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Bangladesh Team Visit

Rapid Industrialisation in Bangladesh in the past decade had also thrown the issue of increased environmental pollution, particularly on water and land. While the effluent, mainly from the textile factories, has allegedly contaminated the water bodies and groundwater in the surrounding, dumping of solid wastes, particularly sludge from ETPs, have emerged as a major issue of late. The Department of Environment (DoE) of Bangladesh has stipulated zero discharge norms for the textile industry from year 2020 and directed the factories to submit an action plan to this effect. Simultaneously, the Government is considering establishment of secured landfill facilities for hazardous wastes.

Due to these circumstances, a study tour of senior officials of the Environmental Department of the GoB was organised to visit relevant facilities in India and held discussions with regulatory authority, industry representatives and experts regarding ZLD system. The participants of the study tour were the following:

- Farjana Khanom, Senior Joint Chief, MoEF,
- Masud Karim, Director, DoE
- Syed Nazmul Ahsan, Director, DoE
- Mst. Rukhsana Rahman, Ass. Director, DoE
- Kazi Suman, Senior Chemist, DoE
- Shamsul Arafin, National Expert, GIZ –PSES

“The team had meetings with Industry organisations managing the common ZLD systems, waste management association ... and Technology providers such as Indian Leather Industry Foundation (ILIFO)”

The team visited in India during the period 12-19 February 2017. During the visit, the team visited the following facilities:

- Seven Common and Individual ZLD systems: a total of three common & one individual plant for tanneries and three common ZLD systems for textile effluents.
- Three hazardous waste landfills, two common and one industry specific units. Also, facilities such as incinerators & biomedical waste handling unit.
- Associated units such as Modern laboratory, by-product industry, chrome recovery units, few pilot research units, pre-treatment units, cleaner technology demonstration unit etc.

The team also held in-depth discussions with Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) wherein five top officials of TNPCB participated. The discussion was focussed on (a) Strategies to implement the zero-liquid discharge system: accomplishments, difficulties encountered, monitoring arrangement, residual issues, (b) Online monitoring arrangements, Care AIR centre, strategies, accomplishments and issues and (c) issues related to solid waste management, strategies and present status related to hazardous wastes, E-Wastes, Bio-medical wastes and secured landfills. The team had meetings with Industry organisations managing the common ZLD systems, waste management association of Chennai & Kolkata, Contractors who implemented the Common ZLD systems and Technology providers such as Indian Leather Industry Foundation (ILIFO). Shri.M.Hashim, Chairman, KHEIPL met the team at Ranipet briefed about measures taken and performance of ZLD system.

From the feed back of the study tour travellers, it appears that the tour was considered very useful and informative. Within a short time, the team could visit and closely observe operation of a large number of units. The team could also held detailed discussions with TNPCB officials, industry associations, contractors and technology providers. On the final day of their visit, the team had a dinner meeting with Shri. A. