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- India – UAE Economic Partnership Agreement signed
- Meeting of Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal with Export Promotion Councils – Participation of Chairman, CLE; January 17, 2022
- Indian Footwear & Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) for 2021-2026

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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
Near Hotel Hyatt Regency & ITC Maratha
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

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

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Kanpur	Pallavi Dubey
Kolkata	Debasis De
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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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- Interactive Session on GI (Geographical Indication) and Upcoming Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) on 30-12-2021 at 4:00pm in CLE Office, KLC Complex, Unnao
- Virtual Symposium of Zonal Coordinators, Co-Coordinators and Northern Regional Committee Members for Cluster Development of CLE Northern Region, Feb. 7, 2022
- Press Conference on Continuation of Special Package of IFLADP Scheme - 2021-26 for Leather Industry held on 10-02-2022 in Kanpur Nagar

Dear Members

As you all know, we have seen two major announcements recently. One is the announcement of support measures to the leather industry in Union Budget 2022-23 and the other is announcement of Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP)

Union Budget 2022-23

The Union budget has announced major support measures for the leather and footwear industry which will provide a fillip to the growth of exports from the industry

The import duty exemption for import of notified embellishments/inputs by bonafide exporters for manufacture of leather garments, footwear and leather products is a major support which will reduce the cost of import of critical inputs /embellishments being imported as per requirements of overseas buyers and will promote the export of value added products from the country. We have taken-up the request of extending this duty free scheme to finished leather exporters also, including crust and finished leather and also certain other inputs in the scheme. Besides, we have also taken-up the request for continuing the import duty exemption for effluent treatment machinery and for continuation of the 5% concessional duty for machinery used in leather and footwear industry.

Extension of date for commencement of manufacturing operations for newly incorporated domestic manufacturing companies from 31st March 2023 to 31st March 2024 for availing concessional corporate tax of 15 per cent will help in attracting investments in our sector. Extension of ECLGS scheme will enable MSMEs to get additional credit at concessional interest rates. Launching Ease of Doing Business 2.0 and also SEZ reforms will enhance domestic manufacturing.

IFLDP

On behalf of leather, leather products and footwear industry, I would like to wholeheartedly thank the Government for announcing the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) with an outlay of Rs. 1700 crore, for implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26.

At a time when the entire world is looking at India as a reliable and major supplier of value added products and at a time when the Indian leather and footwear industry is looking to significantly enhance its production and exports through optimum utilization of the emerging business opportunities, the IFLDP has come as a major support measure, which will catalyze the growth prospects of the industry in the Amrit Kaal.

The IFLDP will play a crucial role in the overall development of leather and footwear industry in critical areas namely capacity expansion and technological upgradation of production units, brand promotion, design development, creation of new production clusters, environment management etc., leading to generation of additional employment opportunities.

The leather and footwear industry is looking to expand its export turnover from USD 5.09 billion in 2019-20 to USD 10 billion by 2025-26 and the domestic industry turnover from USD 12 billion in 2019-20 to USD 20 billion by 2025-26. The announcements made in the Union Budget 2022-23 and the IFLDP scheme will immensely help in achieving these targets.

With best wishes

Sanjay Leekha

Chairman

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS



Dear Members

As per the panel data provided by Department of Commerce, Export of leather, leather products and footwear have reached USD 4.10 billion during April 2021 – January 2022, as compared to USD 3.06 billion during April 2020 – January 2021, registering 34% growth. Going by this growth trend, exports are likely to be in the range of USD 4.9 to USD 5 billion this year, which is more or less the same as that of the year 2019-20.

Considering the emerging business opportunities for our sector, we have the potential to achieve more growth in exports in the coming year i.e. 2022-23 . While CLE will continue to undertake aggressive marketing activities through organization of virtual B2 B events and participation in physical events wherever held, we also solicit the co-operation and support of members in achieving greater growth levels in the coming year.

CLE has been organizing various webinars on topics like e-commerce, banking services, Government e-market , Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme of Customs, Ubharte Sitaare programme, Customs laws and procedures etc. This year (2021-22), we have organized 14 webinars. I would request large scale participation of members in the webinars.

On the basis of suggestions and inputs of members and stakeholders, CLE is firming-up the proposal for revision of Standard Input Output Norms (SION). This proposal will be sent to CLRI for their vetting and onward submission to the Government.

With kind regards

R. Selvam IAS

Executive Director

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS



India – UAE Economic Partnership Agreement signed

On 18th February 2022, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Chairman of the Executive Council, and His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India held a Virtual Summit. At the event, both the leaders laid out their future vision of the historic and friendly relations between both countries, at a time when India is celebrating 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav and UAE is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

The leaders witnessed the signing of the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (India-UAE CEPA) by the respective Commerce & Industry/Economy Ministers from the two countries. The India-UAE CEPA is the first bilateral trade accord concluded by the UAE, and it is also India's first bilateral trade agreement in the MENA region. CEPA is a significant initiative in bilateral relations during the pandemic and a major trade agreement that will launch a new era of strategic cooperation between both countries. It will transform bilateral economic and investment ties, open up emerging trade routes between Africa and Asia, promote global trade liberalization and propel economic growth in a post-COVID world.

"The UAE, under the leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, continues to consolidate its global position as a gateway for trade and investment," said HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. "India is one of our most



Shri Piyush Goyal , Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles addressing the stakeholders

important strategic partners, and this deal brings us closer than ever before. The agreement we have reached today with Prime Minister Modi not only deepens our economic and trading relationship with a close partner but unlocks a new phase of global cooperation for us."

His Highness added, "The historic economic agreement demonstrates the commitment of our leaders to the bold Projects of the 50, launched in our pursuit of the next 50 years of progress and prosperity. Future generations will benefit from this forward-looking vision aimed at stimulating growth and doubling our trade with the world and to strengthen the UAE's knowledge and innovation-driven economy. This deal promises to provide significant benefits to UAE and Indian businesses, including reduced tariffs and enhanced market access, while also breathing new life into trading corridors from Africa to Asia and laying the foundations for growth and prosperity that will benefit the entire region."

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said: "I am happy at the signing

of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between our two nations today. It is noteworthy that such an important agreement has been concluded in a record time of less than 3 months. Such agreements generally take years for conclusion. The Agreement demonstrates the deep friendship, shared vision and the trust between the two countries. I am confident that this will usher in a new era in our bilateral economic relations and the bilateral trade volume will increase from USD 60 Billion to USD 100 billion in the coming 5 years”.

Bilateral relations between India and the UAE have strengthened in all areas of mutual interest in the past few years; both sides had embarked upon a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2017.

Joint Press Conference

Addressing the joint press conference with Mr. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Hon'ble Minister of Economy (UAE) and Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister Commerce and Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said that India, celebrating its 75 years of independence and UAE, celebrating 50 years of its foundation were at an appropriate time to reset the relationship between two nations and take it to greater heights than ever before. The Hon'ble Minister observed that both India and UAE are natural partners with several complementarities and hardly any elements of competitions. He said that both nations believed in rules based fair trade, in engaging with each other in a spirit of reciprocity and were determined that people and businesses of both countries must mutually benefit from the deepening engagement.

Shri Goyal emphasized that the Agreement was not an interim arrangement but a complete and comprehensive economic partnership finalized in the shortest possible time in history. He said that the agreement covered the widest possible array of subjects from free trade to digital economy to government procurement and several other strategic areas of mutual interest. He complemented the teams on both sides for their commitment and their dedication and for successfully concluding one of the most balanced, fair and equitable agreements in just 88 days, working in a spirit of brotherhood and friendship understanding each other's sensitivities.

Emphasizing that CEPA would generate 10 lakh jobs across multiple labour-intensive sectors, the Minister said that major sectors like gems and jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, furniture, agriculture and food products, plastics, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, sports goods etc. will benefit from this deal and create large scale, employment for our young boys & girls.

Shri Goyal said that there were many firsts in the CEPA agreement. He said that UAE had agreed to automatic registration and market authorization for Indian medicines in case of their regulatory approval in developed countries such as USA, EU, UK and Japan. The Commerce & Industry Minister added that the agreement also had a permanent safeguard mechanism which can be resorted to in a situation of sudden surge in imports along with strict rules of origin, which will prevent products from other countries through the CEPA route.

Addressing the gathering, H. E. Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy (UAE) termed it as a momentous new chapter in the shared history between the two nations. He added that the India-UAE CEPA is a milestone in the relationship between India and UAE and has been built on decades of enterprise and aspires to establish a new era of progress and prosperity for the people of both nations.

He highlighted the long standing cultural and economic relationship between the two nations and said that India was the first nation UAE chose to partner with in the post pandemic world. Speaking on the occasion, H.E Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade also expressed his appreciation to the teams from both sides for the early conclusion of the CEPA. He added that if our investors, entrepreneurs and businesses engage with each other with a sense of purpose, there is no limit to what can be achieved.

Several other agreements were also signed today between the two nations, including an MoU between APEDA and DP World & Al Dahra on the UAE side regarding “Food Security Corridor Initiative” and an MoU between GIFT city (IFSCA) and Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM).

Stakeholder Meeting

A stakeholder meeting on India – UAE CEPA was held on Feb. 18, 2022. Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles and Mr. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Hon'ble Minister of Economy (UAE) addressed the stakeholders.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports attended the stakeholders meeting.

Hon'ble Minister's Press Conference in Mumbai

The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal has termed the India UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is extremely beneficial for MSMEs, startups, farmers, traders and all sections of businesses.

Addressing a press conference in Mumbai, the Minister asserted that the CEPA is a balanced, fair, comprehensive & equitable partnership agreement, which will give enhanced market access for India in both goods and services. "It will create jobs for our youth, open new markets for our startups, make our businesses more competitive & boost our economy."

The Union Minister said that the CEPA is a landmark partnership between two nations whose political leadership and businesses share very strong bonds going back many years in history. "The finalization of the 880-page document in a record time of 88 days is a big achievement for both nations, it will boost economies of India and UAE and will usher in a new dawn for the people of the two countries."

The Hon'ble Minister informed that the partnership agreement will open doors especially to labour-intensive Indian products which are exported to UAE - such as textiles, gem & jewellery, medicines, agricultural products, footwear, leather, sports goods, engineering goods, auto components and plastics.

He told the media that under the pact, UAE has offered immediate market access at Zero duty from day



Mr. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Hon'ble Minister of Economy (UAE) addressing the stakeholders



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE interacting with Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles



Participants at the stakeholders meeting

one of the entry into force of the Agreement, to products accounting for 90% of India's exports to UAE in value terms. "Around 90% of products exported from India to UAE will attract zero duty with implementation of the Agreement. 80% lines of trade will attract zero duty, remaining 20% does not affect our exports much, so this is a win-win agreement."

The CEPA will not only improve competitiveness of Indian products, but also provide strategic advantages to India. "Since UAE functions as a trading hub, the Agreement will help provide us market entry points to Africa, Middle East and Europe" he added.

The Minister noted that with the conclusion of the CEPA, India and UAE aim to increase bilateral goods trade over the next five years to \$100 billion. "However, I believe that the potential for trade between the two nations is even bigger, we will surpass the target we have set for ourselves", said the Minister.

The Minister threw light on benefits to various sectors. "The CEPA brings the two nations closer, will open many new opportunities for Indians to work in UAE, including in fintech, edtech, green tech, automation and Artificial Intelligence. Technology, digital trade and sustainability have a big focus in the partnership.

"For the first time in a Trade agreement, the CEPA provides for automatic registration and marketing authorisation of Indian generic medicines in 90 days, once they are approved in developed countries. This will give big market access to Indian medicines not only in UAE, but also in Middle East and Africa." Shri Goyal informed.

The Minister also said that the CEPA provides for a permanent bilateral safeguard mechanism to deal with



sudden surge in imports of any product. It also has stringent 'rules of origin' reflecting requirements for substantial processing of up to 40% value addition. An MoU among APEDA, DP World & Al Dahra on the UAE side regarding "Food Security Corridor Initiative" has been prepared, under which India will be able to play an important role in food security of UAE, he added.

It may be recalled that the landmark India-UAE Comprehensive Partnership Agreement deal was signed during the virtual summit meeting between Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, H.E. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Agreement with GCC in 2022 itself

Shri Piyush Goyal also informed that the Government looks forward to conclude a similar economic partnership agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries during this year itself.

He said the Secretary-General of the GCC has expressed the desire to fast track the negotiations and added "we are also confident in our negotiating ability, we have conducted negotiations in a rapid manner with UAE, and we are believe that a similar agreement on trade would be concluded with the GCC in this year itself,"

GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region, namely, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain with a combined nominal GDP of US\$ 1.6 trillion.

Meeting of Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal with Export Promotion Councils – Participation of Chairman, CLE ; Jan. 17, 2022

The Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal said it is possible to achieve exports of USD 650 Billion within the current financial year. Chairing a Review Meeting of all major Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), Shri Goyal said the \$400 Bn target of Merchandise exports is within sight and the Services sector should strive for \$250 Bn exports.

Expressing his satisfaction that India achieved \$300 Bn Merchandise exports in the first nine months of the current FY (April-Dec, 2022), Shri Goyal assured the EPCs that his Ministry will do whatever it takes in handholding the EPCs and resolving their issues to attain even higher export targets in the next FY.

Shri Goyal said we can set a much higher goods exports target in the current last quarter of this FY. "In December alone we touched \$37 Bn goods exports despite the Omicron fear factor weighing high. This month, in 15 days till January 15th, we have reached \$16 Bn." Shri Goyal said the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has himself set the pace by setting "transformational results" and not "incremental growth".



The Honble Commerce & Industry Minister urged the EPCs and entrepreneurs to avail of the Government's initiatives towards Ease of Doing Business such as obtaining clearances through the National Single Window System. He assured the Industry representatives to pursue their demands during the various FTA negotiations.

