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- **Board of Trade Meeting held on 13th September 2022 at New Delhi**
- **38th Annual General Meeting of Council for Leather Exports Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, Sept. 28, 2022**

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS

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

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5 Chairman Column

6 From the Editor

7 National

- Board of Trade Meeting held on 13th September 2022 at New Delhi
- Meetings
- 38th Annual General Meeting of Council for Leather Exports
- Launching of SCALE app of Leather Sector Skill Council
- 6th Edition of India International Footwear Fair (IIF 2022), Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, September 1-3, 2022
- International Trade Settlements in Indian Rupees
- Rupee Outlook for October 2022
- Monthly currency Outlook Forecast Report

30 International

- Colours of India – Gearing for Spring Summer 2024 season
- Lineapelle, Edition 100 Color Rush, Green Power and Glam Grandezza

38 Regional

- Workshop on Government and Financial Support Schemes for the Leather and Footwear Clusters on Monday, 5th September, 2022
- Interactive Meeting at Vaniyambadi, Sept. 8, 2022
- CLE Membership Drive in Southern Region
- CLE New Membership at Dharavi, Mumbai
- Visit to Bhiwadi, Rajasthan on 6th September, 2022
- CLE Visit to Udaipur for Membership Mobilization Activities on September 23-24, 2022
- CLE Visit to Jodhpur for membership mobilization activities on 27th September 2022
- District Conclave on “Investment Promotion, Export, Ease of Doing Business and One District One Product” held at Mumbai during 28-29 September 2022
- CLE Open House Meetings / Webinars on IDLS Sub-Scheme under IFLDP held every Wednesday, via virtual mode

Dear Members

Exports from our sector have been registering significant growth this year. Continuing this trend, export from footwear and leather sector increased to US \$ 2377.34 Mn during April – Aug. 2022 as against US \$ 1831.35 Mn in April-August 2021, recording growth of 29.81%. If the sector is able to achieve 25% export growth, exports will reach USD 6 billion this year as against the target of USD 5.34 billion set by Dept. of Commerce.

As I had stated in my earlier columns, the shift in sourcing pattern in the global market has opened up a window of opportunities for us in the long term, though we are currently facing challenges due to market slowdown. We need to utilise these opportunities by consolidating our traditional strengths of huge raw material base & manpower availability and by undertaking innovative measures like product diversification, Design Development and Scaling-up of production.

The Government of India has been supporting our industry in a big way through several short term and long term programmes. The Government has been supporting our capacity modernization and capacity expansion efforts through Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS) Scheme. I would urge all industry members to ensure optimum utilization of IDLS and also all sub- schemes under IFLDP programme. You are also aware that the Government has approved Mega Clusters in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal etc., These Mega Clusters will significantly boost our production capacities.

You are aware that the Government notified the free duty imports of notified inputs including wet blue leather, for exporters of Leather Garments, Footwear and Other Leather Products in Union Budget 2022-23 under Import of Goods at Concessional Rates of Duty (IGCR) Scheme. Since crust leather and finished leather were not included in the scheme, CLE submitted representations to Government requesting inclusion of finished and crust leathers and other critical inputs and also extending the scheme to finished leather exporters. However, because of cumbersome procedures involved in this scheme and also difficult conditions like 6 months time frame for re-export, non – specification of wastage etc., many exporters in the sector are unable to utilize the scheme. Considering this issue, we had submitted requests to the Government seeking re-instatement of import duty exemption on wet blue, crust and finished leathers. We had also sought replacement of the IGCR Scheme with the earlier Duty Free Import Scheme (DFIS) implemented as per provisions of erstwhile Serial Nos. 288, 311 and 312 of Customs Notification No. 50/2017 dated 30.6.2017, since this scheme enabled import of critical inputs without procedural hassles.

With best wishes

Sanjay Leekha

Chairman

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS



Dear Members

CLE has been pushing hard for the PLI scheme for the footwear and leather sector. The PLI proposal was formulated on the basis of extensive stakeholder consultations. We made a detailed presentations on the PLI proposal to Secretary, DPIIT on Sept. 5, 2022& Sept. 23, 2022 and to Niti Aayog on Sept. 24, 2022 wherein detailed justification on the need for PLI scheme for footwear and leather sector was presented. During our presentations, we highlighted that our sector has the potential to increase its turnover (Both domestic and exports) from the present USD 17 billion to about USD 47 billion by 2030. The PLI scheme is very much required to meet these envisaged turnover target by attracting domestic and overseas investments.

I hope that the Government will favourably consider the PLI proposal, as this will be a game changer for our industry .

In view of the Pandemic, many physical exhibitions were not held during 2021-22. On account of this, CLE could organize participation of members only in 4 physical events during 2021-22, which included Reverse BSM held in New Delhi. Nevertheless, CLE organized as many as 18 Virtual Business Meets during 2021-22 in close coordination with the concerned Indian Embassies abroad.

During the current year, CLE has planned more than 20 marketing events. The details of firmed-up marketing events along with circular containing fee details etc., are hosted in CLE website <https://leatherindia.org> under the title FARS & EVENTS. I would request members to extend their support to the market development efforts of CLE through their large scale participation in CLE events.

With best regards

R. Selvam IAS

Executive Director

COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS



Board of Trade Meeting held on 13th September 2022 at New Delhi



Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India addressing the august gathering during Board of Trade Meeting

First meeting of the newly constituted Board of Trade (BOT) was held on 13th September 2022 at The Ashok, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India. The Board of Trade Meeting focused on export target setting, new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2022-27 and the strategies and measures to be taken for growth of domestic manufacturing and exports. The Board of Trade, inter alia, advises the Government on policy measures connected with the Foreign Trade Policy in order to achieve the objectives of boosting India's trade.

BOT provides a platform to State

Governments and Union Territories for presenting state-oriented perspectives on Trade Policy. It also acts as a platform to Government of India for appraising State Governments and Union Territories about international developments affecting India's trade. It is an important mechanism for deliberations on trade related issues with industry bodies, associations, export promotion councils and state and UT governments.

Meeting started with the inaugural ceremony attended by the following Ministers and Government officials:

- 1) Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles
- 2) Shri Som Prakash, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry
- 3) Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry
- 4) Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, Commerce Secretary, Department of Commerce
- 5) Shri Tarun Bajaj, Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance
- 6) Shri Santosh Sarangi, Director General of Foreign Trade
- 7) Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Secretary, Department of Financial Services
- 8) Shri Rajiv Talwar, Member Customs, CBIC

The meeting was attended by various State Ministers and other senior officials of key line ministries and States, all major trade and industry bodies, Export Promotion Councils and industry associations. Also, there were 29 new non-official members who were invited for the first time in BOT Meeting.

Shri R.K. Jalan, Vice-Chairman, Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director and Shri Atul Kumar Mishra, Regional Director – North were present from Council for Leather Exports.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India addressed the august gathering in his opening remarks at the meeting. He conveyed that exports have been one of the most defining features of the government's efforts to make India a developed country by 2047, a vision articulated by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, in his address to the nation this year on Independence Day. He further conveyed that global confidence in India's prospects for growth were truly immense and called on the domestic industry to overcome all weaknesses when it comes to grabbing the plethora of growth opportunities available to the nation.

Shri Piyush Goyal highlighted that in the last few years there has been an attempt for foundation transformation in India which has hastened India's march to be a developed nation. He added that there is a need to find ways to encourage people to comply and bring in transparency and ease of doing business. He announced during the meeting that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will release the Logistics Policy on 17th September 2022.

He further stressed on the need to enter into more FTAs with developed



View of august gathering during the meeting



Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, Commerce Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India giving address during the meeting

nations and urged participants of the Board of Trade meeting to focus on the possibilities each sector has in FTAs.

Concluding his address, he conveyed that all the issues raised by the participants will be addressed and the suggestions made by them in the today's meeting will be considered.

During the Board of Trade meeting, presentations were made on a variety of subjects such as India's Import/Export Performance, restructuring of Department of Commerce, FTAs and way forward, States export performance, District as Export Hubs, new proposed Foreign Trade Policy, trade remedial, trade facilitation measures undertaken by customs, Government e-Marketplace, etc.



Presentations being made during the Board of Trade Meeting

Ministers from states made interventions in the meeting, giving their state-specific suggestions and also expressed their support to the central government initiatives in promoting the external trade.

Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Vice – Chairman, CLE participated in the Board of Trade meeting and presented the requests concerning footwear and leather sector.

Meeting ended with a formal vote of thanks.

MEETINGS

CLE Presentation on PLI to Shri Anurag Jain, Secretary, DPIIT and Niti Aayog



CLE made a presentation to Shri Anurag Jain, Secretary ,DPIIT on 5.9.22 on Larger Vision for footwear & leather industry, Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI_ & optimum utilisation of IFLDP. Shri R.K.Jalan,Vice – Chairman, CLE; Shri P.R.Aqeel Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE; Shri R.Selvam,,ED, CLE & institutions & associations attended.

Subsequently, CLE again made an updated presentation on PLI to Secretary, DPIIT on 23.9.22 and to Niti Aayog on 24.9.22.

Pre budget Consultation meeting chaired by Shri Anil Aggarwal,Additional DGFT



Shri Anil Aggarwal, Additional DGFT chaired a meeting on pre budget proposals of CLE for FY 2023-24 on 6.10.22 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE and Shri R Selvam, ED CLE presented the proposals of Footwear and Leather sector.

Meeting with Additional Secretary, DPIIT



Shri R Selvam ED, CLE had a meeting with Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur, Additional Secretary , DPIIT Govt of India on 20th Sept 2022 at Vaniya Bhawan, New Delhi and discussed CLE PLI proposal for Footwear & Leather Sector of India.

CLE MOU with Ministry of MSME



Shri R Selvam , ED, CLE exchanged an MOU with Smt. Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi on 20.9.22 for CLE to be implementing Agency for Capacity Building of First Time MSE Exporter (CBFTE) component under International Co-operation scheme.

Meeting with Shri Anil Aggarwal, Additional DGFT



Shri R Selvam IAS, ED CLE called on Shri Anil Aggarwal, Additional DGFT at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi on Sept 5, 2022 to discuss the matter related to PLI for footwear and leather sector.

Meeting with Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur, Additional Secretary , DPIIT



Shri R Selvam ED, CLE had a meeting with Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur, Additional Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Govt of India on 20th Sept 2022 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi and discussed CLE PLI proposal for Footwear & Leather Sector of India.

38th Annual General Meeting of Council for Leather Exports Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, Sept. 28, 2022



Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, CLE delivering his speech at AGM

The 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council for Leather Exports was held on Wednesday, the 28th September, 2022 at Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai

In all 46 Members of the Council were in attendance.

Shri Sanjay Leekha, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports took the Chair to conduct the proceedings of the meeting and called the meeting to order at 11.30 am after ascertaining that the required quorum was present.

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the Members and read out his Speech at the AGM highlighting the various activities undertaken and achievements made by the Council

during the year 2021-22. The brief highlights of the Chairman's speech are given below

Export Performance : The changing sourcing pattern since the outbreak of the Pandemic has opened-up a window of opportunities for us, which is already reflected in our growth in exports. We were able to significantly increase our exports from USD 3.68 billion in 2020-21 to USD 4.87 billion in 2021-22. Exports are showing very good growth this year, with exports increasing from USD 1.40 billion in April – July 2021 to USD 1.90 billion in April – July 2022, growing by more than 35%. Even with 25% export growth this year, we will be able to cross the USD 6 billion mark exports this year thereby surpassing the export target of USD 5.54 billion.

