



ILTA
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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.
- Assist small and tiny leather goods manufacturers in marketing their products by organizing LEXPOs in Kolkata and different parts of India.

Indian Leather Technologists' Association

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

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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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Surge in Oil Market and Oil Channels



The biggest economic impact of oil is on the fiscal deficit and current account deficit. Moreover, oil and fuel constitute a key component of CPI basket so higher oil prices would mean higher inflation. Oil market and oil paths are highly vulnerable.

The first four tanker attacks occurred on May 12, in the Gulf of Oman near the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah. There were no injuries to the ships' crews or spills of oil or other materials. An international investigation found that the attacks involved limpet mines attached to the ships' hulls and that the attacks were designed to disable the ships, not destroy them. The investigation pointed to the involvement of a "state actor," but did not mention Iran by name, although both Saudi and U.S. officials pointed to Iran as the culprit.

The second round of attacks on June 13 was an escalation. A Japanese tanker carrying methanol and a Norwegian tanker carrying naphtha were attacked in international waters in the Gulf of Oman. The Norwegian tanker caught fire and both ships' crews sent distress signals and were rescued. U.S. officials have been much more strident in blaming Iran this time, sharing video allegedly showing an Iranian patrol boat retrieving an unexploded mine from one of the damaged ships. After attacks on six tankers in just over a month, one might expect sky-high oil prices and market panic. Yet oil markets have reacted to these events with a shrug and a yawn. Prices for the main benchmark crudes rose a percent or two on Friday after the most recent attacks, then fell again in the following days. Overall, crude oil prices are down more than \$10 in the last two months, during the time when the attacks have taken place. Why has the market reaction been so muted? For the past several months, oil prices have been experiencing a tug-of-war between opposing sentiments— geopolitical concerns and economic concerns. On the geopolitical side, instability and falling oil production in Venezuela and Libya have put upward pressure on oil prices, along with the full implementation of sanctions on Iranian oil production. At the same time, economic concerns are putting downward pressure on oil prices. Economic growth in China is slowing and the world is concerned that the current U.S. trade war with China will expand and drag down the global economy.

At this time, even with the tanker attacks, concerns about lagging economic growth are winning and oil prices are at their lowest level since early January.

Another important element in the muted response to the tanker attacks is that they could have been much worse. None of the ships that were attacked carried crude oil. Five of the six ships were quite small. The sixth ship was a Saudi-flagged super tanker, but it was empty, on its way to pick up crude oil at the Ras Tanura terminal in the Kingdom. The attacks seem to have been designed to send a message without actually disrupting markets. Rising tensions in the Gulf always bring fears of the granddaddy of oil supply disruptions—closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Approximately 20 percent of the world's oil supply flows through this narrow passage, with Iran on one side and Oman and the UAE on the other.

Clearly, closure of the strait for any length of time would cause skyrocketing oil prices and genuine shortages of crude oil. Iran periodically threatens to close the strait when it is under duress, and it made such a threat in April in response to the United States working to end Iranian oil exports. However, an attempt to shut down the strait would be suicidal for Iran. The U.S. Fifth Fleet, based in Bahrain, would immediately react, making it very hard for Iran to block naval traffic. Additionally, closure of the strait would unite the world's oil importers against Iran. At a time when Iran is struggling under U.S. sanctions, it can ill afford to antagonize countries like China that are inclined to side with it against the sanctions and to find work-arounds.

However, one market is responding strongly to the tanker attacks—the insurance market. Insurance premiums for tanker ships moving crude oil in the Middle East have skyrocketed and are now up to 20 times their level before the attacks. Some underwriters are reluctant to provide insurance at all. Raising shipping and insurance rates and striking fear into those navigating in the Gulf may be the most important lingering impacts of the attacks.

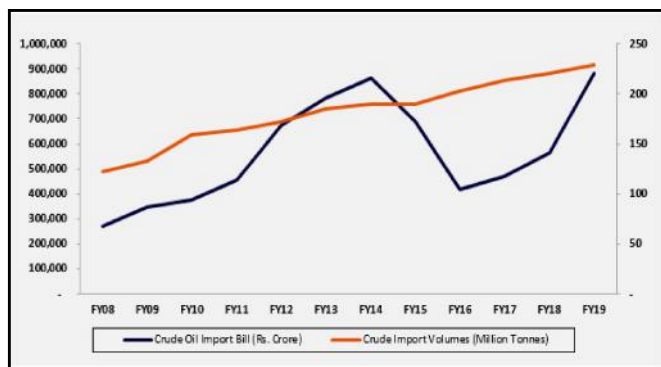
Iran does not need to close the Strait of Hormuz to make its point. Iran is also suspected of involvement in drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's East-West Pipeline, which allows oil exports



to bypass the Strait of Hormuz. As my colleague Suzanne Maloney has described in detail, Iran is backed against the wall and looking for a pathway out of the current standoff and U.S. sanctions. Acts that disrupt oil trade are intended to raise pressure on the United States and the world to return to the negotiating table and end the sanctions. Iran can achieve that goal with smaller scale acts of sabotage that are plausibly deniable, hard to deter, and less likely to elicit an overwhelming military response.

Indian markets celebrated the likely impact of the FM's reforms package for housing and exports over the last month. However, things did take a nasty turn over the month end. Not surprisingly, Brent Crude recorded the sharpest single-day gain since 1991 after Saudi Arabia announced plans to cut 50% of its output. While the impact was felt across the world, the cuts in India were deep.

India annual crude import volumes and crude import value since 2008 financial crisis



Data Source : Ministry of Commerce

As the chart above depicts India's oil import volumes have grown from about 125 million tonnes to 225 million tonnes since 2008. However, during the same period, the oil import bill has gone up by 3.5 times. In fact, between 2016 and 2019, the oil import bill has more than doubled and the rupee import bill in 2019 is more than in 2014, although oil prices have actually halved. That is explained by the sharply higher incidence of customs duties imposed by the government. It is essential to understand this set-up because it means that any rise in oil prices will be passed on to the customer.

The biggest economic impact of oil is on the fiscal deficit and current account deficit. Both are likely to be adversely impacted. From a fiscal deficit point of view, higher oil prices limit the government leeway to extract revenues out of oil. From a current account deficit perspective, an increase of \$10/bbl increases the CAD by 50-60 bps. That is because the trade deficit gets

back to above the \$17 billion per month mark. Fall in oil prices contributed to lower fiscal deficit in 2014 and 2016 triggering off a major bull market rally.

Oil and fuel constitute a key component of CPI basket so higher oil prices would mean higher inflation. For August 2019, CPI inflation is already at 3.21% and the inflation impact is estimated at 10-12 bps for every \$10 rise in crude. That means the effective inflation would be closer to 3.35% and that leaves just 65 bps leeway for the RBI comfort zone of 4% inflation. This could also make the RBI wary of rate cuts, despite tepid IIP.

If you have seen sharp spikes in oil prices in late 2018, you would have noticed that the rupee also weakens simultaneously. That is because, a sharp spike in oil (as we saw on Monday) makes the rupee extremely vulnerable. Not only the trade deficit and the CAD will be higher and weaken the rupee, but higher oil prices also makes importers and foreign currency borrowers rush for forward cover. That creates a sudden spike in demand for dollar and weakens the rupee. There are a number of ways oil impacts equities. Firstly, sharply higher oil prices mean that inflation goes up and that is generally negative for equities as a whole. Secondly, there are a number of specific sectors like tyres, paints, oil marketing companies, etc. that use crude oil as inputs. For them it means compression of margins due to higher input costs. Thirdly, demand for automobiles, transport services are all dependent on oil prices and a spike in oil prices could further dent demand. Auto demand has fallen over 30% consistently on a monthly basis and could exacerbate with the spike in oil prices.

There may not be a direct impact but there is an indirect impact of oil on interest rates. For example, higher oil prices mean higher inflation and that would push up bond yields, hinting at RBI going slow on rate cuts. Secondly, real interest rates would come down. In the last few years, India has attracted global bond investors due to its high real rates. Spike in oil prices could mean either FPI outflows or higher rates to compensate. Quite often, the RBI has also used repo rate hikes as a strategy to protect the rupee when oil spikes.

In a nutshell, the spike in oil could hit a number of macros negatively. The hope is that stockpiles and global economic weakness will keep a lid on crude prices.

Goutam Mukherjee

Dr. Goutam Mukherjee
Hony. Editor, JILTA

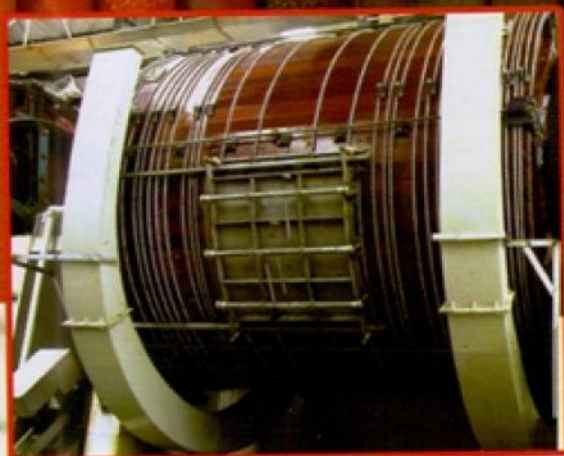


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From the desk of **General Secretary**



FELICITATION TO MR. MRINAL KANTI CHAKRABORTY

Mr. Mrinal Kanti Chakraborty, a Life Member of our Association incapacitated due to a cerebral attack was felicitated at his new residence in Nayabad, New Garia on Thursday 17th October, 2019 at 08.00 PM.

President Mr. Arnab Jha, Vice President Mr. Asit Baran Kanungo, General Secretary Mr. Susanta Mallick, Joint Secretary Mr. Bibhas Chandra Jana, Mr. Tapan Nandi, a life member of ILTA and President, ILPA Leather Goods Park were present along with ILTA Staff Members S/Sri S. K. Chatterjee, Bibhas Chandra Paul and Ratan Mukherjee.

Mr. Chakraborty was greeted with a flower bouquet, a shawl, a memento and a citation which was read out by Mr. Nandi and is reproduced below.

Quote

Dear Sri Chakraborty,

As a Life Member of our Association, you were actively involved in all activities of our Association from 1970 to 2015.

You are well known to all members, academic institutes, people of the industry & several departments of the Govt. of West Bengal.

Since the days our Association could not pay salaries to its staffs on time, you worked with dedication for achieving the current position of our Association.

You were one of the pillars behind earning through LEXPOs and making our own 6 storied building.

You are the person who convinced Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, the then Minister of Information & Culture, Govt. of West Bengal to give us the land for our own office building at a highly subsidized cost in a prime place.

In short you are a man of dedication and worked for this Association till you were fit.

We feel honoured in felicitating you today and pray to God for your good health.

Unquote

61st Annual General Meeting

As intimated to all eligible Members vide AGM Notice posted as Registered Book Post on 10.10.2019, this was held on Thursday the 31st October, 2019 at 03.00 PM at the auditorium of Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata – 700 017 as per the Agenda including formal announcement of the results of the Election of Executive Committee of ILTA for the session 2019-2021.

Dr. Ram Pratap Sinha, WBES, Associate Professor of Economics, Govt. College of Engineering & Leather Technology who acted as the Returning Officer read out his report and declared the following elected for the post shown against them for the term 2019-2021 in order of highest votes secured.

Exc. Comm Members (7 Nos.) :

1. Mr. Jayanta Chaudhury
2. Mr. Pradipta Konar
3. Mr. Subir Datta
4. Mr. Aniruddha De
5. Mr. Ratan Chowdhury
6. Mr. Kunal Naskar
7. Mr. Alokesh Ray

In addition to above the following were declared elected unopposed to the post shown against them.

