

LEATHER NEWS INDIA

June 2021

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- Election of New Chairman, Vice – Chairman and Regional Chairmen of Council For Leather Exports
- 36th Annual General Meeting (Adjourned) of CLE held on 17-6-2021 at Chennai
- Inauguration of new office of Council for Leather Exports
- Meetings of Chairman, CLE
- Leather Industry Virtual BSM with buyers from Central American Countries, 24th June, 2021

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COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS
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CENTRAL REGION

KLC Complex (Kanpur-Lucknow Highway)
Kader Patari, Banthar,
Unnao-209862
Tel: +91 – 0515-2823376
Fax: +91 – 0515-2823377
E-Mail: cleknp@cleindia.com

EASTERN REGION

I B, First Floor, “Duck Back House”,
41, Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata – 700 017.
Tel: +91 – 33 – 22835479 / 80
Fax: +91 – 33 – 22877270
E-Mail: cleer@cleindia.com

NORTHERN REGION

Flat No. 317, DLF Prime Tower
OKhla Phase-I (Near Hotel Crowne Plaza)
New Delhi - 110 020
Ph: +91-11-26814501 /502
Fax : +91-11-26814503
E-mail : cledelhi@cleindia.com

SOUTHERN REGION

I, Sivaganga Road, Nungambakkam,
Chennai – 600 034, India
Phone: + 91-44-48684380 - 84
Fax: +91-44-48684386
E-mail: cle@cleindia.com

WESTERN REGION

STAR HUB, Building I, Unit No. 102, 1st Floor
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Sahar International Airport Road
Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400099
Tel : +91-22-28392221
Fax : +91-22-67256236
e-mail : cleb@cleindia.com

AGRA EXTENSION OFFICE

Agra Trade Centre,
Village Singna, NH -2
(Near Gokulam Water Park)
Agra - 282007, Uttar Pradesh
Mobile : 8791161159
email : cleagra@cleindia.com

JALANDHAR EXTENSION OFFICE

CFC Building, Leather Complex,
Kapurthala Road
Jalandhar 144 021, Punjab, India
Phone: +91-181-2650967
Fax: +91-181-2650967
E-mail: clejalandhar@cleindia.com

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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Registered Office & Head Office
I, Sivaganga Road, Nungambakkam,
Chennai – 600 034, India
Phone: + 91-44-48684380 - 84
Fax: +91-44-48684386
E-mail: cle@cleindia.com
Website: www.leatherindia.org

EDITOR

R. Selvam

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Kanpur	Pallavi Dubey
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Published by R. Selvam,
Council for Leather Exports,
CMDA Tower II, 3rd Floor, Gandhi - Irwin Bridge Road,
Egmore, Chennai-600008

on behalf of Council for Leather Exports,
CMDA Tower II, 3rd Floor, Gandhi - Irwin Bridge Road,
Egmore, Chennai - 600008, India and



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- Virtual Interactive meeting of Chairman CLE and Northern Regional Chairman with Shri. Varinder Singh Kundu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, July 7, 2021

Dear Members

After a prolonged period of market slowdown caused by the Covid 19 Pandemic which led to 27.72% decline in export of leather, leather products and footwear from the country during 2020-21, exports from our sector showed impressive resurgence this financial year. Export of leather, leather products and footwear increased from USD 146.79 million in April – May 2020 to USD 641.72 million in April – May 2021, registering 337.17% growth. Though exports showed 21% decline in June 2021, we hope to sustain in the coming months, as India is viewed as a favourite sourcing and investment destination. We thank the Government of India for implementing various support measures to our industry during these difficult Pandemic time. We have again taken-up our requests namely restoration of import duty exemption for wet blue, crust and finished leathers ; continuation of Duty Free Import Scheme, implementation of RODTEP and extension of MEIS benefit for April – Dec. 2020 with the Government. Besides, we have also requested implementation of Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for our sector to enhance production and exports from our sector.



The Pandemic has ushered in or rather intensified the digital era. With increasing prominence of e-commerce platforms and also virtual exhibitions, we must ensure optimum utilisation of the various available digital modes to gain further market access. The Council for Leather Exports (CLE) has organised 12 virtual Buyer Seller Meets/ B2 B events during 2020-21 in more than 17 countries and has planned more than 25 events which include participation in VC/ Hybrid international exhibitions, 2 BSMs, 2 Reverse BSMs (Delhi and Kolkata) and one Designers Fair with support under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAIS) of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry Govt. of India, depending on the COVID situation. Besides, Footwear and Leather Sector Virtual BSMs between Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products and buyers from Nigeria, USA, Israel, Germany, Sudan, Oman and Russia etc in association with Indian Missions concerned have been planned by CLE in the coming months on self-financing basis. One B 2 B event already completed on June 24, 2021 with Indian Embassy-Guatemala which showed very good response with the participation of 80 buyers from Guatemala and 9 Indian companies.

Our objective would be to continue our active engagement with leather, leather products and footwear industry associations across the world for enhancing trade tie-ups.

The Indian Footwear and Accessories Development Programme (IFLADP) implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India during 2017-21 has played a vital role in modernization and technological up-gradation of production units & CETPs and also skilling of workforce. We have requested the Government to continue the IFLADP scheme, which is under consideration.

We already have the inherent strengths of traditional knowledge and strong raw material base. With the support of the Government, concerted efforts have been taken in the past years to substantially increase our production capabilities and Common Infrastructure like Design Studios, Testing Laboratories etc., which has helped us in becoming a leading exporter of high quality value added products. With increased focus on design, productivity, eco-sustainability and price competitiveness, we will be able to scale new heights in the coming years.

With best wishes

Sanjay Leekha

Chairman

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS

Dear Members

The month of June 2021 witnessed several important events including Election of New Chairman and Vice – Chairman of CLE & inauguration of new office of CLE. You will find reports on these events in the National section. This section also has details on election of new Regional Chairmen ; Profile of Chairman, Vice – Chairman and Regional Chairmen of Council for Leather Exports ; 36th Annual General Meeting (Adjourned) of CLE held on 17-6-2021 at Chennai ; Webinar on “Leather for Sustainability” organized by ITPO, 24th June, 2021 ; Meetings of Chairman, CLE; Presentation of memento to Executive Director, CLE and Roundtable Discussion with stakeholders of Leather & Footwear Sector on 30th June 2021 organised by ASSOCHAM.

This section also has technical articles contributed by CLRI namely ‘Aesthetics is Technical’ - Comfort Line of Footwear for Women and Foot Measurement Survey for Revision of Standards for Indian Footwear Sizes by CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI)

In the **International** section, you will find reports on Leather Industry virtual BSM with buyers from Central American Countries, June 24, 2021 ; CLE's participation in the virtual Supplier Roundtable Meeting with Walmart Team on 2nd July, 2021 ; FASHION TREND POOL starts the new order season with the SEASON OPENING F/S 22 and Expert project for reduction of lead times in the development and production process of Shoes.

The **Regional** section has reports titled Regional Committee Meeting hails Council for Leather Exports Chairman Shri Sanjay Leekha and Regional Chairman North Shri Motilal Sethi's Vision Document ; Discussions in the VI Meeting of the Executive Committee of Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association (IFLMEA), 19th June 2021 ; Meeting of Leather Fraternity and Office bearers of Leather Industries Welfare Association (LIWA), Kanpur with Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, Council for Leather Exports, 26th June, 2021, Kanpur ; Virtual Interactive Session of Regional Chairman (West), CLE with Western Region Members held on 29th June 2021 ; Meeting of Regional Chairman – Central, CLE Shri Javed Iqbal with Shri Sanjay Leekha Chairman, Council for Leather Exports, June 30, 2021 ; Virtual Interactive meeting of Chairman CLE and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE with Shri. Vikas Gupta, I.A.S., DG, MSME, Government of Haryana, July 2, 2021 ; Virtual meeting of District Export Promotion Committee of New Delhi, 05.07.2021 – Participation of Regional Chairman (North), CLE and Virtual Interactive meeting of Chairman CLE and Northern Regional Chairman with Shri. Varinder Singh Kundu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, July 7, 2021

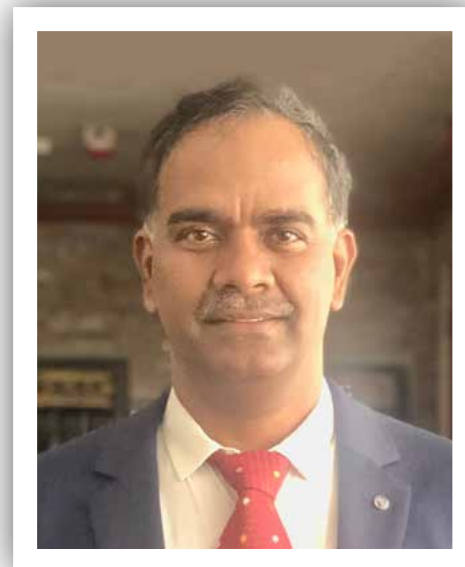
I hope you will find information in this edition useful.

With regards

R. Selvam IAS

Executive Director

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS



Election of New Chairman, Vice – Chairman and Regional Chairmen of Council For Leather Exports

As per provisions of Para 2.92 of Handbook of Procedures of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, the election of Chairman of an Export Promotion Council will be via Vice Chairman route. Following the 36th Annual General Meeting (Adjourned) held on June 17, 2021 held through virtual mode, the first meeting of the reconstituted Committee of Administration of Council for Leather Exports (CLE) was held on the same day through Virtual mode during which Shri Sanjay Leekha took over as Chairman and Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of CLE. They will hold office in the respective positions for two years.



Shri Sanjay Leekha
Chairman, CLE



Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan
Vice Chairman, CLE

Earlier, the entire election process to the Regional Committees was initiated and monitored by Shri D. Anandan, IAS, Joint Development Commissioner, MEPZ – SEZ, Chennai who had been notified as Election Authority for this purpose by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India..

The following are the Regional Chairmen who were elected after the reconstitution of the Regional Committees concerned and they will also hold the Office for 2 years as mentioned above.



M. Israr Ahmed
Regional Chairman
(South)



Moti Lal Sethi
Regional Chairman
(North)



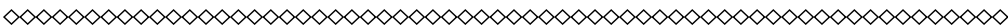
Ramesh Kumar Juneja
Regional Chairman
(East)



Javed Iqbal
Regional Chairman
(Central)



Naresh S.Bhasin
Regional Chairman
(West)



Profile of Chairman, Vice – Chairman and Regional Chairmen Of Council For Leather Exports (CLE)



Shri Sanjay Leekha

Chairman, CLE

Mr. Sanjay Leekha is the Founder and Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Alpine Group. A veteran in the Indian leather goods manufacturing industry, he leads the company with his demonstrated business acumen, vision, profound domain knowledge and experience of over three decades. The business structure of Alpine

Apparels Pvt. Ltd. is based on manufacture and export of a complete range of fashion goods from leather handbags, belts, small leather products and lifestyle accessories at its production facilities based in Faridabad in Haryana. Its client repertoire includes some of the most celebrated luxury labels, fashion retail stores, high street and premium brands across the world.

For the last decade, Mr. Sanjay Leekha has also been actively spearheading the Sports Shoes business of the group. Alpine Shoes Pvt. Ltd. has been producing Sports Shoes for a major Shoe Brand for the last 10 years at its facility based in Baddi in Himachal Pradesh. The facility also produces Sports Shoes for some high-end European Brands.

The Alpine Group is acknowledged by major customers as a reliable source of design inputs for the leather products segment. Currently the group's turnover is to the tune of Rs.250.00 crores.

Besides sculpting the growth trajectory of Alpine Apparels, Mr. Leekha has also held important roles in prestigious government bodies that work towards trade promotion and development of the Indian leather sector. He has earlier also served as the Vice Chairman as well as the Regional Chairman (Northern Region) of the Council for Leather Exports.

He is also actively involved in various social activities at the local level. Through the Alpine Group, various CSR activities are undertaken by him on a regular basis. Some of these include a regular support to an old age home, support to local charitable institutions and annual scholarships to deserving children of Alpine Group employees.



Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan

Vice Chairman, CLE

Rajendra Kumar Jalan, is a technocrat engaged in the leather industry for almost 46 years. He did his B.Tech. (Chemical Engineering) in the year

1974 from Har Court Butler Technological University and completed a One year course in Leather manufacturing from CLRI in 1975, thereafter he spent almost 18 months, in various European Leather Chemical Companies undergoing practical training and internship.

In 1974 he joined one of the leading Exporters of leather and footwear components in Kanpur and helped them modernize their leather manufacturing and also set up an in-house Effluent Treatment Plant in early 80's, thereafter he contributed extensively in forward integration and value addition by establishing a footwear manufacturing facility. Once the manufacturing was brought to international standards he was given the responsibility of expanding the markets for the company and spent most of his time in later half of the 80's and early 90's in U.S., where he successfully launched branded footwear for the company and came back to India to rise to the post of Chief Executive of the company.

In 1996 he took the plunge as an Entrepreneur and established a small footwear manufacturing facility producing primarily for America. After the initial hiccups and difficulties the business grew steadily from 2000 onwards and presently his company is exporting class shoes, to brands in U.S.A. and Europe.

Mr. Jalan's contribution to the industry started in 2002 when he became a

member of the Central Regional Committee and thereafter became a C.O.A member in the year 2006. He was elected as Regional Chairman - Central Region in the year 2008 and again in 2010.

He is a member of Governing Council of FDDI, Board of Governor of CFTI, Agra and Academic Council Member of Madan Mohan Malviya Technical University, Gorakhpur and Har Court Butler Technological University, Kanpur

He is also a part of various NGO's working for the betterment of the people of Kanpur as well as towards improving the infrastructure and industrial climate of Kanpur and U.P.

He is also been nominated as a Research Council Member of Central

Leather Research Institute, Chennai by Department of Science and Technology in 2017 and continues to serve the institution pro actively.

Apart from the above, Mr. Janan successfully completed his tenure of two years as Vice Chairman - CLE and actively participated in various working groups of XII Five Year Plan, which gave deep insight into what is going to come for the Industry

He served the Leather Industry as Chairman of Council for Leather Export from January 2013 to January 2015.

He was Chairman Committee on Environment & Sustainable Development in January 2015 to January 2017 in Council for Leather Exports.

In an endeavor to strengthen the hands of Hon'ble Chief Minister so as to get River Ganges clean, he has worked with the Industry to get an in-principle approval for setting up a Leather Park at an acquired 240 acres of land at Ramaipur, Kanpur Nagar. It will have a capacity to have almost 195 tanneries besides leather goods factories. It is going to be the first green field integrated project of its kind having an Effluent Treatment Plant and solid waste disposal facility. The treated water would not flow into the River Ganges.

He has been re-elected as Vice Chairman of Council for Leather Export from June, 2021 for the second time



M. Israr Ahmed
Regional Chairman (South)

Shri Israr Ahmed is one of the promoters of Farida Group. The Group manufactures leather and shoes, with an annual turnover of USD \$320 million, with manufacturing operations in India, Ethiopia and Bangladesh.

Shri Israr Ahmed holds an MBA from Boston University, has wide experience in the export business and is involved in various industry organizations. He currently holds the following positions:

1. Regional Chairman - Southern Region, Federation of Indian Export Organisations.
2. Director, Leather Sector Skill Council.
3. Vice Chairman - Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers and Exporters Association.
4. Committee Member, Indo German Chamber of Commerce.



Shri Naresh Bhasin,
Regional Chairman (West), CLE

Shri Naresh Bhasin is the Managing Director of Ram fashion Exports Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, a leading manufacturer and exporter of Leather Footwear to major brands around the globe.

Shri Naresh Bhasin has over four decades of experience in footwear exports. Shri Naresh Bhasin was the Convenor of Designers Fair, an initiative under Make in India. He is the President of Rotary Club of Chandivali Mumbai. He is a visiting Speaker/ Professor to various colleges on Entrepreneurship.

Shri Naresh Bhasin has extensively travelled around the world and is a professional singer. He is on Advisory Board of various Associations and an Active Social Worker.

