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Vol.60

July - 2026

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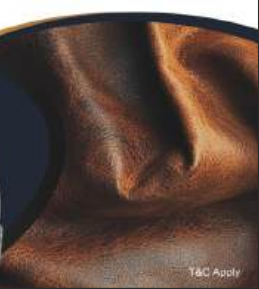
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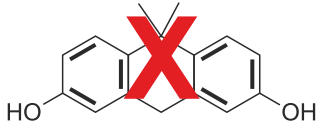
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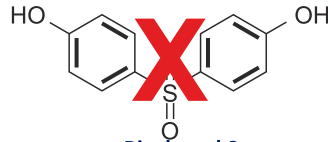
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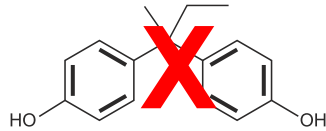
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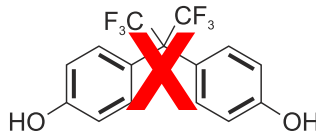
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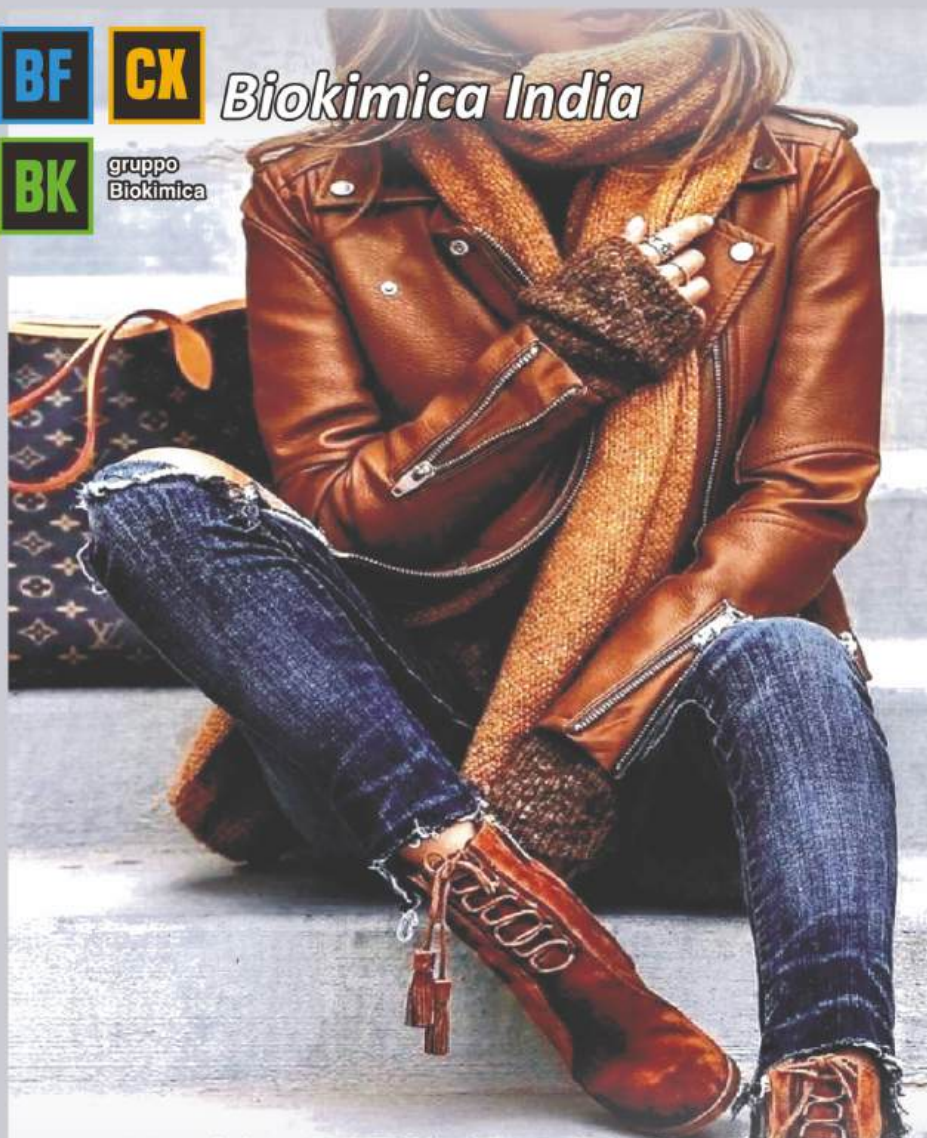
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For advertisement tariff and other details please contact:

INDIAN LEATHER, 120 Vepery High Road, Chennai-600 003.

Phone: +91 - 44 - 28343685, Cell: 9444412685

Website: www.indianleathermagazine.com

Email: indianleather@yahoo.com

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The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) has officially come into force on 15th July, 2026. The historic trade pact grants zero-duty access to roughly 99% of the Indian exports to the U.K., while India has provided phased tariff concessions on 89.5% of its tariff lines for goods. The deal significantly deepens bilateral trade by expanding market access, boosting services, investment and professional mobility while safeguarding India's sensitive domestic sectors; no duty concessions has been granted to the U K on items like, dairy, agriculture, millets, apples, edible oils, oats and vegetables. The India-UK CETA is poised to deliver significant gains across key sectors of the Indian economy through enhanced market access, tariff concessions and improved trade facilitation.

The value of India's exports of leather, leather products and footwear to the U K in 2024 was US\$ 494 million. The CETA opens access to the U.K's US\$ 8.9 billion leather and footwear market, offering growth opportunities for the Indian exporters. India's global exports valued at US\$ 5.6 billion, have a pathway to expand market presence, strengthen competitiveness in the U K market. The key provisions under CETA include duty free market access for footwear exports to the U K. Leather footwear with rubber/plastic soles leather shoes with rubber/plastic soles, textiles sports/casual footwear, safety shoes with metal toe caps, handbags, purses are expected to benefit.

This FTA will further strengthen India's competitiveness against countries like, Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Turkey and Bangladesh in the U K. This is expected to encourage production and stimulate exports while supporting job creation in rural and semi-urban areas.

The Free Trade Agreements recently finalised by India, with U K and other countries, will undoubtedly create significant opportunities for the leather sector helping boost exports to US\$ 14 billion by 2030.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay lays foundation for Rs 850-crore footwear unit expansion in Karur

Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay via videoconferencing on the 10th July laid the foundation for the second phase of expansion of Evervan Kothari Footwear Private Limited's Non-Leather Footwear manufacturing plant in the Karur district.

The project, which will manufacture footwear for Adidas, entails an investment of Rs 850 crore and is expected to generate employment for 6,750 people.

The foundation stone for the facility in the firm's Mayanur campus was laid during a function organised by the industries department at the district collectorate. Upon completion, the facility is expected to manufacture approximately 40 million pairs of Adidas footwear annually for both domestic and export markets.

Evervan Kothari Footwear Private Limited is a joint venture of the Kothari Group and the Taiwan-based Evervan Group. The company had already established non-leather footwear manufacturing units in Karur and Perambalur, districts an official release stated.

The investment in Karur spans across two phases with an overall investment of Rs 1,700 crore and employment of 13,500 jobs. In addition to the original 30.05-acre parcel, the company has acquired an additional three acres, which will also form an integral part of the manufacturing complex.

The project would strengthen TN's position as a global footwear manufacturing hub while boosting industrial growth and employment, the release added.

(The New Indian Express)

12 Years of Transformative Growth: Leather, Footwear and Accessories Sector Emerges as a Premier Driver of Employment and Exports

Driving India's domestic capabilities under the vision of 'Vocal for Local' and 'Local to Global,' the Department of Commerce hosted a high-level stakeholder interaction in Chennai to advance the Leather, Footwear, and Accessories sector. Over the past twelve years, India's total exports nearly doubled, climbing from USD 468 billion in FY 2014-15 to an all-time high of USD 863.1 billion in FY 2025-26, comprising USD 442 billion in merchandise and USD 421 billion in services. Within this trajectory, leather and footwear exports reached USD 4.75 billion, heavily driven by value-added footwear and leather goods. Tamil Nadu stands out as the premier exporting state, accounting for USD 1.59 billion or nearly 37 percent of India's sector exports, with women constituting over 40 percent of its regional workforce.

Backed by Chennai's strong manufacturing ecosystem and the presence of top foreign contract manufacturers, the industry is targeting a USD 50 billion production valuation by 2030, consisting of USD 36 billion in domestic consumption and USD 14 billion in exports, growing at an estimated 24.13 percent CAGR over the next five years. This labor-intensive sector currently provides employment to 4.42 million people and is perfectly positioned to leverage zero-duty market access from recent Free Trade Agreements with partners like the UAE, Oman, Australia, EFTA countries, the UK, European Union, and New Zealand.

Industry leaders strongly commended central support schemes, including the Export Promotion, Advanced Authorization, and Interest Equalization Schemes, alongside ECGC insurance, which collectively foster MSME integration and brand promotion. Field visits to Cheyyar SEZ and collaborative meetings with Tamil Nadu's Additional Chief Secretary, Shri S Vijaykumar, further underscored the combined commitment to realizing the national Viksit Bharat Vision 2047.

(PTI)



Back to School Column

Dr N K Chandra Babu

babunkc@yahoo.com

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT IN TANNERIES

(contd. from June issue)

PICKLED PELT STORE, WET BLUE STORE

PICKLED PELTS

Pickled pelts must be stored in piles, which are not too high, in order to prevent the formation and fixation of fold marks and crease marks which are very difficult to remove during the subsequent processes.

Storing of the pickled pelts, which have been treated to a very strong-very low pH pickle with high quantities of mineral acids and salt will be prone to the risk of acid hydrolysis on prolonged storage which will result in very thin leathers with poor substance and very poor strength properties. Pickled pelts must be covered properly to prevent them drying up.

WET BLUES

- Wet blues must be treated with a suitable fungicide to eliminate any fungal growth
- Wet blues must be kept wet by spraying or sprinkling water periodically once in a day or two
- If the wet blues dry up, they become hard to wet back leading to loose, hard spots wherever the drying up has been severe / strong.
- Wet blues must be piled properly without any folds to prevent the formation of fold marks which are very difficult to remove in the subsequent processing.
- To facilitate quick issues, the wet blues must be sorted out into different grades and sizes and piled separately.

4 CHEMICALS – PURCHASE & INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

CHEMICALS - STORAGE, STOCKS, ORDERING, ISSUES & INVENTORY CONTROL

Chemicals constitute the second major material input to the tanneries. They can be classified into groups based on the areas of usage; Beam house, tanning, dye house and finishing.

STORAGE & MATERIAL HANDLING

F.I.F.O.

- They must be stored in a safe manner with suitable identification to enable the practice of F.I.F.O - system (first – in, first – out).
- The containers / packages can be marked with different coloured “permanent markers ” to facilitate the easy identification of the “receipt sequence numbers” and corresponding sequential issue.
- Some of the powder products, syntans, vegetable tanning extracts which are very “hygroscopic ” in nature will absorb moisture from the air and form “lumps” and in some cases solidify when stored for a long time.
- Some of the liquid products - especially fatliquors - may tend to separate into different layers.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- Chemicals must be segregated suitably into the following categories and stored separately.
- Non hazardous powders / liquids / pastes
- Hazardous powders / liquids / pastes
- Flammable products / solvents
- The containers must display the safety / hazard labels prominently.

M. S. D. S.

- Material safety data sheets (M.S.D.S) issued by the manufacturers must be collected for all the products and displayed prominently in the relevant storage locations.
- The purchase department must request the manufacturers by e-mail for the M.S.D.S.
- Storage locations for liquid products must be provided with arrangements for containing spillages.
- Written instructions in local language about spillage containing emergency procedures must be displayed prominently at the relevant locations.

RECEIPTS, STOCKS & ISSUES

ISSUES

- Chemicals must be issued only against authorised requisition slips featuring the details of orders against which the chemicals are requisitioned.
- Ideally, the requisition document should be a computer generated approved standardised process recipe with percentage values as declared in the authorised and approved bill of materials.
- The calculations of the quantities are best carried out in an excel spread sheet rather than carrying the calculations manually using a pocket calculator and writing down the values, in order to save time and eliminate any error.

STOCK STATEMENTS

- Stock details must be updated every day on virtual basis
- Once in a month a statement giving details of quantities issued during the month and the month end stocks must be generated, preferably using a computer in "excel spreadsheet" and circulated to the production manager, heads of production departments, purchase department and the chief executive.

MONTHLY ISSUES

- Monthly statements of (1) quantities issued and (2) values of materials issued, arranged in descending order and giving the cumulative values and cumulative percentages must be generated and circulated to the purchase manager and the chief executive to enable them to define the criteria for A / B / C products.
- A / B / C classification
- A/B/C classification reflects the " Pareto principle"- 80 / 20 principle
- 20 % of the products contribute to 80 % of the value and consumption
- Classification – A category products merit a close scrutiny with regard to negotiating for cheaper prices, higher discounts, delivery schedules, stock levels, ordering frequency, order sizes etc.
- A / B / C classification may also be done on the basis of product prices

PURCHASE & ORDER - PLANNING AND SCHEDULING

The purchase department must plan and coordinate the orders and despatches and delivery schedules to ensure the following objectives are met / fulfilled.

A STOCK-OUT MUST BE AVOIDED

Stock-outs delay the production and delivery of customer orders and in addition reduce the capacity utilisation of the production plant.

The required chemicals must be delivered well ahead of the required dates.

OVER-STOCKING MUST BE AVOIDED

Over-stocking block up precious capital and lead to a reduction in the profits.

The required chemicals must not be delivered too far ahead of the required dates. In some situations, the lead time in getting the

chemicals, especially the imported specialty chemicals/auxiliaries must be taken into account.

IN- PUT DATA REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE PLANNING OF CHEMICAL PURCHASES

Purchase department must have access to the following information and data

- (1) Stocks available
- (2) average monthly consumption – 3 months average
- (3) Production plan
- (4) Bills of materials for different articles for which orders are received / expected

Based on the above information and the following data available with them the purchase department will obtain price quotations / Performa invoices, negotiate for prices and payment terms and confirm orders and despatch / shipment schedules.

- (1) Stocks ordered and in transit
- (2) Expected dates of delivery of the stocks ordered and in transit
- (3) Supply lead time – time in months / weeks from the date of order placement to the date of expected delivery at the factory
- (4) Safety –“lead time” stocks
- (5) Availability of emergency safety stocks with the indenting agents / stockists of the manufacturers / suppliers
- (6) Reorder level - the stock level at which an order will be placed.

RSL TESTING GUARANTEES, REACH COMPLIANCE GUARANTEES, MSDS DOCUMENTS

- Restricted substances are the substances that are not permitted in leathers above a certain designated level.
- The permissible levels set may be determined either by legislation or by the customers.

- All the chemicals used by the tannery have to be assessed or verified for their compliance with the stipulated “restricted substances list” limits.

RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST

The current list of restricted substances in many important importing countries is given below.

1. PCP - penta chloro phenol
2. Chromium 6
3. Forbidden amines - azo dyes
4. Free formaldehyde
5. APEO/NPEO - alkyl phenol ethoxylates / nonyl phenol ethoxylates
6. Mercury
7. Lead
8. Cadmium
9. Organo tin compounds
10. DMF - dimethyl fumarate
11. Short chain chlorinated paraffins - C10 –C13
12. Chloro alkenes
13. PCB-poly chlorinated biphenyls
14. Dioxins
15. Furans
16. Pthalates
17. Carcinogenic dyes
18. Pesticides
19. Disperse dyes

This list is expanded periodically and the customers demand compliance testing. Documentation from the manufacturers certifying that the materials supplied by them conform to the specifications has to be obtained and recorded.

The purchase department must forward a written request / demand to the chemical manufacturers to furnish written guarantees with regard to

- (1) RSL testing compliance (restricted substances list)
- (2) Reach compliance
- (3) Provide detailed MSDS

Guarantees furnished by indenting agents / stockists / dealers / importers will not fulfil the compliance requirements stipulated by the customers.

Whenever any chemical in the process is substituted by an alternative product, the change has to be documented and the relevant leather range is subjected to renewed restricted substances testing.

NON – MOVING & SLOW MOVING CHEMICALS

- The stores must submit the following lists to the purchase department and the chief executive.
- Non-moving chemicals – chemicals which have not been issued in 3 months
- Slow moving chemicals – chemicals whose stocks have been issued only upto a level of 5 % or less, of the stocks.

SHELF LIFE / EXPIRY DATES

- The manufacturers declare the “shelf – life” of their products under normal practical storage conditions.
- When a product has not been used within the shelf-life, there is a strong possibility that the performance properties of the product might have changed due to changes in the product characters caused by the long storage period.
- The use of products which have crossed their shelf-life periods may lead to drastic, unexpected variations in the properties of the leathers made using these products, leading to rejections which may lead to a cash loss apart from creating delays in the delivery of leathers to customers.

- The manufacturers of chemicals do not and will not accept the responsibility to compensate the tannery for any losses arising due to the use of their products which have crossed their declared "shelf-life" periods.
- ***It is a potential risk for the tannery to use products which have crossed the shelf-life periods. Ideally, they must avoid this risk.***
- The tannery must ask the manufacturers to confirm the "shelf-life " and "expiry dates" of the products purchased.

PURCHASE DEPARTMENT

- The purchase department will try out the following options to clear the non moving and slow moving stocks.
- Return the stocks to the suppliers in exchange for other products which are required for production
- Exchange the products with other tanneries if possible and collect products which are required
- Return the products to the suppliers and collect a credit note for the value of the products returned

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

- The production department will carry out trials to use these chemicals in the least critical articles and ensure the results are acceptable.
- After confirming the consistency of the results by repeated trials, the production department must inform the chief executive and start using the products and support the company in utilising the non-moving and slow moving stocks.

FUTURE ORDERING

The purchase department must scrutinise and verify any future requests from the production department for the purchase of any chemical which has been featured in either the non-moving chemicals list or in the slow moving chemical list in order to ensure that the

products will be utilised without finding their way into the non-moving or slow moving lists.

VENDOR SELECTION

The top management in consultation with the production department and the purchase department must select the preferred list of vendors.

The criteria for the selection of the vendors are

- (1) ISO / QMS / EMS certification of the organisation
- (2) Compliance of their products with R.S.L. testing requirements
- (3) Reach compliance
- (4) Availability of M.S.D.S.
- (5) Availability of product technical literature leaflets
- (6) Efficient and effective technical service support
- (7) Technical information back up about up to date processing technologies
- (8) Ready availability of emergency stock back up in Ethiopia
- (9) Competitive prices
- (10) Minimum despatch lead times
- (11) Availability of F.O.C (free of cost) samples
- (12) Wide range of products - beam house, tan yard, dye house, finishing yard

The tanneries must try to prune the list of chemical suppliers to restrict the number of suppliers to the minimum number.

NUMBER OF CHEMICALS IN STOCK

- The tanneries must make a conscious attempt to reduce the number of chemicals in stock to the minimum.
- The first step is to classify and identify the types of products required.
- The next step is to identify two products in each category / classification as the first choice and the next best alternative.

- The technical personnel have the major role to play in this responsibility.
- If systematic control is not exercised in this regard, it will lead to the purchase and consequent stock -pile -up of many products for the same or similar use making the list of chemicals very large.
- In extreme cases some of these products may not be used for a very long period, exceeding the shelf-life of the products, thus becoming "condemned" products which cannot be used.

CLASSIFICATION OF CHEMICALS

Some of the classified major product groups are:

1. Basic bulk chemicals - acids, alkalis, salts, solvents
2. Mineral tanning agents – basic chromium sulphate, basic aluminium sulphate
3. Vegetable tanning agents – mimosa, quebracho, chestnut, gambier, tara, myrabolan
4. Special tanning agents – aldehydes, T.H.P.S
5. Bactericides
6. Fungicides
7. Surface active agents
8. Degreasing agents
9. Fat liquors – synthetic, fish oil, vegetable oil, lanolin, lecithin, neatsfoot oil, mineral oil

Each of these groups can be classified into the following sub – groups based on the chemical treatment used in the manufacture of the fat-liquors.

Sulpho chlorinated, esterified, phosphorylated, phosphonated, sulphated, sulphonated, bisulphited, sulphited, raw/untreated

10. Synthetic tanning agents – pretanning, bleaching, replacement, whitening replacement, shrinking, filling

Each of these groups can be classified into the following sub- groups based on the chemicals used in the synthesis and the chemistry of the products.