1. President : Mr. Arnab Jha
2. Vice-President (C.R.) : Mr. Asit Baran Kanungo
3. Vice-President (N.R.) : Mr. P. K. Bhattacharyya
4. Vice President (S.R.) : Dr. K. J. Sreeram



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5. General Secretary : Mr. Susanta Mallick
6. Joint Secretaries :
 - (a) Mr. Shiladitya Debchoudhury
 - (b) Mr. Bibhas Chandra Jana
7. Treasurer : Mr. Kaushik Bhuiyan

So far as the election to ILTA, Northern/Western Regional Committee for 2019-2021 is concerned, the following were declared elected unopposed, there being no other nominations :-

1. President : Mr. Jai Prakash Saraswat
2. Vice President : Mr. Rajeev Mehta
3. Secretary : Mr. Sudagar Lal
4. Treasurer : Mr. Jaswinder Singh Saini
5. Executive Members :
 - (1) Mr. Kamal Sharma
 - (2) Mr. Mohinder Lal
 - (3) Mr. Rajveer Verma
 - (4) Mrs. Sunita Devi Parmar
 - (5) Mr. Y. D. Mahajan

As far as election to ILTA, Southern Region is concerned, the following were declared elected unopposed, there being no other nominations.

1. President : Mr. N. R. Jagannathan
2. Vice-President : Dr. J. Raghava Rao
3. Secretary : Dr. R. Mohan
4. Treasurer : Dr. Swarna V. Kanth
5. Committee Members :
 - (1) Dr. N. Nishad Fathima
 - (2) Dr. P. Thanikaivelan
 - (3) Dr. Subhendu Chakrabarti
 - (4) Dr. S. V. Srinivasan

LEXPO SILIGURI – XXVI

We have already applied to the competent authority for allocation of Kanchanjungha Krirangan adjacent ground for organizing the next i.e. the 26th LEXPO at Siliguri for 16 days from 21st December 2019 to 5th January' 2020. Letter from the competent authority allocating the ground to us is likely to be received in mid November' 2019.

Read and Let Read :-

JILTA

BEREAVEMENT

With profound grief and a heavy heart we announce the sad demise of Bikas Chakraborty, an active life member of our Association on 11th October, 2019.

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

You are requested to :-

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



(Susanta Mallick)
General Secretary

Read and Let Read :-

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



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WELCOME TO THE NEWLY ELECTED EC MEMBERS

ILTA Executive Committee 2019-21

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(President)



Mr. Asit B. Kanungo
(Vice-President - Central Regn.)



Dr. K. J. Sreeram
(Vice-President - Southern Regn.)



Mr. P. K. Bhattacharjee
(Vice-President - North West Regn.)



Mr. Susanta Mallick
(General Secretary)



Mr. Shiladitya Deb Chowdhury
(Joint Secretaries)



Mr. B. C. Jana



Mr. Kaushik Bhuiyan
(Treasurer)



Mr. Alokesh Ray



Mr. Aniruddha Dey



Mr. Jayanta Choudhury



Mr. Kunal Naskar



Mr. Pradipta Konar



Mr. Ratan Chowdhury



Mr. Subir Dutta

(Committee Members)

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(President)



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(Vice-President)



Dr. R. Mohan
(Secretary)



Dr. Swarna V. Kanth
(Treasurer)



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Mr. P. Thanikaivelan



Dr. S. Chakraborty



Dr. S. V. Srinivasan

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Mr. Rajeev Mehta
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Mr. Sudagar Lal
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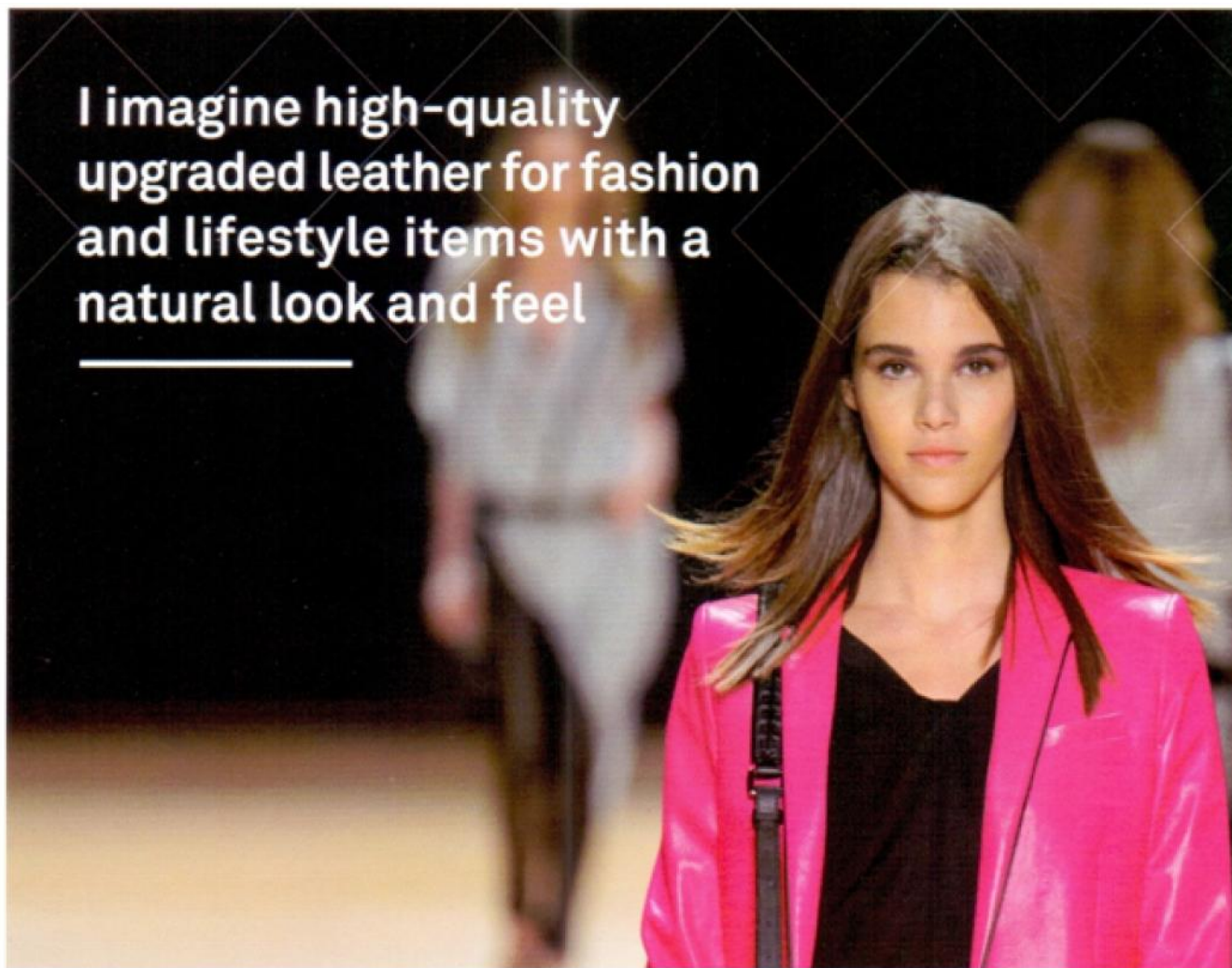
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At Stahl, we love high-quality leather with a natural look and outstanding credentials. We want leather to be soft on the skin and both a pleasure to wear and to look at. To increase the availability of such leather we developed Stahl Easy-KAT: an easy-to-use, water-based leather upgrading product range for hides with small to medium grain defects.

Effective upgrading for high-quality leather

Easy-KAT enables tanners to widen their horizon by producing more leather that retains its luxurious appearance over time. Small imperfections in a hide, such as scratches and insect damage, are eliminated without affecting the suppleness, appearance or feel of the finished leather. The secret of

Easy-KAT is its natural affinity to anionic substrates and great sealing and levelling power, resulting in soft and flexible leather with all its natural aspects preserved. From high gloss to matt leather – anything is possible.

Easy-KAT is suitable for any type of crust. The finished leather is perfect for high-end fashion items, such as shoes, bags, garments, and jackets. Leather items tanned with Easy-KAT are the items consumers love to wear or carry. Curious what Easy-KAT can do for your business? Please visit www.stahl.com or contact us at stahl.india@stahl.com.

If it can be imagined, it can be created.

www.stahl.com



DIMETHYLFUMARATE (DMFu)

Mr. Dinker Bajpai

Leather Technologist, Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services India Private Limited, C-19, Sector-07, Noida - 201301, Uttar Pradesh, India



Dimethylfumarate (DMFu) is used as a biocide to prevent mold during storage and transport of leather goods, such as footwear, in a humid climate. Uses in the Supply Chain DMFu is often placed in pads or desiccant sachets which is placed in the product or its packaging. It will evaporate over time and impregnate the leather, protecting it from mold which can cause the leather to deteriorate. It can also be applied directly to the surface of the product.

Why DMFu is Restricted ?

1. Legislation in major markets around the world restricts the presence of DMFu in finished products.
2. Dimethylfumarate can cause painful dermatitis at low concentrations which can be difficult to treat. Symptoms may include itching, irritation, redness, and burns.
3. DMFu in some cases can cause acute respiratory difficulties.

(a) Chemical hazard information for many chemicals can be found at the following external databases :

- GESTIS Substance Database : [Here \(external link\)](#)
- US National Library of Medicine : [Here \(external link\)](#)
- USA EPA Occupational Chemical Database : [Here \(external link\)](#)



Sourcing Compliant Materials from Your Suppliers

- Contact your suppliers and explain that you require their manufactured materials to be compliant with the current AFIRM RSL limit.
- Share this information sheet with your material suppliers so they have full visibility and understand your sourcing requirements.
- Make sure that any active packaging such as desiccant sachets do not include DMFu
- Safer Alternatives The following substances have been identified as examples of safer alternatives and may be suitable for your production needs.
- DMFu - free desiccant sachets or pads are available from several suppliers.
- Depending on Brand requirements, it may be acceptable to use biocidal substances that are approved for use from product-type 9 of the European Union Biocidal Products Directive are quaternary ammonium compounds (with a silyl function) and polyhexamethylenebiguanide (PHMB).

(b) Any chosen alternative must be ZDHC MRSL compliant whenever applicable.³ Additional Information Visit ECHA's Candidate List of substances of very high concern to view dossiers for many restricted substances <https://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table>.

| DIMETHYLFUMARATE (DMFu) | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Other Names | DMF 2-butenedioic acid dimethyl ester Dimethyl (E)-butenedioate |
| CAS Number | Substance |
| 624-49-7 | Dimethylfumarate (DMFu) |
| May Be Found In | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leather products • Desiccant sachets and pads |

Corresponding author E-mail : dinker1986@gmail.com

What is DMFu testing?

DMFu testing is the testing of Dimethylfumarate in products such as finished footwear and furniture. Dimethylfumarate (DMFu) has good anti-fungal properties and has been associated with mould inhibitor sachets used as part of the packaging process for finished footwear and furniture products.



Why you need to test for DMFu?

DMFu has been highlighted as being an allergenic sensitizer causing severe skin reactions at low concentrations.

It was commonly found that anti-mould sachets were being placed in product packaging or being stapled to products themselves which caused, over time, the volatile DMF to sublime and permeate into the product.

Decision 2009/251/EC lays down the prohibition on DMFu for all goods intended for use by EU consumers or likely to be used by them. More specifically, the prohibition applies to the following products:

1. Products (or parts thereof) on which the presence of DMFu is stated (e.g. on one or more pouches)
2. Products (or parts thereof) with a concentration of DMFu higher than 0.1 mg/kg by weight

Potential product recall

If any of your products are in violation of the above safety requirements, they will be refused or withdrawn from the EU market.

