



JILTA

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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 through out 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 (IULTCS)]

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ILTA
Since 1950

JOURNAL OF INDIAN LEATHER TECHNOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION (JILTA)

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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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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

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Covid 19 and its Lethality on Economy



Pandemic due to COVID-19 has brought the global economy to a sudden stop, causing shocks to supply and demand. Emerging markets and other developing countries, in addition to facing difficulties in dealing with their own corona virus outbreaks, have suffered additional shocks from abroad. Post-shock capital outflows from emerging markets have partially unwound in April-May and their exchange rates regained back some ground. But assets remain cheap in most of them. COVID-19 brought the global economy to a sudden stop, causing shocks to supply and demand. Starting in January 2020, country after country suffered outbreaks of the new corona virus, with each facing epidemiological shocks that led to economic and financial shocks as a consequence. The extent and speed of economic recovery will depend on success in containing the corona virus and on exit strategies, as well as on the effectiveness of policies designed to deal with the negative economic effects of the corona virus. The impact of corona virus on the global economy will extend beyond 2020. According to forecasts from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, GDP per capita at the end of 2021 is still expected to be lower than December 2019 in most countries. Emerging markets and other developing countries, in addition to facing difficulties in dealing with their own corona virus outbreaks, have suffered additional shocks from abroad. In their cases, the new corona virus brought a perfect storm.

One can foresee a post-corona virus global economy marked by higher levels of public and private debt, acceleration in digitization processes, and less globalization. The corona virus crisis is primarily a public health issue, demanding containment policies that have inevitably caused shocks to economic activity. A major reason for containment is the widespread perception that, given the epidemiological dynamics of infection so far exhibited by corona virus in most places where it has landed—and corresponding numbers of people in need of clinical care—existing local clinical care capacities tend to be swamped and death tolls are higher in a ‘do-nothing’ scenario. Therefore, policies to flatten the pandemic curve and gain time

are crucial, regardless of whether or not they reduce absolute numbers of infections. Data on the first-quarter 2020 GDP performance of major economies has shown how significant the impact of COVID-19 has been on economic activity and jobs, with large contractions across the board. The ongoing global recession is poised to be worse than the Great Recession after the 2008-09 global financial crisis, especially from the standpoint of emerging-market and developing economies. The depth and speed of the GDP decline will rival that of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

A post-crisis recovery is expected to begin in the second half of the year, at least in those countries where the corona virus outbreak may be considered to have passed and policies to flatten the pandemic curve can be relaxed. The shocks caused by COVID-19 are profound while they last but will invariably be temporary. Return to the pre-corona virus GDP trajectory may be made difficult as previous investment plans can be shelved. Previously healthy companies may have gone bankrupt because of the abrupt and sudden deterioration in their operating conditions during the crisis. Changes in consumption patterns can lead to the permanent elimination of jobs without unemployed workers finding jobs quickly elsewhere. Production processes can be changed to less-efficient ways to avoid risks previously not considered relevant. The net worth of families, firms, and governments may also suffer significant deterioration during the epidemic. Certainly, public debt is rising worldwide, something naturally expected as a result of the state’s role as the ultimate catastrophe insurer in all countries of the world. Emergency and temporary measures, financed by the public sector, have generally been adopted, aiming to minimize the disastrous consequences of the—temporary but potentially lethal—sudden stop caused by the coronavirus. Not by chance, around the world, governments have announced dramatic income transfer policies for informal workers, boosts to unemployment insurance, special lines of credit for business segments—sometimes tied to job preservation—tax relief measures and so on.



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Strictly speaking, the shape of the recovery will depend on the quality—in terms of cost-effectiveness—of those public policies. On the one hand, there is the burden of public debt. On the other hand, the greater the smoothing of household income streams—especially the most vulnerable and those without accumulated savings—and the lower the wave of bankruptcy of businesses that would be healthy under normal conditions, the closer the country will be to the U shape, rather than the L. The shape of GDP evolution will also depend on whether previous financial/fiscal fragilities and vulnerabilities are aggravated by the coronavirus-related crisis. Finally, as one may notice in the case of China, global interdependence means that what happens elsewhere also matters locally. As COVID-19 outbreaks are still unfolding in most places, it is still early to bet on any specific shape of recovery being predominant anywhere. Obvious examples of this, in the case of developing countries, are the need to incorporate informal ‘invisible’ workers into social protection frameworks, and the urgent need to integrate slums. On the other hand, there is always a risk that underlying institutional weaknesses will be accentuated by the crisis.

Crude oil prices are forecast to average \$35 a barrel in 2020, reflecting the unprecedented collapse in oil demand. Brent crude oil prices have declined 70% from their January peak. The large production cut by OPEC and other oil producers failed to lift

prices in April. Natural rubber and platinum are also heavily used by the transportation industry, and their prices have tumbled. Given the magnitude of the multiple negative shocks that COVID-19 has brought to developing countries—including domestic corona virus infections and their recession curves, as well as external financial shocks, emigrant remittances, tourism and commodity prices—the number of people in the world living below the extreme poverty line (\$1.90 per day) has been rising, a reversal of the evolution of recent times. The World Bank projects an increase of at least 49 million people below that line this year, eliminating gains made since 2017.

Three features of the post-pandemic global economy can already be anticipated: the worldwide rise in public and private debt levels, accelerated digitization, and a partial reversal of globalization. The first arises from the public sector’s role as the ultimate insurer against catastrophes, government policies to smooth pandemic curves, and the corona virus recession. These will leave a legacy of massive public-sector debt worldwide. Lower tax revenues and higher social and health expenditures reflect the choice of trying to avoid widespread destruction of people’s productive and livelihood capacity during the pandemic. On the private-sector side, indebtedness will be the way to survive the sudden stop, if the result is not to be bankruptcy or closure.

Read and Let Read :-

JILTA

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:

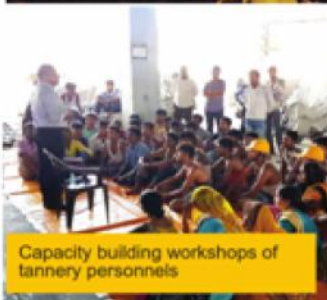
KEY COMPONENTS



SUSTAINABLE WAY FORWARD IN THE LEATHER CLUSTERS ACROSS INDIA



Solidaridad ASIA



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From the desk of **General Secretary**



DONATION TO WEST BENGAL STATE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

As per decision taken in the 530th E. C. meeting, an amount of Rs. 3 lacs has been remitted to the Bank Account of West Bengal State Emergency Relief fund as a part of our social responsibility and to stand with the devastated people of the state caused by pandemic COVID-19 and super cyclone AMPHAN.

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 proposed to be cancelled for this financial year ending on 31st March' 2021, as per the decision taken in the 531st (Web based) EC Meeting held on 16th June' 2020 due to pandemic situation with COVID – 19. A request letter, asking cancellation of the event and refund of the Booking Money has been advised to sent to the authority of KISR, after final discussion with ILPA.

LEXPO – XXVI AT SILIGURI

EC has decided in its 531st meeting to organize the 26th LEXPO at Siliguri from 20th February to 7th March' 2021.

Request Letter for Ground Allocation has been sent via email to the competent authority on 20th June' 2020 and hard copy has been posted on 25th June' 2020.

70th FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

EC has decided in its 531st meeting to celebrate the Foundation Day and organize the Prof. B. M. Das Memorial Lecture on Virtual platform, due to restriction imposed by the Govt. against Pandemic COVID – 19 and Lock down.

Further progress and details about the program will be informed in due course.

62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to pandemic COVID – 19 and Lock Down the 62nd AGM is proposed to be postponed to December' 2020, though it would be tried to do early.

Progress will be informed in due course.

HEALTH CAMP / HEALTH TALK

As it was decided that henceforth Health Check Up camps and Health Talks will be arranged in alternate month on the last Thursday of the month, two health talks in a serial were organized through Zoom Conference on Thursday, 4th June' 2020 and Friday, 19th June' 2020 respectively.

Dr. Amlan Kusum Jana, MD, Consultant Psychiatry delivered a nice talk on "Stress Management" on 4th June' 2020. Around 40 to 50 persons participated in this web based event. The abstracts of this talk are published under the segment "Health Talk" in this issue

The second talk titled "Stress Management by Cellular Nourishment Therapy" was delivered by Dr. Biswarup Saha Bakshi, Health Advisor & Dietician on 19th June' 2020. Around 30 to 40 persons participated in this event. The abstract will be published soon.

TECHNICAL TALK SHOP

ILTA Seminar Committee in coordination with the ILTA HR Committee, organized a web based Technical Talk Shop through Zoom Cloud on 27th June' 2020, at 7.30 pm.

Dr. Buddhadeb Chattopadhyay, Former Principal, Govt. College of Engineering & Leather Technology (GCELT) and present Principal of MCKV Institute of Engineering delivered a speech titled "Spread of Leather".

The abstract of this speech will be published in the next issue of JILTA.

ACTIVITIES UNDER ILTA HR COMMITTEE

None of us probably heard before March' 2020, of the new terminologies like Novel Corona Virus, COVID-19, Lockdown, Social distancing (a very confusing and inappropriate

terminology – physical distancing could have a better option), CoV2, Migrant labour (though in the same country), herd immunity so on and so forth. The whole world and the humanity were shuddered and shocked with the virulence of attack by the mighty but invisible enemy.

First response by and large was denial followed step-by-step anger, bargaining, fear, depression and acceptance following Kubler-Ross Grief Cycle. The whole country became initially clueless on how to fight and how to forgo the normal civic life into a virtual prison life.

The massive resistance for accepting changes came from the other side, human, being incredible animal species of the Nature since the prehistoric era is social in nature, right from the Cro-Magnon cave man and Neanderthal man or Anatomically Modern Man (AMM) to the man of 21st century.

We have been looking with both curiosity and fear the trend line on the statistical data of the new victims, number of cured and number of demises. We are still cautious to see when the trend line is going to be flattened.

During this period, shockingly all shops, markets, transports, physical communications, meeting, production line in the shop floor – everything was closed down to darkness, without any respite when and how the things would see a new life, back to normalcy.

When virtually all kinds of human interaction came to a near halt, few enthusiast of the Indian Leather Technologists' Association (ILTA) thought, well, this is a pandemic, which was not faced at least in past 60 years. How can we convert these unproductive and morose situations into a productive one?

Thanks to the explosion of Information Technology, which offered boon to the mankind so the search was on, immediately, how can we explore a suitable digital platform and exploit it for sharing experience mutually amongst the Technologists, different trade associations, doyens of the industry to discuss and exchange ideas and possibly plan our steps fixing the priorities of action to cope with the New Normal.

It goes without saying the normalcy will be restored, but we don't know quite exactly when and how, what would be the form in the entire socio-economic arena. One thing can be confidently guessed that the life would not be the same as it was before March 2020. It can be well anticipated that the New Normal is likely to be a blend of analogue and digital human relations, a synergy between them would govern the New Normal.

Understanding of science and technology clearly, the scopes of cross fertilization and the total rejuvenation of all segments of Leather Industry could be envisioned as the challenging task to combat with. This calls for not only the change of mind set, which other wise is very restrictive to accept changes; but also, to make a fusion of all the organs in a big melting pot. With this prime objective, though I would say ambitious, ILTA HR opened a digital platform exploiting all the scopes that various social media offers today, like Zoom Webinar, YouTube, Face Book account and Face Book Page etc. The links are being shared at the end.

So far, the responses have been very encouraging. The following sessions were already done and video files of the proceedings have been uploaded such that any one, who due to his/her preoccupation might have missed the session, can scroll back and find them in those sites.