Shri Naresh Bhasin is optimistic of achieving greater heights in business and CLE ventures, amidst global challenges.



Shri Motilal Sethi
Regional Chairman (North), CLE

A Law Graduate from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University, Mr Motilal Sethi is the Founder Chairman cum Managing Director of Saroj International Group of Companies, engaged since 1986 in the manufacture and exports of High fashion Leather Garments, Finished Leathers and all kinds of leather fashion bags and leather accessories at its own state of the art Factories in Noida and Tannery in Ambur, Tamil Nadu. It's vertically integrated Group and selling to premium brands of the

world with outstanding repute and bagged several Export Awards.

Mr. Motilal Sethi is socially well connected and has philanthropism since his college days. He is actively involved with the Council for Leather Exports since more than 25 years and served the cause of leather Industry in Council in different capacities for several terms as Regional Committee Member, Member of Committee of Administration and Panel Convenor of Leather Garments.

Mr Motilal Sethi is Founder President of Indian Leather Garments Association (ILGA) and presently holds the following positions

- Director of Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) under NSDC.
- Member Governing Council - Footwear Design and Development Institute FDDI
- Member - CII National Committee on Footwear and Leather Products.

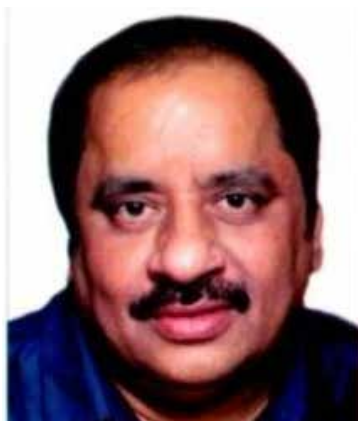
Mr Motilal Sethi is well updated with Govt policies and was involved in the Advisory of Tenth Five years plan of Planning Commission.

Besides actively involved with trade associations, Mr Motilal Sethi has been socially involved in welfare activities and was involved as Vice President of Indian Red Cross Society etc etc.

Mr Sethi is widely travelled known face of Indian Leather Industry and has undertaken several challenging responsibilities from time to time.

Saroj International Group has additionally diversified into real estate development and leasing and Mr Sethi is also supporting a lot of educational Institutions, welfare bodies for overall well-being of society in providing subsidised leased space

Mr Sethi is Founder Chairman of Saroj Foundation which serves humanity on various issues and is blessed with a professionally qualified wife, two daughters and a son.



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

Shri Ramesh Kumar Juneja is a leading name in the industrial circle of Eastern India. The companies promoted by him span a wide spectrum of industries in the field of Leather, Leather Accessories, Chemicals and Real Estate. His association with the Leather Industry spans over four decades. The companies promoted by him in the field of Leather Industry are leading names in production and export of leather and leather accessories segment.

Shri Ramesh Juneja is Regional Chairman-Eastern Region, Council for Leather Exports since 2014. He is also the President of Calcutta Leather Complex Tanners' Association (CLCTA), Vice Chairman of Indo Italian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Kolkata and President of Bengal Chemical Manufacturer's Association, besides he is associated with many other Industry Chambers.

Shri. Ramesh Juneja has many accomplishments as the Key Representative of the Leather Industry of Eastern Region for over two decades and due to his dynamic leadership the industry is poised for next level of growth.



Shri Javed Iqbal
Regional Chairman (Central), CLE

Shri Javed Iqbal is the Managing Director of Naaz Group of Companies.

Naaz Group has 3 companies producing and supplying finished leather, shoes and saddlery & harness items to both domestic and export markets.

Shri Javed Iqbal has been associated with Council for Leather Exports (CLE) for many years, serving in various capacities. He has been elected as member of Committee of Administration (COA) 4 times, and as Regional Chairman (Central) – 3 times. Shri Javed Iqbal is also serving as member of Central Regional Committee (CRC) of CLE since 2008.

Shri Javed Iqbal has taken keen interest in exploring new and potential markets and has actively participated in various export promotion events of CLE.

Shri Javed Iqbal is actively involved in various Social activities and has played an active role in taking-up various issues concerning the leather industry in Central Region.

IN BRIEF

LWG publishes Protocol 7.1 - The LWG Leather Manufacturer Audit Protocol has been updated to Version 7.1 (P7.1).

Version 7.0 of the LWG Leather Manufacturer Audit Protocol (P7) was published on 22 February 2021. After receiving feedback from membership

and auditing team, the LWG Technical Sub-Group (TSG) has made some minor updates. After the standard 6-month period, P7.1 will replace P6.7 on 22 August 2021. For more details refer to <https://www.leatherworkinggroup.com>

Stahl achieves EcoVadis Gold rating

Stahl has announced that it has achieved an EcoVadis Gold rating, placing it within the top 5% of companies assessed by EcoVadis. The award underlines Stahl's commitment to ensuring transparency in the value chain and collaborating with partners to improve the sustainability of operations and products.

EcoVadis is a globally recognized evidence-based assessment platform that reviews the performance of an organization across areas key to meeting sustainability targets, including the environment, labor

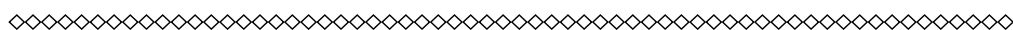
& human rights, ethics, and sustainable procurement impacts. The latest report from EcoVadis highlights Stahl's positive performance across all these areas.

This year's Gold rating builds on the Silver rating achieved in 2020. In the past year, together with partners from across the value chain, the company has further committed to improving its environmental and social performance, protecting the communities in which it operates, and shaping a better chemical industry. Stahl's 2030 target is to maintain the EcoVadis Gold rating through continual improvement.

Michael Costello, Director of ESG: "Our new EcoVadis rating is a great achievement – one delivered through the hard work and dedication of many Stahl colleagues across the world. Our EcoVadis Gold rating underlines our commitment to ensuring a better world for all our stakeholders, and highlights that we are a trusted partner when it comes to ESG."



Shri Leekha also submitted a representation there is a growing demand for eco-sustainable products in the global market. Shri Leekha stated that exporters have found increased interest and demand from many markets especially by brands for products made of eco-sustainable leathers and for the eco-sustainable finished leathers too. Brands have even started asking for CO2 consumed on leathers and components used to measure the carbon foot print of the products. These demands of the brands have to be fully capitalized by the Indian leather, leather products and footwear exporters. Hence, there is a need for promoting eco-sustainable products with Government support.



36th Annual General Meeting (Adjourned) of CLE held on 17-6-2021 at Chennai



The 36th Annual General Meeting (Adjourned) of Council for Leather Exports was held on Thursday, 17th June 2021 through Virtual mode due to COVID-19 Pandemic. The then Chairman Shri P.R.Aqeel Ahmed, Council for Leather Exports took the Chair to conduct the proceedings of the meeting and called the meeting to order at 11.30 am after verifying that the required Quorum was present.

Chairman, CLE extended a warm welcome to the Members and read out his Speech at the AGM (Adjourned) highlighting the various activities undertaken and achievements made by the Council during the year 2020-21.

Delivering his AGM address, Chairman, CLE stated that since its inception 37 years ago, CLE and its activities are shaped by unique organisational structure and CLE has enhanced its functioning from time to

time, thanks to several Chairmen who have worked towards development of business and export, by advocating the interests of the members through advising the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on policies for the growth of the exports.

Highlighting the Pandemic effect, Chairman, CLE stated that since the outbreak of pandemic from March 2020, nearly 16 months his Chairmanship was under the unprecedented crisis times, witnessed both 1st and 2nd waves and it posed challenges to perform during these difficult times, but he has tried his level best and devoted maximum of his time in resolving various issues.

Chairman, CLE stated that despite the Pandemic, 83% of the CLE members renewed their membership during 2020-21. Besides, 227 new members were enrolled in 2020-21, taking the total membership strength to 3046 as on 31.3.2021.

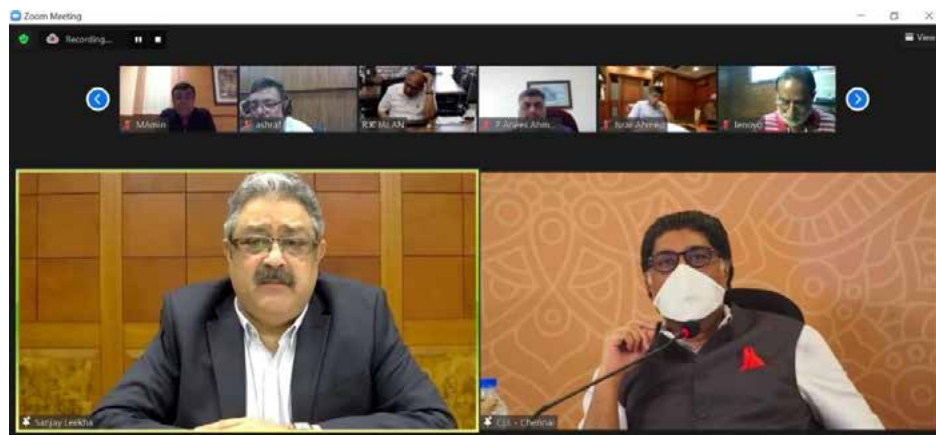
Highlighting the marketing efforts made by CLE, Shri Aqeel Ahmed stated that thanks to the Digital economy, CLE has conducted more than 120 events including BSMs, B2B meetings, webinars etc., during this Pandemic period. Considering the market conditions, CLE plans to organise about 20 events this year, depending on the COVID situation. CLE also plans to organise Virtual BSMs/ Webinars in USA, Israel, Guatemala and Germany in co-ordination with Indian Missions concerned, on self financing basis. He thanked the Government of India for several support measures announced by them during the Pandemic-crisis period.

Chairman, CLE also acknowledged the support and cooperation of all the five

Regional Chairmen, former Chairmen and made a special thanks to Shri Sanjay Leekha, the then Vice-Chairman, Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE. He also thanked all the officials of CLE for their involvement and service support to members of the Council for Leather Exports during the Pandemic period.

Chairman, CLE stated that the election to the Regional Committee followed by Committee of Administration have been completed and proceedings dated 16-04-2021 was issued by Shri D.Anandan, IAS, Joint Development Commissioner, MEPZ-SEZ, Chennai and Election authority for CLE, notifying the formation of the new Committee of Administration. Hence this Annual General Meeting (Adjourned) was convened to reconstitute the Committee of Administration with newly elected Members and Government nominated members in pursuance to Article 15 of Articles of Association of CLE as per the names list circulated along with the Notice dated 20.05.2021.

Thereafter, the Chairman requested Shri R.Selvam, Executive Director, CLE to read out the Notice of the 36th AGM (Adj.) relating to reconstitution



of COA, in pursuance to Articles 15 & 16 of Articles of Association. The then Chairman requested the members present to propose and second the resolution.

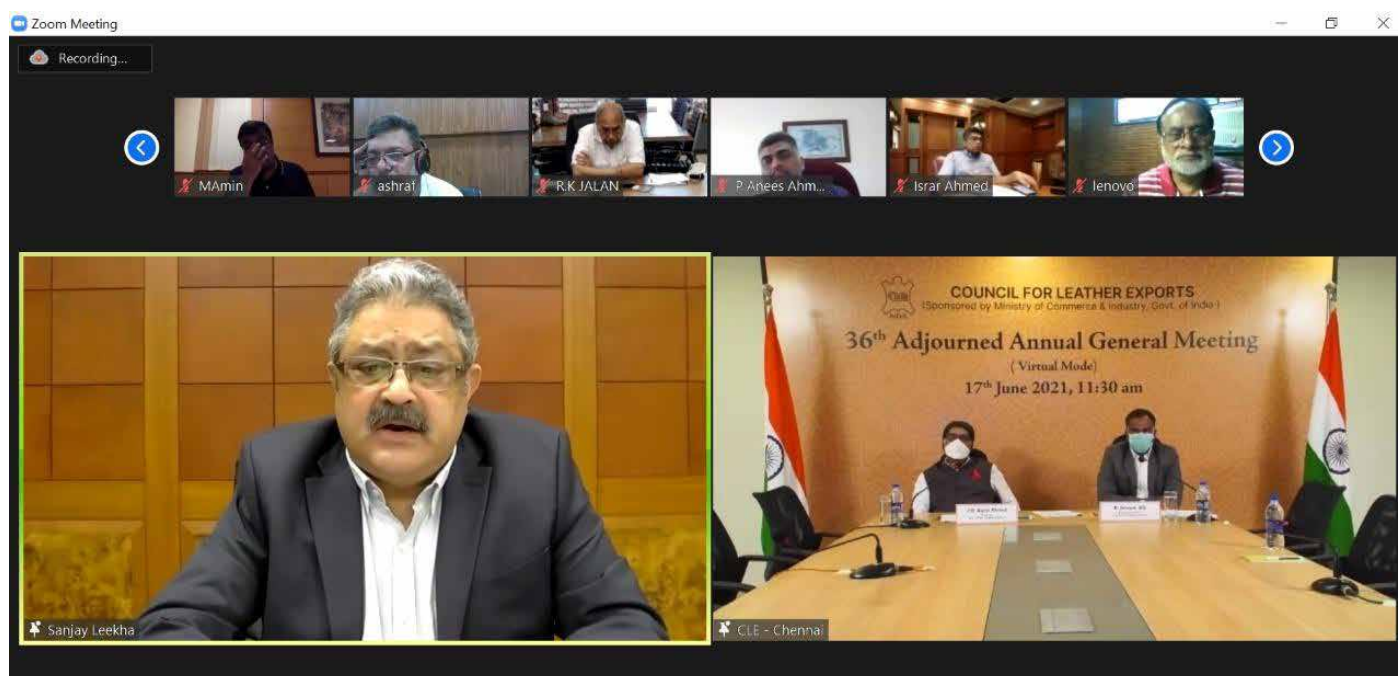
Shri Mukhtarul Amin of M/s.Amin International Ltd., Kanpur proposed adoption of the following resolution relating to reconstitution of the Committee of Administration and the same was seconded by Shri Nari Kalwani, Managing Director of M/s.Asian Leather Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata.

“RESOLVED THAT the Committee of Administration of the Council is hereby reconstituted in accordance with Article 15 and 16 of the Articles of Association of the Council and shall consist of the members elected and Government nominees as set out in the Notice dated 20.05.2021.

On being put to vote the members present at the meeting unanimously adopted and approved the above Resolution.

The then Vice Chairman Shri Sanjay Leekha, acknowledged the outstanding services rendered by Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed for the growth of the Leather Industry. He also outlined the important achievements of Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed during his tenure of 2019–21 Chairmanship of CLE.

The Executive Director, CLE, proposed Vote of Thanks to the members present at the meeting.



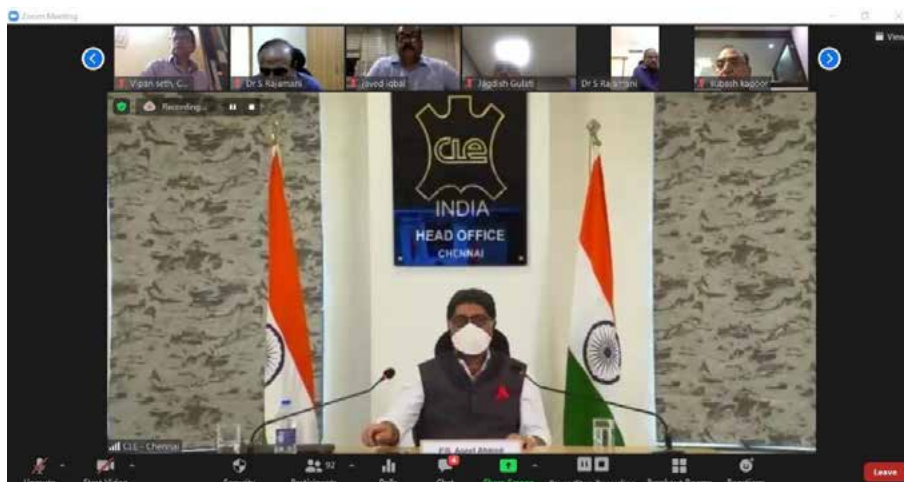
Inauguration of new Registered Head Office of Council for Leather Exports, June 17, 2021

Council for Leather Exports (CLE), set up in July 1984, is an autonomous non-profit organization entrusted with export promotion activities and overall development of the Indian leather industry functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. CLE is the Export Promotion Council notified in the National Foreign Trade Policy for leather, leather products and footwear. CLE is the apex body of about 3050 members rapidly growing Indian leather Industry. CLE caters to the needs of the manufacturer-exporters of Leather, Leather Footwear, Leather Goods & Accessories, Leather Garments, Harness & Saddlery, Non-Leather Footwear, and Footwear Components, and serves as a connecting bridge between Indian manufacturer-exporters and importers all over the world.