The ban and recall of products containing DMFu is to be policed by individual EU member states, but it is important for importers, manufacturers and retailers to be aware of the risks and to

address any issues raised. Problems, such as dermal irritation, caused by elevated levels of fungicides can lead to brand damage, and can potentially lead to high costs through proceedings with customers.



Determination of dimethyl fumarate (DMFu) in silica gel pouches using gas chromatography coupled ion trap mass spectrometry.

A simple method for the determination of dimethyl fumarate (DMFu) in silica gel pouches has been developed. The gas chromatographic behaviour of DMFu was investigated; the instrumental method, based on EI mass spectrometry coupled with an Ion Trap Detector operating whether in full scan mode or in MS/MS mode was also investigated. Several factors have been evaluated and optimized during the development process: solvent and temperature of extraction, type of stationary phase in capillary column. The analytical procedure consists of two steps as follows: (a) the sample preparation using 10 g of sample extracted with acetonitrile in an ultrasonic, heated bath and (b) the determination by gas chromatography-ion trap mass spectrometry. Mass spectrometry in conjunction with chromatographic separation is a very powerful combination for identification of an analyte in the extract in spite of selective detectors employed with GC, such as ECD, FPD and NPD, that offer only limited specificity. Blank samples show no interfering peaks in the areas of interest, so the specificity of the method was assured under the investigated GC/MS conditions. The method has been validated in terms of recovery, repeatability, linearity, detection limits and measurement uncertainty. The results obtained meet both the method validation criteria and requirements of the European/National legislation. The method was verified to be accurate with 97 % mean recoveries at 0.05 mg/kg and 1.00 mg/kg levels; the repeatability (expressed as RSD %) was found to be better than 15 %. Good linearity was

found in the range between 0.05 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 5.0 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and a value of $R^2 > 0.9998$ was calculated. The procedure ensures high specificity and a good sensitivity with detection limit (ld) of 0.02 mg/kg and quantification limit (LOQ) of 0.05 mg/kg. This procedure has been successfully applied for the analysis of several hundred of real samples collected during a monitoring control plan started last year in our country. All samples exceeding the maximum allowed level of DMFu (0.1 mg/kg) were confirmed by GC/MS/MS (ITD) for a higher degree of confidence in identification. The main advantages of this method include: rapidity, simplicity (few, simple steps), reliability, cheapness, no need for long and difficult clean-up and evaporation steps, high specificity by using GC/MS and GC/MS/MS, availability for routine monitoring.



Substances restricted under REACH

The table below is the Annex XVII to REACH and includes all the restrictions adopted in the framework of REACH and the previous legislation, Directive 76/769/EEC. Each entry shows a substance or a group of substances or a substance in a mixture, and the consequent restriction conditions. The latest consolidated version of REACH presents the restrictions adopted until the date of publication. Subsequent changes are included in the amending Commission regulation

|  EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY | |
|--|--|
| ANNEX XVII TO REACH – Conditions of restriction | |
| Restrictions on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of certain dangerous substances, mixtures and articles | |
| Entry 61 | |
| Dimethylfumarate (DMF) | |
| CAS No 624-49-7 | |
| EC No 210-849-0 | |
| Conditions of restriction | |
| Shall not be used in articles or any parts thereof in concentrations greater than 0,1 mg/kg. Articles or any parts thereof containing DMF in concentrations greater than 0,1 mg/kg shall not be placed on the market. | |

Dimethylfumarate (DMF) solutions for 2009/251/EC Directive compliance.

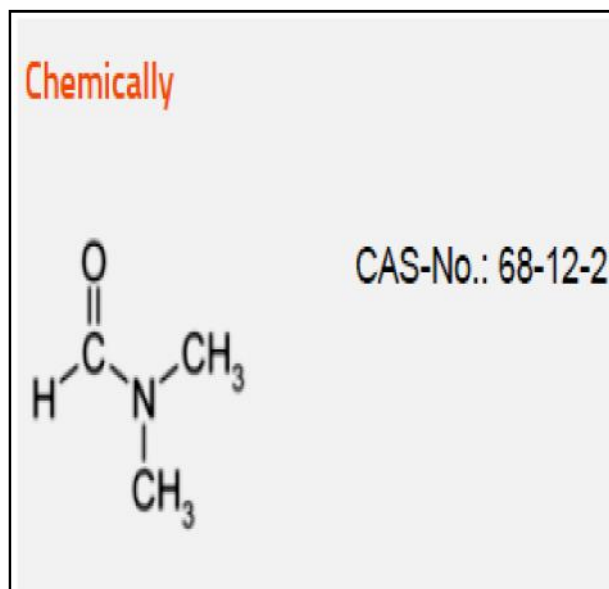
DMF is used for consumer products, such as leather furniture and footwear, to prevent mould fungus that can cause deterioration during transport and storage in humid climates. DMF is often used in desiccant sachets, which can be placed within the product or in its packaging. Overtime, the chemical evaporates and impregnates the product, protecting it against moulds.

DMF penetrates through clothing, and can get onto consumers' skin. Consumers exposed to DMF have experienced health problems like dermatitis or allergies, with symptoms, such as skin itching, irritation, redness, burns, and respiratory difficulties.

On May 1, 2009, the EU Commission ban of the use of DMF in consumer products came into effect. The EU Commission Decision requires Member States to ensure that consumer products sold in the European Union shall not contain more than 0.1 ppm of dimethylfumarate (DMF). Products already on the market must be recalled and withdrawn without delay, and consumers have to be informed about the serious risk associated with excess levels of DMF.

ISO/TS 16186: 2012

Footwear — Critical substances potentially present in footwear and footwear components — Test method to quantitatively determine dimethyl fumarate (DMFU) in footwear materials



CENTENARY PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND LEATHER TECHNOLOGY

On 11.03.2018 at the College premises -

Garlanding of the statue of Prof. B.M. Das
Lighting of 99 candles with chorus performance
By the gathering with light refreshment

On 24.03.2018 at the College premises -

Prelude to centenary celebration followed by Techfest of Students' Welfare Association (SWA) on 25.03.2018

Dais adorned by :

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MAKAUT - Prof. Saikat Maitra
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, WBSU - Prof. Basab Chaudhuri
Director of Technical Education - Dr. Amalendu Basu
Ex-Principal of the College - Dr. H. Bhaumik
Ex-Principal of the College - Dr. B. Chattopadhyay

Curtain raising ceremony for the year long programme of Centenary Celebration where reminiscence of the Platinum Jubilee celebration & ideas were thought for main theme of Centenary Celebration. Centenary web link was also launched which started functioning thereafter. Lighting, putting Glow sign and beautification of entire campus was done by Public Works Department (Electrical), Bidhan Nagar Division, Govt. of West Bengal for the whole year long programme. Thanks to the P.W.D. (Electrical) for colorful lighting & flow sign board installation. The Centenary Gate is under construction in the wake of Centenary Celebration Programme by Public Works Depart(Civil), Bidhan Nagar Division, Govt. of West Bengal. Thanks to them also.

On 07.07.2018 at Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Salt Lake - Inauguration of the centenary programme was held.

Invitees were :-

His Excellency - The Governor of West Bengal
Hon'ble MIC - Dept. of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal
Hon'ble MIC - Disaster Management Dept. WB
Addl. Chief Secretary - Dept. of Higher Education
Special Secretary - Dept. of Higher Education
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MAKAUT - Dr. Saikat Maitra

Chief Guest - Padmasree & Padmabhusan Dr. T. Ramasami
Director of Technical Education, Dr. Amalendu Basu
Director, CSIR, CLRI, Dr. B. Chandrasekhar
Chairman, BoG, GCELT - Sri S.S. Kumar

The dignitaries present there elucidated and ushered for a successful Centenary Programme.

Eminent alumnus of GCELT, Mr. Debayan Ghosh, M.Tech, Biotechnology, Founder President of Epygen Group delivered on his journey to success in his domain of enterprisership. His speech was followed by cultural programme by Alumni, Student, staff and faculty & eminent singer Mr. Rupankar Bagchi.

On 04.10.2018 at the College premises – IBM hackathon was held in the spirit of Centenary Celebration for all the students from 1st to 4th year of GCELT, conducted by IBM and managed by HoD, IT and CSE & LT.

On 12.11.2018 – At the College premises – A day long sports programme was held which got participated by staff, student, faculty and alumni of GCELT.

On 19th and 20th Nov. '18 – At NUJS Auditorium – Technical Seminar on Block Chain, IOT, Deep learning, Cyber Security. The eminent speakers were the stalwarts from IBM, TCS, Ericsson, Intel Corporation, IITKGP, Nasscom etc. It was a programme of two days. The programme was fully funded by the grant sanctioned from the Dept. of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal.

On 17.01.2019 – At College premises – Blood donation camp was organized by Rotaract Chapter of GCELT and Students' Welfare Association where 58 participants donated blood which included students, staff and faculty members.

On 5th and 6th March, 19 at Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Salt Lake Auditorium – ICETSD, 19 – International conference for the first time in the history of the college was organized in commemoration with the centenary celebration. Dr. Anup Dey, Asst. Prof. of Electronics chaired and Prof. Sarit Chakraborty, Asst. Prof. of CSE co-chaired. Dr. Nayan Ranjan Singha, Asst. Prof. of Polymer Science & Technology acted as the Coordinator of the ICETSD, 2019. Theme of the conference on 5th March was Chemical science as well as bio-chemical Science and theme on 6th March was IT, Electronics and Computer related topics.

A conference proceedings was published with ISBN number. More than 250 papers were presented in the oral session and poster session together. Dignitaries present in the conference were Dr. Castell Joans, from Europe and Dr. Samir Dasgupta from USA ornamented the conference as key note speakers. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MAKAUT Dr. Saikat Maitra was present as Chief Guest in the inaugural ceremony. Prof. Chittaranjan Sinha, HoD, Dept. of Chemistry, JU, Prof. D.K. Maity, FRSC, Department of Chemistry, JU, Prof. Susanta Chakraborty, Dean(Academic) IEST, Shibpur, Prof. Debotosh Bhattacharjee, Dept. of CSE, JU, Prof. J.K. Mondal, Dean, CSE, University of Kalyani were the key note speakers on both the days, followed by cultural programme by staff, students and faculty members on both days.

On 9th, 10th & 11th March, 2019 – at Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Salt Lake

A full day seminar was held on 9th March, 2019 on the theme "Green Leather – A Scientific Approach" where the deliberation was passed by Dr. Karl Flower from Northampton University, UK, Dr. Jurgen Christner, TFL, Germany, Mr. Mauro Pellizzari, Gemata, Italy and Mr. Stefano Carlotto, Cartigliano, Italy followed by cultural programme by Tanusree Shankar ballet troupe.

A full day Technical Seminar was held on 10th March, 2019 on the theme "Design, Fashion and Forestring", "Footwear for Health", "Technology and Materials" and "Sports & Casual Leather" was organized. The eminent personalities like, Mr. Tapan Nandi, Mr. Ajoy Mall, Mr. S.B. Dey was present and chaired different sessions. The eminent Technologists Dr. B.N. Das, Mr. S.N. Ganguly and other eminent speakers around the Country deliberated on the advancement of Footwear Technology and its impact on health and safety, followed by cultural programme by a theatre group Dwitiya Satta.

A half day "Seminar on Management and Industry" was held on 11th March, 2019. The eminent personalities like Dr. Jawhar Sircar, IAS(Retd.), Ex-CEO, Prasar Bharati, Dr. Asoke Banerjee, President, Calcutta Management Association and Prof. Dr. P. R. Rastogi, President, ORPIP Global, Mumbai was present and delivered their valuable speeches. Release of Special Cover and My Stamp was done by the eminent personalities present on the dias. In the afternoon prize was distributed to the winning team/person who won in the sports which was held in the College campus on 12.11.2018. In the evening there was a cultural programme by Mrs. Subhamita and Mr. Nachiketa.





