left to Right) - Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE, Shri R.K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE, Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE, Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Former Chairman, CLE and Shri Subash Kapoor, President, CFLI





Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE expressed his sincere thanks for organizing the felicitation meeting and assured all support for the development of Leather Industry



Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Former Chairman, CLE in his speech conveyed that under the dynamic leadership of Chairman, CLE and Vice-Chairman, CLE, and Northern Regional Chairman leather industry will achieve its new height



Shri R.K. Jalan, Vice-Chairman, CLE conveyed that, we all have to work together to increase the exports and achieve the targets



Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, in his speech conveyed that it is a pleasure to be Northern Regional Chairman and will work at the best level for the growth and development of the leather industry



Shri Javed Iqbal, Central Regional Chairman, CLE thanked CFLI for organizing the felicitation meeting



Group Photograph

Interactive Meeting with Dr. K. J. Sreeram, Director, CLRI held on 30th July, 2021 in CLE Auditorium, KLC Complex, Unnao.

Central Regional Office of the Council for Leather Exports organized an Interactive Meeting of Dr. K. J. Sreeram, Director, CLRI with the leather fraternity from central region on July 30, 2021 on the occasion of his official visit to Kanpur cluster.

Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLEShriMukhtarul Amin, Former Chairman, CLE, Shri Javed Igbal, Regional Chairman - Central, CLE, Shri Ashraf Rizwan, Member of Committee of Administration (CoA), CLE, Shri Asad K. Iragi, Member of Committee of Administration (CoA), CLE, Shri TajAlam, Member of Central Regional Committee (CRC), CLE, Ms. PallaviDubey, Regional Director Central, CLE, Shri AnwarulHaq, President, Uttar Pradesh Leather Industries Association (UPLIA), Dr J Raghava Rao, Chief Scientist, Shri R Suthanthirarajan, Chief Scientist, Dr. S. K. Misra, Chief Scientist, CLRI, Shri Abhinandan Kumar, Scientist-In-Charge, RCED, CLRI, Kanpur and about 35 industry members were present in the meeting.

The objective for organizing interactive session was to deliberate and discuss with the tannery members of the region on the various issues connected with this sector and also apprise about region specific roadmap being developed by CLRI to serve the needs of the leather clusters in each region and also update about testing services IS 1989:1986 and other standards for which CLRI is the only BIS recognized lab as on date.

Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Former Chairman, CLE warmly welcomed Director, CLRI Dr. K. J. Sreeram, team of Chief Scientists from CLRI, distinguished guests and industry members and thanked CLRI for



Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Former Chairman, CLE welcomed Dr. K. J. Sreeram, Director, CLRI by presenting floral bouquet



Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE welcomed Dr. K. J. Sreeram, Director, CLRI and presented floral bouquet.

organizing the interactive session in association with CLE. He appreciated Director, CLRI for formulating long-lasting vision towards overall development and growth of the leather sector spread across India. Central Region needs utmost attention in terms of export growth, technological upgradation and CLRI can plays a prominent role as knowledge and technology partner in handling the issues pertaining to the industry.

He mentioned that tannery sector has transformed from producing mere finished leather to various varieties of leathers including upholstery leather, sole leather, Buffalo and Goat leather. Considering huge potential, this sector has yet not achieved its expected growth due to implementation of new norms, non-tariff barriers and leather testing is another challenge for this region. In order to resolve testing issues, CLRI would take up Testing Laboratory at KLC and will make it operational within short span of time for extending testing services to all.

Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE expressed special gratitude to Director, CLRI &team, distinguished guests and industry members for joining the session. He informed that

He mentioned that Kanpur and Kolkata clusters are the fast developing and potential clusters in India. There is huge potential as there are many skilled industrialists playing primary role in producing quality leather, making it available for the value added products thereby enhancing exports of this segment. Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal both states are proactive and fast moving towards industrialization and boosting industries by extending various measures. Considering employment generation and labour intensive industry, leather sector has been included by the both states under focused and potential segment. Establishment of Mega Leather Cluster, Ramaipur, Kanpur and CLC, Bantala is witnessed for revolutionary steps taken by both state Governments.

He stated that CLRI is a premier institution and consistently playing important role in developing implementation of innovative technologies, environment protection, and digitalization besides testing human resource development for tannery sector. In order to adopt new technologies which have been developed or being developed by CLRI there is a need for demonstration, explanation to individual tanners on shop floor basis, especially to the members of CLE at no or nominal charges. It is a fact that tanner members of the region are consistently doing their best in the direction of environment protection and keen to do everything possible for the treatment of effluent but either lack of knowledge or small interventions doesn't allow it to happen. It would be an appropriate measure if CLRI scientists may extend their cooperation to the tanners towards resolving their issues. He further added that KLC testing lab has a fairly good setup of testing machines, in that case industry needs to get into a partnership to make best use of them so that industry can be benefitted not



Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Former Chairman, CLE presenting welcome remarks.



Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE addressing the session.

only in meeting international but national standards.

Shri R.K. Jalan highlighted that post COVID, digitalization of the process systems is the need of the hour. At this juncture, we all are now living in new normal and as such everyone is talking about Sustainable/Biodegradable/Recycled products and processes. These three have become the new Mantra world over. We as an industry, will be compelled to fall in line with the international requirements and needs CLRI helps in development of sustainable processes, identifying biodegradable products with its properties and working to develop recycled goods for the use in the industry so that industry member can get GRS certification. In order to gain confidence amongst our customer about product which is biodegradable or sustainable or recyclable, we need to get certification otherwise customer would not accept it. Hence, he CLRI to guide the industry members how and from where these certifications can be obtained.

He informed that in the recent past, there are lots of requests for Olive Tanned leathers as they are supposed to be biodegradable and have been made with sustainable processes thereby reducing the carbon footprints therefore he requested CLRI to work on some vegetable or fruit based leathers with its defined character so that it could be shown to the world that Indian tanneries are amongst the best when it comes to product development.

Shri Jalan recalled the previous discussions held at various Board Meetings of CLE in regards to the development of a "Genuine Leather" mark, industry members firmly believe that it has become the need of the hour as lot of

manmade material manufacturers have started calling synthetic material as PU Leather, Leatherite etc. as such we need to come up with something whereby a layman world over can understand that this product is made out of genuine leather.

During discussion he mentioned that revised finished leather identification norms which were pending for a very long time. It is believe that these norms are in tune with the current international trends and eventually would help to upgrade our tanners to meet the exacting demand of the customers, however after COVID things have been changed drastically and in order to help the industry, we should consider further liberalization of these norms whereby all the classifications of the finished leathers such as should go through this process, that process, should stand eliminated and the norms should only say, any Bovine or Ovine leather if has gone through 4-5basic processes would qualify in finished leathers or in other words, there would be only a negative lists of 2-3 lines and the remarks were his personal point of view.

He sincerely requested CLRI to consider discontinuation of sample withdrawal at designated ports and testing thereof as it will come a long way in EODB and go back to the old system in case of a doubt, and the Customs Officer may draw the samples at post and send it for testing to CLRI.

Dr. K. J. Sreeram, Director, CLRI, Chennai extended sincere thanks to all industry veterans from Central Region for warm welcome and gesture being extended to the entire CLRI team and interaction on the industry issues. In his initial address, he mentioned that CLRI is always with industry and it will do wonders in the export growth and infrastructure development. He referred to the evaluation of CLRI by the parliamentary committee wherein it was directed that for conducting any research the industry acceptance is



Dr. K. J. Sreeram, Director, CLRI, Chennai addressing the technical session and presented power pint presentation on the CLRI activities and roadmap for the industry development.

indeed required so that outcomes of the research may serve the purpose. CLRI is always a partner of progress with their innovative technology and research towards fulfilling industry commitment. He informed that CLRI waterless chrome technology is available at zero charges. While talking about role of Regional center of CLRI, he informed that we are strengthening this center by deployment of young and highly skilled and qualified manpowerthat will support this cluster in rendering CLRI services and conducting various researches on certain issues and handling bottlenecks being faced by the tannery segment. He spoke on the issue connected with leather mark and intimated that Quality Control of India is working on leather mark and also assured for taking up the issue related with identification of finished leather norms with the appropriate authorities. He presented power point presentation and explained the various services and plan of action been formulated for leather sector.

During interaction Shri Tahir Hussain from M/s. Zazsons Exports Pvt. Ltd., Kanpur stated that CLRI being mouthpiece of the leather industry at every front; a constructive work action plan on handling pollution and environment related issues is indeed required so that this sector may achieve more growth and developments.



Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman – Central, CLE presenting formal vote of thanks





Shri Igbal, Regional laved Chairman Central, **CLE** presented formal vote of thanks to Director, CLRI Dr. K. J. Sreeram and team CLRI for their fruitful interaction with the industry members and for understanding ground realities and preparing a roadmap for the redressal of issues related to the tannery segment. He expressed sincere thanks to Vice Chairman, CLE Shri R. K. Jalan for taking up various issues &challenges being faced by the industry. He also thanked Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Former Chairman, CLE for sparing his valuable time and highlighting several bottlenecks of the leather sector and CLRI role in redressal of these challenges. He thanked all industry members for their participation and interaction on the issues discussed during the session.



Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman – Central, CLE welcomed by presenting floral to team of Chief Scientists of CLRI at interactive session.





Webinar on RBI guidelines for Exporters & Trade Transactions on Fingertips held on 8th July, 2021

Central Regional Office of the Council for Leather Exports in association with ICICI Bank Ltd., Kanpur Branch organized a pan India webinar on RBI guidelines for Exporters & Trade Transactions on Fingertips on 8th July, 2021 (Thursday) at 11.00 am.

Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE, Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Former Chairman, CLE, Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman — Central, CLE, Ms. Pallavi Dubey, Regional Director, Central, CLE, Shri Surender Bhardwaj, Subject Matter Expert, Shri Vaibhav Bharti, Regional Head — Sales, ICIC Bank Ltd. and about 100 participants attended virtually.

Shri Vaibhav Bharti, Regional Head – Sales, ICICI Bank Ltd. began the webinar by welcoming all distinguished industry members, participants and brief about organizing such event for the awareness and close understanding on RBI guidelines for Exporters & Trade Transactions on Fingertips by

member exporters pertaining to leather and leather products sector across India.

Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE warmly welcomed all distinguished industry members, subject speakers from ICICI Ltd. and participants. He appreciated for organizing such technical session on pan India basis, as such sessions are indeed imperative for understanding and getting clarifications that can help in handling and resolving issues pertaining to the subject and simultaneously help their business to grow.

Shri Surender Bhardwaj, Subject Matter Expert, ICICI Bank Ltd. presented a power point presentation on RBI guidelines for Exporters & Trade Transactions. He highlighted all major aspects connected with RBI regulations for handling of export bill regularization and handling exceptions related to write-off, invoice mis-match etc

Shri Vaibhav Bharti, Regional Head – Sales, ICICI Bank Ltd. presented Live Demo of Trade Online to initiate Export Import Transactions digitally through ICICI Bank channel.

Shri Praveer Gupta, ICICI Bank Ltd. extended formal vote of thanks to distinguished members, participants and speakers. He thanked Council for providing such a suitable platform where this technical session could be organized towards understating of technical modalities involved in performing export-import trade. He assured industry members for extending support and guidance on various services of ICICI Bank Ltd. including banking on international trade and features of online trade.



CLE-SERAI Trade Webinar on "How to Scale your Leather Business with SERAI" – 14th July, 2021

SERAI is a business-to-business platform founded by HSBC for companies to build trusted relationships and grow their business. SERAI has offered the following services to CLE members:-

- To promote its services to Indian companies
- To share updates with CLE members and inform them of latest market trends
- To build relationships with Western brands and introduce them to CLE members

In order to publicize the activities of SERAI Trade and also with a view to impart awareness among members about the services offered by them to the Footwear and Leather Sector, CLE in association with SERAI Trade has organized a Webinar at 2.30 PM India Time on 14th July, 2021. Representatives of more than member-companies attended the progrmme. Mr. Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE, Mr. R.K. Jalan, Vice Chairman-CLE, Mr. P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, Immediate Past Chairman-CLE, Mr. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE and Mr. Vivek Ramachandran, CEO of SERAI participated in the Webinar and addressed the participants.

In his Opening Remarks, Mr. Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE informed that COVID-19 pandemic has changed our normal way of life and we all have to accept and adapt the new normal. COVID-19 Pandemic has no doubt caused immense and unprecedented losses to the industry and trade all over the world. He stated that, the online trading is benefited from the Covid-19-related lockdown since people have started purchasing more



goods online. The e-commerce is getting stronger. Many major global buyers and brands have moved towards promoting Online trading, Chairman-CLE informed.

Chairman-CLE thanked Mr. P.R. Aquel Ahmed, Immediate Past Chairman-CLE, for introducing SERAI Trade to CLE and taking initiatives for organizing the Webinar. While summing up his address, Chairman-CLE expressed optimism that today's Webinar will be useful and informative for our Industry for exploring possibilities for increasing their business in the Online mode. He advised the participants for watching SERAI presentation to understand how our Industry can avail the services offered by SERAI Trade, for the footwear and leather sector in India.

In continuation to the Opening Remarks by Mr. Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE, Mr. Vivek Ramachandran, CEO of SERAI Trade has made a presentation about the services offered by SERAI for the footwear and leather industry in India. His presentation explained about how CLE members can avail the services offered by SERAI Trade for expanding their business and how they can reach out



to the buyers worldwide. Mr. Vivek Ramachandran also talked about the challenges faced by the Industry on account of COVID pandemic and opined that SERAI platform will give the industry members an opportunity to stay connected with their target customers in a meaningful way.

Mr. P.R. Ageel Ahmed, Immediate past Chairman-CLE talked about the current scenario of Indian footwear and leather sector and challenges being confronted by the Industry on account of COVID pandemic. Mr. P.R. Ageel Ahmed informed about the virtual trade promotion events organized by CLE under his Chairmanship. He informed that the whole world is moving towards digital and we have no other option but to accept and adapt the reality of digital transformation. Today even ordinary persons are using digital method in their day to day life and digital is our future. While concluding his remarks, Mr. P.R. Ageel Ahmed expressed optimism that the partnership with SERAI trade will help CLE and our Industry to stay connected with the world during this difficult time.

While talking about CLE & SERAI partnership, Mr. R.K. Jalan, Vice Chairman-CLE informed that SERAI Team is very much professional and they can help the leather industry to get connected with the buyers worldwide digitally. The Vice Chairman-CLE stated that, COVID is going to stay here and being Digital is the only option available before us. He expressed confidence that, CLE-SERAI partnership will help our small exporters during this challenging time. Mr. R.K. Jalan suggested that, along with leather garments, leather goods and accessories, SERAI Team should give focus on Footwear also since footwear products constitute the major share in the export from He advised the leather sector. participants to consider availing the services of SERAI-Trade for furthering their business.



Mr. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE talked about the virtual marketing activities of CLE. He told that, during the COVID period, importance of B2B is emerging in a big way. Many developments are happening in the digital world. Mobile shopping, voice commerce etc are some of them. We all have to adapt the changing necessities, otherwise, we may not be able to move forward. The Executive Director-CLE thanked SERAI for organizing the programme.





Webinar on Online FOREX-- - FX-Retail - A New Forex Trading Platform 27.07.2021

Customers across all categories always want a fair price for the forex transactions executed through their registered banks.

RBI in its "Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies" dated June 06, 2019 announced the introduction of a Foreign Exchange Trading platform for buying and selling foreign exchange for the Customers of Banks for their "legitimate" forex transactions as permitted by RBI.

RBI also issued a circular on June 20, 2019 for rollout of the forex trading platform for retail participants - FX-Retail.

To bring in transparency and fair pricing for exporters, importers and all other customers, Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), through its fully owned subsidiary, ClearCorp Dealing Systems (India) Ltd (CDSIL), has launched FX-Retail Platform on 05th August 2019. The platform has been developed under the initiative of Reserve Bank of India. The brief highlights of the platform are as below:

FX-Retail is a web based platform for anonymous and order driven dealing system in the USD/INR currency pair.

- Users can directly place orders and Buy & Sell USD on CASH, TOM, SPOT basis & book FORWARD Contracts on this platform.
- In order to access this platform, user has to register online on the portal https://www.fxretail.co.in
- Once the user registers, the registration request is sent to the selected Bank.
- Bank approves the user's registration request and the user receives login ID & password.

Benefits to all exporters & importers etc.:

- Buy/sell US Dollar at best exchange rates
- · Substantial savings in foreign exchange cost.
- Online dealing along with access to current inter-bank USD/INR rates(IBR)
- · Trading through web based electronic trading platform
- Transparency and fair pricing to the Customers.
- Multi Bank portal.
- Trade execution confirmation on SMS and email.
- Order and Transaction Reports are available.
- Assistance & Training from CCIL
- Regular demo sessions are conducted for users/customers.

Advantages of FX - Retail

- FX-Retail platform provides Full Transparency in Margins applied by the banks
- Customers receives Transparent & Fair Pricing
- Substantial saving in Foreign Exchange Conversion Cost
- Direct dealing with online access to Real Time Inter-Bank USD/INR Rates
- Buying/selling of US Dollar with an option to deal with Multiple Banks

In order to disseminate the benefits of the aforesaid online platform, CLE in association with Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL) organized a webinar "Online FOREX-- FX-Retail" at 11.00 a.m. on July 27, 2021.

Shri Sandeep Gupta, Vice – President, CCIL made a detailed presentation on FX - retail and also explained about the process of registration in this online platform.

The charges for using the FX - Retail portal are as follows

One time Registration charges

■ Individual Customer : Rs 300 (plus GST)■ Non- individual Customer : Rs 1000 (plus GST)

Transaction charges

Charges for trades up to USD 50,000 per day - NIL

0.0004% on the entire INR value of the trade (plus GST)

For further information members may contact:

Toll Free: 1800-266-2109 Phone: 022-61546313

Email: supportfxretail@ccilindia.co.in

Website: www.fxretail.co.in

"CURTAIN RAISER: SPRING SUMMER 2023 SEASON" CSIR-CLRI endeavour supported by CLE, ISF & IFLMEA

Mr Sateesh Jadhav, President, RY Gaitonde & Co raised the CURTAINS on the tendencies in Leathers, Colours & Materials for the Spring Summer 2023 season on 27th July 2021.



The Colour Meetings of MODEUROP and FASHION TREND POOL for the "Spring Summer 2023 season" are ahead!

COLOUR MEETINGS of MODEUROP & FASHION TREND POOL

Both MODEUROP and FASHION TREND POOL have announced the tentative dates for the Colour Meetings for the Spring Summer 2023 season. The Colour Meetings will be held in Salzburg (Fashion Trend Pool) and in Germany (MODEUROP).