Summarized updates on the Activity Chart in the Digital Platform of ILTA HR Committee

Table – I

SI No	Date	Topic discussed	Speaker	No of participants
1	16 th MAY, 2020	Inaugural Session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Ratan Chowdhury, Coordinator, ILTA HR Committee ➤ Prof, Sanjoy Chakraborty, Principal, GCELT ➤ Mr. Asit Baran Kanungo, Vice President, ILTA ➤ Mr. Susanta Mallick, General Secretary, ILTA ➤ Dr. Bhabendra Nath Das, Member, ILTA ➤ Mr. Shome Nath Ganguly, Member, ILTA ➤ Mr. Kaushik Bhuiyan, Member, ILTA ➤ Mr. Subir Dutta, Member, ILTA ➤ MR. B. D. BHAIYA ➤ Mr. C. K. Basu ➤ Mr. Manoj Bhैया 	40 – 50 (apprx)

SI No	Date	Topic discussed	Speaker	No of participants
2	4 th JUNE, 2020	Stress Management.	Dr. Amlan Kusum Jana, MD, Consultant Psychiatry	30 – 40 (apprx)
3	19 th JUNE, 2020	Stress Management by Cellular Nourishment Therapy.	Dr. Biswarup Saha Bakshi, Health Advisor & Dietician	30 – 40 (apprx)
4	27 th JUNE, 2020	Spread of leather.	Prof. Dr. Buddhadeb Chattopadhyay, Former Principal, Govt. College of Engineering & Leather Technology (GCELT) and present Principal of MCKV Institute of Engineering	70 – 80 (apprx)

Links of various sites where the contents of events organized by HR Committee have been shared.

Table – II

SI No	Popularly known as	Status	Link
1	Inaugural Session	ILTA HR – Digital Platform	https://www.facebook.com/101931554882416/posts/101968758212029/
2	Health Talk – I	'Stress Management' by Dr. Amlan Kusum Jana, MD, Consultant Psychiatry	https://www.facebook.com/101931554882416/videos/1146816815696697/
3	Health Talk – II	'Stress Management by Cellular Nourishment Therapy' by Dr. Biswarup Saha Bakshi, Health Advisor & Dietician	https://www.facebook.com/101931554882416/videos/803829213520781/
4	Technical Talk – I	Prof. Dr. Buddhadeb Chattopadhyay, Former Principal, Govt. College of Engineering & Leather Technology (GCELT) and present Principal of MCKV Institute of Engineering	https://www.facebook.com/101931554882416/videos/1433298136870172/ https://youtu.be/BSEQBwZw0PY

It goes without saying that still these are newly born activities aiming to cope with the New Normal. It required to be nurtured well to mature and further can be extended to hold larger scale seminar programmes, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the ILTA.

We would like to request all whomsoever it may concern, to actively participate, advise, suggest, debate and criticize constructively so that the virtual platform can be developed step-by-step, overcoming the initial teething problems.

ILTA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

An ILTA Membership Committee has been formed under joint coordinatorship of Mr. Shiladitya Deb Chowdhury and Mr. Bibhas Chandra Jana. Other members of the committee are as follow :-

- ❖ Dr. S. V. Srinivasan (Southern Region)
- ❖ Mr. Kamal Sharma (Northern Region)
- ❖ Mr. Chandan Chakraborty (Northern Region)

- ❖ Mr. Jayanta Choudhury
- ❖ Mr. Pradipta Konar
- ❖ Mr. Aniruddha Dey
- ❖ Mr. Kunal Naskar

ILTA WELFARE COMMITTEE

An Welfare Committee has been formed under joint coordinatorship of Mr. Kaushik Bhuiyan and Mr. Jiban Dasgupta. Other members of the committee are as follow :-

- ❖ Mr. Shiladitya Deb Chowdhury
- ❖ Mr. Jayanta Choudhury
- ❖ Mr. Amit Mondol
- ❖ Mr. Santosh Mukherjee
- ❖ Mr. Jayanta Baidya
- ❖ Mr. Arijit Chakraborty
- ❖ Mr. Pradipta Konar
- ❖ Mr. Avijit Das



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ILTA ESTATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

An Estate Management Committee has been formed under joint coordinatorship of Mr. Bibhas Chandra Jana and Mr. Kaushik Bhuiyan. Other members of the committee are as follow :-

- ❖ Mr. Amit Mondol
- ❖ Mr. Subir Dutta
- ❖ Mr. Kunal Naskar

Advisors :

- ❖ Mr. Tapan Nandi

- ❖ Mr. Shankar Dawn
- ❖ Mr. Adhesh Sahni

ILTA SEMINAR COMMITTEE

A Seminar Committee has been formed under coordinatorship of Mr. Subir Dutta. Other members of the committee are as follow :-

- ❖ Mr. Rajesh Kumar
- ❖ Mehdi Hassan Gayen

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- 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)

Read and Let Read :-

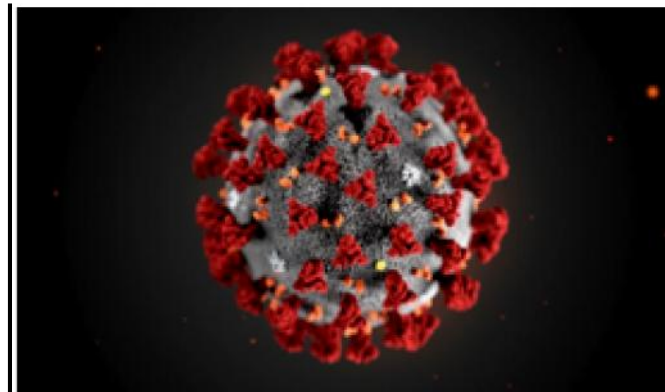
JILTA

General Secretary and the Members of the Executive Committee are available to interact with members at 19.30 hrs, over Phone/Conference call on every Thursday

COVID-19 : A New Challenge to Combat with

Dr. Buddhadeb Chattopadhyay

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



Please allow me to put on record for the kind consideration of the Leather Fraternity and all whomsoever it may concern.

1) Virus is placed in the grey LoC between living and nonliving. This is because they a) cannot exchange energy, b) they lack many cell organelles c) they contain either DNA or RNA and not the both and d) they themselves cannot reproduce. They need a host cell to exploit their utilities to reproduce asexually. They are, therefore, “obligatory intercellular parasites”.

It needs to do research, whether the virus can stay safe inside the pores of leather and what are their life spans.

The virus inside the leather will not find a living host cell to thrive. By the period of usual shipment, most likely they will remain inactive.

Since while escaping from the host cell, the nascent daughter virus takes a chunk of lipids, they go into o/w emulsion while rubbing with soap and then get drain out during rinsing after wash. Hand sanitizer also should contain hydrogen peroxide which kills the virus, if any left over.

None can assure virus free state. It is so tiny 2.0 to 400 nm and weighing in the range of ottogram (10^{-18} g.), only picturable under SEM.

CoV2 will never disappear from the earth, it may mutate further. We have to coexist with them like any other broad-spectrum pathogens.

Broad spectrum antibiotics for killing bacteria are pitifully inactive to kill virus. Far UV can do to certain extent but cannot be a permanent solution for long duration.

It reminds me, in 1974, our microbiology Prof. Dr. S. K. Sarkar asked us to wash our hands with soap, clean but not mop. Then he with a sterile inoculation needle streaked on some one's palm and then streaked on the solid medium in a Petridis under inoculation Laminar flow chamber. Incubated them for 72 h. and asked us to observe. At the same time, another Petri dish with the same medium was inoculated with the strains on his unwashed palm as control.

When we came to the lab after three days, to our utter surprise we could not found out which Petridis is experimental and which one is the control!

The bacterial colonies grown on both were nearly the same. This was an awesome experience indeed!

From then and onward we learnt that we have to coexist. You might wonder there are many parasites in our body to play a specific functional role.

On the inner surface of our eye lids (close to eye balls) there are many parasites that not only help the batting of the eye but repeatedly cleaning our eye lenses with saline water (tear). A majority of flora remains in healthy GI track.

When broad spectrum antibiotics kill them indiscriminately, we suffer from indigestion, vomiting due to the death of friendly bacteria along with their kinsfolks — the pathogenic ones.

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Humble submission to you is don't get panicky. CoV2 will lose strength also and we shall develop herd immunity too.

Some general information on Virus:

1. Except few exceptions, virus is very heat labile. There are individual variations but they get inactivated within few seconds at 56 deg C., minutes at 37 deg C. and days at 4 deg C.
2. Virus are very greatly **resistant to acidity**. All virus is disrupted under **alkaline conditions**.
3. Virus are inactivated by Sun light, UV and ionizing radiations. (In a tropical country like, ours, maximum portion of UV portion reaches on us between 8:30 am to 9:30 am, if, possible, you can leave your shoes under Sun. For daily use it is advised to wear alternatively two pair of shoes. Keeping the idle pair under sunlight for a period of an hour in the shade and letting it sort rest of the day. That will also evaporate perspiration & smell too).
4. The most active antiviral are oxidizing agents like H_2O_2 , Na_2O_2 , $NaOCl$, $KMnO_4$ (can't be used in leather because of colour the others need to observe, if, they convert Cr (III) to Cr (VI) back).
5. Lipid solvents like Me-O-Me, $CHCl_3$ etc. can eliminate virus.
6. **Bacterial antibiotics are totally ineffective to virus.**

To add to your curiosity, there are sub viral species much much smaller than virus like, Viriods and Prions.

It may also kindly be noted that IR can, but UV do not transmit through glass. When we take UV spectrum, we take quartz cuvette and not the glass one. So do not keep shoes inside the room under visible sunlight assuming that you are exposing to UV, when the glass windows are closed.

For safety from COVID in lock down period, as I have explained, please avoid as much as possible residing inside a closed room.

On the contrary, keep the windows open favoring **cross ventilation** to drive away the micro droplets, which even are escaped while you talk to others; more rapidly, when you lose your temper and shout!

In that case, I am afraid, that the punishment to either the offender or your good self or both, might be heavier than the actual cognizable offence!

The New Normal :

- We must prepare tailor-made SOP to prevent community contamination of CoV2.
- Lots of Central Govt, Corporate Sector, PSU prepared their SOP available in Net.
- These can be the guideline to tailor make with minute details.
- Staggering, changing shifts, maintaining physical distance etc. cannot be done unless well planned in advance.

Safety gadgets like, mask, Soaps, hand sanitizer, PPE, cleaning, training the staffs displaying Do's and Don'ts posters to be hung everywhere etc.

Special Note for Tannery : During this catastrophe let us look into the scenario very closely and try to be responsible. It requires only motivation to do. We have to eliminate all possible scopes of contamination from wet salted raw hides and skins entry to tannery operation.

- Let us try to check through IR sensor thermometer the body temperature of every employee entering the tannery. They must have mask on. Then a wash basin near the gate to wash the hands with hand rub, rinse and clean. Then to spray hand sanitizer. I am not personally in favour of passing them through makeshift tunnel and spraying chemicals on their body. This is not required at all.
- Manual handling of wet salted hides and skins should be as minimal as possible. They can be transported inside the beam house and loaded in the drum by forklifts.
- Depending on the soaking capacities utilization of high capacity weighing scale may be thought of, so that at least a full load of wet salted hides and skins can be weighed in one go.
- No stock piling in raw hide or skin godown / warehouse and no raw hides and skin selection.
- Start soaking the lot arrived by transport straight to soaking after weighing and then quickly starts liming in **drum**. pH of lime liquor is around 12.5 so at such alkaline pH the CoV2 will not survive. Alkaline condition will rupture the CoV2 virus.



- The selection can be done after wet blue stage.
- Day-in-day-out (soaking-liming) should be the strategy and for that planning and cooperation with the raw hides and skin merchants and the transporters are required.
- I would recommend to fumigate the wet yard and dry yard at least half an hour before the starting of the shift and wearing mask gloves and gum boots are must.
- Stop by any means spitting on the shop floor. It is a dangerous habit.
- No plastics in packaging should be used. CoV2 was even found on the milk package for domestic consumption.
- The same protocol for leaving the factory should be followed.
- The workmen should be discouraged to eat on the shop floor or cat walk. Tannery may identify separate well-ventilated space for that purpose.
- All shop floors must be well lit and cross ventilated in order to drive away the micro droplets.
- Much better housekeeping is required and the solid wastes like fleshing, shavings and trimmings etc. should be removed from the floor often.
- New Normal calls for new adjustments and we have to accommodate that.