Naphthalenic, phenolic, cresylic condensates, melamine, dicyandiamide condensates, acrylic polymers, styrene maleic condensates, polyurethane polymers

11. Inert fillers – protein hydrolysates, polysaccharides, inorganic

12. Dye stuffs

Anionic dyes – acid / 1:1 metal complex / 1:2 metal complex

cationic dyes – basic dyes

13. Dyeing auxiliaries - anionic / cationic

14. Pigments – inorganic / organic / metallic/pearlised pigments – anionic /cationic

15. Dye solutions – anionic / cationic

16. Binders - anionic / cationic

17. Binders – protein / acrylic /polyurethane/polyamide

18. Waxes

19. Lacquers – nitro cellulose / poly urethane lacquers – solvent dilutable / emulsions

20. Impregnating resins

21. Top coats - protein / acrylic / poly urethane

21. Feel modifiers

22. Shower proofing agents

STOCK, PURCHASE AND INVENTORY MANAGEMENT

1. List out the chemicals required for processing

2. Group the chemicals - sectionwise – beam house & tanyard, dye house, finishing

3. Classify the products in individual groups into product types with similar use characteristics - to identify similar products for consideration during the range optimization.

4. Record standard approved bills of materials for different articles.
5. Document the details of - suppliers – MSDS – standard pack sizes – storage requirements – monthly consumption – order processing and supply lead times, minimum safety stock levels, reorder stock levels, shelf life.
6. Calculate the schedule of weekly / monthly requirements based on the orders on hand and anticipated orders – based on standard bills of materials.
7. Review stocks on hand and in transit against requirements forecast.
8. Calculate product-wise quantities to be ordered.
9. Plan, freeze order schedules and despatch schedules from suppliers.
10. Inform the production manager about the products not in stock / not available
11. Inform the production manager about the expected delivery dates of products currently not in stock.
12. Carry out a / b / c - analysis in terms of (1) quantities issued / month (2) value of issues / month
13. Identify the slow moving chemicals
14. Identify the non-moving chemicals
15. Initiate negotiations with suppliers to take back the non-moving stocks and replace them with products required.
16. Initiate negotiations with other tanneries to take the non-moving stocks and exchange with required products.
17. Prepare reconciliation statements of quantities issued and the actual physical reduction in stocks – to highlight handling wastage.
18. Prepare a statement showing - stocks on hand, stocks in transit, value of stocks both on hand and in transit - materials ordered but not despatched with value of these materials.

(To be continued)

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IN THE LAST
DECADE, SLOW
FOOTWEAR
PRODUCTION
GROWTH
CONTRASTS WITH
THE GLOBAL
POPULATION BOOM



DESPITE LOSING
SHARE, CHINA
STILL ACCOUNTS
FOR 54.3% OF
GLOBAL FOOTWEAR
PRODUCTION



THE AVERAGE
WORLDWIDE
EXPORT PRICE
FOR FOOTWEAR
DECLINED IN 2024
AFTER YEARS OF
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New No. 106, Old No. 120, Vepery High Road,
Periamet, Chennai - 600 003, India
Ph: 91-44-28343685; Mobile: 9444412685
Email: indianleather@yahoo.com;

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Tenth Anniversary



S.DHINAKARAN

Associate Editor
Indian Leather
on 23.07.2016

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Family Members & Friends



34TH INT'L EXHIBITION ON SHOES AND LEATHER INDUSTRY - GUANGZHOU

SHOES & LEATHER GUANGZHOU 2026 CLOSED SUCCESSFULLY

The 34th International Exhibition on Shoes and Leather Industry - Guangzhou (Shoes & Leather - Guangzhou) incorporating International Footwear Exhibition (IFLE) - Guangzhou, organised by Top Repute Co. Ltd., held from 20-22 May 2026 at the China Import and Export Fair Complex, Hall 17.1-20.1, Area D, closed with successful results. The event showcased the full footwear and leather supply chain, highlighting latest trends, materials, technologies, and equipment, while creating strong business opportunities across South China and Asia.

EXHIBITOR ANALYSIS

This edition successfully hosted 468 exhibitors from 17 countries and regions, covering 36,712 square meters of exhibition space. Exhibitors spanned the entire industry chain, bringing together leading global equipment manufacturers and diverse footwear material suppliers, including 3D printing systems, intelligent shoemaking solutions, digital cutting machines, functional materials, leather, chemicals, and eco-friendly adhesives.



The Shoes & Leather - Guangzhou welcomed 11,245 professional visitors from 73 countries and regions, highlighting its global reach and industry significance. With dedicated exhibition halls for machinery, leather, chemical and shoe materials, the exhibition showcased a wide variety of products, ensuring an engaging and comprehensive experience for both exhibitors and visitors.

CONCURRENT EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL FOOTWEAR DESIGN COMPETITION (IFDC)

The 15th International Footwear Design Competition (IFDC), organized by the Confederation of International Footwear Conference (CIFA), sponsored and co-organized by Top Repute Co. Ltd., continued its mission of fostering innovation and collaboration in the footwear industry. Since its inception in 2008, the competition has showcased multinational designers' creative concepts while providing young designers with valuable opportunities to connect with manufacturers.

The event emphasized the significance of original product design, high-quality craftsmanship, and brand identity development. This year, it attracted 143 entries from 9 countries and regions, including China, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan (China), Thailand, and Vietnam. The winning designs were announced and awarded at the Opening Dinner Banquet, followed by an exhibition display throughout the event.

The competition was judged by a distinguished panel of 10 industry experts, including renowned designers, trend specialists, consultants and association representatives, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of creativity and technical excellence.

SEMINARS

Industry experts shared insights on the latest technologies and

design trends in the footwear and leather sectors, with key topics including Modeurop Colours Spring/Summer 2027, A Perfect Match Between Eastern Philosophy and Footwear & Bag Design - Unlimited Possibilities, ZDHC Footwear Engagement 2026, and How to assess comfort of footwear, helping exhibitors and buyers capture market opportunities.

Themes of Seminars:

- “A Perfect Match Between Eastern Philosophy and Footwear & Bag Design—Unlimited Possibilities” by Mr. Wang Ping, Italian International Gold Award Designer
- “Modeurop Colours Spring/ Summer 2027” by Dr. Claudia SCHULZ, press spokesperson and PR expert of HDS/L – The Federal Association of the German Footwear and Leather Goods Industry and Trend Expert from Modeurop
- “ZDHC Footwear Engagement 2026” by Dr. Andy Chen, ZDHC Footwear Engagement Director
- “How to assess comfort of footwear?” by Ms. Lily Li, SATRA China Lab Manager and Mr. Langton Lan, SATRA China Lab Supervisor

DESIGN WALK

DESIGN WALK is a non-profit initiative supported by leading shoe manufacturers, industry federations and international footwear associations. The platform serves as a dynamic space for showcasing fashionable footwear, leather goods and accessories, aiming to inspire creativity and innovation within the industry. By highlighting new design concepts and fresh ideas, DESIGN WALK fosters a positive influence on trends, craftsmanship and brand development.



13th Asian International Conference on Leather Science and Technology (AICLST 2026)

(Contd., from June 2026 issue)

Technical Session – I (12:00 PM – 02:00 PM)

Livestock Analysis & Quality Appropriation (TL) and AI & Productivity (TA)

Chair: Dr. P. Thanikaivelan, Director, CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai

Co-Chair: Mr. R. M. Uthayaraja, Director (MB), Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., Chennai

Technical Session – I was chaired by **Dr. P. Thanikaivelan, Director, CSIR-CLRI, Chennai**, and **Mr. R. M. Uthayaraja, Director (MB), Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., Chennai**. Prior to the commencement of the session, both dignitaries were welcomed to the dais and presented with mementoes by **Mr. Asit Baran Kanungo, Vice President, ILTA and Coordinator, AICLST Working Committee.**

The session focused on two important themes: **Livestock Analysis & Quality Appropriation (TL)** and **AI & Productivity (TA).**



Left: Mr. R. M. Uthayaraja,
Right: Dr. P. Thanikaivelan,
Co-chair and Chair of Technical Session-I

The **Livestock Analysis & Quality Appropriation** theme covered a wide range of subjects including livestock population dynamics through cluster creation and rural skill-based entrepreneurship, animal husbandry systems and disease control measures, genetic improvement strategies for enhancing skin quality, quality control measures from farm to tannery, transmission of bacteria and viruses through hides and skins, slaughter and preservation practices for hygienic and effective outputs, traceability and quality labelling through digital and AI initiatives, and the role of animal husbandry in reducing carbon footprint while improving livestock health and skin quality.

The **AI & Productivity** theme focused on the growing application of Artificial Intelligence in leather and leather product manufacturing. Discussions included machine learning inputs for quality grading and



sorting, process monitoring and control, predictive maintenance, AI-powered ERP systems, AI-driven sustainability initiatives, fashion and design forecasting, and data-driven decision-making across all stages of leather production and product development.

The session featured the following presentations:

1. **Keynote Address by Dr. Arnab Sen** – *One Health Approaches and the Impact of Transboundary Diseases in Livestock Productivity*
2. **Dr. Manoranjan Roy** – *Exploring Genetic Potential of Indian Goats for Superior Skin Quality*

3. **Dr. Suman Biswas** – *Indigenous Indian Cattle and Buffalo Breeds as a Resource for Sustainable Hide Production*
4. **Mr. Saikat Chakraborty** – *From Empirical Craft to Data-Driven Control: Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Quantum Perspectives in Leather Technology*
5. **Mr. Anurag Tripathi** – *Deep Learning-Based Automated Defect Recognition and Quality Grading in Leather for Zero-Error Inspection*
6. **Ms. Divya M. S.** – *Leather Fashion Colour Forecasting Using Artificial Intelligence*
7. **Ms. Ipsita Sengupta** – *Improving Performance in a Wi-Fi Enabled Smart Leather Jacket with Integrated Sensors through the Application of Dual-Mode Index Modulation Aided Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing Technology*

The presentations generated significant interest among the delegates and highlighted the increasing importance of scientific livestock management and digital transformation in shaping the future of the leather industry. The papers demonstrated how advancements in animal health, genetic improvement, traceability systems, Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, and smart wearable technologies can contribute towards improved productivity, quality enhancement, sustainability, and value creation within the leather value chain.

In his concluding remarks, **Dr. P.**



Paper Presentation by Dr. Manoranjan Roy

Thanikaivelan

expressed his appreciation for the quality of the presentations and the active participation of delegates throughout the session. Referring to the discussions from the inaugural and technical sessions, he emphasized that the

leather industry must increasingly focus on **high-value and premium market segments** in order to remain globally competitive.