Policy announcements: During the year 2021-22, two major announcements on policy and procedures were made. One was the removal of requirement of animal quarantine clearance for import of all types of processed and finished leathers under HS codes 4104 to 4115 notified Vide Notification S.O. 4953 (E), dated 2nd December, 2021 of Dept. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The other was the extension of interest equalization on rupee export credit for the period October 1, 2021 till March 31, 2024, with 3 per cent equalization for MSME manufacturer exporters exporting under any HS lines and 2 per cent for manufacturer exporters and merchant exporters exporting under

410 HS lines, including all categories of footwear, leather goods under 4201 & 4205.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) : CLE has been requesting for PLI scheme for the footwear and leather sector. The PLI proposal was formulated by CLE on the basis of extensive stakeholder consultations. CLE has made detailed presentations on the PLI proposal to Government and it is hoped that the Government will favourably consider the PLI proposal, as this will be a game changer for our industry and will significantly boost national and overseas investments in the sector.

Duty Free Scheme : Many exporters are unable to avail duty free benefits for Import of inputs/ components under Concessional Rates of Duty Scheme (IGCR) announced for exporters of leather garments, footwear and other leather products in Union Budget 2022 -23, due to conditions like re-export within 6 months, non specification of wastage etc., Hence, we would request for modifying the scheme on the lines of Duty Free Import Scheme (DFIS) implemented prior to Union Budget 2022-23

Standard Input Output Norms (SION) : The office of DGFT has asked the Council to re-work its SION proposals with proper justification and data. We are working in this regard in co-ordination with CLRI and will accordingly submit the revised SION proposal to DGFT shortly.

RODTEP : CLE had submitted detailed proposal seeking enhancement of RODTEP rates and also fixation of uniform rates for footwear. The revised rates are expected to be notified shortly.

Finished Leather Norms : In order to look into the issue of Finished Leather Norms, I have



Shri M. Mohamed Hashim, Founder Chairman, CLE ; (Centre) along with Dr. M. Rafeeqe Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE (left) and Shri P.R.Aqeel Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE (right)

formed a Finished Leather Norms Committee with Shri N. Shafeeq Ahmed as Convenor. The Committee has given its recommendations. We are examining the recommendations and will take-up appropriately with the Government.

Animal Quarantine clearance: Though the Animal Quarantine clearance requirement for all types of wet blue, crust and finished leathers were removed in Dec. 2021, the Customs software has not been updated. CLE has been consistently following-up this issue with the Single Window Commissionerate in Customs, who had taken-up this issue with the ICEGATE team. I hope that this issue will be resolved soon.

EU GSP Suspension : The European Union (EU) has announced GSP suspension for leather products under Chapter 42 and fur & fur products under Chapter 43 for the period Jan. 1, 2023 to Dec. 1, 2023. CLE has taken-up this



issue with the Government and has submitted a detailed representation to Dept. of Commerce seeking to take-up the request or revoking this GSP suspension.

Marketing : In view of the Pandemic, many physical exhibitions were not held during 2021-22. On account of this, CLE could organize participation of members only in 4 physical events during 2021-22, which included Reverse BSM held in New Delhi. Nevertheless, CLE organized as many as 18 Virtual Business Meets during 2021-22 in close coordination with the concerned Indian Embassies abroad. Besides, CLE also organized 5 market related webinars and 13 knowledge series webinars on various topics during 2021-22.

Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP): The Government has notified the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) with an outlay of Rs. 1700 Crores for 5 years period 2021-26. Applications for various sub-schemes of IFLDP have to be submitted through National Single Window System (NSWS). CLE has followed-up with

CLE National Export Award : You are aware that the Council distributes National Export Awards every year to member-companies for Excellent Export Performance in respect of Overall Exports and in different products. The National Export Award ceremony for 2019-20 and 2020-21 was held on 17th November 2021 in New Delhi. A total of 50 awards for 2019-20 and 46 awards for 2020-21 were presented by CLE.

In his speech, the Chairman also acknowledged the support and cooperation of all the five Regional Chairmen, former Chairmen and made special thanks to Shri Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Vice-Chairman, Shri R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director,



CLE. The Chairman also thanked all the officials of CLE for their support to Council for Leather Exports.

Thereafter, the Chairman requested Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE to read the notice of the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Director read out the notice of the 38th Annual General Meeting.



Shri R. Selvam, Executive Director, CLE reading the AGM notice

Thereafter the specific agenda items were taken up for consideration in seriatim.

Item No.1: To receive, consider & adopt the audited Balance Sheet as at 31-03-2022 and Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31-03-2022 along with report of the Auditors thereon

Shri Md. Yousuf, Managing Director of Hijaz Kuroda Gloves Pvt. Ltd., Chennai proposed the adoption of the Audited Balance Sheet as at 31-03-2022 and the Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31-03-2022 along with report of the Auditor's thereon and Shri A.G. Naser Ahmed, Managing Director of Naser Tanning Company, Chennai seconded the above proposal.

On being put to vote the same was unanimously approved by the Members present at the meeting.

Dr. M. Rafeeqe Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE enquired about the income and expenditure details of CLE. Chairman, CLE and ED, CLE replied accordingly. Shri P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, Former Chairman, CLE also spoke about income and expenditure details of CLE.

Item No.2: To receive, consider & adopt the report of the Committee of Administration for the year 2021-22

Shri G. Mohamed Jahan, Partner, Jahan Leather Exports, Chennai proposed the adoption of Report of the Committee of Administration for the year 2021-22 and Shri A.R.Senthil Kumar, Partner, Rathnam Leathers, Chennai seconded the above proposal. Thereafter the General Body unanimously adopted and approved the same.

Item No.3: To appoint an auditor / auditors for the Council for the year 2021-22 and fix their remuneration.

Shri N. Shafeeq Ahmed, Managing Director, Shafeeq Shameel & Co., Chennai proposed that M/s. Sree Sessa & Ravi, Chartered Accountants, Chennai be appointed as Auditor of the Council for the year 2022-23 with a Honorarium of Rs.75,000/- and also proposed the following panel of auditors as standby arrangement.

1.M/s. VDSR & Co. LPP, Chartered Accountants, Chennai

2.M/s G.Venkatesh & Co., Chartered Accountants, Chennai

3.M/s V.P. Raju & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai



Shri Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman (South), CLE proposing Vote of Thanks

Shri Dhaneekula Vasudeva Rao, Managing Director, Prara Leathers, Chennai seconded the above proposal. Thereafter, the General Body unanimously approved appointment of auditors for the Council for the year 2022-23 and authorized the Council to move to Department of Commerce for seeking concurrence as per Articles 64 of AoA of CLE. The Auditor's Honorarium has been fixed at Rs.75,000/- plus applicable GST at the aforesaid meeting.

Item No.4: To re-constitute the Committee of Administration as per provisions of Article 15 and 16 of Articles of Association

Shri M. Khaleelur Rahman, Managing Director, Nibras Shoes Pvt. Ltd., Chennai proposed the following resolutions

RESOLVED THAT the Committee of Administration be reconstituted with the newly elected members and Government nominees in accordance with the Article 15 and 16 of Articles of Association of Council for Leather Exports

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the present Committee of Administration be and is hereby authorized to continue and empowered to function and discharge its powers till June 17, 2023 or till the new Committee is reconstituted at the 38th AGM (Adjourned) whichever later.

Shri M. Paranthaman, Sriswathy Exports, Chennai seconded the above resolutions.

Thereafter, the General Body unanimously adopted the above resolutions

Shri Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman (South), CLE proposed Vote of Thanks

The Chairman informed that the official business of the 38th Annual General Meeting is concluded.

Leather Sector Skill Council launched SCALE Studio Android App for Online learning of DIY Leather Craft under Skill India Mission



In an endeavour to provide a platform to facilitate online delivery of DIY (Do it Yourself) skill development programs, the Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) launched the Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees (SCALE) Studio android app. Operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), LSSC is committed to strengthen its digital capabilities on quality assurance across training delivery, facilitate learning and acquiring skills through online learning synonymous with assessments.

The android app was launched on 20th September 2022 by Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship at an event organized by LSSC that witnessed participation of Shri. L. Murugan Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and

Dairying, Mr. P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, Chairman, LSSC, Mr. Ved Mani Tiwari COO and officiating CEO of NSDC, Dr. K.J. Sreeram, Director CLRI, Mr. Habib Hussain, Chairman CLRI Research Council and Mr. Rajesh Rathnam, CEO, LSSC.

This online live studio is a state of the art facility to Conceptualize, Design, Develop, Prototype and learn to make Footwear and Fashion products. The classes are captured by using a multi-cam set up for a 360 degree immersive learning experience.

Aspiring learners like students at schools and colleges, housewives, working professionals can learn the art of making footwear and fashion products by logging into the Design Studio through the Scale India Android app. The learners will be assessed and certified by Leather Sector Skill Council.

The studio works round the clock hosting various sessions by experts from the industry.

People now are more aware about the latest fashion trends and products than before, leading to a growing demand for exclusive bespoke products catering to their needs. The pandemic has created a desire in many people to learn new hobbies and DIY crafts.

The Do-It-Yourself (DIY), Direct-to-Customer (D2C) and the bespoke sectors are growing, and it caters to exclusive consumers, leading to a demand for a highly creative micro-entrepreneur talent pool. The SCALE Studio fulfils this need for the growth of these sectors.



6th Edition of India International Footwear Fair (IIFF 2022)

PragatiMaidan, New Delhi, September 1-3, 2022



From (L-R) Col. Pushpam Kumar, OSD, ITPO, Shri B.K. Dubey, G.M., ITPO, Shri Vibhu Nayar, Executive Director, ITPO, Shri Vijay Sampla, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Schedule Castes, Shri Raj Kumar Gupta, President, CIFI, Shri V. Noushad, Vice-President, CIFI & Shri R.P. Jindal, Member, CIFI

The 6th edition of India International Footwear Fair (IIFF) Delhi was held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from September 1-3, 2022. This event was organized by India Trade Promotion Organization in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Footwear Industries with the support of the Council for Leather Exports, Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) and Indian Footwear Components of Manufacturers Association.

More than 150 exhibitors participated in the fair and it displayed the entire range of products related to footwear and leather industries. These included footwear, raw material, finished leather- shoe components, uppers, soles, heels, counters, lasts, synthetic material, footwear machinery and equipment, process technology,

software, chemicals and publications. The fair reflected advancement in technology, design and information sciences which enable modernization of manufacturing units, eco- friendly technology and optimization of resources.

Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and Shri Javed Iqbal, Central Regional Chairman, CLE also attended as a Guest of Honour and represented Council for Leather Exports.

The Fair was inaugurated on 1st September, 2022 by Shri Vijay Sampla, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Schedule Castes. During the inaugural ceremony, Shri Vibhu Nayar, Executive Director, ITPO, Shri B.K. Dubey, General Manager, ITPO, Shri Raj Kumar Gupta, President, CIFI, Shri V. Noushad, Vice-President, CIFI, Col. Pushpam Kumar, OSD, ITPO, were also present.

Shri Raj Kumar Gupta, President, CIFI in his key note address greeted Shri Vijay Sampla, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Schedule Castes, dignitaries at dais and the august gathering for their presence at the inaugural session of the 6th Edition of India International Footwear Fair, 2022.

Further he elaborated about the footwear industry that, approximately 1200 Crore to 13 Crore pairs of footwear are produced all over the world, however India produces only 230 Crore to 300 Crore of pairs of footwear whereas

China comparatively produces 650 Crores pairs of footwear. On the behalf of CIFI, a research was conducted by agency to compile the Footwear data of India which is called as “Vision 2030” that revealed a very interesting about India’s production of footwear. It will be increase by 3 times by 2030, i.e. India will produce 600 to 800 crore pairs of footwear and we would be able to compete with China by producing relatively more footwear.

He also thanked Government for announcement of cluster will serve the Industries by creating facilities & amenities. This will help especially to MSMEs which has the potential to generate employment and revenue for the governments.

Shri Vibhu Nayar, Executive Director, ITPO in his address conveyed that as per the study conducted by CIFI India will compete with China by the year 2030, and he is very positive to know about this. He also informed that, he began his career from Vellore (Tamil Nadu) and was personally involved in the project investment of UNDP with respect to Leather & Footwear Industry; therefore, he understands the nitty-gritty of this industry.

He informed that ITPO is a premier trade promotion agency of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and is committed to showcase excellence achieved by the country in diverse fields especially in trade and commerce. Various initiatives have been taken by ITPO to establish Trade Fair Complexes and Convention Centers at Kolkata, Bhopal and Srinagar in close association by the State Governments and Industrial Development Corporations/Boards of the States. He conveyed that ITPO is grateful to CIFI for providing support in organizing IIFF 2022 at such a big scale. In the future ITPO will look forward for such support for making IIFF a grand success.



Shri Raj Kumar Gupta, President, CIFI i



Shri Vibhu Nayar, Executive Director, ITPO

Shri Vijay Sampla, Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) - conveyed that Footwear Industry is amongst the “engines of growth” and has a huge potential of employment generation and exports.



Shri Vijay Sampla, Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)

Footwear Sector is a labour intensive industry which can provide substantial employment to locals as well as to the migrant workers. Therefore, this is the sector which can empower people in reducing poverty, social and economic upliftment.

He emphasized that more manpower should be skilled by utilizing several scheme benefits launched by Government of India to meet the demand of Leather & Footwear Industry.

He conveyed that India will soon become global hub for manufacturing of footwear to cater to growing demand. The government of India is formulating a strategy for greater coordination with States as well as trade bodies for global promotion of India's footwear industry.

Shri Vijay Sampala assured that Government of India will extend all possible support to the footwear industry. He concluded his speech by



Shri Vijay Sampala, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Schedule Castes with the dignitaries.

wishing the exhibitors all the success for growth and development in the business.

Subsequent to the inaugural session, Hon'ble Chairman, National Commission for Schedule Castes (NCSC) along with Shri R.K. Gupta, President, CLE, Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE and Shri Javed Iqbal, Central Regional Chairman, CLE took a round of the fair and showed his keen interest in a wide range of products including footwear, machinery, equipment, technology, accessories, components and chemicals.





Shri Raj Kumar Gupta, President CIFI, Shri Motilal Sethi, NRC, CLE, Shri Javed Iqbal, CRC, CLE visiting the booths at the fair ground

CLE Information Booth

The Council for Leather Exports had an information booth in the fair in which publications of CLE including Directory of Members of CLE, Facts and Figures of Export of Leather and Leather Products were displayed. Besides, the brochure on Indian leather industry, brochure on benefits available on becoming a CLE member. The CLE booth was attractively designed with display of product posters.

Shri Atul Kumar Mishra, Regional Director along with Shri Asif Eqbal Khan, EPO, Shri Laiq Ahmed, AEPO, CLE & Ms. Surbhi Mathur, AEPO, CLE personally visited booths and interacted with the exhibitors. The various activities of CLE were briefed to the exhibitors and non-members were also urged to become members of CLE. The event provided an opportunity to CLE to give wide publicity to its core activities among the domestic footwear segment.



Shri R.K. Gupta, President, CIFI, Shri Motilal Sethi, Northern Regional Chairman, CLE & Shri Javed Iqbal, Central Regional Chairman, CLE visited the CLE information booth



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International Trade Settlements In Indian Rupees(INR)

By Himesh Shah - Partner – Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP - 9819095511

WHY DID RBI HAVE TO TAKE THIS STEP

The instructions for Rupee Invoicing has always been there but not utilized so far as the conditions never demanded it. We did have arrangements with Iran (the UCO route) where the settlements were done in Rupees. There was earlier an arrangement with Soviet Union in which Rupee was utilized as settlement currency. The current circumstances in which there have been the economic sanctions on some countries mostly by West has made it difficult for India to trade with these countries as \$ is the major de-facto currency in which settlements are done. When the West imposed sanctions on Russia the US had actually locked out Russia from accessing its dollar deposits/Reserves. Under such circumstances when Russia gave us oil at discounted rates, we must have settled the transactions using Rupee/Rouble/Yuan thus avoiding the dollar leg. The circular from RBI says it will be applicable to all countries with whom India Trades. RBI has not only formalized the existing instructions but has added one more instruction to it that the transactions can be done in modes other than SWIFT which clearly indicates the purpose for which it has been done. This could in future allow internationalization of Rupee which may be a long driven process as it would take time for countries to accept the Rupee as a settlement currency like dollar. China started the process in 2009 but has still not been able to make Yuan as the International settlement currency.

WHAT PROBLEMS DOES ONE ENVISAGE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE SETTLEMENTS IN INR

1. Most currencies are pegged to the dollar as it is the main currency in which at least 70-80% of settlement is made. It is well accepted throughout the world. Most commodities prices are in dollar thus making it difficult in buying these commodities in any other way. An example is the petro dollar.
2. Rupee is a depreciating currency and those holding rupees will face its depreciating mode and thus its acceptability could be a question mark. For currency to be acceptable its attractiveness is very important. The concerned country needs to own the INR and presently INR is not one which countries would like to own except under distress circumstances.
3. At present Rupee cannot be traded overseas so the Vostro account holder cannot convert it into another currency except during Indian Trading time.
4. Apart from invoicing dollar is the dominating currency for the International Credit Market. Most ECB's, Buyer's Credit and Corporate Debt taken in India are denominated in \$.
5. Our CAD and BOP are very volatile and occasionally go beyond the level of sustainability because of our overdependence on oil, certain commodities on other countries. In 2013 during the taper tantrum and high oil prices our CAD/GDP ratio was as high as 4.9%. Even now in 2022 our CAD which was positive in June-2021 has turned negative and the ratio could go to as high as 3-3.5% mainly due to high oil prices and the Russia-Ukraine War.
6. The macro parameters of the concerned country will also have to be checked for eg. Whether we want to deal with a country like Sri Lanka under the present circumstances.
7. The RBI has allowed investment in G Secs of the surplus rupee funds in the Vostro Account. However, all the Rupee funds cannot be invested in G Secs and we need to have a properly developed Corporate Bond Market for the same which we have not been able to develop since 1987.
8. When INR is very resilient/appreciation mode then the importer of the goods need to cover it overseas for which a properly developed INR market is required.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF SETTLEMENT IN INR

1. The demand for dollar comes down and the depreciation in rupee which keeps happening on different events will come down.
2. We do not have to lock funds in keeping \$ reserves for such events.
3. The dependency on Swift will come down as there will be more than

one messaging system for sending messages.

4. We will be able to scale up our trade with such countries with whom we have such arrangements.
5. There will be a structural change in way trades are conducted Globally with more of Bilateral/Multilateral trades.
6. As dollar demand comes down cost of imports will also come down.
7. More stable Rupee means better CAD and BOP.

WHAT STEPS ARE REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN IN RESPECT OF SETTLEMENT IN INR

1. To start with Identification of countries who are having nearly the same amount of Exports and Imports so that risk in INR is minimized.
2. Incentives need to be given to the parties (exporters/importers) to do settlement in INR.
3. The instructions regarding existing incentives to continue to be given by DGFT/other concerned authorities.
4. All doubts raised by the concerned stakeholders to be solved so that the process could be started at the earliest.
5. Rupee to be made tradable outside India (Offshore market to be made vibrant)
6. Local bond market (particularly corporate bond market) to be made deep so that surplus Rupee funds from Vostro accounts could be invested in it.
7. Quick approvals of the Special Vostro accounts to be opened for this purpose.

IN BRIEF

EZOK launches first line of Men's Footwear in offline space

Amar Shoes & Leather Wears, a leading manufacturer of exclusive leather shoes announced the launch of their finest assortment of exquisite leather Men's Footwear in India under brand name EZOK.

Arvind Bajaj, Founder EZOK Shoes said "We recognize that there is a growing demand in the men's market for stylish, sustainable footwear. We see huge potential for our footwear brands growth in India — on a comparable trajectory to our export business. Just as we've pushed for a more sustainable future in export, we're proud to continue paving the way for sustainable innovation in our new venture." He added, "The core of the brand lies primitively in offering premium quality at economically pricing. The Indian consumer has a typical choice but craves a durable and quality product. It is probably the

right time to be in India and be a part of the India growth story. We are responsible manufacturer therefore we are sourcing materials locally from India however they adhere to REACH standards (an EU compliance) and internationally compliant norms. We launched our brand online earlier this year and have seen an excellent response and we are very confident that the collection will also be well received and appreciated by offline players. The brand is being produced at our own manufacturing units in Agra & Noida."

EZOK products are made with the same degree for detail as produced for leading global brands, using the finest materials and carries the unique craftsmanship of our manufacturing. The 150+ models offer everything that are high on style and that a quality focused individual would expect to add to their wardrobe. The collection is produced from the same high quality, premium leather and enhanced with the same seaming techniques that a premium product is made with.

The collection has been designed with a stylish language that has been carefully planned down to the smallest detail. The grand evening reception hosted 100 plus dealers and 30 plus influencers from across India. Today, EZOK presents itself as a leading manufacturer of men's shoes. EZOK Shoes will be available in India at MBO's, retail Chains and leading stores across India along with online platforms like Nykaa, Flipkart, Amazon, Ajio and Myntra etc. The collection encompasses Sneakers, Boots, moccasins, comfort, casuals, and dress shoes. The collection will be priced at a range starting at Rs 2,400 to Rs 3,999.

Rupee Outlook for October 2022

Rupee expected to trade within the wide range of 80.50-82.50 for October 2022.

by Anil Kumar Bhansali , Head of Treasury -Finrex Treasury Advisors

Dollar Index, Yuan as well as oil price movement, FII flows and RBI stance to maintain stability in Rupee will be closely observed.

USDINR posted monthly gains in a row since January and hit a new life-time high of 81.96 in September. YTD basis, it surged sharply by 9.4%, with a hike of 2.4% last month. Strength in US\$, weakness in Asian currencies, bets on aggressive rate hikes by Fed as well as other central banks globally, risk aversion in the markets global as investors worry over possible recession acted as a negative factor for Rupee.

Moreover, postpone entry of India to global bonds to next year, FII outflows, dollars buying by oil companies on dips and ongoing geopolitical worries also supported upside in the pair. But, RBI selling dollars at higher levels to protect sharp upside move and easing oil prices capped gains in USDINR.

Key triggers:

1) Geo-political issues: Investors will remain sensitive to any news regarding US-China tensions, Russia-Ukraine war crisis, Russia-Europe gas supply related updates and will react accordingly, thus affecting the market sentiments. Escalation in the situation will create volatility in the market.

2) Brent oil prices: Brent oil posted losses for fourth straight month in a row, down sharply by more than 10% and hit a 8-months low of \$83.71/bbl in September. It marked loss of 22% over July-September quarter.

3) FII flows: Domestic markets witnessed outflows in the month of September after experiencing the inflows of \$7.346 bn in the prior two months.

4) FX Reserves: FX reserves declined \$8.1 bn from prior week to \$537.52 bn for the week ended 23rd September, lowest since August 2020, when it was at \$ 535.25 bn.

5) Trade Balance: India's trade deficit in August 2022 stood at \$27.98 bn, with exports valued at \$33.92 bn, up 1.6% on year and imports at \$61.90 bn, surged 37.3% y/y.

EM currencies performance:

It is noteworthy that, on YTD basis (till Sept) Japanese Yen has depreciated sharply by 25.8% vs dollar, followed by South Korean won that depreciated by 21.2%. Chinese Yuan also weakened by 12% and DXY rallied more than 17% this year till Sept. RBI has closely monitored the FX market and tried its best by taking appropriate steps to maintain stability in Rupee. It only allowed the gradual depreciation in the currency. In order to do so RBI sold dollars at upper levels of the USDINR using its reserves when needed. RBI has also claimed that 67% depreciation in its reserves where due to revaluation due to fall in majors like EUR, GBP and JPY.