2020 LEATHER RESEARCH GRANT ANNOUNCED BY IULTCS

The Executive Committee of the IULTCS is pleased to announce the 2020 grants to be awarded to three young scientists, under the age of 35, for research projects in the : Leather Research, Machinery/Equipment and Sustainability to be conducted at a recognized institution in 2020.

This is the sixth year of the grant, and this year 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 Sustainability/Environmental grant.

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 all new challenges. 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 the next three 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".

Dr. Michael Meyer, IUR Chair says that "Our YLSG is getting stronger and in the 6th year we are happy to receive many ambitious applications, to step forward with innovative ideas and sustainable technologies." Details of the eligibility requirements and Complete Application Forms are available on

the IULTCS website (www.iultcs.org). The submission deadline is 16 December, 2019.

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

(Source : News Release from the IULTCS – 18.10.2019)

IULTCS ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIR OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION



Dr. Wolfram Scholz has been appointed to chair the IUE commission of the IULTCS for the next 4 years. In this role Dr Scholz is planning to continue reviewing and updating the current IUE protocols. He will also work together with the members of the IUE commission to promote the achievements of the leather industry regarding effluent treatment, recycling, added value of by-products and innovations of solid waste treatment such as waste to energy plants. The IUE commission will continue to support the leather industry to solve the new environmental challenges, such as the increased adoption of wet-white tannage, which changes the composition and concentration of traditional effluents and consequently requires adjustments to the treatment.

Dr. Wolfram Scholz will work together with the IUE members to support the joint efforts of the USHSLA, ICT, UNIDO and Leather Naturally to promote the leather industry and to continue developing suitable environmental solutions to reduce pollution and to further improve the environment and sustainability of the leather industry worldwide.

(Source : News Release from the IULTCS – 18.10.2019)

FELICITATION TO MR. B. D. BHAIYA, CHAIRMAN, C & E Ltd.

Mr. B. D. Bhaiya, Chairman, C & E Ltd. and Founder President of ILCPA and a Life Member of ILTA was felicitated by Indian Leather Chemical Promotion Association (ILCPA) at his residence on Friday, the 18th October, 2019 evening for his lifetime achievements and contributions to the leather and allied industry. Present on the occasion were many dignitaries from Industry / Associations / Institutions besides the following :-

Mr. Tapan Nandi – Chairman, ILPA Leather Goods Park, Mr. Susanta Mallick – General Secretary, ILTA, Prof. (Dr.) Sanjoy Chakraborty – Officer in Charge, GCELT, Mr. Mukesh Johar – President, ILCPA, Mr. Rathi – Vice President, ILCPA, Mr. Sandip – Joint Secretary, ILCPA, and Mr. Kamal Chowdhury & Mr. Baldewa – Sr. Members, ILCPA.

Mr. Tapan Nandi, recollecting his days of working as the Regional Chairman of CLE (Eastern Region) stated how Mr. Bhaiya was most co-operative.

Dr. Chakraborty recollected Mr. Bhaiya's leadership qualities and also how he encouraged research activities.

Mr. Chowdhury called Mr. Bhaiya a dreamer and a positive thinker, a person who conceived ideas which are implementable. Mr. Chowdhury recalled Mr. Bhaiya's contribution as the Founder President of ILCPA and Mr. Mukesh Jahar also joined with Mr. Chowdhury.

Mr. Susanta Mallick stated the positive attitude of Mr. Bhaiya and proposed that ILTA would like to felicitate Mr. Bhaiya on 14th August, 2020 on the day of its 70th Foundation Day Celebration. Mr. Nandi stated that ILPA will join ILTA to make it a gala event.



80K TRAINED FOR VARIOUS JOB ROLES IN LEATHER SECTOR; CLE

The Leather Sector Skill Council has so far trained about 80,000 candidates for various job roles in the sector, CLE said on September 25.

Council for Leather Exports (CLE) Chairman Panaruna Aqeel said the council was set up in 2012 under the aegis of the National Skill Development Corporation to undertake skill development activities in the leather, leather products and footwear industry.

"Considering the importance of skill development in increasing production and productivity in the sector, massive efforts have been undertaken by the council. It has so far trained about 80,000 fresh candidates in various job roles," he said in a statement.

The council has also developed 54 qualification packs for various job roles in the leather, leather products and footwear industry, based on which the training is provided, he added. Aqeel said the council has a target of training one lakh existing workers of the industry under required prior learning.

"The industry has been in the forefront of empowering women through skilling and employment. Women constitute about 30 percent of workforce in our industry," he said. India's total exports of leather and footwear products were \$5.7 billion in 2018-19.

The current major export destinations for the sector include Europe and the US. The sector employs about 42 lakh people.

LEATHER SECTOR EXPORTS CAN TOUCH \$9, BILLION BY 2020

The domestic leather sector has the potential to create about 2 million jobs in next five years and with the rationalization of export duty on raw and semi-finished leather, this sector throws huge opportunities, Union minister for skill development and entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey has said.

Pandey, who was in Chennai for an award function, said, "The Union government has allowed 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector and rationalized export duty on raw and semi-finished leather. The sector employs over 2.5 million people now and has the potential to create 2 million jobs in the next 5 years."

"Globally, India is the second-largest producer of leather garments and footwear and with this phenomenal market potential, the sector seems promising in the years to come. When we look back at our past, India has always had a rich heritage of leather crafts like footwear and accessories. These were prepared by highly skilled craftsmen from various clusters such as Agra, Kanpur, Ambur in Tamil Nadu and other regions.

Today, these skills need to be preserved and people should be encouraged to make them a means of sustainable livelihood," he said. India accounts for about 13% of the world's leather production of footwear and leather products in the world. The leather and leather products industry contributes less than 1% to India's GDP and footwear industry contributes about 2% to India's GDP. Indian leather industry has huge potential for exports.

CLE PLEA TO HIKE DUTY FREE LIMIT

Hailing the measures announced by the government to bolster exports, the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) on Monday (16.09.2019) demanded an increase in duty free limit for leather garments to 5 percent to help boost shipments of the sector.

CLE Chairman Panaruna Aqeel said India is the second largest global exporter of leather garments and enhancing the duty free limit will help achieve the top position.

(Source : Businessline - 17.09.2019)

'BIS TO SET QUALITY STANDARD TO ENSURE INDIAN PRODUCTS ARE NOT REJECTED IN GLOBAL MARKET'

To boost exports, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been directed to set standards for export items, which get rejected for non-compliance of global quality norms, Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Tuesday.

BIS a national body that prescribes standards for products and services, has been asked to set up testing facilities for export items, he said.

The issue was discussed in a meeting with officials of BIS and other ministries like Commerce and Steel. "Our country's exports are less. Whatever we export, much of its gets rejected. I am told it is because of non-compliance of global standards. Countries like Europe have new standards and parameters and



JILTA
Since 1950

our exporters are not able to comply with them," Paswan told reporters after the meeting.

At present, only 50 percent of standards are at par with international norms. "I have directed the BIS to ensure all standards are in line with global standards," he said. On packaged water bottle, Paswan said the manufacturers have to comply with both mandatory standards of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and BIS.

"It will be good if there is more coordination between the two agencies and improve the ease of doing business," he added.

AFTER DEMONETISATION, GST, FLOODS HIT AGRA'S FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY HARD

Sharing the reasons for the slowdown in the shoe industry, shoe manufacturer Pradeep Kumar said: "The main cause is the flood that most part of the country is facing. Due to sluggish

sales, we are also short of funds," .Agra yet to recover from the setbacks .Agra's footwear industry suffered due to demonetization and Goods and Services Tax (GST) ,the industry has now been hit hard by floods.

People from every stratus of society are involved in the manufacturing of footwear and serve 65 percent of people in India. The state is already recovering from demonetization and GST. Now floods have added to our problems. So altogether 60 percent of the business is over" President of Agra Shoe Factories Federation Gagan Das Ram told ANI.

A worker at a footwear factory said: For 20 years, I have been working in this sector. Usually, the business is good but from the last two months the pace of work has drastically come down. There is no work here. We are barely earning anything."

(Source : ET Retail)

Read and Let Read :-

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WHAT IS THE SPEED OF A FREE-FALLING PARTICLE AT 5th SECOND ?

Dr. Buddhadeb Chattopadhyay

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



Looks to be a fairly simple question, because the formula is known $h = ut + \frac{1}{2}gt^2$. So, if, $u = 0$ then at $t = 5$, $h = 16 \times 25 = 400$ ft. Similarly, 1 s. before i.e. at 4 s., $h = 16 \times 16 = 256$. So, in 1 s. (from 4 s to 5 s.) the particle fell $400 - 256 = 144$ ft. Therefore, its speed is 144 ft/s. This is. Isn't it ?

No, you are wrong. Let's see the chart below:

| t (s.) | h (ft) |
|--------|--------|
| 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 32 |
| 2 | 64 |
| 3 | 96 |
| 4 | 128 |
| 5 | 400 |

Let's add an infinitesimally small increment in time by an amount Δt such that $\Delta t = 0.0001$ s. So, now the t becomes $t + \Delta t = 5 + 0.0001 = 5.0001$. So, using the same formula h at $t = 5.0001$ becomes $16 \times 5.0001^2 = 16 \times (25.00100001) = 400.016000016$ ft.

Hence, between time span of 5.0001 and 5.0 s. i.e., $(5.0001 - 5.0)$ s. = 0.0001 s. the particle travelled $(400.016000016 - 400.0)$ ft = 0.160000016 ft. Therefore, its speed at 5th s. is close to $0.160000016 / 0.0001 = 160.0016$ ft/s.

Why is this difference? In former case, the calculation comes as 144 ft/s.; while in the latter case it is 160.0016 ft/s.

Which one is correct? You know that we are introducing the concept of differentiation in the latter case and hence, it is the Instantaneous velocity at 5th s. while the former is the average velocity between 4th s. and 5ths.

Now see, $h = \frac{1}{2}gt^2$. By definition, $(dh/dt) = g.t$. So, $v = g.t = 32 \times 5 = 160$ ft/s.

Hence when we apply $v = u + g.t$, we get the Instantaneous velocity.

Interesting, to think little out-of-box tricks in understanding physics thoroughly. So long as you are not receiving enough jolt to exclaim "wow" spontaneously, you are not learning science!

[Source: Feynman Lectures in Physics, Part I]

Read and Let Read :-

JILTA



Late Bikash Chakraborty

(11th January' 1963 – 11th October' 2019)

Late Bikash Chakraborty was born in Gangachara village in the state of Tripura. He continued to be schooled in the Udaipur district of Tripura. Later he came to Kolkata and completed his BSc (Tech) degree in Leather Technology under Calcutta University from College of Leather Technology. He was the favorite student of his teachers and was also one of the most favorite and obedient friend in his hostel. His excellence in studies since childhood and his ever smiling face and humble nature made him popular.

He was the eldest son of the family having excellent knowledge in mathematics opted out from the village against his families wish and started his very own business and kept shining there. Later he joined Exact Leathers and worked there till his last breath, as he always said "I'll keep working until I die" and that was the spirit which helped him to work even after fighting from Throat Cancer and a head injury.

An active Life Member of Indian Leather Technologists' Association, late Chakraborty left behind his wife and two daughters.

May the soul of this kind and lovable man rest in peace.