Highlighting the transformative role of technology, he noted that developments in **Artificial Intelligence, digitalization, and 3D printing technologies** are expected to create new opportunities for the leather and footwear sector. He informed the audience about the Government's initiative to establish a **3D Printing Centre in Guwahati**, which is expected to provide significant support to the industry and facilitate the future development of customized leather products, including footwear and garments. He observed that the



Paper Presentation by Mr. Anurag Tripathi



**Paper Presentation by
Dr. Suman Biswas**

future market is likely to move beyond standard sizing towards personalized and customized products tailored to individual consumer requirements.

Dr. Thanikaivelan further emphasized the

need for the Indian leather industry to strengthen its presence in the premium and specialized product segments. He cited examples from highly specialized footwear applications to illustrate the immense value potential that exists within niche markets and encouraged industry stakeholders to explore these opportunities through innovation and technology-driven solutions.

Addressing common perceptions regarding the leather sector, he remarked that the industry should not be viewed merely as a pollution-generating sector. Rather, he emphasized that the leather industry is fundamentally a **by-product-based industry** that plays a vital role in supporting the meat sector while simultaneously fulfilling diverse human requirements ranging from fashion and comfort to safety and protection. He reiterated that the industry contributes significantly to resource utilization and circular economy principles.

He also observed that although the leather sector remains largely fragmented and unorganized in several areas, there is immense potential for growth through organized operations, ethical business practices, technological adoption, and greater industry collaboration. He urged stakeholders to work collectively towards enhancing transparency, professionalism, and sustainability throughout the value chain.



Paper Presentation by Ms. Divya M. S.

Concluding his address, **Dr. Thanikaivelan** called upon all participants to continue working together for the advancement of the leather sector through innovation, responsible practices, and collaborative efforts

aimed at ensuring long-term growth and global competitiveness.

In his keynote address, **Dr. Arnab Sen** highlighted the significance of the “One Health” approach, emphasizing the interdependence of animal, human, and environmental health. He discussed how transboundary diseases adversely affect livestock productivity, raw material quality, and the overall sustainability of the leather value chain, stressing the need for effective disease surveillance and preventive measures.

Dr. Manoranjan Roy presented the potential of indigenous Indian goat breeds in producing superior-quality skins. He emphasized the importance of identifying and utilizing desirable genetic traits through scientific breeding programmes to improve skin quality and strengthen the raw material base of the leather industry.



Paper Presentation by Ms. Ipsita Sengupta

Dr. Suman Biswas highlighted the value of indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds as sustainable sources of quality hides. He discussed the importance of breed conservation, scientific animal husbandry practices, and improved livestock management in ensuring a consistent supply of quality raw materials for the leather sector.

Mr. Saikat Chakraborty explored the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in leather manufacturing, demonstrating how data-driven systems can improve process control, quality assurance, and operational efficiency. He also provided insights into the future



Chair and Co-Chair were felicitated with plants and citations by Mr. Susanta Mallick, General Secretary, ILTA

potential of quantum technologies in solving complex industrial challenges.

Mr. Anurag Tripathi presented a deep learning-based approach for automated defect detection and quality grading of leather. The technology offers

improved accuracy, consistency, and efficiency in inspection processes, supporting the industry's move towards intelligent and automated manufacturing systems.

Ms. Divya M. S. demonstrated how Artificial Intelligence can be used to predict future colour trends in leather fashion by analysing market data, consumer preferences, and fashion dynamics. The approach provides valuable support for product development, marketing strategies, and trend forecasting.

Ms. Ipsita Sengupta presented an innovative study on smart leather wearables, focusing on improving communication efficiency and performance in sensor-enabled leather jackets. The work showcased the growing convergence of leather technology, wearable electronics, and advanced wireless communication systems.

Following the technical presentations, **Dr. Arnab Sen** was presented with a **Memento and Citation** in recognition of his keynote address. All other paper presenters were also honoured with **Citations** by **Dr. P. Thanikaivelan** and **Mr. R. M. Uthayaraja** for their valuable contributions to the session.

Thereafter, both the Chair and Co-Chair were felicitated with **plants and citations** by **Mr. Susanta Mallick, General Secretary, ILTA**, as a token of appreciation for their guidance and contribution towards the successful conduct of the session.

Technical Session – II (03:00 PM – 05:00 PM) Carbon Capture & Utilization (TC)

Chair: Dr. A. B. Mandal, Former Director, CSIR-Central Leather

Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai **Co-Chair:** Mr. Diganta Ghosh, Director – Sales & Marketing (India & Bangladesh), TFL Quinn India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad

Technical Session – II on “**Carbon Capture & Utilization (TC)**” was chaired by **Dr. A. B. Mandal, Former Director, CSIR-CLRI, Chennai**, and co-chaired by **Mr. Diganta Ghosh, Director – Sales & Marketing (India & Bangladesh), TFL Quinn India Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad**.

Prior to the commencement of the session, both dignitaries were welcomed to the dais and presented with mementoes by **Mr. Asit Baran Kanungo, Vice President, ILTA and Coordinator, AICLST Working Committee**.

The session focused on one of the most significant themes of AICLST 2026, namely **Carbon Capture & Utilization (CCU)**, which is increasingly becoming a critical



Right: Dr. A. B. Mandal

Left: Mr. Diganta Ghosh

Chair and Co-Chair of Technical session

component in the global transition towards sustainable manufacturing and Net Zero carbon footprint goals. The technical deliberations addressed a wide range of topics including carbon capture and utilization at various stages of leather manufacturing, carbon footprint assessment and reduction strategies, innovations in carbon capture technologies suitable for the leather industry, challenges and opportunities associated with CCU implementation, waste treatment plants and carbon utilization systems, and the role of circular economy principles in achieving sustainable leather production.

The session brought together researchers, technologists, and industry experts who presented innovative solutions aimed at reducing environmental impact while enhancing resource efficiency and sustainability within the leather value chain.



Keynote Address by Dr. S. Rajamani

The following papers were presented during the session:

1. **Keynote Address by Dr. S. Rajamani** – *Challenges in World Leather Sector and Sustainable Options*
2. **Dr. Utpal Singha Roy** – *Impact of Tannery Effluents on Aquatic Biota: Fish as Bioindicator for Sustainable Environmental Management*
3. **Mr. Sreeparna Das** – *Sustainable Algal Technologies for Detoxifying and Valorizing Tannery Wastewater*
4. **Ms. Ramya Gunasekaran** – *Sustainable Conversion of Tannery*

Hair Waste into Electrospun Nanofibers for Transdermal Drug Delivery

5. **Dr. S. Sundarapandiyan** – *CLI-Mate: A Sector-Specific Digital Platform for Carbon Footprint Assessment and Decarbonization Pathways in Leather Manufacturing*
6. **Dr. Soumya Chatterjee** – *East Calcutta Wetlands: A Comprehensive Study on its Contribution in Wastewater Remediation and Reuse*
7. **Dr. Vera Radnaeva** – *Solving Environmental Problems in Leather Production by Implementing an Original Process Flow and Using New Materials*

The keynote address by **Dr. S. Rajamani** provided a comprehensive overview of the contemporary

challenges facing the global leather sector and highlighted sustainable pathways for addressing environmental, economic, and technological concerns. The presentation emphasized the importance of adopting cleaner production technologies, resource-efficient manufacturing practices, and innovative approaches to ensure the long-term sustainability of the leather industry.

The subsequent presentations showcased diverse research efforts directed towards environmental protection, waste valorization, carbon footprint reduction, and circular economy implementation.



Dr. Utpal Singha Roy receiving Citations by Dr. A. B. Mandal



Paper presentation by Mr. Sreeparna Das

Several speakers demonstrated how industrial by-products and waste streams could be transformed into value-added products, thereby reducing environmental burden while creating new economic opportunities.

Particular attention was given to sustainable wastewater management practices. Research on algal technologies, aquatic bioindicators, and the ecological significance of the East Calcutta Wetlands highlighted the potential of nature-based solutions for wastewater treatment, environmental remediation, and carbon sequestration. These studies demonstrated how ecological systems can play a vital role in achieving sustainable industrial development.

The session also featured innovative approaches for converting tannery waste into high-value materials. The transformation of tannery hair waste into electrospun nanofibers for biomedical applications and the development of mycelial leather alternatives illustrated how waste materials can be successfully integrated into circular economy models, thereby reducing waste generation and enhancing resource utilization.

Another important aspect of the session



Paper presentation by Ms. Ramya Gunasekaran

was the application of digital technologies in sustainability management. The presentation on **CLI-Mate**, a sector-specific digital platform for carbon footprint assessment and decarbonization planning, demonstrated how digital tools can support leather manufacturers in measuring environmental performance, identifying carbon hotspots, and developing effective pathways towards Net Zero emissions.

Dr. Utpal Singha Roy discussed the environmental impact of tannery effluents on aquatic ecosystems, highlighting the use of fish as bioindicators for monitoring water quality and ecological health. The study emphasized the importance of effective effluent management and continuous environmental monitoring to ensure sustainable industrial practices.

Mr. Sreeparna Das highlighted the potential of algal technologies in



Paper presentation by Dr. S. Sundarapandiyar

treating tannery wastewater through the removal of pollutants and recovery of valuable by-products. The study demonstrated how algae-based systems can support environmentally sustainable wastewater management while creating opportunities for resource recovery.

Ms. Ramya Gunasekaran presented an innovative approach to converting tannery hair waste into high-value electrospun nanofibers for transdermal drug delivery applications. The work demonstrated the potential of transforming industrial waste into advanced biomaterials, promoting both sustainability and value addition.

Dr. S. Sundarapandiyan introduced CLI-Mate, a digital platform designed to assess carbon footprints and identify decarbonization pathways within leather manufacturing operations. The platform provides data-driven insights to support sustainability goals, regulatory compliance, and the industry's transition towards Net Zero emissions.



Dr. Soumya Chatterjee receiving Citations by Dr. A. B. Mandal and Mr. Diganta Ghosh

Dr. Soumya Chatterjee presented a comprehensive assessment of the East Calcutta Wetlands and their unique role in natural wastewater treatment and resource recovery. The study demonstrated how this internationally recognized wetland ecosystem contributes significantly to environmental sustainability through wastewater remediation, aquaculture, and water reuse practices.