This is the reason why we are stressing for drawing out SOP (Standard Operational Procedures) in each factory taking into consideration of all aspects and COVID guidelines to prevent spread of Novel Corona Virus through community contamination. If, (may God forbid) it so happens, due to casual attitude of either the employee or the employer, we have to be prepared for paying a bigger penalty.

It is not to get panic-stricken. The reason being 1) contagious virus is usually less lethal. The numbers of cures are more than

the numbers of deaths, 2) Human cell is not the typical cell for CoV2 to attack and 3) the rate of mutation of CoV2 was found to be much slower than anticipated.

If, we compare the position with other common disease in India, it would be clearer, why I am saying not to get panicky.

From 26/03/2020 till 16/05/2020, 90,927 were infected, 2,975 expired (34,109 recovered) in CoV2. Now, let us compare this figure with some other common deadly diseases in our Country:

- 1) TB: 2,690,000 cases p.a., 440,000 death p.a.
- 2) Chicken pox: 100,000 cases p.a., death 3,000 p.a.
- 3) HIV: 100,000 cases p.a., death 32,000 p.a.
- 4) Measles: 24,000 death p.a. (number of cases were not found).
- 5) Pneumonia: 41,996,260 cases p.a., death 3,740 p.a.
- 6) Leprosy: 125,000 cases p.a., death 11,250 p.a.
- 7) Seasonal flu: 28,798 cases p.a., death 1,218 p.a.
- 8) Swine flu: 33,761 cases p.a., death 2,035 p.a.
- 9) Dengue: 8,900 cases p.a., death 3,738 p.a.

Now one of the important components for most of the above nine diseases are mal nutrition, unhealthy atmosphere and poor housekeeping. We may compare this figure that is happening on an average every year in our country. Why are we so terrified and panicky with CoV2?

Is it because its attack is invariant to the above shortfalls? Even Hon'ble PM of England can be attacked! Don't get panicky. CoV2 will never disappear from the earth. We have to learn how to coexist with it like nine others above. Using mask instead of head phone while travelling in public transport, hand wash, hand sanitizer, online classes, seminars, meetings etc. might be the new normal in the following years!

If, we are determined and if, we don't misplace our trusts so far ahead of our intellect, we shall overcome jointly together. It is not the business of a single unit it is a collective effort. My humble submission to the collective wisdom is to accept the challenge and combat.



Decoding Stress

Dr. Amlan Kusum Jana

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'Stress' to a common man is like 'problem' to a customer care manager. It can be anything and everything; sometimes it can be nothing. Just a misperception of a customer or a common man. More and more behavioural scientists have been coming up with the proposition that stress actually is nothing definite or universal but how we ourselves perceive it. 'It's all in your mind!' is the suitable expression to describe it. Like a mathematics problem we stumble upon in the middle of an important exam or the indecisiveness we dearly suffer from when we come across a disappointed spouse but have no idea how his/her mood went off, it's actually what we think about the problem in our hand that labels it as 'stress'.

This is technically called 'perceived stress'. No matter how much we try life is always going to be with a lot many stressors, or factors leading to stress. So, it might be a better idea to make us strong enough so that not every problem looks like or more appropriately, feels like a stress. In order to make us more prepared to deal with stress, let's first see what happens to us when we face stress. Up to a certain point stress improves our productivity. For example an exam every four months keep a student on track, or an optimum work pressure keeps the workers positively engaged. This much of stress is called 'eustress' and the moment the perceived pressure crosses this tipping point, the stage of 'distress' starts. Our aim is to keep the stresses in the eustress level before dissolving it.

The distress stage leaves telltale signs on us. There would be disturbances in sleep, eating habit, general productivity and behaviour. A change (for worse) in behaviour lead to familial disharmony, problems in job. The physical problems can be headache, indigestion, fatigue and can be more serious psychiatric problems like alcohol dependence, depression or

anxiety disorder. The existing medical conditions like diabetes or hypertension (high blood pressure) can worsen.

Now, to manage stress there are a lot of methods and simply going through the list of them can be stressful enough. However, the basic principle boils down to two major steps. Firstly, to optimize our own physical and psychological strength so that we deal with the stress more effectively. Secondly, to properly assess and evaluate stress, and not let our bias or misconception cloud our judgment. A healthy diet, moderate exercise, a good hobby (like listening to music) and a good social network can essentially get us through the first step. The second step can be achieved by various methods many of which (sometimes not much scientifically) have been mentioned in free websites. It can be tai-chi, meditation, aroma therapy (exposure to good smells), bibliotherapy (reading books) but the methods which have been scientifically demonstrated to be more effective than others are cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) and time management.

CBT is based on the principle that our thoughts and behaviours are intricately and bidirectionally linked (i.e. they can affect each other). Thoughts affecting our behaviour are somewhat easier to imagine. If my boss is foul mouthed I will avoid him as much as possible. But, can our behaviors affect our thought? The behavioural scientists say so. A receptionist trained to deliver sweet talks to everyone believes she is incapable to stand up and protest against something wrong happening in front of her. Similar equation works out when we face stress. Sometimes our preconceived notions about ourselves and about the people and environment around us impair our ability to correctly assess stress and appropriately respond to it. CBT deals with these notions and remove or change them to make the stress appraisal and response more meaningful.



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Time management is relatively simpler. It is about watching how we use, spend, waste and utilize time and make our time spending more efficient so that we end up spending time in a way we like. It starts with distributing our assignments (both professional as well as personal) into four domains: a) important and urgent b) important but non urgent c) unimportant but urgent and d) unimportant and non urgent. This makes us aware of how unknowingly we put a lot of effort to things which do not deserve them. This also shows us the pattern of our time waste that we can rectify ourselves. Time management can

deal with stress by effectively placing it in front of us and making us more efficient in dealing with it.

To conclude, we much look at stress with an open mind and self belief. It might not be a stress after all, if we look closer. It can not be stress just because others are saying so and we are often better than we think. If in doubt, we should ask our family members and friends about it before starting to worry about it. The key to tackle stress is our ability to adapt to varying situations and we all have been endowed with this ability by nature.

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- Organises various Seminars/workshops both the benefit of its members and industry.
- Promotes International Fairs and RBMs like IILF Kolkata, ILPA Buyer Seller Summit.
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- 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.
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KNOW YOUR SHOE Part - 2

Mr. Shome Nath Ganguly

Former Principal, Karnataka Institute of Leather Technology



VARIOUS TYPES OF SHOES

There are wide varieties of different types of shoes in the market. All most all types of shoes are designed for specific activities. For example, boots are typically designed for work or heavy outdoor use. Athletic shoes are designed for particular sports such as running, walking, or other sports. Some shoes are designed to be worn at more formal occasions, and others are designed for casual wear. There are also a wide variety of shoes designed for different types of dancing. Orthopaedic shoes are special types of footwear designed for individuals with particular foot problems or special needs.



Cow Boy Boot

Depending on the activity for which it is designed, some types of footwear may fit into multiple categories. For example, **Cowboy shoes** are considered as boots, but may also be worn in more formal occasions and used as dress shoes. Mountaineering boots incorporate many of the protective features of boots, but also provide the extra flexibility and comfort of many athletic shoes. **Flip-flops** (A light sandal typically made of plastic or rubber with a thong between big & second toe) are also considered as casual footwear, but have also been worn in formal occasions, such as visits to wedding or birth day ceremony.

Cowboy boots are similar style of riding boot which combines function with fashion. These boots became popular among cowboys in the western United States during the 19th century. The traditional cowboy boots were manufactured with a Cuban heel. The last was rounded pointed toe with high shaft. This shoe has no lacing system, some time zipper is used in this shoe. These shoes were normally made from cow / buffalo leather but may also be made from more exotic skins such as ostrich, anaconda, or elephant skins.



Athletic Running Shoe

Athletic shoes are specifically designed to be worn for participating in various sports. Since friction between the foot and the ground is an important force in most sports, modern athletic shoes are designed to maximize this force using various materials including rubber. Although, for some activities such as dancing or bowling, sliding is desirable as such shoes designed for these activities often have lower coefficients of friction. The earliest athletic shoes date back to the mid 19th century were track spikes — leather shoes with metal cleats on the soles to provide increased friction during running. They were developed by J.W. Foster & Sons, which later become known as Reebok. By the end of the 19th century, Spalding, an American sports Goods Company also manufactured these shoes as well.

During 1925 M/S Adidas started selling shoes with track spikes in them for running and soccer. Spikes were eventually added to shoes for baseball and American football in the 20th century. Golfers also use shoes with small metal spikes on their soles to prevent slipping during their swing.

The earliest rubber-soled athletic shoes date back to 1876 in the United Kingdom, the shoe industry developed Plimsolls. It is a type of athletic shoe with a canvas upper & rubber sole (8-9 mm) developed as a beachwear during in 1830, sand shoes & similar rubber-soled shoes. The United States Rubber Company was founded the same year and produced rubber-soled and heeled shoes under a variety of brand names, which were later consolidated in 1916 under the name of Ked. These shoes became known as, "sneakers", because the rubber sole allowed the wearer to sneak up on another person.

In 1964, the founding of "Nike" by Phil Knight and Bill Bowerman of the University of Oregon introduced many new improvements common in modern running shoes, such as rubber waffle soles, breathable nylon uppers, and cushioning in the mid-sole and heel.

During the 1970s, the expertise of podiatrists also became important in athletic shoe design, to implement new design features based on how feet reacted to specific actions, such as running, jumping, or side-to-side movement. Athletic shoes for women were also designed for their specific physiological differences.

A PAIR OF CONVERSE ALL STAR

In 1917 Shoes specific for the sport of basketball were developed by Mr. Chuck Taylor. These shoes are made double-layer canvas in upper & rubber sole as bottom and with toe caps & counter. This type of shoes was used as pity shoe. In the 1970s, the shoe manufacturers began imitating this style

of athletic shoe. In April 1985, Nike introduced its own brand of basketball shoe which would become popular in its own right. As barefoot running became popular by the late 20th and early 21st century, many modern shoe manufacturers have designed footwear that mimic this experience, maintaining optimum flexibility and natural walking while also providing some degree of protection of feet. Termed as "Minimalist Shoes", their purpose is to allow one's feet and legs to feel more delicately the impacts and forces involved in running, allowing finer adjustments in running style. Some of these shoes include the Vibram Five Fingers (Pic – previous article – "bare foot shoe"). Similar to this shoes worn by the Tarahumara people (Taharumara are a group of indigenous people of America living in the state of chihuahua in Northern Mexico) who are known for their distance running abilities.

Wrestling shoes are also very light and flexible shoes that are designed to mimic bare feet while providing additional traction and protection.

Many athletic shoes are designed with specific features for specific activities. One of these includes roller skates, which have metal or plastic wheels on the bottom specific for the sport of roller skating. Similarly, ice skates have a metal blade attached to the bottom for locomotion across ice. Skate shoes have also been designed to provide a comfortable, flexible and durable shoe for the sport of skateboarding. Climbing shoes are rubber-soled, tight-fitting shoes designed to fit in the small cracks and crevices for rock climbing. Cycling shoes are similarly designed with rubber soles and a tight fit, but also are equipped with a metal or plastic cleat to interface with clip less pedals, as well as a stiff sole to maximize power transfer and support the foot. Some shoes are made specifically to improve a person's ability to weight train.

Ref : [//en.wikipedia.org // wiki // athletic shoe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/athletic_shoe)

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BGDS as a Creative Visualization for Leather Surface Design & Upgradation

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An "Institution of National Importance" as per FDDI Act, 2017

Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India



Abstract :

In recent decades, computer graphics give possibilities of creative visualization for leather and non leather surface design and it gives view of upgradation on surface. Corel Draw, Adobe photo shop, Adobe Illustrator etc, are Basic graphics design suite (BGDS), where we can create different look and material forecasting for the upcoming season. Graphics suite was used to create texture and final appearance instead of making a real sample.

This paper will show a parallel relationship between defects, surface upgradation and graphics & its type. It would exhibit the process meant for easier visualization and creation OF different effects on surface. From the creation of virtual textures, limitations and implementation in three dimensional (3D) objects, are demonstrated in this paper. The exhibits of this paper are presented as examples of the new possibilities for surface design with upgradation in leather and non leather manufacturing.