—

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:

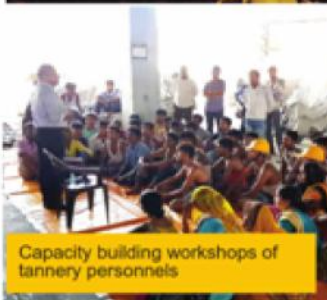
KEY COMPONENTS



SUSTAINABLE WAY FORWARD IN THE LEATHER CLUSTERS ACROSS INDIA



Solidaridad ASIA



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H.M KING WILLEM ALEXANDER AND H.M QUEEN MAXIMA URGE TO KEEP UP THE GOOD MOMENTUM OF SOLIDARIDAD LED "TANNERY PROJECT FOR CLEAN GANGA"

His Majesty King Willem-Alexander, and Her Majesty Queen Maxima of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in their travel to India appreciated Solidaridad's flagship initiative aligned with Clean Ganga Mission of Government of India titled, "Pollution Prevention and Efficient Water Use in Kanpur- Unnao Leather Cluster" and its efforts at ground and asked to keep up the good momentum during the Tech Summit in New Delhi on 15 October 2019.

Supported by Sustainable Water Funds, this project was shortlisted as one of the two projects under water domain to be showcased during the summit.

The Tech Summit was organized by DST-CII in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands. The event was inaugurated by H.M King Willem- Alexander and H.M Queen Maxima of the Netherlands in the presence of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment and Climate Change, Government of India and Ms. Mona Keijzer, Dutch State Secretary for Economic Affairs.

On the occasion, the esteemed dignitaries announced the launch of the Centre of Excellence in Kanpur, a state of the art facility that will be established by Stahl B.V (partner) under Solidaridad's project '*Pollution Prevention and Efficient Water Use in Kanpur-Unnao Leather cluster*' for the tanners and workers of the Kanpur- Unnao leather cluster. It is a shared facility that provides leadership, best practices, research support and training on globally recognized green processes and technologies to the tanning industry.

[* File contains invalid data | In-line.JPG *] During the brief interaction with Mr. Tatheer Zaidi, Senior Program Manager, Solidaridad Asia, the royal couple enquired on how Solidaridad motivated relevant stakeholders to be a part of this flagship initiative and were pleased to know that the consortium formulated under the project with the objective to engage the broad visionary tanneries played a key role to establish a serious credibility of the project. Solidaridad established successful

pilot demonstrations with innovative techno-commercial practices which ensured not only the participation of relevant stakeholders but also an increased rate of adoption of these practices and technologies in the existing tanneries. Also, the project focuses on capacitating the tanneries on the right kind of financial schemes and facilitates to create robust financial linkages of tanneries with Government and other financial institutions.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health, Government of India recognized the meaningful efforts of Solidaridad and assured the best possible support.

Mr. Zaidi, representing Solidaridad was also invited to be a panelist of the session, Indo-Dutch Solutions for Cleaning Rivers, to present the credentials of the project, wherein he highlighted the techno- commercial viable options introduced under this project and the public-private Indo-Dutch partnership with the presence of PUM, Stahl, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Central Leather Research Institute; and a leather framework for tanneries to minimize the pollution concerns. Co-panelists of the session, Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, DG of NMCG, Dr. Sanjay Bajpai, Head- Technology Divisions of DST, Prof Vinod Tare of IIT Kanpur, Mr. Taj Alam, Vice Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Leather Industries Association also recognized Solidaridad's sincere efforts in promoting a sustainable way forward in leather cluster of Kanpur-Unnao. Under the ambit of the project, Solidaridad is also working with downstream farming community to improve the quality of water through bioremediation processes of algae consortium.

In the recent past, Solidaridad has received several appreciations for its pollution prevention initiatives from various entities such as National Mission for Clean Ganga, acknowledging Solidaridad as its Sustainability partner. Last year Dutch Minister for Water and Infrastructure, Government of the Netherlands, Ms Cora van Nieuwenhuizen cited Solidaridad led "Tannery Project for Clean Ganga" as the ideal PPP model within Indo-Dutch cooperation on cleaner River Ganga. The eco-friendly technical innovations and the public-private approaches adopted by this project will also serve as an example for the leather clusters elsewhere in the country.



Solidaridad



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Rationalization And Environmental Problems Of Beamhouse Operations

By Dr FRANZ FRIEDRICH MILLER

Text of the B M Das Memorial Lecture delivered by the author at the 13th Tanners Get-together held at the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras, from January 31 to February 6. Dr Miller is the Director of the Leather Department of BASF Aktiengesellschaft (Research & Development, Technical Service Department). He compiled this paper in association with Dr Magerkurth and Dipl. Ing Knafllic.

DR Franz Friedrich Miller was born in 1922 in Austria and studied chemistry and chemical engineering at the Technical University of Graz, Austria. He obtained a Doctorate of Science in 1952 at the Institute of Biochemistry and Microchemistry at the University, the subject of his thesis being 'Organic Metal Complexes in Micro Chemical Analysis'. In 1952-53 he worked as a senior research chemist in a company producing lacquers, plastics and other chemical products. In 1954, he joined as the chief chemist of the biggest and most modern Austrian tannery. He joined the BASF Leather Department in October 1958 and has conducted research on all kinds of auxiliaries for production and finishing of leather, having to his credit numerous patents on tanning materials, auxiliaries, fatliquors, lacquers and new processes for unhairing and tanning.



Since the beginning of 1964, Dr Miller has been the Director of the Leather Department of BASF Aktiengesellschaft, including Research Development and Technical services. He is an honourable member of the Brazilian Leather Chemists Association (AQTIC) and the Austrian Association of Leather Technicians (VOELT).

During the past few years, the development of processing techniques in the leather industry was directed mainly towards rationalization with a view to lowering production costs by reducing manual work and improving exploitation of capacities. In recent years, however, more and more environmental problems have emerged which present an additional cost factor and



which the leather industry has to cope with more intensively as the influence of these problems is expected to increase further substantially in the future. Emphasis, however, must be placed on the fact that environmental problems occur not only in highly industrialized countries, but according to our experience also at all those places where the leather industry has developed near densely populated areas. The idea initially discussed in this connection was to move leather factories to areas less affected by environmental pollution. This would perhaps put off the problems temporarily but could not serve as a final solution, apart from the fact that the costs involved in providing new means of communication would exceed the expenses for effluent clarification and waste disposal.

The environmental problems that we face today apply mainly to questions pertaining to the clarification and treatment of effluents. This, however, covers only part of the problems.

According to Ph. Comte and J. Jullien, CTBC, Lyon, Percentages on salted weight :

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Waste with hair | 7% |
| Soluble protein in effluent | 7% |
| Glue stock (fleshings) | 15% |
| Glue stock (cuttings) | 9% |
| Glue stock (splits) | 7% |
| Tanned waste | 5% |
| Total waste | 50% |
| For leather production | 50% |
| | 100% |

Due attention must be paid to the solid wastes as well. As shown in the table above, only 50% of the raw hide is

converted into leather and about 40% is discarded as waste. It is obvious that in the near future it will be necessary to use these natural products for beneficial and perhaps even profitable purposes.

Reduction of the effluent burden, at present probably one of the main problems in the leather industry, can be accomplished in two ways, namely either by suitable, cheap methods for treating the effluents, or by modifying leather production processes in such a manner that less effluents with a less amount of pollutants are obtained.

The last-mentioned way is generally the one that involves the least costs, because it brings about rationalization at the same time.

The reason is that—besides the switch-over to production in increasingly larger lots and by more and more mechanized means in mixers, giant drums and three-chamber machines—the development of processing techniques in beamhouse operation and tannage shows a characteristic trend towards processing in short floats and at elevated temperatures. Short floats have the advantage that the chemicals applied penetrate the skin more quickly and are taken up more readily. Elevated float temperatures promote this effect in most instances, so that optimum control of these two parameters is essential for processes involving a short processing time and low water consumption. On the other hand, processing in short floats would require smaller clarification facilities, if tanneries build their own clarification plants, and the effluents can be treated for a longer period. The biologically difficult



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degradable substances can then be thoroughly removed; the sludge settles more readily and contains less water.

The question as to how minimum effluent pollution can be accomplished by suitable modification of leather production processes thus comprises two complexes^{1 and 2}: what is the minimum amount of water required for leather production? How can the amount of pollutants in effluents be reduced without impairing the leather quality?

In discussing these questions, we shall confine ourselves mainly to the production of chrome leather.

Processing Procedure to Reduce Effluent

Detailed investigations have been carried out to determine the water consumption in the production of chrome side leather and other types of leather. The results that are available today are largely in conformance to one another.

According to an inquiry made in Germany in the '60s, the amounts of water required were as follows:

Chrome upper leather
Vegetable tannage
Sheep and goat skins

The amounts of water required for the individual types of skin still vary very largely, and this indicates that certain tanneries do not have any particular troubles yet with water supply and effluent disposal. An average of 70-90% of the amounts of water is used in the washing and rinsing processes. Thus, it is appreciable that the best chances of saving water lie in these processing operations.

With regard to the float length, the trend of modern processing methods complies to the requirements of effluent disposal. The liming and tanning liquors are curtailed more and more to produce better effects more rapidly. Are natural limits to be found in this respect or do the individual processing stages require a minimum of float, which is marked by a reduction in quality or by other factors? Let us consider this question with regard to the individual processing operations.

Soaking

With salted cattle hides, the soaking process usually consists of two processing stages, namely presoaking and main soaking, which are often concluded by rinsing processes. There is no generally accepted rule as to the degree to which the salt is to be removed, in order to obtain an optimum liming effect. The good electrical conductivity of brine enables the exact tracing of the brine concentration during the washing and

25-150 g/kg raw skin

10- 70 l/kg raw skin

85-200 l/kg raw skin

rinsing processes. At the Dutch Leather Institute it was determined by this method that, in the comparison between rinsing and washing, the superiority of washing with regard to water saving was very distinct.

By the discontinuous washing process in that drum with closed door, a saving in water of more than 50% can thus be achieved.

For soaking in the drum, normally



200-400% of float is required, so that 2-4 litres water per kg of skin will be required when two soaking baths are used. The idea offers itself to use the water of the second soaking bath subsequently for the lime liquor. This is done in practice without any adverse effects. The water requirement is reduced in this method by the amount of water required for liming.

Appreciable drawbacks are encountered, however, when only *one* bath is used for both soaking and liming. In this process, no extra water is required for the soaking operation, as the whole amount is used for the liming process. This water-saving processing method has been tested by us in a large series of trials. The resulting leather has a tighter grain and is somewhat softer in comparison to standard leather, but has much poorer dyeing properties and lower tensile and split tear strength.

Liming

From the point of view of water-saving, it is quite immaterial as to which liming method is used: it must only be feasible in the drum and must guarantee a good hair removal and a good opening up of the skin as well. The use of a drum or hide processor is essential, in order to be able to work with lime floats below 200%. The reason why liming floats below 80% are seldom used lies in the fact that very short floats give unsatisfactory leather quality. Although the resultant leathers are dense and possess good tensile strength, they usually do not have a soft handle and their dyeing properties are poor.

Thus, for reasons of quality, the liming process must be carried out with 80-150% of float, if epidermis-free and satisfactorily opened up pelts are to be obtained.

Deliming and Bating

In most tanneries, the lime liquor is removed after the hair-destroying liming process, and the pelts are then rinsed or washed in the drum. Here, too, it is positively true that substantially less water is consumed in washing than in rinsing for obtaining the same effect.

In continuous processes where thoroughly fleshed hides are no longer taken out of the drum till the chrome tanning process has been concluded, it is theoretically possible to dispense with the washing operation between liming and deliming altogether. In practice, however, this method could not become established for the following reasons: consumption of deliming agents too high, increased development of hydrogen sulphide, unsatisfactory removal of colloidal soluble proteins. The last named is also the reason why pickling cannot be effected in the bating liquor, although the concentration of swell-reducing salts would suffice for processing in short floats.