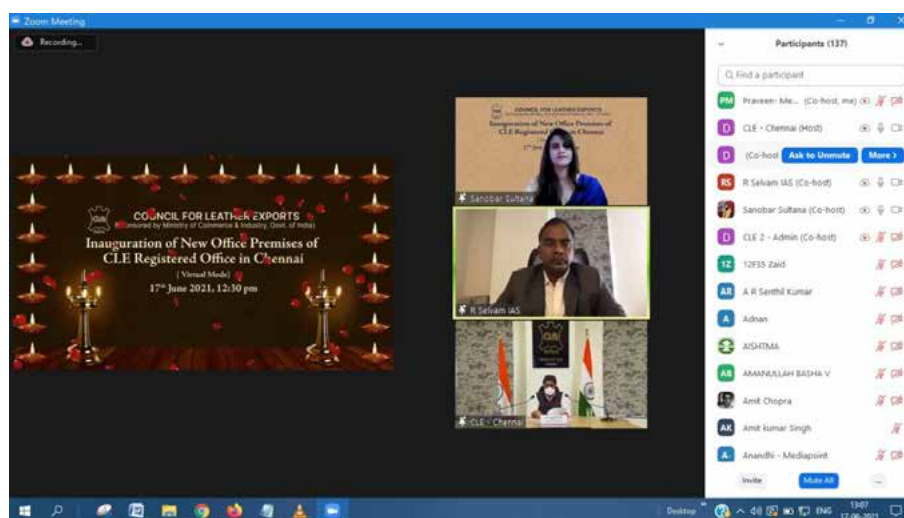
The CLE is headquartered in Chennai, with 5 Regional Offices in Chennai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Kanpur & Mumbai and with Two Extension Offices in Agra and Jalandhar.

The new Registered Head Office of Council for Leather Exports at Chennai was inaugurated through Virtual mode on 17th June 2021 by Shri M. Mohamed Hashim, Founder Chairman, CLE in presence of Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, the then Chairman, CLE and Former Chairmen of CLE Shri M. Rafeeqe Ahmed . Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Shri Habib Hussain and Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan ; Shri Sanjay Leekha, the then Vice Chairman, CLE and Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE.

This new office building of CLE has been constructed in a record time of five and half months.



Shri M. Mohamed Hashim, Founder Chairman, CLE inaugurating the new Registered Head Office of Council for Leather Exports





Head Office of the Council for Leather Exports is a finely crafted and well-designed office premises, located in a prime location at the heart of the Chennai city at Nungambakkam, having land area of about 4055 Square feet with total built up area of around 10,500 Square feet spread over 4 floors. The building was designed and constructed by M/s. Surendra Enterprises, a well-known builder.

CLE Building is structured with four floors and it has been planned as Corporate Office of international standards, housing the Head Office and the Southern Regional Office.

GROUND FLOOR has the Reception Desk to facilitate the entry of visitors and act as helpdesk, adequate parking space for cars and bikes, gardening around the compound walls.

FIRST FLOOR houses exclusive office for the Southern Region of the Council for Leather Exports

SECOND FLOOR houses the various Departments of CLE namely Projects & Technology Department, Membership & Services Department, International Marketing Department (IMD) and MSME Support Department

THIRD FLOOR houses the Accounts Department, Administration Department and Trade & Policy Department

FOURTH FLOOR is the Executive

Floor. It houses the Executive Director's Chamber & Chairman's Chamber, and it has a conference hall with seating capacity of around 35 persons with adequate facilities.

The building has all required support back-end infrastructure such as power backup genset, dormitories, etc

Address by Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, the then Chairman, CLE

Addressing the participants, Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, the then Chairman stated that it is a privilege to have the CLE building inaugurated by Shri M.Md Hashim who is a leader of the leather industry.

Shri Aqeel Ahmed stated that the office was constructed in less than 5 1/2 month period after completing all the required procedure and formalities including the due market research, factoring high returns and facilities, transferring ownerships, verification of the documents and requirement of legal parameters. Shri Ahmed stated that the new Building is well designed like corporate office premises and disposal of our old building has been done and all related works like clearance from Corporation, building approval, electricity connection etc., were done in record time.

Shri Ahmed stated that the ground breaking ceremony for the new office was done on Sept.6, 2020

Shri Ahmed recalled that it was the dream of Shri MM Hashim to have an independent office to CLE and he has completed his dream in his tenure. Shri Ahmed stated that he is happy that this new building is inaugurated with the blessings of Shri Hashim.

Shri Ahmed thanked all the regions including all Regional Chairmen for their support to build this new Head Office in Chennai.

Shri M.Md Hashim, Founder Chairman, CLE

Shri Hashim stated that it is his honour to declare to open the new building of CLE as it was his dream for a long time that CLE should have an own independent building in Chennai. He appreciated Shri Aqeel Ahmed for his service excellent service and for taking-up the expectations of the industry with the Government.

Shri M. Rafeeqe Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE

Shri Rafeeqe Ahmed appreciated Chairman, CLE for completing the new building and the interiors within 5 1/2 months, which is amazing, Shri Ahmed stated that this could only happen only with a strong determination and the power and passion.

Shri Ahmed congratulated CLE for serving the industry for so many years and stated that this new building will give good signal that the future of the leather industry is going to be good.

Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Former Chairman, CLE

Shri Jalan stated that the new CLE building is indeed marvelous and appreciated the then CLE Chairman Shri Aqeel Ahmed for organizing the inauguration digitally in a professional manner including the lighting of lamp and the way everything was planned was so well and unbelievable. Shri Jalan appreciated Shri Aqeel Ahmed for his positive attitude and commitment

Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Former Chairman, CLE

Shri Mukhtarul Amin stated that it is unbelievable that such a beautiful building was completed in 5 1/2 month. Shri Amin stated that the additional cost incurred for building is also very

less and appreciated Chairman, CLE for his dedication and commitment.

Shri Habib Hussain, Former Chairman, CLE

Shri Habib Hussain stated that the new building is breath taking, fresh and beautiful. Also, the presentation done for the building inauguration is so contemporary, clean and elegant. Shri Habib Hussain congratulated Chairman, CLE ; ED, CLE and the CLE team for executing a great job. Shri Habib Hussain stated that Shri Aqeel Ahmed is leaving some great footprints to follow.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, the then Vice – Chairman, CLE

Shri Sanjay Leekha stated that it is a honour to have Shri M. Mohamed Hashim, Founder Chairman, CLE to inaugurate the new office building of CLE. Stating that the industry will prosper from the new building, Shri Leekha stated that the new building was completed in record time, due to the leadership of Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed. He stated that he looks forward to see CLE reaching new heights from the new building.

Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE thanked all COA members for their wholehearted support for finalizing the procedure for disposal of the old property and for purchase of the new property. He also thanked the Government of Tamil Nadu for various approvals provided for the building. Shri Selvam stated that is the passion of Chairman, CLE to have the CLE building as per International Standards and Perfection is in the hands and mind of Chairman, CLE. Shri Selvam thanked all the members for their support and co-operation.

Chairman, CLE thanked all the dignitaries and participants for gracing this momentous occasion.

IN BRIEF



Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra

HOMAGE

Council for Leather Exports expresses its heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India on June 19, 2021.

Shri Mohapatra was a pillar of support for the development of leather, leather products and footwear industry. May the soul rest in peace.

Webinar on “Leather for Sustainability” organized by ITPO, 24th June, 2021



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE, delivering his Key Note address

Kolkata Regional Office of ITPO, with the support of Council for Leather Exports had taken the initiative for organizing a series of webinars, concerning the leather industry which would help the industry to stay connected with various stakeholders in the absence of physical fairs and exhibitions.

The 1st webinar in the series on the topic “Leather for Sustainability” was held on 18th February 2021 which was chaired by the then ED-ITPO, Shri Rajesh Agrawal, IAS. The feedback of the leather industry was very positive. The number of attendees was 51. This webinar is organized in active association with the Indo Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry –ER (IICCI-ER), Council for Leather Exports (CLE), Indian Leather Products Association (ILPA) and Calcutta Leather Complex tanners

Association (CLCTA) and Govt. of West Bengal. The panel included national and international speakers. The theme of the webinar was “leather industry during pandemic time : challenges and opportunities for India”. The panelists discussed issues regarding supply chain affected due to COVID situation and the possibilities of reframing and rebuilding leather industry in post pandemic condition.

The 2nd webinar in series was held on 24th June, 2021 at 3.00 pm (IST). The main theme of the webinar was “leather for sustainability”. This time, the number of attendees was 63. This webinar was actively supported by CLE, IICCI – ER, ILPA and CLCTA.

The webinar started with introductory remarks by Ms. Hema Maity, GM-ITPO, welcoming all the panelists. Mr. Manfred Auster, Consul General of Germany, in his welcome address, appreciated the fact that ITPO had taken the initiative to consider sustainability issue which is a major concern globally. He informed the forum about new guidelines effective in Germany now (the New Diligence Act). This is applicable for exporters to Germany. Then, Consul General of Italy, Mr. Gianluca Rubagotti, in his special note, mentioned the longstanding trade relation between West Bengal and Italy.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE in his key note address congratulated ITPO for considering the topic of sustainability. As per his speech, sustainability is now the key word to live a better life. He mentioned that sustainability

without technology is like a bow without an arrow. Rather than “Leather for Sustainability”, we should say that “Leather ensures Sustainability”, as leather has its inherent sustainability quality of being a natural bio-degradable product. The leather industry not only makes value added products from animal by-product namely hides and skins, but in that process also prevents massive pollution that may be caused if raw hides and skins are piled-up and discarded worldwide. Not only this, the leather industry in the country has lifted-up thousands and thousands of people belonging to economically weaker sections, by providing them employment, Chairman-CLE informed. While concluding his key note address, Chairman-CLE informed that the leather industry no doubt has a huge growth potential in the long term and with the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, the leather

industry will achieve its sustainability goals, by meeting the needs of not only the consumers and buyers but also the nature.

Next presentation was made by Project Manager, PISIE, Italy , Ms. Alice Vago. She gave the presentation on real leather – real sustainability explaining the process and steps towards leather processing and finally leading to sustainability issues. Ms Jessica Kallenberg of O MY Bag from Amsterdam gave her presentation (she had visited Kolkata Leather Fair organized by ITPO and also procures leather goods from Kolkata). She presented her company’s motivation to produce and market their products with sustainable concern. After her presentation, Shri Imran Khan , General Secretary, CLCTA mentioned that CLCTA attempts to maintain the waste management in the tanneries including prevention of contamination of water and ecological harms and other environmental issues.

Thereafter, Shri Ramesh Juneja, Regional Chairman, CLE(ER) and Vice Chairman, IICCI-ER gave his remarks mentioning Kolkata’s strength in manufacturing leather goods and leather gloves in world class standards and described how the sustainability issue is maintained from sourcing to logistics .

Dr. Gerhard Nickolaus of Far East , Hong Kong, gave his presentation showing the balance and imbalance between fashion industry including leather industry vis a vis sustainability issues. Shri J K Gulati, President, ILPA mentioned in the concluding portion that due to COVID situation, production has been a major threat in leather industry and marketing of products remain a challenge.

Presentation of memento to Executive Director, CLE

Shri PRAqeel Ahmed immediate Former Chairman, CLE along with Shri Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman (South), CLE honoured Shri R.Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE for his services to the leather industry by presenting memento.



Meetings of Chairman, CLE

Meeting with Secretary, Department of Commerce



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE & Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri Anup Wadhawan, the then Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in New Delhi on 23.6.21 & discussed strategy for export growth. Chairman, CLE thanked Secretary, Commerce for his wonderful support to leather & footwear industry.

Meeting with Secretary, Department of Commerce



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri B.V.R Subrahmanyam, IAS, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi on 07/07/2021 to discuss the export potential of leather, leather products and footwear sector and policy support measures.

Meeting with Secretary, Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri Atul Chaturvedi, IAS, Secretary, Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi on 6.7.21 to discuss quarantine clearance removal for import of wet blue leathers.

Meeting with Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri Sanjay Chadha, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India at Udyog Bhawan on 6.7.21 to discuss promoting exports to NAFTA region.

Meeting with DGFT

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri Amit Yadav, IAS, DGFT to discuss important trade policy related matters like RODTEP & revision of SION norms at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi on 05/07/2021



Meeting with Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, IAS, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India in New Delhi on 23.6.21 and discussed about export performance and strategy for growth of leather and footwear industry.

Meeting with Principal Commissioner & OSD (Drawback)



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri Nitish Kumar Sinha, Principal Commissioner & OSD (Drawback) at Drawback Directorate in New Delhi on 05/07/21 to discuss about Drawback and RODTEP

Meeting with Joint Secretary, DPIIT



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED, called on Dr. Vanadana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi on 06/07/2021 to discuss about requests on IDLS and IFLADP scheme for 2021-25.

Meeting with Joint Secretary (TRU), Department of Revenue



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri G.D. Lohani, JS-TRU, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India at North Block, New Delhi on 07/07/2021 to discuss trade related issues.

Meeting with Adviser – Industry, Niti Aayog

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED called on Shri Ishtiyaque Ahmed, JS, (Adviser-Industry), NITI Aayog to discuss regulatory and fiscal policy at NITI Aayog, New Delhi on 05/07/21.



‘AESTHETICS is TECHNICAL’ Comfort Line of Footwear For Women

‘AESTHETICS is TECHNICAL’ Aesthetics is most important as women increasingly prefer ‘COMFORT SHOES.’ It therefore became important to factorize this important input in the COMFORT SHOES.

- The Upper material was predominantly cow softy nappa, cow milled and cow patent leather
- The Lining used was sheep lining to give that extra comfort touch to the skin.
- Trims used were mostly gold and antique
- Outsole used is PU for better abrasion than polyester
- Foot bed used is PU material with a density of 45
- Sock lining used is sky mesh with rubberized print



In picture, review of prototypes by Team Design & Fashion Studio. The second set of samples were readied after which materials and colour ways were discussed besides pattern correction and fitting.



CONFLUENCE OF MINDS at Good Leather Shoes- Shoe factory at Arakkonam-Thandalam Road, Namachivayapuram, Thodukadu Post Kaatu Koot Road, Sriperumbudur

A final review of the collection was made by Team Good Leather Group with their Board of Directors.



“The collection”

TOE Spring

TOE SPRING (CSIR-CLRI brand for Women's Comfort Sandals): LADIES COMFORT LINE, a CSIR-CLRI & KETHINI joint endeavour was readied and launched.

LAUNCH OF 'TOESPRING'

Why this is special? – More comfort owing to cushioning property. Test results have shown that the cushioning property is double requirement as compared to standard recommendation. The styles are elegant as well as ergonomic.

PHYSICAL TESTING RESULTS

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS – TESTING REPORT – MATERIALS USED IN COMFORT SHOES

MATERIAL DETAILS USED IN COMFORT SHOES

- Upper – Cow leather – 1.2 – 1.4 mm
- Lining – Sheep lining – 0.8 – 1.0 mm
- Outsole – Polyurethane (PU) – Shore A hardness
- Thread – Polyester threads – 40 Tkt for upper thread and 60 Tkt for lining thread
- Foot bed – Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA)

INTRODUCTION

In the development of comfort shoes, the team has discussed with few options in evaluating the performance of a new design. Standard single degree of freedom of comfort parameters tests can determine the basic material properties used in whole shoe. The term comfort is very important for a footwear. If the customer does not feel comfortable in the shoes, he or she is less likely to make a purchase.