Key words : Basic Graphics Design Suite (BGDS), Effects, Surface upgradation, Creative Visualization, Value addition, etc.

Introduction

By the early 19th century, Most of the skin and hide was available defective, and the supply is also limited while the demand for quality is ever increasing. Surface design and upgradation technique in leather was introduced to add value to the product. Surface design refers effects, texture, and appearance on surface. And surface upgradation technique refers 'to improve value addition of materially defective stocks' such as Pigmented, Patent, Foil technique. Etc, which reduces the defects on the surface and it gives value addition of the product.

Creating simple Antique designs on surface were the first methods of surface design.[2] Poly urethane or Patent finish was a noteworthy development for surface design and upgradation. It gives value addition to the materially defective stocks. Snuffing by Mr. Aulson, Two tone finishing and pigment or resin finishing was next major break-through in modern times. Later, casein dispersed pigments used for covering the defects easily, and it provided possibility of embossing on grain surface with different prints.

Recently, Graphics design has been used as creative visualization for aesthetic look, effects on surface and appearance of the raw material in leather, footwear and allied industries. Some designers prefer raster- based graphics software, such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator etc, because it allows to create different textures. And it is resolution dependence. Graphics Designs are used as a medium where we can reduce the cost of leather design sampling. Surface upgradation have a greater impact on the leather rather than non leather, due to defectiveness in nature.

In the demonstrated project, possibilities of introducing Graphics Design in surface designing for new visualization are investigated. The current developments in computer graphics have changed the way product designing and production happens, resulting in more and more virtual design, and inexpensive proto-typing. Graphics design used to create the virtual texture. Once it has been accepted, we can able to produce the tactile texture.

This article puts forth three fundamental ideas. First being, to understand the parallel relationship between defects, surface upgradation. Secondly, how to use graphics suite as a creative visualization for surface design and Thirdly how technologists' virtual model expresses an idea, resulting in sophisticated virtual perception of collections.

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Defects vs. Surface Upgradation :

The leather is a natural raw material(ingredient) and naturally, leather is more defective compare with non leather. Ante -mortem defects caused during life include such as scars, tick marks, cockles, born wire scratches, etc. Post-mortem defects caused damage during process of leather manufacturing. Such as flay cuts, faulty drying, etc.

Now, coming to present day practices, the raw materials are first assorted into the three categories based on cutting value. A-H and grouped V Grades, over all. The details of these classes and their uses are shown below.

Sl. No.	Grades / Classes		Cutting value	Uses
1	I	A	Above 97%	Garments, upholstery, Superior upper, etc.
		B	92-97%	
		C	87-92%	
2	II	D	82-87%	Medium goods, upper, suedes, superior lining, etc.
		E	77-82%	
		F	72-77%	
3	III	G	67-72%	Small goods, patch works, etc.
		H	62-67%	
4	Utter Rejections -IV & V Grades			Lining and patch works

Table 1 Grades & it uses.

Grade A is superior quality,very less in percentage(rarity) and it can be turned into 'Naked Aniline Leathers' which are given a only wax treatment.Mostly, serious surface upgradation is required of others (Grade B to H).

Effects & Surface Design:

Different surface quality or effects on leather introduced in the early 1990's.such as stone wash, mill off, rain drop,3D effect, etc. The different types of effects on surface design are shown below.

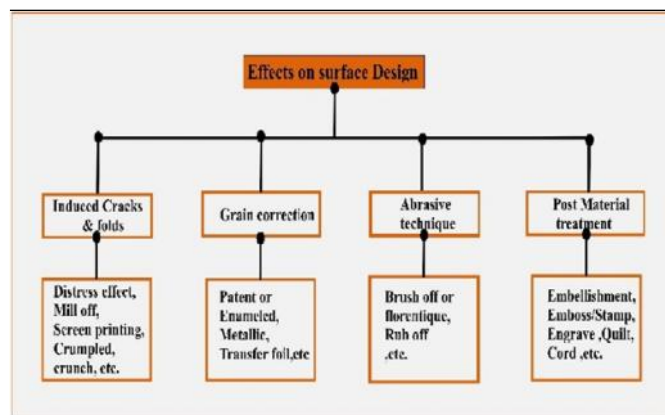


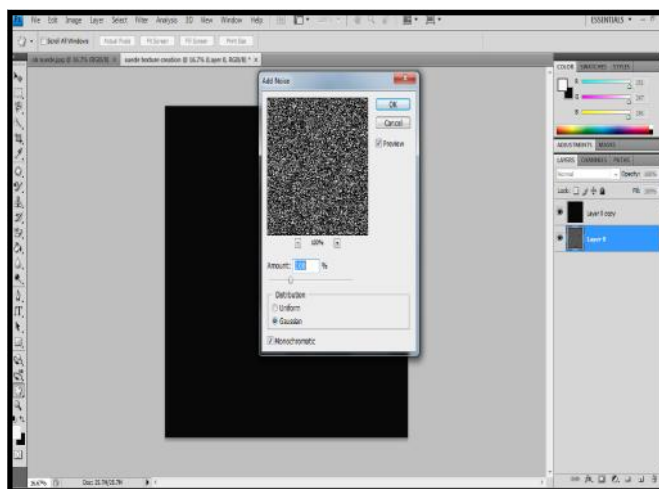
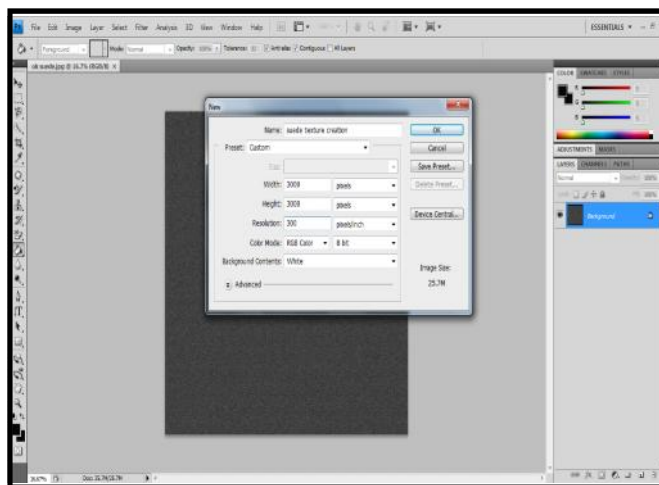
Figure 1 : Types of effects on surface design.

Experimental :

In recent decades, Most of the pelts have available defective. Fish scaling, Transfer foil technique, Patent, etc are recent trends for surface design as well surface upgradation. Surface upgradation and surface design are two main objectives for recent leather finishing technique. Surface design plays a vital role in leather designing. Because, there has been increasing level of awareness of fashion, choice and preferences. Recently, Graphics suite used as creative visualization for leather and non leather surface design.

Rasterize or bitmap tools are often used to create the different visual textures. The steps involving the virtual suede surface texture are illustrated below using the graphics suite.

Firstly, Open Graphics suite (ctrl +N) and set width is 3000 pixels and height is 3000 pixels. Color mode as RGB, Resolution as 300 pixels per inch. Then choose the back ground color which you required.



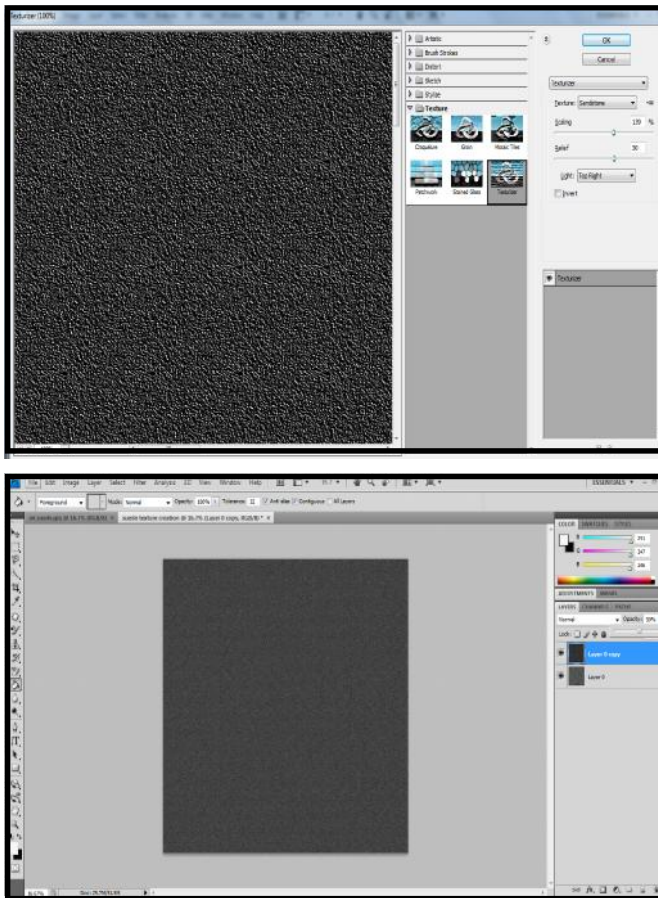


Figure 2, 3, 4 & 5 : Different steps involved for creating suede leather.

Then go to Filter > Noise > Add noise. Keep noise at 100%. Distribution as Gaussian, and select the 'monochromatic'. Then press ok. At the top of the screen select filter> texture> texturizer.choose sand stone as 'texture'. Relief size is 30.then keep scale it to 140%.press ok button.

Then set opacity is to 50%. More ever, you can save suede texture with different format. Once it has been approved from the customer, we can able to produce the tactile texture.

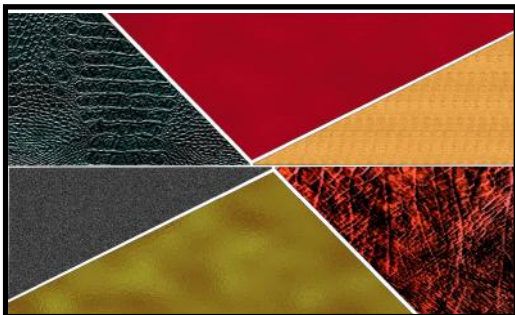


Figure 6 : Material forecasting created in FDDI-Footwear Design LAB.

Implementation :

The visual texture has been transformed into creative visualization with Three Dimensional (3D) objects. Visual texture gives possibility of actual realism compare with traditional method of texture creation.



Figure 7: Implementation of visual texture.

Results and Discussion

Results of BGDS as a new visualization show similar advantages and drawbacks. Hence this implies in certain ways that rather than doing the manual texture creating. We can create different look, visual texture and material forecasting of future season. So graphical is more preferred in order to inexpensively create more textures. Surface upgradation has a greater impact on the leather rather than non leather, because the leather is a natural raw material (ingredient) and naturally, leather is more defective compare with non leather.

It is also to be noticed that the discussed method would facilitate the look and visual features to be visualized.

Summary

This article puts forth three fundamental ideas. First being, to understand the parallel relationship between defects, surface upgradation. Secondly, how to use graphics suite as a creative visualization for surface design and Thirdly how technologists' virtual model expresses an idea, resulting in sophisticated visual perception of collections.

Knowledge of designer in graphics suite plays important role for creating various looks. These projects are presented as examples of the new possibilities for Visualization in leather, footwear and allied industry which is not followed by many footwear and allied units. It also reduces the cost and rejection rate of samples during development stage. Also the context of this paper is an example of new innovative research and applications of 'Industry 4.0' which give opportunity to develop futuristic leather and non-leather based sectors in India.

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Read and Let Read :-

JILTA

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MR. CAMPBELL PAGE, SECRETARY, IULTCS

Globally we have been through some difficult times in the last few months and I hope you all have managed to avoid the corona virus and stay healthy.

The corona virus has caused the cancellation of our planned Executive Committee meeting this year, but our President Luis Zugno is arranging tele / video conferences amongst the IULTCS officers so we stay in touch.

Today, with the help of Christine Powley-Williams, we had a video conference with Prof. Mwinyi Mwinyihija the Congress President of our 2021 Congress in Addis Ababa.