The official MODEUROP Colour Card for Autumn Winter 22/23 season being demonstrated by Team Design & Fashion Studio

The Calendar of Events for the 'Spring Summer 2023 season' is as under:

	MODEUROP	FASHION TREND POOL	
Curtain Raiser	27th July 2021	27th July 2021	
Last date for readying leather/ colour proposals	26th August 202 I	26th August 2021	
Date of despatch	21st September 2021	21st September 2021	
Colour Club Meeting MODEUROP & FASHION TREND POOL	October 2021, Germany	3rd Week, October 2021, Salzburg, Austria	



In pictures:Mr Sateesh Jadhav, President, RY Gaitonde & Co is releasing the 'Colours for Spring Summer 2023 season' and he is joined by his Team. Team Design & Fashion Studio is seen explaining the Colour Groups of MODEUROP and FASH-ION TREND POOL for the Autumn Winter 22/23 season.



TANGERINE: colour of July by FASHION TREND POOL (www.fashion-trend-pool.com)

In S/S 21 ethnic influences are translated into sophisticated and magical colour schemes – featuring oriental spice colours. Re- interpreted floral batik prints, elaborate embroidery and folklore weaves enhance the sophisticated cultural mix with artisanal handicrafts. Surprising sparkling effects come care of glittering and shimmering. The distinct looks of raw silk and silk create fascinating surfaces as do animal prints and embossings!

OUR QUEST FOR COLOURS CONTINUES!





Leather | Colours | Shoes | Bags | Accessories | Components | Trend Research | Fashion | Industry Talk

CLRI Design & Fashion Studio connecting with you!

MAYTHREE, Episode 1: FEET FIRST, 3rd May 2021

"INNOVATIVE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE" says Mr Naresh Bhasin, CEO, RAM Fashions, Mumbai & FEET FIRST.

Bundled variety of services like factory-tour visit: a very new way of experiencing how shoes are made followed by visit to the factory outlet. The outlet has various segments like athleisure, sports, accessories, school bags, comfort, big and tall, made-to-order and e-commerce, he said.

CLRI "Design & Fashion Studio" connecting with You:

MAYTHREE Episode I: Mr Naresh Bhasin, CEO, RAM Fashion Exports, Mumbai speaks "Innovation and design needs to be applied all ages and price points."

Let us hear Mr Bhasin speak on: https://youtu.be/UOWVOYWpu0g

MAYTHREE, Episode 2: CALONGE, 10th May 2021

Mr Vimalan Velayutham, Proprietor, Ayyappa Enterprises & CALONGE speaks on his journey in retelling the classic: "HAND WEAVING - A CRAFT THAT HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME!"

"Since more than twelve years, we



are producing our whole collection in India and from the early beginning, we work together with CALONGE Company. Immediately, we fall in love with the spectacular hand-craft which is one of the oldest techniques of treating of treating the leather. Nowadays, there are few specialists who are able to make high quality shoes & bags. CALONGE is surely one of the most important companies for weave leather worldwide." Mr Karim Choukair, President, MODEUROP and Melvin & Hamilton, Germany.

Let us hear Mr Vimalan speak on: https://youtu.be/qSo277Kg7Jk

MAYTHREE, Episode 3, TOHL, 17th May 2021

Even the niche that we are trying to create are large enough in numbers if you look at the Indian market size. TOHL is retailed in the luxury segment, but, in the affordable luxury segment because the prices are kept deliberately and consciously affordable giving the Indian consumer the best of global product at very reasonable prices for the discerning customer who values and aspires to own a leather bag." "What distinguishes töhl from other Indian leather accessory brands is the understated easy sophistication in our design and styling, combined with the use of superior quality leathers. Staying current with the latest fashion colours and textures, töhl uses high quality imported

metal fittings on our bags, while paying extraordinary attention to detail and to the handcrafted artistry in the finish.

Our signature design integrates international fashion in terms of colour and texture of the leathers we use as well as the design and silhouettes we select, with interesting and useful features. We have and will continue to introduce the latest fashion colours every season!

We manufacture all our products, including leather, in-house and do not outsource, thus controlling all aspects of quality during the production process."

Mr Manish Kawlra, Managing Partner, SAC & SATCHEL. Let us hear him speak on: https://youtu.be/K6codaHOdrg

MAYTHREE, Episode 4, JUSTANNED, 24th May 2021

"Who could imagine in this heat, people will wear leather jackets! But, we were there to imagine that and we were successful in knowing that!

WHAT THE INDIAN CONSUMER WANTS? Not only in the jacket world, but, other accessories as well.

Says Mr Manoj Tuli, "the selling is now directly to the consumer through online platform. They made us realize that what exactly they are looking for & with that we adapted very fast and we are successful having good association and a long term plan. OUR MAIN MOTTO is: Give luxurious leather to the consumer at very competitive prices."

P&G Enterprises, Gurugram proudly presents itself as a leading leather manufacturer and exporter company of premium quality leather garments since 1993.



Mr Vimalan Velayutham, Proprietor, Ayyappa Enterprises & CALONGE



Mr Manish Kawlra, Managing Partner, SAC & SATCHEL



Mr Manoj Tuli, Managing Director, JUSTANNED,

JUSTANNED comes with a tagline "luxurious leather" with brands like ROADIES.

Offering online, right from Jackets to Bags to Belts, Wallets, Accessories & Travel ware - all under one roof: ADVANTAGE consumer!

Let us hear the Managing Director of JUSTANNED, Mr Manoj Tuli speak on the road ahead!

https://youtu.be/OLs5WMBDDSo

MAYTHREE, Episode 5, KOMPANERO, 31st May 2021

KOMPANERO, a private label of ASG Leathers, Kolkata started its journey in the Year 2014, says Mr Indranath SenGupta, Managing Director. He continues "when we saw a gap in the market where all the products (all classic bags) available were very similar to rexine or PU bags. At that time, my father, Mr Alok SenGupta, he came up with the thought process that we should now age our leather bags to give it a special VINTAGE look...with this KOMPANERO was born!"

It's been a great journey! The basis of this journey is based upon two pillars of our product philosophy. The first philosophy is SUSTAINABILITY. When we started in Year 2014, that was our first thought - the product should be sustainable. And, well before sustainability became a buzz word in the fashion industry. We make zero percent synthetic products. All our products are 100% natural, including the packaging materials used. We have our won LWG gold rated tannery and all our bags and accessories are made using leathers from our Tannery.

Let us connect with Mr Indranath SenGupta on: https://youtu.be/ K8EGOX22J9I



Mr Indranath SenGupta, Managing Director, KOMPANERO



Mr Tuncay Deriner, Managing Director, STAHL India Limited.

MAYTHREE, Episode 6, STAHL India, 7th June 2021

"Last year, we have opened Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Kanpur which focuses on sustainable leather technologies. The mission of CoE is to support the introduction of environment-friendly technologies and process methods. Customers request us to develop different types of articles, fashion articles and sustainable leathers and CoE and our experts are facilitating those requests." says Mr Tuncay Deriner, Managing Director, STAHL India Limited.

CLRI is playing a key role in creating a bridge between Tanneries, Chemical Houses and Stake-Holders. There is a lot to do in co-operation between STAHL and CLRI for the future. This will benefit not only the Industry as a whole, but also in mutual understanding and in reaching out the technologies to the Industry," says Mr Prasanna Kumar Maduri, Campus Manager, STAHL India, Kanpur.

Mr Tuncay Deriner, Managing Director, STAHL India Limited says, quote "I am looking forward to greater CLRI and STAHL co-operation." unquote. STAHL's Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Kanpur meets the requirements of the Indian Leather Industry perfectly. Mr Prasanna Kumar Maduri, Campus Manager takes us on a tour of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Kanpur and speaks on the CLRI & STAHL endeavour in developing seasonal colours of MODEUROP and FASHION TREND POOL.

Let us take the tour on: https://youtu.be/KrLxVYoEo9g

MAYTHREE, Episode 7, ALBERTO TORESSI (Virola International), I4th June 2021

We at VIROLA manufacture leather products across men's, ladies and kids. We invest a lot in state-of-the-art technologies for footwear production.

We are glad to be associated with CLRI. They really help us in giving a lot of information/ inspiration in terms of colours, materials and fashion trends that we use on a day-to-day basis.

The Indian consumer over the years has matured and changed tremendously especially in the last ten years. The types of products being consumed, the quality expectation, the comfort expectation, the styling expectation and even the frequency at which they want to change the product has changed a lot!

Earlier, any product launched abroad would take 2-3 years to come to India. Now, these products are pretty much simultaneously launched in India.

Says Mr Ishaan Sachdeva, Director, VIROLA International/ Alberto Toressi, Agra, "we at VIROLA are adapting to the globalized scenario! Over the last ten years, the type of footwear being consumed is changing. Trend adaptation is faster as well as quality expectation from the Indian consumer is rising. Online sales, malls, there is so much of access to different brands for the discerning consumer. The customer is bombarded with a lot of choice and is willing to pay for it. When they are willing to pay for it, they should get the best stuff." Let us hear Mr Ishaan Sachdeva speak: https://youtu.be/6TcxleoCauU

MAYTHREE, Episode 8, AMP Shoes, 21st June 2021

"We believe that formal shoes are on the way out. We also believe that



casual shoes, as we know it, are also not that popular anymore. The new term in the market is ATHLEISURE. The new philosophy of work from home has also accelerated this process of shifting from the traditional footwear that we are normally wearing to wearing something that is much more functional: to go for a walk, maybe to run an errand or even just chill out at home - the best possible footwear is ATHLEISURE and that is what AMP is about.

We take pride in building something of relevance and value to the Indian consumer!"

AMP brings you comfortable, all-day wear that is totally flexible, breathable and provides great value for money. AMP is essentially an Indian brand!