The design team considered a variety of configuration options to achieve the term comfort and it will be analyzed

through physical testing methodology and that would be sufficiently fast and robust for the rigors of footwear testing. They were various considerations of testing parameters based on the materials used in comfort shoes components such as upper, lining, sole, footbed foam and Velcro.

UPPER

The material used in the upper is cow leather and it is an open type of footwear having an upper part not covering the entire foot. The upper parts of sandal consist of one or more components such as forepart straps and ankle strap. These components are aligned and assembled together by stitching or closing process. Additionally, the aesthetic point of view the upper plays a major role. To analyze the physical parameters of the upper of comfort shoes were considered the physical testing methods such as flexing resistance in dry and wet condition and dry and wet rub fastness.

The flexing resistance in dry condition there was 'no crack' found on the upper material about 5 lakhs flexes and in wet condition there was 'no crack' found on the upper material about 1 lakh flexes and test method used was SATRA TM 25:2018.

The dry rub and wet rub fastness testing conducted on upper leather based on SATRA TM 173:1995 and it provides good value about 4/5 in grey scale for both the conditions but minimum required value is 3/5 only in grey scale.

LINING

The lining materials play an important role in the comfort shoes because the lining material will directly contact to the foot and the material used here is sheep lining. The shape of the lining components is same as the upper components used in the comfort shoes. The measurement of a leather performance when it is exposed to specific sources of ignition.

The Martindale abrasion testing method under the SATRA TM 31:2014 were conducted on lining material used also in footbed lining material. The results achieved in dry condition about 25,600 revolves applied on lining material used in comfort shoes and there was 'no abrasion' found on the lining material but the minimum required condition is 'not worse than moderate abrasion' and in

wet condition about 12,800 revolves conducted on the lining material and there was 'moderate abrasion' only found on the lining material and it shows good and better results.

The fastness test also essential for the lining material and the fastness test has conducted on the lining material based on SATRA TM 173:1995 in dry and wet condition about 150 and 50 rubs respectively. The results were commonly measured through grey scale to determine the colour fastness on the lining material and the value achieved was 4/5 measured by grey scale but the minimum requirement is 3/5 and result shows the fastness property on the lining material used in comfort shoes is good.

OUTSOLE

The outsole is meant to provide footwear with the necessary traction and protection from the surfaces it will be in contact with different surfaces. In order to achieve comfort in comfort shoes, it is necessary to reduce the weight of the footwear without disturbing other parameters which relevant to achieve the term comfort. The outsole material used polyurethane (PU), highly component characteristics of PU sole such as light in weight, water resistance, finest grip, durability, shock absorption and comfort. To measure the characteristics of outsole used in comfort shoes various testing methods conducted on it such as abrasion resistance, density, hardness on shore (A) range, slip resistance and flexing resistance through Bennewart flexing method.

The abrasion resistance was conducted based on SATRA TM 174:2018 on the outsole and the result achieved was 275 mm³ but the requirement is maximum of 300 mm³. The density measurement on the outsole is conducted based on

SATRA TM 134:2010 and the determined density value is 0.5 g/cc.

A vital first step in the prevention of slips and falls is the quantitative assessment, under realistic conditions, of the slip resistance were conducted based on SATRA TM 144:2011 between comfort shoes and floors. In forward heel slip the value achieved in dry and wet condition are 0.45 and 0.41 respectively but minimum requirement is 0.3 only in both dry and wet condition. It is very essential to determine the value for the flexing resistance by minimum cut growth occurs on the outsole. The Bennewart flexing method were conducted on outsole based on SATRA TM 161:2004, the cut growth value is 0.5 mm only but the maximum cut growth acceptable is up to 4 mm and all the result values on outsole shows an impressive value.

FULL SANDAL - UPPER TO OUTSOLE PULL STRENGTH

This test is one of the necessary test had conducted the comfort shoes, the force required to separate the upper from the outsole around the whole lasted of complete footwear. The material used for upper is cow leather and PU sole.

The pull strength test has conducted between the upper and the outsole based on SATRA TM 120:2001, the value achieved was 527 N but minimum requirement is 250 N only. The result shows that requirement of the pull strength between the cow leather upper and PU outsole is double than the minimum requirement.

THREAD

Threads used for sandals should be durable throughout the rigorous of the sewing process and wear. The extensive variety of threads can withstand high-speed sewing while maintaining the sewing appearance keeping sandals looking beautiful. To assure the thread property, it is must to check the basic property of breaking strength and percentage of elongation at break.

The test method were conducted based on SATRA TM 23:2018, the result value achieved for 'Thread-Bordo' is 45.4 N and 'Moccasin-White' is 205 N breaking strength but the minimum requirement is only 40 N and the percentage of elongation at break for 'Thread-Bordo' and 'Moccasin-White' is 19.5% and 15.6% respectively.

VELCRO

The Velcro is technically called as hook and loop fasteners or hook and pile fasteners. Compares to other fastening materials the Velcro it is most comfort provides to wear and remove of the footwear from foot. It is mandatory check the physical parameters on the Velcro material, so the testing method were conducted on Velcro material under SATRA TM 123:2018 and the value achieved for peel strength is 0.31 at initial and 0.17 after wear but the minimum requirement is 0.1 on initial and 0.08 after wear. The value achieved for shear strength is 297 on initial and 195 on after wear but the minimum requirement is 75 on initial and 65 on after wear.

INSOCK FOAM (FOOT BED)

Cushioning is one of the important functions of a comfort shoe. In the structure of comfort shoes, the foot bed plays the most important role in

attenuating the impact shock and it provides the more comfort to the sole of the foot for those wearing shoes for long time. Here material used is EVA foam on the foot bed. It is a vital one to determine the cushioning properties of the foot bed in load applying walking and running.

The test method SATRA TM 159:2018 were conducted on foot bed and value achieved in walking load is 108 mj but minimum requirement is just 60 mj and in running load 173 mj has achieved but minimum requirement is only 80 mj. The test results are shows that the cushioning properties of the insock foam (foot bed) is quite suitable to the achieve the comfort parameter.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results obtained indicate that materials used in comfort shoes were of high end-use quality. Leather quality is additionally influenced by design elements, differing according to fulfil the parameters on comfort at the same time with the effective look of the footwear, which results in good in mechanical properties. The lining material also possessed with effective results, especially the foot bed foam having enormous cushioning property while loading applying in walking motion and also in running motion and this expose the comfort parameter of the footwear. The results obtained confirm the dependence of mechanical properties of leather resistance to breaking force, stretching and breaking strength of upper materials used in comfort shoes. The mechanical properties of PU outsole materiel such as slip resistance, abrasion resistance and density also obtained with effective values. Finally, the physical testing of the materials used in comfort shoes attaining the values which is more sufficient to satisfy the comfort parameter of the footwear.

“Interpretation of physical testing results”

Increase in the comfort parameter by cushioning factor on the foot bed material and all other skin friendly materials such upper – cow softy nappa, lining – sheep lining, foot bed foam – EVA and many aesthetic ornaments and accessories used in this comfort shoes providing the adequate results.

Overall body weight transfers to the ground through the footwear and it is already mentioned if a man who wears the footwear for more than 8 hours a day, here it demands the parameter comfort. Even though custom footwears are made, the comfort and fit may not be optimal for different activities and differently shaped feet. In this design, we have presented means to quantify mismatches that may cause discomfort as a result of skin compression. In the sensation and pain literature, we have shown that useful measures can be developed to better understand comfort and discomfort and also their underlying mechanisms in an effort to design the interface between feet and footwear optimally.

This clearly demonstrates the efficacy of the Comfort Sandals by the materials and all the physical test properties meeting the standards of the SATRA recommendations. Hence the materials used in comfort shoes with high quality and also fulfils the term comfort.

COMFORT SHOES - INTERPRETATION OF RESULT OF GAIT STUDIES

GAIT analysis: Gait Analysis with G sensor

There are four subjects considered for the gait analysis and it is assured they having healthy foot and there is no injuries or abnormalities by plantar pressure analysis on barefoot and no medications during the subject trial session. Gait analysis was performed to analyze the comfort parameter with comfort shoes (with back strap and without back strap), subject's own footwear and barefoot using G sensor, BTS bioengineering, Italy. This device is the combination of accelerometer, magnetometer and gyroscope. It is a wearable device, using a specialized belt which gives the freedom to the subject to walk, run and jump. The sensor sends all data to a computer connected via Bluetooth; at the end of each analysis an automatic report containing all the parameters recorded during the test, is displayed. This sensor is cost effective and easy to use as this is only one component need to be placed on the prescribed place on the skin of the body. Since the device is tightly secured with the body, the sensor moves along with movement of the subject. When the push button is activated on the device, the sensor collects the data. After the acquisition the sensor sends the data according to the protocol selected. The computer generates the report with the average value of the gait parameters of the subject. In this study the offline method using push button to activate the sensor was used.

Results

1. Increase in walking speed, increase in stride length and increase in cadence are all indications for good stability and balance during normal walking [1, 2] for all the subject trials by using comfort shoes.
2. Barefoot walking speeds were compared to the generated walking speeds, in some subjects we observed additional acceleration peaks which varied from barefoot walking speed [4]

3. The values had shown increase in walking speed is 0.3 m/s, stride length is 0.1 m to 0.3 m increment compared to the barefoot for all four subjects. These parameters showed that the walking acceleration has increased by using comfort shoes.

4. However the various parameters during walking such as stride length (0.3 m), speed (0.3 m/s), cadence (0.4) got increased greater than the own footwear.

5. But other parameters like single support phase (34 cm) and first double support phase (15 %) remained the own footwear (36 cm & 13%) values are near to barefoot values (39 cm & 10%) but the comfort shoes values are very near to the own footwear values.

Conclusion:

The gait analysis generated values are concluded by comparing barefoot values to own footwear and comfort shoes (with back strap and without back strap). The results are shown that the comfort shoes are satisfying the comfort parameters much higher than their own footwear. To assess the contribution of each limb to propulsion and control during walking, symmetry gait parameters can be used and the parameters calculated by gait analysis through the below mentioned reasons [6, 7],

- Speed (m s⁻¹): Mean walking stride velocity of forward walking
- Cadence (step/minute): Number of steps in a minute
- Stride length (m): Distance between two consecutive footprints on the ground, from the heel of a foot to the heel of the same foot, one cycle after

- Swing (%): Portion of the cycle during which the foot is in the air and does not touch the ground
- Stance (%): Portion of the cycle during which part of the foot touches the ground
- Double support (%): Portion of the cycle where both feet touch the ground
- Load (%): Portion of the stance between the heel strike and the foot being flat on the ground

Discussion

Walking allows humans to move forward by alternatively and repetitively swinging their left and right lower limbs. The gait pattern can be segmented into cycles that are typically divided into different phases in relation to the position of each foot with respect to the ground and of one foot with respect to the other such as stance phase, swing phase and double support phases [3]. Analysis of dynamic electromyography activity and energy consumption adds useful clinical information to gait analysis. The combination of a careful clinical assessment and gait analysis can be a powerful tool for the clinician [5]. The aim of comfort shoes research is to improve the comfort parameters on the footwear during standing, walking, running and other activities performed by the foot with the footwear. From the feedback from the subjects stated that the comfort shoes are providing more comfort to sole of the foot when compared to their own footwear. The outcome of this study was further validated by the gait analysis where the speed, stride length, cadence and gait cycle symmetry is improved due to the improved comfort level to walk when using the comfort shoes.

“Interpretation of Gait Analysis results”

“The increase in the ‘Foot Contact Areas’ between the Static and Dynamic Pressure Analysis is fairly significant and this is indicative of the fact that the materials used in the Comfort Sandals are capable of ‘greater Pressure Dissipation’ and are able to ‘redistribute the plantar pressures on the underfoot of the wearer’ more evenly so that there is no ‘Pressure Peak’ at any location of the wearers feet.

This clearly demonstrates the efficacy of the Comfort Sandals developed in preventing ‘Foot Debilitation’ by virtue of its better ‘Cushioning Properties’ in ‘attenuating concentrated Pressure Points’ which might have otherwise occurred due to a poor footwear design and use of improper material in the footwear construction.”



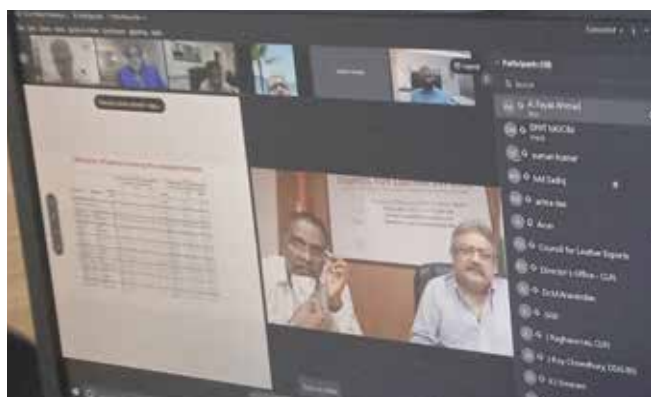
For further details, please contact:

CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute

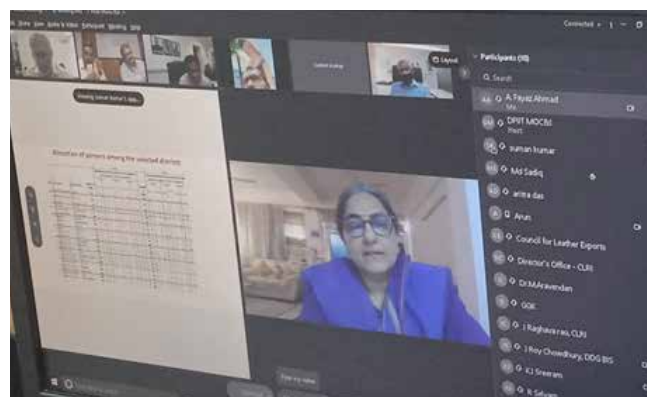
DESIGN & FASHION STUDIO

Email: mdsadiq@clri.res.in

Foot Measurement Survey for Revision of Standards for Indian Footwear Sizes by CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI)



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE and Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE attending the Review Meeting on 22.06.2021.



Dr. Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Government of India interacting with participants in the Review Meeting on 22.06.2021

CSIR-CLRI has proposed for development of Indian footwear size system, and CLRI has initiated this exercise to revise the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) standards for footwear-specifications for sizing and fitting of footwear IS: 1638-1969. The standards which were originally brought out in the year 1969, which was reaffirmed in the year 2004, needed to be revised with updated / current data. The Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India has approved the proposal of CLRI for undertaking the study for revision of standards of Indian Footwear sizes (October 2020).

DPIIT has constituted a Steering Committee for reviewing the project and ensure coordination with all stakeholders. The Steering Committee has consisted of stakeholder organizations CLRI, FDDI, BIS, NIFT, NSSO, CIFI, CFLA, IFCOMA. So far, the DPIIT has convened 6 meetings of the Steering Committee on the revision of Standards of Indian Footwear Sizes and conducted the project review.

National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has given detailed sampling design for the survey to be carried out in 92 Districts of the country. Synergy partners have been identified for conducting the survey are: CFTI, Agra (2) FDDI, Jodhpur, (3) CFTI, Chennai (4) FDDI, Patna (5) NEIST, Jorhat (6) NIFT, Shillong (7) NIFT, Mumbai (8) RCED, CLRI, Kanpur (9) RCED, CLRI, Jalandhar (10) RCED, CLRI, Kolkata (11) RCED, CLRI, Ahmedabad. CLRI is in the process of finalizing the synergy partners.

The 6th meeting of the Steering Committee was held on 16.06.2021 under the chairmanship of Shri Anil Agrawal, IPS, Additional Secretary, DPIIT through Video Conference. Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE & Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE have participated in the meeting as members of the Steering Committee.

Review Meeting was held on 22.06.2021 under the chairmanship of Dr. Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, DPIIT to further review the project strategy and course of action. Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE & Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE have participated in the meeting as members of the Steering Committee.

