

JILTA

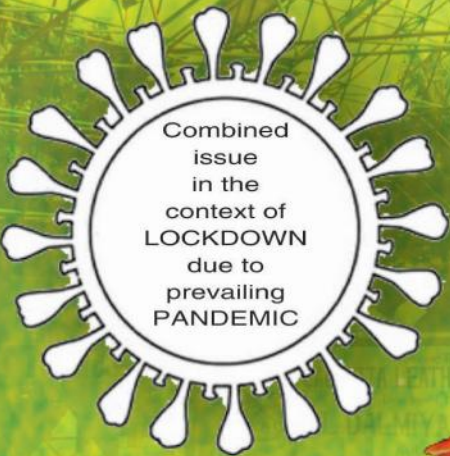
Journal of Indian Leather Technologists' Association

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APRIL, MAY & JUNE' 2020

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Combined
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in the
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LOCKDOWN
due to
prevailing
PANDEMIC

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Our Activities

- An Association with over 600 members from India and abroad working since last 68 years for the growth and development of Leather and its allied industries.
- Organize seminars, symposiums, workshops in order to share information, knowledge & latest development and interactions for the benefit of all concerned.
- Organize Human Resource Development programmes on regular basis.
- Publish for over 60 years, a technical monthly journal namely "Journal of Indian Leather Technologists' Association" (JILTA), widely circulated throughout the World.
- Publish books for the benefit of the students at various levels of study, for the Research Scholar and the Industry.
- Work as interface between Industry and the Government.
- Assist Planning Commission, various Government Institutions, Ministry and autonomous bodies to formulate appropriate policies for the growth of the Industry.

Indian Leather Technologists' Association

[A Member Society of International Union of Leather Technologists' and Chemists Societies]

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JOURNAL OF INDIAN LEATHER TECHNOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION (JILTA)

Indian Leather Technologists' Association is a premier organisation of its kind in India was established in 1950 by Late Prof. B.M.Das. It is a Member Society of International Union of Leather Technologists & Chemists Societies (IULTCS).

The Journal of Indian Leather Technologists' Association (JILTA) is a monthly publication which encapsulates latest state of the art in processing technology of leather and its products, commerce and economics, research & development, news & views of the industry etc. It reaches to the Leather / Footwear Technologists and the decision makers all over the country and overseas.

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Probable impact of COVID-19 on Economy



The corona virus outbreak continues to severely disrupt economic activity and will weigh heavily on economic growth in the first quarter of the year. The government has restricted transportation, which, together with widespread fear among the population, is hitting consumption and manufacturing. The manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) consequently plummeted to 35.7% in February, well below the 50.0% threshold that separates contraction from expansion in the manufacturing sector and marking the lowest print on record. Looking at 2020 as a whole, in a 2–3 March survey with 84 of economic panellists, 34.5% saw the virus hitting Chinese GDP growth by 1.0–1.2 percentage points this year, while 16.7% projected the damage being even greater than 1.2 percentage points.

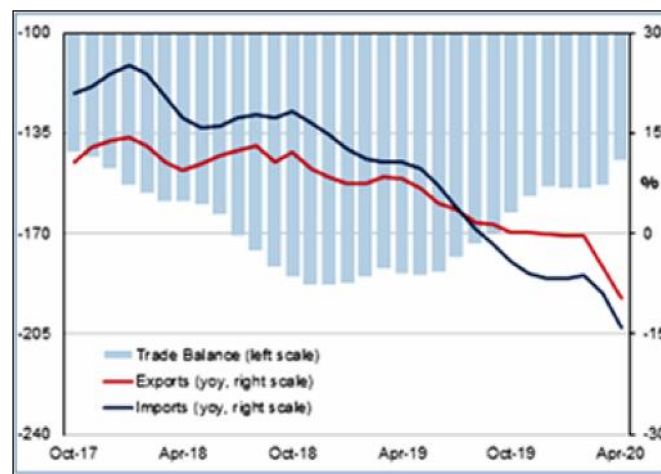
A large majority of panelists still do not see the economic impact of corona virus persisting beyond 2020. That said, the proportion of panelists who do think the impact will drag on into next year jumped from 10% to 36%. This reflects the worsening of the outbreak in recent weeks.

Economic panellists now do expect the coronavirus will have a much greater impact on global growth than previously forecast. This follows the accelerating spread of the virus outside China in recent weeks. In a poll of 84 analysts, roughly 70% see a reduction in global growth this year of at least 0.4 percentage points, with close to half of panellists projecting the virus to drag on growth by 0.4–0.5 percentage points. Analysts also expect greater damage to the Chinese economy compared to our last poll in mid-February. There is still a notable divergence in panellists' views, reflecting the inherent difficulties in forecasting the duration and extent of the epidemic. Outside Asia, economists judged that the European Union would suffer the largest economic impact from the virus. This is due to the significant outbreak in Italy and subsequent spread to neighbouring countries; a reliance on external demand; and the bloc's elderly population making fatalities and strict government intervention measures more likely. While most panellists do not see the corona virus continuing to dampen growth beyond 2020, the proportion expecting an ongoing impact has jumped to 24% from 5%.

Merchandise exports from India fell 60.3% in year-on-year terms in April, after falling 34.6% in March, amounting to USD 10.4 billion. The decrease in April was the fastest since at least the early 1990s and was due to the coronavirus crisis—particularly, lower demand abroad and production disruptions domestically due to the national lockdown, which began in the final days of March. The decline in export shipments in April was broad-based across the economy, with 29 out of the 30 major categories of shipments registering falls. Merchandise imports, meanwhile, sank 58.6% year-on-year in April, after dropping 28.7% in March, amounting to USD 17.1 billion. The merchandise trade deficit narrowed to USD 6.8 billion in April from the USD 15.3 billion shortfall in the same month a year earlier. The 12-month trailing sum of the trade deficit narrowed to USD 144.3 billion in April from 152.9 billion in March.

Panellists forecast that exports and imports will decrease 3.7% and 8.2% in FY 2020, respectively, bringing the merchandise trade deficit to USD 166.0 billion. In FY 2021, projected exports and imports are to increase 7.4% and 14.6%, respectively, resulting in a merchandise trade deficit of USD 167.0 billion.

Merchandise Export from India :



Note : 12-month sum of trade balance in USD billion and annual variation of the 12-sum of exports and imports in %.

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry and FocusEconomics calculations.



The composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) in India produced by IHS Market slumped to 7.2 in April from 50.6 in March, marking the lowest reading since current records began in December 2005. A reading below 50 indicates a decrease in business activity since the previous month. April's result comes after the government ordered a national lockdown at the end of March to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

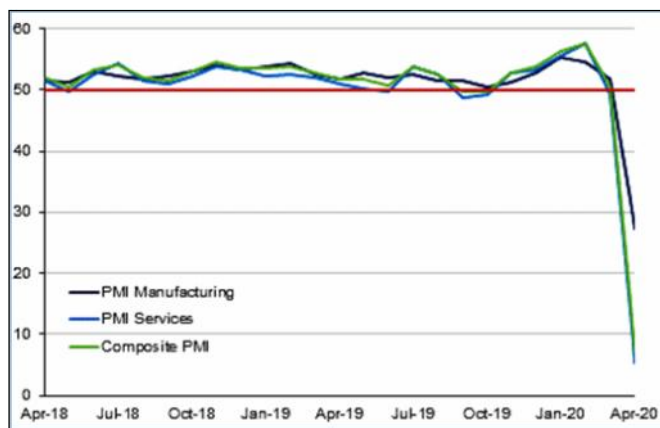
Joe Hayes, economist at IHS Market, reflected: "Historical comparisons with GDP data suggest that India's economy contracted at an annual rate of 15% in April. It is clear that the economic damage of the Covid-19 pandemic has so far been deep and far-reaching in India, but the hope is that the economy has endured the worst and things will begin to improve as lockdown measures are gradually lifted."

The services PMI fell to 5.4 in April from 49.3 in March due to unprecedented falls in output and demand; approximately 97% of the PMI survey respondents said output at their businesses fell in April. International sales notably dried up, with the respective sub-index falling to 0.0. As a result of order cancellations, including of backlogged orders, spare capacity of businesses rose at the fastest pace on record. On the employment front, headcounts fell at an unprecedented pace, although 90% of survey respondents said they were not making changes to staffing levels. Turning to prices, both input and output prices fell steeply, while, regarding the outlook, sentiment for the coming 12 months sank to an over four-year low.

On the manufacturing side, the PMI dropped to 27.4 in April from 51.8 in March, the lowest reading on record. Commenting on this, Eliot Kerr, economist at IHS Market, said: "In the latest survey period, record contractions in output, new orders and employment pointed to a severe deterioration in demand conditions. Meanwhile, there was evidence of unprecedented supply-side disruption, with input delivery times lengthening to the greatest extent since data collection began in March 2005." On the price front, both input and output prices were sharply discounted in April from March, while, business confidence for the next 12 months ticked up slightly on hopes of demand rebounding once lockdown measures ease.

Forecast panellists project that fixed investment will contract 2.2% in FY 2020, which is down 7.3 percentage points down from last month's forecast. Economists project fixed investment to recover and increase by 5.9% in FY 2021.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) in India :



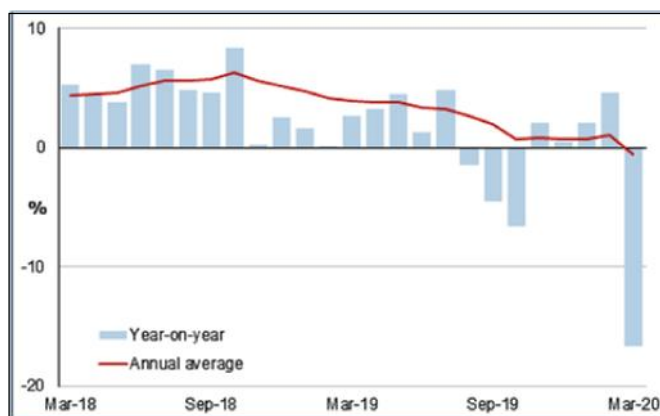
Note : Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). Readings above 50 indicate an overall increase compared to the previous month, and below 50 an overall decrease.

Source : IHS Market.

Industrial output in India have collapsed 16.7% year-on-year in March, according to preliminary figures from Indian authorities, which was worse than market expectations of an 8.0% decrease (February: +4.6% yoy). March's reading marked the sharpest decline on record and was due to the first effects of the coronavirus crisis, which led to a plunge in manufacturing output. The full effects of the crisis will be felt from April, which was the first full month of the national lockdown, which was imposed on 24 March. The annual average variation of industrial production came in at minus 0.5% in March, down from February's plus 1.1% reading.

Economics panellists expect industrial production to decrease 0.4% in FY 2020, which is down 3.6 percentage points from last month's projection. In FY 2021, panellists expect industrial output to expand 5.3%.

Industrial Production index in India :



Note : Year-on-year and annual average variation of industrial production index in %.

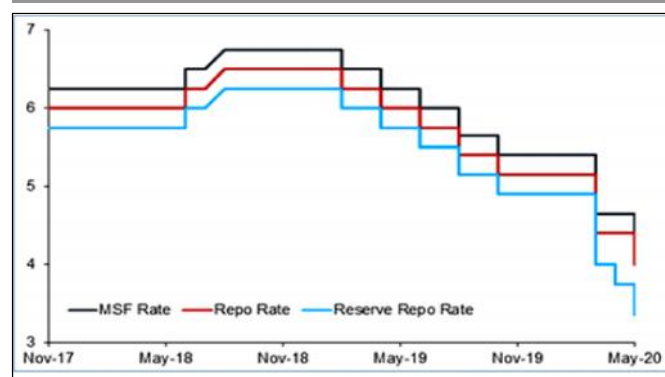
Source : Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) and FocusEconomics calculations.

In an unscheduled monetary policy meeting ending on 22 May, which replaced the meeting scheduled to end on 5 June, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced fresh monetary policy loosening. This adds to the array of measures the RBI has already introduced as part of efforts to mitigate the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and national lockdown. The RBI lowered all interest rates by 40 basis points. This brought the reverse repurchase rate (the rate at which banks are paid for depositing cash at the RBI), repurchase rate (what the RBI charges banks for borrowing from it) and marginal standing facility rate (what the RBI charges banks for borrowing from it at times of tight liquidity) down to 3.35%, 4.00% and 4.25%, respectively.

In addition to lowering rates, the RBI announced less-conventional easing measures, including extending the current loan moratorium by another three months until 31 August and easing pre- and post-shipment export credit rules to help exporting businesses. Regarding the outlook, the RBI underlined it would continue with its accommodative stance for as long as necessary to revive growth, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target.

Commenting on the monetary policy development, Prakash Sakpal of ING said: “[We] view today’s move as an affirmation that the recently announced 10% of GDP stimulus package (including all previously announced monetary easing from the RBI) isn’t enough to help the economy withstand the Covid-19 storm. The much-touted big stimulus package is more about long-term structural economic reforms rather than an immediate real boost to the economy. As such, the central bank is carrying the burden of supporting growth.”

India Monetary Policy Chart :



Note : Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate, Repo Rate and Reverse Repo Rate in %.

Source : Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Until mid-February economic forecasts for the world economy had been considering that a good part of the global impact of Covid-19 would occur due to the temporary obstruction of supply chains snaking from China. A secondary adverse effect, to be felt mainly in emerging economies, would come through the drop in commodity prices, mainly metal and energy, and the increase in global risk aversion. But the rapid spread of the corona virus outside China seems to suggest that the global economic impact could go beyond a supply shock. It is possible that the Covid-19 will also result in demand shocks in many other major economies. This shock would occur, initially, through the confidence channel; but it could be intensified by restrictions, voluntary or mandatory, on the circulation of people - since the best defence against the epidemic is to avoid contact with infected people. Additionally, a negative wealth-effect associated with financial assets corrections could also impact demand. Forecasts for global GDP growth in 2020, which had been initially revised from 3.3% to 3.1%, has been further downgraded to 2.8%.

“Luis Suzigan, senior advisor at LCA Consultores “Because a vaccine is yet to be developed for the virus and there is still quite a bit to be learnt, its continued spread will intensify global fears. This of course presents significant downside risks for global GDP, with manufacturing, tourism and air travel likely to be considerably impacted. My expectation is that the virus would be brought under control by the end of 2020. “Garvin Joefield, economist at Republic Bank “There’s a lot of uncertainty around any baseline outlook, more than usually the case now. A severe global pandemic could push global GDP growth in 2020 closer to zero or even negative. Chinese GDP growth could be pushed close to 1% by unofficial estimates.” Daniel Solomon, senior economist at Euromonitor “If the corona virus is a global pandemic and lasts more than 3 quarters of this year the slide of the global economy in the recession is imminent. A one quarter break in production in China may not threaten the global economy, though the supply chains are being disrupted. Two quarters heighten the chances of a recession quite radically, especially in euro zone that is dependent on Chinese electronics and spare parts. Obviously, tourist business (circa \$22bn loss estimated at present) as well as trade (especially in durables)



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will suffer the most. Passenger air, rail and sea transportation are certainly on a drastic decline as countries close their borders to combat proliferation of the virus worldwide.”Dmitriy Sheikin, chief macroeconomist at Halyk Finance “The Middle East will be affected through Iran, the disease seems to be spreading uninterrupted and will likely result in severe human cost.”Vytenis Šimkus, senior economist at Swedbank”. The euro zone is highly vulnerable to a protracted epidemic due to limited monetary policy leeway and lack of leadership on fiscal policy strategy.”Raffaella Tenconi, managing director at ADA Economics “The eurozone economy was not growing strongly at the beginning of the year with the distortion of supply chains and trade flows caused by Covid-19, the upturn in the manufacturing sector will now be delayed by a few months. On top of that, things now look a bit uglier in the services sector, which was up until now the stronghold of the euro zone economy, preventing a more severe slowdown in 2019. Leisure, tourism and transport, especially, are inevitably going to suffer from corona virus fears. Looking at the Chinese experience, peak Covid-19 should be behind us in the second quarter, but that still makes a rather weak first half of the year. We now expect 0.5% GDP growth for the euro zone this year.”Julien Manceaux, senior economist at ING”. The BoE’s response will more likely than not be lower interest rates in the very near term. As for the ECB, an immediate response may be to lower interest rates by 10bp. Financial markets are now pricing such a decision in, with 6bp of cuts implied by March, 10bp by April, 13bp by mid-year and 17bp by end-year. However, there is little

room realistically for the ECB to do much when it comes to interest rates, and there is likely to be some push-back from some members of the Governing Council.”Nomura”. At the press conference following the FOMC’s 50bp intermeeting cut, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell stated that risks from the corona virus outbreak had “changed materially.” While he termed the current policy stance “appropriate,” he also said “we are prepared to use our tools and act appropriately.” The near-term policy implications were somewhat ambiguous, but in our view, the press conference was consistent with further Fed easing in coming months. We retain our forecast of another 50bp but are now pencilling in 25bp moves on March 18 and April 29.”Goldman Sachs “Our underlying view of the global economy remains unchanged. The world is not facing a financial crisis. The potential pandemic is a severe but temporary shock to the real economy rather than the financial system. Economies can recover once the corona virus shock starts to fade.

We do believe that the crisis will be over in the coming days with full consciousness of ours and the world will see fresh morning once again amid lot of unforgettable lessons from Mother Nature.

Goutam Mukherjee

Dr. Goutam Mukherjee
Hony. Editor, JILTA

Read and Let Read :-

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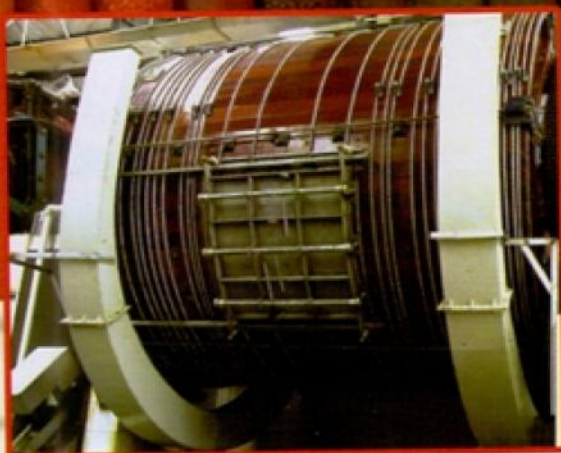


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From the desk of **General Secretary**



Dear all Members of ILTA and Indian Leather Fraternity,

Due to wide spread of COVID-19 throughout the world, we are passing through a pandemic disaster. We have learned to take as many precautions as we can in order to “flatten the curve,” by reducing the transmission of this virus.

Following advices of the World Health Organization, Govt. of India and State, we are practicing “social distancing” and other precautions while on duty.

Out of our some major activities, we have planned to postpone the followings till further notice :-

- ◆ Organizing Kolkata LEXPO – XXXI, which was proposed to be held in May’ 2020.
- ◆ Organizing Management Talk Shop on last Thursday of every month.
- ◆ Organizing Health Camp / Health Talk on last Friday in alternative month.
- ◆ Publishing Hard Copy of JILTA, the technical monthly journal of our association.

We could not publish the JILTA issues of April and May 2020 due to lockdown since 23rd of March up to 31st May. We are extremely sorry for the inconvenience caused to you.

However, as soon as Govt. relaxed the restrictions and allowed to open office under few conditions, some of our staffs who are staying nearby, started coming to office in spite of numerous problems in transportation and did hard work to publish this issue of JILTA - a combined issue of April, May and June 2020.

By the 1st week of June’ 20, it will be sent to you by email and will also be uploaded in our website: www.iltaonleather.org.

At this situation, it may not be possible to come out with the printed version, but it will be printed out as soon as the situation becomes normal for printing and posting. Kindly bear with us till then.

Henceforth, we are planning on organizing our events on digital platform as far as practical. In this transformation process we will need your kind support and participation.

9th MONI BANERJEE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Above was organized at 03.00 PM on Saturday the 14th March, 2020 at Freya Design Studio, ILPA Leather Goods Park, Kolkata Leather Complex, Bantala, 24 Parganas (South).

The programme commenced with Mr. Susanta Mallick, General Secretary, ILTA requesting the following dignitaries to garland the portrait of Late Prof. Moni Banerjee.

- 1) Mr. Arnab Jha, President, ILTA
- 2) Mr. & Mrs. Gopal Chatterjee – elder daughter of Late Prof. Moni Banerjee and her husband
- 3) Mr. Alope Kr. Basu – Ex-Editor, JILTA & a senior member of ILTA
- 4) Mr. Bibhas Ch. Jana – Representative of CLRI
- 5) Mr. Kanak Kr. Mitra – Ex-President, Alumni Association of GCELT
- 6) Mr. Arka Mukherjee – Representative of GCELT
- 7) Md. Asif – Representative of FDDI
- 8) Mr. Satya Narayan Moitra – Director, Stahl India Pvt. Ltd., honorable speaker.

After Mr. Arnab Jha and Mr. Satya Narayan Moitra took their seats on the dais as per request of Mr. Mallick, Mr. Arnab Jha delivered his Welcome Address briefly recapitulating life and achievements of Late Prof. Moni Banerjee. Mrs. Maitreyee Chatterjee, elder daughter of Late Prof. Moni Banerjee was then requested to say a few words about her late father. She recalled a few incidents revealing how his attitude towards the students was the same as towards members of his family.

Names of the recipients of Moni Banerjee Memorial Medal were then declared as follows :

Mr. Tarun Kumar, topper, Diploma in Footwear Manufacturer & Design Course Examination, 2019 from Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra, U.P. who was unable to come. His brother Mr. Prashant Chanchal received the medal and certificate from Mr. Arnab Jha.

Miss Shalini, topper, Diploma in Engineering, Leather & Footwear Technology Examination, 2019 from University Polytechnic, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, U.P. who was unable to come. Her uncle Mr. Jagdish Mathuria received the medal & certificate from Mr. Satya Narayan Moitra.

Mr. Arnab Jha then greeted Mr. Satya Narayan Moitra with a bouquet, introduced him to the gathering and requested him to deliver his memorial lecture titled “**DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE LEATHER PRODUCTION**”. The lecture lasted for nearly an hour and was most informative. Mr. Moitra was presented a memento by Mr. Mallick.

Mr. Susanta Mallick then offered sincere thanks to the speakers, members, faculties and students of GCELT & FDDI. Thanks were also expressed to ILPA for their kind permission to organize the event in their auditorium and to the family members of Late Prof. Moni Banerjee for their kind presence. Mr. Mallick reminded the members present of the 2nd Health

Camp being organized on 26th March, 2020 by ILTA in collaboration with R. N. Tagore Hospital (Narayana Health) & Indian Medical Association, Dum Dum wing.

Wishing a bright future to the award winners, Mr. Mallick requested all present to proceed to the dining hall for tea & refreshments.

LEXPO – XXXXI AT KOLKATA

The Kolkata – LEXPO XXXXI which was fixed to be organized at Kolkata Ice Skating Rink, from 20th to 27th May, 2020, has been postponed due to pandemic situation with Covid – 19. A request letter, asking postponement of the event has already been sent to the authority of KISR. Now it is under consideration whether we should go for postponement only or for cancellation for this Financial Year.

HEALTH CAMP / HEALTH TALK

As it was decided that henceforth Health Check Up camps and Health Talks would be arranged in alternate month on the last Thursday of the month, a health check up camp was proposed to be organized on Thursday 26th March, 2020 at Freya Design Studio, ILPA Leather Goods Park, Calcutta Leather Complex, Bantala.

Due to Lock Down announced for Covid-19, it was cancelled. This will be organized depending on the situation in future.

MANAGEMENT TALK SHOP

As it was decided that Management Talk Shop would be organized on the last Friday of every Month by its Mentor Prof. Asok Kr. Banerjee, a talk shop was proposed to be held at GCELT Conference Room on Friday 27th March, 2020.

This was also cancelled due to Lock Down declared for Covid-19. This will be re-planned after normalization of the situation.

We earnestly request you to take utmost precautions, so that we can overcome this crisis period successfully.

Wish a happy and healthy life for you, your family and friends.

ILTA HR COMMITTEE

An HR Committee has been formed under coordinatorship of Mr. Ratan Chowdhury. Members of the committee are as follows :-

Coordinator : Mr. Ratan Chowdhury.

Members :

- ❖ Prof. Dr. A. Banerjee.
- ❖ Prof. Dr. Sanjoy Chakroborty.
- ❖ Dr. Bhabendra Nath Das.
- ❖ Mr. Somenath Ganguly.
- ❖ Mr. C. K. Basu.
- ❖ Mr. B. D. Bhaiya.
- ❖ Mr. Tapas Biswas.

Joint Coordinator (Health Care)

- ❖ Mr. Kaushik Bhuiyan.
- ❖ Mr. Samaresh Sil.

Joint Coordinator (Management Talk Shop):

- ❖ Mr. Subir Dutta.
- ❖ Mr. Tarak Saha.

Ex-Officio :

- ❖ Mr. Arnab Jha (President)
- ❖ Mr. Asit Baran Kanungo (Vice President)
- ❖ Dr. K. J. Sreeram (Vice President – South)
- ❖ Dr. P. K. Bhattacharya (Vice President – North)
- ❖ Mr. Susanta Mallick. (General Secretary)

Admin-Social Platform

- ❖ Prof. Dr. B. Chattopadhyay.

Digital Host :

- ❖ Mr. Raj Kumar Maity.
[Student -3rd year (Leather) GCELT]

ILTA HR: THE DIGITAL PLATFORM

The digital platform for disseminating information, exchange of experience, cross-fertilization of knowledge, skill enhancement etc. has long been felt important with the proliferation of the Information Technology in every aspects of human survival; but it was never felt so strongly before the COVID pandemic throughout the world and likely to continue during the post COVID New Normal.

Indian Leather Technologists' Association (ILTA) being the professional association of the Leather Technologists' of India felt the necessity of launching its own interactive digital platform, where meeting, seminars, discussions etc. can be held with all the members and the stakeholders of the Industry across the country and also across the world almost regularly.

With this view in mind, the digital platform of ILTA HR was inaugurated with the members and the *avant garde* of the Industry within a short notice on 16/05/2020 at 7:00 pm in Webinar Zoom platform to nucleate and explore the potential.

None probably can ignore now a days that the virtual cloud is getting stronger and becoming less virtual but more reality. This platform will be used for the benefits of everybody, whosoever is interested to participate.

The special face book page is also being launched parallel to this platform, where the important information and also the audio-visual recordings are going to be uploaded for the archive and also for those, who might have missed the session due to preoccupation. The same will be uploaded in the YouTube also. All are requested to kindly "Like" the Face Book page & the YouTube uploads for obvious reasons. The pertinent questions, suggestions, comments and criticisms can be posted in the face book page by all concerned.

With all these opportunities let us kick start the beginning and try to explore with all of your whole-hearted cooperation our odyssey in digital world for the treasure hunt.

Arnab Jha (President)
Susanta Mallick (General Secretary)
Ratan Chowdhury (Coordinator)
Bhudehab Chatterjee (Admin – Social platform)

The following programmes have been postponed till further notice :

- 1) Health Check Up Camps / Health Talks will be held in alternative months on the last Thursday of every month.
- 2) Management Talk Shops will be held on the last Friday of every month.

B E R E A V E M E N T

With profound grief and a heavy heart we announce the sad demise of Mr. Umesh Kumar Sharma on 5th May 2020. He was a Life Member of ILTA from Northern Region.

May his soul rest in peace and may God give strength to the members of the bereaved family.

You are requested to :-

- a) Kindly inform us your 'E-Mail ID', 'Mobile No', 'Land Line No', through E-Mail ID: admin@iltaonleather.org or over Telephone Nos. : 24413429 / 3459. This will help us to communicate you directly without help of any outsiders like Postal Department / Courier etc.
- b) Kindly mention your Membership No. (If any) against your each and every communication, so that we can locate you easily in our record.



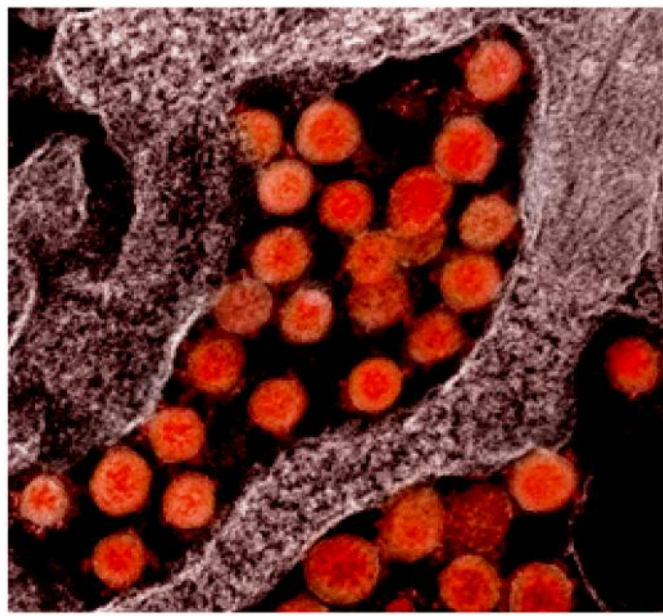
(Susanta Mallick)
General Secretary

Executive Committee Members meet
every Thursday at 18-30 hrs. at ILTA Office.
Members willing to participate are most welcome.

Some thoughts on COVID

Dr. Buddhadeb Chattopadhyay

Former Principal of Govt. College of Engineering & Leather Technology, Kolkata
& Now Principal, MCKV Institute of Engineering, Liluah, Howrah, W. B.



CoV2 strain

So far as I know, Viral diseases have no medicine to fight with. Virus is very tiny and is able to even inject its DNA/RNA into a bacterium. Only symptomatic treatment is applied to give some relief from discomfort to the patient. Like any other cells it has three phases of growth, which follows one after another: 1) lag phase ($dN/dt = +ve$, where N is the virus count and t is the time) i.e., growth rate is high, 2) stationery phase ($dN/dt = 0$) i.e., the $N = f(t)$ curve is flat i.e, growth rate = death rate and the last but not the least, 3) Death Phase ($dN/dt = -ve$) that means death rate is higher than the growth rate. For some virus like influenza, it is seven days long, chicken pox about three weeks, COVID, it is said to be about two weeks for individual victim.

Therefore, seeking medicine to attack and kill the target - the CoV2 is, according to me not the priority now. Of course, virus can have vaccine. Like for influenza it has been discovered.

Attempts are going on the development of vaccine throughout the world to increase specific immunity for prevention of attack of Novel Corona Virus.

I would like to emphasize that the term, "Novel", which may kindly be looked into, as an adjective preceding the noun, 'Corona virus'. Novel means Unique. This is unique because, Corona was already existing. It was attacking the animals, but it could not permeate the human cell. So, pets have been given Corona vaccine annually once. Due to some mutation process in the gene, the CoV2 virus of SARS variety, there was a sudden acquired ability to permeate the human cells. That is why they are distinctly different from their mother variety Corona, which was present. This was a recent phenomenon. Unless, we know completely their nucleic acid sequence and the changes that have been occurred in them, it is not so easy to develop the right vaccine.

The worst possibility, is still not known. That is if, they go on mutation further, then the new species/variant may totally ignore the vaccine. That means, even if, we can overcome this global catastrophe for now, we never know, whether it will relapse with much more virulence. This happened in Spanish Flue.

Now why is it ? Say, if, we succeed (and I am confident that we shall) to develop the vaccine for CoV2, how will they act on the human body? They will generate antibody in human first and this antibody will move around. They will act as police, if, the CoV2 (called now as antigen) enters the vaccinated human body, the antibody will bind to them forming antigen-antibody complex; very much like enzyme-substrate complex. Antibody-antigen complex is very specific for a target antigen and they

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also follow Fischer's Lock and Key hypothesis like enzyme-substrate complex. The only difference is that the enzyme-substrate complex is quasi-stable; but the antigen-antibody complex is fairly stable (i.e., they do not fall apart) at the physiological temperature.

There is a challenge in another dimension also. So far Globally 27 different variants (genotypes) of CoV2 have been isolated, purified and identified. So, it is a matter of great study, whether a single vaccine will be effective for arresting all of them in one go?

However, it is important to note that based on the genome sequencing of SARSCoV2, it has been observed that already multiple strains of the SARSCoV2 are affecting different countries. In USA alone, 8 strains have been identified so far. However, the current strains are fundamentally similar. As per my understanding, companies that are investing billions for developing vaccine will consider making a vaccine that will be effective for most of the strains, if not all, by picking overlapping sequence of gene from common domains of the different mutated strains. This is to target a broader audience, thus ensuring higher profit margins for the company. In addition, it is known that the rate of mutation of coronavirus is slower as compared to others such as influenza. So, the problem of frequent mutations may not be as frequent as we think. But then again, one cannot say anything for sure, as technically humans are not the typical host of coronavirus.

It has also to be noted that, it takes certain period (called incubation period) to develop the antibody. The pains or fever that one feels after injection of vaccine is due to side effect. It is not that the human would be resistant to attack from the virus from zero day. Every vaccine has a characteristic incubation period. That means, the attack can take place during the incubation period, when the antibody is developing, means the development of antibody is still incomplete. That should not be viewed as a failure of the vaccination.

Taking a simple mathematical calculation, we have nearly 1.34 Billion population. If, we take an ambitious mass-vaccination programme, say in the scale of vaccination of 100,000 people

per day: then by the time the last Indian to be vaccinated, it is already 37 years passed by. By that time, another 1 Billion will be in queue. So, where ends?

It was jokingly said, if, you are suffering from common flu and if, you take medicine you will recover in only one week; but, if, you don't, you will recover in seven days. I know our country has a history of recurring large scale suffering of another viral disease - Chicken pox. You may not have experience now, ask any elderly people in the rural area.

The patient was isolated inside a room alone on a bed, under a mosquito net. Nursing was done, usually by mother (mother's care), some symptomatic relief from itching by neem leaf waggling was done. After 3 weeks of isolation, the patient was allowed to live a normal life. The mother who cared her ailing child during this period acquired immunity also to the same extent as that of her recovered child. It was said, once someone suffered from Chicken pox and recovered, he will acquire life-long immunity from Chicken pox and statistically it is correct.

I am telling you none of the vaccine developed against virus, be it pox, hepatitis B, C, or influenza are full proof and immunity is developed to statistically significant number of persons, who had been administered by it.

If, you ask a doctor before injecting vaccine, "Doctor, can you assure me, that this vaccine will give me absolute protection from the diseases for which it is meant"? What would be his answer? I guess, he would say with all probabilities, "no, I can only assure you that, the virulence would be low". Now he leaves a big zone of ambiguity, how the hell can the person just subjected to vaccination, differentiate between low and high virulence! The patient feels, well, something is better than nothing and ready to pay for vaccine and the fees both.

Now, I am afraid, that based on the troubled water, some of the foreign buyer might ask for some kind of "CoV2 -free certification" for each leather footwear and leather goods consignment before shipment for export purpose. If, the leather shoes/leather goods are shipped by sea and, if, it takes



something like two months to disembark in the destined seaport, by that time, no CoV 2 should survive, whether we apply so called virocid (in analogy to bactericide or fungicide) or not. Better let us concentrate on fungal resistance, because of sea air almost nearly saturated with moisture, creating favorable condition for molds to grow and reproduce. I estimate, we need not to bother much on COVID testing for exporting leather footwear/leather goods. You have seen that the testing kits are non-reliable giving false positive and false negative data on human. The testing protocol and instrument both on PCR (Polymerase Chain Reactor) is very costly and time consuming at least three days/test. This is my personal view. I am no expert in microbiology or virology. This should be verified by some real expert.

I have a reasonable but, funny doubt the CoV2 have 27 different genotypes, I understand to experiment on their life-time on domestic materials like metal surface, wooden surface of the railings of stare case, on concrete, wood of chairs tables, utensils, plastics (both thermo and thermosetting) make sense and should interest; at the same time how on the earth and why some fertile brain with the same zeal, should be curious on its lifetime on Leather footwear/Leather goods, keeping many other more frequent contaminants at bay?