Though we have a lot of international brands that we look at and try and emulate to a certain extent, it is an Indian brand at heart. We look to make products that fit the Indian feet which stand the Indian conditions and perform at its best.

The shoes are made out of very light weight and flexible materials. The soles are very durable EVA most of the time, the foot beds are very soft and comfortable. The whole experience is supposed to be calming and relaxing!

We've been making shoes at FARIDA for more than 30 years.

Let us hear Mr PV Gopalakrishna Bachi, Spearhead, AMP Shoes, Bangalore speak: https://youtu.be/-AEmvSQwFxY



MAYTHREE, Episode 9, CLASSICUIR, Saroj International, 28th June 2021

"While I was studying in Hec Paris for my masters in luxury brand management in 2018, I learnt that all big labels, ecommerce labels were selling leather bags and accessories with beautiful designs but at a very high price point since they were all designing in France and outsourcing their production to India and China. At that time, I thought to myself that since our family business, SAROI INTERNATIONAL GROUP, has been in the leather business and producing for some great brands of the world, for more than 50 years in India having factories with highly skilled manpower and raw material backup of high grade leathers from our own self owned LWG tannery, then why can't we sell our products with our own brand at most reasonable prices." The only missing key that we lacked in India was designs, and that is the opportunity I thought we could work upon by designing in Paris and producing in India and selling all over the world - "The Affordable Luxury". Ms Priyanka Sethi, CLASSICUIR

Says Ms Priyanka Sethi, CLASSICUIR, SAROJ International, Noida "We use the best of materials, chromefree leathers and our expertise for manufacturing. CLASSICUIR is 'French,' CLASSI means 'Timeless' and CUIR means 'Leather.' That means 'Timeless Leather.' Indian Leather and Craftsmanship is traditionally well-known around the globe and our vision is to penetrate in the international and domestic markets through our own stores.

CLASSICUIR will be a choice of many due to its pricing, high-quality leather and designs - a brand anonymous for affordable luxury!" Let us hear Ms Priyanka Sethi speak on: https://youtu.be/w-TORgVFoMw



MAYTHREE, Episode 10, HATS OFF ACCESSORIES, 5th July 2021



Says Ms Sunaina Harjai, Founder of Hats Off Accessories "We are pioneers in introducing Women's Brogues back in 2015, and create a niche for our Brogues in both women's and men's footwear market. We have always focused on quality, design and craftsmanship. And now focusing on comfort and fits for Men's footwear dress shoes market in genuine leather. We believe in crafting product, which is durable and take care of corporate social responsibility, which will ensure, that buying leather shoes from hats off accessories is an investment, and a sustainable choice, in comparison to fast fashion, where many synthetic brands are creating negative impact for the environment.

We are focused on creating a brand, where we can create a space for Indian craftsmanship in the global footwear industry and create a community for other leather accessories and footwear designers, where we all can get a platform to showcase our talent and grow in the Indian Leather Footwear Industry as well as globally."

"Hats Off Accessories, was launched in 2015, with the intention of creating an affordable luxury Direct to Consumer Genuine leather footwear brand.

The Brand is focused on e-commerce, however we are soon creating a walk in studio/ rather workshop where we are going to reach out to customers, who can customise shoes at our studio, we will even be making last from their measurement, and they will be able to choose the different options for leather for upper and other materials.

Our Emphasis is to create an infrastructure, for the emerging retail entrepreneurs to scale up in the footwear industry and for women entrepreneurs to get an opportunity to lead and create an impact."

Ms Sunaina Harjai, Founder, Hats Off Accessories. Let us hear her speak on: https://youtu.be/8SasASJHHTg

MAYTHREE, Episode 11, METRO BRANDS, 12th July 2021

The warehouses are swamped, sell-off rates at an all-time low. Spring Summer 21 is already in the startlingly blocks. A dilemma. To dispose new seems currently unthinkable, despite signs of hope.

The collections are bursting with new themes and optimistic colours of Fashion Trend Pool. Products that make you want to wear fashion again!

It's 'revenge shopping' at the malls and stores.

he warehouses are swamped, sell-off rates at an all-time low. Spring Summer 2 I is already in the startlingly blocks. A dilemma. To dispose new seems currently unthinkable, despite signs of hope. The collections are bursting with new themes and optimistic colours of Fashion Trend Pool. Products that make you want to wear fashion again! After a full year of stay-at-home orders, quarantines and business closures and restrictions, consumers have a lot of pent-up emotions. their solution? Revenge shopping. "Revenge shopping is



METRO BRANDS showroom at the Phoenix Market City, Chennai

a signal that consumer confidence is increasing," says Forbes. Armed with stimulus checks, vaccinations and shopping withdrawals, many consumers are eager to get back to shopping. It's 'revenge shopping' at the malls and stores. FASHION IS ALIVE!

MAYTHREE, Episode 12, TRESMODE, 19th July 2021



"Most of us have been working from home for more than a year now. Getting back to the office after a significant amount of time can feel a little strange and even boring for some while others are longing to be back in the office. Either way, taking some time to prep before getting back can help you feel more confident.

Get back to work in style with the hottest styles of footwear this season with the footwear you need in 2021 for an up-to-date stylish and comfortable work wear wardrobe.

Tresmode, since inception is revolutionising the way one perceives footwear. A good pair of shoes is not just another piece in your wardrobe but an addition to your lifestyle and investment in your personal style." says Mr Kapil Mahtani, Founder & CEO, TRESMODE, Mumbai.

"We wanted to actually serve the fashion forward consumer and try to be more the mid-market segment. Unfortunately, then, the mid-market segment was very small and it was price sensitive! We got our spot among the 'celebrity favourites.' In the last fifteen years, that segment that we used to be proud of, today, has changed. The middle-class today has become one of the largest consumers of fashion. They are part of Global Consumers," says Mr Kapil Mahtani, Founder & CEO, TRESMODE, Mumbai.(https://www.tresmode. com/). Let us hear him speak on: https://youtu.be/2WV8BX2Nrqg

MAYTHREE, Episode 13, TONI ROSSI, 26th July 2021

Speaking on the experience of wearing a 'TONI ROSSI,' Mr Avoor Mohamed Izhan, CEO says "TONI ROSSI is a true alpha brand, it is for someone who values respect, honesty and a strong mind. TONI ROSSI lives up to the principles of being a responsible fashion footwear and is built with ethical and nature-friendly manufacturing processes. TONI ROSSI shoes are very comfortable and stylish to make a statement wherever you are present.

Domestic fashion industry in India is on the rise. We felt we could be a part of this growth to deliver international quality products to the Indian market.

As we are aware that India is one of the biggest manufacturers and exporters of fashion leather products, it is time that we put the name of India on the Global Map of Fashion!

Mr Avoor Mohamed Izhan, CEO, TONI ROSSI introduced Habeeb Tanning Company, the parent organization of TONI ROSSI. Habeeb Tanning Company, he said, had a very humble beginning of a small leather goods manufacturing facility years ago and later diversified into safety footwear in year 1996 and full house fashion footwear manufacturing was set-up in year 2000.



"We produce products for major international brands which has equipped us to create products with world-class quality for our brand TONI ROSSI," exclaimed Mr Izhan. Today, our brand is available on all major e-com websites and our own website www.tonnirossi.com. We at TONI ROSSI are looking to combine fashion, style and comfort. Our product engineering team is always on the job to understand the characteristics and functionality that the wearer expects from the product. The main aspect would be to maximize comfort and cushioning at the same time, not compromising on the brand statement value as a responsible fashion footwear.

Let us hear Mr Avoor Mohamed Izhan, CEO, TONI ROSSI speak on: https://youtu.be/bA-HOy-w9EU

What is MAYTHREE?



The prime objective of this endeavour is: "It is about bringing to the fore the CLRI co-operation with Indian Leather/ Shoes/ Bags/ Leather garments/ Chemical companies. About the novelty and creativity of the brands Made in India. Promotion for Made in India & designed in India. And last but not least, to bring in positivity to the Indian retail and exports manufacturing. The video was featured every Monday at 1.30 pm on YouTube channel for thirteen weeks from 3rd May 2021 until 26th July 2021.

With these 13 episodes, Season One of MAYTHREE remains completed.

Expression of sincere gratitude:

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Indian Shoe Federation for supporting and sponsoring Season One, 13 episodes.



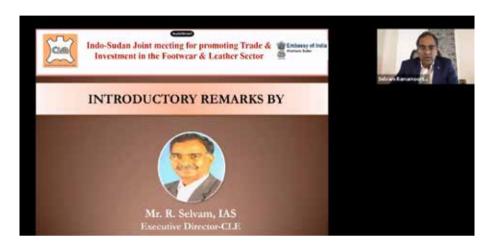
Virtual Business Meet between Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products and Sudanese buyers, July 28, 2021

Council for Leather Exports (CLE), in association with Embassy of India, Sudan had organized a Virtual Business Meet between Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products and Sudanese buyers at 2.00 PM India Time on 28th July, 2021.

The following 12 Indian companies took part in this Virtual Programme and presented their company and product profiles before the buyers and business delegates-

Name of the Company	Place	
Alsten Enterprises	Delhi	
BNG Fashion Gears Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi	
Bansal Elastomers Pvt. Ltd	Jaipur	
Classy Leather Company	Chennai	
Crescent Export Syndicate	Kolkata	
Jama Corporation Pvt. Ltd	Kanpur	
Intellikraft Impex LLP	Kolkata	
M and B Footwear Pvt Ltd	Delhi	
Meezan International	Kanpur	
Naaz Exports Pvt. Ltd	Kanpur	
Prisha Footprints	Delhi	
Varbi Footwear and Fashion Pvt. Ltd	Mumbai	

29 buyers and business delegates from Sudan attended the programme virtually from their respective destinations. Apart from that, more than 45 buyers and business delegates were physically present in the Conference room of the Ministry of Trade & Industry, Govt. of Sudan along with Officials from Embassy of India, Sudan for attending the Virtual Meet. Officials and Office bearers of Sudanese Businessmen and Employers Federation were also present there and attended the meet.