Currencies Performance (%chg)				
Currency Pairs	Sep-22	Jul-Sep 2022	Apr-Jun 2022	YTD (Jan-Sep 2022)
USDRUB	0.3	9.1	(33.6)	(21.1)
USDBRL	4.5	3.1	10.9	(2.8)
USDIDR	2.5	2.3	3.7	6.7
USDINR	2.4	3.0	4.2	9.4
USDMYR	3.6	5.2	4.8	11.3
USDCNY	3.3	6.2	5.6	12.0
USDZAR	6.1	11.5	11.5	13.9
USDTHB	3.7	7.4	6.1	14.0
USDPHP	4.5	6.9	6.3	15.2
US DOLLAR	2.3	7.1	6.5	17.2
USDKRW	7.3	11.8	6.0	21.2
USDJPY	4.1	6.6	11.6	25.8

RBI Policy:The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its September policy meet raised the repo rate by 50 bps to 5.9%.This is the fourth rate hike since May 2022, with total 190 bps rise. RBI left inflation forecast unchanged for the FY 2022-23 to 6.7%, with Q2 at 7.1%, Q3 at 6.5%, Q4 at 5.8% and Q1 FY24 at 5.0%. Real GDP growth projection is revised at 7% for 2022-23, with Q2 FY23 at 6.3%; Q3 at 4.6%; and Q4 at 4.6%. Real GDP growth for Q1 FY24 is projected at 7.2%.

FED Policy:

In September meeting, US Fed unanimously hiked interest rates by 75bps in line with market expectations to the range of 3.00%-3.25%. The officials signaled more large increases to come in new projections showing its policy rate rising to 4.4% by the end of this year before topping out at 4.6% in 2023 to battle continued strong inflation. Fed has so far raised rates by 300bps since March. US FOMC is scheduled to meet next on 1-2 November 2022, and is anticipated that the Fed could raise the interest rates. by 75 bps

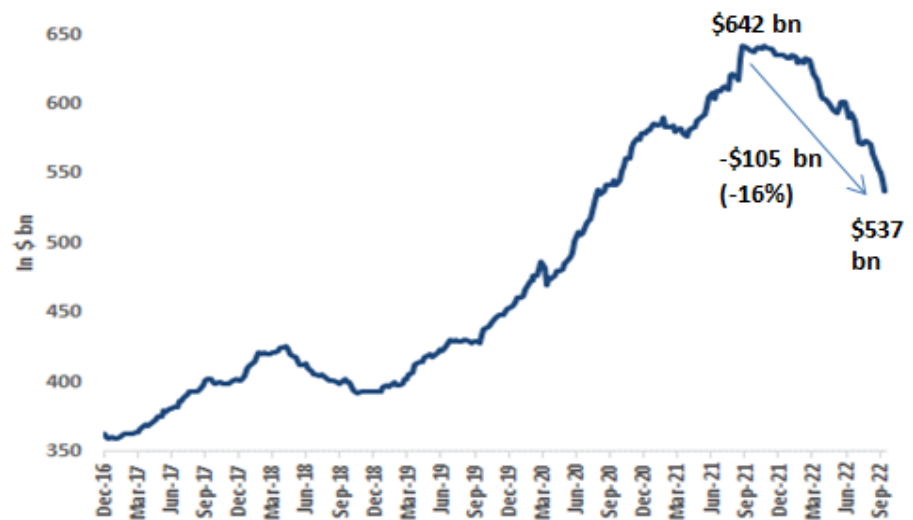
Notably, the gap between 2-year (CMP 4.28%) and 10-year (CMP 3.83%) Treasury notes yields on has been inverted for almost three months. This is the first significant deep yield curve inversion witnessed since 2006, thus seen as an indication of a looming recession.

FX Reserves:

Continuous fall is witnessed in India's FX reserves as the RBI sold dollars to defend the Rupee from falling in value and to curb excessive volatility in the exchange rate to maintain stability. India's FX reserves declined \$8.1 bn from prior week to \$537.52 bn for the week ended 23rd September, lowest since August 2020, when it was at \$ 535.25 bn. Reserves dropped sharply by more than 16% i.e. around \$105bn



FX reserves declined by \$26.5bn in Sep to stand at 2-years low



from a record high of \$642 bn touched in September 2021 to currently stand at \$537.52 bn. In September alone, reserves declined around \$26.5bn (till 23rd Sep) as RBI sold dollars to protect sharp depreciation in Rupee.

Outlook:

Key resistance is located at 82.00 and consistent trading above which 82.50-83.20 is expected. On downside, 81.20 is the strong support below which next support lies at 80.80-80.50.

The article is written by Mr. Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, has a rich experience of Banking and Foreign Exchange for the past 38 years. He was a Chief Dealer with an associate bank of SBI,

Important Levels			
Key Support	81.20	80.80	80.50
Key Resistance	82.00	82.50	83.20

Monthly Outlook Forecast Report

Article by Ritesh Victor-Co-Founder & Country Head- Myforexeye FintechPvt. Ltd.

USDINR

The September month resulted to be tough for the USDINR pair; it entered the month to trade at 79.52 and hovered over the 79 levels until the Fed interest rate hike decision came which was on the 21st Sep and a 75bps rate hike was forecasted. All the investors and market participants have their eyes on this event as it was very crucial for the pair's trading trajectory. After the forecasted 75bps interest rate hike the Rupee tremendously depreciated to open at 80.28 and since then it continued to depreciate even beyond the 81-mark and was about to touch the 82-mark when it went to trade for its all-time low of 81.95.

In order to save our currency from hitting the 82-level mark, RBI continuously intervened due to which our FX reserves have dropped to their all-time low at 537.52 Billion dollars. Another important event was the RBI interest rate hike which came to be the same as forecasted i.e. 50bps. After the announcement of the hike later in the trading session, the Rupee gained approximately about 35-40 paise to trade at 81.16. The Dollar index also went to trade at its all-time high of 114.78 but it also cooled down to end the month at 112.17. ISM Manufacturing PMI, JOLTs Job Openings (Aug), and Crude Oil Inventories are some of the important events in the upcoming week of October.

The Indian rupee is likely to remain volatile due to the strong dollar rally with the upward bias, risk aversion in the markets cautious traders. Recently on (30-Sep) RBI Monetary Policy Committee announced a 50bps rate hike after which the



interest rate climbed from 5.40% to 5.90%.

On the technical chart, the local unit started the month at 79.52 (1-Sep) but over the month rupee depreciated 2 rupees 43 paise and touched the USDINR (All-time high) at 81.95 (28-Sep). The pressure with a gap-up rally in the last week led the heavy FII outflows from the Indian market. Over the week (26-Sep to 30 Sep), the pair traded higher amid the local unit remains well placed compared to other Asian currencies like the Chinese Yuan and Korean won. As the dollar index cooled off and after the RBI MPC market expects a retracement in the USDINR pair in the next couple of trading sessions. RSI is in the oversold region above 70 along with expected divergence in the MACD and signal lines. As RBI defended the rupee on Friday session (30-Sep) with an immediate correction of (25-30) paise in the USDINR led to the low of 81.16 (30-Sep-22). We expect the USDINR trading range for the upcoming month will be (80.05-82).

EURUSD

EUR/USD pair saw a difficult start, falling to a fresh 22-year low of 0.9535 in the recent week. The pair, however, reversed course in the middle of the week, recording substantial gains before closing at approximately the 0.9780 mark. Official numbers made public on Friday show that consumer prices



in the Euro zone rose by a record 10% in September, with inflation reaching double digits as a result of skyrocketing energy costs brought on by Russia's conflict in Ukraine. Now that both German and Euro zone CPI have increased to 10% on an annual basis, which in theory should be positive for the euro, the ECB may be pushed to pursue even more aggressive rate hikes on October 27. Given the severity of the stagflation in the Euro zone and the significance of the energy crisis, there is a risk that the recession may deteriorate if the ECB starts a vigorous cycle of rate hikes.

This was the fourth straight month where Euro closed on a negative note and lost around 2.5%, Sellers remained heavy on the buyers since the start of month, although it also started to recover. It appears possible at this moment that the market is aiming for a quick comeback. Since there was a lot of buying near 0.95, that area appears to be a decent support for the pair. On the upside, the parity level would be a barrier because the 50-day moving average trades there. In the end, the market will be a little concerned because we were a little oversold. Although there may be a modest improvement, the European Union is still experiencing general difficulties, and the Federal Reserve is continuing to tighten policies on the other side, which could prove painful again for the pair. Momentum indicator MACD giving bullish signal while RSI trading in a slight oversold zone.

GBPUSD

The Sterling Pound started off the month trading at 1.1621 and drifted around these levels only till Sep 13th when it went on a high of 1.1738 but after that, it entered its downward trend to trade at its lowest level since 1985 at 1.1045 following the weaker business activity and composite PMI data. On Friday, The UK Finance



Minister, Kwasi Kwarteng, announced massive tax cuts that were financed by sharp increases in the country's borrowing. After which the GBPUSD pair holds off on further declines to an all-time low near 1.0382. The pair's decline contributed to the rise of the US Dollar Index (DXY) and pressure on the GBP/USD prices, along with other risk-averse factors and hawkish Fed comments. In doing so, the Cable pair sellers maintain their caution while holding out hope for a Bank of England (BOE) intervention after the markets slammed the British budget. The Bank of England declared that it would not think twice about changing interest rates and that it was "very intently" watching the markets. In the initial week of October, we have a few important events coming up like Manufacturing PMI (Sep), Composite PMI (Sep), Services PMI (Sep), and Labor Productivity as these can affect the ongoing trajectory of the cable pair.

The Relative Strength Index indicator on the daily chart climbed out of the oversold territory on Wednesday and edged higher towards 40, indicating that GBP/USD is currently in a recovery phase. On the upside, 1.1300 lies as per the Fibonacci 38.2% retracement of the latest downtrend, 20-day SMA aligns as initial resistance. In case the pair breaks above that level and starts using it as support, it could target 1.1460 as per Fibonacci 50% retracement and 1.1500 is the psychological level next. On the downside, the first support is located at 1.1050 of Fibonacci 23.6% retracement followed by 1.1000 is the psychological level and 1.0900 is the static level.

USDJPY

The USDJPY has advanced once more, reaching its 24-year high of 145.902 and ended the month at 144.748, up 4.17% from the previous month's close.



rates by 75 basis points, but the Bank of Japan kept its accommodative policy in place. The USDJPY pair is being impeded by the widespread risk-off environment, which is fueling mounting recession fears. In the coming week, investors will be paying close attention to the data on the ADP NFP Change, ISM Manufacturing PMI, Japanese Services PMI, and Household Spending.

The USDJPY started the month at 138.955 and the daily chart shows the pair moving in an upward trend. The focus will be on the strong resistant level of 145.902, if it surpasses the USJPY may reach new heights. We cannot rule out a decline in the pair as witnessed volatility in the previous weekly sessions. We may witness a major decline if the pair moves below the major support of the 140.35 level. The correction could touch the bottom at the 50-day Exponential Moving Average of 140.20. The MACD line and the signal line converge and may initiate a new trend. The pair ended the week at 144.748 showing price behavior is advanced in an upward direction. The Relative Strength Index has moved in an upward direction just on the top of its 7-day RSI's simple moving average indicating buying pressure.



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Leather News India

COLOURS OF INDIA – GEARING UP FOR SPRING SUMMER 2024

Colour Meetings of MODEUROP
(www.modeurop.com) and FASHION TREND POOL
(fashion-trend-pool.com) - Spring Summer 2024

The Modeurop Colour Club Conference S/S 2024 will be held on 10.10 – 11.10.2022 in Brüssels while the Fashion Trend Pool in Pirmasens during Oct . 25-26, 2022. In preparation for the Colour Meetings of both MODEUROP (www.modeurop.com) and FASHION TREND POOL (fashion-trend-pool.com); 16 Tanneries have developed 419 leather/ colour/ fabric proposals for presentation at these Colour Meetings.