Speaking of the government's efforts to improve the ease of living and the ease of doing business, Shri Goyal said that more than 25,000 compliances have been reduced.

The Minister assured that the government is willing to listen to new ideas, engage with industry at every level and work as an enabler, facilitator and partner.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports (CLE) participated in the meeting and took-up the following requests.

- ☐ The estimated export of leather, leather products and footwear during April – Dec. 2021 is about USD 3300 million (achieving 56% of the target).
- ☐ Europe and NAFTA countries (USA, Canada, Mexico) are our major markets contributing to 79% of export of leather, leather products and footwear.

- Due to shift of business opportunities from China our exports have achieved 77% of the target in the NAFTA region. However, in our major market of Europe (to which about 55% export are directed), we have achieved only 48% of the target.
- During this year, CLE had undertaken aggressive virtual marketing campaign. CLE had organized 18 virtual business events, out of which 6 events were in Europe. i.e virtual meets with buyers from Denmark, France, Germany, Portugal, Belgium and virtual participation in Expo Riva Schuh, Italy (July 2021).
- CLE sought feedback of members on the reasons for the slower export revival in the European market. The reasons stated are
 - Fall in export orders and request of buyers to push deliveries by a few weeks on account of Covid surge in Europe.
 - Lower demand coupled with flight cancellations, and lock downs across Europe
 - Lack of competitiveness due to increase in freight cost and also removal of Duty Free Import Scheme (DFIS) and removal of import duty exemption on leathers
 - Long lead time in logistics as compared to China, Vietnam and Cambodia
 - Higher export incentives offered by competitor like Pakistan and Bangladesh
 - Small order runs in EU due to fragmented shoe market compared to US makes it less attractive compared to US markets for big Indian companies
- EU still has sizable upper and shoe manufacturing with ancillary sources in North Africa/East Europe and Indian companies lack in productivity/efficiency to compete with EU. In US, there is little local manufacturing and they are more dependent on outsourcing.
- On account of COVID, many buyers in Europe have also advised Indian exporters not to participate in International Fairs as they are not visiting these fairs. Accordingly, CLE's participation in 5 planned export events in Europe had to be postponed or cancelled.
- US buyers are enquiring about Covid related restriction in India. Hence it is very essential to maintain continuous production and exports during this COVID period in India to make use of emerging export opportunities.
- Going by the present export trends and increased exports to NAFTA, the industry expects to reach an export value to the levels of 2019-20. However, the industry has bright export prospects during 2022-23 and expects 20% growth over 2021-22 and achieve export value USD 6.12 billion during 2022-23

Requests

In order to achieve envisaged export of USD 6.12 billion in 2022-23, the following immediate support measures may be considered.

- Reinstatement of import duty exemption on wet blue, crust and finished leathers.
- Reinstatement of Duty Free Import Scheme (DFIS) to revive the business with brands.
- Interest equalisation on rupee export credit should be extended for the next five years. This is now extended upto Sept. 30, 2021.
- Revival of US-GSP for India will lead to further surge in exports.
- Finalization of FTAs with EU and UK with 0% duty for leather, leather products and footwear will further enhance our exports, as 55% of our exports are directed to these markets.
- Extension of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) to the leather and footwear industry will prop-up the manufacturing and exports.
- Early notification of Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme (IFLADP)

Chairman, CLE also took-up Requests concerning RODTEP including extension of validity of RODTEP scrip to 2 years.



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Indian Footwear & Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) for 2021-2026 has been approved by Govt of India with an outlay of Rs.1700 Crores

The Government of India has approved the Central Sector Scheme Indian Footwear & Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) for 5-years period FY 2021-2026 with an outlay of Rs.1700 Crores. The core objective of the IFLDP is to enable creation of world class infrastructure for the leather and footwear industry to cater to the domestic market and exports and to enable modernization, technology upgradation, capacity expansion in the existing manufacturing units besides encouraging setting up of new units, address environmental concerns specific to the leather industry, establishment of greenfield and brownfield Mega Clusters, promotion of Indian Brands, and setting up of new Design Studios etc. The IFLDP consisted of six sub-schemes namely:

The DPIIT will be issuing the Notification of IFLDP and the guidelines of the sub-schemes.

Sl. No	Sub-Schemes	Outlay (Rs. in Crores)
1	Mega Leather, Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development (MLFACD)	300.00
2	Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS) scheme	500.00
3	Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion (STEP)	500.00
4	Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather & Footwear Sector	100.00
5	Development of Design Studios	100.00
6	Establishment of Institutional Facilities	200.00
	Total Outlay	1700.00

The implementation of the erstwhile 'Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme' during 2017-2021 has played a very significant role in development and growth of the leather & footwear industry. The present approval of the IFLDP for the 5-year period 2021-26 with an outlay of Rs.1700 Crores would carry forward the interventions and help the industry at this critical juncture as the industry is aiming towards increasing the export to US \$ 10 Billion by 2025-26, and domestic industry size is also projected to reach US \$ 20 Billion by 2025-26.



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CLE welcomes and thanks Government of India for extending Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) for 2021-26 with an outlay of Rs.1700 Crores

Indian Leather, Leather Products and Footwear Industry is one of the top manufacturing sectors in India and has been identified as a focus sector under Make in India initiative in view of the immense potential for growth prospects and employment generation capabilities. The total size of the industry is about US \$ 17.09 Billion which consisted of Exports of US \$ 5.09 billion and domestic turnover of US\$ 12 billion. The sector being an employment intensive sector is providing employment opportunities to about 4.42 million people mostly in the weaker sections of the society. The leather industrial sector comprises Tanneries (where raw hides and skins are converted into leather) and Factories transforming leather into a variety of consumer products such as Footwear, Leather Garments, Leather Goods & Accessories, Harness & Saddlery items etc. Apart from the quality of raw material, the process of its conversion into leather and later, of the design, product development and process of manufacture of products play a key role in adding value to it. India is currently 2nd largest producer of footwear, 2nd largest exporter of Leather Garments, 3rd largest exporter of Saddlery and Harness items, and 5th largest exporter of Leather Goods & Accessories.

It is a very happy and momentous occasion for the Leather & Footwear sector that Government of India has now approved the Central Sector Scheme "Indian Footwear and Leather

Development Programme" (IFLDP) for 5 years period FY 2021-26 with an outlay of Rs.1700 Crores. The core objective of the IFLDP is to enable creation of world class infrastructure to cater to the domestic market and exports. The IFLDP consisted of six sub-schemes namely (1) Mega Leather, Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development (MLFACD)-Outlay Rs.300 Crores (2) Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS)-Outlay Rs.500 Crores (3) Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion (STEP)-Outlay Rs.500 Crores (4) Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather & Footwear Sector-Outlay Rs.100 Crores (5) Development of Design Studios-Outlay Rs.100 Crores (6) Establishment of Institutional Facilities-Outlay Rs.200 Crores

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports (CLE) has said 'the industry is highly thankful to Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister and Shri Piyush Goyal Ji, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Govt of India, for approving the continuation of IFLDP for 5-year period 2021-26 with a total outlay of Rs.1700 Crores. We also wish to express our thanks and gratitude to Shri Anurag Jain, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Govt of India for approval of the IFLDP. Implementation of the IFLDP is extremely critical and vital for expanding & modernizing the production facilities in the sector; environmental management in the tanning industry; establishment of greenfield and brownfield new Mega Clusters, setting up of Design Studios in the country besides promotion of Indian Brands in the leather and footwear sector. The Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS) sub-scheme is one of the major schemes which provides investment grant to manufacturing units in all segments of the leather and footwear industry to build up capacities, technology up-gradation/ modernization and/ or expansion and setting up of new units, and the industry is encouraged that maximum cap of Rs.3 Crores per product line has been increased to Rs.15 Crores keeping in view the 5 times increase in the upper limit of investment in Plant & Machinery defined for the MSME Units. This would motivate the industry to go in for aggressive modernization and expansion of production units, which is very vital for increasing the production and turnover of the industry.

The IDLS Sub-scheme would also give boost to the development of the industry in the Northeast Region as MSME units in Northeast Region would be eligible for 40% investment grant on the cost of Plant & Machinery as against 30% for MSME units outside the region. The Scheme would also encourage the use of domestically manufactured machinery in the industry as additional 5% grant would be provided for them. This will immensely boost the domestic

manufacturing industry in the country, in tune with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to make India a self-reliant nation.

Shri Rajendra K Jalan, Vice Chairman of the CLE, has remarked 'the upgradation of existing as well as establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in the tannery sector were assisted @ 70% of the total project cost and 12 CETPs in the country have been approved for upgradation projects under the previous IFLADP 2017-2021 at a combined project cost of Rs.790.90 Crores and GOI Grant component of Rs.503.33 Crores. We are very happy to note that these projects are under the advanced stages of the completion. Considering the importance of the sustainable leather industry, the sub-scheme Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion in IFLDP with an outlay of Rs.500 Crores would play a significant role in sustainable leather processing technologies and compliance to the environmental regulations and guidelines with updated technologies and effluent treatment plants. Besides, the increase in the capacities of the effluent treatment in the CETPs would pave the way for increasing the capacity utilization in the tanning sector. We are thankful to the Govt of India for approving this sub-scheme in particular and IFLDP as a whole.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE has further remarked, the industry is keenly interested in the sub-scheme Promotion of Indian Brands for which funding support would be provided for creation of 10 Indian Brands in the international markets for which assistance @ 50% of the total project cost subject to limit of Rs.10 Crore for each brand would be provided. India needs to definitely move up in branding and create brands and effectively promote the same in the international market and this scheme would be very much helpful. The support for development of ten Design Studios in the country is need of the day as design studios with strong linkages to the industry requirement for design development and technical support, quality control etc will assist the industry to expand its capabilities and move the value chain to next level of having its own designs and production.

As regards establishment of new greenfield and brownfield Mega Leather, Footwear and Accessories Development Clusters, Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman CLE has further said, establishment of new clusters is the need of the hour as it will assist the entrepreneurs to set up world-class units with modern infrastructure, latest technology, and adequate training and HRD inputs. Industry has requested plug-and-play ready-built factories to be set up in the proposed new mega clusters and it would help the industry to expand production capacities and increase the production. The sub-scheme MLFACD has provision for plug-and-play component and hence the industry is keenly looking forward to it.

It would now be the endeavor of the industry stakeholders/CLE to ensure that the sub-schemes are utilized by the industry for the growth and development of the Leather & Footwear industry and intended objectives are achieved. As the industry body, the CLE would be closely coordinating with DPIIT, Government of India and Implementation Agencies of the sub-schemes for smooth roll out of the scheme.

According to industry sources, the industry size is poised to increase to US \$ 30 billion by 2025-26, with exports increasing to US \$ 10 billion and domestic market size of US \$ 20 billion. The implementation of Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) has the potential to propel the industry to expand to these expected levels by 2025-26, and it would help to regain its dominance in the global trade, leveraging economies of scale, the scheme will definitely help the Indian manufacturers to emerge as global champions in the coming years.



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Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) approved for continuation with an outlay of Rs. 1700 Crore

Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion to receive big boost under the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme(IFLDP)

Renewed focus to be placed on integrated development of the leather sector

IFLDP to enable the creation of world-class infrastructure to cater to the domestic market and exports

10 Indian footwear design studios to be developed under IFLDP

Brand Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather and Footwear Sector to be one of the major focus areas

From 2017-2020, IFLDP succeeds in skilling more than 3.24 lakh persons

Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) (erstwhile IFLADP) has been approved for continuation from 2021-22 with an approved financial outlay of Rs. 1700 crore. IFLDP has been approved by the Union Cabinet on 19.01.2022 as continuation of the erstwhile IFLADP till 31.03.2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier.

Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme(IFLDP) aims at development of infrastructure for the leather sector, address environmental concerns specific to the leather sector, facilitate additional investments, employment generation and increase in production.

I. The following sub-schemes have been approved under IFLDP during 2021-26:-

(i) Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion (proposed outlay Rs.500 crore):- Special Purpose Vehicle constituted for each CETP would be provided assistance @ 80% of the total project cost for Northeastern Areas with industry's/beneficiary share to be 20% of the project cost and @ 70% of the total project cost for other areas with

industry's/beneficiary share to be 30% of the project cost with a limit of Rs.200 crore.

(ii) Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS) sub-scheme (proposed outlay Rs.500 crore):- Assistance would be provided to the sectoral units for their modernization/capacity expansion/technology upgradation on or after 01.01.2020 @30% to MSME units and 20% to other units. Financial assistance is being proposed to North Eastern Areas also @40% of cost of plant & machinery to MSME units and 30% of the same to other units with additional 5% financial assistance for the domestically manufactured plant and machinery. Maximum assistance will be provided upto Rs.15 crore per product line keeping in view 5 times increase in upper limit of investment in Plant and Machinery by MSME

(iii) Establishment of Institutional Facilities (proposed outlay Rs.200 crore):- Setting up of International Testing Centre, Sports Complex, replacement of conventional light fixtures with LED lights and construction of girls hostel in FDDI campuses are planned.

(iv) Mega Leather Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development (MLFACD) sub-scheme (proposed outlay Rs.300 crore):- The sub-scheme aims at world-class infrastructure and to integrate the production chain in a manner that caters to the business needs of the leather and footwear industry so as to cater to the domestic market and exports.

Graded assistance is proposed to be provided @50% of the project cost or @70% of the project cost in Northeastern areas, for land development, core infrastructure, HRD and social infrastructure, production facilities including ready to use sheds with plug and play facility, R&D support and export services excluding cost of land with maximum Government assistance being limited to Rs. 125 crore.