The Virtual Meet commenced with the Introductory Remarks by Mr. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE. In his introductory remarks, the Executive Director-CLE talked about trade between India and Sudan in the footwear and leather sector, overview of Indian leather sector and current export trends etc. He told that 12 Indian companies are participating in today's Virtual Meet for interaction with the Sudanese side, for exploring possibilities for enhancing trade between both the countries in the footwear and leather sector.



Mr. Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE, in his welcome address thanked H.E. Mr. Ravindra Prasad Jaiswal, Ambassador of India to Republic of the Sudan, Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, Counsellor & Head of Chancery and other Officials in the Embassy of India in Sudan for providing all required support to CLE for conducting the Virtual Business Meet. Chairman-CLE also welcomed the Officials from the Ministry of Industry & Trade, Government of Sudan and Office Bearers of Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations in Sudan, for providing all required assistance and also for attending the programme

Chairman-CLE informed that, COVID-19 pandemic has changed our normal way of life and we all have to accept and adapt the new normal. COVID-19 Pandemic has no doubt caused immense and unprecedented losses to the

industry and trade all over the world. Technology and innovation have kept the markets running despite the lockdown. This technology has today brought us together in this Virtual Buyer Seller Meet. He further stated that, the leather, leather products and footwear sector in India is not only a major foreign exchange earner for the country but also a major labour oriented sector. The sector is also known for its high concentration of women employment, with women constituting 40 % of the work force.

While talking about trade between India and Sudan in the Footwear and Leather Sector, Chairman-CLE informed that, as per ITC Geneva Statistics, Sudan has imported footwear, leather and leather products worth USD 166.97 million during 2019-20. Sudan's major item of import was Footwear with a value of USD 151 Million. (Leather Footwear USD 48 million and non leather footwear USD 103 million), followed by leather goods USD 10 million and footwear components USD 5 million. India's export to Sudan was USD 14 million during 2019-20. India is presently holding a share of 8.45% in the overall import of Sudan. India's major item of import to Sudan during 2019-20 was footwear (both leather and non leather) USD 14 million, followed by footwear components USD 0.06 million, Chairman-CLE informed.

By concluding his Welcome speech, Chairman-CLE informed that the Council for Leather Exports and Indian Footwear and Leather Industry is very keen to take the trade relations with Sudan to a new high and would like to have frequent and continuing interactions and discussions with our counterparts from Sudan. Chairman-CLE extended best wishes to all Indian participants for fruitful business interaction with the Sudanese side.

Due to last minute changes in his official meeting schedule, H.E. Mr.



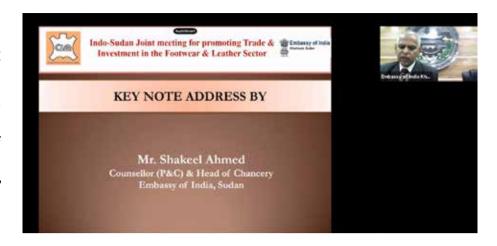
The delegates in Sudan participating in the event

Ravindra Prasad Jaiswal, Ambassador of India to Republic of the Sudan could not attend this Virtual Meet. Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, Counsellor (P&C) & Head of Chancery, Embassy of India in Sudan represented the Embassy in the meeting and addressed the forum. In his address, Mr. Shakeel Ahmed thanked Mr. Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE, Mr. R.Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE, the President, Vice President and other Office Bearers of Sudanese Business Federation and other dignitaries who were present in the Virtual Business Meet. Representatives of Sudanese Society for Leather Industry, Sudanese Chamber of Small Industries were also present in the meeting. Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, Head of Chancery, Embassy of India informed that the large participation from Sudanese side clearly indicates the importance they are giving for promotion of trade with India in the footwear and leather sector. The Head of Chancery informed that Sudan has recently signed the bilateral agreement with India for promoting the MSME segment, under which, the Sudanese side is interacting with the Central Leather Research Institute in Chennai, for imparting training to the workforce in Sudan. The Head of Chancery further stated that there is a tremendous goodwill about Indian products among the Sudanese consumers. An Indian company from the Southern part of India has already set up a manufacturing facility in Sudan and producing footwear in the country. More than 25 Indian experts and technicians are working in that factory, Mr. Shakeel Ahmed informed. He further stated that today's meeting will be focusing on trade and investment since Sudan is offering great opportunities for overseas investors on account of cheap labour, good electricity supply and support measures of the Government of Sudan.

The President of Sudan Business Association talked on the occasion and informed that Indian business community has already been actively involved in trade and investment in Sudan, in several product segments, including footwear and leather sector. SME is an area, Sudan is looking forward for cooperation with India. The Sudanese side also need support for imparting training for their workforce, he stated.

Thereafter, the house was opened for discussions and the Sudanese side raised various questions about sourcing EVA and PVC footwear and shoe uppers

from India. The questions were promptly replied by Chairman and Executive Director-CLE. Replying to a Question raised by a Sudanese delegate, Chairman-CLE suggested that Sudanese side may consider **Business** Delegation mooting a to visit India on the occasion of India International Leather Fair in Chennai in the month of February, 2022, where the Sudanese side will be able to meet many manufacturers of chemicals, machinery, leather and leather products. It would be a good opportunity to connect with suppliers of many products, they are looking for. CLE would be glad to coordinate their meetings and visit to the manufacturing units in India, Chairman-CLE informed.



The Virtual Business Meet ended with the Vote of Thanks by Mr. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE. The Executive Director-CLE offered Vote of Thanks to Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, Head of Chancery and other Officials in the Embassy of India, President and other office bearers of Sudanese Business Associations and other Chambers of Commerce.













"Sourcing Trends and Opportunities in the Footwear and Leather Sector in India: The Leather Market Today" & "Leather Products and Footwear Market Scenario in US: Opportunities available for Indian companies" – 29th July, 2021

Council for Leather Exports (CLE) in association with USFIA (United States Fashion Industry Association) has organized a Webinar and Virtual Business Meet on "Sourcing Trends and Opportunities in the Footwear and Leather Sector in India: The Leather Market Today" & "Leather Products and Footwear Market Scenario in US: Opportunities available for Indian companies" at 7.30 PM India Time (10.00 am US Time) on 29th July, 2021.

Representatives of more than 45 Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products attended the programme besides 31 US buyers and business delegates. The below named 8 companies have participated in the Virtual Business Meet and presented short videos about their company and product profile before the audience:-

Name of the Company	Place	
NS Leather Products Pvt. Ltd.	Kolkata	
Jiya Exim Pvt. Ltd.	Kolkata	
Grow More International Limited	Kanpur	
Cinturones Alvi India Pvt. Ltd	Delhi	
Intellikraft Impex LLP	Kolkata	
Oxims Exports LLP	Kolkata	
Alpine Apparels Pvt. Ltd.	Faridabad	
Naaz Exports (P) Ltd.	Kanpur	

The programme commenced with the introductory remarks by Ms. Shannon Brady, Communication Director-



USFIA. She welcomed all dignitaries and participants to the programme. Followed by this, **Ms. Jullia K. Hughes, President-USFIA** welcomed all participants and called Chairman-CLE for delivering welcome address.

Mr. Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE in his welcome address informed that Council for Leather Exports, India has entered into a Partnership with US Fashion Industries Association (USFIA) last year, as their "Sourcing Partner" for 2020. The partnership has proved beneficial for both the sides in terms of understanding each other's requirements and thereby promoting trade between India and US in the Footwear and Leather Sector. Like USFIA representing the interest of approx 3000 + Industry contacts in US, Council for Leather Exports, functioning under the aegis of Government of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry is the voice of the strong and rapidly growing Indian footwear and leather industry. Over 3200 manufacturer exporters of leather footwear, non leather footwear, footwear components, leather garments, leather goods & accessories, leather gloves, saddler & harness products and finished leather are registered with CLE. The area of working of both the Organizations are almost similar hence there exists enormous opportunities for diversifying our relationship to the news areas of cooperation, Chairman-CLE informed. Chairman-CLE also presented an overview about leather sector in India and current export trends.

Followed by the Welcome Address by Chairman-CLE, Mr. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE made a detailed presentation on 'Sourcing Trends

and Opportunities in the Footwear and Leather Sector in India'. His presentation covered the areas i.e. current market scenario, raw material base, exports, strength of Indian footwear and leather sector, institutional support, Industry's compliance of international standards, brands sourcing from India etc.

Thereafter, Ms. Julia K. Hughes. President-USFIA has made presentation on "Leather Products and Footwear Market Scenario in US : Opportunities available for Indian companies". In her presentation, the President-USFIA explained in detail about the latest market trends, consumer mood in US, major importing countries to US and their trade share, India's position in the import of footwear, leather and leather products by US etc. The presentation by President-USFIA explained about the opportunities available for Indian companies to enhance their share of export to US market.

There was a Question Answer Session also, in which, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Director-CLE answered the Questions raised from USFIA side.

Mr. R.K. Jalan, Vice Chairman-CLE in his closing remarks talked about the importance of 'sustainability' in the footwear and leather industry. He told that leather sector in India is giving due importance to 'sustainability' and in all likelihood, within next 12 months period, almost 70% of Indian leather products will be sustainable in nature. He added that, world is looking at India and there exists enormous opportunities for US customers, for enhancing trade with India in the footwear and leather sector. Vice Chairman-CLE said that, CLE and Indian leather industry is eagerly looking forward to collaborate with USFIA on mutually beneficial terms. While summing up his address,







Vice Chairman-CLE stated that, Indian footwear and leather industry is complying all international standards and regulations and renowned brands are looking at India for sourcing their business requirements. He thanked Ms. Julia K. Hughes, President and all office bearers of USFIA for conducting the Webinar.

Virtual Business Meet between Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products and Buyers from Oman & Gulf Region, Aug. 2, 2021

Council for Leather Exports (CLE) had organized a Virtual Business Meet with buyers from Oman and other Gulf Countries at India Time 1.30 PM (Oman Time 12.00 noon) on 2nd August, 2021. CLE had organized this Programme in close coordination with Embassy of India, Oman.

The below named 12 Indian companies took part in this Virtual Programme and presented their company and product profiles before the buyers and business delegates-

Name of the Company	Place	
Alpine Apparels Pvt. Ltd	Delhi	
Alsten Enterprises	Delhi	
BNG Fashion Gears Pvt. Ltd	Delhi	
Bansal Elastomers Pvt Ltd	Jaipur	
D' Lords Footwear and Fashions Pvt. Ltd	Mumbai	
Intellikraft Impex LLP	Kolkata	
Jama Corporation Pvt. Ltd	Kanpur	
M and B Footwear Pvt ltd	Delhi	
Meezan International	Kanpur	
Naaz Exports Pvt. Ltd	Kanpur	
Kanpur	Delhi	
Prisha Footwear	Delhi	
Varbi Footwear nad Fashion Pvt. Ltd	Mumbai	

More than 25 buyers and business delegates from Oman and other Gulf Countries attended the programme virtually from their respective destinations. Representatives of big buying groups i.e. Al Safeer Group of Companies, Lulu Group International, Khimji Ramdass LLC were present on the occasion.

The programme started with



introductory remarks by Mr. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE. In his address, the Executive Director-CLE welcomed all delegates and dignitaries and thanked them for sparing their time for attending the programme. He presented a brief about CLE, its membership strength and current export trends. The Executive Director-CLE informed that, the Industry is recovering fast from the impact of COVID pandemic and the sector has registered a positive export growth of over 300 percent during the 1st quarter of financial year 2021-22, as compared to the similar period of previous year. He expressed optimism that the growth is going to continue in the coming months as well and with the joint efforts of all stakeholders and on account of the Industry friendly approach of the Government of India, the sector will register record growth rate this financial year.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE, in his welcome address expressed gratitude to Mr. Munu Mahawar, Hon'ble Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and other Officials in the Embassy of India, Oman for supporting CLE for conducting the programme successfully. Chairman-CLE also thanked Mr. Ali Al Ajmi, Board member and Chairman of Services and IT Committee, Oman Chamber of Commerce, for attending the Virtual Business Meet. Chairman-CLE informed that COVID-19 pandemic has changed our normal way of life and we all have to accept and adapt the new normal. COVID-19 Pandemic has no doubt caused immense and unprecedented losses to the industry and trade all over the world. Technology and innovation have kept the markets running despite the lockdown. While presenting an overview about Indian leather industry, Chairman-CLE informed that, Indian leather sector has achieved several milestones. India is the 2nd largest producer of footwear, second largest exporter of leather garments, third largest exporter of Saddlery & Harness and 5th largest exporter of leather goods in the world. As per 2019-20 statistics, the sector has a turnover of USD 17.07 billion, with exports constituting USD 5.07 billion and domestic market constituting USD 12 billion. The sector has made significant investments in the last two decades in scaling-up production.

Chairman-CLE also talked about trade relationship between India and Oman in the footwear and leather sector and informed that India is presently holding a share of 4.03% in the overall import of Oman and there exist enormous opportunities for increasing trade between the two Countries. While summing up his welcome address, Chairman-CLE informed that CLE and Indian footwear and leather sector is eagerly looking forward to increase trade relationship with Oman and other Gulf countries and opined that today's interactive session between the two sides will be a beginning of this initiative.

While thanking CLE for taking initiates for organizing the Virtual H.E. Mr. Munu Business Meet. Mahawar, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, in his key note address informed that the relationship between India and Oman goes back to several thousand of years and the two countries are extremely comfortable in doing business with each other. Leadership and people to people level interactions have helped in developing the trade and economic relationship between the two counties to the highest levels. There are vibrant and sizable investment made in each other's countries in various segments. Hon'ble Ambassador has informed that even during COVID pandemic time, economic partnership between two countries have showed great resilience and India has supplied many essential commodities to Oman during this period.

While talking about trade between India and Oman in the footwear and leather sector, Hon'ble Ambassador informed that, India have a capacity to produce quality products at affordable prices and Omani importers can explore possibilities for sourcing their business requirements from India. He expressed optimism that today's interactive session will pave the way for further promoting trade between



India and Oman in the footwear and leather sector. While concluding his address, Hon'ble Ambassador assured all possible support of Embassy of India in Oman, for further promoting trade between two countries in the leather and footwear sector.



Shri R.K. Jalan, Vice Chairman-CLE in his address thanked Hon'ble Ambassador, Embassy of India, Oman for his encouraging words. Vice Chairman-CLE informed that at present few Indian companies are shipping shoe uppers to Oman and making full shoes in the factories there in Oman. We can further explore possibilities for shipping semi finished products to

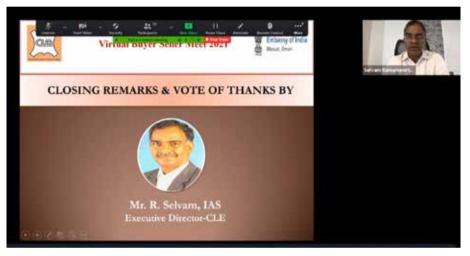
Oman, for manufacturing finished goods in Oman. This way, we may be able to promote trade between the two countries in a sizable way, the Vice Chairman-CLE opined.

Vice Chairman-CLE further stated that, at present, India is holding a share of approx 4% in the overall import of footwear, leather and leather products by Oman and our intention would be to increase our share of export to atleast 15% in next two year period. While concluding his address, Vice Chairman-CLE suggested that, once the impact of COVID pandemic is over, we can consider visiting Oman for exploring possibilities for promoting trade in a much bigger way.

Followed by the speech delivered by the Vice Chairman-CLE, a short video showcasing Indian footwear and leather industry was played before the audience. Thereafter, pre-recorded videos of 3 minutes duration of all 12 Indian participants were played. The videos explained about their products, countries they are exporting and their manufacturing capabilities.

At the end of the programme, an open house discussion was also held between the two sides. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Director-CLE answered to the





Questions raised by Omani delegates. The programme concluded with the Vote of Thanks by Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE. The Executive Director-CLE informed that today's programme is just an opening and Indian Embassy in Oman and CLE are fully committed for providing all required support for promoting trade between India and Oman in the footwear and leather sector.

Shri R. Selvam, ED, CLE delivered the closing remarks and Vote of Thanks.



Virtual Business Meet between Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products and Nigerian buyers, Aug. 5, 5021

Council for Leather Exports (CLE), in association with High Commission of India in Nigeria had organized a Virtual Business Meet between Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products and Nigerian buyers at 3.30 PM India Time (11 am Nigeria Time) on 5th August, 2021. Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry had partnered with CLE and High Commission of India Nigeria, for organizing this programme.

The following 16 Indian companies took part in this Virtual Programme and presented their company and product profiles before the buyers and business delegates-

Name of the Company	Place	
Alsten Enterprises	Delhi	
BNG Fashion Gears Pvt. Ltd	Delhi	
D' Lords Footwear Fashion Pvt. Ltd	Mumbai	
D.S. Accessories & Footwear Pvt. Ltd	Kanpur	
Deepak Impex (Wasan Group)	Agra	
Kalpana Industries	Kanpur	
Khadim India Limited	Kolkata	
M and B Footwear Pvt Ltd	Delhi	
Naaz Leather Finishers	Kanpur	
Oriental Impex	Kolkata	
Prisha Footprints	Jaipur	
Suoli Ficio Linea Italia Pvt. Ltd	Kolkata	
Superhouse Limited	Kanpur	
Varbi Footwear & Fashion Pvt. Ltd	Mumbai	
Walkaroo International Pvt. Ltd	Coim- batore	
Welcome Footwears	Baha- durgarh	



More than 30 buyers and business delegates from Nigeria attended the programme virtually from their respective destinations. Officials and Office bearers of Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry were also present on the occasion.

The programme commenced with the introductory remarks by Mr. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE. The Executive Director-CLE welcomed H.E. Mr. Abhay Thakur, High Commissioner of India to Nigeria, Prof. M.K. Yakubu, Chairman-National Steering Committee on National Leather and Leather Products Policy Implementation Plan & DG/CEO, Nigerian Institute of Leather & Science Technology, Officials and Office bearers of Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman-CLE, delegates from Nigeria and India and thanked them for their participation. In his address, the Executive Director presented a brief about the trade relationship between India and Nigeria in the Footwear and Leather Sector. He has given a brief about CLE, India's footwear and leather sector, current export trends and also about CLE's marketing activities.