There is a small change to the Congress date communicated last year. Our next IULTCS Congress will now be held on the 3rd - 5th November 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Please note this date in your agenda and very importantly inform your association colleagues. A press release about the 2021 Congress will be issued shortly.

The Congress venue will be the **Ethiopian Skylight Hotel**, close to the International airport in Addis Ababa.

Mwinyi and his colleagues have updated the 2021 Congress website and it now has a lot of new information. I recommend you consult the Congress website for details:

www.iultcs2021africa.org/event/ff8cfe3d-41d4-4b7a-95f2-1b917fa314b4/summary?5S%2CM3%2Cff8cfe3d-41d4-4b7a-95f2-1b917fa314b4=

Alternatively go to the IULTCS website (www.iultcs.org) and click on the advertisement for the Addis Ababa Congress, this links you directly to the Congress website.

The call for Congress abstracts will open shortly in June 2020 and abstracts will be able to be uploaded to the website.

To make it a special "9 days of leather" in Addis Ababa, 2 other prestigious leather events are now scheduled to take place directly before and after the IULTCS Congress:

- on 1st November 2021 the World Leather Congress (WLC) organised by the ICT will take place in the same venue;

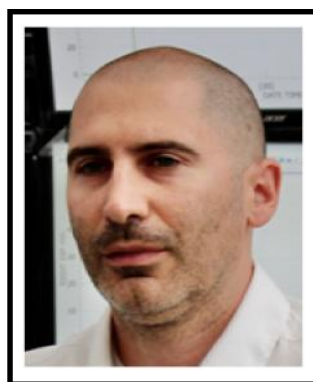
- on 6th - 9th November 2021 the All Africa Leather Fair (AALF) will take place in Addis Ababa.

For further details, please visit IULTCS Official Web Page and/or Mr. Campbell Page, IULTCS Secretary, E-mail: campbellpage3@gmail.com.

(Source : Email – 29/05/2020)

ERRETRE AND LEATHER NATURALLY SUPPORT THE IULTCS YOUNG LEATHER SCIENTIST GRANT PROGRAMME 2021

The Executive Committee of the IULTCS is pleased to announce the 2021 grants to be awarded to three young scientists, under the age of 35, for research projects in the categories: Leather Research, Machinery / Equipment and Sustainability to be conducted at a recognized institution in 2021.



**Mr. Adriano Peruzzi,
ERRETRE**



**Prof. Mike
Redwood**

Italy based leather technology provider and machinery manufacturer, ERRETRE S.p.a., confirmed support of the 2021 YLSG programme of IULTCS in the category Machinery/ Equipment. The grant is to encourage young leather students and scientists to run a leather research project in the areas of development of machines for leather processing, automation, chemical/physical analysis and environmental equipment. Mr Adriano Peruzzi from Erretre remarks: "Our company supports leather education and we strongly believe our sector needs young motivated people to implement innovation and face the challenges the industry is face during the coming years. Erretre is again proud to award one young scientist for the work on a remarkable research project on Machinery/Equipment and for the contribution to the leather industry."

"Leather Naturally is proud to sponsor the Professor Mike Redwood Sustainability/Environment grant for another two

years” said Egbert Dikkers, Chairperson. “With Leather Naturally’s focus on providing education to designers, brands and consumers, it was a logical step to sponsor this award and honour our founder Professor Mike Redwood.” Who is quoted as saying: “I wrote my first sustainability report in 1993 and those companies who have embraced the subject positively since then have all benefited from the solid science-based foundation it establishes when fighting competitive materials on environmental grounds. To pursue sustainability as an ongoing objective stimulates the leather industry to be dynamic and innovative. I am immensely honoured to be named in this grant and hope that it will allow candidates to feel free to challenge the industry with creative and unexpected ideas”.

2021 will be the seventh year of the grant, and IULTCS will provide the monetary sponsorship for a single sum of Euro 1,500 grant to Basic Research; ERRETRE will sponsor the Euro 1,000 grant for Machinery/Equipment and Leather Naturally the Euro 1,000 sponsorship for the Professor Mike Redwood grant on Sustainability/Environmental.

Michael Meyer, Chairman of the International Union of Research Commission (IUR) of IULTCS and Research Director at Freiberg (Germany) based FILK Leather Institute expressing his appreciation of the engagement: “We very much value the contribution of ERRETRE and Leather Naturally to our YLSG programme. It is a vital instrument to encourage young leather scientists to acquire awareness and become more connected to the established research community of our industry. We have seen the programme growing stronger over the past years. Last year’s edition brought up numerous, ambitious applications to step forward with innovative ideas and sustainable technologies.”

Application submission for the 2021 YLSG programme will open in September and Luis Zugno, President of IULTCS, asks young research talents of the industry to file courageous project ideas.

Details of the eligibility requirements are available on the IULTCS website (<http://www.iultcs.org/research-iur.php>).

The IULTCS requests that readers of this announcement forward the information to those institutions and individuals who could benefit from the award.

(Source : IULTCS News Release – 16/06/2020)

LEATHER MANUFACTURERS, TRADERS URGE GOVT TO IMPOSE ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON CHINESE FOOTWEAR



Leather manufacturers and traders have urged the government to impose anti-dumping duty on Chinese footwear to guard the domestic industry from cheap imports. They have also sought a hike in import duty on chemicals like basic chrome sulphate and sodium sulphide, which are imported from China and used for treating leather.

These chemicals attract an import duty of 8.2%, which the industry wants to be raised to 35%.

“Even though the import duty on footwear was increased to 35% in 2019, the flow of Chinese footwear has not come down a bit,” Ramesh Juneja, regional chairman at Council of Leather Exports, told ET. “The only way this can be controlled is to impose anti-dumping duty. We have already written to the government on this.”

The leather industry has become more vocal amid the rising clamour to boycott Chinese goods following the recent face off between Indian and Chinese armies on the Line of Actual Control.

China manufactures 13.1 billion pairs of shoes annually. Its own consumption is 4.1 billion pairs. It thus has a huge volume of footwear to export. On the contrary, India produces 2.57 billion pairs of shoes. India’s per capita consumption has increased to 2 pairs per year in 2019 from 1.7 pairs in 2016. This has encouraged China to export more to India.

Muhammad Babar, owner of Agra-based Relex Footwear, said the domestic market is flooded with Chinese footwear. “We are losing our customers because we cannot manufacture shoes at such a low cost,” he said.

Juneja said factories that used to manufacture the chemicals for treating leather have closed down in the country due to cheap imports from China.

Praveen Khandelwal, national secretary general of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), said China is damaging the footwear industry in two ways. "They sell leather to Indian trade at a cheaper price from which footwear is made. And secondly, they directly export footwear to India. Leather industry is a labour-intensive industry and therefore, due to the Chinese imports, our men are not getting work."

Khandelwal said not only footwear, China is also exporting leather wallets, leather visiting card holders and other leather stationery at a very low prices. "We have asked the Central government either to significantly increase import duty on these goods or else impose anti-dumping duty."

(Source : Economic times – 23/06/2020)

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 Kanpur based Parvez Shoes, a footwear exporting firm said "The migrant workers have left and so, getting labour is a real challenge. Since the units are closed, we do not know what is the condition of the raw hides that are lying at the units."

(Source : Times of India – 18/06/2020)

TANNERIES IN TATTERS: COUNTRY'S LEATHER SECTOR ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE



Employing over 4 million people, the Indian leather sector has always enjoyed a significant place in the Indian economy. Bestowed with an abundance of raw materials as the country is endowed with 20% of world cattle & buffalo and 11% of world goat and sheep population, the key sector, with annual exports to the tune of \$5.5 - \$6 billion, has been a major foreign exchange earner for the country.

That, however, was the reality before the pandemic struck. With little or no liquidity, the industry now finds itself at the brink of total collapse.

“To survive through this extraordinary phase, the sector needs an instant shot of liquidity. 70% of our overseas orders have now been cancelled, and for the rest, buyers are asking for heavy discounts,” says Puran Dawar, Regional Chairman, North – Council for Leather Exports (CLE).

A cursory look across different leather-based industrial zones of the country gives further credence to the view that losses due to cancelled orders have only been mounting in recent times. In Agra, one of the globally famed, leather-based industrial hub, known to account for nearly 30% of the production of leather shoes in India, liquidity tops the list of bottlenecks faced by city’s leather goods manufacturers.

Revealing the drastic turn of events for leather exporters from this north India based cluster, Dawar, who is also the president of Agra Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Chamber (AFMEC), adds that the regional cluster’s total exports reimbursement stuck (including for those goods undelivered at ports, ready but cancelled orders) stands at an upwards of about Rs 4000 crore. It’s noteworthy that India remains the second-largest producer of footwear in the world (according to Council for Leather Exports) and for many MSME-dominated industrial clusters such as the one at Agra, any lag in their working capital may prove suicidal for their very existence.

Also, in addition to direct exports, deemed exports, executed mainly by MSMEs in such clusters, also play an essential role in the entire supply chain, industry analysts agree. According to Dawar, in case of Agra footwear cluster alone, while direct exports of footwear is valued at around Rs 3500 crore, the ‘deemed exports’ of footwear is worth Rs 1500 crore.

Dawar further mentions that exports reimbursements relating to the spring-summer season have been stuck. While for the autumn-winter season, the cluster has raw materials, but already secured orders now either stand cancelled or have been put on hold indefinitely.

Eastern pain

The situation in the eastern part of the country, home to many leather-based hotspots, is equally grim.

“In the eastern region, handbags are a major commodity produced. This segment is severely hit as all the foreign retail outlets and buying houses are shut down. About Rs 2000 crore worth of orders have either been cancelled or have been put on hold,” discloses Ramesh Kumar Juneja, President Calcutta Leather Complex Tanners Association.

Making life further difficult for firms in the eastern part of the country these days is the devastating impact of Cyclone Amphan that has destroyed many firms’ critical infrastructure in many areas.

According to Juneja, shortage of workers is also hitting production. Completing an order is very difficult, since the industry doesn’t have a sufficient workforce to execute those.

“Now, even if we are getting a few orders, we are not able to run factories since most of the workers have gone back to their native places. The tragedy was that when the government had allowed factories to open with 35% workforce, we did not have more than 10% workforce,” he rues.

Asked if the government’s recent relief measures addressed their concerns, Juneja while ‘welcoming’ the announcements, states, “These are collateral-free loans that one has to repay, isn’t it so?”

Immediate help sought

Given the depressing state of affairs across various leather clusters, the industry believes the government should urgently offer liquidity support to the critical sector.

“Agra footwear sector is looking for support for at least one year salary and wages for which based on the turnover, a minimum of 10% Interest-free loan as term loan payable back in next 3 years, is being demanded. Also, 50% working capital support on the same is sought,” says Dawar.

To help the exporting fraternity in the leather sector, the industry representative pitches for lower interest rates. Mentioning that in countries such as Germany, interest rates for the leather sector stands at 0.25%, he asserts that due to the high cost of capital, the country loses competitiveness at global marketplaces.

“Today, even a reduced interest rate of 9.5% is not helping firms compete against global competitors. For the

manufacturing sector, the interest rates should be based upon globally followed Libor rates. This, we want for the next 5 years. This is not a big ask as we are passing through unprecedented times that warrant unprecedented efforts."

Dawar adds that the disbursement of wages and salaries for the next three months remains the sector's biggest pain point today. To this effect, he suggests the living wages formula (which refers to the minimum income necessary for workers to meet basic needs) should be derived and paid from employees' ESIC funds.

"ESIC is holding reserves of Rs 84,000 crore and this fund may be replenished by increasing contribution of ESI by 1% in the next 3 years. Interest-free term loan to the tune of 50% of present Cash credit (CC) limits payable yearly in the next 5 years should also be given to the sector," he urges.

(Source : International Leather Magazine – 20/06/2020)

LET IT BREATHE, SPRINKLE BAKING SODA & OTHER HACKS TO TAKE CARE OF LEATHER DURING MONSOON



Your leather bags are probably home safe during the lockdown but it's time of the year again when the moisture content in the air is at an all time high. Hence, special care is needed for clothes and bags made of natural materials like leather.