Another round of Review Meeting was held on 07.07.2021 under the chairmanship of Mrs. Shruti Singh, Director, DPIIT. Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE participated in the meeting

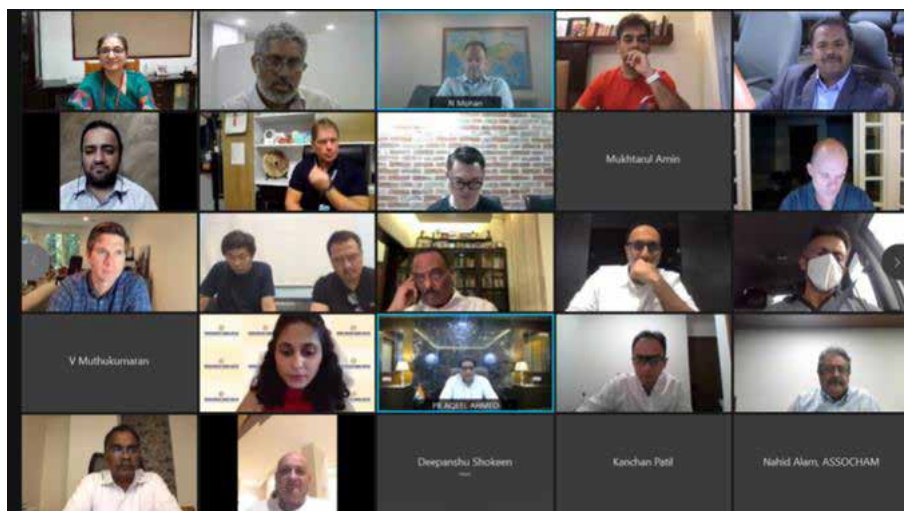


Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE participating in the Review Meeting on 07.07.2021.

ASSOCHAM organizes virtual Roundtable Discussion with stakeholders of Leather & Footwear Sector on 30th June 2021, and CLE participation thereof

Leather and footwear industry has huge potential in India and currently second largest producer of footwear in the world but small exports base. Taking into consideration of the sector inherent manufacturing potential and competitive edge to push India's manufacturing prowess further, Government of India had considered the sector as Champaign sector and included in high-level Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-add and Exports (SCALE) in the month of May 2020. The SCALE will review the sector to become self-reliant by strengthening domestic manufacturing which will translate into more employability, greater potential for exports with a higher share in the global market and a sound manufacturing domestic base within the country to meet its own demands. Since then, multiple stakeholder discussions were held by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) with the industries as well as Government and SCALE committee to identify specific implementable policy/action points to become an integral part of global supply chain. Amongst the many important recommendations to nurture the sector, industry has proposed to setup few leather and footwear clusters with plug and play facility.

ASSOCHAM National Council on Leather, Non-Leather and Accessories, has been set up in ASSOCHAM to provide valuable inputs and suggestions on behalf of Industry for policy change in the Leather, Non-Leather and Accessories



Industry towards facilitating an Industry friendly environment & to Building the appropriate ecosystem for encouraging manufacturing from India as India also remains a major sourcing hub and a big potential market for attracting FDI's. In this background,

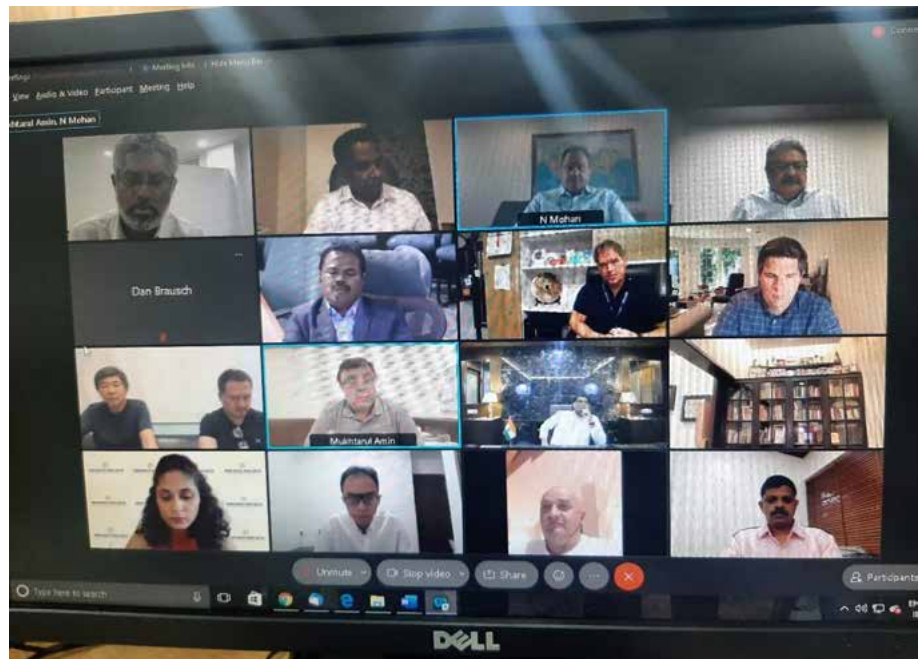
ASSOCHAM organized a virtual Round Table discussion with investors/stakeholders of sector on 30th June 2021 from 04:30 pm to 06:30 pm. The RoundTable had active participation of the Government of India, Invest India, CLE, overseas organizations FDRA, British Footwear Association, Feng Tay Group, Nike Group etc.



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE interacting in the meeting

Dr. Vandana Kumar, IDAS, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India participated in the meeting and joined in the discussions. Shri P R Aqeel Ahmed, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Leather, Non-Leather and Accessories attended the meeting.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE has participated on behalf of CLE. Leading entrepreneurs Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Chairman, Superhouse Group, Shri V. Muthukumaran, TATA International Ltd joined the meeting on the invitation of ASSOCHAM. Shri N Mohan, CEO, Clarks India & Co-Chairman of ASSOCHAM National Council on Leather, Non-Leather and Accessories steered/compered the meeting. The discussions covered key areas such as opportunity in the



Leather and Footwear sector, Government initiatives to encourage investment, opportunities to investment in clusters, attracting investments, and investor friendliness etc

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Leather Industry Virtual BSM with buyers from Central American Countries, 24th June, 2021

As a part of ongoing virtual export promotion activities, CLE, with the support of Embassy of India, Guatemala has organized a virtual BSM between Indian exporters of footwear, leather and leather products and buyers from Guatemala and other Central American countries on 24th June, 2021.

The following 9 Indian companies took part in the programme and presented their company and product profiles before the buyers:-

- 1.M/s Alpine Apparels Pvt. Ltd., Faridabad
- 2.M/s Baer Shoes (India) Pvt. Ltd., Chennai
- 3.M/s Balona Eurasia, Kolkata
- 4.M/s Bhartiya International Limited, New Delhi
- 5.M/s Gaurav Lederwaren Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata
- 6.M/s Rahman Industries Limited, Kanpur
- 7.M/s Siddharth Exports, Noida
- 8.M/s Stytle, Kolkata
- 9.M/s Superhouse Limited, Kolkata

Over 30 buyers of footwear, leather and leather products from Guatemala were physically present in a Restaurant in Guatemala where the programme was conducted, whereas, another 50-55 buyers joined the programme virtually from Guatemala and other Central American countries. Few major buyers, who were physically present in the programme are Aldo Nero Group, Agora Group etc.

The programme commenced with the welcome address by Shri Suraj Jadhav, HOC, Embassy of India, Guatemala. He welcomed the delegates from Central American Countries and India.



His Excellency Shri B.S. Mubarak, Hon'ble Ambassador of India to Guatemala addressing the forum

Thereafter, His Excellency Shri B.S. Mubarak, Ambassador of India to Guatemala addressed the forum. In his address, Hon'ble Ambassador talked about trade relationship between India and Central America in various segments of Industry, including footwear and leather sector. The Ambassador informed that Guatemala being close to United States is highly quality conscious and people are ready to pay but look for good quality and Indian companies should keep this in mind while planning their business with Guatemalan buyers. The Ambassador thanked CLE for partnering with Embassy of India for organizing the Virtual BSM. Hon'ble Ambassador presented a brief about Guatemalan fashion industry and the kind of products looking for by the buyers. The Ambassador informed that Embassy of India, Guatemala will be happy to arrange similar programmes in future as well. While concluding his address, Hon'ble Ambassador assured that Embassy of India in Guatemala will provide all possible support to the Indian firms, for promoting trade between India and Guatemala in the footwear and leather sector.



Following the address by Hon'ble Ambassador, a short video about the Indian footwear and leather sector was played before the audience. The video explained about the capabilities and strength of Indian leather sector and sourcing opportunities available for overseas buyers.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman-CLE in his address put on record the Industry's gratitude to the Hon'ble Ambassador, Embassy of India Guatemala, for arranging a platform for promoting export of footwear and leather products from India to Central American countries in general and Guatemala in particular. Chairman-CLE presented an overview about Indian leather sector and the activities being planned by CLE during the COVID period. While summing up his address, Chairman-CLE thanked Embassy of India, STRATECH-the Marketing Agency and Ms. Carmen Torrebiarte, President of Leather Manufacturers Association in Guatemala, for helping CLE to conduct the event and also for attending the programme.

Thereafter, Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Vice Chairman-CLE addressed the forum and talked about the opportunities offered by the Indian footwear and leather industry to the overseas customers. He informed that Indian leather sector has achieved several milestones. India now 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. Vice Chairman-CLE informed that CLE is very keen to take the trade relations with Central American countries to a new high and in this direction, we have to ensure frequent and continuing interactions and discussions with our counterparts from here.

Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director-CLE in his speech appreciated the initiative taken by the Hon'ble Ambassador, Embassy of India in Guatemala for organizing the Virtual



Shri Sanjay Leekha,
Chairman, CLE



Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan,
Vice Chairman-CLE

Footwear and Leather Industry BSM. He praised the Embassy of India officials for planning the programme successfully within a short span of 20 days time. The Executive Director-CLE briefed about the sourcing and investment opportunities in the footwear and leather sector in India. He informed that Indian leather industry has travelled a long way from the suppliers of raw materials to the manufacturers of quality footwear and leather products and today, Indian leather sector is exporting their products to almost all major global brands.

Ms. Carmen Torrebiarte, President of Leather Manufacturers Association of Guatemala also addressed the delegates and talked about the areas of cooperation between both the sides. Dr. Rajesh Ingle, Executive Director of STRATECH, the Marketing Agency engaged by Embassy of India for mobilizing buyers, also talked on the occasion.



Shri R. Selvam, IAS,
Executive Director-CLE



Ms. Carmen Torrebiarte,
President of Leather Manufacturers
Association in Guatemala

Thereafter, pre-recorded videos of 3 minutes duration of all 9 Indian participants were played before the audience. The videos explained about their products, countries they are exporting and their manufacturing capabilities. Each video presentation was followed by a brief live talk by the company representative. At the end of the programme, an open house discussion was also held between the two sides. The programme concluded with the Vote of Thanks by HOC Shri Suraj Jadhav, Embassy of India, Guatemala.

This Virtual BSM was a huge success and helped in establishing business tie-ups with buyers in Guatemala/ Central America. The Council for Leather Exports thanks the Embassy of India in Guatemala for the help and support in successful organization of the event.



CLE's participation in the virtual Supplier Roundtable Meeting with Walmart Team on 2nd July, 2021

The Embassy of India, Washington DC, USA in coordination with Department of Commerce, Government of India organized a virtual roundtable meeting with Walmart Team at 5.30 PM India Time on 2nd July, 2021. Senior Officials from the Department of Commerce and Embassy of India, Washington DC were present in this meeting.

Over 100 participants from various segments of industries from India attended the meeting. Based on the interest shown by the Walmart Team,

as advised by the Embassy of India, CLE has facilitated participation of more than 10 manufacturer-exporters of 'Synthetic Footwear' from India in this meeting. The very purpose of organizing this meeting was to apprise Indian companies about the sourcing pattern and requirements of Walmart, keeping in view the fact that Walmart is committed to buy USD 10 billion worth of goods/products from India by 2027, including footwear and leather products.

The Walmart Team has made a detailed presentation about their sourcing pattern and compliance requirements. After the presentation, a Question & Answer Session was also conducted, in which, the Walmart Team replied to the questions raised by Indian participants, including for the questions sent by CLE to the Embassy of India in advance. Mr. Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, Mr. R.K. Jalan, Vice Chairman and Mr. R. Selvam, IAS Executive Director-CLE also attended the roundtable meeting.

Expert project for reduction of lead times in the development and production process of Shoes

Just like the fashion sector, the shoe industry is driven by short collection cycles and enormous pressure in terms of time and cost. In order to make processes faster and save on labour, two medium-sized German enterprises – KARL MAYER STOLL Textilmaschinenfabrik GmbH and DESMA Schuhmaschinen GmbH – have entered into a cooperation. The two partners are confident that combining their specialisms at every stage of the shoe industry's global value chain is an opportunity that promises plenty of potential for optimisation. "This innovative shoe model provides the perfect example of how we can manufacture complex products with a high degree of efficiency and sustainability, by working together and harmonising our companies' process sequences," says Andreas Schellhammer, Head of Business Unit STOLL at the KARL MAYER Group.

Diversity, efficiency and sustainability

The two partners have developed an integrated solution that enables innovative shoe models to be



manufactured using a highly efficient process. The process starts with the production of seamless, 3D-knitted uppers, which are then hardened in order to activate the functional yarns woven into them, before being attached directly to dual-layer sole constructions.

The advantage of this method is that it minimises lead times in the development and production process and allows the machine settings to be adjusted for optimum product quality without any additional investment. The machine technologies used for the process – STOLL flat weft knitting and DESMA direct sole attachment technology – are already in widespread use in the shoe industry, for both innovative new products and mass production. Most significantly, the new solution reduces the number of time-consuming production steps required, such as making up the uppers and manually joining together uppers and soles made from different components. It is also a sustainable innovation, as the seamless manufacturing technique means there is no scrap or waste, so no resources go to waste. In addition to this, a seamless, 3D-knitted upper is more comfortable to wear as it is shaped to provide the perfect fit. Last but not least, productivity and pioneering design considerations have also been factored perfectly into the process. Thanks to the flat weft knitting machine and efficient sole attachment process, it is now possible to manufacture high-performance footwear with custom designs using industrial processes.

“FASHION TREND POOL starts the new order season with the SEASON OPENING F/S 22”
which is all about optimism and creativity as a way out of the crisis.

FASHION TREND POOL

On 1 June, FASHION TREND POOL bot the retailers, buyers and decision-

makers in the fashion and shoe the new season at an early stage – with the SEASON OPENING F/S 22 in a compact, inspiring Zoom Webinar from 10 am to 12 Noon.

The warehouses are swamped. Sell-off rates at an all-time low. And the new season is already in the starting blocks. A dilemma. To dispose new seems currently unthinkable, despite signs of hope between opening perspectives and a predicted pent-up demand. The collections are bursting with new themes and optimistic colours. In the SEASON OPENING we look at the trends for spring/summer 2022, analyse the zeitgeist and show the most important “courage makers” of the season – products that make you want to wear fashion again.

As the highlight of the SEASON OPENING, Mrs Marga Indra-Heide introduces the new fashion themes for S/S 22 in her usual detailed fashion briefing, presents the most important new colours and materials and shows the most influential key looks, shoes and bags of the season.

In her fashion briefing, Marga Indra-Heide gave a detailed introduction to the new Fashion themes for S/ S 22 one, presented the main new colors and Materials and shows the most defining key looks, shoes and bags of the season. The FASHION TREND POOL Color themes include



Md Sadiq, CSIR-CLRI Design & Fashion Studio

BALANCE, ESCAPE AND RESOURCE the stylistic arc from deceleration to creative excesses of color to Earth connection.

The new looks for spring / summer 2022 are shaped by the Key topics home and office, fun and party, outdoor and leisure. Mrs Indra Heide evaluated the corona pandemic as a catalyst for new opportunities and a social change. Some new joie de vivre, the regained lust for Life, freedom, celebration and culture as well as the transformation of inner cities in sustainable, green community spaces are likely to emerge after the long dry spell offer valuable impulses for the fashion industry.

