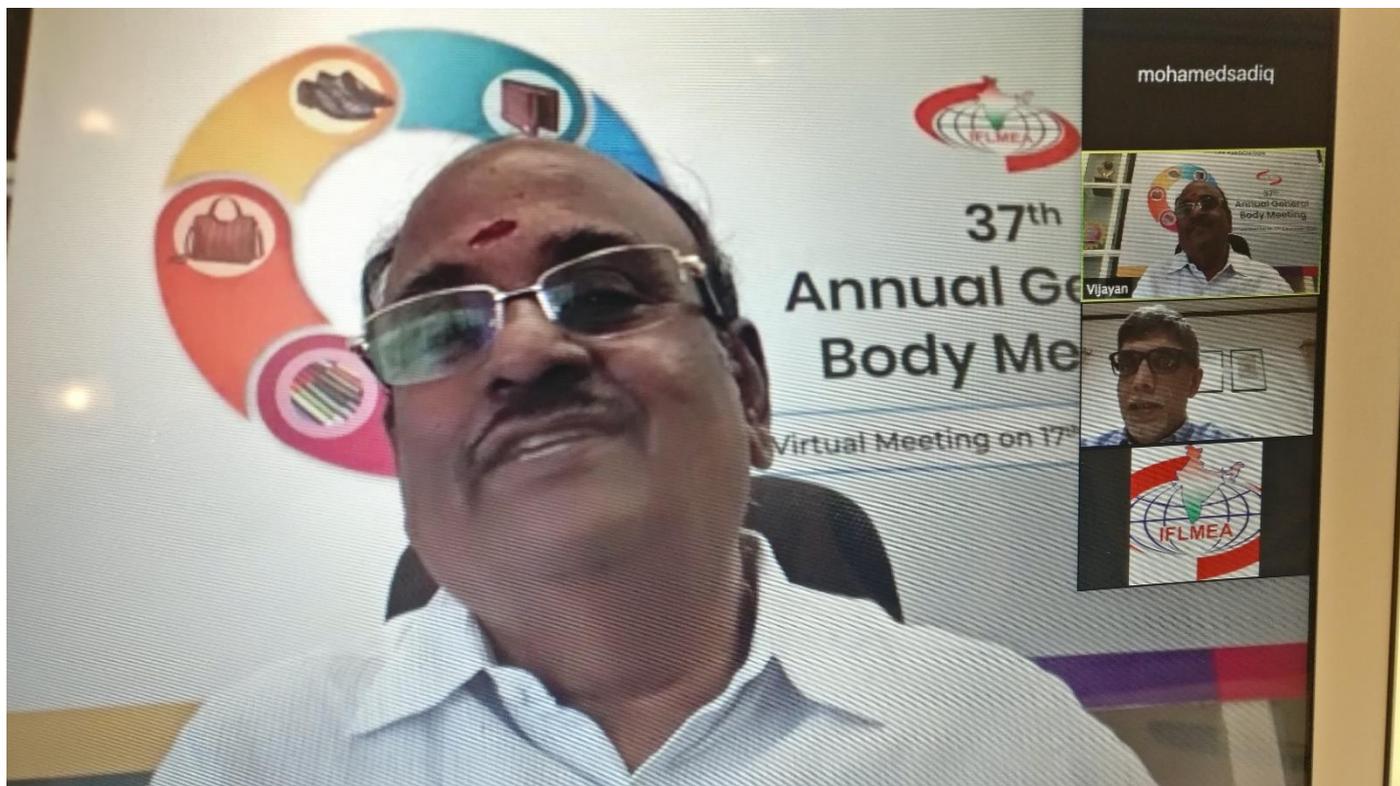


**“Raw materials prices are increasing by 30% and expected to rise further with reduced slaughter:
as Cow gets expensive globally, lighter skins (goat & sheep) to get popular”**

Record of Discussions held at the 'OPEN SESSION' post - 37th Annual General Meeting of Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association held on Zoom Platform at 3.00 pm on Thursday, 17th December 2020.



‘Chairman, IFLMEA proposes exclusive Leather Fair for International Designers’

Shri KR Vijayan, Chairman, Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association (IFLMEA) in his opening remarks expressed optimism for the Finished Leather Exports from India and said that beginning March 2021, there would be revival for the Industry.