Pickling and Tannage

The water consumption of the pickling and tanning processes used nowadays has already been reduced to a minimum. The pickle bath usually consists of less than 80% of water and tannage is effected in the pickle liquor, so that not more

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| <p>than 1.0 litre effluent is formed per kg raw hide in the total process. Results of investigations have so far shown that even in the modern processing systems a limit is set as to the minimum amount of water absolutely necessary for producing leather of satisfactory quality. It varies somewhat, depending on the type of leather to be produced and the raw hides and skins used, but according to present knowledge it seems impossible to go below this limit. The table below shows the minimum amounts required in processing medium-weight salted cattlehides. Thus, the total water consumption lies between 8.5 and 15 l/kg p.r raw hide. These figures are based on a system in which residual liquors and rinsing liquors are discarded. Efforts to reduce the water consumption further are directed towards recycling as much as possible of all the processing liquors.</p> | |
| <p>Water Required for Producing Wet Blues</p> | |
| Presoaking | 2-3 litre/kg salted weight |
| Soaking/liming | 1-2 litre/kg salted weight |
| Wash once or twice | 2-3 litre/kg salted weight |
| Deliming/bating | 1-2 litre/kg salted weight |
| Wash | 1-2 litre/kg salted weight |
| Pickling/tannage | 0.5-1 litre/kg salted weight |
| Cleaning machinery and churns | 1-2 litre/kg salted weight |
| Total | 8.5-15 litre/kg |
| Minimum water requirement | |
| Soaking | |
| <p>With regard to lime and chrome liquors, this problem will be dealt with in the discussion of the degree of pollution. Less problematic is the re-use of the first wash baths of liming and deliming for the second wash and for preparing fresh liming and deliming liquors. By</p> | |
| <p>consistent use of the recycling processes in the beamhouse, 50-75% of water can be saved in comparison to standard processing³. Expenses for additional containers, pumps and pipeline systems, however, must also be taken into consideration in calculating the savings. The profitability of such investments depends exclusively on the water costs—the local conditions.</p> | |
| <p>Procedure for Reducing Pollution</p> | |
| <p>After having determined the minimum limiting amount of water required, we must raise the question as to how the degree of pollution of the effluent in the modern liming and tanning processes can be reduced to a minimum without increasing the amount of effluent. The pollution of tannery effluents is caused by soluble and insoluble proteins, neutral salts, chromium compounds and sulphides.</p> | |
| <p>from Wet Salted Cattlehides</p> | |
| <p>2-3 litre/kg salted weight</p> | |
| <p>1-2 litre/kg salted weight</p> | |
| <p>2-3 litre/kg salted weight</p> | |
| <p>1-2 litre/kg salted weight</p> | |
| <p>1-2 litre/kg salted weight</p> | |
| <p>0.5-1 litre/kg salted weight</p> | |
| <p>1-2 litre/kg salted weight</p> | |
| <p>8.5-15 litre/kg</p> | |
| <p>In this process, the effluent is primarily polluted by curing salts, dissolved proteins and by dirt and manure adhering to the raw hides. If consideration is given to the fact that the common salt content of wet salted hides amounts to about 40%</p> | |



of its weight, it can be realized how big the effluent problems are in those tanneries where the loading of the effluent with salt is significant.

The amounts of protein that occur in soaking are small compared to the load brought about in liming, and on account of their good biological degradability they cause no trouble in effluent clarification.

In countries with centralized slaughter-houses, raw hides in fresh condition or preserved by cooling are processed to reduce the salt load. In other countries, efforts are made to preserve the raw hides by bactericides⁴ and ⁵ or other organic salts, such as sodium bisulphite⁶ and ⁷.

These preserving methods are useful where only a few days elapse for collecting, sorting and transporting between slaughtering and processing. Salt-free curing over several months, however, is still an unsolved problem.

Liming

The strongest source of pollution of the tannery effluent is the lime liquor.

Chemical (COD) and biological (BOD₅) Oxygen requirement in mg O₂/kg green weight.

| Unhairing processes | | much sulphide hair-destroying | little sulphide hair-saving | enzyme hair-saving |
|---|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| COD of mixed total effluent | raw | 170 000 | 85 000 | 63 000 |
| | dec. | 90 000 | 53 100 | 28 400 |
| BOD ₅ of mixed total effluent | raw | 60 000 | 26 000 | 17 000 |
| | Inhabitants—equivalent value per 100 kg green weight | 111 | 48 | 31 |

Unhairing systems—O₂ requirement

The large amounts of protein degradation products in the liming effluent are responsible for the high oxygen demand and in conjunction with the lime for the high deposit of primary sludge.

Unfortunately, the economic and substance-retaining, hair-destroying liming systems promote the high oxygen demand. This is clearly shown in the table at the foot of the page.

The conversion of the degree of pollution via the oxygen demand into 'inhabitants equivalent values' (= 54 g O₂-BOD₅/ day) indicates that a hair-saving liming system with less sulphide causes 50%* less pollution of the effluent. The oxygen demand drops even further, if the reducing sulphides are replaced by other hair-loosening substances. Accordingly, the lowest values are found in enzyme unhairing with subsequent treatment in white lime.

According to present knowledge we thus have to reckon with a minimum oxygen demand of about 30 inhabitants equivalent values per 100 kg limed raw



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skin. In practice, however, hair-saving methods are seldom used. They require long floats and a longer processing time and the necessary mechanical unhairing involves additional costs. In comparison to hair-destroying liming, usually a somewhat softer, smoother leather is obtained which, however, has a somewhat stronger tendency to loose grain⁹.

Lately, ^{10, 11, 12} enzyme mixtures have been introduced which can also be used in shorter floats and are less time-consuming. In the process, the hair is attacked to only a slight extent and loosened from the skin by the drumming action. One drawback, however, is that the hair tends to ball up considerably and clog the drain.

Summarizing the facts it can be stated that any possible measure of reducing the biological oxygen demand in standard liming processes will at least partially effect rationalization.

Modern—economic and rapid liming—systems are at present still based on extensive destruction of the hair with the aid of cheap sodium sulphide.

Sulphides, however, are fish toxins. Official regulations call for sulphide concentrations below 2 mg/l in effluents that are discharged into the drain direct. Up to 50 mg/l are occasionally permissible in effluents that are run into biological clarification plants. Conventional residual lime liquors, however, contain 2,000-2,500 mg sulphide per litre. Therefore, they would have to be diluted in a ratio of at least 1 : 50 for discharge into a biological clarification plant. This, however, cannot be done, if water is to be saved. Thus, it will hardly be possi-

ble to avoid präclarification in the leather factory. Proved methods for this purpose are already available—precipitation with iron salts or catalytical oxidation with manganese salts.

On the other hand, transition to processing without sulphide offers itself, e.g., amine liming, liming with oxidative hair destruction or liming based on organic sulphides which oxidize more rapidly with atmospheric oxygen and are no longer toxic in the oxidized form in which they are present in the effluent. No hydrogen sulphide will be formed in this case¹³. Liming based on organic sulphides appears to have advantages over the two first-mentioned methods. Since only a more rapidly acting sulphide is applied, the mechanism of hair destruction and primarily the opening up of the skins remain the same as in conventional systems.

The influence on the composition of the effluent is shown in the table overleaf where 200% residual liquors of liming systems are compared with one another.

The table shows that with corresponding pH values, the sulphide content (determined by the conventional cadmium acetate method) varies largely.

Moreover, the table shows that the values concerning the residue on ignition and the oxygen demand in the effluent of the sulphide-free lime liquor is lower than that in the effluent of the normal lime liquor. This fact is due to the better sedimentation of the suspended matter and of the degradation products.

| Residual lime liquors of 200% by volume each, settled for 2 hrs | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Liming method | 2.5% hydrated lime | 2.5% hydrated lime | |
| | 1.6% organic sulphide | 3.0% sodium sulphide | |
| Duration 16 hrs | | 1.0% sodium sulphide 95% | |
| Content of H_2S mg/l | 40 | 2 900 | |
| pH | 11.8 | 11.7 | |
| Residue on evaporation mg/l | 32 000 | 54 000 | |
| Residue on ignition mg/l | 18 735 | 30 330 | |
| BOD ₅ (Warburg-M.) mgO_2/l | 1 000 | 27 000 | |
| Organically bound Carbon mgC/l | 9 800 | 13 000 | |

Analytical data—sulphide-free and sulphide-containing lime liquors

Oxidative and amine liming systems are seldom used in practice today, because they either cause a too drastic change of the leather handle on account of the fact that the skin is opened up in a different way, or because the relatively large amounts of amine required additionally increase the nitrogen load on the effluent.

Reduction of the protein load on the effluents is a substantially more difficult problem than that of the sulphide load. For this purpose, trials primarily with recycling systems were carried out.

Recycling of Lime Liquors

Investigations have been carried out in Germany, Australia (CSIRO) and France to determine whether or not it is possible to re-use residual lime liquors of hair-destroying liming systems. It has been found that processes of this kind are feasible in principle. For this purpose, the residual liquors are first coarsely filtered and then re-used direct or the insoluble substances are allowed to settle

and the supernatant residual liquor is recycled^{14,15}. Up to 80% of the amount of liquor initially applied can be recovered. Theoretically, it ought to be possible to re-use these liquors continuously, because after 6-10 cycles the ratio of sulphide, lime and protein will remain constant. In practice, however, the liquors have to be drained after 15-20 cycles, because the viscosity of the liquors becomes too high, hair loosening is then unsatisfactory and the opening up of the skin poorer on account of the reduced swelling with increasing numbers of cycles.

With the aid of these systems about 70% of water and, in systems with long floats, 25-30% of chemicals can be saved. In systems with short floats¹⁶, however, the whole amount of chemicals has to be renewed.

The efficiency with regard to the protein load on the effluents is dependent on the number of possible cycles and after a re-use of ten times it lies at 40-50% measured by the resulting volume of



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sludge. An alternative to the above-mentioned recycling systems is additional clarification of the residual liquors in the leather factory.

The simplest way of accomplishing this is by lowering the pH to the isoelectric point of the protein components, i.e. to pH 4.5-5.0. In this way, the nitrogen content can be reduced by 90% and the lime is removed at the same time, if sulphuric acid is used. This alternative method can be carried out in open vessels only if the liquors have been oxidatively desulphurized beforehand or if sulphide-free liming systems are used. With sulphide-containing systems, processing has to be carried out in closed containers and the liberated hydrogen sulphide has to be collected. The purified residual liquors can then be re-used for preparing the lime liquor¹⁷. In this processing method, practically no effluent will result.

A system for precipitating proteins in alkaline medium was introduced by Cooper¹⁸. In this process, anionic and cationic polyelectrolytes are used for precipitating to reduce the chemical oxygen demand by 56% and the proportion of suspended solids by 98%.

In all these processing methods, however, the problem of sludge disposal remains to be solved. The trend of further development is therefore directed towards processes in which more highly concentrated protein-containing sludges are produced that can be further processed into feeds or fertilizers.

Lime-poor or lime-free processes have been suggested for this purpose. According to Franke¹⁹ part of the lime is

replaced by ammonium chloride, whilst Simoncini²⁰ recommends processing without lime and with caustic soda solution and sodium sulphide.

Van Vlimmeren recommends that calcium chloride and magnesium hydroxide be used in the second soaking bath for opening up and to unhair subsequently with the mixture of sodium sulphide and caustic soda solution. From the residual liquors, the protein can be recovered by precipitation in a form that can be further processed. These methods which still remain to be further developed offer the advantages of a hair-saving liming system with regard to reduced effluent pollution and without affecting rationalization requirements.