Secondly, if, their testing report indicated on how many samples the testing had been carried out, then only we could assess whether the test result is statistically significant (let's say at $p < 0.5$). These are small but important issues that confuses my mind.

We have also experienced trade barriers under various scientific aprons like, PCP, 20 Azo dyes, Cr(VI), ISO, RICH, Green labelling

(Carbon footprint might come shortly). Have you seen in those regulating bodies any neutral celebrated scientist with open mind in the chair? They are densely populated by Chemical big MNC giants' lobby. The scope for 'conflict of interest' and 'quid pro quo' cannot be over ruled simply.

Though it may be little harsh but, just think without attaching any bias. I can prove that tanners have been painted with a thicker brush than they deserve. Earlier Cr (VI) was suspected carcinogen, we did extensive research for 25 years and published 57 International journals. Now Cr (VI) is allergen that too rate of occurrence is only 4 in 100,000. Where as in US alone 10 Million Americans every year suffer from Pollen allergy. If, they ban Cr (VI) on the ground now, that they are allergen; do you ban flowers, which only produce pollen?

More importantly, are we now really deciding to move towards, "Silent Spring"?

However, at the awake of the contagious COVID 19, it is my humble suggestion to the integrated Leather Industry to follow the guidelines as given by the Government from time to time if, the factories are allowed to operate with some riders. Every single factory should responsibly tailor make their SOP (Standard Operating Procedure), implement and control them religiously for the safety of not only the employees but also the Nation, in order to break the chain of propagation of disease via community contamination. We have to raise in the occasion with right spirit and commitment; since, nobody knows and can predict how long this catastrophe shall continue.

Read and Let Read :-

JILTA



Late Umesh Kumar Sharma

(1st June, 1966 – 5th May, 2020)

After completing B. Sc. from Agra University, Agra & Diploma in Leather Technology from Govt. Leather Institute, Agra in 1987, Late U. K. Sharma worked with M/s Wason & Co., Agra & other companies following which he served Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Kanpur in different posts since 1995. Presently he was working with CLRI, Kanpur as Senior Technical Officer.

Late U. K. Sharma was possessing a cheerful and pleasing personality.

He was a Life Member of ILTA for a long time

His passing away on 5th May, 2020 is an irreparable loss to the leather fraternity.

We imagine sustainable solutions for the beamhouse and tanning process

Stahl BeTan®

Tanners are facing growing environmental challenges as the market increasingly demands that high-quality leathers are produced more responsibly. Contributing to a more ecological leather production process, our responsible beamhouse portfolio helps tanners meet these challenges without compromising on the quality of the leather.

The Stahl BeTan® portfolio consists of a complete range of responsible solutions for every step in the beamhouse and tanning process, from soaking to liming and bating. Using the best-in-class responsible technologies from the Stahl BeTan® portfolio, tanners can reduce their water consumption and the amount

of sulfides, solids and salt used during leather production. Moreover, it can result in a shorter production process. Building on years of experience in beamhouse operations and acquiring the best technical experts in the world, Stahl has become the go-to partner when it comes to sustainable beamhouse and tanning solutions. Our Stahl BeTan® solutions demonstrate Stahl's continuous commitment to Responsible Chemistry, aimed at reducing the environmental impact of leather-making.

If you would like to know more about Stahl BeTan®, and what we can do for your business, visit stahl.com or contact david.sabate@stahl.com

stahl.com



We imagine premium-quality leathers produced with a lower environmental impact

Waterproof leather



Expert tanners and shoe brands know that not all waterproofing is created equal, and that for the highest performance, you need to start at the beginning: the wet-end of the leather production process. But even there, the waterproofing agents you choose can make a difference to your environmental footprint and the ultimate performance of your products. Stahl's Densodrin® Polymeric Generation with polymeric Densotan®, the first 100% polymer silicone waterproofing solution, delivers full polymeric neutralization, re-tanning and waterproofing. This new generation makes it possible to improve the environmental footprint of leather waterproofing considerably while still being able to promise the same excellent performance that customers and consumers expect. Densodrin® Polymeric Generation

is the cleanest performing level of waterproofing available to tanners and shoe manufacturers.

Like all Densodrin® and Densotan® products, our polymeric generation agents are compliant with the ZDHC MRSL, and are designed to be free of PFCs. This means we can provide the right chemistry so brands and manufacturers can waterproof their leather in a way that is high-performance, safe and sustainable.

If you would like to know what this portfolio can do for your business, please visit stahl.com or contact us at: lionel.champanhet@stahl.com or frederic.danvers@stahl.com

stahl.com



Adjusting the sails to tide over COVID-19

Mr. Gualberto Gualtieri

Chief Executive Officer, C & E Ltd., Chennai - 600010, India



The COVID-19 pandemic has hit us and hit us hard. The sheer pace of change and its exponential impact has caught us off guard. It's clear that when we restart, and it will happen slowly, we will live in a completely different world.



Are you worried? Would that help?

Day by day, the economy continues to splutter and fall and companies are bleeding through their pockets — a deep recession is inevitable. However, as businessmen, we think that it is important to answer a fundamental question — which economic model will emerge after this subsides — Hayek or Keynes?

In times of war, we think that its important to apply Keynes' theories which have endured many such rollercoasters.

Faced with unforeseen circumstances, a change of mindset is as necessary in this crisis as it would be in times of war. The shock we are facing is not cyclical. The loss of income is not the fault of any of those who suffer from it. The cost of hesitation may be irreversible. (1\$ spent today could cost 5\$ tomorrow, someone has estimated) The memory of the sufferings of Europeans in the 1920s was enough of a cautionary tale.

An expert economist, Mr. Draghi (former president of the BCE) and Noriel Roubini are of the opinion that "Higher public debt levels will become an economic feature and be accompanied by

private debt cancellation. Unemployment subsidies and postponement of taxes are important steps, but protecting employment and productive capacity at a time of dramatic income loss require immediate liquidity support..."

We would like to believe that in the world, players will be able to put their efforts in this direction. At this moment we need States' strong support in their competence sectors such as health, education, and safety. We strongly hope that the G20, that in recent history has accustomed us to endless discussions, will be able to prepare a kind of new Brenton Woods focused on fundamental population guarantees through a new journey based on reforms and a new political phase that unfortunately was not started as well after the 2008 financial collapse.

The two crises are profoundly different, in the sense that 2008 was a crisis generated by wild speculation without rules, COVID19 is a health crisis and needs to be resolved in the context of holiness.

It's also true that we can emphasize that apparently, the worldwide production shutdown shows to the world that after solving the health issue the other necessary priority is to come back to the real economy, and it will be a piece of good news. Last but not least we must consider that the pandemic is also a test to regulate the primacy of world economic supremacy between China and the USA. Now said that the question is — what can we do?



The only thing we have to fear is fear itself

Corresponding author E-mail : maheshwaran@cel.co.in

Hedging our planning for the aftermath

It's really difficult for this continuous change of situations to make provisions. But we can try to design some possible scenarios.

Ñ No effective interventions by the state. Long term recession.

This will be the worst option. In this unfortunate case, the only possible choice is to minimize both production, employees and workers. We are optimists and don't want to take this option.

Ñ Interventions by the states with a partial recession, loss of income, loss of GDP.

According to us, this is the more realistic scenario and in this case, it is not certain that in the leather and shoe sector the contraction will be very high. Our models indicate a negative picture with a contraction of volume of around 30%. However, it depends on the emotions of the populace when this pandemic meets its end. By this we mean, the willingness of society to fight and come back with a bang. As higher this sentiment will be, considering that we're a direct link to a "non-essential" sector, the lesser will be our impact.

But it's clear that in the next few months the worldwide GDP will be under great stress. In area Euro and the USA, the contraction of GDP in the near period will be around 10% and we will not see a positive signal before June. For the leather industry, we will assume a negative impact of around 6% in those areas.

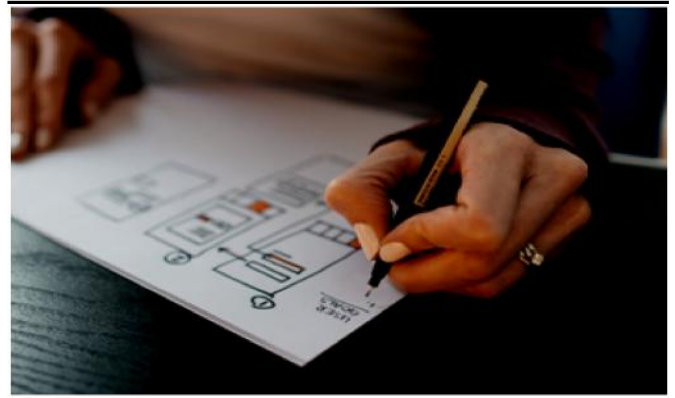


Dawn comes after darkness, we will be ready when it comes

We will prepare and our chances will come.

Well, how can we face this negativity? How can we best prepared at the reopening? What kind of actions and analysis can we put on during this shutdown? Which kind of smart work?

We think, that the following summarizes the way we are planning our manufacturing :



God helps those how help themselves

- Ñ Take care of workers and employees that in this COVID-19 pandemic are the most vulnerable.
- Ñ The top management needs to open a frank discussion with worldwide agencies — clients and suppliers putting on the fact that interrupting the financial flow is one of the worst things that we can do. It's absolutely clear that from the bad situation in which we are present, no one will come out alone and we need the help of all with great coordination.
- Ñ Ask the managers to involve their team to make several analyses on the past performance. This includes production, product category and selling performance. The focus will be the 'Toyota Method' of getting ideas and thoughts from everyone involved in the company to assess our preparedness for the future. What is missing? What else can we be doing?
- Ñ This is a golden chance for the R&D team to study areas of emerging importance through research in online libraries. They can get in touch with the area managers and can deepen the discussion on what we must have.
- Ñ Analyze what it is necessary to be ready, in terms of flow chart and production schedule, for the reopening. In particular, take care of a program to reorganize the production departments with schemes that permit the whole factory to work safely avoiding future problems of contagion.

Our only focus right now is to be able to get up and get back when this is over. And to quote Tom Hanks in 'Cast Away' — I know what have to do now, I've got to keep breathing because tomorrow the sun will rise. Who knows what the tide could bring?

We also remember that, everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end.

Solidaridad ASIA

Solidaridad Network is a global civil society organization providing efficient, scalable and economically effective and innovative sustainability solutions in various agricultural and industrial commodities such as:



Solidaridad Asia has more than 320 sustainability experts operating from 26 offices in 9 countries and has also pioneered development and implementation of national sustainability standards in the region.

Solidaridad initiated its efforts in the leather cluster in late 2017 with the Kanpur-Unnao leather cluster. Within 2 years of inception, we have started our efforts in Kolkata and Bangladesh Leather clusters. Through tailor-made programs, Solidaridad has tried to address the following components:

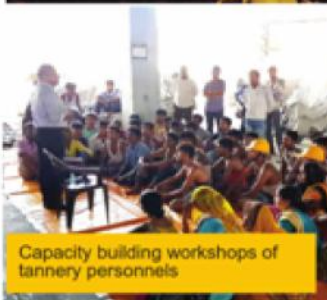
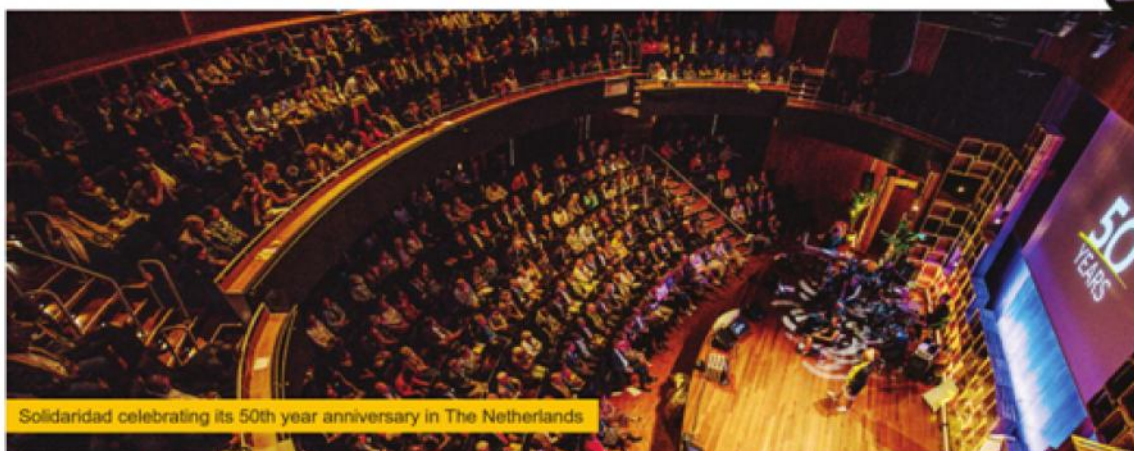
KEY COMPONENTS



SUSTAINABLE WAY FORWARD IN THE LEATHER CLUSTERS ACROSS INDIA



Solidaridad ASIA



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 Contact: 011-45134500, +91-9818311450

INDIA'S LEATHER INDUSTRY STARES AT EXPORT LOSS OF \$1.5 BILLION



India's leather industry is staring at an export loss of \$1.5 billion due to the Covid-19 pandemic that has gripped the global markets. Most leather clusters in the country are closed barring the leather complexes in Kolkata and Unnao in Uttar Pradesh, which have just received permission to reopen.

India exports leather products worth \$5.5 - \$6 billion annually. Leather exporters said countries like US, Germany and Italy have started sending enquiries and are negotiating for a lower price. "Importers from US, UK, France, Italy, Spain and Germany had either cancelled orders or have put them on hold. Some of them are also delaying payments. The loss is around \$1.5 billion and we do not know when we will be able to recover it," Ramesh Juneja, regional chairman of Council of Leather Exports, told ET.

"Most leather clusters in the country are closed. Leather units in Kanpur and Tamil Nadu are not working. Unnao has just started operations with 33% workforce. At Calcutta Leather Complex in Bantala, exporters were not initially getting raw hides as trucks were not coming in. Now that has eased a bit and raw hides are coming." Juneja said.

Juneja said clients from the US, Germany and Italy are now sending business enquiries. "But they want to negotiate the price. They are offering us lesser price," he added.

But exporters are not able to commit to the orders due to the freeze on industrial activities. Mohammed Faisal, business development manager (international) of Kanpurbased Parvez Shoes, a footwear exporting firm said "The migrant workers have left and so, getting labourers is a real challenge. Since the units are closed, we don't know what is the condition of the raw hides that are lying at the units."

(Economic Times – 13/05/2020)

2 LEATHER HUBS OPENED IN KOLKATA CITY



Chief minister Mamata Bannerjee on Friday announced the opening of two leather clusters for shoe and small leather accessory makers in the city.

They are set up at Janbazar and Bantala Leather Complex and will provide employment to five lacs people, she said .

(Source : PTI – 22/01/2020)

nCOV ; LEATHER INDUSTRY INCURS RS 300 CR LOSSES AS RAW MATERIAL STOPS



The leather goods industry of Eastern India stares at a loss of about Rs 300 crores as the supply chain of the import of raw material has completely stopped since the past one month due to the novel coronavirus outbreak in China.

These raw materials are mainly imported from Guangzhou and Dongzhou provinces of Main land China. ,besides some items from Hong Kong .

The annual export of leather goods from the eastern region is about Rs 3,400 crores. Every month these leather units import raw materials of about Rs 200 crores to Rs 250 crore from China.

Talking to Statesman, Arjun Mukund Kalkarni, Vice President of Indian Leather Products Association (ILPA) said that with the current situation still very grim in China, normalcy in supply chain of raw material cannot be restored before March.

“Eastern India contributes about 55 percent of India’s total Rs 5000 crores leather goods export per annum. We import locks, dog hooks, clips, zippers, PU (synthetic leather), lining material of leather goods, mesh, nylon webbing, chemicals, fitting for bags etc.

RFID fabric essential to make bags and wallets to protect he credit / debit cards from screening from outside is also imported from China,” he added. In the leather footwear section also ,the supply of raw material components like laces, shoe lining ,buckles, ornaments, insoles ,outsoles, foam, cellulose board, shank board etc have been effected.

“Countries like Bangladesh and Cambodia have become our biggest competitors and we are looking countries like Vietnam and South Korea in Asia and Spain and Italy in Europe as alternative of raw material import.

But the cost factor, is huge from these countries compared to China,” Kulkarni explained. In the long term the indigenous infrastructure for raw materials manufacturing is necessary in India and for that the country needs investment for research in technological knowhow as the leather industry has regularly been affected by the outbreaks of diseases, like SARS, Bird Flu, novel Corona virus etc, he said.

About five to ten lac peoples are engaged directly or indirectly in the leather industry in West Bengal located mainly at Kasba, Topsia, Tangra and Bantola in Kolkata and working in the 250 numbers of small, medium and large scale units.

With this present situation even their jobs are at stake and production has completely stopped since February.

In Kolkata, leather tote bags, bag pack, across bags, leather bags, wallets are mostly manufactured. The world’s largest leather glove manufacturing unit is also located in Kolkata, Indian Safety Products (ISP).

(Source : The Statesman – 16/02/2020)

KANPUR TANNERIES ASKED TO SHUTDOWN AGAIN



The Regional Pollution Control Board of Uttar Pradesh has ordered 248 tanneries in Jajmau area of Kanpur to stop their operations from February 19 till further orders, without assigning any reason.

The tanneries, which remained closed for a period of 13 months on the charge of polluting Ganga, were allowed to start production on December 20 for two months only.

S.B. Franklin, regional pollution control board officer, said the time limit of two months is expiring on February 19.

Feroz Alam of Small Tanners’ Association said that on December 20 last year, the government, while granting permission to run the units with half capacity, had also stated that the tanners would be allowed to run their units till next year if they followed the necessary norms and standards fixed by the pollution control board.

He said, “During the last two months, not a single notice was issued to any tannery by the regional pollution control board because the tanneries did not flout the norms set by it.”

He said that the UP Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) had not given any reason for the closure order now. Aftab Alam, a leather exporter, said the closure order would not only damage the business image of tanneries but would affect leather export too.