The Chairman appealed to Shri Panaruna Aqeel Ahmed, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports (CLE) to support the organization of an International Leather Fair for International Designers: an idea that IFLMEA has been toying for a while now. The Chairman of IFLMEA sought support measures of the Government of India. He took this opportunity to thank Chairman, CLE; Regional Chairman (South), CLE and the Executive Director of CLE who were working relentlessly for the growth of the Industry. Shri Vijayan thanked Dr KJ Sreeram, Director, CSIR-CLRI for the new norms of finished leather as well as for the testing and quality standards. He mentioned that members of IFLMEA were benefitting from the TA Wahid & IFLMEA co-operation and the admissions to B. Tech (Leather Technology) course at Anna University. The partnership with Solidaridad for 'solid waste management' would cover Ranipet and Pallavaram tanneries. He then spoke about the LWG certifications services being offered by IFLMEA to its members, as also on traceability and sustainability. He spoke on how the CILTAA and Industry linkage helped in outreach.

The Chairman thanked Shri Panaruna Aqeel Ahmed, Chairman, CLE; Dr M Rafeeqe Ahmed, President, AISHTMA, Shri M Mohammed Hashim, doyen of the Indian Leather Industry; Shri Israr Ahmed Mecca, Regional Chairman (South) CLE; Shri N Shafeeq Ahmed, former Chairman, IFLMEA; office bearers and Executive Committee members for their unconditional support and expert advice. In conclusion, the Chairman of IFLMEA once again reposed faith that the Industry would bounce back soon!

**“Tanning Industry should be completely pollution - free and in the green area”
Chairman, CLE, Shri Panaruna Aqeel Ahmed calls out to the Members of IFLMEA**



Chairman, CLE; Shri Panaruna Aqeel Ahmed in his remarks, appreciated the performance of Chairman of IFLMEA despite the COVID challenge. While mentioning that Germany, UK and Italy were in the second lockdown; he alerted the Members to be prepared for the third wave as well. There is a 29.8% fall in exports as of November 2020 said, Chairman, CLE.

Shri Aqeel Ahmed also thanked former Chairman of IFLMEA, Shri N Shafeeq Ahmed for his tireless work on the revision of norms. He suggested to revise the norms every 2-3 years and to not wait for ten years, In fact, Chairman, CLE suggested that IFLMEA should start now for the next revision.

Shri Aqeel Ahmed appreciated the role of CLRI in developing an Indian Footwear Sizing System, norms for finished leather and BIS standards.

He announced that Feng Tay has become a member of CLE and now their exports too would be under the umbrella of LCE membership.

Chairman, CLE appealed to the members to benefit from the opportunity that the Mega Leather Cluster coming up at Bargur has to offer.

Among other points, he advised members to utilize the IFLADP scheme, invest in new technologies like Zero Waste Discharge (ZWD). About salt disposal, Chairman, CLE assured that this project will be taken up by CLE.

He added that records of CLE show that Leather Footwear exports is on the rise despite the growth of the non-leather footwear.

Leather Mark is the next important project to be taken up by IFLMEA and CLRI jointly, said the Chairman. CLE would support the endeavour.

In conclusion, Chairman, CLE hoped that Year 2021 would be great!

“Need for International and domestic intelligence on raw material price and new chemicals to enhance the knowledge of the Members”



Dr M Rafeeqe Ahmed, President, All India Skin & Hide Tanners and Merchants Association (AISHTMA) spoke on the following points:

- Light Leathers
- WTO & Level playing field
- CETP
- International Intelligence
- Bargur Project

Formal Shoes are not as much in fashion as more casual shoes are preferred and this, said Dr Rafeeqe Ahmed, is a challenge for manufacturers of light leathers (Goat and Sheep tanners). Sheep would still be absorbed, but goat tanners will have a hard time, and this necessitates new developments.

Any shoes made for the local market should also go through ISI as per WTO. Indian players are afraid, but WTO wants level-playing field.

President, AISHTMA appreciated the work done in improvement of CETP's.