Deliming and Bating

These operations are dependent on the composition of the liquor used in the preceding liming process. The more sodium sulphide and lime have been introduced into the pelt during liming, the more have to be removed later. The more laboriously the deliming process is carried out, the more neutral salts are brought into the effluent. Thus, deliming is substantially facilitated with regard to the effluent problem by using liming chemicals as sparingly as possible. Since a thorough deliming has to be effected before chrome tannage, there is no advantage with regard to the effluent, when the lime is removed only partially in deliming and when the removal of the remainder is effected in the pickle bath. The deliming agents used nowadays are mainly ammonium salts. Although ammonium salts do not substantially



increase the oxygen demand of the effluent, they do become significant in such cases where effluents without dilution with household waste water have to be clarified, for instance, in a tannery's own clarification plant. The stronger aeration that will then become necessary may oxidize ammonium salts to form nitrites which impair the biology. This caused the recent demand for nitrogen-free deliming agents.

Pickling and Tannage

The pickling and tanning effluents are acid and contain little protein but larger amounts of neutral salts, acids and chromium salts. Particularly the chromium salts are a critical factor in the assessment of the effluents, because the strict requirement imposed on the chromium content of effluents necessitates revision of almost all processing methods.

Since various^{22, 23, 24} authors have proved that biological clarification plants with neutral mixed effluents can tolerate up to 100 mg Cr/l without harmful effects and that fertilizing experiments have shown that no excess chromium accumulation occurs in food circulation^{25, 26} it is positive today that the maximum allowable amounts of 4 mg Cr/l in effluents imposed in Europe and the USA are too strict. According to our knowledge, however, there are no indications that these limits will be changed, so that it will continue to be necessary for the leather factories to work towards obtaining residual liquors with as low a chromium content as possible. In Europe, there are tanneries whose existence depends on the almost complete elimination of chromium in their effluents.

In recent years, a series of processing methods have been suggested which can be roughly divided into the following groups: precipitation of the chrome tanning agent in the residual liquors as chromium hydroxide; direct re-use of residual liquors; improvement of exhaustion by optimizing processing and use of auxiliaries; partial replacement of the chrome tanning agent by other tanning material.

In the first two systems, the chrome-containing liquors have to be collected before they can be re-used. This means that their efficiency with regard to reduction of the chromium oxide content in effluents is dependent on the available facilities rather than on the chemical conditions on which the other two systems are based.

Precipitation of chromium compounds in the residual liquors is one of the most effective measures for eliminating the chrome problem. In order to be able to take advantage of all the possibilities offered by this measure, all chrome-containing residual liquors obtained have to be collected—that is to say, not only the residual liquors from the tanning process, but also the liquors resulting from the draining and samming of the leathers.

The diagram on the facing page shows the schematic representation of a chrome recovery unit²⁷.

Precipitation should preferably be effected with alkalis which form soluble sulphates, i.e., with soda, ammonia, caustic soda solution or magnesium oxide. It is important that a rapidly settling chromium hydroxide is obtained. This is generally accomplished only at a



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IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES OF ILPA :

- Brings together manufacturer & merchant exporters on a common platform.
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- Promotes export of leather & leather products.
- Develops & maintains symbiotic liaison with international trade bodies & Chambers of Commerce.
- Organises trade delegations to international fairs & seminars.
- Organises various Seminars/workshops both the benefit of its members and industry.
- Promotes International Fairs and RBSMs like IILF Kolkata, ILPA Buyer Seller Summit.
- Organises the ILPA SHOW : Leather on the Ramp , one of the most prestigious and sought after Fashion event in Eastern India.
- Closely involved in setting up the Calcutta Leather Complex(CLC).
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ILTA
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RETAIL DISCOUNTS DENTING GST REVENUE, BUSINESS MODEL NEEDS REVIEW : CAIT



CAIT has claimed that e-commerce companies Amazon and Flipkart and others were selling goods much below their market value thus denying the Government of its due legitimate GST revenue.

Traders' body CAIT on Monday urged the government to probe the business model of e-commerce majors like Amazon and Flipkart, alleging that deep discounts on products were causing loss of GST revenue to the Centre and state governments.

In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has claimed that e-commerce companies Amazon and Flipkart and others were selling goods much below their market value thus denying the Government of its due legitimate GST revenue.

CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal has "urged the Finance Minister to institute a probe into this business model which is causing huge GST revenue losses to the government and recover the difference of GST between billed price and market value from the period of implementation of GST". According to the traders' body, under GST Act, the government has a power to determine actual market value of the products if it appears that it is under billed. CAIT has sent similar letters to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and finance ministers of all states.

(Business Standard – 28/10/2019)

ADOPTING NEW WAYS TO BOOST MSME CREDIT

Funding project clusters and taking collective credit guarantees can make a difference. This month, bankers moved to shamiana camps in the districts for mass lending to entrepreneurs in

MSME and retail segments, in keeping with orders from the Ministry of Finance. The MSME entrepreneurs are holding their breath going by their experience with MUDRA and 59Minute Loans!



Bankers of the current generation have no experience in loan melas of the 1980s managed by the then minister of state for finance Janardhana Poojari, who was keen to push the Integrated Rural Development Programme. Floodgates to credit indiscipline were opened at that time. That was followed by loan waivers in the farm sector. That situation can, however, be averted now.

Credit to micro and small enterprises has fallen significantly in the last five years. Can the clock be reversed now? Will the banks be able to quench the MSMEs' demand for debt? Can they offer a bouquet of viable implementable schemes with investments ranging from Rs 5-200 lakh that have potential for growth in the districts where they hold these camps? The answer is 'yes'.

Banks should be aware by now that the clients do not have balance sheets that are amenable to lending. Yet, it is possible to accelerate lending to MSMEs, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Here are some steps that banks should follow:

- Understand the enterprise and environment
- Understand the entrepreneur
- Segment the entrepreneurial traits
- Find out the lifestyle of the entrepreneur
- Use data on entrepreneur and enterprise
- Share among peers
- Differentiate by risk-based lending rates

Cluster approach

Perverse incentives for long have prevented the horizontal growth of MSMEs. Scaling up consequently suffered. A transition from micro to small and small to medium just did not take place, save exceptions. Hence, cluster projects

should be set up. By doing so, there is a reasonable chance of reducing adverse selection. They can select entrepreneurs who have an appetite for projects of small size with forward and backward linkages.

If they set up clusters, they can also cross-hold risks and enable entrepreneurs to get into sustainable ventures from the very first year. They should, however, set up monitoring instruments and get feedback on a continuing basis. Every enterprise shall be set up with a computer and customised low-cost ERP software and the cost of it should be incorporated in the overall project cost.

Since banks do not have adequate manpower, they should plan to take the services of accredited institutions like the Industrial Health Clinics wherever established, or cost accountant and chartered accountant firms that have full knowledge and understanding of the MSMEs.

Start-ups in manufacturing are aspirational and technology savvy compared to the previous generation, and may also carry less risk. Hence, they can be offered loans at low rate of interest compared to older-generation entrepreneurs. If the old generation entrepreneurs have a vision and planned succession, they also can be offered a similar rate of interest. While interest rate has significant impact in production of goods in a competitive market, service sector entrepreneurs will be able to absorb higher interest if they are given credit on time. They recover such costs in the pricing of services.

Most enterprises come with least collateral or inadequate collateral. Banks should pool the assets and take guarantees on a portfolio basis in such situations, with the CGTSME (Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small and Micro Enterprises).

The advantage is that they don't have to proceed legally against any individual failed asset in the portfolio but can still put up their claim once they notice that the asset has turned into an NPA despite their best efforts. This will reduce moral hazard. There is hope even in these adverse times for banking and the economy.

(The Hindu Business Line – 26/10/2019)

NOW OFFICERS TO EXCLUSIVELY HANDLE GST CUSTOMS COMPLAINTS

A nodal officer will be appointed in each CGST and Customs Commissionerate to sort out taxpayer grievances. The move would ensure an escalation point for taxpayers in case their grievances are not addressed at designated level.



In line with Prime Minister's assurance that honest taxpayers would not be harassed and wealth creators would be respected, the indirect tax body - Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has directed to appoint a nodal officer in each CGST and Customs Commissionerate to sort out taxpayer grievances. Industry and tax experts have hailed the decision saying that the move would ensure an escalation point for taxpayers in case their grievances are not addressed at designated level.

"In order to institutionalize the taxpayers' services in the field formations, it is necessary to designate officers who are to act as the nodal officers assigned with the job of taxpayer service," CBIC Chairman P. K. Das has written to senior officers. Accordingly, each CGST and Customs Commissionerate would have a nodal officer in the rank of Joint/Additional Commissioner. These officers would draw up plans for reaching out to the stakeholders in their jurisdictions.

"The Directorate of Taxpayer Service would regularly monitor the work done by the nodal officers who would be extended arm of the CBIC for rendering taxpayer services. "Any move which identifies a certain person as someone who could act as central point for escalation of cases is good move. It is a good move but one has to see how effective it is. In order to ensure that it works, a transparent monitoring mechanism has to be there," said Amit Bhagat, Partner, Dhruva Advisors.

The CBIC Chief in his letter to senior field officers noted that PM Modi had emphasized the urgent need to prioritize taxpayer service. He noted that taxpayers committing minor or procedural violations should not be subjected to disproportionate or excessive action and that wealth creators are respected.

Rajat Mohan, Senior Partner, AMRG & Associates said that taxpayers presently have to chase various officers for resolving issues and hence the move to appoint a nodal officer would be a big relief.

(Economic Times – 25/10/2019)

FURTHER EXTENSION THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR GST ANNUAL RETURN & GST AUDIT



The GST annual return & GST audit report for the first year, which is 2017-18, had to be submitted before December 31, 2018, but saw three extensions - March 31, 2019, June 30, 2019 and finally August 31, 2019. However looking at the recent statistics released by the authorities it is observed that only 15 % of annual returns and less than 1 % of the audit reports have been furnished.

Further tax officials have warned of severe consequences and heavy penalty if same are not filed in time. In the next 10 days it is expected that pending 99 % of the audit reports have to be furnished and balance 85 % of Annual Returns have to be furnished. The last dates normally see an increase in numbers, but is it really feasible to achieve such a drastic number?

One must accept the fact that the said delays are not due to lethargy or non-compliance of the tax payers. There are various clarifications, interpretations and technical issues involved. The clarificatory circulars were issued on 04.06.2019 and 03.07.2019. The said circulars cannot be interpreted in such a short span. The tax payer needs some time to revisit the various stands taken by them before the circulars were issued and its impact on them. Further there are interpretational issues in light of various Writ Petitions and Advance Rulings which need to be considered by the tax payers. Technically the tax payers are facing issues of uploading the documents, json files, versions changing from time to time, digital signatures not being recognized, error reports not being generated. There has to be a proper technical cell to assist the taxpayers to resolve their technical issues.

Even the CAG in its recent report has categorically stated that "One significant area where the full potential of GST (Goods

and Services tax) has not been achieved is the roll out of the simplified tax compliance regime." CAG also said there were deficiencies in the GST system, indicating a "serious lack of coordination between the executive and the developers."

The authorities must appreciate the fact that GST annual returns 9, 9A and 9C for 2017-18 were available online in March, 2019 and offline in April, 2019. The very fact that the status of return filings is low should indicate that the trade and industry is facing genuine problems and hardships in the matter. Most of the trade and consultants have been burning the midnight oil and spending weekends in the office to ensure compliance. Hence, adequate time needs to be given for compiling the details to ensure qualitative filing of information. Submission of improper reports, wrong reconciliations, wrong data etc will render the entire exercise of submission of annual return and GST audit report futile. It will not give the desired results and will also not be helpful to the authorities. There will be unnecessary litigation as due to paucity of time the reports may be qualified and submission of wrong data will lead to unrequired tax liabilities. It may also lead to penal consequences on the trade and consultants for submission of incorrect data.