He said the tanneries which have got orders from foreign companies would suffer if they failed to supply the goods in time. The tanners would also face problems in getting new orders in future, he added.

GOYAL PROPOSES TO DISCONTINUE EXPORT INCENTIVES FOR SERVICES



The revenue department has started capturing district-wise data of goods exports, a move aimed at helping policy makers take data-driven decisions to boost outwards shipments.

This is being done to achieve the objective of turning districts into export hubs, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in a statement on Monday.

“This additional information from the export declarations will provide a key statistical input to policy makers on the importance of each district for exports and will help in aligning the policies to enhance local capacity,” it said.

The information would now also capture declarations by exporters intending to avail benefits India’s under free and preferential trade agreements with partner countries.

This would provide critical data on the gains being made by Indian exporters under FTAs/PTAs and help the government align India’s foreign trade policy in the nation’s best interests, the CBIC said.

Further, CBIC has now made it mandatory that every GST registered importer and exporter must declare their GSTIN on the import and export declarations. This will not only help taxpayers claim the ITC credit and IGST refunds but also in combating frauds.

The data collected will help policy makers take data-driven decisions, the CBIC added. India’s exports dropped by 1.66 per cent to USD 25.97 billion in January, the sixth straight month of contraction, on account of a significant fall in shipments of petroleum, plastic, carpet, gems and jewellery, and leather products.

Imports also fell for the eighth consecutive months, down 0.75 per cent to USD 41.14 billion in January, widening the trade deficit to a seven-month high of USD 15.17 billion.

(Economic Times – 09/05/2020)

GOVT. WISHES TO SET UP PANEL TO GIVE CLEARENANCES IN 3-MONTH TIME-FRAME FOR BUSINESSES INCLUDING LEATHER : GADKARI



The government will set up a panel to provide necessary clearances needed by businesses within a time-frame of three-months in a bid to attract foreign investment in MSMEs, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Sunday.

Addressing Chartered Accountants Association of India, the minister informed that a Joint Secretary level officer has already been appointed to look after the foreign investment in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

“We are going to formulate a committee where we will give all types of clearances within 3 months and at the same time, there will be no red tape, full transparency, time-bound decision-making process, qualitative approach and no corruption,” Gadkari said.

The committee will be set up in coordination with states and the central government as stakeholders, and a policy will be framed in this regard, the minister added.

Earlier in the day, addressing the Dalit Industries Chamber of Commerce of India, he said the government was making efforts towards decentralisation of the industry.

“There is a centralisation of industry in areas like Mumbai, Noida, Gurugram, Bengaluru, Chennai. We need to diversify this and that is the need of the hour,” Gadkari said.

He said the government was formulating a policy on how investment can be made more attractive in backward and tribal areas.

Gadkari said that he was willing for a leather cluster to be set up on the Delhi-Mumbai highway. "We will also give plots and residential accommodation to people residing in Dharavi slums, create a Smart City with airport, port and station connectivity," he said, and asked leather industry representatives to take up the initiative with the help of the Maharashtra government.

He also urged people to move out of Dharavi, observing that the situation there was grim. Gadkari suggested the leather industry to prepare a plan for the proposed cluster on the Delhi-Mumbai highway.

The minister said he will also talk to the Maharashtra government in this regard.

The cluster will provide a good alternative to people to shift out of Dharavi, he added.

(Business Standard – 13/05/2020)

EXPORT – ORIENTED LEATHER UNITS ALLOWED TO FUNCTION IN UTTOR PRADESH



The industries department of the Uttar Pradesh state government gave green signal to export-oriented leather industries of the city to start production in their units, subject to the condition that they will comply with the safety advisory issued by the district administration.

The industries department made it clear that this relief has been given to shoe, belt, purse, saddlery and other leather goods manufacturing units.

The leather industry was awaiting green signal from the government for the last couple of days. The leather goods manufacturers were hopeful that they too would get a nod to run their units which are closed since the lockdown. Despite several requests made by the leather goods manufacturers to the officials of the district administration officials and the industries department, the latter refused to allow them to start their units.

The state government, which had recently categorized the locked down areas into green, orange and red zones, asked the units, manufacturing essential commodities, to run their units after giving a declaration to the district administration this week. The leather goods manufacturing units too had applied for the permission.

Asad Iraqi, general secretary, Leather Industries Welfare Association, said that out of around 100 export-oriented leather goods manufacturing units in Jajmau area of the city, the district industries centre (DIC) has issued work order letters to around 20 units on Friday. Other units too would get the work orders in a couple of days.

"Almost all units have completed preparations for manufacturing products. Hopefully, production would begin from Monday," Iraqi added.

Joint commissioner, industries, Sarveshwar Shukla, said, "The department has given conditional permission to export-oriented leather firms. Tanneries have not been included in it". The units, which comes in the ambit of export-oriented leather goods manufacturing units, could start production, he added.

Meanwhile, several traders' associations have urged the government and the district administration officials to open all markets in the city the way they had permitted liquor vendors to open their shops.

(Times of India – 18/05/2020)

INDIAN LEATHER PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

The Indian Leather Products Association (ILPA), established in 1987, is a premiere representative body of manufacturer-exporters of superior quality leather and leather products with head office in Kolkata and a regional office in Chennai.

IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES OF ILPA :

- Brings together manufacturer & merchant exporters on a common platform.
- Stimulates growth & development of the industry as a whole.
- Promotes export of leather & leather products.
- Develops & maintains symbiotic liaison with international trade bodies & Chambers of Commerce.
- Organises trade delegations to international fairs & seminars.
- Organises various Seminars/workshops both the benefit of its members and industry.
- Promotes International Fairs and RBSMs like IILF Kolkata, ILPA Buyer Seller Summit.
- Organises the ILPA SHOW : Leather on the Ramp , one of the most prestigious and sought after Fashion event in Eastern India.
- Closely involved in setting up the Calcutta Leather Complex (CLC).
- Runs and manages the Freya Design Studio : a CLE award winning Design Studio both for leather goods and footwear.
- Runs and manages the ILPA INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (IIDF) – a state of the art Common Facility Centre.
- Imparts Skill Development Training through ILPA Technical School.



Common Facility Center



Design Studio



CAD CAM Center



ILPA Technical School



Indian Leather Products Association

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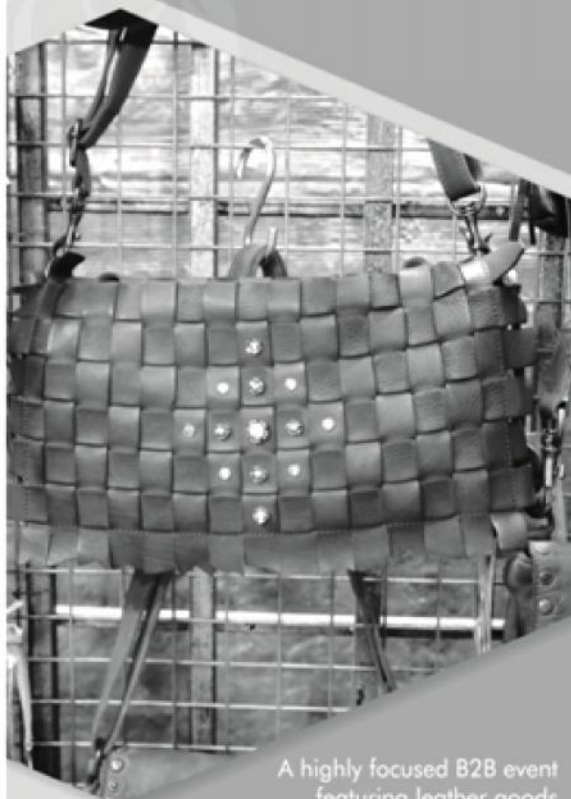
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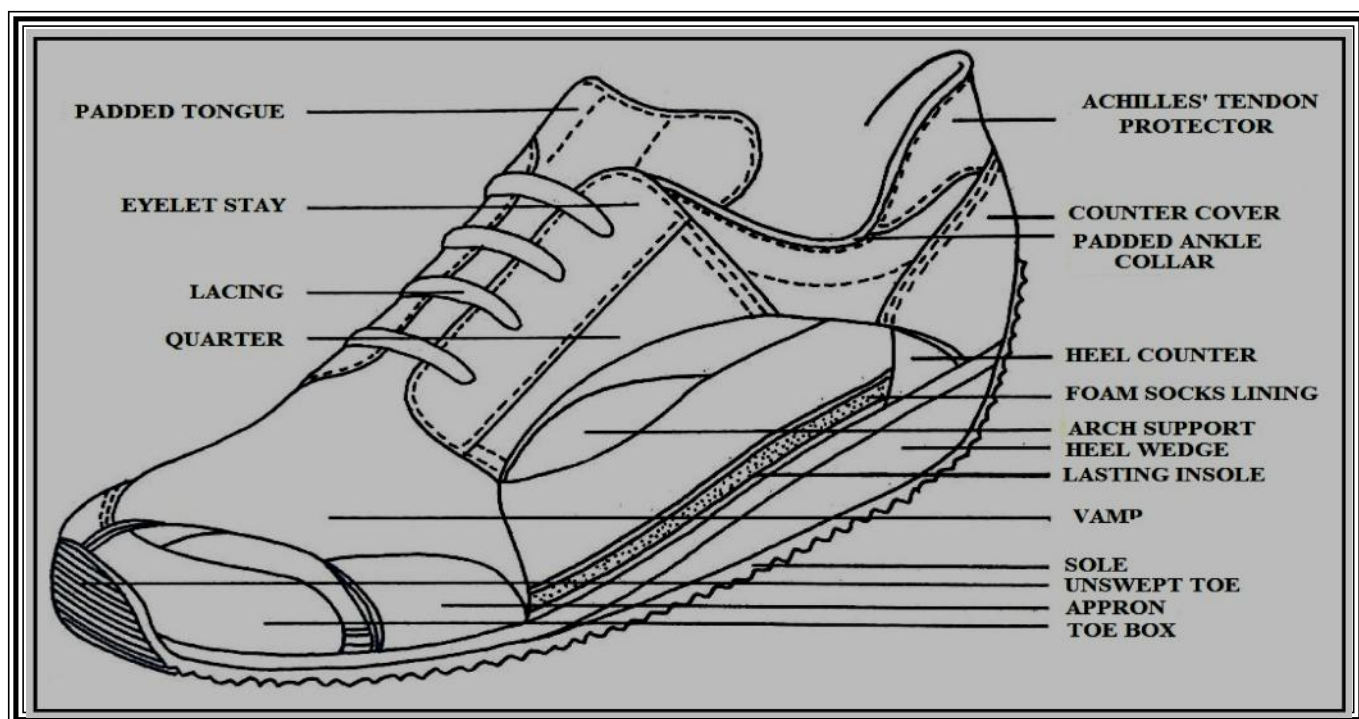
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Indian Leather Products Association
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KNOW YOUR SHOE Part - 1

Mr. Shome Nath Ganguly

Former Principal, Karnataka Institute of Leather Technology



VIEW OF A TYPICAL DERBY SHOE

The **Closed Upper** helps to hold the shoe onto the foot. In the simplest cases, such as sandals or flip-flops (Chappal), this may be nothing more than a few straps for holding the sole in place. Closed footwear, such as boots, safety shoes and most men's shoes is having a more complex upper. This part is often decorated or is made in a certain style to look attractive. The upper is connected to the sole by various means. It is called the **shoe construction**. Stitching with upper & sole attaching (lasted upper + sole) with adhesive & also attaching by moulding or direct injection process.

Most uppers have a mechanism, such as laces, straps with buckles, zippers, elastic, Velcro straps, buttons, or snaps, for tightening the upper on the foot. Uppers with laces usually have a tongue that helps to seal the laced opening and protect the foot from abrasion by the laces. Uppers with laces also

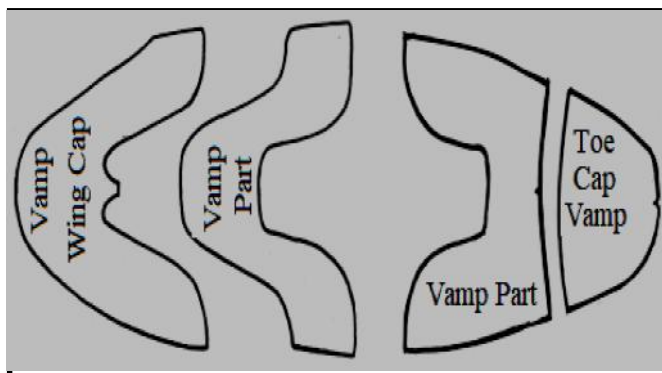
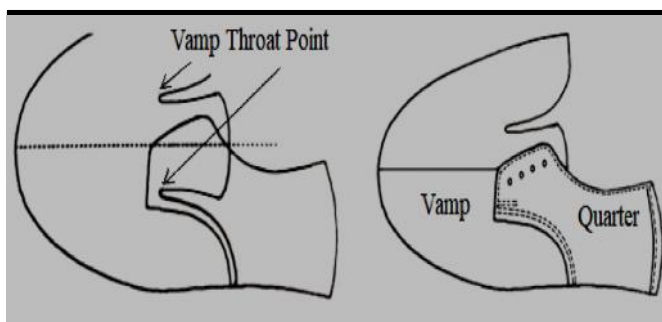
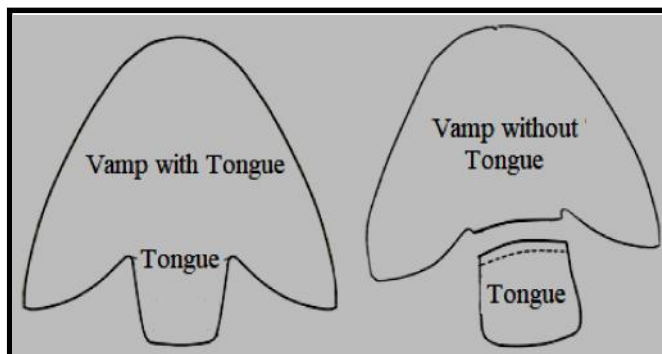
have eyelets or hooks to make it easier to tighten and loosen the laces and to prevent the lace from tearing through the upper material. An aglet (It is a metal or plastic tube fixed tightly round each end of a shoe lace) is the protective wrapping on the end of the lace. Shoe uppers also made without lace, Velcro or elastic to tighten on the foot. Design of the shoe is made such a way that the shoe (without lace, vel crow or elastic in upper) can grip the foot of the wearer tightly so that it does not open during walking. Gents casual & ladies court shoe are the right example in this case.

The **VAMP** is the most important front part of the shoe. The best part of the leather is used for cutting vamp. Flexing in the front part of the shoe is to bear by vamp. Vamp is designed in various ways like with or without Tongue, mudguard & Toe. In true mock construction we find a different type of upper



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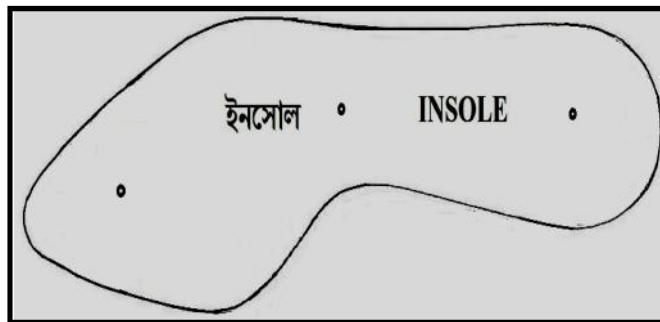
surrounding whole frontal part including underneath of the foot.



The **MEDIAL** is the part of the shoe closest to a person's centre of balance, and the lateral is on the opposite side, away from their centre of balance. This can be in reference to either the outsole or the vamp. Most shoes have shoe laces on the upper, connecting the medial and lateral parts after one puts their shoes on and aiding in keeping their shoes on their feet. In 1968, shoe industry developed & introduced the first pair of sneakers with Velcro straps in lieu of shoelaces. This became a popular fashion trend by the 1980s, especially among children and the elderly.

The **TOE** portion of a shoe is the part that covers and protects the toes of the foot. People with toe deformities, or individuals who experience toe swelling (such as long distance runners) usually require a larger toe portion inside the shoe. Besides

these for safety of toe of the workman working in the mine, we use steel toe shoe to protect their feet from injuring with stone in the mines. Special last mainly broader in the toe area are used for this purpose. To get more comfort while walking “**broader toe**” shape shoes are recommended which has more space inside the toe area of a shoe.



The **INSOLE** is the back bone of the shoe. It holds the upper tightly throughout the edge to facilitate the construction of the shoe. Insole is covered with a sock, inside the bottom of a shoe. Foot is always in touch with socks which sit directly beneath the foot under the foot bed (also known as sock liner).

Insoles were usually made with vegetable tanned buff leather but due to the price of leather now cellulosic paper board or synthetic nonwoven insole board are used. Presently blended insole (Insole + shank board + Shank) are made. Blended insoles are flexible in the front side and rigid at the seat portion. Many shoes have removable and replaceable foot bed. Extra cushioning is often added for providing comfort to the wearer. Special insoles are used while making Good Year Welted & Veldtschoen shoe.

The **MIDSOLE** is the layer in between the outsole and the insole, typically they are used for shock absorption. Often for safety & military boot construction mid sole is used as a base for attaching sole with shoe. Some types of shoes, like running shoes, have additional material for shock absorption, usually beneath the heel of the foot, where one puts the most pressure down. Some shoes may not have a midsole at all. It is used as per the requirement of the construction of the shoe.