Anshuman Singh, Creative Founder, Paul Adams, shares his advice on how to take care of your leather during the monsoon. His first tip, don't worry about a little fungus.

"If you notice green fungus or traces of white lines on your leather bags, first and foremost, this means it's made of genuine leather. Monsoon is a time where moisture content in the air increases, and leather bags tend to crack and lose their shape," he says.

Tips to take care of leather:



- 1) Make sure to remove the bag from the closet. Let it breathe for a few days. Keep it away from direct sun, in a cool and dry place. Leather being a natural fibre requires fresh air to breathe.
- 2) You can sprinkle a bit of baking soda inside the bag to reduce the moisture content from entering, and prevent bad odour. You can also use a hairdryer on a low to cool setting to get rid of any excess moisture.
- 3) Clean the leather bags with a soft cotton cloth with no rough ends or designs to even the surface.
- 4) Apply finger pressure to even out the creases or folds, which may have been created on the articles stored inside your closet. Try to repeat this process once a month for better, long-term results
- 5) Use a good quality cream polish. If this is not available, you can use a bit of unused cooking oil to restore the sheen on the bag before you place it back in your closet.

(Source : International Leather Magazine – 19/06/2020)



FULLER & BETTER UTILISATION OF DRY AND WET SALTED GOAT SKINS

L. M. Prasad, J. M. Dey & J. C. Deb

Regional Extension Centre (CLRI), Calcutta.

(Continued from previous issue)

Process for the manufacture of Crushed Kid

After blue assortment from the usual glazed kids lot the skins are taken for the manufacture of crushed kid. The shaved skins are weighed and ready for neutralising.

Neutralising

The leathers are washed thoroughly neutralised with $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent soda-bi-carb and 250 percent water for one hour. The leathers are washed thoroughly. The pH of the skin is adjusted to 5.5-6.

1st fat-liquoring

The neutralised skins are now fat liquored with $1-1\frac{1}{2}$ percent sulphated fish oil and 250 percent water on the shaved weight and run for 45 minutes. The stock is then piled up on a horse overnight.

Vegetable re-tanning

This is carried out in a drum with :—

Cutch extract or Quebracho	15%	on the shaved weight
Sumac powder or Dhawa Powder	7%	-do-
T.R.O. (50%)	1%	-do-
Water	150%	-do-

Half the quantity of the above mixture is taken into the drum. The stock is entered into the drum and run for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. The remaining half of the mixture is added through the hollow axle and run for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours more. The leathers are then taken out and ready for 2nd fatliquoring.

2nd fat-liquoring

The stock is now fat liquored with :—

Raw fish oil	$1\frac{1}{4}$ %	on the shaved weight
Fixanol VR	$\frac{1}{4}$ %	-do-
Water	250%	-do-

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The stock and water are taken into the drum and the drum started. The fat liquor is made into emulsion and added into the revolving drum through the hollow axle and the drum run for 30-45 minutes. The leathers are then piled up on a horse overnight.

Sammying and oiling

Next day the leathers are slicked and oiled up with a mixture of one part Neats' foot oil and two parts Kid finishing oil and hung up for complete drying.

Sawdusting, Staking, dry-drumming, buffing, trimming

The dried leathers are stored for some days for conditioning. They are then saw dusted overnight in moist saw dust to condition them for staking. The conditioned leathers are first staked with light pressure, aired off for some time and staked again with considerable pressure, the skins are then dry drummed for two hours, taken out, dried, buffed, trimmed and ready for finishing.

Staining and Finishing

Finishing is done into 9 different shades viz.—(1) Light Blue (2) Light Green (3) Slate Grey, (4) Black (5) Violet (6) Red (7) Navy Blue (8) Dark Brown (9) Golden Brown.

Finishing procedure

<i>Bottom Season</i>		<i>Top Season</i>	
Pigment (desired shade)	280 gms.	Bottom Season	2 parts
10 percent Casein solution	65 "	Neeran glazing finish	2 "
Fast Coating Bottom O	280 "	Formalin	$\frac{1}{4}$ "
T.R.O.	10 "		
Ammonia	1 cc.		
Water	280 cc.		

Procedure

Two pad coats of the above bottom season are applied on the grain side and allowed to dry. The dried pieces are then lightly staked with considerable pressure. One spray coat is then applied and allowed to dry. The dried leathers are then smooth plated with light pressure and boarded on the grain side by hand. One more spray coat is then applied and dried.

Now one spray coat of the above top season is given and allowed to dry. The dried leathers are again boarded by hand on the grain side, and the grain side rubbed with a clean cloth. The leathers are measured and are ready for disposal.



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Note : If more gloss and water proofness is desired one spray coat of one part nitrocellulose lacquer and 3 parts thinner may be given on the top.

Manufacture of Gold and Silver Kid

After blue assortment, the skins selected for the manufacture of gold and silver kid are weighed for neutralising and re-tanning.

Neutralising

After thorough washing, the skin are neutralised for half an hour with 2 percent sodium bicarbonate and 200 percent water (on shaved w.t). The skins are drummed for 30-40 minutes. The pH should be adjusted to 6.0—6.2. The skins are then washed and taken for re-tanning.

Retanning

The skins are retanned with Quebracho extract 10 percent, sumach powder 5 percent, neutral syntan 1 percent and water 250 percent (on the shaved wt.). The skins and water are taken in a drum and the drum run. The tanning materials are dissolved and mixed together and added in two equal instalments at 30 minutes interval. After the last addition the skins are drummed for one hour more. The pH is adjusted to 6.2 by adding liquor ammonia. The skins are then washed in water and taken for fat-liquoring.

Fat-liquoring

The skins are fat liquored with 4 percent T.R.O. (50 percent) and 200 percent Water of 45°C and run for 45 minutes. The skins are then piled up over night.

Setting and toggling

Next day, the skins are struck out on the flesh and grain sides, sammed, set out and nailed or toggled on board and allowed to dry completely.

Staking, trimming, buffing and snuffing

Next day the skins are staked lightly, trimmed, buffed on the flesh side with 120 grit emery paper and snuffed on the grain side with 400 grit emery paper. The skins are dusted and smooth plated by hydraulic press at 150°C and taken for finishing.

Finishing

Plain Gold and Silver kid

Adhesive solution

Primal B 41	one part
10% casein solution	one part
Water	two parts

One brush coat of the above solution is applied on the grain side of the leather, dried and cold plated. Then one or two spray coats are given and dried in semi-condition. The gold or silver foil is laid on the leather which is already coated with the adhesive. The leather is now smooth plated at 150°C with 200 Kg./Cm.² pressure. The cellulose paper is thus separated and removed from the leather. The plain gold or silver effect is formed on the leather.

Manufacture of Chamois leather.

After lime assortment the skins which are taken for chamois leather are relimed with 10 percent slaked lime and 1 percent soda ash and 300 percent water for two days hauling up and replacing daily thrice a day. On the third day the skins are examined for sufficient plumpness and taken out, fleshed, scudded, weighed, washed thoroughly in running water and ready for deliming.

Deliming

The washed pelts are then delimed with :—

Ammonium chloride	1½ %	on the fleshed weight
Water	150-200 %	"

The water and the stock are taken in the drum. Half the quantity of NH_4Cl is added and the drum run for 15 minutes. Then the other half is added and the drum run for another 45 minutes. The delimed pelts are scudded, washed, weighed and taken for tanning.

Tanning

Formaldehyde pretannage

The delimed pelts are pretanned with :—

Formaldehyde	3.5 —	4 %	on the delimed pelt wt.
Soda Ash	¾ —	1 %	-do-
Water	175 —	200 %	-do-

The pelts and water are taken into the drum and run. The soda ash is dissolved separately and mixed with formaldehyde in a bucket of water. The formaldehyde solution is then fed into the rotating drum through the hollow axle in three instalments at an intervals of 30 minutes. The drumming is continued for 4-5 hour, which completes the formaldehyde tannage at pH 8.5. The skins are then horsed up overnight. Next morning they are sammed and the grain layer is removed with the splitting machine. (This can be done with shaving machine also). They are then shaved on both sides uniformly. The shaved weight is recorded and the skins are kept in cold water overnight. Next morning the water is squeezed out and the skins are ready for oil tanning.



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Tanning with Raw Fish Oil

The shaved skins are then tanned with raw fish oil as follows :

Raw fish oil	18 — 25%	on the shaved weight
Soda ash	1/2% — 3/4%	-do-
Calcium carbonate	7% — 8%	-do-
Water	7% — 8%	-do-

The raw fish oil is first mixed with calcium carbonate in a wooden vat. The soda ash is separately dissolved in water and added to the oil mixture to be made into an emulsion and pH adjusted to 7.5. The skins are now dipped into this emulsion which is uniformly applied on both the sides. The pieces with the emulsion applied on both the sides are put into the drum. The drum is then run for 6 hours, and the skins left in it overnight. Next morning the drum is run for another 4-6 hours until a chamoising smell is perceived. The skins are then taken out and hung up in the air for oxidation for 7 to 10 days during which period the skins get a yellow mustard powder like colour. Now the skins are ready for washing.

Degreasing

The oxidised skins are then weighed and degreased with :—

Soda ash	3.5 — 4%	on the oxidised weight
Detergent (Triton X 100)	1/2 — 1%	-do-

The oxidised skins are first soaked in a drum with sufficient quantity of water and half the quantity of detergent at 45°C to 50°C. The drum is then run for half an hour. The skins are washed three times with the soda ash for half an hour each time at 45°—50°C. Finally the skins are washed for further half an hour with the remaining detergent at the same temperature. They are then again washed in luke warm water, taken out and hung up for drying in air.

The dried skins are then staked with considerable pressure. The skins should be of cream colour and absolutely non-greasy.

Buffing, Trimming and Measuring :—

The staked skins are then buffed on a buffing machine with 80 grift emery paper on both the sides. Finally the skins are buffed only on the flesh side with 320 grift emery paper or by a buffing wheel. The skins are then trimmed, measured and packed up for disposing.

Manufacture of Shrunken Grain Kid leather

The skins selected after lime assortment for shrunken grain kid leather are further relimed with 10 percent slaked lime and 50 percent water on fleshed weight, in a

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pit for 4 days. The skins are hauled up and replaced both in the morning and evening daily. On the 5th day after reliming, the skins are scudded, washed well with sufficient water in drum and weighed after draining out water. The skins are then ready for deliming and bating.

Deliming

The washed skins are delimed in a drum with :—

Ammonium chloride	1% on the pelt weight
Water	200% "
Duration	30 minutes

Bating

One day method/The skins are then bated in a drum with :—

Pancreaol 5A	1.5% on the pelt weight
Water (39°C)	300% "
Duration	1½ hours

The temperature of the bath is maintained at 37—39°C throughout and the drum run till the skins are satisfactorily bated.

After completion of the bating the skins are taken out, scudded well and washed in plain water. The skins are then worked on a beam to remove excess of water, slicked and sammed.

Pretanning

The operation is done with :—

Myrabolan crushed powder (16 mesh)	10% on the pelt weight
Sumach powder or Dhawa powder	5% -do-
or Myrabolan crushed powder	15% (if Sumach or Dhawa is not available)
Myrabolan spray dried extract Powder	6% on the pelt weight
Formic acid	1½% -do-

The skins are piled on the floor and mixture of Myrabolan crushed powder and Sumach or Dhawa powder is applied on the grain side of each skin rubbing well by hand particularly on butt portion. The skins are then put inside a dry drum, run for 20 minutes. Then Myrabolan spray dried extract powder is added to the drum (without adding any water) and the drum is run for 30 minutes. Then formic acid diluted in 10 percent water (on the pelt weight) is added in three instalments



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at an interval of 15 minutes through the hollow axle of the running drum. After the last instalment, the drum is run for 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour and the skins are left in the drum overnight with mouth of the drum open.

Next morning, the drum is again run for further period of $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 hours. The pretanning operation carried out thus produces the shrunken effect of the grain surface. After the shrunken effect is produced, the skins are given a wash in good float of water for 5 minutes and pilled up for draining out water.