Mrs Marga Indra Heide, FASHION TREND POOL presented the Colour Groups for Spring Summer 2022 season in the three themes: Balance, Resource and Escape.



Spring/Summer 2022 – HOW TO CONTINUE?

In her keynote speech “The Power of Creativity”, trend expert Karolina Landowski described a new era of zeitgeist in the context of art. Our aesthetic sensibilities are also changing due to digitalization. Virtual art and fashion are booming. Many people discovered art and creativity during the pandemic. At the same time, we long for something truthful, imperfect, and even disturbing. And after many seasons of quiet monotony again after extreme colors. In the future, it will no longer be enough to just make beautiful products to attract attention. The future belongs to expression and a new imagination: exciting art collaborations and disruptive retail actions.

Goodbye sadness - Bonjour power! This is the powerful motto of the new fashion season at FASHION TREND POOL. It was rung in traditionally with the SEASON OPENING - an extensive impulse and Trend seminar for the upcoming order round. The shoe and fashion experts Marga Indra-Heide and Karolina Landowski showed this the most important trends for spring / summer 2022 at an early stage, analyzed the zeitgeist and the mood in retail and presented the most important “encouragement” of the season before - products that make you want again Make fashion, as well as artists and designers who inspire. This season with a focus on art and creativity.



Ms Karolina Landowski



Mr Timo Wuchner

A look beyond your own nose into the inspiring art scene: Guest speaker Timo Wuchner is a Berlin-based designer who will be speaking exclusively at the SEASON OPENING about his experiences in various studios in the design, art and fashion sectors, having worked for studios ranging from Faye Toogood to Olafur Eliasson, and will paint a picture of the future of the creative landscape. He has recently started his own studio and has set himself the task of designing furniture without composite materials.

COLOUR CARDS for Spring Summer 2022 season



For further details, please contact:
CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute
DESIGN & FASHION STUDIO
Email: mdsadiq@clri.res.in



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Regional Committee Meeting Hails Council for Leather Exports Chairman Shri Sanjay Leekha and Regional Chairman North Shri Motilal Sethi's Vision Document

Council for Leather Exports held its Northern Regional Committee Meeting on 21st June, 2021 virtually. Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman and Shri Motilal Sethi, Regional Chairman – North, CLE presided over the meeting from the council's Delhi office. Shri Motilal Sethi felicitated and welcomed Shri Sanjay Leekha, who has been recently appointed as the Chairman of the Council. He subsequently handed over his vision document for the northern region with reflections on the past year and the strategy ahead for its growth.

Presently, India is the second largest exporter of leather garments, second largest producer of Footwear, third largest exporter of Saddlery & Harness and 4th largest exporter of Leather Goods in the world. The export of footwear, leather and leather products from India was to the tune of US \$ 3.68 billion (Rs.27,209 crores) during 2020-21, while in 2019-20 the sector recorded exports of US\$ 5.07 BILLION (Rs.35,350 crores). In 2019-20, the northern region generated exports to the tune of US\$ 1.10 billion (Rs. 8,200 crores). Northern region has vast scope for growth.

Highlights of Vision Document

- PROFESSIONAL STUDY OF LEATHER INDUSTRY
- GLOBAL OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR MARKETING BRAND INDIA
- EFFECTIVE INFORMATION ON CLE WEBSITE



Shri Motilal Sethi, Regional Chairman – North felicitating Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman Council for Leather Exports

- CREATION OF 3 CLUSTERS/ COMMON FACILITY IN NCR
- TRANSACTION / LOGISTICS COST

Shri Motilal Sethi's vision document proposes precise measures that must be taken by the council for promotion of leather industry. Based on the results achieved so far as well as on his vast experience, he suggests that a professional study of leather industry needs to be carried out by collecting





inputs from industry and analyzing policies and working of competing countries to increase global share of leather industry. Collection of data and its analysis by engaging knowledge partners from big four consulting firms will create an analytical document, which will guide the industry and Govt to move forward with growth strategy as Indian leather Industry has vast scope and engages more than 10 million work force apart from earning huge foreign exchange. The Vision document also recommended that leather industry needs to carry out a Global outreach program by strengthening our marketing of 'Brand India' digitally in collaboration with India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), Digital India and Invest India schemes of the Government of India.

Vision document also suggested that northern region should create three clusters and common facilities in the NCR. Cluster development strategy is the best tool for improving productivity and competitiveness of enterprises. Providing effective information on market intelligence and national and international

updated policies, through Cle website is another strong recommendation of the vision document apart from immediate intervention on transaction and logistic cost which is very high.

Chairman CLE Shri Sanjay Leekha while appreciating efforts of Sh. Motilal Sethi in creating this vision document, gave very motivating inspiration to the industry by asserting that India is a favorite destination today for leather and leather products and exports have started showing positive growth. He appealed to the industry to gear up as post covid, the global economies are going to bounce back, and India has a chance to equally bounce back and use this opportunity of pro India sentiments. He assured the members of all support from CLE and sought their continuous suggestions and initiatives to create synergies for the growth. Mr. Leekha emphasized on digital and virtual marketing and advised Industry to work in this direction very fast as due to restrictions on travels, Effective digital approach will go a long way in reaching out to global markets. He discussed a lot on marketing plans and export friendly policy intervention to achieve the desired targets.

Regional Committee Meeting which discussed for 2.5 hours at length all important issues and emphasized that Govt may consider withdrawing import duty on import of wet blue leathers as this will jeopardize the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat to produce world class leathers. Wet blue raw materials bring value addition of 100 percent. Industry felt that imposing duty on finished leather import still has some logic but imposing duty on wet blue, which is a raw material for value addition, is going to effect entire leather industry very badly. Members also emphasized that DFIS Scheme must continue to produce world class leather products. All other issues like review of export performance, pending MEIS, RODTEP, ECGLS, Refund of DRAWBACK and GST etc. were interacted in detail. Members also appealed Chairman Sh. Sanjay Leekha to represent the Govt for inclusion of Leather Sector, which is a champion sector, in the PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME.

Discussions in the VI Meeting of the Executive Committee of Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association (IFLMEA)

Saturday, 19th June 2021

Mr KR Vijayan, Chairman, Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association (IFLMEA) welcomed the Executive Members of IFLMEA and the Special Invitee, Md Sadiq from CLRI Design & Fashion Studio to the 6th Meeting of the Executive Committee of IFLMEA .

Mr Vijayan opened his remarks by stating that there was a positive trend in the export performance and Buyers are enquiring for finished leathers as well as for capacities both from existing buyers as well as new buyers, and there is an increasing demand for leathers in the Indian domestic market.

Mr N Shafeeq Ahmed mentioned about drop in imports of finished leather by 43% as well as imports of raw hides and skins. Mr. Shafeeq added that the lead times were getting shorter and shorter. Most importantly, there is focus on locally available raw material. Mr Shafeeq cited the example from ZARA. He said that ZARA wants suppliers to supply leathers that are produced locally. Domestically made leathers would be the future direction, he said. Buyers have started asking for additional capacity he added.

Mr M Rafeeq Ahmed, EC Member, IFLMEA advised Chairman to organize one meeting/ presentation by Dr Ram Subramanian. The Doctor could talk to IFLMEA members and advise on how our Industry should be prepared for the possible third wave of the pandemic

Mr AR Senthil Kumar, Honorary



Shri M. Rafeeq Ahmed



Shri K.R. Vijayan,
Chairman, IFLMEA

Secretary, IFLMEA updated about various services rendered to members including LWG certification, MOU with Eurofins which will enable BLC Membership at special concessional rate to IFLMEA Members and about proposed marketing initiatives.

Mr Israr Ahmed, Vice Chairman, IFLMEA said that IFLMEA would take up a leadership role in traceability. Mr. Israr said that IFLMEA would provide data to LWG. He explained that IFLMEA will be taking up the work. E-invoicing and real-time data would be provided. The process involves companies to register on the website. Product companies can also get the information, he said. IFLMEA is already in the process of developing a portal, where members can register and upload their raw materials sourcing and suppliers. The ground work on this portal is completed and is in the implementation stage. It's a paid service to any member of the industry. The data uploaded by the industry is very much confidential and password protected. Authentication will be carried out by IFLMEA Authorized Auditors, which can be used for Traceability purpose including LWG Certification



Shri N. Shafeeq Ahmed



Shri Israr Ahmed



Shri A.R. Senthil Kumar

Mr N Shafeeq responded that as buyers were insisting on reducing carbon footprint and hence leathers manufactured in India to be supplied to the brands making shoes/ products in India; thereby reducing carbon footprint. He went to say that leather produced in Ambur and sold to shoe factory in Ambur had zero carbon footprint.

Mr V Muthukumaran, EC Member, IFLMEA enquired whether export of

Finished Leathers will get reduced? Mr Shafeeq Ahmed responded stating that as brands were focusing on 'sustainability,' while calculating carbon footprint in every process, also on the chemicals being used in the process; it becomes imminent to follow the buyer's advice. He also quickly added that not all brands/ leather buyers were insisting, a few other buyers are happy with green leather certification and not insisting on carbon footprint.

Mr Israr Mecca, Vice Chairman, IFLMEA stated that not all countries have this issue. "We need to wait and see how this develops," he said. Vietnam does not have Goat, Sheep and Buffalo skins and hides like India!

Update on Solidaridad: Swiss-Asia project: M/s. Solidaridad approached IFLMEA through CLE for implementation of Switch Asia Project in two clusters of Tamil Nadu. Its preference was Chennai only. Since in Chennai most of the tanneries are doing Finishing work only, we requested Solidaridad to include Ranipet also in this project. The following projects were shortlisted and a detailed report will be submitted by Solidaridad shortly:

- Conversion of lime sludge to Paver Blocks
- Utilization of various solid wastes to Leather like products
- Protein Syntan
- Recovery of accumulated salt from Zero Liquid Discharge
- Gelatin

IN BRIEF

TFL Colour Trends Catalogue for Autumn Winter 2022-23

TFL has released its new TFL Colour Trends Catalogue for the season Autumn Winter 2022-23.

In the catalogue, TFL presents the colour trends for leather garment, footwear, accessories and additionally for the upholstery industry.

The colour trends are divided into "Wearing" and "Living", devoting a section to each within the publication. "Wearing" comprises inspirations and colour trends for garments, footwear and accessories.

The "Living" section features all colours that will decorate the season's interior designs.

In "Wearing", we discover the "nouvelle vogue" of buying less by

choosing timeless products made with premium materials and the taste of personalization. We revive brush-off leathers with amber nuances and reduced thickness for lightweight bags, waxy finishings and a vegetal-like look on calfskin and small-skins, in order to achieve extreme high-glossiness and brightness on slip-on and lace-up moccasins, boots and high heel ankle boots.

We are glad to introduce into our collection TFL Pure Tec and the concept of Bio index calculation, for a real measuring of the leather chemical sustainability.

In "Living", interior design is evolving towards a sense of purity and it is inspired by the Japanese art of making things known as "Monozukuri". We are giving a fresh and modern look to the Old West style, recovering a three-dimensional look through embossing and pull-up effects on buffalo and bovine leathers.

The reduced use of water in tanning and paying attention to chemicals used are representative of a sensitiveness to the environment and communicating with a pure world made of brilliant shades and warm hands, for soft armchairs and airy living areas.

Being confident that the TFL Colour Trends catalogue will assist you in taking decisions regarding colour trends, we wish you a happy reading.

For more information, refer www.tfl.com

Meeting of Leather Fraternity and Office bearers of Leather Industries Welfare Association (LIWA), Kanpur with Shri R. K. Jalan , Vice Chairman, Council for Leather Exports, 26th June, 2021, Kanpur

Members from leather fraternity and Office bearers of Leather Industries Welfare Association (LIWA), Jajmau, Kanpur welcomed and greeted the newly elected Vice – Chairman of Council for Leather Exports Shri R. K. Jalan by presenting floral bouquet at Kanpur on 26th June 2021.

Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman, CLE, Shri Asad K. Iraqi, COA Member, CLE, and Gen. Secretary, Leather Industries Welfare Association (LIWA), Shri Mohd. Arshi, Vice President, LIWA, Shri Rizwan Khan, Vice President, LIWA, Shri O. P. Pandey, COA Member, CLE and Shri Sharif Khan, Member, Executive Body of LIWA welcomed and greeted Shri Jalan.



Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman- Central, CLE presented floral bouquet & welcomed Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE.



(R-L) Shri Mohammad Arshi, Vice President of LIWA, Shri Asad K. Iraqi, Gen. Secretary, LIWA, Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman, CLE, Shri O. P. Pandey, COA Member, CLE, Shri Sharif Khan, Member, Executive Body of LIWA and Shri Rizwan Khan, Vice President, LIWA, Kanpur presented floral bouquet & welcomed Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE (in middle).



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Virtual Interactive meeting of Chairman CLE and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE with Shri. Vikas Gupta, I.A.S., DG, MSME, Government of Haryana, July 2, 2021

A virtual meeting was organised with Shri Vikas Gupta, I.A.S., Director General, MSME, Government of Haryana on 2nd July, 2021 to discuss regarding Freight Assistance Scheme of Government of Haryana.

The agenda of the meeting were as follows :-

a) As the freight costs have increased significantly in the last five years, the amount of the freight assistance may kindly be revised to Rs. 40 lakh per annum for all exporting MSME units of Leather garments, goods & footwear.

b) Assistance under the Scheme may be extended for Air freight also to all eligible enterprises, as the industry sent goods by Air due to shorter delivery time demanded by buyers.

Meeting started with the opening remarks of Shri Atul Kumar Mishra, Regional Director, CLE. He welcomed Shri Vikas Gupta, DG, MSME, Government of Haryana, Shri Jaideep Kapoor, Additional Director, MSME, Government of Haryana, Chairman, CLE, and other dignitaries of CLE.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE welcomed Shri Vikas Gupta, DG, MSME, Government of Haryana and thanked him for sparing valuable time and for giving an opportunity to CLE Northern Regional members to interact with him. He briefed about Haryana that there are 1500 units pertaining to Footwear, Leather Garment & Accessories Sector employing approximately 35000 people and indirect employment to more than a lakh people in the

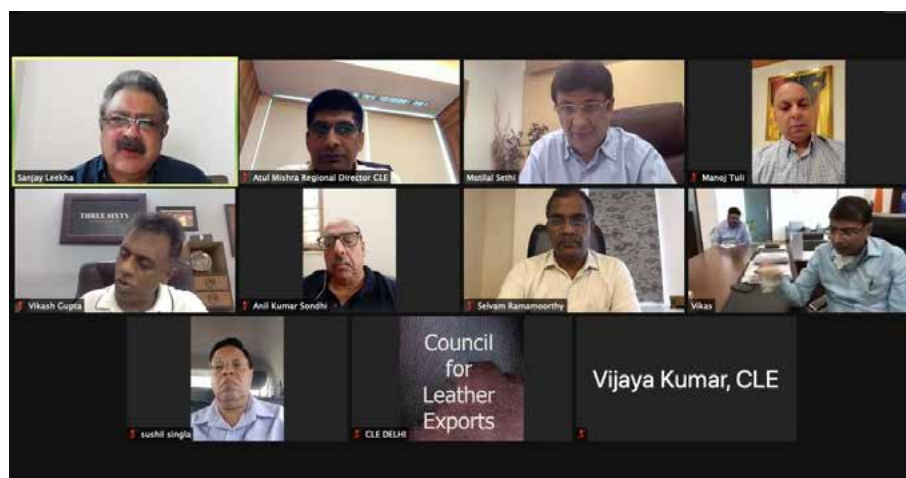


Figure 1: Consultative Meeting of Northern Region with Director General MSME, Govt. of Haryana

State. Haryana is one of the most promising state for the purpose of exports in the sector. Haryana contributes around 4% of the total export of Footwear & Leather & Leather products in the country. He appreciated the efforts of the Government of Haryana for coming up with policies like Freight Assistance Scheme wherein it gives subsidy freight assistance in total cost to the MSME Units of the state subject to maximum up-to Rs. 20 Lakh Per Annum is provided; however, this Scheme has been discontinued since July, 2020. Therefore, he urged DG, MSME to either extend this scheme for the period of 5 years or scheme may be incorporated in the new upcoming Industrial & Commercial policy of the Government of Haryana, so that exporters working in the land-locked state of Haryana can get subsidized freight to keep them competitive in international market.