(v) Brand Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather and Footwear Sector (proposed outlay Rs.100 crore):- The GoI assistance is proposed to be 50%

of total project cost subject to limit of Rs 10 crore for each brand in next three year to promote 10 Indian brands in the International Market in 3 years. The designated agency to implement the sub-scheme is being proposed to be selected amongst institutes like NID, NIFT, IBEF, IIFT or Institutes of similar standing.

(vi) Development of Design Studios (proposed outlay Rs.100 crore):- This is a new sub-scheme. Assistance would be provided to develop 10 Indian design studio. The studios will promote marketing/export linkages, facilitates buyer- seller meets, display designs to international buyers and work as interface for the trade fairs.

Design Studios will be kind of 'one-stop- shop' providing a wide range of services: design, technical support, quality control etc. Institutes like FDDI, CLRI, NID, NIFT, IBEF, IIFT or institutes of similar standing or any

large units of the industry or group of industry would be the implementing agencies.

Achievements of erstwhile IFLADP 2017-21

The sub-scheme wise details of activities undertaken under erstwhile IFLADP (as on date) is summarized as below:-

(a) Human Resource Development sub-scheme-During the period 2017-18 to 2019-20, primary skill development training has been provided to 3,24,722 unemployed persons and 2,60,880 trainees provided placement in leather & footwear sector. 12947 workers were provided skill upgradation training in 2019- 20.No training could be conducted during 2020-21 due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

(b) Integrated Development of Leather Sector-During the period 2017-18 to 2020-21, financial assistance amounting to Rs. 307.84 crore provided for modernization and technology up-gradation of 714 units in leather & footwear sector.

(C) Mega Leather Footwear and Accessories Clusters sub-scheme-The Department has approved the project for setting up of MLFAC at Calcutta Leather Complex, Bantala, Kolkata with project cost of Rs. 178.84 crore and Gol assistance of Rs. 89.42 crore. 'In-principle' approval has been accorded for the proposal for setting up of MLFAC at Ramaipur, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh with tentative proposed cost of Rs. 451 crore.

(d) Leather Technology Innovation and Environmental Issues sub-scheme-Approval has been accorded for upgradation of twelve Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) at Dindigul, Ranipet, Ambur, Vaniyambadi, Vellore, Pallavaram, Trichy, Erode districts of Tamil Nadu, Jalandhar (Punjab) and Bantala (Kolkata). As on date, financial assistance amounting to Rs. 132 crore has been released in respect of ten CETP projects with total GOI assistance of Rs.284

Total approved outlay (Component –wise and Year-wise)

(Rs. In crore)

S.I	Name of Sub-scheme	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total (upto 2021-26)
1	Mega Leather Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development (MLFACD)	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	100.00	300.00
2	Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	500.00
3	Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion (STEP)	140.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.00	500.00
4	Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather and Footwear Sector	16.00	24.00	33.00	18.00	9.00	100.00
5	Development of Design Studios	16.00	24.00	33.00	18.00	9.00	100.00
6	Establishment of Institutional Facilities	90.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	30.00	200.00
	Total	412.00	323.00	341.00	316.00	308.00	1700.00

crore. Rs.152 crore is the committed liability which would be released in the coming years.

(e) Establishment of Institutional Facilities sub-scheme- Approval has been granted for up-gradation of seven Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) campuses located at Noida, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Patna, Kolkata and Rohtak into Centres for Excellence (CoEs) with total project cost of Rs. 129.62 crore. First installment of funds amounting to Rs 38.88 crore (30% of total project cost) has been released to Footwear Design and Development Institute. Rs.90.76 crore is the committed liability which would be released in the coming years.

(f) Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather and Footwear Sector- Five applications for financial assistance were received by the Department. The 'Designated Agency' for evaluation of proposals could not be appointed as

no specific criteria were mentioned in the guidelines and hence the scheme could not take off.

(g) Additional Employment Incentive in Leather, Footwear and Accessories sector

An online portal has been implemented for receiving applications. Total 48 applications have been received under the sub-scheme by the implementing agency i.e. Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI).

After physical inspection and financial vetting, reimbursement of Rs. 92,27,971/- in respect of eligible 48 units/applications has been released to FDDI.

5. Impact of erstwhile IFLADP

The programme has a direct benefit towards quality employment generation especially for women, skill development, decent work, making the industry more environment friendly and prompting sustainable production system. The leather clusters located in different parts of the country have accrued benefit in terms of reduction of poverty, gender equality, sector specific skill/education, etc., thus touching many of the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Most of the National Development Plans (NDP) also align with the SDGs. NDPs such as economic growth, reduction in poverty, generation of employment, quality education/skills, gender equality, good health and well-being, infrastructure development, affordable and clean energy and other environmental benefits are well-served by the IFLAD Programme.

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MEETINGS OF CHAIRMAN, CLE

Meeting with Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur, IAS, Additional Secretary, DPIIT

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE called on Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur, IAS, Additional Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on 9.2.22 at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi and thanked him for announcement of IFLDP.



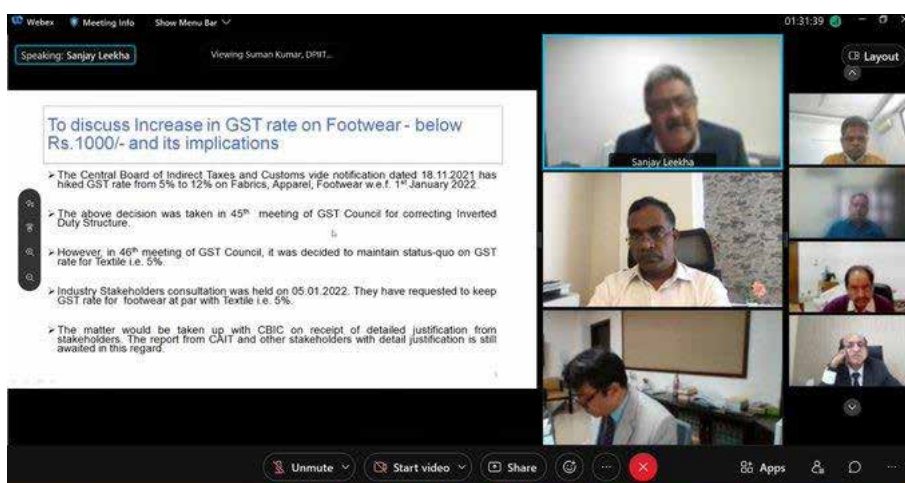
Meeting with Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, IAS, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Commerce

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE called on Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, IAS, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Commerce on 9.2.22 at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi and thanked for the support measures announced in Union Budget 2022-23.



Virtual meeting of Developmental Council of Leather and Footwear Industry

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED, CLE attended the virtual meeting of Developmental Council of Leather and Footwear Industry organised by DPIIT under Chairmanship of Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur, Additional Secretary, DPIIT on 31.1.22



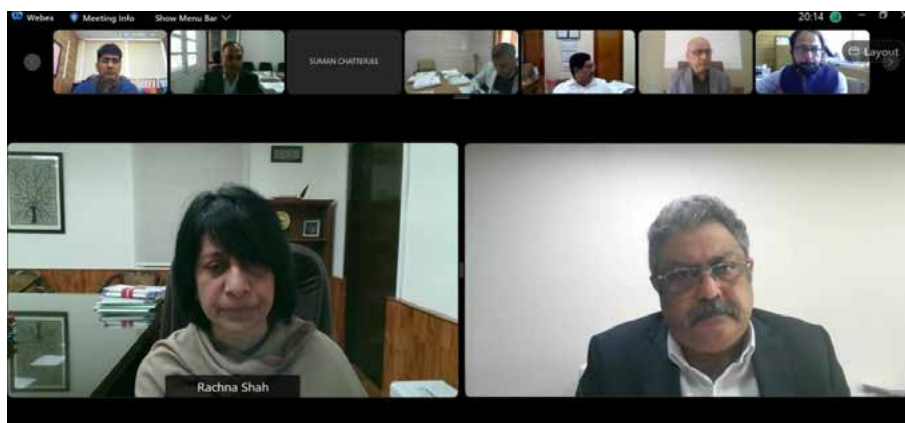
Quality Control Order Review Meeting chaired by Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur, IAS, Additional Secretary, DPIIT

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE participated in the Quality Control Order Review meeting of DPIIT chaired by Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur, IAS, Additional Secretary, DPIIT 9.2.22 and presented Leather and Footwear sector requests.



Virtual meeting on India – Canada CEPA chaired by Ms. Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary, Dept. Of Commerce

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE participated in the virtual consultative meeting on proposed India-Canada CEPA chaired by Ms. Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary, Dept. Of Commerce on 16.2.22.



Export Target Fixation Meeting European countries chaired by Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE attended Export Target Fixation Meeting European countries for FY 2022-23 convened and chaired by Ms. Nidhi Mani Tripathi, IAS, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce on 15.2.22.



Meeting with Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Commerce

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman CLE met Shri YP Dhewal, Deputy Secretary, DOC and Shri Sanjay Kerketta, Under Secretary, Department of Commerce on 9.2.22 at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi and discussed export performance of the leather and footwear sector



Currency Forecast Report

USDINR February Outlook

USD/INR after trading close to its weakest levels of 2021 at 76.3150 in December, cooled off initially in January only to succumb later. The pair was mostly driven by Federal Reserve's policy decision, crude oil prices, importers' dollar demand and flows related to Adani Wilmar's IPO. Dollar index rose to multiyear peak of 97.44 after Fed Chairman indicated aggressive monetary policy tightening measures amidst rising inflationary pressures and raising the fed funds rate at the March meeting, if the conditions permit. February is crucial as India's federal budget is due to be announced on Feb 1 amid expectations of an elevated borrowing in the next financial year. RBI's interest rate decision is due out on 9th February, which is unlikely to change until the Fed makes a move. NFP numbers and Unemployment rate due out of the US will influence the market sentiment, followed by core inflation, PPI and retail sales numbers across the month. A strong reading might further reinstate the idea of a Fed rate hike in March. Brent crude oil contract rose to a more-than-7-year high and will be closely watched as India imports nearly 85% of its crude oil requirements and higher oil prices increase inflation risks. In the longterm the rupee is expected to remain under pressure due to a strong dollar, geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine and surging crude oil prices. USDINR has been very volatile in January and we expect it to continue in February too. There are multiple open gaps in the daily chart formed 75.82 – 75.7450/ red parallel lines, 74.8750 – 74.8050/green parallel lines and 73.9750 – 74.04/blue parallel lines and these gaps get usually filled in USD/INR. Towards the downside key



support comes around the 73.75 – 73.80 region while resistance is at 76.3050. Exporters can start hedging at 75+ levels and target 75.50 – 75.80 to further increase their hedge ratios. For any liabilities one can wait till 74.40 to get started. A good mix of options and forwards should be used for hedging.

EURUSD February Outlook

The pair is hovering close to the 1.1100 mark, which was last seen in May 2020. The ECB is scheduled to meet on Feb 3 and is likely to maintain its wait-and-see stance until a sustained pickup in inflation is observed. Key data releases for the upcoming month are the latest inflation numbers for Eurozone, German PMI and Unemployment numbers and German ZEW economic sentiment stats. The economic calendar is relatively quiet in the second half of the month. Also crucial for the pair will be US inflation and unemployment numbers. Levels around 1.15 and 1.23 are resistance handles. Key support levels include 1.10 followed by 1.09.



GBPUSD February Outlook

GBP/USD was down by 0.92% in January, 2022 from its December close. The Pair remained on the back foot amid Geopolitical tension between Russia & the West over Ukraine pushing investors towards safe haven dollar. Sterling hit the lowest level of 2022 in response to the hawkish U.S. Federal Reserve.

Manufacturing PMI numbers start the month followed by BOE Interest rate decision scheduled for Feb 4. The central bank is expected to raise interest rates by 25 basis points higher to counter the rising inflation. Focus will be on retail sales numbers due in the second half of the month. On US side

Nonfarm Payrolls is scheduled in the first week – A higher than expected reading can weigh on the pair and vice versa. Pair's support lies around \$1.32 an unsuccessful test could send the pair much lower. Key resistance level lies at \$1.40.

USDJPY February Outlook

The Bank of Japan will not tighten policy in the near future horizon. However, another spending package

can be expected from PM Fumio Kishida. Japanese industrial production for Dec is expected to decline as is Retail Trade (sales). Consumer Confidence has been down for so long that any movement would be notable. Recently imposed restrictions due to Omicron may dampen economic activity in the 1st quarter. The diverging policy rate of the US Fed and the Bank of Japan will continue to influence. Some more stats due in February are Jobs/applications ratio (Dec), Manufacturing PMI (Jan), Services PMI, Trade balance and National Core CPI. Strong resistance lies at ¥115 and on the downside, support lies at 112.50.



1st Floor| B-23 | Sector 63 | Noida |
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Report on CURTAIN RAISER_Autumn Winter 23_24 season
held on 2nd February 2022

'CURTAINS RAISED: Autumn Winter 23/24 season'



Curtains raised on the AW 23/24 season by Dr KJ Sreeram, Director; CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR-CLRI); Shri KR Vijayan, Chairman, Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association (IFLMEA) and Shri AR Senthil Kumar, Honorary. Secretary, IFLMEA on 2nd February 2022 at the Design & Fashion Studio, CSIR-CLRI



Team Design & Fashion Studio with the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary of IFLMEA

The Colour Meetings of MODEUROP and FASHION TREND POOL for the “Autumn Winter 23/24 season” are ahead! CURTAINS on the tendencies in leathers, colours & materials for the Autumn Winter 23/24 season were raised TODAY, 2nd February 2022.