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Metallic or shimmer. Elegant discretion. Leathers from TATA International, Dewas



Bio-inspired innovation. Products that will improve our well-being –Leathers from GOOD Leather Company, Ranipet



Smooth surfaces, soft, peach skin silken touch, playing on transparency. Sophisticated & Luxury—Leathers from KH Exports, Ranipet



Silks and glossy leathers. Exotic and exhilarating. Comfort & Elegance. Leathers from ATH Leder Fabrik, Melvisharam



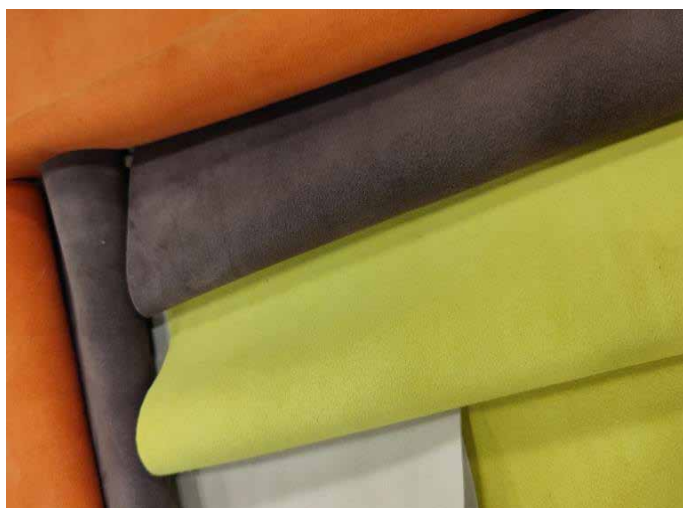
Individuality & Power. Youth is determined to change the world. Leathers from PAKKAR Export Co., Vaniyam, badi



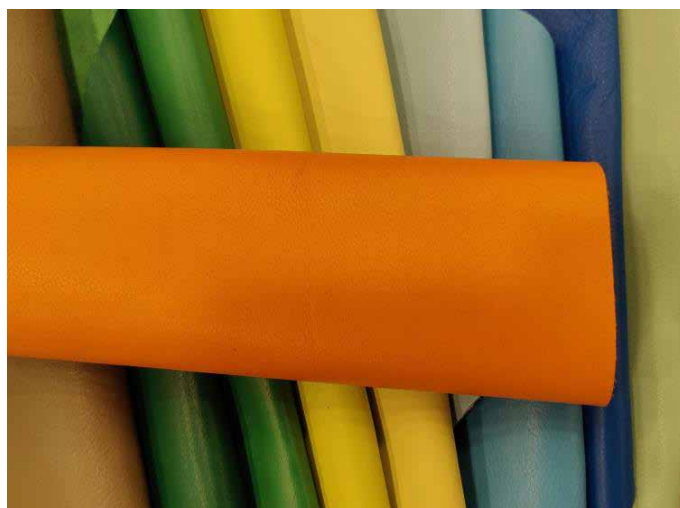
Subtlety. Gentle colours and suppleness. Leathers from CHENNAI LEATHER FASHIONS



Tech is going Romantic. Metallic and Shimmer. Leathers from STAR Exports, Chennai



Contemporary luxury. Colourful and sassy. Leathers from CHENITAN, Chennai



Leathers & Materials made to last. Tech is going romantic. Leathers from FLAMINGO Ssi, Ranipet



Team Design & Fashion Studio, CSIR-CLRI at the tanneries in ranipet & melvisharam finalizing the colours for Spring Summer 2024 season



Esthetics and decor. For the connoisseurs. Unique quality & functionality. Leathers from ALINA, Chennai



9 to 5s get a fresh new makeover. New age deco in a colour cocktail. Leathers from PA FOOTWEAR, Chennai



An eclectic mix via pastel tones. A varied collection of uniqueness. Leathers from RATHNAM Leathers, Chennai.



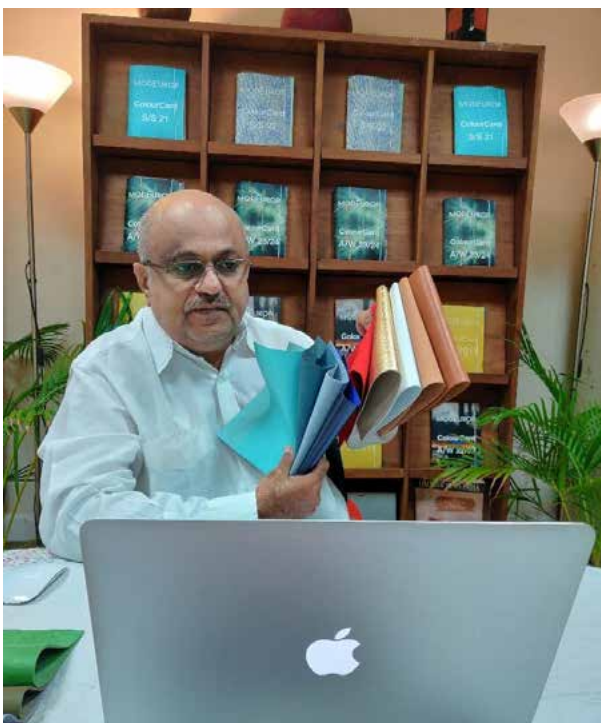
Celebrating Nature and Design. All natural. Leathers from STAHL India, Chennai.



Completely at-one with nature! Elegant. Leathers by SHOE BERRY, Vaniyambadi



The lines between real and virtual are fading to black. Fabrics from VERSATILE Group, Ludhiana



A total of "419 leather/ colour proposals developed by 16 Tanneries"
co-sponsored by
Chenitan, Colourfast, Colourtex, Smit & Zoon, Stahl India

CSIR-CLRI
in association with
Indian Shoe Federation
supported by: **CLE & IFLMEA**

...says Shri Md Sadiq, Design and Fashion Studio, CSIR-CLRI

Lineapelle, Edition 100

Color Rush, Green Power and Glam Grandezza

Report by: Mrs Uta Riechers-Wuttke & Mr Martin Wuttke,
Agency nextguruNow & Creative Directors, MODEUROP, Germany

From September 20 to 22, LINEAPELLE in Fieramilano Rho presented more than 1,134 exhibitors (in the February 2022 edition there were 960) from 40 countries under the motto BACK TO THE NEXT.

It was not a look back, but a celebration of design and innovation. In addition, there was an impressive supporting program of sustainability, trend presentations, art and young design talent.

Overall, reports Fulvia Bacchi, Managing Director of Lineapelle, “the number of visitors was 32% higher than the last edition in February, as well as an increase of 73% from abroad.” The average age of visitors has decreased significantly: “younger, motivated and above all competent buyers and insiders. An important signal for the future viability of the fair and the entire supply chain.”



The exhibition “Beauty of Italian Leather” presented heritage, science and design. It is about the “beauty” of a production concept that combines craftsmanship and science, green energy, technology and creativity.

Leather, materials, accessories and components were not only shown on the traditional physical trend areas, but also virtually transferred into a digital space that provided immersive experience and made the metaverse tangible.



Many visitors who hadn't yet explored the season in depth were very surprised by the concentrated colorfulness to pop-up colors in the trend forums. “Have the Italians confused summer with winter,” we heard several times.

“As trend analysts, we had already pointed out the importance of color seven months ago, and can confirm this once again as one of the signals of the fair.”

The focus was on patchwork, checks and extreme amounts of shimmer, mirror varnish and shine, sequins, and still “buffer” materials and technical leathers.

Sustainability was no longer such a central focus. It feels like 80% of the exhibitors can show LWG certificates from gold to silver: this shows how positively the industry has developed in the area of sustainability.



For the first time, the number of visitors to the Textile and Synthetics Trend Forum was greater than in the leather trend area. Long queues formed at Limonta, Italian Converter and many other tech textile suppliers.



Despite this development, all tanners reported that the show was more positive. Sérgio Oliveira, Simaca Group: “the second day of the show was incredibly good for us, even on the last day, when the flow of visitors was much lower, there were still relevant contacts and a lot of interest.”

Exhibitor Statements:

Michael Jacobs, Jacob Leder: “for us the fashion highlights were.

mirroring halogen effects, modernized 70s craquelé lacquer, glam and glitter as well as color gradients were very well received. Sample orders were placed directly on the spot.”

Lara Toscano, Gruppo Mastrotto: “our collection is characterized by leather with new effects, with very soft touch, good formability and transparent finishing with deep chromatic color effects. Sustainability is another focus of the collection, especially in the Express Carbon Neutral collection, which has no negative impact on global warming in terms of direct and indirect emissions.”

Ute Rosenfelder, Stock Mayer: “we had great new contacts and very lively days. The investment in even more progressive prints and materials has paid off. We had significantly more international visitors and our personalizable sublimation prints reflect the trend towards more individuality.”

Lineapelle_Trendforum | Trend Topics:

RECONNECTING NATURE - a new way to interpret nature. Experimental material combinations and new manufacturing processes ensure plenty of innovation in the perennial theme of nature.

OVERSIZE AND SUPERLIGHT - an innovative play with volume provides new, unique details that open up new vistas.

LIGHT POWER - light and shadow with mysterious shimmer compete with strong contrasts and bright colors.

DIGI - REAL - everything is in flux, everything is changing. Digital and or Real are not mutually exclusive, but complement each other.

DRESSING UP - a scenery of special moments offers this theme. The ingredients: a large portion of glam with a dash of mysticism as well as the courage to shine.

Photos and text: Uta Riechers-Wuttke, Martin Wuttke, Agency nextguruNow



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Workshop on Government and Financial Support Schemes for the Leather and Footwear Clusters on Monday, 5th September, 2022

Under SIDBI's MSME Cluster Intervention Program a Govt and Financial Schemes Workshop was organized for Leather Footwear Cluster Chennai on 5th September 2022 at Pallavaram, Chennai to provide an overview of the various schemes and programs available for Leather Sector MSMEs.

The workshop was organized by KPMG Advisory Services Pvt Ltd in support with CLE-Southern Region

Topics covered during the Workshop include

- Central Government Schemes
- State Government Schemes
- SIDBI Credit Facilities, Green Funds and Incentives for MSMEs
- IIT-M Business Management Training Announcement

During the event, Dr. Thillai Rajan A. (Professor, DoMS-IIT Madras) announced a 5-day comprehensive program for the cluster, from the Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras under SIDBI's Cluster Intervention Program. The project will provide training and mentoring in innovative management practices to leather entrepreneurs to help them improve the efficiency of their businesses.



Dr. Thillai Rajan A., DoMS-IIT Madras addressing the audience.

Shri Israr Ahmed (Regional Chairman-South, Council for Leather Exports) addressed the program as Chief Guest, emphasizing on adoption of efficient technologies and industrial engineering for productivity and business growth.

Dignitaries from SIDBI Chennai BO- Shri C Anburaj (DGM), MSME DFO- Shri Senthil Kumar R (Deputy Director), and DIC Chengalpattu- Shri Arul S (General Manager) presented various Govt and Financial support schemes to create awareness and enhance utilization by leather sector MSMEs.

Shri Mohamed Najeeb, Managing Director of Pallavaram Tanners' Industrial Effluent Treatment Company, expressed hope that the entire program will support the leather cluster in Pallavaram and create a positive impact.

Members from prominent associations such as Pallavaram Tanners' Association (PTA), Indian Finished Leather Manufacturer and Exporters Association (IFLMEA), Association of Footwear Components, Accessories and Machinery Manufacturers of India (AFFCAMI), Indian Shoe Federation (ISF) joined the workshop in physical and virtual mode.



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Interactive Meeting at Vaniyambadi, Sept. 8, 2022

The CLE-Southern Region in association with Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited (TIIC) organised an Interactive Meeting on 08th September, 2022 (Thursday) at Vaniyambadi on TIIC's Lending Plus Value Proposition.

Mr.V.Samson, Regional Director, CLE-Southern Region with the support of Leather and Footwear Associations invited Members from the Leather Clusters covering Ranipet, Melvisharam, Ambur, Gudiyattam, Pernambut and Vaniyambadi to participate in this programme.