Mr. Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE, in his welcome address, informed that CLE is very much obliged to H.E. Mr. Abhay Thakur, High Commissioner of India to Nigeria, Mr. V.D.S.L. Surendra, Deputy High Commissioner and other officials in the High Commission, for extending all possible support to CLE for organizing the Virtual Business Meet. He has made a special mention about Officials and Office bearers of Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry, for their unstinted support for successful conduct of the programme. He also expressed his gratitude to Prof. M.K. Yakubu, Chairman-National Steering Committee on National Leather and Leather Products Policy Implementation Plan & DG/CEO, Nigerian Institute of Leather & Science Technology, for sparing his time to join the Virtual Meet.

While presenting a brief about India's footwear and leather industry, the Chairman-CLE informed that the leather, leather products and footwear sector in India is not only a major foreign exchange earner for the country but is also a major labour oriented sector. The sector is also known for its high concentration of women employment, with women constituting 40 % of the work force. Indian leather sector has achieved several milestones. India is the 2nd largest producer of footwear, second largest exporter of leather garments, third largest exporter of Saddlery & Harness and 5th largest exporter of leather goods in the world. As per 2019-20 statistics, the sector has a turnover of USD 17.07 billion, with exports constituting USD 5.07 billion and domestic market constituting USD 12 billion, the Chairman-CLE informed. After a prolonged period of market slowdown caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic which led to 27.72% decline in India's export of footwear, leather and leather products during 2020-21, we are back on the growth track with exports from our sector showing impressive resurgence during 2021-22. As per

data received from Dept. of Commerce, Govt. of India, export of footwear, leather and leather products has increased from USD 146.79 million in April – May 2020 to USD 641.72 million in April – May 2021, registering 337.17% growth. This is a very good beginning for us, which we hope to sustain in the coming months.

While talking about the trade relationship between India and Nigeria in the Footwear and leather sector, Chairman-CLE opined that there exists enormous opportunities for both the sides to further enhance their cooperation by way of enhancing export to Nigeria, importing raw materials from Nigeria and also entering into Joint Ventures, Technical collaboration and also technology transfer.

Concluding his welcome speech, Chairman-CLE informed that the Council for Leather Exports and Indian Footwear and Leather Industry is very keen to take the trade relations with Nigeria to a new high. Chairman-CLE once again thanked the Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry for planning 27 One-to-One business meetings between Indian participants and Nigerian buyers and business visitors, on the sidelines of Virtual Business Meet and appreciated the efforts taken by Mr. Jude Chime of Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry, for planning these one to one meetings.

H.E. Mr. Abhay Thakur, High Commissioner of India to Nigeria in his address acknowledged the presence of Prof. M.K. Yakubu, Chairman-National Steering Committee on National Leather and Leather Products Policy Implementation Plan & DG/CEO, Nigerian Institute of Leather & Science Technology, Mr. Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, Mr. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE and other dignitaries and delegates from both Nigerian and Indian side. Hon'ble High Commissioner stated that, this is the 35th Virtual Buyer Seller Meet organized by the High Commission of India in Nigeria, after the beginning of COVID pandemic.

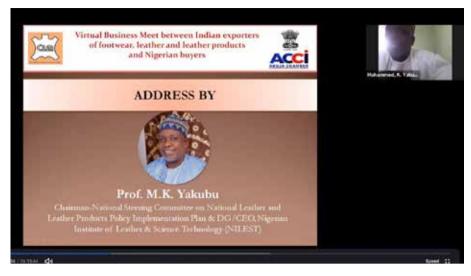
Hon'ble Ambassador further stated that despite of the surge in logistic and other disruptions on account of COVID, the trade between both sides has been going on without much disturbance. Due to pandemic situation, there was a decline in the import by Nigeria during 2019-20, on year on year basis. However, the 1st quarter of 2021-22 has showed an overall growth of 17% in Nigeria's import and this is a good signal, the Hon'ble High Commissioner informed. Indian economy is doing well so is Nigeria, the largest economy and most populous country in Africa. As per latest figures, Nigeria's GDP is exceeding 500 million USD. A country with 200 million English speaking,



easy to connect, a very receptive population, Nigeria is offering great opportunities for Indian business community to expand their business. Indian business community is on a good footing on account of both political goodwill and trade & economic issues, Hon'ble High Commissioner opined.

While talking about trade relationship between India and Nigeria in the Footwear and Leather Sector, Hon'ble High Commissioner stated that the High Commission of India in Nigeria welcomes this close interaction between various stakeholders of both the Countries. Indian side, with many of its inherent strengths i.e. abundant availability of raw materials, huge cattle population, environmental friendly manufacturing policies, good technology machinery and also compliance of various global standards are well equipped to enhance their business with Nigerian side. Hon'ble High Commissioner stated that, as per data available, Nigeria imports 20% of their requirement of leather from India. One of the major areas to be focused in this regard is auto industry since this industry is using large quantities of leather in their product Companies such as TVS and Bajaj are the largest exporters of two wheelers from India to Nigeria and in fact they are the market leaders in Nigeria. Furthermore, Indian side may consider extending necessary support to Nigerian side for improving their value chain boosting India's alongside exports. By way of technology transfers, joint ventures and creating additional employment opportunities, Indian side can help the Nigerian business enterprises. Indian side can also consider investing in the tannery segment in Nigeria. All these kind of initiatives will promote the two way trade between the two Countries.

The Hon'ble High Commissioner further informed that both India and



Nigeria have the ethnic population, India is the home of approx 200 million Muslims, whereas, in Nigeria, approx I 00 million Muslims are living. Hence there exist opportunities for promoting export of halal and halal certified products to Nigeria. Indian leather sector can explore possibilities for exporting halal certified leather products to Nigeria, for getting more acceptance among the Nigerian customers/consumers. Concerned Departments and Agencies in both the Countries may work out necessary modalities in this regard. Concluding his remarks, Hon'ble High Commissioner stated that, leather is one of the areas identified by the Department of Commerce, Government of India as a priority sector for focused development. The Hon'ble High Commissioner offered all support of the Indian High Commission in Nigeria for promoting trade between India and Nigeria in the footwear and leather sector.

Prof. M.K. Yakubu, Chairman-National Steering Committee on National Leather and Leather Products Policy Implementation Plan & DG/CEO, Nigerian Institute of Leather & Science Technology, in his address thanked CLE and High Commission of India in Nigeria for arranging this Virtual Platform for exploring possibilities of enhancing trade between Nigeria and India in the footwear and leather sector. Prof. Yakubu informed that the tanning industry both in India and Nigeria are very old and have many similarities. Both countries have huge cattle population, which can supply raw materials to the finished goods sector abundantly. Nigerian tanneries are supplying their leather to the companies in France, Italy and other countries. What Nigerian side is lacking is the adequate training facilities, for which, Indian side may be able to collaborate Nigerian side. Indian side may also help the Nigerian side to expand the manufacturing of finished leather products in India, Prof. Yakubu suggested.

Thereafter, a short video showcasing Indian footwear and leather industry was played before the audience. Pre-recorded videos of 3 minutes duration of all 16 Indian participants were also played on the occasion. The videos explained about their products, countries they are exporting and their manufacturing capabilities.

During the Question Answer Session, the Nigerian delegates raised their queries regarding improving training facilities in their country, exporting finished leather to India etc., which were promptly replied by the Chairman and Executive Director-CLE.









The Virtual Business Meet concluded with the Vote of Thanks offered by Mr. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE. While offering vote of thanks to Hon'ble High Commissioner, High Commission of India in Nigeria and other dignitaries who were present in the Virtual Meet, the Executive Director-CLE expressed optimism that today's Virtual Business Meet will help both Indian and Nigerian side for further enhancing trade between both the Countries in the footwear and leather sector.

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS

LEATHER NEWS INDIA

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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Full Page : A 4 size

Half page horizontal : 148 (h) x 210 (w) mm Half page vertical : 297 (h) x 105 (w) mm Quarter page : 148 (h) x 105 (w) mm

- Advertisement material may be sent in Adobe Pagemaker/Coral Draw/Adobe Illustrator files/ High Resolution PDF, with the font files or curved.
- Advertisement will be published only upon receipt of payment. Last date of receipt of payment and advertisement material is 10th of the month of release of the book.

Shri Motilal Sethi, Regional Chairman (Northern Region), Council for Leather Exports visited the CSIR-CLRI Design & Fashion Studio on 19th July 2021

Shri Motilal Sethi, Regional Chairman (Northern Region), Council for Leather Exports visited the CSIR-CLRI on 19th July 2021 and met Dr.K.J.Sreeram, Director, CSIR-CLRI. During his visit to Design & Fashion Studio, the Regional Chairman interacted with Team.

The Regional Chairman had a 'first look' of the Colours of both FASHION TREND POOL & MODEUROP for the Autumn Winter 22/23 season. Shri Sethi complimented Team CSIR-CLRI for the work being done on the Indian Footwear Sizing System.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN FOOTWEAR SIZING SYSTEM explained to Shri Motilal Sethi:

I. How is this Indian standard going to help the populace?

- Design of footwear is a complex, multidisciplinary task spanning many fields of Science and Engineering. Comfort of a shoe and proper foot health is ensured by a proper footwear size.
- In the absence of a 'Footwear Sizing System' in India, it is imperative that an 'Indian Footwear Sizing system' be developed based on the Foot Dimensions of the Indian feet.
- CSIR-CLRI under the aegis of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India, Ministry of Commerce is conducting a nationwide survey for reliable data on foot dimensions of the Indian population using 3D Digital Imaging



Shri Motilala Sethi being felicitated on his election as Regional Chairman of CLE (Northern Region) by Team Design & Fashion Studio



Shri Motilal Sethi is holding the Colour Cards of both MODEUROP and FASH-ION TREND POOL for the Autumn Winter 22/23 season





- technique to establish the Indian Footwear Sizing System.
- For very long, INDIA has been following the British Shoe Sizing System with equivalents to the European and American sizes.
- The Indian consumer is getting increasingly aware about FOOT Comfort and Foot Health. Not always do the English sizes fit the shoe.
- The Indian National Footwear Sizing System that is being developed will help the populace to get well fitting shoes that adhere to the contours of their feet thus ensuring perfect fit and comfort and also prevent foot debilitations.