The presentation by **Dr. Vera Radnaeva** showcased innovative process modifications and the use of new materials to address environmental challenges associated with leather production.



Online paper presentation by Dr. Vera Radnaeva

The research demonstrated how technological innovation can contribute to reducing environmental impacts while

maintaining product quality and industrial competitiveness.

The session generated lively discussions among delegates on the future of sustainable leather manufacturing and the importance of integrating carbon capture technologies, circular economy principles, waste-to-wealth initiatives, digital sustainability tools, and nature-based solutions into mainstream industrial practices.

The presentations collectively highlighted that the leather industry possesses significant opportunities to contribute towards global climate goals through responsible innovation, resource efficiency, carbon footprint reduction, and sustainable utilization of waste resources. The session strongly reinforced the conference theme of advancing leather science and technology while ensuring environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability.



Dr. S. Rajamani being presented with a Memento and Citation

At the conclusion of the session, the Chair and Co-Chair commended the presenters for their valuable scientific contributions and emphasized the growing importance of Carbon Capture & Utilization technologies in shaping the future of the global leather industry. They appreciated the quality of the research presented and encouraged continued collaboration among academia, research institutions, and industry stakeholders to accelerate the adoption of sustainable technologies and achieve Net Zero carbon footprint objectives.

The session concluded with the presentation of citations to all speakers in recognition of their valuable contributions. The Chair and Co-Chair were also felicitated with plants and citations as a token of appreciation for their guidance and leadership in conducting the session successfully.

Following the technical presentations, **Dr. S. Rajamani** was presented with a **Memento and Citation** in recognition of his keynote address and valuable contribution to the session. All other paper presenters were also honoured with **Citations** by **Dr. A. B. Mandal** and **Mr. Diganta Ghosh** in appreciation of their scientific contributions and participation in the conference.

Thereafter, both the Chair and Co-Chair were felicitated with **plants and citations** by **Mr. Asit Baran Kanungo, Vice President, ILTA and Coordinator, AICLST Working Committee**, as a token of appreciation for their leadership, guidance, and successful conduct of the technical session.

(to be contd....)

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Educational reforms in Leather & Leather Products

This topic is so relevant these days as the Leather Industry is facing challenges from all the sides.

1. Environmental issues.
2. Negative publicity
3. Vegan and non leather competition.
4. Wrong information about cutting of animals by the leather industry
5. Pollution fears.

These are all areas which demand good administrative skills and active propaganda about the goodness of leather.

On the other side, there are other challenges which hurt the production, product development and export targets.

1. Lack of knowledge about Leather as a Natural Product.
2. Comparing Leather with a synthetic material for consistency
3. Not able to understand the value of a Natural product.
4. The inherent properties of leather, the defects and the imperfections are not properly explained or understood.
5. The Natural look and the beauty of Leather viz., a viz., synthetic material.

6. Understanding raw materials

7. Quality levels and SOP to be followed.

It is very important and essential that our leather technology and fashion design institutes address these issues with the support of the tanneries and the respective product industries to create a stronger young population who could address every situation with analytics and result oriented approach.

My suggestion would be to group the students of a particular year under different headings and train and promote them to be a specialist in that line of business and activity.

After the completion of their education after 3 years or 4 years they will be able to give their best for the Industry.

Imagine, if we have a contingent of young people attending to all the environmental concerns with proper solution.

A group of people to be active in social media to only talk about the merits of leather, leather as a natural product and the inherent properties of leather regularly to make the final consumers understand the sustainable value of leather against all those plastics.

When we have specialists created in every area of operation, we will be able to handle every requirement and demand of the industry.

Above all, learning one foreign language is a must for all these students. It should be a part of the curriculum.

Imagine the new generation able to speak freely Spanish, German, Italian, French, Korean, Russian, Japanese all over the Leather and Leather Products industry.

This will boost the confidence of the customers and designers to come and work more closely with the factories and tanneries in India.

The vision and dream of our Honorable Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, will be very easily achieved when we create experts.

Though, we discussed mainly on the Leather & Leather Products, there is a huge development that is happening in the sports footwear and casual footwear industry and there even the specialization will help.

I will follow up this article with more detailed requirement and analysis and the main aim and ambition is to make a leather & leather product dominant India in the coming years.

Jai Hind!

Let us live a Leather Life.

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SGS guide to regulatory shifts and their impact on the leather industry

- P Venkatesan Global Leather/Footwear and PPE Manager at SGS India.

(P. Venkatesan, (Venky) is a PPE and Leather/Footwear expert with three decades of experience. He has been associated with SGS for more than 18 years and handles the technical part related to Leather and footwear industries. Having experience in the production, quality, inspection, and testing of these products, he has extensive knowledge in the supply chain, technical knowledge, and chemical management.)



As regulatory scrutiny intensifies across global markets, the leather industry is undergoing a profound transformation. Once driven primarily by craftsmanship, cost and performance, production is now equally shaped by chemical compliance, environmental responsibility and evolving legislation. For manufacturers, tanneries and brands, the implications of restricted substances regulations are both immediate and far-reaching.

At the center of this shift is the European Union's REACH regulation, which plays a key role in shaping chemical safety requirements globally.

For the leather sector, where chemical processing is integral to tanning, finishing and preservation, this presents a significant compliance challenge. Substances historically used to enhance durability, softness or water resistance are increasingly restricted, requiring reformulation and, in some cases, complete process redesign.

The practical impact is especially evident in Annex XVII of REACH, which governs restricted substances. In leather goods, recurring compliance failures underscore how deeply regulatory requirements

intersect with production realities. Chromium VI, for example, can form unintentionally during improper tanning or storage conditions, making it not just a formulation issue but a process control challenge. The European Chemicals Agency's REF-12¹ enforcement project highlights this risk, with footwear and leather goods continuing to show measurable rates of non-compliance. For businesses, this translates into not only regulatory exposure but also reputational risk, particularly as market surveillance intensifies.

The REF-12 project found that 16% of consumer products exceeded legal limits for restricted substances, highlighting persistent gaps in supply chain control, particularly for imported goods. In leather, where supply chains often span multiple countries and processing stages, ensuring traceability and consistency remains a key hurdle. The risks are amplified in counterfeit markets, where compliance failures are significantly higher and hazardous substances more prevalent.

The recent rapid expansion of global regulations targeting per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) represents one of the most significant compliance transitions facing the leather and footwear industries today. These chemicals, valued for their water and stain resistance, have long been used in leather finishing. However, their persistence in the environment and potential health risks have led to sweeping restrictions. In the EU, controls are expanding through both REACH and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) regulations, with additional restrictions, such as those on PFHxA, set to take effect in October 2026. For leather manufacturers, this means rethinking finishing chemistries and developing alternative treatments that can deliver performance without relying on fluorinated compounds.

Emerging restrictions on bisphenols represent another important regulatory development. These substances are widely used in resins, coatings and finishing agents, and are increasingly under scrutiny due to their endocrine-disrupting properties. In the leather sector, bisphenols are also used in processing, particularly in syntans applied during tanning to enhance properties such as softness and durability. Proposed measures, led by Germany, are seeking to extend beyond production to reflect a life-cycle approach

to regulation. This is likely to influence how leather products are designed, processed and marketed, particularly within circular economy models.

Beyond Europe, regulatory developments in North America are also influencing the leather industry's trajectory. Canada's 2025 Prohibition of Certain Toxic Substances Regulations, coming into force in June 2026, introduce new bans on flame retardants (including Dechlorane Plus (DP) and decabromodiphenyl ethane (DBDPE) in coatings/treatments) and reinforce existing restrictions on PFAS in treated materials. For leather used in upholstery, automotive interiors or performance apparel, this signals a continued shift away from hazardous chemical treatment toward safer and lower-impact alternatives.

Collectively, these developments point to a fundamental evolution in how leather products are regulated and produced. Compliance is no longer a downstream activity but a core strategic function, requiring integration into design, sourcing and manufacturing processes. Businesses must invest in chemical testing, supplier engagement and digital tools to monitor regulatory changes in real time.

For the leather industry, the path forward is clear but demanding. It involves transitioning away from legacy chemistries, adopting safer alternatives and building resilient compliance systems capable of navigating an increasingly fragmented regulatory landscape. While the challenges are significant, they also present an opportunity to innovate, enhance sustainability and reinforce the value of leather as a material that can meet both performance expectations and the highest standards of safety and environmental responsibility.

IMPACT NOW

IMPACT NOW for sustainability consolidates all SGS's sustainability offerings under four strategic pillars: climate, nature, ESG assurance and circularity. Through these pillars, SGS offers trusted compliance solutions that directly help businesses address the key environmental and social challenges impacting the planet. Find out more at www.sgs.com/impactnow

¹ Forum enforcement projects - ECHA



The 23rd UITIC International Congress to be held in Jakarta in 2027

The global footwear industry will gather in Indonesia for the leading international forum dedicated to innovation and technology in the sector

The **International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians (UITIC)**, in collaboration with **KRISTA Exhibition** and with the support of **APRISINDO** – the Indonesian Footwear Association – announces that the 23rd UITIC International Congress will take place in Jakarta, Indonesia, from **August 2 to 4, 2027**.

With this new edition of the event, which brings together professionals, researchers, companies, technology suppliers and industry representatives from across the globe, UITIC renews its commitment to promoting dialogue and the dissemination of technical knowledge throughout the global footwear value chain. Jakarta, one of Asia's leading manufacturing and industrial hubs, represents a strategic location for hosting the international event dedicated to innovation, technologies and the future development of the sector.

“The choice of Indonesia reflects UITIC’s commitment to fostering an increasingly up-to-date exchange among the stakeholders that comprise the global footwear supply chain on trends, developments in design and footwear manufacturing processes. Today, the competitiveness of the sector is built on the ability to leverage skills and experiences developed in different contexts. Dialogue among industrial cultures, cross-fertilization and access to best practices are key factors in understanding the major technological, manufacturing and social transformations affecting our industry. The UITIC Congress continues its international journey with precisely this

objective: to create a global platform for exchange and shared growth for all stakeholders across the sector,” said Sergio Dulio, President of UITIC.

The event will be structured around three days dedicated to technical insights and international networking. The programme will include visits to leading companies and organizations within the Indonesian footwear and tanning industries, a congress day featuring expert speakers and high-level thematic sessions, as well as a joint UITIC-APRISINDO-KRISTA initiative to coincide with the opening of **Indo Leather s Footwear Expo**, one of Asia’s leading trade fairs dedicated to the leather and footwear supply chain.