The **OUTSOLE** is always in direct contact with the ground. Dress shoes often have leather, PVC, PU or resin rubber outsoles. Casual or work-oriented shoes have outsoles made of natural rubber or a synthetic material like polyurethane. The outsole at present usually comprises with a single piece in a unit sole. But now a days with latest development of double density sole, it is having twin properties in a single sole. Outer surface (layer)



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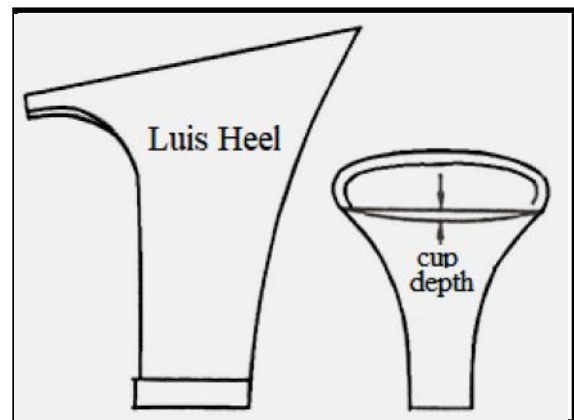
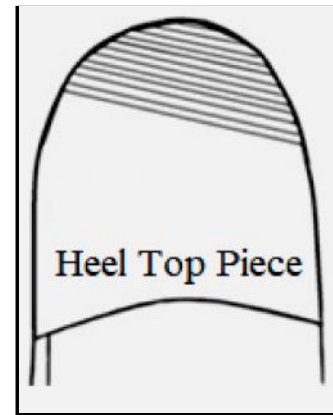
Students Corner

is providing an abrasion to the ground and at the same time inner surface (layer) provides cushioning effects to the feet. Two different quality of PU material is poured in a machine to make this type of sole. In some shoes, the heel of the sole has a rubber top piece for durability and gripping the ground, while the front is with leather for style. Specialized shoes will often have modifications on this design. Athletic or so-called cleated (studded) shoes like soccer, rugby, baseball and golf shoes have spikes embedded in the outsole to provide better grip of the shoe with the specific playground.



All shoes usually have a **SOLE** which is the bottom of a shoe, getting in contact with the ground. Some special type of shoe like Ballet shoe for dancing have no sole. Soles can be made from a variety of materials, although most modern shoes have unit soles made from Natural Rubber (NR), Poly Urethane (PU), Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) compounds, Thermo Plastic Rubber (TPR), Thermo Poly Urethane (TPU). Soles can be made simply from a piece of rubber sheet or from Natural Leather. These

material in a single layer or they can be complex, with multiple structures or layers and materials. Now a day's soles are being made with the help of sole mould only in a machine as an unit sole which stuck to the bottom of the shoe easily.



The **HEEL** is the bottom rear part of a shoe. Its function is to support the heel (rear part) of the foot. They are often made of the same material as the sole of the shoe. This part can be high for fashion or to make the person look taller, or flat for a more practical and comfortable use. On some shoes the inner forward point of the heel is chiselled off, a feature known as a "gentleman's corner". This piece of design is intended to alleviate the problem of the points catching the bottom of trousers and was first observed in the 1930s. A heel is the projection at the back of a shoe which rests below the heel bone. It bears 50% of the body weight. The shoe heel is used to improve the balance of the shoe, increase the height of the wearer and alter posture or other decorative purposes. Sometimes raised, the high heel is common to a form of shoe often worn by women, but sometimes by men too. **Height of the heel** is directly related to **the height of the Toe spring**.

Ref : <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoe>



FULLER AND BETTER UTILISATION OF DRY AND WET SALTED GOAT SKINS*

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INTRODUCTION

Indian Goat population is second in world and in the production of skins, India tops the list of world production. According to the last census report, the population of goat in India is 55.4 million out of which about 20 million goat skins are produced annually. But on an average 19 million goat skins valued at Rs. 9-10 crores are exported annually in the raw stage to the world markets. These goat skins, instead of exporting in the raw condition, if finished or even pickled or processed blue and then exported, could fetch a higher price and earn more foreign exchange than they do now and also could provide additional employment. The restriction on export of raw skins, a cut by 33 percent in export quota since 1959 and by 40 percent since this year appears to be a boon to the Indian Leather Industry and has brought the Indian exporters of raw goat skins to think in different ways and efforts are now being made to make pickled and blue skins for export. But our accent should be on fuller and better utilisation of the vast raw goat skin resources by producing standard marketable finished leathers within the country and exporting the finished leathers rather than raw materials.

With a view to the Fuller and Better utilisation of Indian Goat skins the manufacture of glazed kid leather and its allied lines such as gold and silver kid, crushed and shrunken kid, glove, garment, suede and lining kids, chamois, book binding leather, E. I. tanned goat skins and their dressing, and certain kind of industrial leathers, viz. roller skin, diaphragm leather, gas metre leather etc. may be undertaken by Indian tanners. From the point of view of manufacturing the items stated in an economical way it is advisable to make assortments at three stages (i) Raw Selection, (ii) Lime Selection and (iii) Blue Selection as mentioned below :

Raw Selection

- (a) Skins below 28 inches may be processed for fancy hand glove, hair-on-kid for the manufacture of toys, hats etc.
- (b) Average quality of skins between 28 and 36 inches may be chosen for the manufacture of pickled and wet blue goat skins for export, glazed kid, gold and silver kid, fancy kid etc.
- (c) Large average sizes of skins between 36 to 42 inches may be selected for shrunken kid, E. I. tanning, chamois, book binding leather, grain and suede garment etc.

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- (d) Above 42 inches skins may be chosen for making imitation calf for shoe upper, vegetable/chrome tan fancy leather, screen leather, splitted skivers as laminated leather, wallet leather, and bottom ones for making chamois for cleaning, sandle suedes and leather suitable for being cut and woven into mats etc.

Lime Selection

After liming operation, the skins should be assorted as follows :

The fine and tight grained skins without any grain defects may be selected for glazed kid manufacture. Those skins possessing sheep grain, raised grain, loose structure, poor substance and defective grain should be rejected for making glazed kid and may be processed into E. I. tanning, chamois, shrunken kid, suedes, grament leathers etc. after further necessary liming.

Blue Selection

After chrome tanning of the selected lot for glazed kid and shaving the tanned skins may be assorted as follows :

The fine, tight and smooth grained pieces may be selected for glazed kid finish and the pieces with drawn grain and thin substance may be processed for crushed kid, suede kid, fancy kid etc.

The necessary technical know-how for converting the raw goat skins into above mentioned different types of leather after proper grading is now made available through C. L. R. I. to Indian tanners for adoption.

PROCESS

Two lots of dry and wet salted average quality goat skins consisting 150 pcs. in each lot are taken. Different items of leathers, viz. (1) Pickled, wet blue and crust blue for export, (2) Glazed kid finished in black and dark brown, (3) Crust kid (4) Gold and Silver kid, (5) Chamois, (6) Shrunken kid and (7) Rapid method of V/T E.I. goat are demonstrated after assorting the skins in lime and blue stage. The details of the processes are described below :

Raw Materials :

(1) Wet salted (Calcutta kills) average quality goat skins of average size 28 to 40 inches are taken. (2) Dry salted (Muzaffarpur) average quality goat skins of average size 28 to 40 inches are taken.

Soaking of wet salted skins (1)

Soaking in a pit :

The skins are soaked in a pit without any disturbance for 1 to 1½ hrs. with 600 percent water on the raw weight and 60 gms. Idet-10 (Swastic Oil Mills, Bombay) per 100 gallon of water. They are then taken out and drained out water.



Trimming and Weighing :

The shanks are trimmed through the knuckle joints, teats and brisks to be removed as close as possible. Tail to be taken off square with skin pattern. Head to be squared which will remove horns, ears and any jaws remaining. All trimmings to be done with care to effect greatest saving of potential leather. The skins are then weighed and ready for drum soaking.

Drum Soaking :

The skins are then taken in a drum with 300 percent water on the soaked wt. and 60 gms. Idet-10 per 100 gl. of water and run the drum for 1 to 1½ hrs. (speed 19 R. P. M.). Then they are washed with running water approximately for 1 to 1½ hrs. till clean. The skins are then taken out, drained and piled for painting.

Liming of Wet Salted Skins :

Liming is done first with a depilating paste and then in a lime liquor in a pit as follows :

Pasting : Composition of the depilating paste

Sodium sulphide (60—62%)	1% on the soaked wt.
Hydrated lime $[\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2-94\%]$	9% on the soaked wt.
Water to make 22 to 23°Be'	

The paste is applied on the flesh side of the skin in the evening, say at 4 pm. and the skins are piled on the floor flesh to flesh and left overnight. Next morning, the skins are unhaired by a blunt knife or wooden knife with less pressure in order to prevent any damage on the grain and are ready for liming in a pit or paddle.

Liming in a pit : Composition of the lime liquor :

Old lime liquor (once used)	225% on the soaked wt.
Water	75% "
Sodium sulphide (60-62%)	2% "
Hydrated lime $[\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2-94\%]$	9% "

The unhaired skins are put in the above lime liquor in a pit and left there for two days. The skins are handled up and replaced once in the morning and once in the evening during these two days.

Fleshing :

On the 3rd day after pit liming the skins are fleshed and assorted for the manufacture of different types of leather. The skins which are selected for pickled.

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wet blue and crust blue for export, glazed kid up to finish, crushed kid and gold and silver kid are kept in soft water overnight.

The remaining skins selected for chamois, shrunken kid and rapid method of E. I. Tanned goat are put for reliming. The skins are weighed and made ready for subsequent operations which will be described later.

Soaking of dry salted goat skin (2)

Soaking in a pit :

The dry salted skins are put without unfolding them in a pit in the evening containing 400-600% water on the raw weight of the skins, 250 gms. Idet-10 per 100 gal. of water and 250gms. Sodium Pentachlorophenate or Preventol ON or any preservatives per 100 gal. of water and left overnight without disturbing the skins. The materials are added while water is going into effect dilution.

Next morning the skins are taken out and put in a dry drum and run for 1-1½ hrs. The skins are then run in running water for 3-4 hrs. in the same drum.

The skins are again put in a pit containing same quantity of water, wetting agent and preservative as mentioned above and left overnight. Next morning the skins are handled for one hour and washed in two changes of water, taken out, drained, weighed and are ready for liming.

Liming :

Liming in a pit (without saving the hair)

Composition of lime liquor :

Old lime liquor (once used)	225%	on the soaked wt.
Plain water	75%	-do-
Sodium sulphide (60-62%)	3%	-do-
Hydrated lime [Ca(OH) ₂ -94%]	15%	-do-
Water to make about 2 to 2.5° Be'		

The skins are put into above bath for 2-3 days hauling up and replacing in the bath daily once in the morning and once in the afternoon. On the 4th day after liming, the skins are unhaired, fleshed and assorted for the manufacture of different types of leather as mentioned in the case of wet salted skins.

Note : Soaking and liming in paddle is more preferable to the pit method.

Subsequent operations are described below :-

Item Nos. 1-4. Manufacture of pickled, wet blue, crust blue, (for export), glazed kid (finished in black and dark brown colour) and gold and silver kid.



Washing :

The fleshed skins are taken out from the soft water and washed thoroughly in running water in a drum and checked for presence of sodium sulphide, if any with 10% lead acetate solution.

(Note : 10% lead acetate solution is made up of 100 gms. lead acetate salt brought up to one litre with distilled water : A drop of this solution is put on washed skins surface and if free from sulphide will be almost colourless. If any sulphide is present a decided brownish colour will be shown.)

Deliming and bating (one day method) :

Ammonium chloride	0.75 % on the pelt wt.
Enzyme bate i.e., Pancreol 5A, or	1-1.5 % -do-
CLRI bate No. 1 or any other suitable bate	
Water (37-39°C)	300-400 % (in paddle)
	or 150-200 % (in drum)

The water is heated to 40-41°C in a drum or paddle and run. The skins are put in the running bath. The temperature of the bath will come down to 38°-39°C. Then added the ammonium chloride and run for 30 minutes. The bate is then added and run for 2-3 hrs. till the satisfactory bating is over. The pH of the bate liquor before unloading should be 8-8.2 approx., if not it should be adjusted to that pH.

Note : The temperature of the bate liquor should be maintained at 37-39°C during the operation. Be careful not to damage skins during raising the temperature of the bath. Bating in covered condition is preferable. This will require a steam pipe on side of reel which is protected by perforated wooden shield.

Bating can be regarded to have been satisfactorily completed if

- (1) the cut section of the bated pelt is not coloured red with phenolphthalein.
- (2) the bated skins are quite fallen and flaccid and retain thumb impression.
- (3) the scud comes out easily when the bated stock is scratched with finger nail
- (4) air can be forced through the pelt and
- (5) the adhering flesh can be removed by scratching the flesh side with finger nail.

After completion of bating, the skins are dry drummed for 30 minutes, scudded well, washed in cold water containing $\frac{1}{4}$ % Lactic acid and 300% water on the fleshed weight for 30 min. The skins are now ready for pickling.

Pickling : For pickling the following compositions are used :

Method (i) for pickled skins for export :

Salt (sodium chloride)	10-12 % on the pelt wt.
Water	80 % -do-
Oxalic acid	$\frac{1}{4}$ % -do-
Sodium penta chlorophenate	0.05 % -do-

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The skins are put in the above solution and run for 20 to 30 minutes. Then added sulphuric acid (1.74)—2½% diluting in water through the hollow axle by three equal instalments at an interval of 30 minutes. After last addition the goods are run for one hour more and left overnight. Next morning the goods are run for one hour more and checked the pH. The pH should be 1.6 to 1.7. The skins are piled grain to grain and covered.

Method (ii) for wet salted goat for glazed kid or wet blue export.

Salt 8% on the pelt wt.; Sulphuric acid 1.5% on pelt wt. (1.74) ; Water 75% on pelt wt.

Method (iii) for dry salted goat for glazed kid or wet blue export.

Hydrochloric acid	..	2.25%	on the pet wt.
Water	..	75%	-do-
Salt	..	5%	-do-

In case of methods (ii) and (iii) the bath is made with salt and water in a drum, the bated stock is put into it and the drum is run for 10 min. The acid is diluted and added into the drum through the hollow axle by two equal instalments at 30 min. interval. After last addition the goods are run for one hr. and left in the bath overnight. Next morning the skins are drummed for one hour and checked the pH. The pH. should be 2.8 to 3. The skins are then taken out and ready for tanning. The exhaust pickle bath is preserved.

Tanning :

Tanning is done by the combined single and double bath method (i), chrome liquor used is made from 6% B and C chrome extract powder dissolving in 18% water (or chrome liquor may be prepared for single bath tanning as follows :-

Bichromate of soda	..	100 lbs.
Sulphuric acid (1.84)	..	90 lbs.
Molasses	..	40 lbs.
Water to make	..	11,000 cc.

Basicity 33%, pH : 2.9-3)

Procedure :

Method (1) : The pickled pelts are taken in the tanning drum containing 50% exhaust pickle bath and 50% plain water on the pelt weight. The stock chrome liquor is added by two equal instalments. The first instalment of above stock chrome liquor is added and run for 45 minutes. Then the second instalment is added and run the goods for two hours more. Altogether chrome liquor equivalent to 3% bichromate of soda on the fleshed weight is added in two equal instalments. Now 2% bichromate of soda on the fleshed weight of the skin in 40%



water is dissolved and added to the drum in two equal instalments at an interval of 30 minutes. After last addition the drum is run for two hours more and left in the bath overnight. Next morning the stock is run for 30 minutes and the bath is drained. The stock is now ready for reduction bath.

Method (2) : Pickled pelts are taken in the tanning drum containing 50% exhaust pickle bath on the pelt weight. 8% solid chrome alum is added and run the drum $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. Then 1.5% bichromate of soda previously dissolved in 50% water in a wooden tub is added by two equal instalments at an interval of 30 mins. After last addition the goods are run for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. more and left in the bath overnight. Next morning run another 30 minutes and the bath is drained. The stock is now ready for reduction bath.

Reduction bath :

The skins are taken in the reduction drum containing 100% water and 2.5% Hypo on the fleshed weight and run the goods for 30 minutes. Then 5% hypo in 50% water and 3.75% hydrochloric acid in 50% water are added in 5 equal instalments at an interval of 30 mins. For each instalments the two solutions are mixed together just prior to addition into the drum. The drum is run for $3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. more. The pH of the tanning bath is adjusted to 3.5 to 3.8. They are then washed for 10 mts. by diluting the reduction bath and piled up on the platform for 2 to 3 days to drain off the excess of moisture.

Chrome crust for export

After reduction, the skins for chrome crust leather are sammed, shaved uniformly and the shaved wt. is noted. The shaved leathers are well soaked back, washed in two changes of water and neutralised with $\frac{1}{2}$ % sodium bicarbonate and 300% water (on the shaved wt) for 15-20 minutes and then washed in two changes of water. pH-5.5. The goods are now drummed with $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ % Triton X-100 (or any other similar type of detergent) and 200-250% water for 30 to 45 mts. The goods are then taken out and fat liquored in a separate bath with $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1% sulphated fish oil and 200-250% water for 30-45 mts. The goods are then horsed up.

Putting out, sammying, setting, drying etc.

Next day, the goods, are put out by putting out machine, oiled up with 2 parts kid finishing oil and 1 part raw fish oil, sammed, set out by machine and hung up for complete drying for two days.

Staking, buffing etc.

The dried goods are now damped back, staked lightly by staking machine. They are buffed on flesh side, trimmed and ready for packing. The crust leather so obtained could be dyed and finished into wide variety of leathers that could ordinarily be obtained from wet and dry salted goatskin.

UTILISATION OF DRY AND WET SALTED GOAT SKINS

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Note : It may however be noted that each tanner has his own specific methods of tanning and finishing depending upon the end use and the customer. The Indian exporter may do well to first ascertain from the foreign buyers as to his requirement in regard to the quantity of chrome, detergent and oil that may be incorporated in the chrome crust.

Procedure for preservation and packing of pickled and wet blue for export.

1. Those who prefer to export heavy pickled skin the pickling method No. (i) may be followed and those who prefer to export light pickling method No. (ii) or (iii) may be followed, provided by using 0.05% sodium penta chlorophenate prior to the addition of acid as described in the method No (i).

2. After the usual method of pickling described above by preservation of the leather, they are treated additionally with 20% salt, 60% water and 0.5% preservative in a drum for half-an-hour. The skins are then piled up to drain out the water.

3. Pickled skins are to be put into wooden case with solid sides in the following way. Ten skins folded grain to grain are rolled up along the spine in rolls so that there appear no wrinkles and air bubbles. Then every roll is wrapped in polythene sheets and put into the wooden case. A wooden mat is also to be put under the cover of the wooden case.