Shri Ahmed requested Chairman, IFLMEA to play a lead role in bringing out a weekly/ monthly report with information on international and domestic intelligence on prices of raw materials and chemicals and enlarge the knowledge the knowledge of the members.

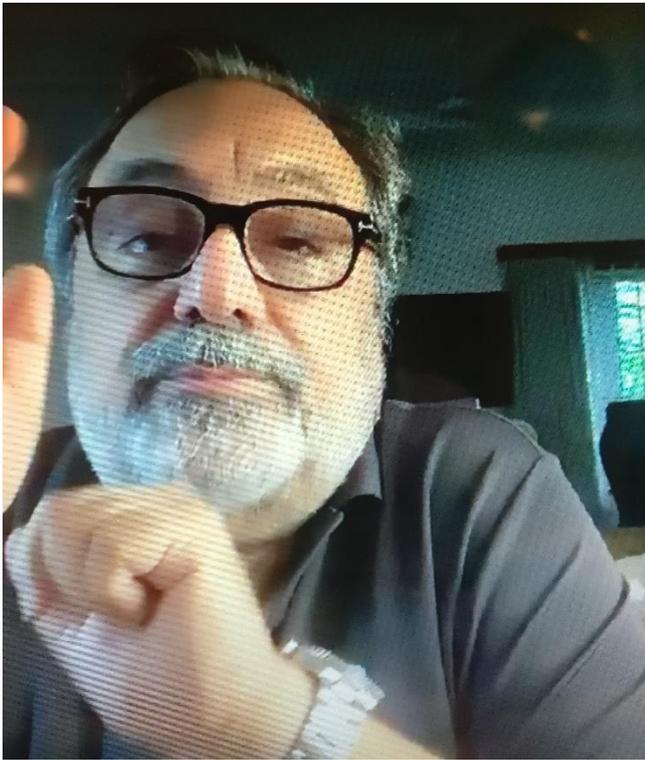
In conclusion, President, AISHTMA requested IFLMEA to insist on allowing 'dry finishing units' in the upcoming Bargur Mega Leather Cluster.

“Newsletter that outlines best practices”

Shri Habib Hussain, CEO, AV Thomas Leather & Allied Products Limited also seconded the idea of President, AISHTMA for the need of a 'newsletter' that outshines best practices, where we can cut costs, solar panels, environment norms and so on, he said.

Shri Habib Hussain suggested that IFLMEA could work with CLRI to get the Newsletter going.

In conclusion, he thanked Shri KR Vijayan, Chairman, IFLMEA; Shri N Shafeeq Ahmed, former Chairman, IFLMEA and Shri Israr Ahmed Mecca, Regional Chairman (South), CLE.



What will be the Finished Leather situation after COVID?

Shri Israr Ahmed Mecca, Regional Chairman (South), Council for Leather Exports congratulated Shri KR Vijayan, Chairman, IFLMEA and Shri AR Senthil Kumar, Honorary Secretary, IFLMEA for their roles in taking IFLMEA to greater heights. He thanked Chairman, CLE for laying out very well a brief of the Indian Leather Industry during COVID times.

What would be the 'finished leather' situation after COVID? he expressed concern. He opined that the focus on business will change post COVID scenario and India needs to stand out to get additional advantage. Everyone today is talking about sustainability, circular economy, regenerated from waste skins and technologies that need to be brought out. He said that CLRI had an important role to play.

Shri Israr Mecca continued saying that while he was not pessimistic; he cautioned members that "Raw materials prices are increasing by 30% and expected to rise further with reduced slaughter: as Cow gets expensive globally, lighter skins (goat & sheep) to get popular." Traceability has become increasingly important. He called to work with LWG to bring Indian concept of sustainability. In conclusion, the Regional Chairman said that the Mega Leather Cluster in Bargur was shaping well.