From TIIC, Shri. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Chairman & Managing Director, TIIC Ltd, Chennai, Shri. R.J. Ramesh, DGM/ Senior Regional Manager, Chennai and Tmt. P.Gowri, Branch Manager, TIIC Ltd, Vellore participated in the Interactive Meeting.

From CLE, Shri. Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman, CLE-Southern Region, Shri. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE and Shri. V. Samson, Regional Director, CLE-Southern Region participated in this interactive meeting.

Shri. T. Mohamed Mubeen, Hony. General Secretary, Vaniyambadi Tanners Association had given necessary support to the Council for organizing the Interactive Meeting with Members at Vaniyambadi.

Tmt. P.Gowri, Branch Manager, TIIC Ltd, Vellore made a detailed presentation about TIIC and its supportive role for the Member Exporters outlining the following

TIIC is a premier State Financial Corporation, catering to the Financial



Participants at the event



Tmt. P.Gowri, Branch Manager, TIIC Ltd, Vellore

Requirements of MSMEs in the State of Tamil Nadu.

TIIC has been giving Term Loans and Working Capital Loans apart from Bill Discounting facility to the MSMEs, which includes the following Schemes

1. Equipment Finance Scheme
2. Equipment Finance - Fast Tract Scheme
3. Flexi Working Capital Scheme
4. Open Term Loan
5. Privileged Customer Scheme
6. Industrial Infrastructure Initiative Scheme (for purchase of SIPCOT/ SIDCO plots based on allotment order)
7. TIIC is also implementing Govt Schemes like, NEEDS for promoting First Generation Entrepreneurs
8. TIIC is the Nodal Agency for operating various incentives / subsidies like State Capital Subsidy, Central Link Capital Subsidy and TUF subsidy
9. TIIC also facilitates in getting approval from Various Govt Depts like Building plan approvals, Pollution clearance certificate from TNPCB, Power connection from TNEB etc
10. TIIC has entered into MOU with Agencies like NIT, Trichy, TANSTIA, CII & SIDM, SIDCO, SIPCOT, TAICO Bank etc

Shri. T. Mohamed Mubeen, Hony. General Secretary, VTA in his introductory remarks, welcomed the CMD of TIIC and the guest of honour Shri. Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman, CLE-Southern Region and Shri. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE and the Members and requested the Members to utilize the benefits offered by TIIC

Shri. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Chairman & Managing Director, TIIC addressed the audience about the benefits of partnering with TIIC and emphasized



Shri. T. Mohamed Mubeen, Hony. General Secretary, VTA



Shri. Hans Raj Verma, IAS, Chairman & Managing Director, TIIC

to establish long standing customer focus relationship other than availing financial services

Shri. Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman, CLE-Southern Region in his Special Address thanked the Chairman, TIIC for this great initiative of organizing such interactive meetings with Members and encouraged Members to utilize the schemes offered by TIIC



Shri. Israr Ahmed, Regional Chairman, CLE-Southern Region

Shri. R. Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE thanked the Chairman, TIIC for organizing such an important interactive meeting which is very much needed for our Members to scale-up their business.

Shri.R.J.Ramesh,DGM,TIIC thanked the members for participating in this important event and once again highlighted the schemes offered by TIIC and welcomed the Members to approach them for necessary assistance. The DGM also highlighted about the procedure for availing leather subsidy and modernization and export procedures benefits.

TIIC officials requested our Member Exporters to effectively utilize their Assistance under various Schemes for enhancing business prospects.



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



Shri. R.J. Ramesh, DGM, TIIC



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CLE Membership Drive in Southern Region

CLE Southern Region visited various Leather Clusters to help the existing members who have not yet renewed their membership with CLE for 2022-23 to complete the process and Undertake New Member mobilization

Before undertaking the field work, CLE had informed all Southern Region members about our visit and to encourage Non-Member Exporter friends to meet the CLE Team. All the Associations located in these leather clusters were requested to give wide publicity about the facilitation service of CLE. CLE had prepared a Flyer highlighting about the Council, its activities and benefits of becoming a Member of the Council

The CLE team visited clusters covering Ambur, Vaniyambadi, Pernambut, Gudiyattam, Ranipet, Melvisharam and SIPCOT on 11th Aug, 2022. CLE Southern Region conducted the Camp at Ambur Trade Centre covering the Leather clusters of Vaniyambadi, Pernambut and Gudiyattam. Similar Camp was conducted at Ranipet (SITDA Hall) covering the Leather Clusters of

Melvisharam and SIPCOT clusters. At Ambur and Ranipet, around 15 Member companies met the CLE-SR Team and have confirmed for renewing their Membership. Besides, few New companies expressed interest to become Member of the Council and received more details about the Council, its activities and benefits of becoming a Member of the Council.

The CLE Team visited Leather Clusters covering Vaniyambadi, Pernambut and Gudiyattam clusters on 30th Aug, 2022. A camp was conducted at Vaniyambadi Tanners Association and Pernambut Tanners Association. Around 15 Member companies met the CLE-SR Team and have confirmed for renewing their Membership. Besides, few New companies expressed interest to become Member of the Council and received more details about the Council, its activities and benefits of becoming a Member of the Council.

CLE-Southern Region visited Leather Clusters covering Dindigul, Erode and Trichy during September 14-16, 2022 / Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on September 22, 2022 and Pondicherry on 26th September, 2022 for the membership drive. At Dindigul, Erode and Trichy, the respective Leather Tanners Association organized meeting with the existing Members and Members who have not yet renewed their Membership were given necessary guidance to complete the process. At Vijayawada and Pondicherry, CLE directly approached the individual members and provided them necessary support for renewal of membership. In these clusters, few New companies expressed interest to become Member and received more details about the Council, its activities and benefits of becoming a Member.

The Association heads in the above clusters advised that as a follow-up, the CLE team should conduct similar programme on monthly basis so that members who have not yet renewed their membership can once again be requested to utilize the service and non-members can also be encouraged to become a Member of CLE.



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CLE New Membership at Dharavi, Mumbai

A meeting was conducted with the Leather Goods Manufacturers Association, Dharavi (LIGMA) on 23rd Sep 2022 at LIGMA's hall as part of CLE's New Membership Drive. LIGMA's Chairman, Shri Manohar Raibage, along with LIGMA members and manufacturers of leather articles, were present at the meeting. Shri Santosh Pandey, RD-West along with CLE officials educated LIGMA's members on the benefit and process of becoming a member of the Council.

The LIGMA representative thanked CLE for organising such a meeting as the majority of the people are artisans and stated that this meeting will help them to know the various benefits available to them.

Shri Santosh Pandey, Regional Director –West, thanked the LIGMA Association for granting their space and organising such an interactive session, particularly for the artisans, and then explained the CLE's role in the leather sector and the organisational structure. He further stated that there is abundance of raw materials available for the leather sector in India and the employment opportunities provided by this sector, especially to the weaker section of the society, and that the leather industry contributes to women's empowerment as 35% of the workforce in this sector is comprised of women. He further explained to them about the current status of the leather cluster proposed by the Maharashtra Government, which will benefit the leather industries in Maharashtra. RD-West also informed them of the various benefits available to them once they join the Council for Leather Exports.

Shri Arvind Dutta, EPO-West, guided LIGMA's members with the IDLS



Chairman, Leather Goods Manufacturers Association, Dharavi (LIGMA) facilitates CLE Officials

scheme and about the open house meeting conducted by the CLE to solve the queries of the members.

Shri Yogesh Adagale, LDC (Temporary)-West guided LIGMA members for the filing of the new membership application on DGFT and CLE's portal. He also stated that any issues that may arise while applying for new membership can be resolved immediately by CLE.

The meeting was concluded by vote of thanks from the Chairman, LIGMA Association.



Shri Santosh Pandey, RD-West educating LIGMA's Members

Visit to Bhiwadi, Rajasthan on 6th September, 2022

After continuous effort of setting up of Mega Leather Cluster in the state of Rajasthan, CLE officials and industry members visited Bhiwadi on 6th of September, 2022 for land allotment of leather & Footwear industries in RIICO Bhiwadi, Alwar state of Rajasthan. This meeting was followed after the meeting of Chairman CLE along with Regional Director- North, CLE and few prominent industry members had a meeting with MD, RIICO at Jaipur in the month of August, 2022. This meeting was called up for development of leather and footwear cluster in Bhiwadi Industrial Town of Rajasthan which is closer to Delhi and is well connected with national highway.

Following to the meeting, RIICO invited members of Industry along with CLE officials to visit the Bhiwadi Industrial cluster. On 6th of September RIICO officials took some CLE members comprising of Shri Anil Sondhi, Director, AKS Leather Pvt Ltd, Shri Raj Bhatia, Managing Director, JAK Group Pvt Ltd, Shri Puneet Mangla, Managing Director, M/s Orion Conmerx Pvt Ltd and Shri Vikash Gupta, Managing Director, M/s Ranvik Exports Pvt Ltd to various land parcels of Bhiwadi Industrial which are available for allotment to industries. As conveyed by RIICO officials land availability of the plot sizes varies from 500 SQM to 10000 SQM in industrial area of Bhiwadi.

At the end after the physical visit of the site it was decided that Council for Leather Exports would seek Expression of Interest from members who are interested in procuring land in Bhiwadi. A detailed guideline and procedure for allocation of land as well as land prices along with benefits of RIICO and Government of Rajasthan would be intimated once the formal communication is received from the RIICO.



Meeting with Mr. K.K. Khotari, General Manager, RIICO, Unit – I, Bhiwadi



Field visit to the site

CLE Visit to Udaipur for Membership Mobilization Activities on September 23-24, 2022

In order to take benefit of various financial support schemes of Government of India and State Governments, available for the leather and footwear Sector, it is necessary that the company/unit has to be registered as a member of CLE. Being a non-member, the company loses the opportunity to avail many scheme benefits available to the Sector. In continuation to the efforts to augment the membership strength and to outreach the different cluster, Shri Atul Kumar Mishra, Regional Director – North, CLE along with DRO CLE officials Ms. Surbhi Mathur, AEPO and Ms. Ginni Chhabra, LDC visited Udaipur on 23rd-24th September, 2022 for dissemination of information on CLE's activities and to meet the potential members for enhancement of membership of Northern Region of Council for Leather exports.

On first day of visit CLE officials met Smt. Manju Mali, DD, DIC, Udaipur wherein she was explained in detail about the Council's initiative to reach Leather & Footwear Units located in Udaipur. She informed that handicraft market is dominant in Udaipur however, there may be units dealing in leather and footwear sector but these units mostly operate on small scale from their respective houses. Only few exporters may be there who are operating on large scale and have good export business. We requested her to provide list of Leather & Footwear Sector units in Udaipur so that CLE can target those units/companies and persuade them to become member of CLE and avail benefits of both Central and State Government. Subsequently, she agreed to provide the same.



Meeting with Smt. Manju Mali, DD, DIC, Udaipur at DIC office, Udaipur

Further, she also suggested the following:

- Organizing an Awareness Programme in Udaipur for leather and footwear units on how to export in overseas markets, how to access and identify market potential for export of leather, footwear and leather products, etc.
- Organizing a Seminar in collaboration with State Government for all DICs of Rajasthan in order to educate DICs also about various schemes of leather and footwear sector. This will help DICs to spread the information to units of leather and footwear sector located in various districts of Rajasthan.
- Tanned Leather worth is good in Udaipur and hence may be explored.
- Contact DC Handicraft Office, Udaipur as they might be having data of artisans who are involved in both handicraft and leather business.

She conveyed that there is a lot of potential in Udaipur for leather and footwear sector and hence, there is a need to explore the market of Udaipur. Lastly, she requested to send brochure and schemes of CLE to DIC office, Udaipur in order to circulate the same to leather and footwear units of Udaipur.