4. Before unloading from the reduction bath 0.5% preservative is added and run for 15 min. more and piled for packing. Chrome tanned wet blue skins are to be put into the case in the following way. The size of the case should conform to the size of the skin from the completed lot. Inside the case mats woven from dry grass should be put, then interlined with polythene sheets. The wet blue skins are put on the polythene sheets without folding along the back bone, grain to grain, the bellies are slightly folded along the line of the front and back shanks.

Item Nos. 2-4

Sammying and shaving :

The leathers are then slicked or struck out on the flesh side, sammed, shaved and assorted for (1) black and dark brown glazed kid, (2) Crushed kid, and (3) Gold and silver kid. The skins are weighed for subsequent operations.

(1) Black and dark brown glazed kid.

Neutralisation

The skins after thorough washing in a single change of water are neutralised with sodium bicarbonate- $\frac{1}{2}$ % on the shaved wt. and water 200% on the shaved wt.



The bath is made in a drum at room temperature. The skins are put into it, worked continuously for half an hour and then tested with bromocresol purple. Proper neutralisation is indicated by purple colour on the leather surface and yellow colour in the middle layer of the leather. The skin are then taken out and washed twice with plain water. They are ready for dyeing and fat liquoring.

Dyeing :

(i) Black :

Chlorozal black	..	1 %	on the shaved wt.
Negrosin	..	$\frac{1}{2}$ %	-do-
Basic black	..	$\frac{1}{4}$ %	-do-
Formic acid	..	$\frac{1}{4}$ %	-do-
Water (50° C)	..	200 %	-do-

Before being put in the dye bath the skins are first drummed in water at 40°C for 10 mts. to attain that temperature. The conditioned skins are then put in, grain side turned out into the drum containing 200% water at 50° C. Chlorozal black separately dissolved in water is added into the drum. The drum is run for 15 mts. Negrosin, dissolved separately is added and the drum run for 15 mts. The Methic leather black D (basic dye) is also dissolved separately and added to the drum which is run for further 15 mts. Lastly formic acid is added and the drum run for 10 mts. more. The leathers are then fat liquored in the same bath with the following composition :

(ii) Dark Brown shade :

Napthalene Red JS	..	$\frac{1}{4}$ %	on the shaved wt.
Napthalene Leather brown ADS	..	$\frac{3}{4}$ %	-do-
Formic acid	..	$\frac{1}{4}$ %	-do-
Water (50°C)	..	200 %	-do-

The conditioned skins are taken into the drum as mentioned in case of black. All the dyes are dissolved together in a bucket and the solution is strained through a piece of clean cloth into another clean bucket and half of the dye solution is put into the rotating drum through hollow axle and the drum run for 15 mts. and then the other half of the dye is put in. The drum is run for another 15 mts. Formic acid is added and the drum run for 10 mts. The leathers are then fatliquored in same bath with the following composition :

Fat liquoring :

Sulphated fish oil	..	$\frac{3}{4}$ %	on the shaved weight.
Castor oil	..	$\frac{3}{4}$ %	-do-
Raw fish oil	..	$\frac{3}{4}$ %	-do-
Egg Yolk	..	$\frac{1}{2}$ %	-do-
Soap	..	$\frac{1}{4}$ %	-do-
pH of the emulsion is adjusted to 7.5-8			

UTILISATION OF DRY AND WET SALTED GOAT SKINS

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The emulsion is added into the same dye bath and run for 45 mts. Then 4% cutch extract dissolved separately is added to the exhaust fat liquor bath and the drum run for 10 mts. The leathers are then taken out and horsed up overnight.

Striking out and oiling up :

Next day the leathers are struck out on the flesh and grain sides. A mixture of 2 parts foots free fish oil and one part kid finishing oil is applied on the grain side and the leathers hung up on the shed for sammying.

Sammying, setting and drying :

After oiling up the leathers are sammed, set out and dried in the shed and then crusted for some days for conditioning.

Finishing :

(a) Sawdusting, staking and buffing :

The crusted leathers are then saw-dusted overnight in moist sawdust to condition them, staked first slightly by a Slocomb staking machine. Then they are piled up overnight on the floor in several packs. Next morning the leathers are staked again by the same machine with considerable pressure. They are then aired off a little and buffed on the flesh side using 120 grit emery paper.

(b) Trimming and ironing :

Next morning the buffed leathers are trimmed and ironed on the grain side with hand electric iron or an ironing machine. The leathers are now ready for seasoning. The finishing recipes and procedures are given later.

(c) Staining, seasoning and glazing :

Black : Stain Coat

Negrosine or	5 gms.
Chlorozal black	
Spirit	100 cc.
Ammonia	50 cc.
Water to make	1000 cc.

Dark Brown :

Bismark brown
Acetic acid
Water to make

Stain Coat

5 gms.
50 cc.
1000 cc.

After application of one brush coat with the above stain coat, the leathers are dried and then are given two successive pad coats with the following bottom seasons. In case of dark brown shade one spray covering coat is given :



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INDIAN LEATHER TECHNOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

Bottom season (black)

Black pigment	225 gms.
Negrosine	28 gms.
Green dye	touch
10% Casein solution	280 gms.
Neeran glazing finish	46 gms.
Binder X 300	196 gms.
Ox blood	225 gms.
T. R. O.	42 gms.
Glycol	28 gms.
Isopropinol alcohol	28 gms.
Water to make	3 litres.

Bottom season (dark brown)

Dark brown pigment	336 gms.
Suitable acid dye	14 gms.
10% casein solution	280 gms.
Neeran glazing finish	46 gms.
Binder X 300*	196 gms.
Ox blood	225 gms.
T. R. O.	42 gms.
Glycol	28 gms.
Isopropinol alcohol	28 gms.
Water to make	3 litres.

In case of black the leathers are dried, glazed and then given the top season coat by pad or spray as follows :

Top season coat (Black)

Bottom season	one litre
Neeran glazing finish	225 gms.
Binder X 300	112 gms.
10% Casein solution	225 gms.
Formaldehyde	168 gms.
Water to make	two litres.

After the application of top season coat the leathers (both black and dark brown) are applied with the following fixing coat :

10% casein solution	1 part
Formaldehyde (40% strength)	1 part
Water	6 parts.

The leathers are then dried and put to final glazing. The leathers are glazed, measured, ironed and smooth plated by hydraulic press at 150°F with light pressure. The leathers are then sorted, graded according to the substance into 3 or 4 classes.

(to be continued)

*Process demonstrated at the College of Leather Technology, Calcutta, during July-August, 1963



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Attitude, Marketing Environment, Entrepreneursahip

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1. The study is based on the session on consumer attitude offered by Prof. Asok Kumar Banerjee at the Government College of Engineering and Leather Technology, Kolkata in January, 2020.
2. Support from Dr Shamindra Nath Sanyal, Associate Professor-Marketing, Globsyn Business School, is thankfully acknowledged.

ATTITUDE, MARKETING ENVIRONMENT, ENTREPRENEUSHIP

ABSTRACT

Attitudes include a dynamic collection of evaluative values, emotions and interests towards other acts. There are various types of attitudes based on the relationships between positive and negative reactions. Different sets of influencing factors are responsible for the formation of attitude. Formation of attitude is highly influenced by the business environment, both macro and micro. Attitude is very important for an entrepreneur. What matters is how entrepreneurs learn from and use their mistakes, because attitude is all in entrepreneurship. This article ends with two prominent examples of two entrepreneurs of Kolkata.

INTRODUCTION

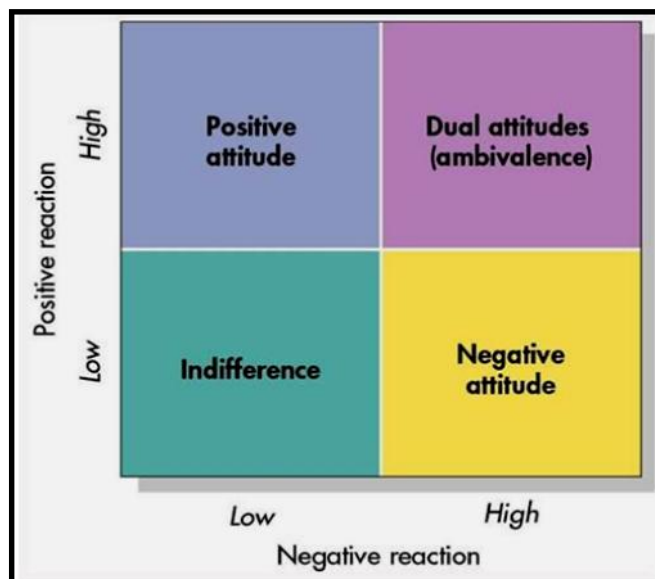
The dictionary meaning of 'attitude is settled behavior as indicating opinion'. Thurstone (1928), has defined attitude as "the sum total of man's inclination and feelings, prejudice or bias, preconceived notions, ideas, fears, threats and convictions about any specific topic". Attitude is a subjective and personal affair. The term 'opinion' symbolizes an attitude. In fact, it is the verbal expression of attitude.

Characteristics of Attitude :

- ❖ Attitude Have an Object
 - Ñ A feeling or a reaction towards an "OBJECT"
- ❖ Attitudes are learned
 - Ñ We can learn attitude from any persons in any situation.

- ❖ Attitudes have consistency.
- ❖ Attitudes occur within a situation.
- ❖ Attitudes have direction

Four Possible Reactions to Attitude Objects



Theories of Attitude

Classical Conditioning

Consumers often purchase new products that are associated with a favourably viewed brand name. Their favourable attitude towards the brand name is frequently the result of repeated

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satisfaction with other products produced by the same company. The brand name is the unconditioned stimulus that, through repetition and positive reinforcement results in a favourable attitude (the unconditioned response). The idea of family branding is based on this form of attitude learning.

Music at the time of Festival

The hope for many retail stores is that you have positive associations with Christmas music. That's why they play the holiday classics over the speakers. This "festive spirit," they hope, will lead you to purchase more items. This is somewhat similar to how advertisements pair celebrities or depictions of positive experiences with their products.

Instrumental Conditionings

Sometimes, attitudes follow the purchase & consumption of a product. A consumer may purchase a brand without having a prior attitude toward it because it is the only product of its kind available. Further, consumers also make trial purchases of new brands from product categories in which they have little personal involvement. If they find the purchased brand to be satisfactory they are likely to develop a favourable attitude towards it.

Incentives and Bonuses

Workers are often offered with the incentives and bonus in return for completing their targets on time or for regular attendance. It makes the workers to perform better, so that, they can continually get those incentives and bonus.

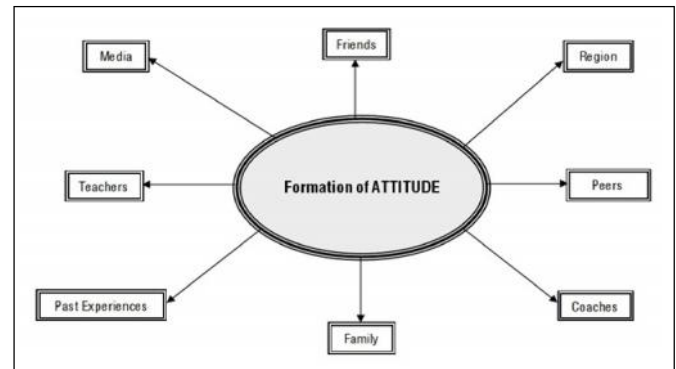
Cognitive Learning Theory :

The Situations in which consumers seek to solve a problem or satisfy a need, they are likely to form attitudes (either positive or negative) about products on the basis of information exposure & their own cognition (knowledge & benefits).

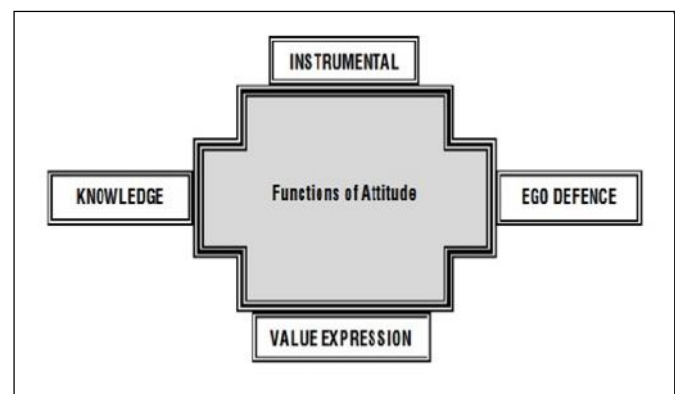
Cooperative and collaborative learning

When you learn a new process as a group or team at work, you are doing cooperative learning. Learning cooperatively helps to deepen collaboration and bring out the best skills in each participant at the event.

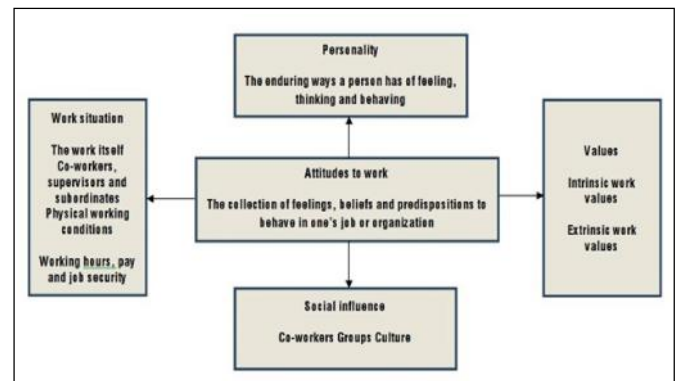
Attitude Formation



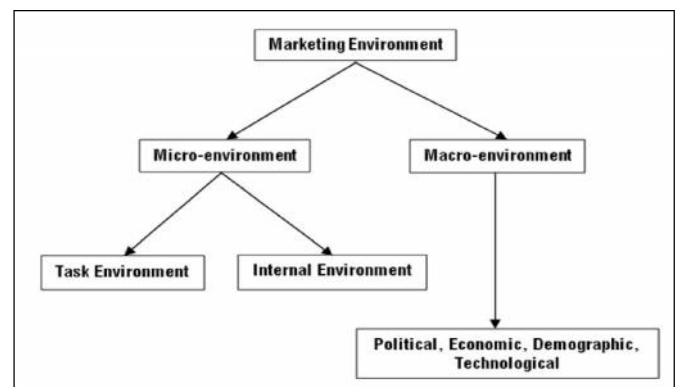
Functions of Attitude



Determinants of Work attitudes



Marketing Environment



Macro-environment

The macro-environment is less controllable. The macro environment consists of much larger all-encompassing influences (which impact the microenvironment) from the broader global society. Here we would consider culture, political issues, technology, the natural environment, economic issues and demographic factors amongst others.

Micro-environment

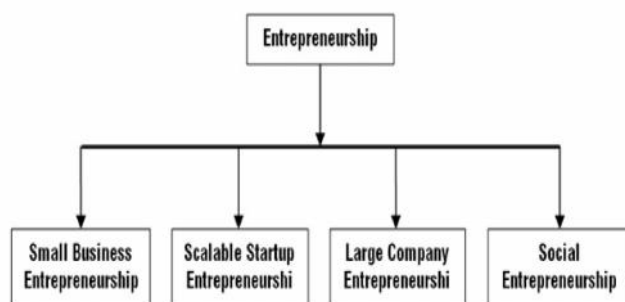
The micro-environment variables are close to the firm and include the suppliers, marketing intermediaries, customer markets, competition & publics.

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is the ability and readiness to develop, organize and run a business enterprise along with any of its uncertainties in order to make a profit. The most prominent example of entrepreneurship is the starting of new businesses.

(byjus.com)

What are the 4 Types of Entrepreneurship ?



CASE STUDY

Bisk Farm : It is a leading regional brand in the biscuits and snacks industry. Since its inception in 2000, apart from manufacturing biscuits and cakes, it diversified into making confectionery and snacks. Bisk Farm initially marketed its products across Eastern and Northeastern states, but had plans for expansion across the whole of India. After going through a rough phase during the initial stages of its operations, Bisk Farm developed a unique business model. As part of its strategy

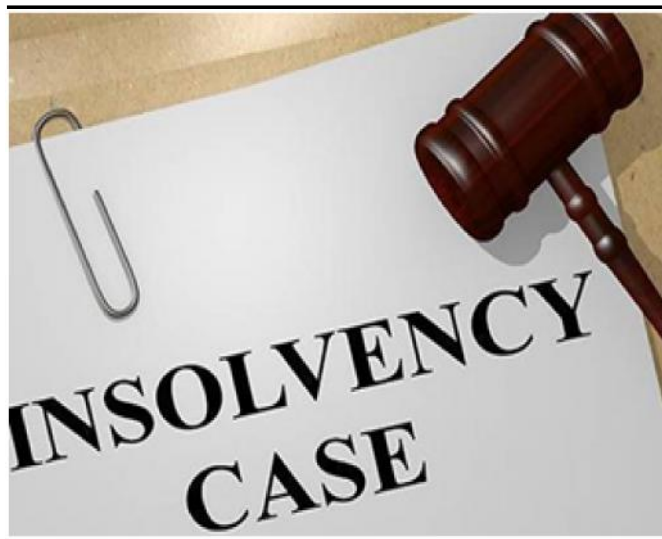
reorientation, the model necessitated the company to introduce innovative products, improve manufacturing facilities, develop its distribution network and pep up its media strategies. Although revamping its brand strategy was perceived as an appropriate step to boost its expansion plans, it had to overcome competition from leading players such as Britannia and Parle. There were also additional challenges such as rising prices of ingredients, constant product innovation, volatility in input costs as well as other factors. Analysts wondered whether Bisk Farm would translate its success in the national sphere, amidst competition from established players. They also questioned whether Bisk Farm's decision to expand its wings was a right move.