During his discussion, Chairman, CLE conveyed that the cost of Inland haulages, Sea freight, Air Freight as well as fuel has surged consecutively in last 5 years, therefore the assistance amount of Rs. 20 Lakh per MSME unit has become comparatively low. Therefore, the amount of the freight assistance may kindly be revised to Rs. 40 lakh per annum for all exporting MSME units



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE

of the Haryana state.

Keeping in the view of Pandemic lockdown, Freight Subsidy Scheme which ended in July, 2020 Govt. of Haryana as a Stock Gap measure may consider for extension of policy till March, 2021, the end of Financial year so that the Exporters fraternity can claim the subsidy amount under the scheme.

Further, he also conveyed that some of the exporters work on High-end fashion which needs quick deliveries within the stipulated time, hence they have to use the services of Air Freight for shipping of goods. Keeping in the view of the above and quick delivery requirement of buyer the similar subsidy as of sea freight may also be extended to Air freight charges also which are incurred by exporters on regular basis.

Chairman, CLE also touched upon the issues pertaining to Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 (Haryana Act No.3 of 2021) notified on 2nd March, 2021 about the restriction of local employment conditions and reserving 75% of jobs to Haryana Domicile citizens in the industry premises for all such category of jobs which amounts to Rs. 50,000 (Fifty Thousand) or less per month which will have a huge ramification on the export growth of the state.

Shri Moti Lal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE thanked Shri Vikas Gupta, DG, MSME, Government of Haryana for his gracious presence through video conferencing. He conveyed that, Haryana is contributing immensely to India's overall growth. The state is emerging as one of the best destinations in the country for MSME and it contributes immensely in national as well as international trade. He also conveyed; Haryana was within the top three states in India on

“Ease of Business” list last year.

Shri Sethi emphasized upon the significance of Logistics which is the important element of a successful supply chain that boost efficiency while keeping healthy business value. He informed that Logistics cost is 13% to 14% of GDP of India, therefore Government of India has come up with the National Policy of Logistics which aims to reduce the logistic cost in overall production to 9% which will definitely increase International Competitiveness of Exporters.

Keeping in the line, Government of Haryana should also focus on logistics with extension of Freight Subsidy Schemes enabling Exporters of Haryana to compete in Domestic & International Market. Further he highlighted the issues faced by Exporters from Haryana in claiming Freight Subsidy which are as follows -:

1. No Freight Subsidy payment has been released in the last 6 months.
2. Out of approx 250 exports application from Gurgaon; merely 20 to 25 exporters have received freight subsidy for the financial year 2019-20.
3. Due to Covid 19, Exports during the period April 20 to Oct 20 was negligible as US as well as Europe were closed. Hence, keeping in view of pandemic, eligible period for freight subsidy may be extended for the full Financial year 2020-21.
4. As per new Haryana export Promotion Policy 99% of the Exporters will not be eligible for freight subsidy due to the introduction of the word New Units along with exporters. The subsidy has further been reduced to 5 / 10 lakhs per annum to the exporter.

Further he conveyed that, under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CLE, he has released Vision of the Northern Region document, wherein one of the component of Vision is proposal of clusters in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. In order to proceed further in consultation with various stakeholders, he is looking forward to send representation of proposed Kharkhoda Cluster at the earliest to the Government of Haryana for further consideration.

During his discussion, he added that, during this challenging times, Footwear & Leather industry seeks strong hand-holding from the government and therefore Air Freight subsidy can be considered under the freight scheme of the Government of Haryana.

Shri Manoj Tuli, Member, CoA, CLE conveyed that Haryana as a state has always been supportive to Exporters fraternity and due to its various attractive policy measures, he shifted his units from Okhla in Delhi to Haryana. Freight Subsidy Scheme of Rs. 20 Lakh per annum has been a tremendous help to MSME units based in land-locked state like Haryana, especially to Leather



Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE

Industry which is volumetric and being based in land-locked state investors are losing comparative advantage in terms of logistic cost compared to other state investors having their units in coastal areas or near to port. However; discontinuation of the scheme will have a huge bearing on cost escalation, measure, most of the time goods on request by the buyer has to be airlifted which also adds in the cost. Therefore, assistance under the scheme may be extended for Air freight also. He also requested DG, MSME to extend the subsidy policy Aug, 2020 till March, 2021, as this will ease the liquidity crisis immediately and will create confidence in exporters of Haryana. During his discussion, he highlighted that 95% of the leather and footwear sector is concentrated in the MSME segment in the State of Haryana. Their Sub-contracting partner/ ancillaries having small units with an investment of Rs. 2 to 5 lakhs which directly employs 20 to 50 people and indirectly about 100 people; generates revenue about Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 Crore per annum; are right now going through critical financial crunch and most of them are talking about closing their units due to liquidity crunch.

Shri Tuli also discussed on the issue of newly enacted reservation policy of the Government of Haryana for Haryana domicile wherein he conveyed that Exporters are facing double whammy not only due to liquidity issue but also labour issue too. Since Leather Industry is an artisan industry which passes on from generation to generation in Leather, therefore not many people are skilled to do this kind of job.

Sh. Anil Sondhi, CoA, CLE conveyed that Exporters are facing competition from the exporters of coastal areas wherein Exporters have 4 or 5 days of lagging and sometimes they are not able reach the seaport in the given stipulated time. So the subsidy provided by the

state of Haryana was very healthy to our trade. Due to pandemic, lot of shipments have sent through Air Shipment right now to meet the short delivery of time. Europeans order are coming late so Exporters need the shipment by Air freight. He requested DG, MSME to consider this very seriously to help with Air Subsidy apart from the Land subsidy too. He also proposed a small Leather complex in Haryana near NCR and sought the help of Government of Haryana in this regard.



**Shri R. Selvam, IAS,
Executive Director, CLE**

Sh. Vikash Gupta, Special Invitee, CLE - conveyed that MSME is in lot of pain, Leather Sector needs a lot support. Leather Industry not only bring pride to India but it also brings a lot pride to Haryana, it creates humongous employment opportunity to women including local women. He stressed upon working with state government in partnership so that they can together overcome this challenging time.

Shri R. Selvam, ED, CLE conveyed that the looking at the scope of Footwear & the Leather Sector, there is strong inter-state competition as this is one of the potential sector which gives highest employment opportunities to skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour. Hence, considering the sector which consists of 90% under MSME, the State of Haryana should incentivise, so that the industry can grow further.

Shri Vishal Jagga, Special Invitee, CLE conveyed that Bahadurgarh Cluster which consists of mainly Non-Leather Footwear is doing extremely well and also exporting to African Countries, therefore for the growth of Footwear Industry, they need clusters like Kharkhoda for expansion. He urged CLE to take forward the Kharkhoda Cluster project to the Government of Haryana.

Shri Vikas Gupta, DG, MSME, Govt. of Haryana congratulated the new elected Chairman of CLE, Shri Sanjay Leekha and hoped that under his Chairmanship there would be fruitful association with the State of Haryana.



**Shri Vikas Gupta, IAS, Director General
(DG), MSME, Govt of Haryana**

He conveyed that there's no denial of the fact that exporters who are based from Haryana have disadvantage of being away from port; they have to spend extra amount on freight as compared to those who are near sea ports and this precisely was the reason for the introduction of Freight Subsidy scheme. However, he insisted that subsidy assistance should be given for initial stage for hand-holding, when a firm needs actual support.

During his interaction, he informed that the quantum of subsidy in the new policy has been decreased to Rs. 10 lakh per annum and assistance is given to only new exporting firm for a period of 5 years only. And all exporting firms exporting for last more than 10 years would not be able to take the benefit.

Shri Vikas Gupta conveyed that, he understands the concerns of exporters and the rationale behind the Freight subsidy assistance, however there is no quantifiable data which claims that it helps exporters in increasing their competitiveness. If he has been provided with data, he would rather take it forward to the State Government for the extension of Freight Subsidy Policy and to increase it from Rs. 20 Lakh per annum to Rs. 40 Lakh per annum to MSME Units of the state. He requested CLE to

fetch quantifiable data from the beneficiary exporters pertaining to Haryana which shows that, scheme has helped in increasing their competitiveness. He also informed that Freight Assistance scheme is the largest scheme of the Govt. of Haryana among all the schemes and the state spends Rs. 90 Crores in the freight subsidy scheme out of the total allotted Rs. 150-180 Crores disbursed by the Government. He further informed that until the new policy notification is announced, the existing policy will continue, hence exporters community may get the assistance on Freight Subsidy Scheme for the current year. On the matter of Air freight, he also sought data for the justification on why do Exporters want Air Freight Subsidy.

On the matter of formation of Cluster, he informed that last week Hon'ble CM and Dy. CM took separate meetings about establishing these clusters so that investment can come which can help to employ skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour of the state, which is considered as a big challenge as of now.

Shri Jaideep Kapoor, Additional Director, MSME, Haryana discussed on the matter of Air Freight, he conveyed that exceptions of the scheme was only because ports are far off, there is no data available for all such exports which is going through Air freight. In this regard, he sought concrete data on how many exporters are using Air freight to send their goods.

Chairman, CLE concluded the meeting by thanking DG, MSME and the participants.

Meeting of Regional Chairman – Central, CLE Shri Javed Iqbal with Shri Sanjay Leekha Chairman, Council for Leather Exports, June 30, 2021

Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman (Central) welcomed and greeted Shri Sanjay Leekha on taking charge as Chairman - Council for Leather

Exports by presenting floral bouquet at his office in Faridabad on June 30, 2021. During meeting Shri Javed Iqbal discussed various issues connected with the leather industry and future plan of action for overall development and export growth of this sector.

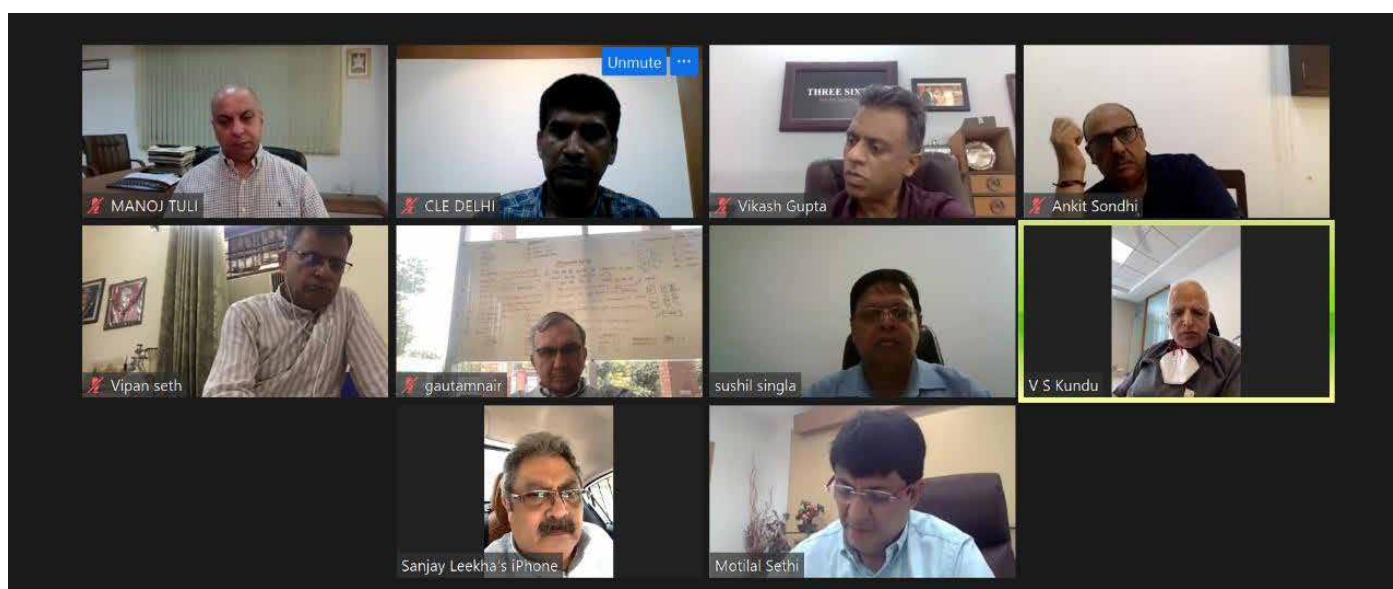


Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman- Central, CLE presenting floral bouquet to Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE.



Shri Anil Kumar Sondhi, COA Member, CLE welcomed and presented floral bouquet to Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE

Virtual Interactive meeting of Chairman CLE and Northern Regional Chairman with Shri. Varinder Singh Kundu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana , July 7, 2021



Consultative Meeting of Northern Region with Additional Chief Secretary, Govt of Haryana

A virtual meeting was organised with Shri Varinder Kumar Kundu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana on July 7, 2021 to discuss the matter of employment reservation for local residents of Haryana exporting factories on urgent demand of the members of the Council for Leather Exports who are having their export operations in the state of Haryana. Industry has demanded that leather goods, garment and footwear export sector should be exempted from the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 (Haryana Act No.3 of 2021) which was notified on 2nd March, 2021.

Meeting started with the opening remark of Shri Atul Kumar Mishra, Regional Director, CLE. He welcomed Shri. Varinder Singh Kundu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, Chairman, CLE and other dignitaries of CLE.



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE welcoming Shri Varinder Singh Kundu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE welcomed Shri. Varinder Singh Kundu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana and thanked him for giving an opportunity to CLE Northern Regional members of Haryana state to interact with him. He briefed that Indian Leather & Footwear Industry is USD 18 Billion Industry (both domestic & exports sector together). Haryana contributes around 4% of the total export of Footwear & Leather & Leather products in the country and contributes a good share in domestic market.

Around 92% of the industry is MSME and considered as highly labour intensive sector amongst the manufacturing sector of India. He emphasized that this sector also provides and generates significant level of opportunities for employment to gender sensitive and weaker sections of the society.

Chairman, CLE further informed that in the state of Haryana, there are 1500 units pertaining to Footwear, Leather Garment & Accessories Sector employing approximately 35,000 people and more than a lakh of indirect employment in the auxiliary manufacturing and services activities in the entire value chain. Haryana is one of the most promising state for the purpose of exports in the sector. Most of the export units of footwear, leather goods and garments are located in the industrial clusters of district Gurgaon, Faridabad, Panchkula, Karnal and Sonapat. They are providing and generating substantial employment to the local as well as to the migrant workers.

During his address he raised the issue on recently enacted "The Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 (Haryana Act No.3 of 2021) wherein there is restriction of local employment conditions and reserving 75% of jobs to Haryana Domicile citizens in the industry premises for all such category of jobs which amounts to Rs. 50,000 (Fifty Thousand) or less per month. He conveyed to Shri Kundu that this legislation will have a huge ramification on the export growth of the state on account of acute shortage of employability of local labourers as sector is very sensitive to craft skills and are not readily available in the state. He further added that in the sector like Leather Industry, there is a requirement of specific skill-sets which comes from a large number of migrant labourers who come from different parts of country like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and other similar states.

He also reiterated that over the years, Leather Industry in Haryana has created local pool of workers through various inhouse efforts of training and skilling. He also said that there is also seasonality in this sector because of the nature of materials used and global consumption pattern.



Shri Sanjay Leekha,
Chairman, CLE



Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional
Chairman (North), CLE

He conveyed that, this sector does employ locals in Haryana and they would be happy to get labour locally.

Shri Moti Lal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE thanked Shri. Varinder Singh Kundu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana for his gracious presence through video conferencing.