Chrome tanning

Chrome liquor for tanning is prepared from B & C chrome extract powder as follows :

Liquor 1. 2 percent chrome extract powder is dissolved in 6 percent hot water to give liquor of $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent basicity.

Liquor 2. 6 percent chrome extract powder is dissolved in 18 percent hot water. After cooling the liquor its basicity is raised to 50 percent by adding 40 gms. of soda ash per lb. of extract powder.

Chrome tanning is done as follows

The pretanned stock is drummed with the $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent basic liquor in a float of 40 percent water for one hour. Then the basified liquor (50 percent basic) is added in one instalment and the drumming continued for three hours more. The final basification is done by the addition of 1 percent (on the pelt weight) soda bicarbonate which is added in two instalments at an interval of 10 minutes. Drumming is continued for one hour after the last addition of the reagent. The pH is adjusted to 3.7. The goods are then taken out, washed and horsed up overnight.

Shaving

Next day the skins are brought to sammed condition and shaved to uniform thickness (0.75—1.00 mm.) and the shaved weight is noted. The skins are then washed in plain water.

Bleaching

The washed skins are then bleached with 1 percent oxalic acid and 200 percent water (on the shaved weight) in a drum for one hour. Then another washing is given in the drum for 20 minutes. They are then taken out and are ready for neutralisation.

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Neutralisation

Neutralisation is done in a drum containing :—

Soda bicarbonate	1%	on the shaved weight
Water	200%	-do-

The goods are drummed for 1/2 hour in the above bath and then tested with bromo-cresol-purple for proper neutralisation which is indicated by the purple colour on the grain side 1/3 and on the flesh side 1/3 of the leather and a yellow colour in the middle. They are washed in a good float of water for 15 minutes.

Fatliquoring

The skins are then fat liquored with the following composition on the shaved weight of the skins for one hour at 130°F (54.5°C).

Raw fish oil	1 1/4%	on the shaved weight
Sulphonated fish oil	1/2%	-do-
T.R.O.	1/2%	-do-
Bar Soap	1/4%	-do-
Water	200%	-do-

pH of the fat liquor emulsion is adjusted to be 7.8 to 8.0. The skins are then taken out and horsed up overnight.

Striking out and oiling up

Next day the skins are struck out on the flesh side by a hand slicker to remove excess of water and oiled up on the grain side with 2 : 1 mixture of kid finishing oil and fish oil and hung to dry.

Sawdusting and dry drumming

The dried skins are kept in moist sawdust overnight. Next day they are taken out, lightly staked around the edges and dry drummed for 4 hours. The skins are piled up.

Buffing and trimming

The skins are then buffed on the flesh side and trimmed and are ready for finishing.

Finishing

Finishing could be done both as resin finish or glaze finish but resin finish should preferably be done.



UTILISATION OF DRY AND WET SALTED GOAT SKINS

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Stain coat

Suitable dye to match the desired shade	3.5 gms.
Acetic acid	3.5 gms.
Water to make	1000 cc.

The stain coat is brushed well on the grain side and dried.

Season coat

Pigment matching the desired shade	1	part
Resin emulsion (F.C.B.O.)	1	"
Ammonia	1/16	"
T.R.O.	1/16	"
Water	2	parts

One brush coat of the above season is applied on the grain side and dried well. Then the same season is sprayed to cover the skin well, dried off and the leather boarded in eight direction by hand.

Fixing coat

10 percent Casein solution	1	part
10 percent Carnauba wax emulsion	1	"
Formaldehyde	1	"
Water	4	parts

The skins are sprayed on the grain with the above fixing coat and dried well. They are then lightly boarded, measured and assorted.

Manufacture of E. I. Tanned Goat skins by Rapid method

The skins after lime selection are relimed with 10 percent slaked lime, 500 percent water on fleshed weight in a pit for 4 days hauling up and replacing twice daily. On the 5th day after reliming, the skins are scudded, washed, drained out water and weighed.

Deliming

The skins are delimed with :—

Sodium bisulphite	1%
Oxalic acid	1%
Water	200%

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INDIAN LEATHER TECHNOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

The skins are run in drum with water and sodium bisulphite for 10 minutes. Then oxalic acid is added and run for 30 minutes. The skins are taken out, scudded and washed in plain water.

Pickling

The delimed skins are pickled with :—

Common salt	10%
Sulphuric Acid (1.74)	1%
Water	80—100%

The acid is added in two instalments at 30 minutes interval. After last instalment, the drum is run for two hours and left in drum overnight with mouth of the drum open.

Next day, the drum is run for one hour more and the pH is adjusted to 3-3.5

Depickling

The pickled skins are run in drum with 5 percent salt and 75 percent water for 5-10 minutes. Then 3 percent Hypo dissolved in water is added through the hollow axle of the drum and run for one hour. The pH after depickling is about 5.

Pretanning

The depickled skins are pretanned with :—

Neutral syntan PN (CLRI)	10%
Water	100%
Duration of running the drum	one hour.

Tanning

After pretanning the skins are tanned in the same bath in drum with 25 percent on the pelt weight of mixture of 2 parts Kenmosa brand Wattle extract and one part Myrabolan Spray dried extract powder dissolved in water. The tanning liquor is added in 4 instalments at interval of 30 minutes. After the last instalment run for 3 to 4 hours and then checked the tanning penetration. If the penetration is complete the tanned skins are horsed up overnight covering them to protect against any exposure.

Bleaching

Next day, the tanned skins are washed in plain water and bleached with :—

Perfect Tan O or Bleaching Syntan	2%
Water	75%
Duration of running the drum	45 minutes



UTILISATION OF DRY AND WET SALTED GOAT SKINS

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After bleaching, the skins are taken out and slicked to remove excess water.

Myrobing

Myrobolan crushed powder is leached in water in vat one day earlier to get a liquor of 30°BK.

The skins are put in the leach liquor one by one in the vat, handled for 10-15 minutes and left in the liquor overnight. Next day, the skins are taken out, slicked and piled.

Oiling

Applied groundnut oil by hand on both sides, more on grain side and hung up for sammying.

Setting, Drying, Trimming

The sammed skins are set well by hand, and hung up for complete drying in the shed. The dried skins are trimmed and finally packed.

IMF SCALES DOWN GROWTH PROJECTION, SAYS INDIAN ECONOMY WILL CONTRACT BY 4.5% THIS FISCAL



This projection has come at a time when India is yet to see a peak of the Covid-19 virus. Although, the recovery rate is above 50 per cent and also the death rate is low, still the average number of positive cases is now 15,000 or more.

More significantly, metros such as Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai are witnessing sharp surge in the cases affecting the path of normalcy during first phase of nationwide opening up. The governments — both Central and States — have said repeatedly that there will be no further lockdown. But economic activities are still facing uncertainties.

Like various agencies, IMF too expects better days ahead. It projects growth of 6 per cent during the next fiscal. However, it is 1.4 percentage points lower than the April outlook. Taking note of liquidity support under Atmanirbhar Bharat package, it feels that various sectors will gain from that.

“India has unveiled liquidity support (4.5 per cent of GDP) through loans and guarantees for businesses and farmers and equity injections into financial institutions and the electricity sector,” the report said.

Growth projections		
Agency	2020-21 (FY21) (in %)	2021-22 (FY22) (in %)
IMF	-4.5	6.0
ADB	-4.0	5.0
Moody	-4.0	8.7
S&P Global Ratings	-5.0	7.5
Nomura	-5.2	7.9

Bleak Gglobal Economy

Titled ‘A Crisis like No Other, An Uncertain Recovery’, the update on World Economic Outlook projects global growth at (–) 4.9 per cent in 2020, which is 1.9 percentage points below the April forecast.

The pandemic has had a greater negative impact on activity in the first half of 2020 than anticipated, and the recovery is projected to be more gradual than previously forecast. In 2021 global growth is projected at 5.4 per cent.

“Overall, this would leave 2021 GDP some 6½ percentage points lower than in the pre-Covid-19 projections of January 2020,” the report mentioned.

According to the report, strong multilateral cooperation remains essential on multiple fronts. Liquidity assistance is urgently needed for countries confronting health crises and external funding shortfalls, including through debt relief and financing through the global financial safety net. Beyond the pandemic, policymakers must cooperate to resolve trade and technology tensions that endanger an eventual recovery from the Covid-19 crisis.

Furthermore, building on the record drop in greenhouse gas emissions during the pandemic, policymakers should both implement their climate change mitigation commitments and work together to scale up equitably designed carbon taxation or equivalent schemes.

The global community must act now to avoid a repeat of this catastrophe by building global stockpiles of essential supplies and protective equipment, funding research and supporting public health systems, and putting in place effective modalities for delivering relief to the neediest, it said.

(Source : Business Line – 24/06/2020)

INDIAN ECONOMY IN DEEP TROUBLE: S&P



S&P Global Ratings has said, Indian economy is in deep trouble with growth expected to contract by 5 per cent this fiscal.

“India’s economy is in deep trouble. Difficulties in containing the virus, an anemic policy response, and underlying vulnerabilities, especially across the financial sector, are leading us to expect growth to fall by 5 per cent this fiscal year before rebounding in 2021,” S&P said in a report.

In its report titled ‘Asia-Pacific losses near USD 3 trillion as balance sheet recession looms’, S&P projected the region’s economy to shrink by 1.3 per cent in 2020, but grow by 6.9 per cent in 2021.

This implies a loss nearing USD 3 trillion output over these two years. “Asia-Pacific has shown some success in containing COVID-19 and, by and large, responded with effective macroeconomic policies,” said Shaun Roache, chief economist for Asia-Pacific at S&P Global Ratings.

“This can help cushion the blow and provide a bridge to the recovery. The recovery looks set to be weighed down by indebted balance sheets, however.”

One risk now looming larger is yet another “balance sheet recession” in which at least one important sector of the economy — the government, firms, or households — tries to bolster its weak financial position by saving more, paying down debt, and spending less, S&P said.

“The downturn caused by COVID-19 did not start as a balance-sheet recession but may end up as one,” Roache said. “This means less investment, a slower recovery, and a permanent hit to the economy that will last even after a vaccine is found.”

The pandemic caused a sudden stop in activity and to prevent a collapse, policymakers, helped by banks, have provided extraordinary financial support to firms and households.

Banks may lend less than they normally would in a recovery to focus on the overhang from the pandemic. Private firms may prefer to stabilize debt rather than ramp up spending on new investments, even though demand is improving.

S&P Global Ratings kept its forecasts for growth in Chinese economy at 1.2 per cent and 7.4 per cent for 2020 and 2021, respectively.

The economy is healing but private sector confidence remains fragile. If private sector spending does not improve quickly, more stimulus may be unleashed, S&P said.

(Source : *Business Standard* – 25/06/2020)

INDIAN EXPORTERS FEEL THE HEAT OF INDIA-CHINA TENSION



The FIEO on Thursday reiterated that the Customs authorities at several ports in India had ordered a sudden examination of Chinese consignments without any official word from the government, and this may have led to the Chinese retribution.

The Customs authorities in Hong Kong and China, in apparently a blow-for-blow measure, have held back some consignments of Indian exports after ports in India took up the task of inspecting Chinese products, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has told the government.

The FIEO on Thursday reiterated that the Customs authorities at several ports in India had ordered a sudden examination of Chinese consignments without any official word from the government, and this may have led to the Chinese retribution.

“While we have been told there is no official communication, the examination is leading to the piling up of imports.” Some Indian exporters have said that, in response to such action, Hong Kong and Chinese Customs are also holding back export consignments from India,” FIEO president Sharad Kumar Saraf told Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan in a letter reviewed by *Business Standard*.

The exporters’ body has requested the commerce department to ask the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs to clarify things on the matter so that import partners in China and Hong Kong can end the logjam. Fears of retaliation have gripped the sector.



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"China's exports to India constitute 2.8 per cent of the country's total. But what India sends China are 5.4 per cent of our exports," FIEO director general Ajay Sahai said, arguing India's larger trade exposure to China needed to be considered before New Delhi took unilateral moves.