Mukharochak : One of the most popular, respected and time-tested brands of India, hails from Kolkata. All its products are all about an affair. An affair which has been long, royal and very tasty. This amazing affair between Mukharochak and millions of Bengali households began over sixty-five years ago and is continuing, ever since. All it took was an honest and humble approach of a family and their passionate desire to offer some satisfying, yet very exciting snacks to all. The Chandra family almost single-handedly scripted the story of this everlasting affair between Bengalis and that time-tested ethnic snack - Chanachur. Family of the Chandras, like a true pioneer gave birth to Mukharochak - the brand which would rule snacks loving consumer's tongue for decades to come

CONCLUSION

Understanding the consumer attitude and the corresponding behaviour is central to the formulation of marketing strategies. The attitude of consumers to this approach influences the success or failure of an organization. Providing superior customer service allows a company to do a better job than the competitor in predicting and responding to consumer needs. In a continuously evolving marketing environment, marketers are increasingly concerned or conscious of the consumer behaviour in which all marketing efforts are carried out. Consumer behavior is a concern that discusses issues of cognition, affection and conations in consumption against the backdrop of individual and environmental determinants. It is the concern of any entrepreneur to judge the environmental parameters, its effect on consumer attitude and the behaviour to score over the competitor in the hypercompetitive global market.

MSMEs MAY SEEK OWN INSOLVENCY : GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL



Data available with insolvency regulator IBBI show, proceedings in 2,170 cases were going on as of March 2020. Typically most of the insolvent firms are MSMEs.

While insolvency proceeding against fresh defaulters are proposed to be suspended for a year to soften the Covid-19 blow, the government is considering a proposal to allow MSMEs to approach the adjudicating authority to declare them insolvent if they so wish to pursue a resolution of their stressed assets.

However, creditors can't drag MSMEs to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) during this one year. If approved, the move will be part of a special framework under Section 240-A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) that the government has proposed to bring in to offer certain flexibilities to MSMEs battered by the pandemic, sources told.

Data available with insolvency regulator IBBI show, proceedings in 2,170 cases were going on as of March 2020. Typically most of the insolvent firms are MSMEs, so any relief to such small businesses will benefit a large number of units, say analysts.

While sections 7, 9 and 10 of the IBC would remain suspended for all firms once a proposed Ordinance is implemented, the flexibility enshrined under section 10, which allows corporate debtors to approach the NCLT (typically to avoid coercive action by creditors),

could be retained for just MSMEs to give them additional options, one of the sources said.

Another source said the government may consider allowing "pre-packaged" insolvency for MSMEs under the proposed framework. The "prepackaged" bankruptcy scheme typically allows a stressed company to prepare a financial reorganization plan with the approval of at least two-thirds of its creditors (and shareholders) before the filing of an insolvency application by any party at the NCLT. The resolution plan so reached can then be placed before the NCLT for approval, so that it can be implemented. Such a scheme, already prevalent in countries like the US, could aid the existing insolvency framework and cut costs and time of the resolution process. The corporate affairs ministry has been exploring the feasibility of implementing the "pre-packaged" scheme in the Indian context for quite some time.

In a huge relief to cash starved firms, the government recently said Covid-19-related debt would be excluded from the definition of default.

Already, in a bid to insulate small businesses from being dragged to the NCLT, the default threshold for triggering insolvency has recently been raised to Rs 1 crore from just Rs 1 lakh earlier.

While larger firms have greater abilities to absorb risks, MSMEs have been most vulnerable to the damaging impact of the pandemic. So, extending flexibility to them at this juncture remains critical.

This will also complement the Centre's latest measures under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan scheme in ensuring that MSMEs get adequate credit to resume operations. For instance, MSMEs will be eligible for the recent package, including additional, collateral-free working capital loan (up to 20%) with a cap of Rs 3 lakh crore (with official guarantee), subordinate debt of Rs 20,000 crore and Rs 50,000-crore fund of funds to bolster the equity base of MSMEs that have growth potential and need some hand holding. Just the collateral-free loan move is expected to help 45 lakh units, the government has said.

(Financial Express – 27/05/2020)

INDIA FACING IT'S WORST RECESSION IN CURRENT FISCAL : CRISIL REPORT



The economic costs now beginning to show up in the hard numbers are far worse than initial expectations.

India's fourth recession since independence, the first since liberalization and perhaps the worst to date, is here, CRISIL said in its report. Their prediction is the economy to shrink by 5 per cent in the current fiscal because of corona virus lockdown.

"The first quarter (April to June 2020) will suffer a staggering 25 per cent contraction," it said in its assessment of India's GDP. "About 10 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in real terms could be permanently lost. "So going back to the growth rates seen before the pandemic is unlikely in the next three fiscals." In the past 69 years, India has seen a recession only thrice - as per available data - in fiscals 1958, 1966 and 1980.

The reason was the same each time - a monsoon shock that hit agriculture, then a sizeable part of the economy. Crisil said the recession in the current fiscal (April 2020 to March 2021) is different as agriculture could soften the blow this time by growing near its trend rate, assuming a normal monsoon.

The corona virus lockdown, first imposed on March 25 and extended thrice till May 31, has curtailed economic activity severely. "The first quarter of this fiscal will be the worst affected," it said. "Not only will the first quarter be a washout for the non-agricultural economy, services such as education, and travel and tourism among others could continue to see a big hit in the quarters to come. "Jobs and incomes will see extended losses as these sectors are large employers."

It also saw economic activity in states with high COVID-19 cases suffering prolonged disruption as restrictions could continue longer. Stating that the economic costs now beginning

to show up in the hard numbers are far worse than initial expectations, it said industrial production for March fell by over 16 per cent, exports contracted 60.3 per cent in April, and new telecom subscribers declined 35 per cent, while railway freight movement plunged 35 per cent on-year.

"Indeed, given one of the most stringent lockdowns in the world, April could well be the worst-performing month for India this fiscal," it said. Counting lockdown 4.0, Indians have had 68 days of confinement. S&P Global estimates that one month of lockdown shaves 3 per cent off annual GDP on average across Asia-Pacific, it said adding since India's lockdown has been the most stringent in Asia, the impact on economic growth will be correspondingly larger.

"Crisil forecasts India's GDP growth to fall off a cliff and contract 5 per cent in fiscal 2021," the report said. "Earlier, on April 28, we had slashed our prediction to 1.8 per cent growth from 3.5 per cent growth. Things have only gone downhill since. "While we expect non-agricultural GDP to contract 6 per cent, agriculture could cushion the blow by growing at 2.5 per cent."

On the Rs 20.9 lakh crore economic relief package announced by the government to support the economy, Crisil said the package has some short-term measures to cushion the economy but sets its sights majorly on reforms, most of which will have payoffs only over the medium term.

"We estimate the fiscal cost of this package at 1.2 per cent of GDP, which is lower than what we had assumed in our earlier estimate," it said.

(Source : PTI and Rediff.com- 26/05/2020)

CAN 'HATRED FOR CHINA' BE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIA ?



Work is underway in identifying global companies in sectors ranging from electronics, auto components and medical equipment to shift part of their existing or incremental manufacturing to India. The first moves are underway. US mobile device maker Apple Inc is looking at shifting nearly a fifth of its production value from China in the next four years and around seven per cent in the next 12 months.

Home-grown Lava International is shifting its entire export production from China to India and even relocating its design centre. German health footwear company Von Wellx is also moving its entire production from China to somewhere in Agra. This may be just the start, but these shifts are partly the result of the government's aggressive pitch to woo global companies to reduce their dependence on manufacturing in China.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has been urging businessmen to convert the world's "hatred for China" into an economic opportunity for India. Work is underway in identifying global companies in sectors ranging from electronics, auto components and medical equipment to shift part of their existing or incremental manufacturing to India.

Gadkari is even offering land to potential investors along major highway corridors. The first big policy salvo was the March announcement of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, offering a tax incentive of 4 to 6 per cent on incremental sales for electronics manufacturers, especially mobile device players, on export revenues for five years.

Says Hari Om Rai, chairman of Lava International: "With the government's PLI scheme, the cost disadvantage between India and China has been bridged. So there is no reason to produce in China." States and public sector units are adding their voices to the government's clarion call.

The Karnataka government has set up a special investment promotion task force headed by the chief secretary focused on "attracting investment and to woo disenchanted MNCs looking to shift their manufacturing bases from China". The committee will identify sectors, provide incentives and offer fast-track clearances to such investors.

State-owned BHEL recently floated a global expression of interest inviting companies to partner them and leverage their facilities and expertise to manufacture in India. Will this be enough when many other countries are also in the race? After

all, despite occasional noises in India, it was Vietnam that capitalized in leveraging the opportunity thrown open by the US-China trade war.

According to a study by Nomura, of the 56 companies that relocated from China between April 2018 and August 2019, only three came to India, compared to 26 in Vietnam, 11 to Taiwan and eight to Thailand.

The government's plan could also run up against the salvo from US President Donald Trump who has threatened companies like Apple Inc with a new tax to discourage them from shifting their China production to India and Ireland rather than the US. If Trump makes good on this threat, manufacturing in India might not be that attractive anymore for US MNCs.

Even if the threat is an empty one, there is a general recognition that the Indian government has to do much more. Says Renuka Ramnath, founder and MD of PE firm Multiples Alternate Asset Management: "The one big lesson that Covid-19 has taught is risk mitigation. "We can get manufacturers to move from China to India, but in order to do that, we have to have the same costs of production as well as ease of doing business."

That remains the big challenge. The auto components industry exports over \$17 billion annually and claims it is competitive with China on labour costs. But the problem lies elsewhere.

Sunjay Kapur, chairman of Sona Comstar and vice-president of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association, points out that "only cost will not bring production away from China. "The reason original equipment manufacturers shift component manufacturing, from one country to another is based on ease of doing business, technology capability and costs."

Simplifying complex land acquisition laws for factories and pushing labour reforms - which the government is trying to do - reducing power costs and supporting R&D (as China does) are among the basic requirements to induce businessmen to consider India, he adds. Even the PLI scheme has come under scrutiny.

Many point out that the cost disadvantage in making mobile devices ranges from 9 per cent to 26 per cent vis-a-vis China and Vietnam. So far, the incentive is too little to export profitably. A contentious issue appears to be the government's move to disincentivise import of old machinery currently being used by MNCs in China.

Only 40 per cent of the value of such machinery will be taken into account in calculating the investment threshold required by these companies to qualify for incentives. Foreign players say since they are merely shifting capacity from China rather than creating incremental capacity, they should not be penalised for not making fresh investment on machinery.

There are others concerns too. For instance, an industry veteran says Samsung has already made heavy investments recently in setting up a plant from which 30 per cent will be exported. But to be eligible for the PLI scheme, Samsung has to make incremental investment every year from now on for the next five years totaling Rs 1,000 crore. Without that, the previous large investment gets no incentive.

Most global investors say India is overestimating the size of the shift of companies from China. "It will be a gradual process. At the moment most global companies are severely impacted by Covid-19 and are concentrating on preserving cash. "Shifting now to a new country requires fresh investments," says a CEO of a leading global private equity investor.

Global investors say India would do better to focus on identifying non-oil and non-metal products for which it has high dependence from China and incentivise local manufactures to produce them in India at competitive prices. As an analyst says "Why should India be importing virtually all its vitamin C from China?" We have a vibrant bulk drug industry; they should be given sops to become competitive."

(Source: Rediff.com – 26/05/2020)

COVID – 19 : FIEO EXPECTS 20 PERCENT FALL IN EXPORT DURING F.Y.- 21



The apex body of exporters has requested the government to provide two per cent additional MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India Scheme) support to all exports and four per cent to

labour-intensive sectors like apparel, leather, handicraft, carpets, marine, tea and processed food.

The Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) said on Tuesday that the export from the country is expected to fall by 20 per cent in the current fiscal in the wake of the corona virus pandemic. The outlook is "extremely negative" at the moment, and fall in export will also be accompanied by a decline in import, an official of the apex exporters' body said.

"We expect that export during the current financial year is likely to fall by 20 per cent. In value terms, this will be around USD 50 to 60 billion," FIEO director general and chief executive officer Ajay Sahai said.

He, however, said there will be no significant pressure on the balance of trade as both export and import are expected to fall due to the COVID-19 outbreak. "However, this (fall in export) will put a question mark on job creation and also cause loss of jobs," Sahai told. Speaking on the stimulus package announced by the government, he said exporters need more support to improve their competitiveness in the global markets as China has started production.

Sahai said, "Personally, I feel there has been not a single word on exports in the economic stimulus announced by the government. Only favour which the government has done is by extending the interest subvention scheme of MSMEs."

He said China is also giving rebates to its exporters. "Though the rupee has depreciated, it is not as sharp as what our competitors like South Korea, Turkey, Indonesia or Brazil have witnessed," he said, adding that this is putting pressure on Indian exports.

The apex body of exporters has requested the government to provide two per cent additional MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India Scheme) support to all exports and four per cent to labour-intensive sectors like apparel, leather, handicraft, carpets, marine, tea and processed food. "That is what we are looking for at the moment," he said.

Merchandise exports constitute roughly 12 per cent of India's GDP, and foreign exchange earnings is around USD 320 billion, he said.

(Economic Times – 19/05/2020)

EXPORT PLUNGE BY RECORD 60.28% IN APRIL; TRADE DEFICIT LOWEST IN LAST 4 YEARS



Imports too tumbled by 58.65 per cent to USD 17.12 billion in April from USD 41.4 billion in the same month last year, according to the data by the commerce and industry ministry. The trade deficit narrowed to USD 6.76 billion. Trade deficit in April 2019 stood at USD 15.33 billion. The country's exports had contracted by 34.57 per cent in March 2020.

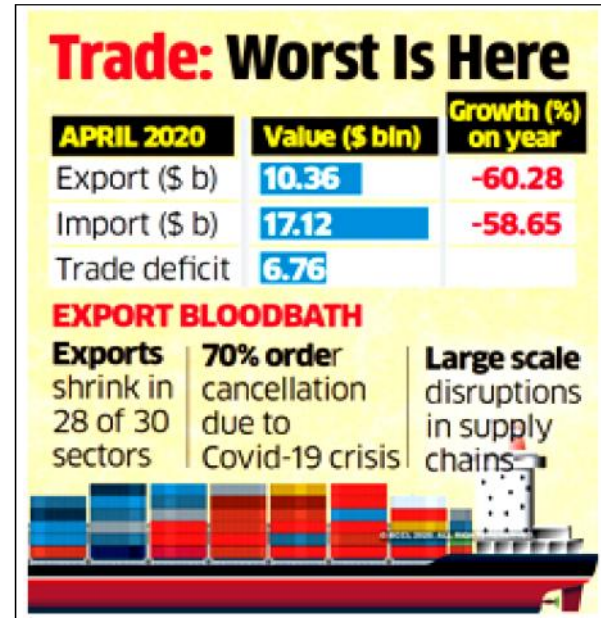
Contracting for the second straight month, India's exports shrank by a record 60.28 per cent in April to \$10.36 billion, mainly on account of the coronavirus lockdown, official data showed on Friday.

Imports too plunged by 58.65 per cent to \$17.12 billion in April, leaving a trade deficit of \$6.76 billion as against \$15.33 billion in April 2019, according to the data by the commerce and industry ministry.

This is the lowest trade deficit since May 2016, when it had stood at \$6.27 billion. The country's exports had declined by 34.57 per cent in March 2020.

"The decline in exports has been mainly due to the ongoing global slowdown, which got aggravated due to the current Covid-19 crisis. The latter resulted in large scale disruptions in supply chains and demand resulting in cancellation of orders," the ministry said in a statement. Barring iron ore and pharmaceuticals, all the remaining 28 key sectors registered negative growth in the month under review.

Gems and jewellery shipments declined 98.74 per cent, followed by leather (- 93.28 per cent), petroleum products (- 66.22 per cent), engineering goods (- 64.76 per cent), and chemicals (- 42 per cent).



Oil imports in April were \$4.66 billion, which was 59.03 per cent lower as compared to the same month last year. All 30 key imports sectors like gold, silver, transport equipment, coal, fertilizer, machinery and machine tools posted negative growth during the month.

Non-oil imports fell 58.5 per cent to \$12.46 billion in April. Gold imports stood at \$2.83 billion, as against \$4 billion in April 2019. The nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the coronavirus outbreak began on March 25, shutting industrial units and restricting movement of goods.

Commenting on the numbers, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said it is "highest-ever" decline in monthly exports, and demanded an incentive package from the government. FIEO President Sharad Kumar Saraf said the lockdowns around the world have not only pushed business sentiment to the lowest levels but also impacted supply chains and economic growth.

"We may expect revival in exports from the third quarter of the fiscal, depending on the condition evolving in the international market.

"With major global players including the US, UK, Canada, Japan, Germany, France, Austria, Spain, and Bangladesh having provided bailout or financial packages to their industry to sail through these difficult times, it is also expected that the same would help in bringing good news for the overall international trade," Saraf said.

He said with cancellation of 70-80 per cent of orders, job losses and rising NPAs among exporting units, the government should immediately implement the economic measures announced at the ground level for quick revival. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced measures to promote agri exports.

Mohit Singla, chairman of Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), said the announcement would help India achieve its target of \$100 billion agri exports. "The proposed amendment in essential commodity act is a welcome step in deregulating the agri sector which will save the farmers from artificial price management activities by different forces," Singla said.

Since 2011-12, India's exports have been hovering around the \$300 billion mark. During 2017-18, the overseas shipments grew by about 10 per cent to \$303 billion and further to \$330.08 billion in 2018-19 and \$314.31 billion in 2019-20. The drop in exports is in sync with the projections of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which has stated that world trade is expected to fall between 13 per cent and 32 per cent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Economic Times – 15/05/2020)

NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN MAY SHRINK INDIA'S GDP BY THIS MUCH IN Q-1



The contraction in the Q1 FY21 GDP may be as high as 40 per cent. A major fall in economic activities due to the corona virus-led nationwide lockdown in the first quarter of the current fiscal may cause the quarterly GDP to nosedive. The contraction in the Q1 FY21 GDP may be as high as 40 per cent, said the SBI Ecwrap report. Stating the possibility of a smart recovery in the Q2 GDP of up to 7.1 per cent on the back of the country's ability to sustain the demand, SBI Chief Economist Soumya Kanti Ghosh said that GDP loss in Q1 FY21 will be humongous and could even exceed 40 per cent.