In order to discuss and explore more units in and around the vicinity of Jaipur, CLE officials also met Colonel Narendra Singh Shaktawat (Retd.), CEO, Udaipur Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UCCI) wherein he highlighted that currently there are no leather and footwear units who may be member of UCCI, however, there are small leather and footwear units in Udaipur who may be explored.

On request of Shri Sayyed, Proprietor, M/s. Yes We Can Export, Udaipur who is also a member of CLE we visited his office and explained him about various recent schemes of Government of India and also asked him to participate in Council's fairs which are organized regularly in overseas countries.

CLE officials personally met the representatives of the companies and briefed them about the benefits of becoming a Member of Council for Leather Exports and were also guided about the procedure to become member of CLE. Fee structure, note on IDLS Scheme & benefits of becoming a member of the council was circulated to the potential exporters of Udaipur.

Subsequent visit from Udaipur, following potential companies of Udaipur were approached to become member of CLE:

1. M/s. Krishna Handicrafts
2. M/s. Classy Designs
3. M/s. Creative Leather Art
4. M/s. Mangalmurti Handicrafts
5. M/s. Leather Rooz Export
6. M/s. Asrawa Exports

Shri Atul Kumar Mishra, Regional Director – North, CLE and DRO CLE official thanked the State Government officials of Rajasthan for assisting us in exploring the market of Udaipur.



Colonel Narendra Singh Shaktawat (Retd.), CEO, Udaipur Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UCCI) along with CLE officials at UCCI Office, Udaipur



CLE officials interacting with Shri Sayyed, Proprietor, M/s. Yes We Can Export, Udaipur



CLE officials interacting with potential leather & footwear exporters of Udaipur

CLE Visit to Jodhpur for membership mobilization activities on 27th September 2022

In order to take benefit of various financial support schemes of the Government of India and State Governments, available for the leather and footwear Sector, it is necessary that the company/unit has to be registered as a member of CLE. Being a non-member, the company loses the opportunity to avail many scheme benefits available to the Sector. In continuation to the efforts to augment the membership strength and to outreach the different cluster, Shri Asif Eqbal Khan, EPO & Shri Laiq Ahmad, AEPO visited Jodhpur on 27th September, 2022 for dissemination of information on CLE's activities and to meet the potential members for enhancement of membership of Northern Region of Council for Leather exports.

CLE officials individually met Shri S.L. Paliwal, General Manager, DIC, Jodhpur and explained in detail about the Council's initiative to reach the Leather & Footwear Unit and requested him to provide the list of Leather & Footwear Sector so that these companies can also avail the benefits of Government of India and State Government. In this context, he conveyed that, Handicraft is quite dominant in Jodhpur, the list available with them consists of mostly the artisans involved in manufacturing of Leather & Footwear products who mostly operate from their respective houses. There are very few exporters operating on large scale.

In order to facilitate and to brief CLE membership benefits, Shri S.L. Paliwal, General Manager, DIC, Jodhpur invited few potential businessmen pertaining to Leather & Footwear Sector which are as follows :-



CLE officials interacting with Shri S.L. Paliwal, General Manager, DIC, Jodhpur

1. Shri Ashok Chauhan, M/s. Mahesh Handicraft
2. Shri Sunil, M/s. Virok Handicraft
3. Shri Aamarchand, M/s. Khushbu Handicraft

Shri Asif Eqbal Khan, EPO, CLE and Shri Laiq Ahmed, AEPO, CLE briefed the potential companies about the Council's benefit, various schemes of Central & State Government benefits to boost up their business in International Market.

Further, we persuaded them to furnish the details so that we can contact them and subsequently persuade them to become a member of council.

On the request of Shri Ashok Chauhan, Proprietor, M/s. Mahesh Handicraft & Shri Sunil, Proprietor of M/s. Virok Handicraft CLE officials visited their office & factory to discuss in detail about various recent schemes of Government of India and also asked them to participate in Council's fairs which are organized regularly in overseas countries.



Interaction with Shri Ashok Chauhan, Proprietor, M/s. Mahesh Handicraft

On our visit to M/s. Mahesh Handicraft office, Shri Ashok Chauhan furnished detailed information of his company and desired to take CLE membership. Subsequently, CLE officials coordinated to their accounts department and guided them on eRCMC of DGFT portal and CLE portal.

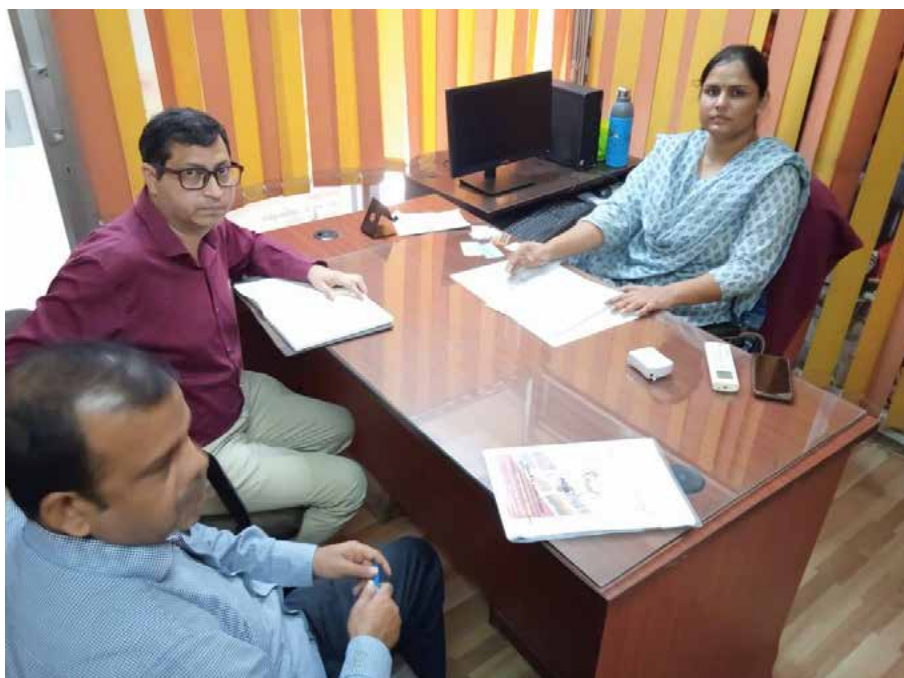
On our visit to M/s. Virok Handicraft office, Shri Sunil furnished detailed information of his company, however they conveyed that they don't have IEC registered, therefore in this regard, we immediately coordinated with DIC, Jodhpur to get IEC through DGFT and subsequently M/s. Virok Handicraft managed to get their IEC.

CLE officials personally met the representatives of the companies and briefed about the benefits of becoming a member of council and were also guided about the procedure to become a member of CLE. Fee structure, note on IDLS Scheme & benefits of becoming a member of the council was circulated to the participants who visited the camp.

In order to discuss and explore more units in and around the vicinity of Jodhpur, CLE team also met Smt. Poonam Rathore, Assistant Director & GM, DIC of Barmer wherein she highlighted that there are few potential exporters pertaining to Leather & Footwear Sector which needs to be explored. She conveyed us that, she has just taken the charge of District Barmer and she will soon send the list pertaining to this sector.



Factory Visit & Interaction with Shri Sunil, Proprietor, M/s. Virok Handicraft



CLE officials interacting with Smt. Poonam Rathore, Assistant Director & GM of district Barmer

Shri Asif Eqbal Khan, EPO, CLE & Shri Laiq Ahmed, AEPO, CLE thanked the State Government officials of Rajasthan for assisting us in exploring the market of Jodhpur & Barmer



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District Conclave on “Investment Promotion, Export, Ease of Doing Business and One District One Product” held at Mumbai during 28-29 September 2022

The Directorate of Industries, Government of Maharashtra, conducted a two-day event on “District Conclave on Investment Promotion, Ease of Doing Business, Export & One District, One Product” on 28-29 September 2022 at Mahatma Gandhi Sabhagruha, Parel-Mumbai. The aim of the conclave was to understand the issues pertaining to exports faced by exporters and to encourage exporters and upcoming exporters to better and higher export performance in the future. The participants were exporters from the Mumbai region, industrialists from different sectors, state government officials, central government officials, MSMEs, etc.

The Conclave was presided over by Shri Rajiv Nivatkar, IAS, Collector, Mumbai, in the presence of Shri Suresh Londhe, Joint Director – Industries and General Manager-District Industries Centre, various banks, Export Promotion Councils, and DGFT.

The speakers were from the State Government, Central Government, Bank, and EPC’s officials. The topics covered were: Support for export promotion, Presentation on Export Procedure & Documentation; Banking & Finance Support for



Dignitaries present during the District Conclave

Export Promotion; and Presentation on NISC Scheme for MSME; Export Opportunities in Leather Sector; Export Opportunities in Gem & Jewellery Sector; and Discussion on Export Potential Plan of the District.

In his address, he thanked the Maharashtra government for organising such a conclave, particularly for the exporter’s community, and then explained the CLE’s role in the leather sector. He explained the current foreign markets for leather and said that every country is now turning to India for their imports as the demand for Chinese products has decreased and the exporter community should take advantage of this opportunity to the maximum.

He further requested the Government of Maharashtra to handhold the leather industry because, as compared to other states, the share of Maharashtra in leather exports is less, though we have the availability of more raw materials. He thanked the Joint Director of Industries, MMR Mumbai for giving the opportunity to leather exporters to present “opportunities in the leather sector” at the District Conclave.

The event was concluded by a vote of thanks from the Joint Director of Industries, MMR, Mumbai.



Shri Santosh Pandey, Regional Director – (CLE) West felicitated during Exporters Conclave



Shri Neeraj Kumar Singh, Director, M/s. Varbi Footwear Pvt. Ltd., speaking about opportunities in Leather Sector

CLE Open House Meetings / Webinars on IDLS Sub-Scheme under IFLDP held every Wednesday, via virtual mode

Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS) Scheme is one of the sub-schemes of “Indian Footwear & Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) 2021-26”. The scheme proposes to incentivize investment and manufacturing by providing backend investment grant/subsidy for modernization, capacity expansion, technology upgradation in existing units and also for setting up of new units. All existing units in the Footwear and Leather industry having cash profits for 2 years, undertaking modernization or capacity expansion or technology upgradation on or after 01.01.2020 are eligible for assistance. Assistance would be provided @ 30% of cost of Plant and machinery to MSME units and 20% to other units, subject to a ceiling of Rs.15 crores per unit across all product segments. For those units located in North-Eastern areas, assistance would be provided @40% of cost of plant & machinery to MSME units and 30% to other units, subject to a ceiling of Rs.15 crores per unit across all product segments. Additional 5% financial assistance would be provided for the domestically manufactured plant and machinery. The applications seeking grant has to be filed in the online portal National Single Window System (NSWS).

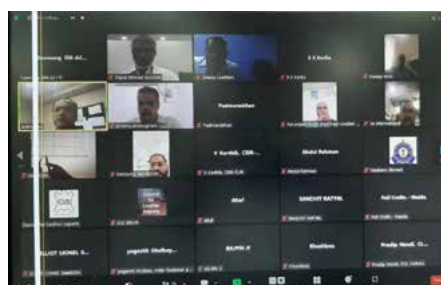
In order to provide guidance on the scheme guidelines of IDLS Scheme, procedures, documents required to be uploaded etc and to give briefing on the application submission process in the online portal National Single Window System, the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) is organizing Open House Meeting /

Webinar for IFLDP, every Wednesday @ 11.30am via virtual mode. The 1st in the series of the Open House Meeting / Webinar for IFLDP was held on Wednesday 01.06.2022 to an encouraging participation by the industry.