Shri Sethi conveyed that Leather Industry is the highly labour intensive Industry employing around 4.2 million people. This industry is amongst the labour intensive sectors of the country and is highly dependent on the requirement of craft skill, traditional skill and trained manpower which are largely confined to certain states. These skills are either acquired traditionally or with continuous training imparted to the manpower. He said that when the Industry is in verge of recovery post pandemic, then this kind of act may hamper the regular business activities and may lead to loss of orders from overseas buyers. He also added that, for the purpose of skilling, there are platforms like Leather Skill Sector Council wherein locals can be trained for employing local people but at this junction of pandemic crisis promulgation of this act will hurt the industry sentiments. He further added that the industry and the Government should work together for overall growth.

Shri Manoj Tuli, CoA, CLE conveyed that Haryana as a state has always been supportive to Exporters fraternity and due to its various attractive policy measures, he shifted his units from Okhla in Delhi to Haryana. Export is based on timelines and goods has to be sent as per the stipulated time as per the requirement of buyers, therefore if they apply on the portal of Labour department for the requirement of labour, it will take time and by the time any new labour is hired and trained, Buyers will cancel all orders. He also added that Leather Industry is an artisan based industry which passes on from generation to generation and hence the industry has to arrange workers from the outskirts of the Haryana. He requested that, Industry should be given timeline for absorbing and training to new workers who are locally available. He also conveyed that 90% of his workers are Haryana domicile.

Shri Anil Sondhi, CoA, CLE conveyed that in Leather Industry, right from the cutting process, a worker needs to know from where they need to cut the

leather as per the tensile strength and flexibility of the product and technicalities are required in stitching too. He conveyed that for the purpose of training and skilling of locals, there should be training programmes in Haryana, enabling creation of large skill pool for leather industry which is not available at this moment of time. Therefore, he requested the Government to create infrastructure like Common Facility Centre, training centre etc., so that they can start imparting training in cutting, stitching, designing, covering all aspects of operations of Leather goods, garments and footwear Industry.

Shri Vikash Gupta, Special Invitee, CLE conveyed that there is a lot of scope in Leather Industry for growth and they have generated a lot of revenue and employment for the state of Haryana. He conveyed that, Industry would like to train locals. Skilling locals is the necessary requirement which is a gradual process and hence Government should incentivize the industry for the purpose of skilling the local manpower here.

Shri Gautam Nair, Special Invitee conveyed that due excellent infrastructure provided by the state of Haryana, they shifted their units from Delhi to Haryana. He informed that around 80 to percent of wages earned by migrant workers are spent in local Haryana market only. Keeping in the view the contribution of Leather Industry to the socio-economic factors in Haryana, the leather Industry needs relief from this act.

Shri Vipin Seth, CoA, CLE conveyed that they would like to work with local domicile workers, but they need to be skilled for the same.

Shri Sushil Singla, Special Invitee, CLE conveyed that, he has got units in Gurgaon and Jhajjar. He had tried to impart in-house training to locals for 2 years consecutively but most of



Shri Varinder Singh Kundu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana interacting with CLE members of Northern Region

them showed no interest as they had a very high salary expectation in Leather Industry. Therefore, he was compelled to hire migrant workers.

Shri Varinder Kumar Kundu, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana thanked all the participants and conveyed that he heard all comments and cases pertaining to Leather Industry.

He conveyed that, as far as employment of local candidates are concerned, there is no intention to create bottlenecks for business activities. He acknowledged that leather industry has a slightly unique requirement in terms of skill set of workers that may not be readily available. Moreover such skilled labourers come traditionally, and historically. He also stated that the new recruits require training to become employable in the industry sector.

He conveyed that, the state of Haryana wants the growth of the industry and the Government is working hard to evolve a middle path meeting the aspirations of the local people and provide them employment opportunities. He further conveyed that following points were very well considered prior to the implementation of this act:

1. The domicile law is fairly relaxed in Haryana. Anybody who is living in Haryana and working for last 5 years will be considered to be the domicile of Haryana and workers who are working since last 10-20 years are considered as domicile of Haryana in their wards.
2. Government is considering to bring down the salary limit of Rs. 50,000 to much more realistic limit, that is, to the average paid level which means the high paid employees will not be covered in ambit of this act.
3. Industry should make right kind of effort to employ local people, and if all those efforts do not yield right results, then exemption rights may be given.

While, concluding Shri Kundu requested to submit representation to the Labour Department, Government of Haryana enabling to address the concerns which are raised by the Leather Industry. He also requested the industry to work on a curriculum or course for the domiciled locals of Haryana covering all aspects of Leather Industry.

Chairman, CLE concluded the meeting by thanking Shri. Varinder Singh Kundu, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana for sparing time with CLE members and patiently hearing their concern over employment act.

Virtual meeting of District Export Promotion Committee of New Delhi, 05.07.2021 – Participation of Regional Chairman (North), CLE

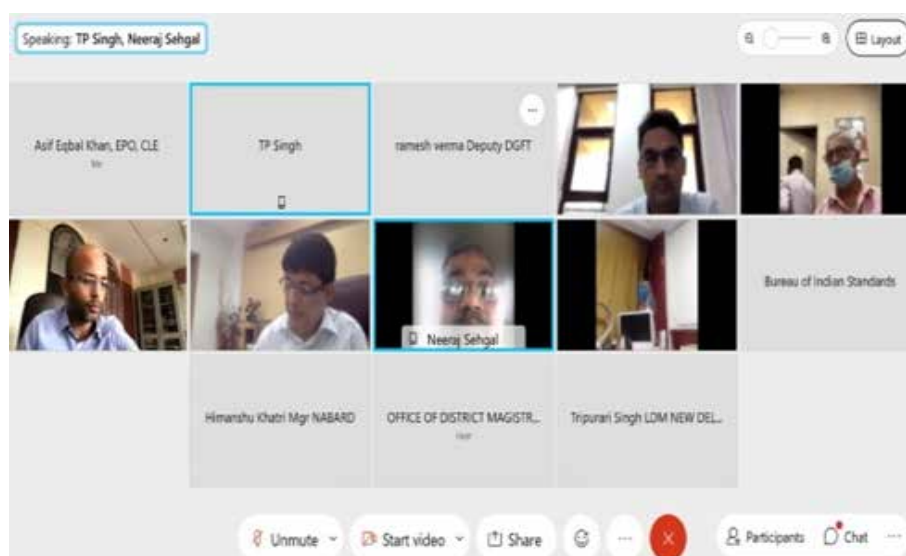
A Video Conference meeting on Delhi Export Promotion Committee of New Delhi District under the Chairmanship of Shri Pramod Kumar, SDM, New Delhi district was held on 5th July, 2021 at 3:30 PM. Shri Moti Lal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, Council for Leather Exports attended the said meeting to present concerns of Delhi based exporters with the stakeholders and Government officials of Govt. of Delhi. This meeting was also attended by Delhi Govt. Officials and local administration of New Delhi District.

Shri Pramod Kumar, SDM, New Delhi District, Government of NCT of Delhi, welcomed all stakeholders present on Video Conference through webex platform. He took stock of the situation about the export promotion action plan which was to be formulated by DGFT and stressed on the need of identification of export products from New Delhi District.

Following discussions were held in the meeting :-

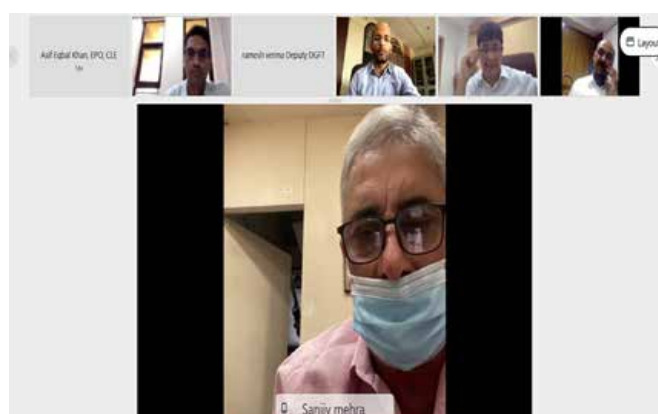
1. Since New Delhi is the capital Region, Tourism sector shall be identified as one of the products under DEPC in New Delhi and some of the monuments may be branded and promoted in this regard.

2. Chairperson of the meeting conveyed that potential goods and services for exports of New Delhi District should be identified and they should be promoted through Niryat Bandhu Programme.



Shri Moti Lal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman highlighted that Leather Industry has the potential of generating employment. He requested Government of NCT of Delhi to set-up infrastructure for Common Facility Centre for Leather Industry. He emphasized that there is huge requirement of skilled Manpower for the Industry, therefore such infrastructure would not only help in skilling manpower but also provide R&D Centre and studio and will satisfy the skilled manpower and new design requirement of the industry. Further he added that he will coordinate with Central & State Government to set up such CFCs which can help in enhancing leather goods and footwear trade from the industry.

In this regard, Shri Pramod Kumar, SDM, New Delhi District & Shri T.P. Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Industries, Government of NCT of Delhi assured that they will provide all kind of help to the Leather Industry of the District.



Virtual Interactive Session of Regional Chairman (West), CLE with Western Region Members held on 29th June 2021

The Western Regional Office of Council for Leather Exports organized the virtual interactive session with all the members on 29th June 2021 at 3 pm. The meeting was Chaired by Shri Naresh Bhasin, Regional Chairman – West, CLE.

Shri Vikas Mahtani, Member, COA, Shri Mohanjit Singh Malik, Member, COA, and Shri H.R. Malik along with Regional Committee members Shri Sanjay Khanna, Shri Vivek Verma, and Shri Kunal Bajaj. The meeting attended the meeting along with members of Western Region. Shri Naresh Bhasin, RC-West welcomed all the Regional Committee Members, Western Region Members, and Shri Vikram Naik consultant to LIDCOM for the Leather Cluster project in Maharashtra.

Shri Naresh Bhasin, RC-West introduced the newly elected Regional Committee members to all Western Region Members. He then stated about the newly elected Chairman – CLE Shri Sanjay Leekha and Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Vice Chairman – CLE. He assured members that Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman – CLE, and Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Vice-Chairman – CLE will continue the same efforts given by Shri P R Aqeel Ahmed, Former Chairman – CLE to the benefits of the Leather Industry.

Shri Naresh Bhasin started the meeting with an export performance review of the Western Region. He stated western region exports showed an overall decline of 25% during 2020-21. He further said we may come back on track if we are not



hit by the third wave of COVID 19. He requested an opinion from Shri H.R. Malik and Regional Committee members on how we could come back on track at the earliest. He also requested Regional Committee members to provide feedback on Virtual Fairs / BSM events. He also asked members about the Garde Fair scheduled in July 2021 virtually.

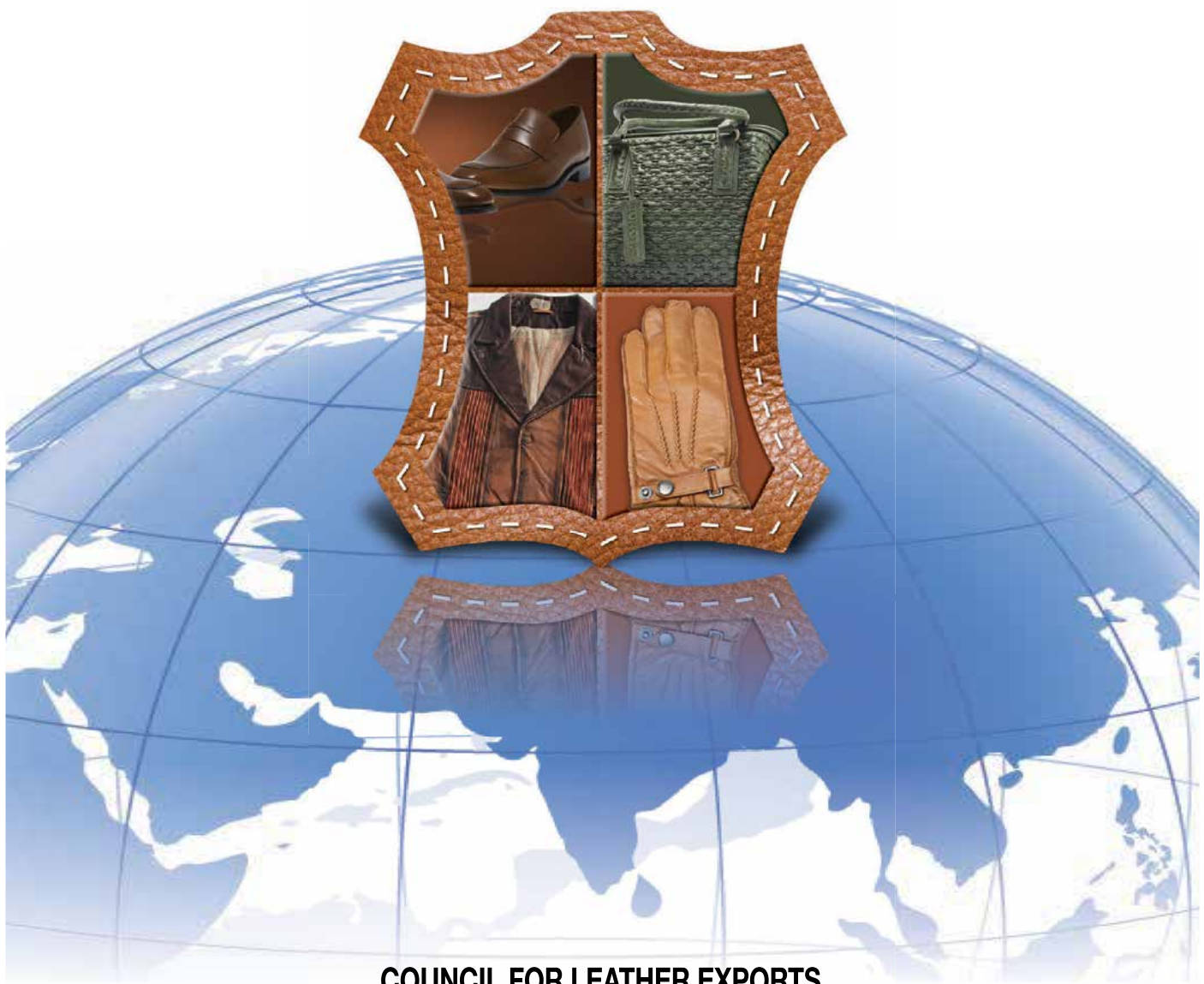
Shri H.R. Malik requested CLE to provide help on pending ECGC claims, GST refund & MEIS matters. Shri Vikas Mahtani, COA-LF agreed with the statement given by Shri H.R. He further thanked Shri Santosh Pandey, RD-West for helping out M/s. Kavis Fashions Pvt. Ltd. in customs-related query.

Shri Naresh Bhasin assured members that CLE Western Region Office will definitely help industry members whenever required and will achieve good results. He further discussed Leather Cluster land proposed by Maharashtra Government. He requested Shri Vikram Naik, Voxlaw consultant to LIDCOM to brief about the latest development on the Cluster Project in Maharashtra. Members of the Western Region unanimously requested that the proposed Cluster should be near Mumbai.

While concluding the meeting Shri Naresh Bhasin requested RD-West to form a Youth committee and Special Invitee by taking interest from Western Region members. This committee along with Regional Committee members will provide timely inputs and suggestions with regards to Leather Cluster development. He also requested all the members to provide inputs on seminars/webinars to be conducted by CLE to educate the Western Region Members.

The meeting was concluded by a vote of thanks from Shri Naresh Bhasin, Regional Chairman – West CLE

INDIAN LEATHER INDUSTRY - STRIDING WITH CONFIDENCE



COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS

(An Export Promotion Organisation sponsored by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

Registered Head Office : 1, Sivaganga Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600034

Tel: +91-44-48684380 - 84 Fax: +91-44-48684386 • e-mail: cle@cleindia.com • website : www.leatherindia.org

Regional Offices : • New Delhi - clelndelhi@cleindia.com • Kanpur - cleknp@cleindia.com • Kolkata - cleer@cleindia.com • Mumbai - cleb@cleindia.com

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