In a press conference, the FIEO said exports were expected to contract by 10 per cent in 2020-21, and it was anticipated that June exports would shrink by 12 per cent, down from May's high 36 per cent.

However, the estimates may worsen if the government pursues a blanket ban on Chinese imports, the FIEO warned. "We need to take a calibrated approach to banning imports from China because our industry is dependent more on industrial inputs from China than on those from any other country.

"Rather than making a hasty reaction, we have instead suggested to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade that exports of raw materials to China be tightened and a cess can be considered," said Saraf.

He flagged the issue of lost revenue by pointing to cotton exports to China, where the commodity is made into high-value garments, shipments of Indian spice sold at a profit.

The FIEO has asked the commerce department to scrutinise imports from Hong Kong, which was the country's sixth-largest import partner in the previous year, a steep rise from 13th spot in FY18.

Trade deals needed

Exporters are seeing orders that had been cancelled being reinstated. A case in point, the garment sector has received orders from buyers who hitherto sourced from China, said Saraf. To boost exports in the short to medium term, he said India should reach out to nations with rising anti-China sentiment such as the European Union (EU), the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Japan, positioning Indian goods as an alternative.

As a result, the FIEO has strongly batted for India resuming bilateral talks with various nations to ink free-trade agreements (FTAs).

"We need to join at least some trading blocs to get tariff benefits, which are being taken away by competing nations." Vietnam's

recent FTA with the EU will give it a solid advantage over Indian exporters since they will get access to a huge market at much lower tariffs," stressed Saraf.

(Source : Reuters / Rediffmail.com)

CAN REALLY EVER KEEP CHINA OUT OF INDIAN INDUSTRIES?



Experts say while the increasing demand for a ban on Chinese goods might make for good optics, the reality is that India is still heavily dependent on that country in a wide range of industries like electronics, mobile devices, auto, pharma, telecom equipment, and fertilizers.

The "Made in India" tag on your Smartphone hides one very important fact: There is a very large proportion of China within the device. Import of mobile phone components (including printed circuit boards) during April-February FY20, according to government figures, hit \$7.5 billion - of which 25 per cent was from the land of the dragon.

Hari Om Rai, chairman of Lava International, said: "Yes, we are vulnerable. Import content in our phones varies from 60-80 per cent. And China constitutes anything between 20 and 50 per cent of that."

Experts say while the increasing demand for a ban on Chinese goods might make for good optics, the reality is that India is still heavily dependent on that country in a wide range of industries like electronics, mobile devices, auto, Pharma, telecom equipment, and fertilizers.

Take auto for instance: India imports \$17.6 billion worth of components annually, with China accounting for 25-27 per cent. It also accounts for 30 per cent imports in the replacement market for auto components, where price is key.

Executives of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association say China offers critical components at a competitive price, which makes it important in the supply chain.

A senior executive of an automaker said: "For instance, to move from BS-IV to BS-VI, one needs time to develop the technology. "Till then, you go to China and get it. For EVs, the electronic component base is limited in India, so once again you go to China.

"If there is a sudden surge in demand for new components, for which your vendors require 18 months, you import them from China."

Price competitiveness is key to China's dominance. In a recent interview to *Business Standard*, S N Subrahmanyam, managing director & CEO of India's largest engineering company, Larsen & Toubro said, "We go to the best and most efficient supply chain, and at the moment it is from China.

"If the Make in India campaign catches up and if there are Indian manufacturers who are efficient both in terms of pricing and technology, we will look at those sources."

Other industries would agree

For instance, the Pharma industry is over-dependent on China for both active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and intermediates called key starting materials (KSM).

One key reason is that it is at least 30 per cent cheaper to import from China, than other competing global suppliers. Yet, the over-dependence could have a serious impact on availability.

This was clearly visible when there was a shortage of Vitamin C and common antibiotics, as manufacturers in China closed operations after the COVID-19 outbreak.

However, some steps are now being taken to reduce dependence. Under the new plan, the government will incentivize local production. It has identified 41 products in which India is over-dependent on China. The story is no different for fertilizers.

China's share in imports of diammonium phosphate is over 45 per cent, and 13 per cent for urea. For both urea and DAP, local production has not kept pace with demand.

"We can import them from West Asia, North Africa, or the US, as there is plenty of supply. But the price of imports will rise 25-35 per cent," said K Ravichandran, group head at ICRA.

Consequently, some course correction is being made in urea (the most popular fertiliser), with nearly 4-5 public sector plants increasing their capacity.

In telecom, equipment makers say 40-45 per cent of the gear is imported from China, not just from Chinese firms like Huawei or ZTE, but also European giants that have factories in China.

Telcos love this, of course, despite strong opposition against allowing Chinese in the 5G equipment business (as US has done).

That is because Chinese banks that work in tandem with Chinese telecom equipment makers extend long-term credit lines. But after various failed attempts to bring manufacturing to India, DoT has now mooted a productivity linked incentive scheme for telecom equipment, which could make India into a manufacturing and export hub.

The Chinese domination in consumer electronics is palpable. If you use a LED TV, chances are that the panel will be from China.

That is because 80 per cent of LED panels are imported from there. Says a top executive of a leading TV manufacturer: "A LED plant requires investments of Rs 38,000 crore. "Until India has economies of scale or become an export hub no one will come."

The stranglehold of the Chinese in domestic TV manufacturing is reflected in the fact that while the value is going down India imported over Rs 81,000 crore of TV parts in 2019-20 (till February). In durables like AC for instance-60 per cent of the cost is the compressor.

And as there are only few companies which have set up compressor AC units about 80 per cent is imported from China again. Of course some companies are now sensing an opportunity.

Says B Thiagarajan MD of Blue Star India which is ramping up local value addition: "This is an opportune time to reduce import dependence from countries like China by building local manufacturing."

(Source : Rediffmail.com)

MOODY'S PROJECTS INDIAN ECONOMY TO SHRINK 3.1% IN 2020; FLAGS RISING GEOPOLITICAL RISKS IN ASIA

Moody's Investors Service on Monday projected the Indian economy to shrink 3.1 per cent in 2020 and said clashes with



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Economic Corner

China on the border also suggest rising geopolitical risks in the Asian region where countries are particularly vulnerable to changes in geopolitical dynamics.



While it pegged India's annual growth at 0.2 per cent in April, the forecast has been sharply revised after taking into consideration the disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

However, Moody's expects the economy to register 6.9 per cent growth in 2021. In its June update to Global Macro Outlook (2020-21), Moody's said it has revised down its 2020 growth forecast for India as incoming data show the extent of coronavirus-related disruption in January-March and April-June quarters.

"April-June quarter of 2020 will go down in history as the worst quarter for the global economy since at least World War II. We continue to expect a gradual recovery beginning in the second half of the year, but that outcome will depend on whether governments can reopen their economies while also safeguarding public health," Moody's said.

Moody's has forecast that China would be the only G-20 country to post growth this year. The expectation is that China would grow 1 per cent in 2020, followed by a strong rebound of 7.1 per cent in 2021, it added.

According to Moody's, a rebound in demand would determine the ability of businesses and labour markets to recover from the shock.

"Asian countries are particularly vulnerable to changes in geopolitical dynamics. The rise in tensions between China and countries bordering the South China Sea and clashes on the border with India suggest that geopolitical risks are rising for the entire region," it said.

Last week, 20 Indian army personnel, including a Colonel, were killed in a violent confrontation with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh, which has increased border tensions between the two countries.

Moody's expect G-20 economies to contract by 4.6 per cent in 2020 as a whole, followed by 5.2 per cent growth in 2021.

Earlier this month, Moody's had cut India's credit rating by a notch to lowest investment grade 'Baa3' citing challenges in implementing policies to boost growth and restrict fiscal slippage.

(Millennium Post – 15/06/2020)

RBI READIES PLAN TO CHECK HEALTH OF BANKS



The central bank has not set a deadline for banks to conclude the stress-test exercise, but senior bankers opine that some were already looking at this, and will now fast-track it by September-end, when they will have a better picture of their books after the moratorium on the servicing of loans and a 180-day view on the performance of borrowers' accounts.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to carry out detailed stress tests due to the impact of COVID-19 on their books and put capital-raising plans with board approvals in place, if needed. This is the first major regulatory move by the central bank to ascertain the health of banks and take proactive measures to ring-fence them after the outbreak of the pandemic.

The central bank in its communiqué to chief executive officers of banks on June 19 said stress tests would take into account three scenarios - baseline, medium, and severe stress - which will cover all key financial parameters pertaining to the quality of the book.

If there is significant capital impairment, clear-cut-board approved capital-raising plans are to be in place. While “precautionary provisioning for COVID-19 has not been explicitly stated in the letter, it cannot be ruled out”, said a source.

This may call for even more capital to be raised by banks, and the sums set aside for state-run banks for their recapitalization in the Union Budget may need an immediate revisit. The central bank has not set a deadline for banks to conclude the stress-test exercise, but senior bankers opine that some were already looking at this, and will now fast-track it by September-end, when they will have a better picture of their books after the moratorium on the servicing of loans and a 180-day view on the performance of borrowers’ accounts.

The latest RBI move should be read in the light of its pre-Covid Financial Stability Report (FSR-December 2019), which had observed that while the banking sector had shown signs of stabilisation, the performance of state-run banks needed to improve and efforts needed to be taken to build buffers against disproportionate operational risk losses.

After COVID-19, this is a given.

The stress tests had indicated that under the baseline scenario, the gross non-performing asset (GNPAs) ratios of all banks may move to 9.9 per cent by September 2020, from 9.3 per cent

in September 2019 due to changes in the macroeconomic scenario, marginal increase in slippages, and the denominator effect of declining credit growth.

Under severe stress, the GNPA will rise to 10.5 per cent, and for 52 banks, it would move up to 15.6 per cent, from 9.4 per cent. This may require additional tier-1 capital.

Accordingly, the capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of 53 select banks was projected to come down to 14.1 per cent by September 2020 under baseline expectations and 12.7 per cent under severe stress from 14.9 per cent in September 2019.

The RBI also noted that three banks had CAR below the minimum regulatory level of 9 per cent by September 2020, without considering any further planned recapitalization.

However, if macroeconomic conditions deteriorate, five banks may record CAR below 9 per cent.

While the central bank had qualified that these scenarios should not be interpreted as forecasts or expected outcomes, it is clear with its latest missive asking banks to undertake post-COVID stress tests that it feels there could be sharp deterioration in key financial parameters, calling for the need to enhance capital buffers significantly.

Read and Let Read :-

JILTA

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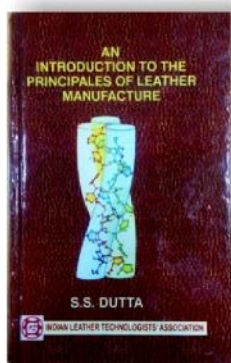
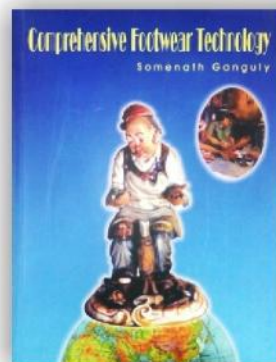
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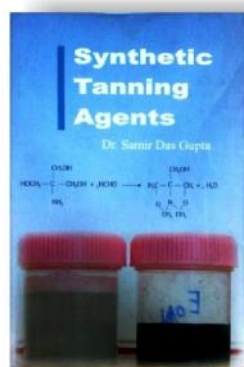
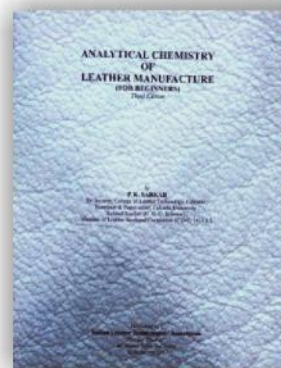
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History and Activities of Indian Leather Technologists' Association

The Indian Leather Technologists' Association (ILTA) was founded by Late Prof. B. M. Das, the originator of Das-Stiasny 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 on 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. Somnath 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 Societies]

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