"CLRI is always available and will work together with the Industry"

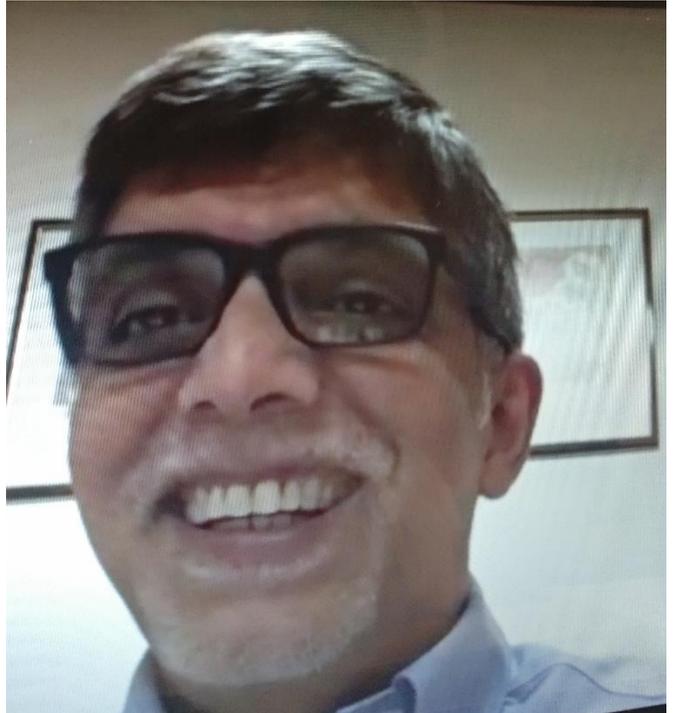
Dr KJ Sreeram, Director, CSIR-CLRI informed the members that CLRI does bring out "Leather Post" and CLRI could convert LEATHER POST into a Technology Magazine: as joint activity of CLRI and the Industry.

On the discussions on sustainability, the Director informed that new directions in carbon neutrality for products from leather wastes is being carried out.

In conclusion, Dr Sreeram assured that CLRI is always available and will work together with the Industry.

"Leather World would be different as we work towards carbon neutral"

Shri N Shafeeq Ahmed, President, SISMA and former Chairman, IFLMEA congratulated Team IFLMEA for their efforts. Shri Ahmed said that the "leather world would be different as we work towards carbon neutral." We have a big challenge, he said!

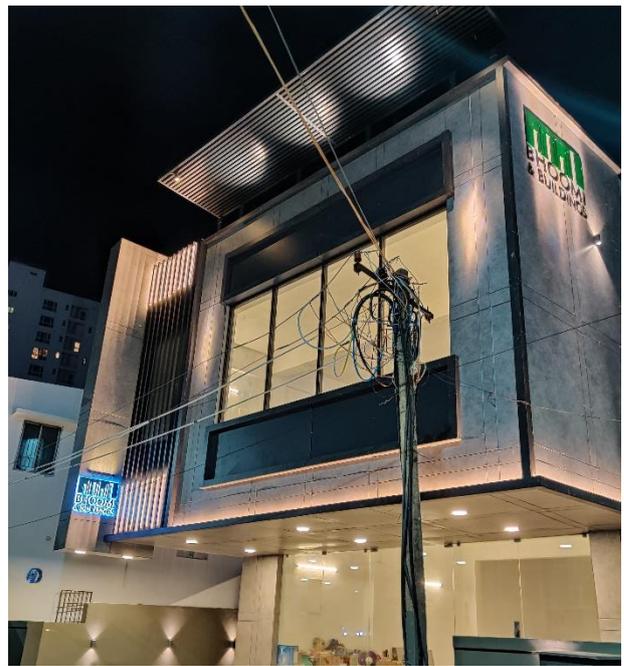


Shri Anees Ahmed said that Traceability is a big challenge and requested for steps to be taken to address this issue.

Shri Raja Seenivasan thanked the eminent speakers for their valuable inputs.

Shri Patel Yusuf requested the co-operation of all members and suggested "one issue – one member" may be adopted to achieve the goals in a short span of time!

Earlier in the meeting, **Shri Salmaan Parpia, Honorary Treasurer, IFLMEA** presented the audited accounts of IFLMEA, while **Shri AR Senthil Kumar, Honorary Secretary, IFLMEA** made a visual presentation on the property purchased by IFLMEA and ISF jointly on MGR Road, Perungudi.



In conclusion, **Shri KR Vijayan, Chairman, IFLMEA** thanked all participants and concluded the meeting.

PHOTO -GALLERY