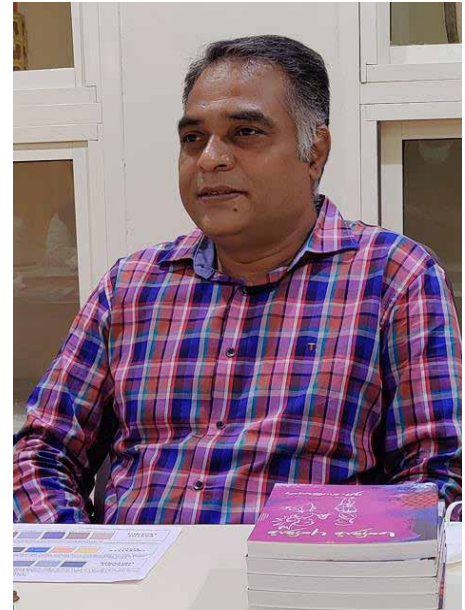
Dr KJ Sreeram, Director, CSIR-CLRI released the colours for the Autumn Winter 23/24 season in the august presence of Shri KR Vijayan, Chairman, IFLMEA and Shri AR Senthil Kumar, Honorary Secretary, IFLMEA. Director, CSIR-CLRI spoke on the Vision for 2030 and said that the “focus of CLRI changes from leather to leather products. CLRI will focus on Footwear including non-leather materials.”



Dr KJ Sreeram
Director, CSIR-CLRI



Shri KR Vijayan
Chairman, IFLMEA



Shri AR Senthil Kumar
Honorary Secretary, IFLMEA

Mr AR Senthil Kumar, Honorary Secretary, IFLMEA said that “until 2013, Rathnam Leathers used to purchase the Trend Books and Colour Cards from overseas designers. After joining CLRI Design club, he continued stating that we have stopped purchasing the trend books and are using the CLRI provided Colour Trends of FASHION TREND POOL and MODEUROP.” We are very successful in our business by using these Trend directions, he said in conclusion.

Mr KR Vijayan, President, IFLMEA said “ earlier, they (buyers) used to give the colours and ask us to copy/replicate them. Now, they (buyers) are asking us to give our colours & textures. This is a great mileage to us.



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Team CLRI Design & Fashion Studio translates the trends into leathers and materials at the tanneries associated with CLRI in developing leather/ colour proposals for presentation at the colour meetings of MODEUROP and FASHION TREND POOL.

COLOUR TRENDS:Autumn Winter 23/24 season

Consumers are becoming increasingly aware of ecology, concern for the earth is centre-stage, they are getting desirous of exploring outer space.AW 23/24 will also take the consumer back to basics and heritage.

‘CHANGING PERSPECTIVES’ will be the theme for the Autumn Winter 23/24 season. Leathers, Colours and Textures for Autumn Winter 23/24 season will be seen in three groups:

Trend Courtesy: Mr Martin Wutke, MODEUROP www.modeurop.com

Colour Group	Colours	Surfaces & Textures
Dreamy Universe	Cool shades of grey, warm brown, and beige, tinted whites, rich red and warm golds.	Dry and grain less leathers, soft touch, stardust attributes, slightly sparkling suedes and velvety materials.
Freestyle Spirit	Yellow, Red, Bright blue, Rose, Fuschia, Violet, Black and Dark olive.	Wet and shiny surfaces, voluminous, graphic embossing, plain and neat, bicolour and electrifying depth.
Earthy Legends	Greens and Browns, Violet, Pomegranate, Burnt orange	Irregular grains, stains and scars, soft velours, washed and vintage finishes, cracked.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Calendar of Events:Autumn Winter 23/24

Curtain Raiser	2nd February 2022
Last date for readying leather/ colour proposals	4th March 2022
Despatch of leathers to Germany	17th March 2022
Colour Club Conference MODEUROP	7th & 8th April 2022, Berlin
Colour Circle FASHION TREND POOL	26th & 27th April 2022, Potsdam
New season's Colour Cards (MODEUROP & Fashion Trend Pool)	May 2022

The **MODEUROP Colour Club Conference** will be held during **7th & 8th April 2022** in **Berlin**; while the **Colour Circle of FASHION TREND POOL** will be held during **26th & 27th April 2022** in **Potsdam**.



Team Design & Fashion Studio presented the Colour Moods for the Autumn Winter 22/23 season and explained as to how the trends are tracked for the upcoming Autumn Winter 23/24 season.

On behalf of Director, CSIR-CLRI; Team Design & Fashion Studio expressed their sincere gratitude to the synergy partners (CLE, ISF & IFLMEA), the chemical co-sponsors and members of the Indian Leather fraternity for their unstinted and continued support to this endeavour of presenting Indian range of leather/ colour proposals from discerning Indian Tanners like you at the successive “colour meetings” of both MODEUROP & FASHION TREND POOL.

REACHING OUT TO THE DISCERNING IN THE INDIAN LEATHER FRATERNITY AS WELL AS GLOBALLY!

EARLY BIRD: SUMMER 2023

Presentation by Ms Marga Indra-Heide, FASHION TREND POOL, Germany.

www.fashion-trend-pool.com

In her opening statement, Ms Marga Indra Heide of Fashion Trend Pool stated that “Optimism is returning to fashion. Summer 2023 shows a touch of fresh and lively colours. Nature and new classic give designers the option to follow tradition and re-write it!”

Ms Indra Heide presented the leathers, colours and materials for Summer 2023 season in three colour groups: Reaction, Realism and Reflection.

The next part of her presentation was on Shoe Styles and Ideas and included: Booties with cutouts (tone-in-tone), Sneakers with heavy soles, Sneakers - running mix, Sneakers - Retro, Sneakers - Fun, Sneakers - High tops, Sneakers - high soles, Sneakers - handcraft (romance, glamour, glitzy), Loafers, Loafer pure, Loafer adorned, Chunky and voluminous loafers, Pumps/ Slings - pointed, Pumps - square, Plateau peep-toe, Platform, Mules/Sabot, Clogs, Clogs/ Sabot, Square toe sandals, Sporty Summer and Sports Sandals.



CLOUD BOOTS



SQUARE TOES



OUTDOOR



PUMPS/ SLINGS



Mrs Marga Indra Heide, FTP



SPORTY



CLOGS



BOOTIES



PEEP TOE PLATEAU

CLRI India Design Club: Membership for Year 2022 is announced!

Launched in January 1994, as a window to International Fashion, CSIR-CLRI India Design Club Membership enables Tanners, Footwear and Footwear Component Manufacturers, Handbags, Accessories & Leather Garment Manufacturers to gain access to the vast international information base on Fashion and Trends in Leathers & Materials, Colours and Textures, Shoe Design & Retail & Accessories.

Dissemination of 'design intelligence' by CSIR-CLRI helps the industry gain access to "input information" for their collections 18 months ahead of the season in address, which is a tremendous 'Business Advantage'.



The Hon'ble Prime Minister had asked all industrial sectors to develop a Vision for 2047. How we can align with these thoughts?



CSIR-CLRI India Design Club (formerly SHOE DESIGNER'S CLUB) was launched on 7th January 1994 by Dr. G. Thyagarajan, Director, CLRI in the august presence of Shri V. Balraman, President, Indian Shoe Federation; Shri A. Sahasranaman, Director, National Leather Development Programme and Dr. K.V. Raghavan, Deputy Director, CLRI and leading luminaries from the Indian Leather and Leather Products Industry.



For 27 years, the CSIR-CLRI Design & Fashion Studio has been bringing you 'ideas ahead of time,' leading you into the future. This is an output driven membership with our ears on the ground; bringing you international fashion as it unfolds.

Membership to the CLRI India Design Club for Year 2022 is announced!

This is a tremendous business advantage which we invite you to partake!

Announcing

CLRI INDIA DESIGN CLUB

MEMBERSHIP for Year 2022
"UNPARALLED SERVICE"

COLOUR CARD
for SS 2023 &
AW 23/24 SEASONS

FASHION TRENDS
for SHOES,
HANDBAGS &
ACCESSORIES

TOP COLOURS
Bestsellers and Flash
Colours & First from
LINEAPELLE

MODEUROPE

FASHION
TREND
POOL

DISSEMINATION
SEMINARS
Covering the two
seasons

Window to International Fashion!
"Seeks to combine creativity,
an eye for fashion and pragmatism"

TREND SERVICES

Indian National Footwear Sizing System Project DPIIT & CSIR-CLRI endeavour *Marching Ahead!*



The “HUB”, which is the ‘nerve center’ of the project on the “Development of Indian National Footwear Sizing System” and the Revision of Norms of the IS 1638:1969 “Standard for Specification for Sizes and Fittings of Footwear”, brings to you an UPDATE on the work carried out by CSIR-CLRI in the Project implementation.

Project Award to CSIR-CLRI:

When contacted by the Department of Promotion of Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, to present a proposal on developing an Indian National Footwear Sizing System, Dr KJ Sreeram, Director, CSIR-CLRI traced the work carried out by the Institute, albeit on a smaller scale but based on the same fundamental principles, during 1992-1995 and also cited the foot survey work carried out by CSIR-CLRI, on a smaller sample size, in the successful



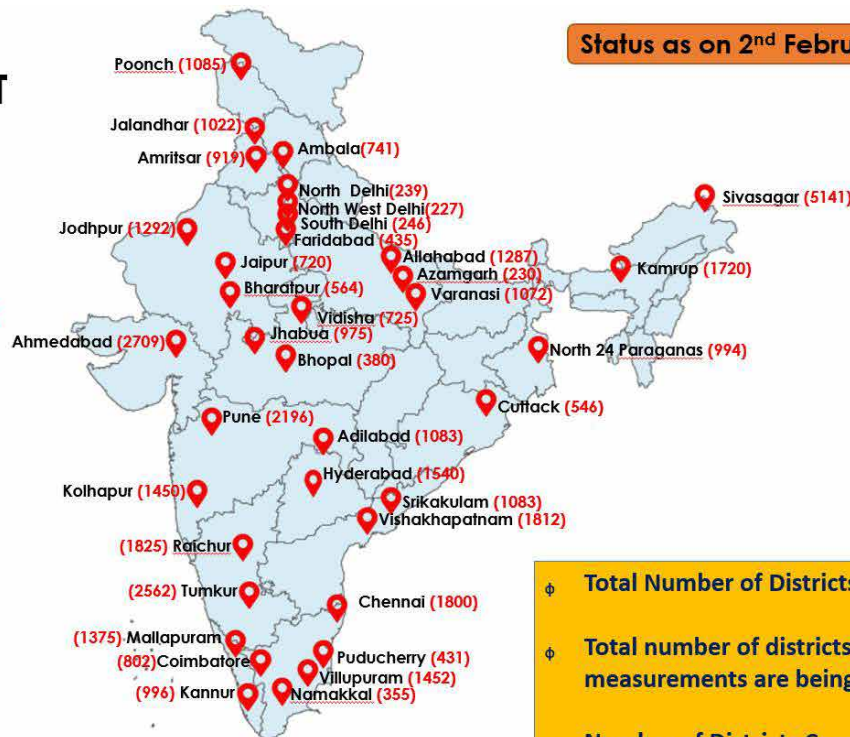
project done for the ‘Optimization of Children’s Footwear Sizes’ and the subsequent Development of Children’s Shoes based on the outcome of this project, which was carried out recently.

The very next day, in his presentation to the Secretary, DPIIT, the decision makers and in the presence of the User Industry representatives, Director CSIR-CLRI built on the above experiences and the internal strengths of CSIR-CLRI and won the project for CSIR-CLRI amidst strong peer competition.

FOOT SCAN MEASUREMENT

Total Completed: 44,031

Overall number of Measurements: 1,01,880



- ❖ Total Number of Districts to be covered: 79
- ❖ Total number of districts where measurements are being done: 37
- ❖ Number of Districts Completed: 13

Braving the odds

Under challenging field conditions especially in view of the severe second wave of the COVID 19 pandemic and a very threatening and looming danger posed by the rapid increase in OMICRON affected cases pan India, the project is braving all odds and progressing steadily and is currently in the third leg of field work after planning and sourcing that were the first two legs. Twenty-eight Teams are fanning out to the length and breadth of India and capturing the 'Digital Foot Images' of our population.

The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), an organization under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India has recommended 79 Locations pan India based on 'Anthropometrical Considerations.' The country has been zonated into five zones and a total of 1,01,880 Foot Measurements would be carried out by end March 2022.



Status update

CSIR-CLRI, in association with its Synergy Partners has completed over 44,000 Foot Measurements from 37 locations as on date out of a total of 1,01,880 measurements to be carried out in 79 locations. Eleven locations/ districts have been completed. With field work expected to be completed by end March 2022, the data collected would then be subjected to a comprehensive statistical analysis to arrive at the Indian National Standard for Footwear Sizing and thereafter also establish equivalence with other existing international standards. DPIIT and CSIR-CLRI have envisaged a planned timeline of end June 2022 to deliver this project. After validation of the derived Sizing System the BIS Standard on Footwear Sizing would be revised and presented as IS 1638 - 2022.

Report on Leather Industry in Srinagar of J&K

Kashmir valley is well known for good quality and highly admired leather raw material producing region in India. The leather of the Kashmir region is of high grade and quality due to natural environment and climate that keeps the skins of the animal well-nourished from inside. The leather of the animal has excellent softness, smoothness, flatness and superb grain.