The official Congress theme, scientific programme, participation procedures and sponsorship opportunities will be announced in the coming months. All updates will be made available through UITIC’s official channels and during the main promotional activities leading up to the event.

UITIC – International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians

Founded in 1972, UITIC promotes the development of technical and scientific knowledge within the global footwear industry through the organization of international congresses and the dissemination of best practices in design, manufacturing and technological innovation processes. **www.uitic.org**

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European Commission formally removes leather from EUDR scope

The European Commission has formally adopted a Delegated Act that removes cattle hides, skins and leather from the scope of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), confirming a proposal first put forward in May.

The amendment to Annex I **removes cattle hides, skins and leather from the list of products covered by the Regulation**, as well as re-treaded tyres, soybeans for sowing, articles of vulcanised rubber, conveyor and transmission belts, and aircraft and motor vehicle seats.

Meanwhile, soluble coffee, selected palm oil derivatives, and frozen cattle tongues will be added to the scope of the regulation on the 30th of December 2027.

The EU Commission stressed that the change only applies to products covered by the Regulation. **Cattle remain one of the EUDR's seven regulated commodities**, meaning that products derived from cattle, such as beef, continue to be subject to the regulation's requirements.

Following its publication and notification to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, **the Delegated Act has entered a two-month scrutiny period** before it can come into force. While Parliament has the option to request an extension, this is considered unlikely.

The decision has been welcomed by organisations representing the leather industry, which argue that hides are a by-product of the meat industry and that applying EUDR due diligence requirements to leather would impose significant compliance costs with limited environmental benefit.

Alongside the Delegated Act, **the Commission adopted an Implementing Act setting out updated rules for the EUDR Information System.** This includes simplified due diligence declarations for micro and small operators, revised technical specifications for businesses connecting to the system via APIs, and other improvements intended to streamline compliance ahead of the regulation's implementation.

“With this package, **we are providing the clarity and predictability** that businesses, Member States and our international partners need to prepare for the application of the EU Deforestation Regulation at the end of 2026”, highlighted Jessika Roswall, European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy.

The EUDR is due to apply to large and medium-sized operators from the 30th of December 2026, followed by micro and small enterprises from the 30th of June 2027.

(Source: worldfootwear)

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UNIDO HAS JUST PUBLISHED ITS GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT OF LEATHER

UNIDO has just published its Guidelines for Assessing the Environmental Footprint of Leather, which is the most thorough and credible assessment of leather's environmental performance up to date.

The Guidelines say:

"Hides and skins from animals slaughtered for human food consumption have been defined as Non-Determining Animal By-Products - as they result from a multifunctional process which does not affect the production volume. Non-Determining Animal By-Products are by definition not drivers of environmental change."

What does it mean? Leather does not drive the environmental impacts of livestock farming. Now this argument comes from one of the world's most credible international bodies - UNIDO (The United Nations Industry Development Organization)

Beyond the by-product argument, the Guidelines introduce three key takeaway that will reshape how leather's environmental performance is measured:

1. Allocation of livestock rearing to raw hides set at 1.50% which is evidence-based, methodologically sound, and a significant correction to previous approaches.
2. Formal recognition of leather as a bio-based material with corresponding implications for carbon accounting.
3. A methodology for measuring durability and product lifespan - finally giving leather credit for what it does better than any alternative: lasting.

COTANCE will now take this work forward, raising the attention that this document rightly deserves.

Vietnam Footwear Sector boosts Exports with Focus on Sustainability

Vietnam's footwear industry is reinforcing its sustainability initiatives and domestic supply chains while maintaining solid export performance amid global uncertainties. Footwear exports reached USD 11.95 billion in the first half of 2026, while June exports climbed to USD 2.16 billion, more than USD 200 million higher than in May, driven by stronger demand from the US and the EU.

Vietnam also became the largest footwear supplier to the US for the first time, surpassing China, with exports to the US reaching USD 4.55 billion in the first six months of the year, up more than 6% year-on-year.

Despite the positive momentum, the industry continues to face challenges from geopolitical tensions, higher logistics costs and stricter trade requirements. The Vietnam Leather, Footwear and Handbag Association (Lefaso) is advocating for stronger domestic supporting industries, strategic raw material reserves and enhanced supply chain resilience to reduce reliance on imported materials.

At the same time, manufacturers are accelerating investments in clean technologies, automation, digitalisation and sustainable materials to meet increasingly stringent environmental requirements, including carbon reduction, product traceability and Digital Product Passport regulations. Companies are also moving up the value chain through original design and brand development while leveraging Vietnam's free trade agreements to expand into new export market.

(Leatherinsiders)

FOOTWEAR SECTOR: THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 2026 TURNOVER DOWN (-2.7%)

Exports in the January-March quarter stood at €3 billion, down 1.6% in value and 3.6% in volume compared with the same period in 2025

The Italian footwear sector opened the first quarter of 2026 against a complex backdrop.

“This confirms the concerns raised by companies in the forecasts gathered at the end of last January - says Giovanna Ceolini, President of Assocalzaturifici - Turnover is down 2.7%, while exports point to widespread weakness, with an overall decline of 1.6% in the first three months and even sharper contractions in non-EU markets.

Against this backdrop, the domestic market has seen a slight recovery in consumption, though not enough to offset the slowdown in international markets, which remain the sector's main driver. Geopolitical tensions are compounding these difficulties. The international picture continues to be marked by unpredictability, driving up costs and slowing our buyers' purchasing decisions. Rising raw material and energy costs are a further cause for concern.

On the employment and production front, the number of companies and employees is falling.

It is essential to take action to support internationalisation, strengthen competitiveness and ensure stability for a sector that remains strategic for Made in Italy”.

On the domestic front, however, the signals are more encouraging.

Italian households spent €1.28 billion on footwear during the quarter (retail prices), up 1.7% in value and 2.1% in volume compared with January-March 2025, driven in particular by women's shoes and trainers. Trainers, together with sports footwear, account for 41% of total spending.

According to the economic bulletin prepared by the Centro Studi of Confindustria Accessori Moda on behalf of Assocalzaturifici, exports - which account for around 90% of the sector's total turnover - are already showing signs of difficulty in the early months of the year: in the January-March quarter they stood at around €3 billion, down 1.6% in value and 3.6% in volume compared with the same period in 2025.

Among European partners, France (+6% in value, despite a 3.6% drop in volume) remains the leading destination for Italian-made footwear, while Germany has seen a sharper slowdown, down 10%.

International tensions are weighing on results: exports to the Middle East are down 33% (with a 62% fall in March alone, following the outbreak of the conflict), exports to the former Soviet bloc countries are down 21%, while the United States - grappling since spring 2025 with additional import tariffs - recorded a 7.4% decline in value. The sector's trade balance nonetheless strengthened to €1.3 billion, up 10.9% on 2025, thanks to a sharp slowdown in imports, which fell 9.5% in value.

Difficulties persist on the production and employment front. In the first three months of 2026, the number of active footwear manufacturing companies fell by 85 and employees by 808 compared with the end of 2025. The use of short-time working schemes remains significant: in the leather supply chain, hours of wage supplementation, although down 40% on the 2025 peaks, stood at 6.2 million - still more than three times the pre-pandemic level.

Portugal could benefit from a European ban on destroying unsold clothing and footwear.



Opportunity for Portugal?

The entry into force, on July 18th, of the European ban on destroying unsold clothing and footwear may represent an opportunity for the Portuguese industry, by encouraging production models that are closer to the markets, more flexible and adjusted to demand. "This measure could be a good solution for Portugal and for the Portuguese industry," considers the President of APICCAPS.

Starting Friday, large companies will no longer be able to destroy unsold clothing and footwear, under the European Ecodesign Regulation for Sustainable Products, a measure intended to reduce waste and promote more efficient use of resources.

According to Luís Onofre, president of the Portuguese Association of Footwear, Components, Leather Goods and Related Products Industries (APICCAPS), this change could benefit European producers and, in particular, Portugal.

"By forcing brands to better manage their stocks and reduce the risk of overproduction, the importance of closer, more agile supply chains capable of responding quickly to market needs is reinforced," stated

Luís Onofre. According to the association leader, the Portuguese industry possesses precisely these characteristics, with companies specializing in smaller-scale production, offering high levels of flexibility, quality, and speed of response.

"Portugal has been establishing itself as a strategic partner for major international brands, not by competing in volume, but by its ability to produce with quality, speed, and proximity. If brands start prioritizing more frequent orders that are better aligned with actual demand, Portuguese companies could benefit from this evolution," he argued.

Luís Onofre believes that the new legislation also represents an incentive for more sustainable business models. "Sustainability has ceased to be merely an environmental requirement and has become a factor of competitiveness. Producing only what the market needs, reducing waste throughout the value chain, is an objective that Portuguese industry has been pursuing for several years," he stated.

According to estimates by the European Commission, between 4% and 9% of textile products placed on the European market end up being destroyed without ever being used, contributing to millions of tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year.

The new ban applies, in the first phase, to large companies, with its extension to medium-sized companies planned within four years.

Although he considers a significant shift in production currently concentrated in Asia unlikely – 88% of current production is ensured by Asian countries – Luís Onofre believes that the measure could contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of European production.

"We don't expect a radical change in the geography of global production, but we believe this decision could accelerate a trend that was already underway. Brands are increasingly looking for nearby suppliers capable of responding quickly to changes in demand, and Portugal is particularly well-positioned to meet this challenge," he concluded.

Brazilian Footwear Industry

Footwear Imports Pose Challenges to Employment in Brazil's Footwear Industry

According to the Data compiled by the Brazilian Footwear Industries Association (Abicalçados), based on figures from the Brazilian Secretariat of Foreign Trade (Secex), it shows continued growth in footwear imports, particularly from Asia. In the first half of the year, Brazil imported 25.9 million pairs of footwear, valued at US\$307 million, representing increases of 15.9% in volume and 13% in value compared to the same period last year.

The executive president of the Brazilian Footwear Industries Association (Abicalçados), Haroldo Ferreira, notes that the increase in imports has become a growing concern for the domestic industry. "The Brazilian footwear industry is simultaneously facing a pressured domestic market, declining export revenues, and increasing competition from imported footwear at the expense of Brazilian-made footwear, often under trade practices considered unfair by the World Trade Organization (WTO)," he says, adding that the Association has been warning the Federal Government about the risks posed by "predatory imports." In this context, he adds that "in the first half of the year alone, according to estimates by Abicalçados, the sector failed to create 7,800 direct jobs as a result of the sharp increase in imports."