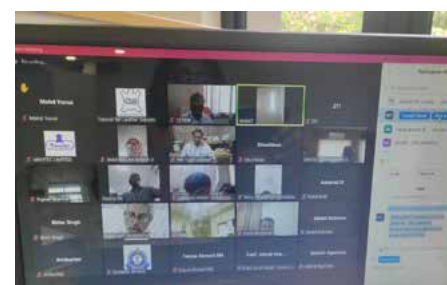
In the month of August 2022, a total of 36 units have attended the OHM / Webinar (Total 5 Webinars conducted on 03.08.2022, 10.08.2022, 17.08.2022, 24.08.2022 & 30.08.2022.). In all, a total of 144 manufacturing units have so far attended the Webinars organized during June to August 2022 (Total: 14 Webinars).

The CLE Open House Meetings were conducted by Shri A. Fayaz Ahmad, Deputy Director, CLE, and joined by officials from PIU-FDDI and PIU-CLRI. Shri Aritra Das, Senior Consultant, FDDI and Dr K Srinivasan, Principal Scientist, CSIR-CLRI participates in the Open House Meetings /Webinars. The Regional Directors / Assistant Director-Agra along with dealing officials for IDLS Scheme have also participated the above Webinars. In these webinars, the scheme guidelines and procedures were explained to the applicant units and application submission process in the NSWS were also explained, besides attending to the queries of the industry members.

CLE Open House Meeting / Webinar on IDLS Sub-Scheme under IFLDP, 03.08.2022



Webinar on 24.8.22



Webinar on 30.8.22



IULTCS Asks EU Legislators to Reconsider Proposed Restrictions

Members of IULTCS have collaborated with industry scientists from FILK, Stahl and TFL to prepare a document that was submitted to DG Grow (the European Commission Directorate-General department responsible for EU policy on the single market, industry, entrepreneurship and small businesses) and DG ENV (The Directorate-General for Environment department responsible for EU policy on the environment).

The purpose of preparing the document was to address proposed EU restrictions on the presence of Chrome VI and Bisphenols in leather. It is considered that the new proposed REACH restrictions could seriously impact the leather industry, particularly in the European Union.

The IULTCS document asks the EU for a proper assessment of the impact of these measures on the environment, people and leather manufacture. IULTCS President Jean-Pierre Gualino and Executive Secretary Dr Luis Zugno stated "Our call is for a more detailed study of data and testing methodology relating to Chrome VI and more time to implement the proposed Bisphenol restrictions".

Chromium VI

Proposal from European Chemicals Agency ECHA is to Reduce Chrome VI limit in leather from 3 ppm to 1 ppm. The IULTCS document states that there is no scientific base to change the existing limit to a lower value based on the existing ISO test method. The current ISO method is the best result of many studies and investigations, and is deemed to be

the most accurate process to establish a reliable detection limit. Although detection can be reproduced, even at 1 ppm, the necessary upstream process, the extraction of the reagent out of the leather matrix, cannot be reproduced to a higher accuracy than 3 ppm. Too many false positives and negatives would be the result of lowering the detection limit. As long as this is the case, and no other extraction process is in place, there is no scientific justification to lower the detection limit of the existing ISO method.

The industry would welcome the opportunity to develop and introduce a new method because the existing test method for measuring Chrome VI in leather (ppm total Chrome VI) does not address the skin exposure to the leather that can cause sensitization; it relates to mg of Chrome VI to one kg of leather. Most leather does not come in direct contact with the skin. Leather articles are typically lined with fabric or non-woven or finished, therefore skin exposure directly to the leather surface is rare and represents the worst-case scenario for Chrome VI sensitization.

IULTCS proposal is the evaluation of the Chrome VI surface transfer using standardized rubbing studies and commercial leather samples with 3 ppm Chrome VI or more. The rubbing studies (e.g. Veslic, Crock and Martindale) should be done with perspiration solutions under dry and wet conditions with, and without, aging. This study can determine the proper Chrome VI concentration expressed as $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$, and would address the potential risk of skin sensitization, that can induce localized allergic contact dermatitis (ACD). Research exposure assessment studies indicate that a limit of 3 ppm Chrome VI in leather is safe.

Bisphenols (BosC)

Proposal from ECHA is as follows

1. Shall not be placed on the market in mixtures and articles in a concentration equal to or greater than 10 ppm (0.001% by weight). If the concentration in mixtures and articles exceeds 10 ppm, a migration test to determine the migration values need to be conducted (2)
2. Shall not be placed on the market in articles showing a migration value greater than 0.04 mg/l (migration limit) in total during its service life. This migration limit refers to sum of BPA and all BosC present in the respective mixtures and articles.
3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply 24 months from entry into force of the restrictions

The IULTCS document states the following

Bisphenol F and S are impurities present in syntans used in leather manufacturing. Bisphenol S can also be present as unreacted reagent on sulfone based syntans. The syntans are water soluble tanning polymers (synthetic retanning products) used to complete the tanning of several types of chrome-

free leathers or as retanning agent to improve the softness, fullness, filling, temper, buffing of the leathers.

1) Today commercial leathers cannot be made successfully without syntans.

2) In leather application it is not technically feasible to meet the 10 ppm BosC proposed concentration limit, nor the 0.04mg/l migration limit.

3) The existing syntan building blocks will not be able to achieve the requirements outlined in Table 1, i.e., the improvements in the syntans manufacturing processes will not enable us to meet these requirements. We will need new chemistries which are not currently available.

4) IULTCS is developing an ISO method for the determination of bisphenols in leather. The test method probably will be ready mid-2023. The bisphenols determination method in chemicals is also being developed.

IULTCS has hence asked for the EU regulatory authorities to evaluate their review in light of the science, to make the proper assessment for the impact of these measures on the environment, people and leather manufacture.

Leather and Hide Council of America partners with the African Leather and Leather Products Institute to launch Real Leather. Stay Different. African Talent Leather Design Showcase 2023 (RLSD African Showcase '23)

- Partnership commits to “Educating the Next Generation of Creatives and Re-Shaping our Fashion Futures”
- RLSD African Showcase '23 will promote sustainable leather and leather products production among small and medium sized enterprises
- Dedicated series of fashion, production and sustainability workshops to empower African designers of tomorrow.

The Leather and Hide Council of America [L&HCA] and the African Leather and Leather Products Institute [ALLPI] have partnered to launch the Real Leather. Stay Different. African Talent Leather Design Showcase 2023 [RLSD African Showcase '23]. The new partnership, which commits to ‘educating the next generation of creatives’, aims to reshape education around the production and use of sustainable leather across Africa.

Through the RLSD African Showcase '23, L&HCA and ALLPI will promote the development of sustainable

leather production among small and medium sized enterprises. As part of the initiative, a dedicated education program will be delivered, via a workshop series hosted at ALLPI’s satellite design studios located in its ten member countries, that explores fashion, production and sustainability.

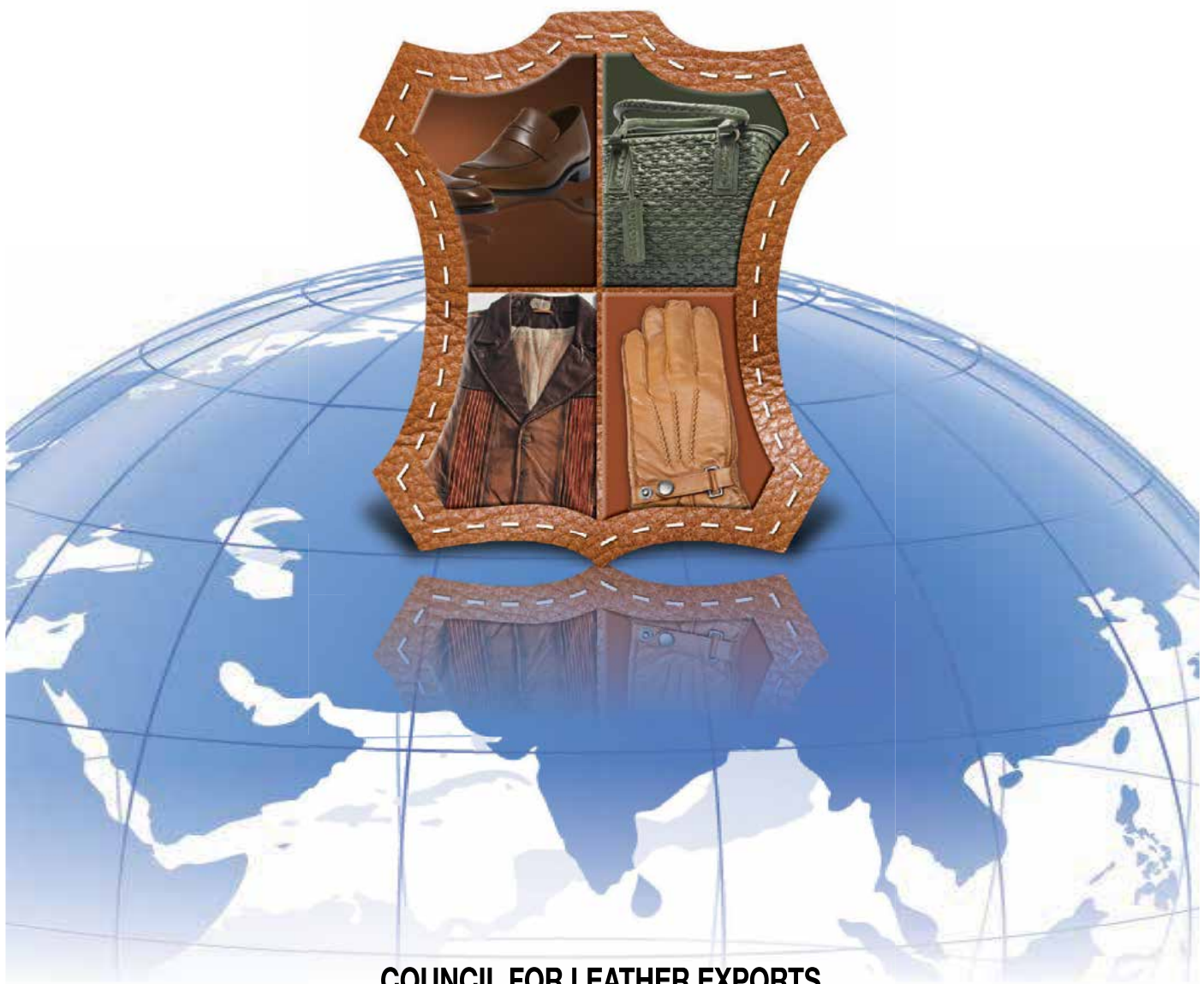
The workshops will be designed to help improve business efficiency and minimize negative environmental and social impacts. They will be open to creatives studying or working at small and medium sized enterprises and will showcase the future of leather design, its sustainability benefits and how innovations can be implemented within their creative practices to further reduce waste.

Real Leather. Stay Different. has a strong ethos of supporting the next generation of creative business talent with an aim to re-build, re-educate, and re-position. The new partnership brings to the forefront a common set of values to support sustainable leather value chains and emerging creatives through education.

The RLSD African Showcase '23, is open to talent studying or working in art and design via the ALLPI’s design studios. Showcase participants will be challenged to design a single piece of apparel, accessory, footwear or furniture item using natural materials and 50% or more leather. Shortlisted finalists will be invited to create their design concept at one of the ALLPI’s satellite design studios. Finalists will present their work during a live showcase finale at the All Africa Leather Fair 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Mr. Gehbregziabher Ghebremedhin, Programs Coordinator at the African Leather and Leather Products Institute, said “The RLSD African Showcase '23 extends our commitment to bring the highest ethics for business and the environment to leather production systems, supporting sustainable small and medium sized enterprises and businesses while improving business practices and the environment. Not only will it become a platform to showcase beautiful leather and leather products but it will also highlight that leather bags, clothes, footwear and furniture, if maintained properly, can last indefinitely. As part of the prize for making the global finale, finalists will have their design on display at the African Talent Leather Design Showcase 2023 as part of the All Africa Leather Fair 2023, an invaluable and significant opportunity.”

INDIAN LEATHER INDUSTRY - STRIDING WITH CONFIDENCE



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