Kashmir produces around 30,000 pieces of hides and around 1.20 lacs pieces of skins every month which is sold locally in the market through organized and unorganized sales mechanism to the local entrepreneurs who are involved in wet blue processing. The prominent animals of which skins and hides are used for wet blue processing are sheep, goat and cattle population. Hide and skins are collected either from the organized meat shops and abattoirs in Srinagar and also from the villages of Kashmir valley. Besides million of pieces of raw hides are transported to various tanneries and leather factories in Delhi, Kanpur, Agra, Chennai & Kolkata. These raw materials are further processed to make finished leather to be used in producing jackets, boots, wallets, purses and belts for exports to European markets. These hides and skins are having natural & favorable factors like more than 50% top grade ingredients like Aniline & Nubuck. When compared to rest of the country the leather quality is almost 72 % – 80% higher than the rest of the country in Kashmir valley. Wet blue processors are claiming that their hide and skin material are almost similar and at par to the imported once.

Current scenario of leather units in Kashmir valley:



Shri Atul K Mishra, RD-North called on Shri Khurseed Dar and Shri Aga Syed Aijaz Hussain General Manager SIDCO, Srinagar

1. Approximately 25 acres of land has been allotted to the leather industry at Lassipora of Pulwama District.
2. Total Tanning registered units are 11
3. Functional units are 6
4. One dedicated CETP of 600 KLD capacity per day which is further expected to expand by 1100 KLD per day. Moreover, ZLD and solid waste management provision has also been made to keep the environment safe in the industrial town
5. Currently on an average 120 crore rupees hides and wet blue are sold in the domestic market of India to the various cluster of finished leather from the Kashmir valley for further processing
6. These hides and wet blue after converting finished leather are being used to manufacture the product for MNCs of various brands which places order to the contract manufacturers of India for the products like shoe, garment and leather accessories
7. As per the claim of the tanners of Kashmir valley, Kashmir origin wet blue leather have created good name in India and overseas through superiority of their hide quality
8. Currently major shoe brands like Dutchman, Zara, Manz and ABCD are being served and garment brands like CK, Mango and Diesel are also served
9. It is claimed that Kashmiri people have good craft skills and knowledge of art which is being utilized in the leather production unit and in some of the cases in the household industries which cater to the local markets by producing small quantities of jackets, bags and accessories made of leather material.

Meeting with Govt. official at Srinagar

In Kashmir valley in Pulwama district at Lassipora industrial town tanning units are processing the hides up to wet blue stage and are supplied in the domestic market. Kashmir region of J&K has good raw material presence i.e. hides because of high level of meat consumption. High level of meat consumption make around more than 2 lakh hides readily available monthly in the Kashmir valley. These hides and skins are being sold and sent to the tanneries to process it upto the wet blue level of leather processing.

Sheep, Goat and bovine animal hides available in the region are of best quality and they match the size and green quality of the European market. There are 11 tanneries which are in the Lassipora industrial town of the Pulwama district and are producing 12 lakh square feet of wet blue every year. Currently only 6 tanneries are functional while rest 5 are closed on account of covid 19 pandemic and reduced demand of their material in the country.

It is in the above backdrop Regional Director North Shri Atul Kumar Mishra was sent on visit by Sh. Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE, Sh. Moti Lal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and Sh. R. Selvam, ED, CLE to prepare a report on the current status and future prospects of leather & leather industry and what policy efforts can be taken to increase the exports from the Kashmir region for leather, leather goods, footwear, garments and accessories.

In order to understand the state of the industry undersigned did brief survey and collected information both through secondary and primary sources. Brain storming session and meetings with the state industry Development Corporation, state industry and commerce department J&K Govt., local tanners and



Shri Atul K Mishra, Regional Director-North met Shri Mahmud Shah, Director, Industries & Commerce Department, Govt. of J&K to discuss how to promote exports of leather and footwear from Kashmir Region

entrepreneurs was organized during the visit of RD North to Kashmir and Srinagar region on 23rd Dec and 24th Dec 2021.

Regional Director North had a brief meeting with Shri Khurseed Dar and Shri Aijaz Hussain, GM, SIDCO, Srinagar on matters related leather industry development. They threw light on the current state of industry by highlighting the issues that leather industry supply chain is restricted to wet blue stage in the Kashmir valley. For further processing of wet blue to finished leather, material is sent to the various leather clusters of India. However, there are huge prospects to develop entire supply chain from tanning to produce value added products like finished leather, goods, garments, footwear and accessories. As per the information shared by the above officials there are two fundamental requirement that may be considered to promote the production and export of value-added products from the Lassipora which is the only industrial town having leather industry in J&K. Firstly the upgradation CETP must be considered by DPIIT for increasing the capacity and creating ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge) and solid waste management facility. J&K SIDCO has already submitted application to DPIIT for the grant under IFLADP scheme which has yet to be released as per the guidelines. SIDCO has already started the process to obtain NOC from state and central pollution control board to run the CETP. The second and foremost demand of the tanners of the Lassipora is creation of the Common Facility Centre (CFC) for producing finished leather which is long pending demand in the Lassipora industrial town of Pulwama. This demand may be considered under the TIES or IFLADP scheme. SIDCO is of the view tanners of the town are in agreement to form SPV and run the CFC to produce best quality finished leather in the country.

As per SIDCO currently common effluent treatment plant at Lassipora is having 600 KLD capacity which has to be increased to 1100 KLD per day which will help them run the tanneries at full capacity.

Meeting with Director, Industries and commerce department govt of J&K was also organized at Sanat Ghar, Bemina, Srinagar. Shri Shah briefed about the current situation of industries in Kashmir valley and Srinagar.

He informed that Srinagar is known for tourism, agriculture, handicraft and handloom products. Central govt may help in creating infrastructure and support system to promote exports in the above-mentioned products. Leather and footwear can also be important sector and which is developing gradually but exports are not happening due to restricted supply chain as tanners are producing only wet blue which they are supplying in domestic market. There is plenty of raw materials available in this part of the country as Kashmir region is predominantly meat consuming society and has highest per capita meat consumption in the country. The hides of goat, sheep and bovine animal are matching to the European market standards. Due to lack of infrastructure, reduced demand and continuation of pandemic manufacturing and supply of wet blue has been reduced. Moreover, out of total 11 around 5 tanneries are closed down in the Lassipora of the Pulwama on account of pandemic. If we are able to create demand and provide support system and infrastructure like in Chennai and in some other prominent leather clusters then industry of the Kashmir valley has potential to generate around 300 to 500 crore export in the sector alone and if the end-to-end supply chain of the leather, goods, garments and footwear is created then it can add annual export of 500 to 1000 crores and can provide employment to sizeable working population of the region.

Meeting with District Industry Centre and Stakeholders at Lassipora, Pulwama

Small and focused group discussion was organized with industry stakeholders at Lassipora which was attended by tanners of the Lassipora Industrial Town. Dr Zehar Ahmad, General Manager, District Industry Centre, Pulwama District was also present in the discussion.



Meeting with Industry Stakeholders and Tanners at office of General Manager, District Industry Centre (DIC) Pulwama, Kashmir

Following Industry Members were present in the meeting:

1. Shri Sameer Azad, M/s Reena Tanners
2. Mr Ashif Basir, M/s Golden Tanners
3. Mr Shaquib Ahmad, M/s Sunrise Tanners
4. Mr Mohammad Rafiq, M/s Universal Tanners
5. Mr Arif Bashir, M/s Azava Tanners
6. Mr Bashir Ahmad Rawanda, M/s Rawanda Tanners

Besides J&K govt official from SIDCO and Lassipora Industry Estate Management were also present.

Stakeholders have submitted the following to increase the manufacturing activities of leather and others related products that have yet to realize the full potential of the sector:

- CETP Upgradation is stalled which does not allow them to enhance their capacity and process more hides. State pollution control board has raised question over the running CETP and has requested the industry to submit the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report to issue NOC. Industry and SIDCO is working on the same. They have requested to CLE and central govt must help them to get the EIA done and get the NOC from state and central pollution control board to run CETP at its full capacity.
- Industry has huge potential to generate forex and employment if the industry ecosystem and supply chain is strengthened. The current production of wet blue is not fetching them good revenue and industry is willing to move up the value chain but restricted opportunities and lack of support system doesn't allow them to produce finished leather and other related products. Finished leather can be produced in common facility centre (CFC) that can be created with the help of Central and State Govt schemes which will be subsequently run and operated with the help of common pool resources. They are of the view that CFC will be managed and run by SPV which is being registered and local tanners will be the members of SPV.

- Lab testing and skill training centre are required to train the local manpower. Road and infrastructure in the industry estate are not good which may be improved for availing smooth logistic services.
- Interaction of local tanners with domestic industry and their visit to state-of-the-art factories in overseas should be facilitated to impart knowledge and technological advancement. This will help the local entrepreneurs to have an idea on modernisation, upgradation of the factories
- Modernisation and Upgradation of CETP is primary requirement as of now and should be facilitated to create ZLD and solid waste management.

Visit to Tanneries Operating in the Industrial Town at Lashipora, Pulwama



Visit to Lashipora Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP)



Wet Blue Processing inside the Tannery Premises



Suggestions and Feedback from Leather Industry Stakeholders to increase leather and leather related products manufacturing and exports from Kashmir Region of J&K:

Leather and footwear sector of Kashmir region has huge potential to increase manufacturing and exports from the sector. Animal hides are easily available in huge quantity and they match to the European quality. Besides manpower available in the region have good craft and traditional skills which can be further enhanced with the help of formal trainings.

- In the Srinagar districts and Pulwama leather processing industries are available which process hides till wet blue stage are then the wet blue is sent to other parts of the countries to process it as finished leather. Wet blue processing is not helping them price wise to fetch good orders. Hence, they are of the demand that Common Facility Centre (CFC) which has all kind of facility and support system to process wet blue to finished leather must be created. The basic infrastructure and related services may be established by the govt while its maintenance and operation will be looked after by SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle)
- In order to process more leather and have standard quality leather upgradation and capacity of CETP should increase. Currently its capacity is 600 KLD which has been proposed to increase by 1100KLD and ZLD water processing has been proposed. Around 15 crore investment in the CETP has been contributed by state while rest of the contribution has to come from the central govt. which is pending with DPIIT.
- One skill center may also be set

up along with the lab testing center to help the industry to comply with global standards

- Industry is of the view that they are not getting enough exposure and information on various leather related products manufacturing process which may please disseminated to them and they should also be helped with the information's related to the investment and developing supply chain in the region. As per the estimates provided by the stakeholders that can add at least Rs 300 to 500 crore exports if the leather supply chain ecosystem is created which would also support processing and manufacturing of goods, garments and leather footwear and accessories manufacturing

Prospects and future course of action for development of leather, goods, footwear and accessories supply chain for manufacturing and exports of leather related products from Kashmir valley

- Excellent quality of raw material gives good opportunity to enhance the supply chain which is currently restricted till wet blue stage. As per the information and suggestion from the local entrepreneurs and state industry department leather sector can grow and create exports of 300-500 crore in the next 3-5 years if the finished leather processing units are established in the industrial towns for which industry has already submitted CFC plan to the SIDCO and also to the DPIIT.
- There is already connectivity of the region with all kind modes of transportation except for railway and water.
- Local entrepreneurs are very keen in inviting investment in the garments, goods, shoe upper, shoes and accessories plant wherein they can have JVs or can work as subsidiary of the investor to manufacture and produce and exports above products from the region. If the investment is allowed in the region in the entire supply chain, then exports may go up to 1000 crore and above and can provide employment to 35-50 thousand people of the valley.
- Incentives under IFLADP for CETP upgradation, modernization of tanneries, creation of CFC and establishment of mega leather & footwear cluster should be provided
- Most of the industries are tiny or SME hence incentives on the capital investment reimbursement of insurance, freight subsidy due to land lock and subsidy on installation of DG sets should be provided to motivate the entrepreneurs to bring in more investment in the sector
- To promote the installation and adaptation of green technology subsidy on pollution control equipment and services should be allowed duty free
- For the new investment and green field investment stamp duty investment should be provided
- Import of the machinery and plant required for export purpose may be allowed duty free for initial 5 years so as to incentivize the exports from the Kashmir region

Interactive Session on GI (Geographical Indication) and Upcoming Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) on 30-12-2021 at 4:00pm in CLE Office, KLC Complex, Unnao

Central Regional Office of the Council for Leather Exports in association with the office of Joint Director General of Foreign Trade (JDGFT), Kanpur have organized an Interactive Session on GI (Geographical Indication) and Upcoming Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) under Niryat Bandhu on 30th December, 2021 at 4:00pm in CLE Office, KLC Complex, Unnao.

Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE, Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman – Central, CLE, Shri Taj Alam, Convener – Saddlery & Harness Panel, CLE, Shri Amit Kumar, Jt. Director General of Foreign Trade (JDGFT), Kanpur, Shri V K Verma, Director, MSME, Kanpur, Shri Sarveshwar Shukla, Joint Commissioner of Industries, Kanpur, CLE, Shri Ashraf Rizwan, COA Member, CLE, Shri O. P. Pandey, COA Member, CLE, Shri Mohammad Iftakhar, CRC Member, CLE, Ms. Prerna Verma, CRC Member, CLE, Ms. Pallavi Dubey, Regional Director – Central, CLE and about 30 member exporters were present.

Shri Taj Alam, Convener – Saddlery & Harness Panel, CLE warmly welcomed distinguished guests, industry member exporters. He appreciated CLE & JDGFT for organizing such useful session for the awareness and benefits of the industry. He stated that today is a very important session for the exporters of saddlery and harness goods to understand the detailed procedure for registration and other benefits available for GI tagged segment. He urged all exporters of saddlery & harness to come forward and complete the registration formalities pertains to it.



Shri Sarveshwar Shukla, Joint Commissioner of Industries, District Industry and Entrepreneur's Promotion Center, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh addressing the session.

The objective of the session was to discuss and update member exporters on the benefits of Geographical Indication (GI) being granted to saddlery & harness goods for Kanpur region. The aim was to create awareness and technical insights about GI.