Import pressure remains heavily concentrated in Asia, which accounted for 87.2% of all footwear pairs imported by Brazil in the first half of the year. China remained Brazil's leading source of imported footwear, with 9.7 million pairs shipped to Brazil, valued at US\$26.5 million, representing increases of 27.4% in volume and 13.3% in value, compared to the same period last year. In June alone, imports from China totaled 408,430 pairs worth US\$4.14 million, up 2.3% in volume and 22.9% in value compared to the same period in 2025.

The second-largest source of footwear imports into Brazil during the period was also in Asia. Between January and June, Vietnam shipped 6.83 million pairs to Brazil, valued at US\$150.57 million, representing increases of 5.2% in volume and 17.9% in value compared to the same period last year. In June alone, imports from Vietnam totaled 1.23 million pairs worth US\$26 million, up 4.1% in volume and 9.8% in value compared to the same month in 2025.

Imports of footwear components-including uppers, soles, heels, insoles, and other footwear components-totaled US\$26.48 million in the first half of the year, up 19.4% compared to the same period last year. The leading suppliers were China, Vietnam, and Paraguay.

Exports Decline 17.9%

While imports continue on an upward trend, footwear exports are moving in the opposite direction. This combination resulted in the sector's trade surplus shrinking by 55.1% in the first half of the year, marking the lowest first-half result since the series began in 1997.

In the first half of the year, footwear exports totaled 49 million pairs worth US\$ 408.2 million, down 7% in volume and 17.9% in value compared to the same period last year.

Despite the uncertainty created by US Import Tariffs on Brazilian footwear, the US remained the industry's leading export market in the first half of the year

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34th INSPIRAMAIS closes with positive results

The 34th edition of INSPIRAMAIS- a premier bi-annual event , featuring, design, innovation & sustainability for the fashion footwear, apparel furniture & jewel industries, held on 7-8 July, 2026 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, closed with positive results, attracting a huge number of visitors.

The event served as a vital platform for both the domestic and international exhibitors to showcase inspiring collections that highlighted the best of fashion creativity and innovation. The two-day event hosted around 150 exhibitors, who presented more than 1200 new materials collections for footwear, clothing, furniture and jewelry.

Silvana Dilly, superintendent of the Brazilian Association of Companies of Components for Leather, Footwear and Leather Goods (Assintecal), described the edition as **two days of connection, combining fashion content with commercial activity.**

Most of the visitors and exhibitors came from many footwear clusters within the country. **International attendance** was also highlighted as a relevant feature of the edition Dilly pointed out .strong participation from **Peru, Colombia and Ecuador**, supported by the Buyer Project, which enabled the presence of **22 international buyer groups from seven countries.**

For Assintecal, the presence of these buyers strengthens Inspiramais' role in promoting exports of materials for the fashion industry. Dilly said the result encourages the association to continue developing the international aspect of the event and to **support business links beyond Brazil.**

The next edition will take place on 26th and 27th of January 2027, in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul.Brazil.



EURO SHOES PREMIERE COLLECTION - AUTUMN 2026

The B2B Exhibition of Shoes, Bags & Accessories, organised by LLC Business Global Expo, will take place on 25-28 August 2026, at WTC Congress Center in Moscow, Russia. Euro Shoes is a working platform for retailers, manufacturers - from assortment planning to sourcing partners and launching private labels with factories from China and India. Leading brands from Europe, Asia and the CIS would be presenting the future collections.

Spanish footwear exports: stable value and moderate growth in volume

According to the Spanish Directorate of Customs, from January to April 2026, footwear exports totaled 61.8 million pairs, valued at €1.20 billion.

Compared to the same period in 2025, growth in volume was 3.1% and in value terms, 0.1%.

The main buyers of Spanish footwear, in descending order, were Italy (+1.9%), France (+1.6%), Germany (+1.1%), Portugal (-0.1%), and Poland (-17.8%).

The Euro Shoes exhibition, which will be held in Moscow from August 25 to 28 at the World Trade Center, will feature collections of Spanish footwear and bags for the Spring/Summer 2027 season, including Pikolinos, Wonders, Paloma, Pitillos, El Naturalista, Pitas, Panchic, and Abbacino.

Strategy and Leather Industry Part – III

NSK SRINIVASAN¹ & HASMUKH SHAH²

UMTA Management & Textstyles Academy, Vapi, Gujarat, India^{1&2}

nsk_sriya@yahoo.com¹ textiles.vapi@gmail.com²

Contd from June issue...

7. India to become third largest economy with GDP of \$5 trillion in three years: Finance Ministry⁷

- India is expected to become the third-largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$5 trillion in the next three years and touch \$7 trillion by 2030 on the back of continued reforms, the Finance Ministry said on January 29, 2024.
- Ten years ago, India was the 10th largest economy in the world, with a GDP of \$1.9 trillion at current market prices.
- Today, it is the 5th largest with a GDP of \$3.7 trillion (estimate FY24), despite the pandemic and despite inheriting an economy with macro imbalances and a broken financial sector, said the ministry's January 2024 review of the economy.

7.1 Futuristic Vision of Leather Industry

The Futuristic Vision of Leather Industry lays emphasis on Growth & Development, Sustainability, Circular Economy, Innovation, Certifications, Strategies & Policies, Negative Publicity About Leather Done & Counter Measures, Harmonious Living – Leather and Synthetics, Environmental Impact, Greener Products and related initiatives and scenarios.

The Council for Leather Exports (CLE) and the Leather Export Promotion Council have prepared a Vision Document-2030 for the leather and footwear industry.

The document outlines the global outlook of the industry, current status in India, global benchmarking and best practices, market and industry pulse analysis, policy, regulatory and infrastructure landscape, overview of multi

prolonged action agenda to achieve the vision for 2030, domestic market vision and export market vision for 2030¹.

The Vision Document aims to increase production and exports in the next 5-7 years and reach the total turnover (industry size) of around USD 47.1 billion by 2030 against the present USD 17.26 billion turnover¹. These target figures include both, domestic sales and export. ^{7.1}

- The present industry size is USD 17.3 billion comprising Domestic turnover of USD 12 billion and Export turnover of around USD 5.3 billion.
- From here the industry is looking to increase the Industry Size to USD 47.1 billion consisting of Domestic turnover of USD 33.4 billion and Export turnover of around USD 13.7 billion.
- It is also pertinent that out of USD 47.1 billion target the share of footwear sector (both Leather & Non-Leather) is around 50%. Which shows the importance of Footwear sector in accelerating production and exports.

Leather is an incredible material that has been used throughout history for clothing and tools. The early processes used to make leather, and craft with it, remain very similar to some of those still used today. The history of leather and leather craft has very close ties to people all around the world.

The history of leather began about 400,000 years ago in Hoxne, England. Its evolution can be traced around the world and through the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Ancient Times, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution, and into modern times.

The leather industry is one of the oldest in the history of mankind. Our most distant ancestors used skins to protect their bodies, hands and feet. Leather is made from the skin of any mammal, reptile, bird or fish through a process called tanning. This process preserves the skin that would otherwise putrefy quickly.

Sustainability in the leather industry has been a much-debated topic since the beginning of leather tanning. Sustainability is one of the key contributing

factors for the Futuristic Vision of Leather. There have been many perceptions regarding sustainable leather for the different actors involved in the leather industry. Sustainable Development has a huge impact on organisation and finding ways to manage it best, is a challenging task. Changing self and changing self-leading to Global Change are small steps taken to attain Sustainability. This directs that the Sustainability is the responsibility of everyone. Over the years, the subject of sustainability reporting has gained prominence in industrial contexts.

Previously, the need for sustainability actions and reporting was borne out of the need to meet legal and regulatory compliances. Now, business stakeholders such as suppliers, customers and investors are the main drivers for the communication of sustainability credentials. Energy efficiency, waste management and reduction of greenhouse gases emission were the most occurring environmental sustainability practices.

7.2 ANALYSIS – EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF LEATHER, LEATHER PRODUCTS & FOOTWEAR DURING APRIL-FEB. 2024-25 VIS-À-VIS APRIL-FEB. 2023-24 ^{7.2}

As per officially notified DGCI&S monthly export data, the export of Leather, Leather products & Footwear for the period **April-February 2024-25 touched US \$ 4431.96 Mn** as against the performance of **US\$ 4305.82 Mn in April- February 2023-24**, recording positive growth of **2.93%**.

7.3 Amendment proposed in the name of CLE with the new name as ‘Council for Footwear & Leather Exports’ – Concurrence Requested – reg ^{7.3}

- Council for Leather Exports (CLE) is the single largest Apex trade promotion organization for Leather & Footwear Industry in the country, functioning under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.
- CLE is the Export Promotion Council for Leather & Footwear Industry, notified by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in the National Foreign Trade Policy.

- The product coverage of the CLE as EPC includes Raw hides & skins, Leather, Leather Products & Accessories, Leather Garments, Leather Gloves, Harness & Saddlery items, Leather Footwear, Non-Leather Footwear, Footwear Components and allied products etc.
- With the ever-changing global trade and growing domestic market of India for footwear, there is need for the CLE to focus on the domestic market also besides the export markets.
- The Leather & Footwear Industry size is estimated to be around US \$ 24.38 billion (FY 2023-24) which consist of exports US \$ 5.38 billion, and domestic market of US \$ 19.00 billion.
- As per Vision 2030 for the sector, the industry size estimated to reach an ambitious level of US \$ 50.00 billion (FY 2029-30), which consist of exports US \$ 14.00 billion and domestic market size of US \$ 36.00 billion.
- This calls for exports to growth at 17.28% of CAGR and domestic market growth of 11.24% CAGR. It is also pertinent to mention here that share of Footwear alone is 58% in exports and 76% in domestic market.
- As such, it is imperative for the CLE to focus on both domestic market and export markets, and on both leather as well as non-leather footwear and products.
- In tune with this approach, it has become necessary for the CLE to amend its name to include both exports as well as domestic market focus. It is generally commented by various stakeholders that name of 'COUNCIL FOR LEATHER EXPORTS' refers only to Leather and its exports.
- But CLE caters to the needs for both leather & non-leather sector. Therefore, it is now a necessity for the CLE to have a new title to include both Footwear & Leather Industry and to focus on manufacturing for exports as well as for domestic sales.