2. What are the pitfalls of the European and French standard that we have been using so far?

- The European and French Standards have differential grading of Footwear Sizes.
- For Example in the UK Standard, the Foot Length has an increment of 8.46 mm from one size to the next size, while the Foot Girth has an increment of 6mm from one size to the next size.
- In the French Standard, the Foot Length has an increment of 6.66 mm from one size to the next size, while the Foot Girth has an increment of 5mm from one size to the next size.
- The Indian Feet have to be adjusted to the nearest size and fit and this results in uncomfortable footwear which might lead to Foot Injuries and other complications.
- Moreover, there are no half Sizes in these standards as a consequence of which a person whose foot length might fit one size but his foot width would not fit that size and he has to perforce opt for a size higher to accommodate his wide feet but then the shoe becomes ill-fitting as his foot length does not match this higher size.

 Thus, using UK and French Standards can result in a compromise to find the closest fit.

3. How are Indian feet demographically and anthropologically different from the Caucasians, which perhaps creates the need to come up with a local standard?

- There is no large scale Anthropometric Foot Survey conducted thus far in India which can establish a relationship between the Foot Characteristics of Indian Feet 'demographically and anthropologically' vis-à-vis the Caucasian Feet.
- The Indian Feet certainly has its unique characteristics which do not fit the Standards developed for the Caucasian Feet and therefore there is a strong need to develop the Indian National Footwear Sizing system that is derived from the Data collected from the Indian Feet and which would provide comfort footwear to the Indian consumer.
- The Statistical Analysis of the data to be collected from the current pan India Anthropometric Foot Measurement Survey would certainly establish the 'Demographic and Anthropological' characteristics of the Indian Feet and then a comparison can be made with the Caucasian Feet

4. How does CLRI plan to undertake the study to devise the standard? Working Methodology



Methodology of developing the National Footwear Sizing system

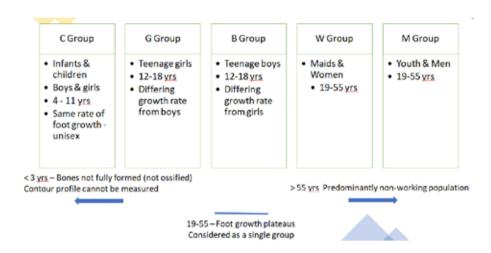
It is developed based on the Foot anthropometric survey of the local population.

- To design the survey it is first necessary to zonate the country (North, East, North East, West and South)
- The next step is to determine the place where the survey has to be carried out. In this process the help of NSSO was sought to identify the regions of measurement.
- These regions must be truly representative of the foot characteristics of the cluster of local Population in and around the identified region.
- Once the regions are identified it is important to determine a sample size which would be the basic minimum of the number of people whose foot would have to be measured.
- This sample size is determined based on Statistical algorithms and previous successful Foot Anthropometric Surveys.
- We then need to divide the population in to various age groups. This requires a study of growth rate patterns of boys girls, men and women.

- From statistical trials and analysis it has been concluded that the growth rate of children (boys and girls) is the same in the age groups four to eleven years.
- From age twelve the growth rate of boys and girls foot are different upto the age of 18 years.
- The girl's foot is much smaller as compared to boy's foot in this age group.
- Beyond the age of 19 years the growth rate of foot for both boys and girlsplateaus and this gives rise to uniform sizing for both men and women in the age group 19 years and above.
- Hence we find that measurements have to be carried out for the following five age groups.
- o Group I CHILDREN (Boys and Girls) 4 to 1 I years
- o Group II GIRLS 12 to 18 years
- o Group III BOYS 12 to 18 years
- o Group IV MEN'S 19years and Above (we measure upto Age 55)
- o Group -V WOMEN'S 19 years and Above (we measure upto Age 55)

Demographic Survey

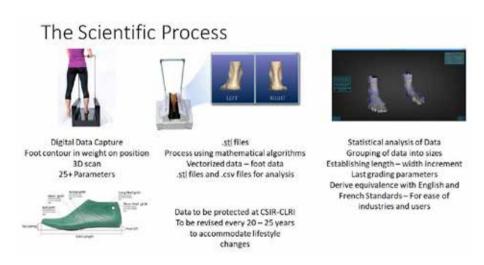
 Based on the Country's population, it has been statistically estimated that a Total of I Lakh Foot measurements across all Genders, Age Groups and Locations pan India would be sufficient to accurately derive the Indian Footwear Sizing System.



- Once the Foot Data is collected then we have to carry out a detailed Statistical Analysis to:
- o To reveal the differences among various groups and geographical areas
- o To determine the characteristic age and size groups
- o To Set the basic measurements to be used for marking sizes of footwear
- o To establish the size ranges providing the required coverage of the population
- o To Produce rules and numerical database for designing well fitting shoe lasts

Measuring Principle: -

- The Foot Measurement Technology that would be used is the most advanced "3D Digital Imaging" technique which comprises of a 3 Dimensional foot scanner which scans the foot form and the anatomical landmark points and measures automatically over 25-foot measurement parameters through an optical laser scanning system.
- The scan data is captured as a cloud point data and can be saved and exported to various file formats like CSV, DXF, VRML and STL for further Statistical investigations.

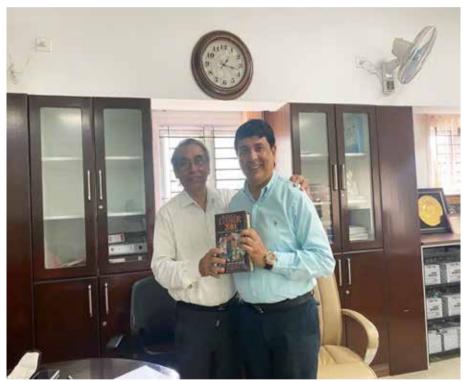


PROCESS FLOW for Data Capture and Statistical Investigations

- ☐ The images which are captured and stored are processed by using Mathematical Algorithms
- ☐ The Analysis of these Foot Images leads to finding their boundaries, determining linear measurements and typical angles according to a predefined network.
- ☐ The pixel graphic picture files are converted into a vectorized data stream for retrieval of foot data.
- ☐ The basis of the statistical data analysis is the unified database retrieved from numerical data collection after analyzing all the foot images and the calculations based on these graphics images lead us to deriving the Indian Foot Sizing system.
- ☐ The end objectives of the Statistical Investigations are:
 - To identify the length and width ranges required to cover the need of the local population for footwear,
 - To define proportions and rules of constructing shoe lasts required for providing well-fitting and healthy footwear.

Shri.Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, Council for Leather Exports met with Dr. T. Ramasami, Former Director, CLRI and Former Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology to discuss various Issues of Leather Industry at CLRI on 19th July, 2021.





A book on Indian Leather pertaining to Technology, Industry and Forecast being presented to Shri MotilalSethi by Dr Ramasami.



Regional Chairman – North Shri Motilal Sethi Visit to Council For Leather Exports (CLE), Head Office in Chennai On 13.07.2021

Shri. Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE visited Head Office of Council for Leather Exports in Chennai and met Shri R.Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE and other officials on 13th July, 2021 to discuss the Vision of the Northern Region so that it can further be taken forward to make a comprehensive Professional Study of Indian Leather Industry.

Shri Motilal Sethi was very impressed to see the new building of CLE, its functional infrastructure and meticulous technology base style of functioning of CLE Head Office.



Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE meeting with Shri. R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE

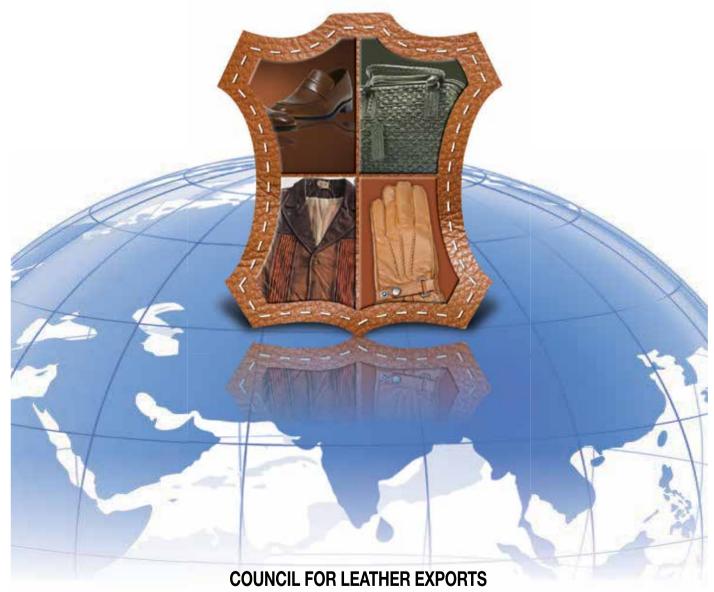




Shri MotilalSethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE interacting with staff members at Head Office, Council for Leather Exports, Chennai

INDIAN LEATHER INDUSTRY STRIDING WITH CONFIDENCE





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