While addressing the session Shri Sarveshwar Shukla, Joint Commissioner of Industries, District Industry and Entrepreneur's Promotion Center, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh welcomed all industry members and participants. He appreciated CLE for inviting all stakeholders at single platform to discuss on various issues connected with MSME (DI), JDGFT, DIEPC etc. He mentioned that Government of Uttar Pradesh has implemented One District One Product Scheme (ODOP) across Uttar Pradesh for exploring export potential and boosting traditional products being manufactured in different districts of the state. Under this scheme, Kanpur and Unnao have been identified for leather and leather products. He also stated that the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme of Government of India should be granted to leather sector as this is one of the potential, foreign exchange earners and employment generation sector. He informed that Flatted Factory model in Kanpur has approved for the Hosiery industry to improve industrial infrastructure across Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, the leather sector should also move forward to adopt and submit proposal for such model towards enhancing productivity and infrastructure system.

Shri V.K.Verma, Director, MSME (DI), Kanpur thanked and expressed gratitude to distinguished industry members and participants. He urged industry members to come forward and get all benefits of the various schemes available

with MSME. He mentioned that there are several schemes available for the industry which includes IPRs, Public Procurement, Marketing Support schemes etc. He further added that MSME is working on Zero Effect and Zero-Defect system.

On this occasion, Shri Amit Kumar, JDGFT, Kanpur apprised and presented a detailed presentation about GI an overview, benefits of GI, registration process, legal protection, certain exemptions from duty etc. He urged industry members to get maximum registration and avail the benefits of it. He emphasis for brand promotion of GI tag under MAI Scheme, organizing of GI specific BSM and Trade Fair, registration of GI products into different countries including USA, UK, EU etc.

Geographical Indication (GI) is a name or sign used on products as that aspects of industrial property which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin including town, state, country. The use of a GI tag is an indication of the products source which works as a certification that the product retains certain qualities which is made according to traditional methods. GI Tag conveys as assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to the fact of its origin in that defined geographical locality.

Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE welcomed distinguished guests, industry members and participants. He extended special thanks to JDGFT for apprising industry members about GI and its importance. He urged all exporters of saddlery and harness goods to get their registration for availing various benefits available hitherto. He assured that CLE will extend all necessary support in filling application and will organize frequent workshops to create awareness to develop authorized



Shri V. K. Verma, Director, MSME (DI), Kanpur addressing the session.



Shri Amit Kumar, JDGFT, Kanpur presenting PowerPoint presentation at the interactive session

user for registration. He emphasized to educate foreign customers about GI importance. He further mentioned that import substitution should be there to fulfill Atmanirbhar Bharat vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. He requested DGFT officials for extending MEIS benefits for the next 3 more months for proper utilisation..He further urged for fixation of certain limit of value addition at certain extent in substitution of advance authorization scheme.

He further clarified on flatted factory model for leather sector which would be established in the proposed Mega Leather Cluster (MLC), Ramaipur, Kanpur. He stated that this model is unique and cost-effective model for uniting those units which are scattered at different locations in Kanpur. He urged MSME, Kanpur for playing a visible role in spreading awareness about benefits of the various schemes available hitherto so that this sector can be utilized and take the proper benefits of the schemes.

While summing up the session, Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman – Central, CLE extended formal vote of thanks to distinguished guests, industry members and participants. He thanked official from JDGFT for detailed presentation for creating awareness amongst member exporters and redressal of their issues pertaining to DGFT.

He mentioned that the presentation gave by JDGFT has clarified certain issues pertaining to GI tag and other stakeholders briefed about the certain schemes concerned with their department.

On this occasion, Certificates distribution ceremony was also organized to award to members for their contribution in export excellence under 2 & 3 Star export house categories.



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



View of participants

Certificates Distribution Ceremony held at the Interactive Session



Virtual Symposium of Zonal Coordinators, Co-Coordinator and Northern Regional Committee Members for Cluster Development of CLE Northern Region, Feb. 7, 2022

In order to mitigate the challenges faced by Exporter -Members at various Clusters /Zones in the Northern Region, Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman has taken an Innovative Initiative for the first time to nominate Zonal Coordinators and Co - coordinators of all important Northern Region Clusters/ Zones. To take it forward, CLE – Northern Region organised a Virtual Symposium of all Zonal Coordinators, Co – coordinators, Northern Regional Committee Members and Special Invitees on 7th February, 2022 from 4 PM to 6.30 PM

Shri Atul Kumar Mishra, Regional Director- North, CLE in his welcome address welcomed Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE, Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE, Shri Subash Kapoor, Former Vice-Chairman, CLE, Shri Puran Dawar, COA and Former Northern Regional Chairman, CLE, Northern Regional Committee Members, Zonal Coordinators, Co-coordinators of Clusters and other distinguished Members of Northern Region.

He briefed that, Virtual symposium was convened to take forward initiatives and programmes by setting cluster specific measurable goals, understand all issues of these clusters so that they can work in close cooperation with Regional Committee Members and office of CLE to formulate an action plan to achieve export growth by using all schemes of Central and State Governments.



From (L to R) Shri Subash Kapoor, Former Vice-Chairman, CLE, Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE addressing the Virtual symposium of Zonal Coordinators, Co-coordinators and Northern Regional Committee Members for Cluster Development of Northern Region

Shri Subash Kapoor, Former- Vice-Chairman, CLE in his inaugural address greeted all Zonal Coordinators, Co-Coordinator, Northern Regional Committee members and Special Invitees in Virtual Symposium. Further he appreciated the efforts taken by Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE for coming-up with innovative ideas for nominating Coordinators, Co-coordinators and working with them cohesively with an objective of growth and cluster development related matters to promote exports of leather, leather footwear, goods, garments & accessories including non leather footwear and products from Northern Region.

During his address, he conveyed that Northern Region of CLE is having 5 regions based on the cluster's specialization. Northern Region of CLE encompasses 6 states namely Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and J&K; while western UP till Agra is also under the northern region of CLE. Therefore, idea is how we can grow and come together to sort out issues collectively.



Shri Subash Kapoor, Former Vice-Chairman, CLE, in his Inaugural addressing the Virtual Symposium of Zonal Coordinators, Co-coordinators and Northern Regional Committee Members for Cluster Development of Northern Region

He added that, Union Budget 2022-23 has been favourable to Leather & Footwear Industry; moreover, announcement of IFLDP Scheme will give further impetus to Leather, Leather products & Footwear Sector. Exporters can take advantage of this scheme in creating infrastructure, enhancing capacity in their factory to increase exports

Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE in his welcome address welcomed Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, Shri Subash Kapoor, Former Chairman, CLE, Shri Puran Dawar, COA, Former Northern Regional Chairman, all Zonal Coordinators, Co-ordinators and distinguished Members of Northern Regional Committee and Special Invitees.



Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE along with Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri Subash Kapoor presenting the presentation on status of Exports of Northern Region and its clusters

He appreciated the tireless efforts of Chairman, CLE for the cause of Leather, Leather products & Footwear Sector and as a result, he has accomplished in achieving the favourable Union budget 2022-23 for the industry and also got announced IFLDP Scheme for this sector from the Government.

He further added that, it's been a privilege to get the constant support & guidance of Shri Subash Kapoor, Former Vice-Chairman, CLE and Shri Puran Dawar, COA and Former Regional Chairman, CLE for the cause of Leather & Footwear Industry.

He also cited an example of Joint CLE/Cluster initiative by quoting Jalandhar Cluster issues which was taken-up by CLE to give an insight of benefits of synergy, cooperation and working together between clusters at regional level which helps to achieve the positive outcome.

Mr. Sethi informed that Under IFLADP, CETPs are funded with 70% of total cost from Central Government outlay while rest 30% of the cost is shared equally by Industry (15%) and State (15%)

Industry at Jalandhar had been facing the problem of closure of tanneries and industry on various accounts leading to the losses in revenue and profit. Punjab Leather Federation (PLF) brought the issue to the notice of CLE which was taken-up with the State Government in the meeting organized with Industry Minister, Shri Gurkirat Singh Kohli. Industry Minister and Secretary were convinced with the representation stating that Industry cannot contribute its 15% share due to setback and they agreed to accept the request of PLF and CLE to contribute from State Government additional 7.5% share. That means, balance contribution of the Government of Punjab for CETP upgradation out of the total project cost will be 22.5% instead of 15% and Industry would be contributing 7.5% only.

He conveyed that, this particular case has created a precedent which shows that a synergy between Cluster and Regional/Central level can create wonders

and also demonstrate power of being together and copy of Minutes of Punjab Govt. Meeting may be sent to all Regions to take the advantage of this precedent by approaching respective State Governments for contributing maximum to reduce the burden on industry.

During his address he said that a lot of activities are being initiated by CLE Northern Region to promote export of leather products besides strengthening the infrastructure and services at various export clusters / zones to meet the ambitious export target set up by our Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

Clusters are engine of growth as every state government wishes to promote exports from clusters by creating infrastructure and incentivizing manufacturers. He also added that we must utilize this pro-India opportunity and activism of Government. Therefore, he has proposed that Zonal Coordinators from each cluster are mandated to take all efforts to garner the policy support of the State and Central Government for creating collective Industry Infrastructure and services for Ease of Doing Business and these efforts will promote growth of leather and leather products from Northern Region as well.

He informed that the COVID pandemic has created anti-China sentiments worldwide; many countries are now thinking of developing an alternative supply chain based outside China and India is seen as an alternative destination for investment in the Leather & Footwear supply Chain Eco-system. Therefore, the need of the hour is that Industry should work cohesively to encash upon pro-India sentiments.

Subsequent to his welcome remark, he gave a presentation on status of Exports of Northern Region and its



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE delivering key note address

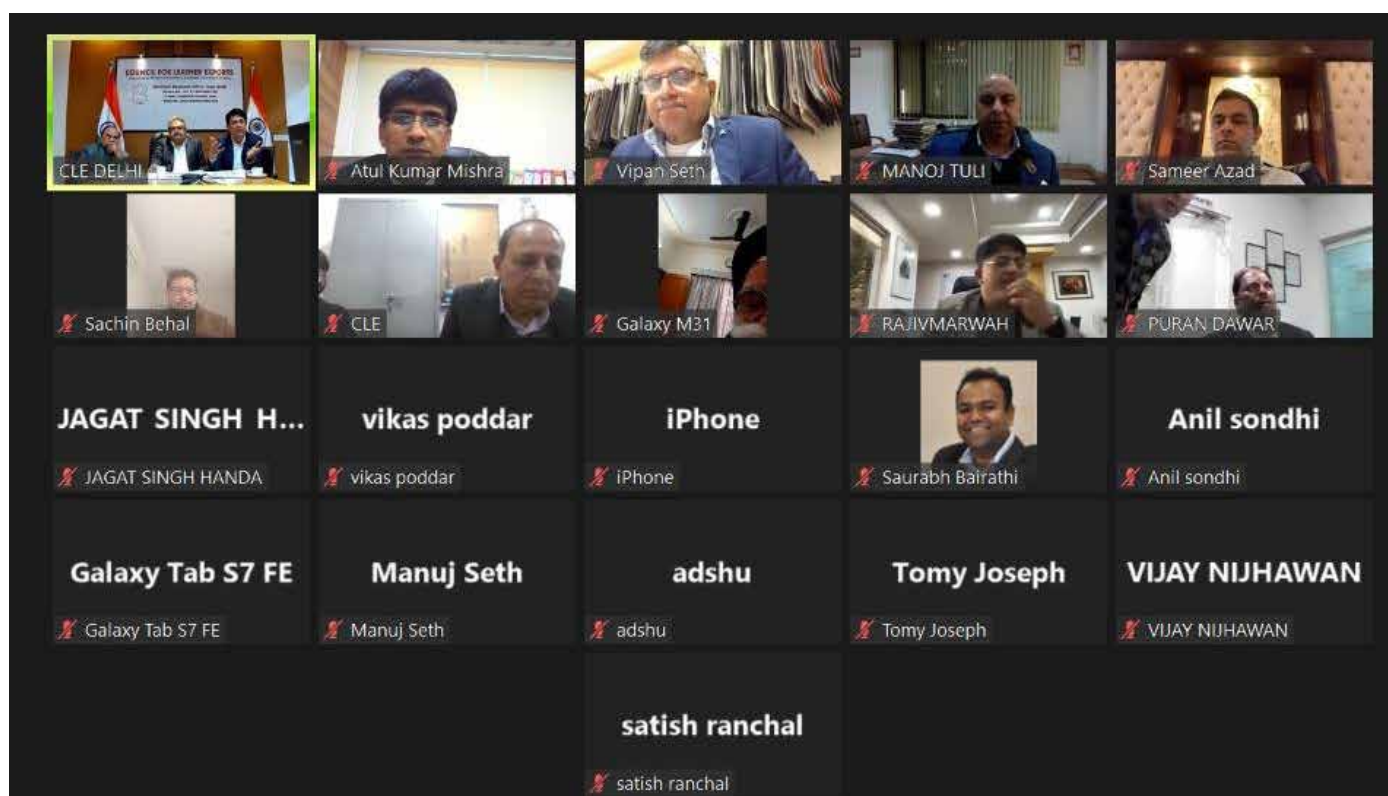
clusters pertaining to Leather, Leather products & Footwear and highlighted following points which are as follows :-

1. Northern Region contributes around 23.5% of the national exports which is around 5 and a half billion dollar annually from India. From Northern Region leather garment is the dominant sector which has around 70% share in the country's exports and is produced/manufactured for export purpose in Noida, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Delhi and parts of UP and in some other clusters also.
2. Footwear, Leather Products, Garments & Accessories in the Clusters of Northern Region has engaged successfully in generating revenue, employment and exchange earnings for the Government of India as well as providing tax revenue benefits to the States falling under Northern Region.
3. With an Annual export value of Rs. 8,500 Cr. Footwear, Leather Goods, Garments & Accessories of Northern Region has significantly contributed in the overall export promotion aforementioned sectors.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE in his key note address conveyed that, Northern Region has an advantage of having a very high entrepreneurial capability amongst all the members of Northern Region. He added that Exporters have faced business challenges on account of pandemic. Despite all this, they have not only managed to survive but they have also grown.