Two out of three months of the first quarter have witnessed a nationwide lockdown and the slight hopes of recovery are for

June as the government has decided to lift the lockdown by the end of May. Even as the government had partially allowed economic activities from April 20, disruption in overall businesses and supply chains did not let the economy to rebound.

Though the outlook for the first quarter is highly pessimistic, expectations from the second quarter are giving some relief. The SBI Ecwrap report has estimated that Q3 and Q4 growth numbers could look much better, with an average of 6 per cent, but the Q2 bump could come down with the immediate fall in demand in Q2 subsiding subsequently. The report has also given a state-wise analysis that indicates that the top 10 states accounted for 75 per cent of total GDP loss with Maharashtra contributing 15.6 per cent of total loss followed by Tamil Nadu (9.4 per cent) and Gujarat (8.6 per cent).

Meanwhile, the GDP figures of the Q4 FY20 is due on May 29 and the speculations are that the growth will be near 2 per cent due to coronavirus pandemic superimposed on the prolonged slowdown that India was suffering in the last year. Recently, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has also said that India's GDP will shrink in the current fiscal year.

(Business Standard – 28/05/2020)

SINGAPORE TOP SOURCE OF FDI IN FY-20 WITH INVESTMENTS WORTH \$14.67 BILLION



Singapore was the top source of foreign direct investment into India for the second consecutive financial year, accounting for about 30 per cent of FDI inflows in 2019-20. In the past two financial years, FDI from Singapore has surpassed that from Mauritius. In the last financial year, India attracted USD 14.67 billion in FDI from Singapore, whereas it was USD 8.24 billion from Mauritius, according to the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

In 2018-19, Singapore's FDI aggregated at USD 16.22 billion, while that from Mauritius it was USD 8.08 billion. According to experts, Singapore has been able to outpace Mauritius with its ease of doing business policies, simplified tax regime and a large number of private investors.

“Mauritius was once seen as a tax haven making it the most favoured nation for routing investments in India. April 2017 brought key amendments to the bilateral treaties with Mauritius and Singapore which neutralized the tax benefits available in Mauritius. “Singapore with its ease of business policies, simplified tax regime and large number of private investors has been able to outrun Mauritius,” Sandeep Jhunjunwala, Partner, Nangia Andersen LLP said.

He said attractive corporate tax rates, swift response in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, impressive mobile and internet penetration, and technology uptake are making India a primary destination to invest. “While countries are battling the COVID-19 pandemic and the world economy is headed into recession, India received a mammoth investment from stake sale of Jio Platforms. Economists and investors are now closely watching India as it is headed towards becoming a digital giant,” Jhunjunwala added.

Mr. Biswajit Dhar, a professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, said significant FDI is coming from Singapore because of “round tripping”. “Inflows from Mauritius have been affected after the agreement on double taxation avoidance,” Dhar said adding future FDI inflows into India would also depend on the state of global FDI flows. In 2017-18, FDI inflows from Mauritius stood at USD 15.94 billion and from Singapore, it was USD 12.18 billion. FDI in India rose by 13 per cent – the sharpest pace in the last four fiscals – to a record USD 49.97 billion in 2019-20, according to the data.

Total FDI into India including re-invested earnings and other capital in the last fiscal grew by 18 per cent to USD 73.45 billion as against USD 62 billion in 2018-19. When asked whether high FDI growth trend will continue in India, Rajat Wahi, Partner, Deloitte India, said: “Yes, but probably not as much as in the last three years due to three months getting wiped out (due to COVID-19 pandemic). But given the funds available globally and our strength in tech-enabled businesses, FDI will flow again post lockdown”.

This growth in FDI in 2019-20, he said, was in line with the growth of e-commerce, fintech and startups, that was continuing for the last five years, especially last year. “Given the amount of money that is being pumped in by various governments to revive their respective economies, the expectation is that we will again see a major increase in investments into startups and new tech-enabled businesses post the lockdown,” Wahi added.

Foreign investments are considered crucial for India as it needs

huge investments for overhauling the infrastructure sector such as ports, airports and highways to boost growth. FDI helps in improving the country’s balance of payments and strengthen the rupee value against other global currencies, especially the US dollar.

(Financial Express – 29/05/2020)

TRADE REMEDIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT DOMESTIC INDUSTRY

Dy. Director, Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has published a circular No. – F. No.OEA-12029/1/2020-TFP Part (3), Dt. – 28th May’ 2020, which is quoted below :-

“QUOTE”

To
All the Industry Associations,

Sub : Trade Remedial Measures to protect Domestic Industry

1. This is to bring to your notice, an advertisement published by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), a quasi-judicial body under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, on the above subject.
2. Copy of the advertisement, in vernacular languages, is enclosed for wide circulation among various members/ industries affiliated to your organization.
3. This is expected to bring awareness among the industrial units particularly MSMEs about trade remedial measures available against dumping; subsidies by foreign countries; or sudden surge in imports. Similarly, if Indian exports are facing any trade remedial investigation in other countries, DGTR can assist such industry/ unit with suitable guidance.
4. Action taken by the association/organization may also be intimated.

(Copy of the Advertisement is followed by)

Jagdish Kumar, Deputy Director
O/o- Economic Adviser, DIPP
Udyog Bhawan
New Delhi

“UNQUOTE”




**Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce**

Is your Domestic Industry facing injury from imports due to:

- Dumping?
- Subsidies by foreign countries?
- Sudden surge in imports?

If so, you can file an appropriate trade remedy application for imposing anti-dumping, countervailing or safeguard measure, in Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)

OR

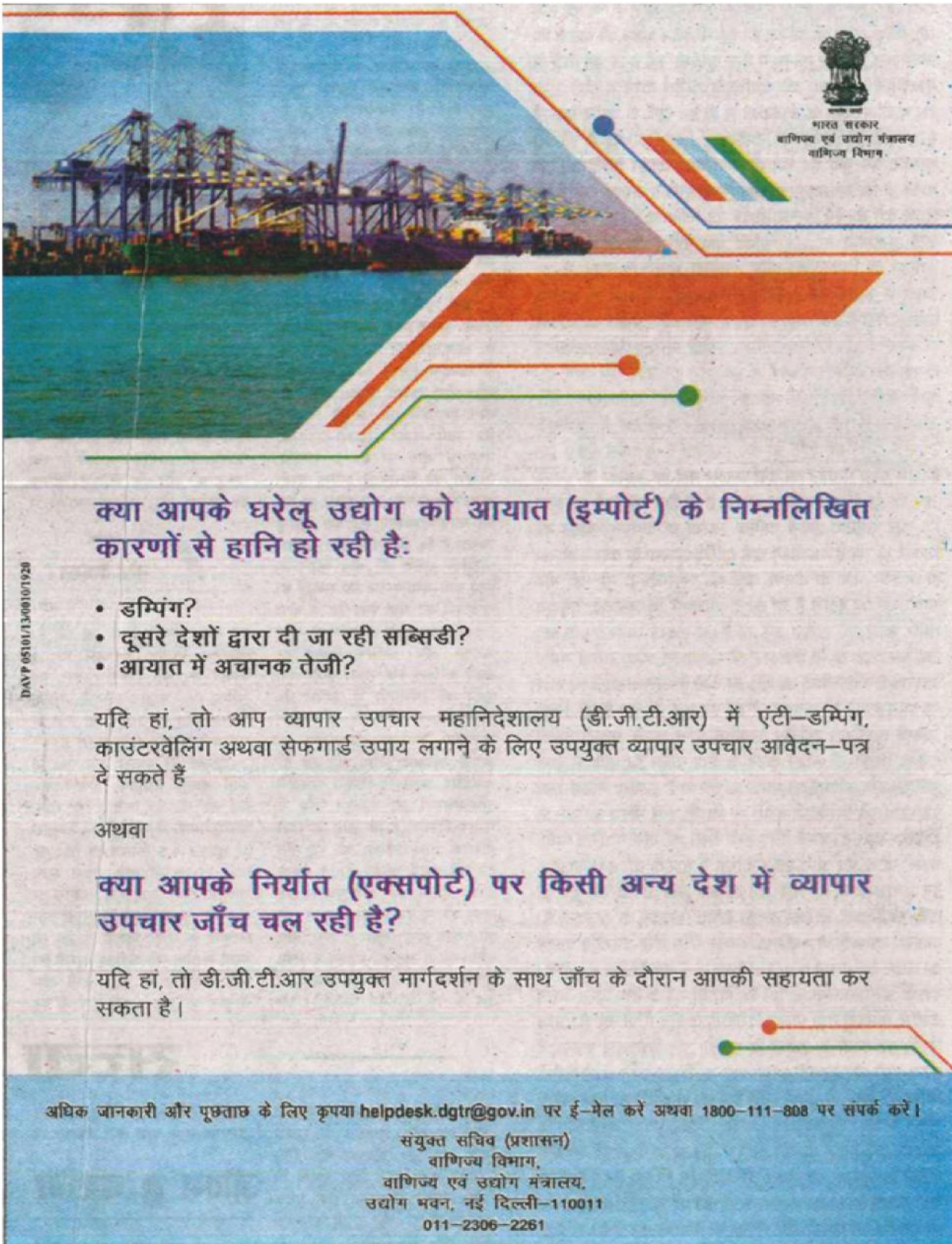
Are your exports facing any trade remedy investigation in another country?

If so, DGTR can assist you during the investigation with suitable guidance.

For further guidance or enquiry please e-mail at helpdesk.dgtr@gov.in or call us at 1800-111-808

**Joint Secretary (Administration)
Department of Commerce,
Ministry of Commerce and Industry,
Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi, 110011
011-2306-2261**

DAVP 05/01/13/00101920



भारत सरकार
वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय
वाणिज्य विभाग

क्या आपके घरेलू उद्योग को आयात (इम्पोर्ट) के निम्नलिखित कारणों से हानि हो रही है:

- डम्पिंग?
- दूसरे देशों द्वारा दी जा रही सब्सिडी?
- आयात में अचानक तेजी?

यदि हां, तो आप व्यापार उपचार महानिदेशालय (डी.जी.टी.आर) में एंटी-डम्पिंग, काउंटरवेलिंग अथवा सेफगार्ड उपाय लगाने के लिए उपयुक्त व्यापार उपचार आवेदन-पत्र दे सकते हैं

अथवा

क्या आपके निर्यात (एक्सपोर्ट) पर किसी अन्य देश में व्यापार उपचार जाँच चल रही है?

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ILTA
Since 1950

JILTA



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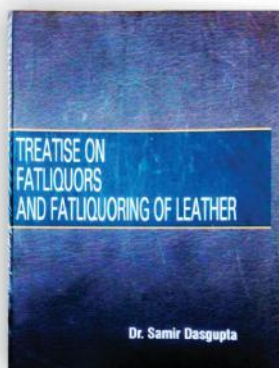


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ILTA PUBLICATION

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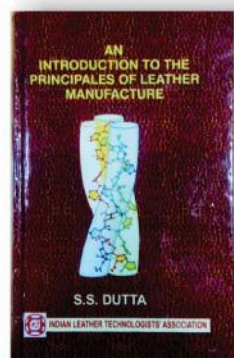
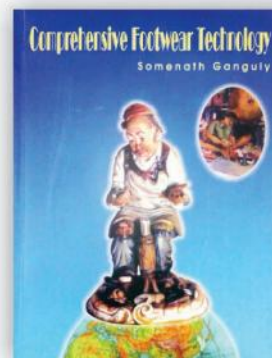
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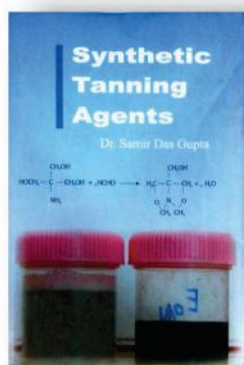
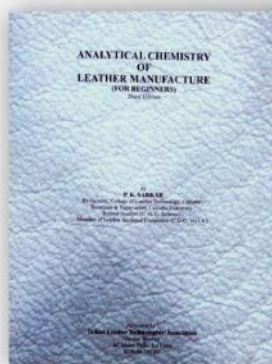
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Agents

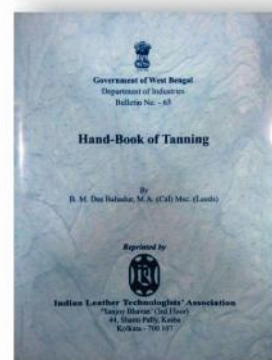
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Send your enquiries to :

Indian Leather Technologists' Association

'Sanjoy Bhavan', 3rd Floor, 44, Shanti Pally, Kolkata- 700 107, WB, India

Phone : 91-33-2441-3429 / 3459 Telefax : 91-33-2441-7320

E-mail : admin@iltaonleather.org; mailto:ilta@redimail.com

Website : www.iltaonleather.org

History and Activities of Indian Leather Technologists' Association

The Indian Leather Technologists' Association (ILTA) was founded by Late Prof. B. M. Das, the originator of Das-Stasnay theory and father of Indian Leather Science on 14th August 1950.

The primary objectives of the oldest Leather Technologists' Association which celebrated its Diamond Jubilee year in the 2010, are:

- ❖ To bring all concerned with the broad spectrum of the leather industry under one umbrella.
- ❖ To organize seminar, symposium, workshop in order to create information, knowledge and latest development for the benefit of all concerned. To offer a common platform for all to interact with each other in order to understand each other's problems and prospects.
- ❖ To publish monthly journal as a supplement to those above objectives. The monthly journal of ILTA is known as journal of Indian Leather Technologists' Association and is the most widely circulated technical journal concerning leather technology.
- ❖ To publish text books for the benefit of students at various levels of study, for the researchers and industry.
- ❖ To have interface between urban and rural sector.
- ❖ To assist Planning Commission, various Government Institutions, Ministry and autonomous bodies to formulate appropriate policies acceptable and adoptable to the industry.
- ❖ To organize practical training and to provide skilled manpower and to motivate good students for study.
- ❖ To conduct activities related to the growth of the export of leather and leather goods from India.
- ❖ As the part of many social activities ILTA has donated Rs. 1 lac to Consul General of Nepal towards relief of earthquake effected of Nepal on 15th Sept. 2015.

INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL SEMINAR

- ❖ ILTA is the Member Society of International Union of Leather Technologists & Chemists Societies (IULTCS), a 115 years old organization and for the 1st time the IULTCS Congress was organized in January 1999 outside the developed countries in India jointly by ILTA and CLRI.
- ❖ 2017 IULTCS Congress is scheduled to be held in India again.
- ❖ 8th Asian International Conference on Leather Science & Technology (AICLST) was organized by ILTA in 2010 during its Diamond Jubilee Celebration year.

SEMINAR & SYMPOSIUM

ILTA organizes Seminar & Symposia on regular basis to share information, knowledge & latest development and interactions for the benefit of all concerned. Few are as under:

- ❖ Prof. B. M. Das Memorial Lecture every year during the Foundation Day Celebrations on 14th August every year.
- ❖ Sanjoy Sen Memorial Lecture on 14th January every year, the birthday of our late President for several decades.
- ❖ Prof. Moni Banerjee Memorial Lecture on 15th March every year, the birthday of this iconic personality.
- ❖ Seminar on the occasion of India International Leather Fair (IILF) at Chennai in February every year.

It has also organized:

- ❖ Prof. Y. Nayudumma Memorial Lecture.
- ❖ Series of Lectures during "Programme on implementing Emerging & Sustainable Technologies (PriEST)".
- ❖ Seminars in occasion of India International Leather Fair, 2014 and 2015 at Chennai etc. Many reputed scientists, industrialists and educationists have delivered these prestigious lectures. Foreign dignitaries during their visits to India have addressed the members of ILTA at various times.

PUBLICATION

ILTA has published the following books:

- ❖ An Introduction to the Principles of Physical Testing of Leather by Prof. S. S. Dutta
- ❖ Practical Aspects of Manufacture of Upper Leather by J. M. Dey
- ❖ An Introduction to the Principles of Leather Manufacture by Prof. S. S. Dutta
- ❖ Analytical Chemistry of Leather Manufacture by P. K. Sarkar
- ❖ Comprehensive Footwear Technology by Mr. Sonmath Ganguly
- ❖ Treatise on Fatliquors and Fatliquoring of Leather by Dr. Samir Dasgupta
- ❖ Synthetic Tanning Agents by Dr. Samir Dasgupta
- ❖ Hand Book of Tanning by Prof. B. M. Das

ILTA has a good Library & Archive enriched with a few important Books, Periodicals, Journals etc.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

- ❖ ILTA awards Prof. B. M. Das Memorial, Sanjoy Sen Memorial, J. M. Dey Memorial and Moni Banerjee Memorial Medals to the top rankers at the University / Technical Institute graduate and post graduate levels to encourage the brilliants to evolve with the Industry.
- ❖ J. Sinha Roy Memorial Award for the author of the best contribution for the entire year published in the monthly journal of the Indian Leather Technologists' Association (JILTA).

LEXPOs

To promote and provide marketing facilities, to keep pace with the latest design and technology, to have better interaction with the domestic buyers, ILTA has been organizing LEXPO fairs at Kolkata from 1977, Siliguri from 1992 and Durgapur from 2010. To help the tiny, cottage and small-scale sectors industries in marketing, LEXPO fairs give the exposure for their products. Apart from Kolkata, Siliguri & Durgapur, ILTA has organized LEXPO at Bhubaneswar, Gangtok, Guwahati, Jamshedpur and Ranchi.

MEMBERS

The Association's present (as on 31.03.2018) strength of members is more than 600 from all over India and abroad. Primarily the members are leather technologists passed out from Govt. College of Engineering & Leather Technology, Anna University, Chennai, Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur, B. R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar and Scientists from Central Leather Research Institute.

ESTABLISHMENTS

In order to strengthen its activities, ILTA have constructed its own six storied building at 44, Shanti Pally, Kasba, Kolkata – 700 107 and have named it "Sanjoy Bhavan".

This Association is managed by an Executive Committee duly elected by the members of the Association. It is absolutely a voluntary organization working for the betterment of the Leather Industry. None of the Executive Committee members gets any remuneration for the services rendered but they get the satisfaction of being a part of this esteemed organization.



ILTA

Since 1950

Indian Leather Technologists' Association

[A Member Society of International Union of Leather Technologists' and Chemists]

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