- This was discussed in the 182nd meeting of the Committee of Administration (COA) of CLE held on 29.04.2025 at Kanpur, and A decision was unanimously taken to amend the name of CLE as **COUNCIL FOR FOOTWEAR & LEATHER EXPORTS** which is inclusive of both domestic and exports of footwear (both leather & non-leather), leather & leather products sectors.

7.4 Leather, footwear exports up 25% to \$5.7 bn in 2024-25; may cross \$6.5 bn in FY26 ^{7.4}

The Council for Leather Exports (CLE) says that demands in both developed and developing countries are 'healthy'. The country's leather, non-leather footwear and products' exports rose by about 25 per cent year-on-year to \$5.7 billion in 2024-25 and the shipments are likely to cross the \$6.5 billion mark this fiscal, exporters' body CLE said on Monday. "In 2024-25, we have exceeded the exports target by \$1 billion set up by the department of commerce and going by this trend, our exports will cross \$6.5 billion in 2025-26.

7.5 The Indian government is actively supporting the leather export sector

The Indian government is actively supporting the leather export sector through various initiatives like the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP).

This program, with a substantial ₹1700 crore allocation until 2026, focuses on infrastructure development, environmental concerns, increased investment, and job creation within the sector. Additionally, the government is streamlining export procedures, removing restrictions, and promoting ease of doing business for leather exporters. A more detailed look at the government's efforts:

7.5.1 Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP)

- **Infrastructure Development:**

The IFLDP aims to modernize and expand infrastructure within the leather and footwear industry, including setting up clusters and institutional facilities.

- **Environmental Concerns:**

The program addresses environmental issues specific to the leather industry, promoting sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

- **Financial Assistance:**

Subsidies are provided to units for modernization, capacity expansion, and technology upgrades, with varying percentages for MSME and other units.

- **Focus on Sustainability:**

The Sustainable Technology and Environmental Protection (STEP) initiative under IFLDP focuses on eco-friendly tanning and waste reduction, including mandatory zero liquid discharge in some areas.

- **Funding and Incentives:**

The scheme offers financial assistance to units for upgrading technology and expanding capacity, including specific provisions for MSME and other units.

2. Streamlining Export Procedures:

- **Removal of Restrictions:**

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has removed restrictions on exporting finished, wet blue, and EI tanned leather from any port, easing export processes.

- **Reduced Compliance Burden:**

The removal of mandatory testing and certification by CLRI for certain leather types simplifies procedures and improves ease of doing business.

- **Focus Product Scheme:**

The Union Budget 2025-26 introduced a Focus Product Scheme to boost the footwear and leather sector, aiming for higher turnover, exports, and employment.

3. Other Supporting Measures:

- **Public Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:**

Discussions are underway for a PLI scheme to enhance domestic manufacturing and reduce imports.

- **Skill Development:**

The government is investing in skill development programs to create a skilled workforce for the leather industry, including training programs and mentoring arrangements.

- **Brand Promotion:**

Efforts are underway to promote Indian leather brands and products in the global market.

- **Research and Development:**

The government supports research and development in the leather sector, including design and development of new products.

- **Cluster Development:**

The Mega Leather Footwear and Accessories Cluster Development (MLFACD) sub-scheme under IFLDP aims to create world-class infrastructure for leather clusters.

4. Targeted Goals:

- The government aims to reach a \$47 billion turnover in the leather and footwear sector by 2030.
- The Focus Product Scheme aims to achieve a turnover of Rs. 4 lakh crores, exports of Rs. 1.1 lakh crore, and create 2.2 million jobs.

7.6 Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP)

About the Scheme

The central government on March 3, 2022, released a notification approving the Central Government Scheme 'Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP)' with an allocation of ₹1700 crore till March 31, 2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier.

The scheme aims to help in:

1. Development of infrastructure for the leather and footwear sector
2. Address environment concerns specific to the leather and footwear sector
3. Facilitate additional investments
4. Generate employment within sector
5. Help in increase of production

7.7 Service to Leather & Leather Products Exporters since 1984 – CLE

The Council for Leather Exports (CLE) is the single largest and Apex trade promotion organisation of the strong and rapidly growing Indian leather & leather products industry. CLE is committed towards the overall development of Indian leather sector and achieve higher export growth to enhance India's share in global leather trade. CLE is functioning under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India. It is the notified Export Promotion organization for entire leather & leather products industry.

7.7.1 Core Objectives of CLE

- Develop & strengthen the leather industry both industrial development as well as export growth.
- Undertake concerted and aggressive export promotion and market development activities to extend global reach of Indian leather & leather products.
- Assist importers anywhere in the world towards their sourcing needs of Indian leather & leather products.

- Provide necessary assistance/guidance to overseas entrepreneurs in establishing business collaborations and strategic alliances with Indian companies.
- Serve as a vital link between the Government and the leather industry, representing important policy measures, focusing on overall health and growth of the entire sector.

7.7.2 Activities and Services of CLE

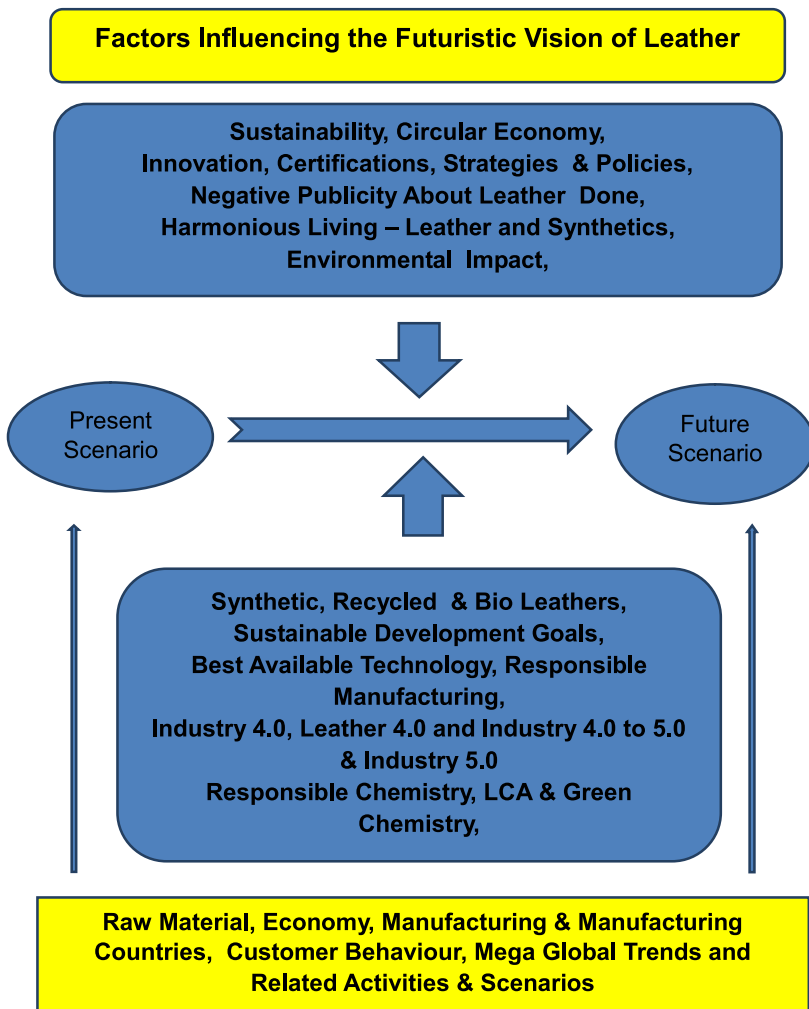
Disseminating market information, trends, policy matters and publishing information on commercial, technical and technological developments in the Indian leather industry

- Facilitating export-import trade through redressal of various procedural hurdles by representing to authorities concerned.
- Participating in major international leather trade fairs & specialized trade shows across the globe.
- Organizing Buyer-Seller Meets and Mega Leather Shows, B2B meetings in potential markets etc.,
- Promoting, facilitating & attracting joint ventures, technical collaborations & strategic alliances, FDIs etc into the Indian leather sector.
- Inviting Resource persons / Experts to the trade Fairs, Seminars & Workshops held in India, for exchange of information, knowledge, ideas and strategies.
- Mooting Delegations to overseas countries with a view to identify the sources for raw materials for augmenting availability of leather for production in India.
- Perform facilitation and Coordination activities towards implementation of various leather sector infrastructure strengthening, Human Resource Development programmes of Government of India.

- Facilitate in availing assistance under Integrated Development of Leather Sector (IDLS) for Modernization & Technology up gradation of production units

8. The Characteristic of A Healthy and Progressive Futuristic Vision of Leather

8.1. A Futuristic View – Leather in a Nutshell Figure – 8 A



8.2. Challenges encountered by Leather Industry

Challenges encountered by Leather Industry Table – 8 B
• Challenges to leather from Leather Alternatives – Synthetic Leather & Lesser extent from Recycled Leather, Bio Leather & Bio Fabricated Leather. • Environmental and economic issues – Responsible Manufacturing • Social pressures – Traceability • Technological changes – Safe Products & Processes
• Challenges to nations with natural abundance of raw materials: • Factors driving the future of global leather sector • Macro changes impacting leather sector • Review of process chemistry and tanning technologies in leather sector: a demand of the hour • NEGATIVE PUBLICITY ABOUT LEATHER DONE • Higgs Index & Leather Industry - LEATHER INDUSTRY CALLS FOR HIGG INDEX REVIEW
• “What is the future of (chrome) tanning? Leather manufacture in the new millennium”. • Leather Sustainability • Recycling of Leather • Leather 4.0 and Industry 4.0 to 5.0 • Harmonious Living – Leather and Synthetics

Source : Table – 8 B. WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF (CHROME) TANNING? LEATHER MANUFACTURE IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM MEET IN AFRICA Casablanca, Morocco 28 September, 2000. The framework for sustainable leather manufacture, Second edition. Jakov Buljan, Ivan Kralj. 2019 by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. Leather Innovation Challenges 2025SSIP – Italian Leather Research Institute

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TEX BIOSCIENCES (P) LIMITED

"Guru Krupa" Building- 2nd and 3rd Floor
No. 101/56, 4th Avenue Ashok Nagar,
Chennai - 600 083. Tamil Nadu, India.

Tel : +91-44-4298 8700

E-mail : aravindha@texbiosciences.com

Website: www.texbiosciences.com

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