While addressing the Virtual Symposium he said that Northern Region has the potential to grow multifold, as exporters have the capabilities to do it, as they have the entrepreneurial skills, infrastructure and support of the Government.

During his discussion he highlighted features of the Union Budget 2022-23 wherein he conveyed that some incentives & financial assistance which were withdrawn in fiscal like DFIS and duty free scheme has been provisioned in the current budget.



Presence of Zonal Coordinators, Co-Coordinator, Northern Regional Committee members & Special Invitees in Virtual Symposium

The new provision which permits the exporters to import goods (i.e. embellishments, raw materials & Wet Blue) for converting it to finished products and will give an impetus to the sector, which is required on priority. He also thanked Government for announcing the scheme of IFLDP which also covers investments under the IDLS scheme which is implemented from 1st January, 2020.

He also updated on Interest Subvention Scheme and conveyed that this Scheme which was discontinued on 30th September, 2021 is also likely to be notified soon, since the budget for Interest Subvention Scheme has been provisioned.

During his address he informed that Hon'ble Prime Minister has set an Export Target of USD 400 for merchandising exports from India which is well on its way to achieve by the end of this fiscal.

He elaborated on the reasons that how Indian exports target to Northern American Market is being met satisfactorily however, exports to European Market has been slow due to ongoing pandemic situation over there. He anticipated that, normalization in Europe would be back soon, then we may meet our targets.

In terms of growth, Indian Leather, Leather products & Footwear has to achieve the target of USD 10 b. by 2025, that means, exports to be doubled in 2 to 3 years.

Chairman, CLE also gave insight of international scenario that there's Anti-China sentiment on account of pandemic and India is being looked as a potential destination for export and manufacturing hub and investment in supply chain, therefore, looking at this opportune time, Indian Government has come up with Industry friendly policies to strengthen value chains as an Industrial policy instrument.

He requested the industry fraternity to strategize their manufacturing capabilities by using state of the art technology, lean management and production engineering to optimize their output.

Subsequent to the key note address of Chairman, CLE, Coordinators from Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Agra, Noida, Gurugram gave detailed presentations on their respective clusters.

Shri Puran Dawar, COA, Former Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and Zonal Coordinator, Agra Footwear Cluster supported by Shri Gopal Gupta, Zonal Co-coordinator, Agra Footwear Cluster on behalf of the Agra cluster greeted Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE, Shri Motilal Sethi,

Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and Shri Subash Kapoor, Former Regional Chairman, CLE and all the Coordinators from various other clusters, NRC members and Special Invitees.

While presenting about Agra Cluster he conveyed that I am happy to note that Agra cluster has the major chunk of share in exports of Northern Region. There was slowdown in exports growth due to Covid pandemic situation. However, this year, Exporters of Agra cluster are geared-up to scale-up the capacity, accelerate production and achieve the desired exports.

Shri Gopal Gupta, Co-coordinator, Agra Cluster thanked government for launching scheme for duty free imports, however some of critical items which are imported from Footwear Exporters have been omitted/removed. He added that at the moment, Shoe Boxes and buckles are allowed.



Shri Puran Dawar, COA , Former Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and Zonal Coordinator, Agra Footwear Cluster supported by Shri Gopal Gupta, Zonal Co-coordinator, Agra Footwear Cluster presenting issues pertaining to Agra Footwear Cluster

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE in his reply requested Shri Puran Dawar to compile the list of critical imported items enabling CLE to represent it to the finance ministry.

Shri Hirlal Verma, Zonal Coordinator- Jalandhar Cluster and President of Punjab Leather Federation with the support of Co-coordinator, Shri Jagjit Singh, thanked Chairman, CLE and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE for inviting him for Virtual symposium.

At the outset, he appreciated the efforts of Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and Shri Atul Kumar Mishra, Regional Director, North in responding in a very short notice to represent the CETP issue of Jalandhar before Industry Minister, Government of Punjab. Representation given by CLE was considered favourably by the Government of Punjab and Government has agreed to increase state government share from 15% to 22.5%, which will support to Industry and he wholeheartedly thanked CLD for this effort.

He further asked CLE to represent a letter to Deputy Commissioner, Jalandhar so that Upgradation work of CEPT can speed up which will not only enhance the capacity and efficiency of CETP but also bring more work and generate employment.

Shri Subhash Jagga, Zonal Coordinator, Bahadurgarh Cluster Zone supported by Shri Satish Ranchal, Co-Coordinator highlighted that the increase in GST levied on Footwear costing less than Rs. 1000 to 12% from 5% is really



Shri Hirlal Verma, Zonal Coordinator - Jalandhar Cluster and President of Punjab Leather Federation representing Jalandhar Cluster



Shri Subhash Jagga, Zonal Coordinator – Bahadurgarh Cluster representing issues pertaining to Bahadurgarh Cluster



Shri Saurabh Bairathi,
Zonal Coordinator – Jaipur
Cluster representing issues pertaining
to Jaipur Cluster

big pain for Non-Leather Footwear manufacturers especially to micro level manufacturers who produce shoes of the value of less than Rs. 1000. Therefore, he requested CLE to initiate and take-up this matter very aggressively with the Government.

Chairman, CLE in his reply conveyed that CLE has represented and pursued this matter to the Government and in-fact CLE is escalating this issue in all forums so that GST can be reversed from 12% to 5%.

Shri Saurabh Bairathi, Coordinator, Jaipur Cluster Zone supported by Co-Coordinator, Mr. Vikas Poddar briefed about Jaipur Cluster zone and conveyed that there are around 100 to 200 units of Non-leather & Leather footwear. Jaipur is famous for Jaipur Juti/Mojari and is being exported all over the world.

Shri Saurabh Bairathi highlighted three issues which are as follows -:

1. Issue of compliance of BIS - he conveyed that initially Government brought compliance of BIS on imported goods as a part of Non- Trade Barrier, however as of now Government is asking domestic manufacturers to comply with the standards. He

further added that India's footwear industry is artisan based and less capital incentive and will not be able to comply with BIS standards. He further explained that small footwear manufacturers at this time do not have the capabilities and other necessary facilities to comply with BIS standards.

2. He has urged government to extend the benefits of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to the sector as it would help in boosting manufacturing, creating jobs and increasing exports.
3. The incentives were given to Exporter of Non-Leather footwear sector, however the withdrawal of incentives and increase in freight cost of container due to shortage of container, CLE may ask government to come-up with some scheme so that freight cost can be negated/covered.

Chairman, CLE replied to the queries of Shri Saurabh Bairathi and informed that, we have taken-up this issue to withdraw of QCOs (Quality Control Orders) or deferment of QCOs. He added that to have compliance of standards with regards to safety shoes, mining shoes etc. is fine, however applicability of QCOs should not be practiced over fashion oriented product. He also assured his full support in this matter to fashion based products like footwear, goods & accessories.

He also informed that PLE Scheme has been drafted by CLE looking at the need of the sector and will be presented before the Government for their consideration.

Chairman, CLE also conveyed that with regards to freight cost due to shortage of containers, FIEO and CLE is regularly pursuing to the Government regarding freight cost etc., however, it is anticipated that post-covid, normal supply chain system will be in place gradually.

Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and Zonal Coordinator, Noida Cluster supported by Zonal Co-Coordinator, Shri Subash Kapoor, conveyed that Noida happens to be the biggest focal point of Uttar Pradesh with exports of Rs. 50,000 Crores which is the highest in the state of Uttar Pradesh. On ODOP front, Noida has been given the status of the city of Apparel. There are numerous manufacturing companies with large capacities in Noida as Government has been very kind in facilitating and providing policy incentives.

While talking on issues pertaining to Noida Cluster, he said that there are issues with regards to GST AND RFD 01 process from State Government and Fire NOC norms which are complicated and are being represented for simplification. He added the he is committed to take this issue forward, once U.P. election process is complete.

He also discussed about the proposed cluster at Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) and conveyed that, he would discuss the matter with the Government of Uttar Pradesh for extending infrastructure subsidy to Leather Industry given to the Textile Industry as per the Industrial Policy of Government of Uttar Pradesh and include leather in the policy.

He also spoke about Design Studio and Centre of Excellence which are coming up very soon in the premises of FDDI, Noida to cater the needs



Shri Manuj Seth, Zonal Co-Coordinator – Kundali and Rai Cluster representing issues pertaining to Kundali and Rai Cluster

of the industry in production, lean management, design etc.

Shri Manuj Seth, Co-coordinator, Kundli & Rai, (Haryana) supported by Shri Inder Chhabra, Zonal Coordinator conveyed that there are few shoe related manufacturers, only 2 companies are members of CLE, therefore CLE should

initiate and enroll them for CLE membership. These small manufacturers are not aware of Government schemes, therefore Industry members can visit this place and create an awareness program in order to motivate them.

Shri Sameer Azad, Coordinator – Jammu & Kashmir cluster supported



Shri Sameer Azad, Zonal Coordinator – Jammu & Kashmir Cluster representing issues pertaining to Jammu & Kashmir Cluster

by Shri Farooq Rawanda, Co-Coordinator greeted Chairman, CLE, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and all industry members on virtual symposium.

He conveyed that, in the year 2009-10, a delegation of CLE visited Jammu & Kashmir and met the then Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Late Mufti Mohammed Sayeed wherein creation of Common Facility Centre was discussed which has yet to come up.

He briefed about the Industry status of Jammu & Kashmir that Industry has huge potential to generate forex and employment if the industry ecosystem and supply chain is strengthened locally. The current production of wet blue is not fetching them good revenue and industry is willing to move up the value chain but restricted opportunities and lack of support system doesn't allow them to produce finished leather and other related products. Finished leather can be produced in Common Facility Centre (CFC) that can be created with the help of Central and State Govt schemes to run and operate with the help of common pool resources. They are of the view that CFC will be managed and run by SPV which is being registered by local tanners. Therefore, in this regard, he sought the help of CLE for the creation of Common Facility Centre (CFC) to produce Finished leather plant.

Chairman, CLE and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE assured to Shri Sameer Azad that they will check the status and will come out with clarity.

Shri Jagat Singh Handa, Coordinator – Okhla (Delhi) supported by Shri Avtar Singh Kapoor, Zonal Co-coordinator conveyed that Industry representatives of Okhla cluster would like to hold one to one meeting with Chairman, CLE and Northern Regional Chairman, CLE to address their issues. As of now, there are issues pertaining to Okhla Cluster are Duty Drawback & Interest Subvention.



Shri Jagat Singh Handa, Zonal Coordinator – Okhla (Delhi) Cluster representing issues pertaining to Okhla Cluster

Shri Sushil Kumar Singla, Coordinator – Gurugram/manesar/Jhajjar supported by Cocordinators Shri Paneet Mangla and Sri Gajender Singh Pahwa conveyed that in 70% of the total shipments, there is continuous case of theft of Leather Jackets from IGI Customs / Airport which needs to be addressed to New Custom House/ IGI Airport.

He congratulated the efforts of CLE for following-up the Government for bringing Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) which is very beneficial for the industry, however there is a lack of awareness amongst Industry members, therefore a consultant may be hired who can guide the industry members enabling them to get optimum benefits from the scheme. He also discussed about the cluster requirement and availability of feasible land nearby Manesar which is called Reliance MET Cluster.

Subsequent to presentations by Zonal Coordinators and Co-Coordinators, Regional Committee Members expressed their views and support.



Shri Sushil Singla, Zonal Coordinator
– Gurugram /Manesar/ Jhajja Cluster
representing issues pertaining to
Gurugram /Manesar/ Jhajjar Clustesr

Shri Anil Sondhi, CoA and NRC conveyed that, some missed clusters based in Rajasthan and Haryana should also be included so that there can be holistic development of leather industry in Northern Region.

Shri Manoj Tuli, COA and NRC conveyed that in addition to the cluster development discussion, we need to take up other collective

measures for overall growth of exports.

Shri Vikash Gupta, Special Invitee,-NRC- CLE conveyed that we need clusters for the expansion of Leather and Footwear industry and we also need to capitalize the schemes launched by the Government to optimum level.

Shri Vipin Seth, NRC member, conveyed that Industry should also be included in the steering committee of IDLS as CLE being prominent body of Industry understands the needs and requirement of the sector and can advise to the committee.

At the end, of the session, Chairman, CLE requested all Coordinators to have an interactive meeting to discuss and explain all the elements of IFLDP (Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme) scheme so that the fund granted by the government under this scheme doesn't go unutilized.

Shri Puran Dawar, COA and Former Northern Regional Chairman in his concluding remarks summed up the issues/ presentations of all coordinators and identified core areas to take the industry forward.

While, concluding he suggested following points to CLE :-

1. Please do give representation on industry issue to Chairman, CLE and Northern Regional Chairman to enable them to address the concerns.
2. He also advised for collective and cohesive effort for the growth and betterment of Leather, Leather products and Footwear sector and also prepare concrete action plan for implementation.

Meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks



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Press Conference on Continuation of Special Package of IFLADP Scheme - 2021-26 for Leather Industry held on 10th February 2022 in Kanpur Nagar

Central Regional Office of the Council for Leather Exports on behalf of Kanpur leather fraternity had organized a Press Conference today i.e. 10th February, 2022 in Kanpur Nagar wherein heartily gratitude was extended to visionary leadership of the respected Shri Narendra Modi ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for granting financial outlay of Rs. 1700 crore under IFLADP – 2021-26 for the overall development and export growth of India leather sector.