Besides the above there are various factors which have the taxpayers and professionals on toes for ensuring the said compliance. The due date for filing of income tax returns is also August 31, which clashes with the due date for submission of GST audit reports. The taxpayers are also tied up with uploading 2 monthly returns in GSTR 1 & GSTR 3B for the month of August. The trade is also in the process of reconciliation of ITC claimed with GSTR 2A and following up with vendors for the differences for year ended March 2019. Many taxpayers are also in the phase of upgrading their systems to bring it in line with the new return forms to be introduced from October 2019. Last but not the least there have been floods in various parts of India in the months of July and August 2019. This has led to large scale destruction of documents and records.

Various professional associations have already represented before the authorities to extend the due dates for the same. The present government has always listened and reacted to the issues and problems of the trade immediately. Considering the numerous problems and issues faced by the trade and professionals, it is the need of the hour to postpone the due date for filing Annual Returns and GST Audit Reports for the fiscal year ended March 2018 to November 30, 2019 and for year ended March 2019 to March 31, 2020. Further as most of the taxpayers have already discharged their GST liabilities for

year ended March 2018 and 2019, postponing the due dates for annual return & GST audit will not impact the revenue of the government.

(Economic Times – 30/08/2019)

INDIA'S FISCAL DEFICIT HITS 92.6% OF BUDGET ESTIMATE AT RS. 6.52 LAKH CRORE IN APR – SEP' 2019



India's fiscal deficit touched nearly 93 per cent of the budget estimate at Rs 6.52 lakh crore during April-September period of the current financial year, according to latest government data.

The deficit stood at 95.3 per cent of the 2018-19 budget estimate (BE) in the same month last year, as per the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Thursday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit, the gap between expenditure and revenue, stood at Rs 6,51,554 crore as on September 30, 2019.

The government had kept the fiscal deficit target for the current financial year at Rs 7.03 lakh crore, which is equivalent to 3.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

In a bid to boost economic growth from its 5 per cent level in the April-June quarter, the government has let go of revenues to the tune of Rs 1.45 lakh crore by announcing cuts in corporate tax in September.

During April-September period, total spending stood at Rs 14.89 lakh crore while the total receipts were at Rs 8.37 lakh crore.

While net tax receipts were Rs 6.07 lakh crore, the non-tax revenue stood at Rs 2.09 lakh crore for the same period, the data showed. The revenue deficit was at Rs 4.85 lakh crore.

The government has pegged its total expenditure for the financial year 2019-20 at Rs 27.86 lakh crore, while the revenue receipts have been kept at Rs 19.62 lakh crore.

As per CGA data, revenue receipts during the April-September 2019-20 period rose to 41.6 per cent of the BE compared to 40.1 per cent in the corresponding period last year. The capital expenditure stood at 55.5 per cent of the BE as against 54.2 per cent in the year-ago period, the data showed.

According to CGA, its data was impacted by temporal mismatch between flow of non-debt receipts and expenditure up to that month on account of various transitional factors both on receipt and expenditure side, which may get substantially offset by the end of the financial year.

(Business Today – 31/10/2019)

CORE SECTOR OUTPUT SHRINKS 5.2% IN SEPTEMBER INDICATING SEVERITY OF SLOWDOWN



Output of eight core infrastructure industries contracted by 5.2 per cent in September, the lowest in the decade, indicating the severity of economic slowdown.

As many as seven of eight core industries saw a contraction in output in September. Coal production fell steeply by 20.5 per cent, crude oil by 5.4 per cent, and natural gas by 4.9 per cent. Refinery products (-6.7 per cent), cement (-2.1 per cent), steel (-0.3 per cent), and electricity (-3.7 per cent) output too declined.

The only infrastructure segment to post growth in September was fertilizers where production increased by 5.4 per cent year-on-year.

The eight core sectors had expanded by 4.3 per cent in September 2018, according to official data released on Thursday.

During the April-September period, the growth of core industries fell to 1.3 per cent against 5.5 per cent in the year-ago period.

Commenting on the data, India Ratings and Research, said that such low growth in core sector industries has not been witnessed so far in either 2011-12 base or 2004-05 base series.

"This clearly indicates the severity of the ongoing industrial slowdown," it said adding even on a cumulative basis, the performance is "dismal".

ICRA expects the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to report a contraction of 2.5-3.5 per cent in September.

"In particular, the YoY decline in the output of coal, crude oil and natural gas, is likely to weigh upon the performance of the mining index of the IIP in September. Moreover, manufacturing may report a YoY contraction in September," it added.

Earlier this month, the RBI revised downwards its GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.1 per cent from the previous estimate of 6.9 per cent after the first-quarter economic growth slipped to over six-year lowest of 5 per cent.

(India Today – 31/10/2019)

INDIA LOSES EXPORT INCENTIVE CASE FILED BY US AT WTO



India has lost a case filed by the US at the WTO against domestic export incentives as the dispute settlement panel on Thursday concluded that these schemes are inconsistent with the international trade norms. With this ruling, India will have to re-work these incentive schemes to comply with the WTO ruling. However, it can file appeal against the ruling at the appellate body of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism. On March 14 last year, the US had dragged India to the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism over New Delhi's export incentive schemes, including Merchandise Exports from India Scheme

(MEIS); Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme; and duty free imports scheme.

The US had alleged that these schemes were harming American companies. The dispute panel in its report has concluded that most of these schemes like EOU, Electronics Hardware Technology Parks Scheme; EPCG, and MEIS are inconsistent with certain provisions of WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

The dispute panel recommended that India should withdraw the prohibited subsidies under DFIS within 90 days from adoption of the report. It should also withdraw the prohibited subsidies under the EOU/EHTP/BTP schemes, EPCG, and MEIS, within 120 days and SEZ scheme within 180 days.

The exemptions from customs duties on importation under the EOU/EHTP/BTP (Bio-Technology Parks) schemes are subsidies contingent upon export performance inconsistent with certain articles of the agreement, the ruling said. "The duty credit scrips awarded under MEIS are subsidies contingent upon export performance, inconsistent with Articles 3.1(a) and 3.2 of the SCM Agreement," it added.

According to the procedure established by the WTO, the first step to resolve a trade dispute is engaging for consultation process. If two trading partners having dispute could not resolve at that level, one of them can ask for settlement of dispute panel for hearing. The panel's report or ruling can be challenged at the appellate body.

(Financial Express – 30/10/2019)

INDIA'S GROWTH IS IN BERELY POSITIVE TERRITORY : US THINK TANK



India's growth is in barely positive territory, a top American think tank has said, noting that several key indicators are not just slowing down, but in absolute decline.

In a study, two scholars from the Centre for Global Development (CGD) examined new data and found further evidence that India's growth statistics may be worse than reported, and that IMF forecasts may have the same issues.

"Several key indicators are not just slowing, but in absolute decline, including non-oil imports (-6.6 per cent in current dollars), non-oil exports (-1.6 percent in current dollars), and the index of production of capital and infrastructure goods (-3.5 per cent up to August 2019)," CGD scholars Julian Duggan and Justin Sandefur said.

Other indicators show positive growth, but far below the 6 per cent benchmark that the World Bank and IMF project for the economy as a whole: the aggregate index of industrial production is up just 2.5 percent, the index of manufacturing output up just 2.1 percent, and receipts from the goods and services tax are up just 1.6 percent in real terms, they wrote.

"Growth in toothpaste sales is slowing, car sales have declined for 11 consecutive months, and reports suggested declines in underwear sales," CGD scholars said. With trade volumes shrinking and indicators of real economic activity slowing to a

crawl, it might be time for the IMF and World Bank to ask some harder questions, they said.

"India no longer relies on the Bretton Woods institutions for any meaningful share of its financing needs, but if these DC institutions have one thing to offer Delhi, it should be an impartial, technically sound perspective on economic reality," they asserted. "That reality suggests that Indian growth is in barely positive territory, while the IMF-World Bank forecasters appear too timid to tell the emperor he has no clothes—not to mention cars, toothpaste, or underwear," they said.

As against India's real growth rate of 6.8 per cent in 2018, the IMF in its latest World Economic Outlook released this month, projected the country's growth rate at 6.1 per cent for 2019 and noted that the Indian economy is expected to pick up at 7 per cent in 2020. Speaking at the annual meeting of the IMF this month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India has taken diverse policy levers as part of Modi government's series of reforms to address the challenges being posed by slowdown in country's growth.

She said India is committed to have a sound macro-economic environment conducive to fuel growth and ensure inclusive development.

(Economic Times – 31/10/2019)

Read and Let Read :-

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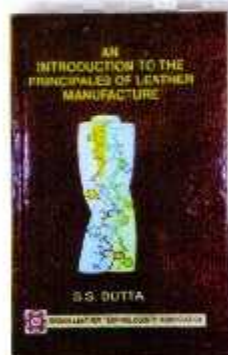
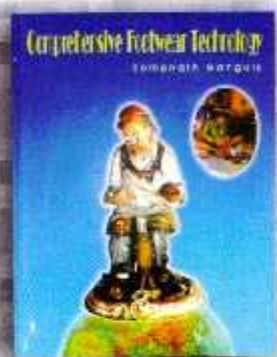
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History and Activities of Indian Leather Technologists' Association

The Indian Leather Technologists' Association (ILTA) was founded by Late Prof. B. M. Das, the originator of Das-Etkinay 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 20th 0, 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 skill development 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 affected of Nepal on 18th 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 first time the IULTCS Congress was organized in January 1999 outside the developed countries in India jointly by ILTA and CLRI.
- ♦ 21st 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 & Symposiums 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 San Memorial Lecture on 14th January every year the birthday of our late President for several decades.
- ♦ Prof. M. B. Banerjee Memorial Lecture on 15th March every year, the birthday of his Konik personality.
- ♦ Seminar on the occasion of India International Leather Fair (IILF) at Chennai in February every year.

It has also organized:

- ♦ Prof. Y. Nagatsuma 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 educators 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 Tanning of Leather by Prof. S. S. Datta
- ♦ Practical Aspects of Manufacture of Upper Leather by J. M. Day
- ♦ An Introduction to the Principles of Leather Manufacture by Prof. S. S. Datta
- ♦ Analytical Chemistry of Leather Manufacture by P. K. Sarkar
- ♦ Comprehensive Footwear Technology by Mr. Somnath Ganguly
- ♦ Treatise on Finishing and Polishing of Leather by Dr. Samir Dasgupta
- ♦ Synthetic Tanning Agents by Dr. Samir Dasgupta
- ♦ Text Book of Tanning by Prof. B. M. Das

ILTA has a good Library & Archive another with a new important Books, Periodicals, Journals etc.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

- ♦ ILTA awards Prof. B. M. Das Memorial, Sanjoy San Memorial, J. M. Day Memorial and M. B. Banerjee Memorial Medals to the top rankers at the University / Technical Institute graduate and post graduate levels to encourage the brilliant 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).

LEXPDI

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 LEXPDI fairs at Kolkata from 1977, Siliguri from 1992 and Durgapur from 2010. To help the tiny, cottage and small-scale sectors industries in marketing, LEXPDI fairs give the exposure for their products. Apart from Kolkata, Siliguri & Durgapur, ILTA has organized LEXPDI at Shubanshwar, 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, 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.



68 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE INTERNATIONAL LEATHER FRATERNITY



ILTA
Since 1950

Indian Leather Technologists' Association

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

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

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