On this occasion Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Chairman, Mega Leather Cluster, Kanpur, Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE, Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman – Central, CLE, Shri Ashraf Rizwan, Managing Director, Mega Leather Cluster, Ramaipur, Kanpur addressed the conference and apprised about the financial support extended by the Government of India. The press conference was joined by about 26 representatives from leading national and regional print and electronic media.

Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Chairman, Mega Leather Cluster, Kanpur welcomed all distinguished representatives from media and thanked for joining the press conference. He expressed special thanks to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji for continuing financial assistance under special package of IFLADP-2021-26 and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for his personal involvement in getting financial assistance for the Mega Leather Cluster at Ramaipur, Kanpur under sub-scheme of MLFACD of



(R-L) Shri Javed Iqbal, Regional Chairman – Central, CLE, Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE, Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Chairman, Mega Leather Cluster, Kanpur, Shri Ashraf Rizwan, Managing Director, Mega Leather Cluster, Ramaipur, Kanpur

IFLADP package. He further stated that with this package leather industry will fly high and would be able to expand its potential and compete with its neighboring countries in international market. He added that at present the buying scenario of overseas buyers has changed and they have diversified from China to India. Therefore, it is good opportunity for Indian leather industry to grab the business avenues of international market.



Shri Mukhtarul Amin, Chairman, Mega Leather Cluster, Kanpur interacting with press/media persons at the press conference.

In addition, Shri Mukhtarul Amin apprised that Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) has started functioning of an international level testing laboratory in KLC Complex, Banthar, Unnao which would be a major support for the industry to get their product samples tested done in KLC - Unnao instead sending to other destinations. With this lab, industry is getting testing facilities within region which will save time and money and most importantly will ensure product quality.

Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE welcomed all distinguished press/media personal for joining the session. He extended special thanks to Shri Yogi Adityanath ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for his personal involvement and persistent efforts towards getting approval of Mega Leather Cluster, Ramaipur, Kanpur. With such support, Kanpur leather industry will be able to expand its potential at larger scale and enhance its reach at national and international level. It will be helpful in generating additional employment into this sector.

The core objective of the IFLDP package is to enable creation of world class infrastructure to cater the domestic and export market.

The IFLDP consists following six sub-schemes:

- (1) Mega Leather, Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development (MLFACD) - Outlay Rs.300 Crores
- (2) Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS) - Outlay Rs.500 Crores
- (3) Sustainable Technology and Environmental Promotion (STEP) - Outlay Rs.500 Crores
- (4) Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather & Footwear Sector - Outlay Rs.100 Crores



Shri R. K. Jalan, Vice Chairman, CLE interacting with the press/media persons at the press conference.

(5) Development of Design Studios - Outlay Rs.100 Crores

(6) Establishment of Institutional Facilities - Outlay Rs.200 Crores

It was apprised that approval of Mega Leather Cluster, Ramaipur, Kanpur will play significant role in development of infrastructure, addressing environment concerns which will strengthen Kanpur cluster in boosting exports, facilitate further investments and additional employment generation opportunities in the leather sector in order to further glorify its position on the global map of international trade, foreign exchange earnings for the nation and overall promotion of leather and leather products.

Proposed Components in the MLFAC:

- CETP with solid waste management system
- Developed industrial plots for integrated tanneries, footwear, accessories and components manufacturing companies
- Flatted factory complex for small units
- Leather products design studio
- Leather testing lab
- Skilling, up-skilling and Reskilling Centre
- Auditorium and Display Centre
- Administrative building
- Electric substation
- Fire station
- Other common facilities and infrastructure -Custom Stations for clearance of the goods.

Expected Outcomes from MLC, Ramaipur, Kanpur

- Employment generation 200000 as per Government estimation in MLC.

- Total cost of MLC 451 Cr
- CETP at MLC with estimated cost of Rs. 435 Cr with 200 Cr grant from DPIIT, Government of India
- Total investment in this cluster 13000 Cr.
- Total production once operational 18 to 20000 Cr.

Kanpur leather industry is growing substantially and giant overseas manufacturers are looking forward to invest in the leather industry. Southern Region already has a cluster and now we are looking for developing MLC in Northern India. In the proposed MLC there would be 200 plots and 100 flatted factories.

Kanpur leather fraternity is highly thankful to the Government of India for creation of new sub-scheme i.e. Development of Design Studios with proposed outlay Rs. 100 crore under IFLADP. This is a new sub-scheme under which assistance would be provided to develop 10 Indian design studio. The studios will promote marketing, export linkages, facilitates buyer- seller meets, display designs to international buyers and work as interface for the trade fairs. Design Studios will be kind of 'one-stop- shop' providing a wide range of services including design, technical support, quality control etc.

In line of above, it is glad to communicate that we are planning to develop one design studio in KLC Complex, Unnao which would help



View of interaction at the Press Conference

us becoming self-reliant in product designing. At present industry is lacking in the developing new designs due to improper infrastructure support. This scheme will prove a milestone for leather industry to develop their own design and sell in international market to get better prices for our products and thereby compete international market.

We are also pleased to inform about Opening of New Training Center of Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI) in KLC Complex, Banthar, Unnao. The MSME - Technology Development Centre (CFTI) at Agra and Chennai are become leading educational centre for shoe training in India. The resource which CFTI offered for the footwear and allied industry is appreciable. Through designing and manufacturing of footwear using latest technology and different training programmes will help in further strengthening skill of the manpower including supervisors.

This Mega Leather Cluster will be extraordinary benefits and will pave the way of unprecedented growth of the Kanpur leather industry including Tannery, Footwear, Leather Goods, Leather Garments, Leather Gloves and Saddlery & Harness. This will strengthen to the Kanpur leather industry in achieving the export target and employment generation. Upon functioning of MLC at Kanpur the annual export performance from region will reach to Rs. 10000 cr.

The press conference ended with formal vote of thanks by dignitaries.

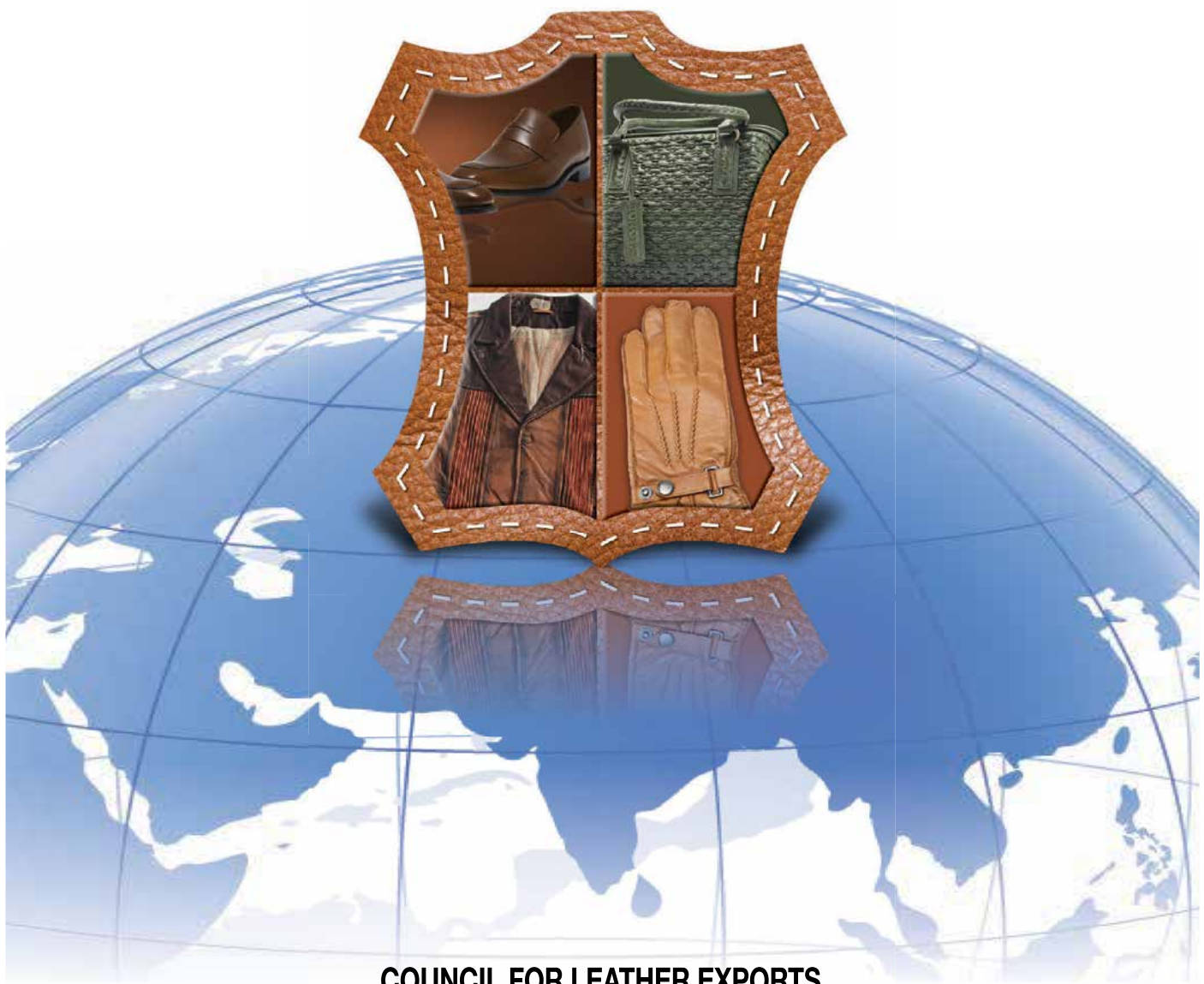


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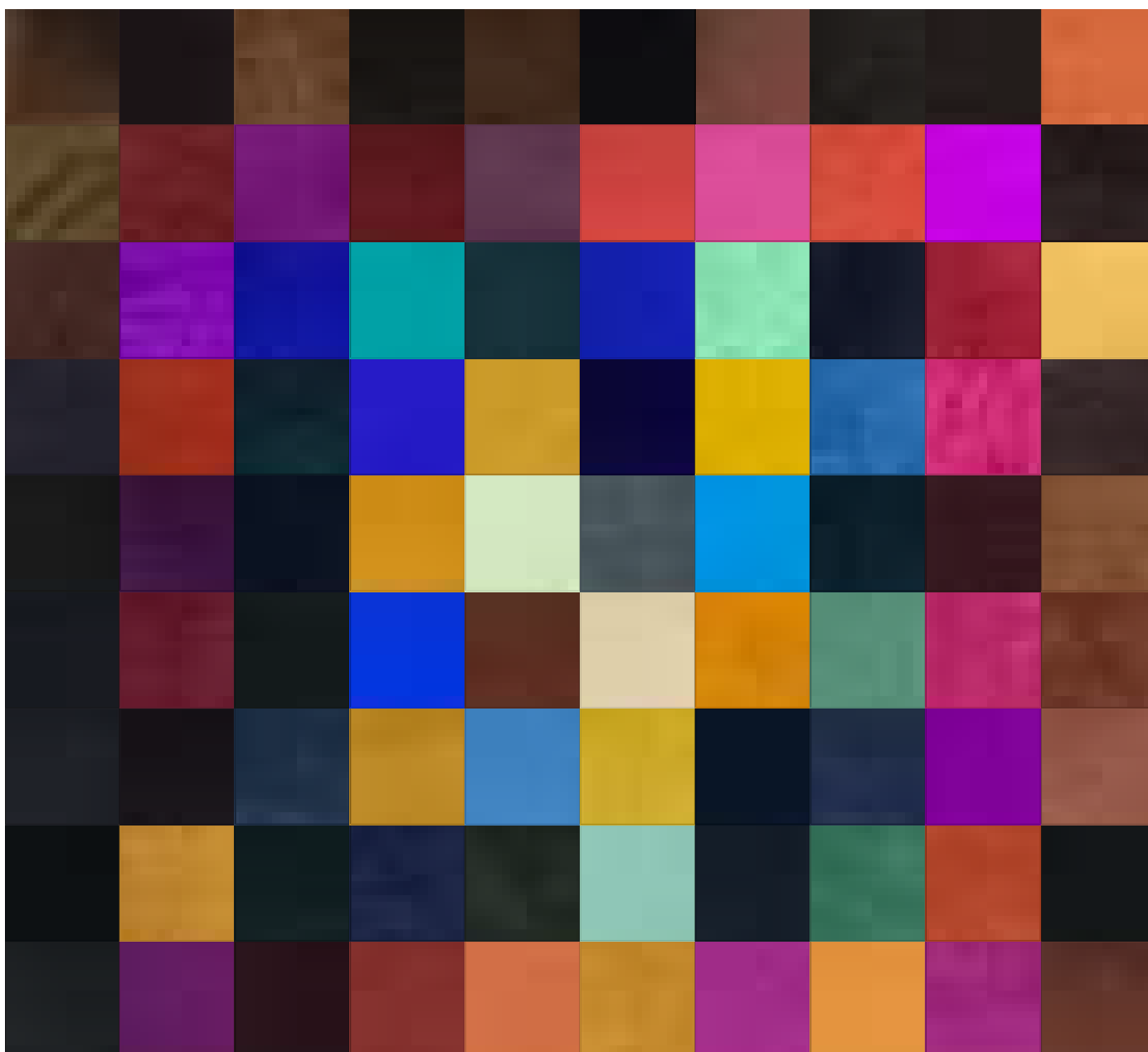
Regional Offices : • New Delhi - cleldelhi@cleindia.com • Kanpur - cleknp@cleindia.com • Kolkata - cleer@cleindia.com • Mumbai - cleb@cleindia.com

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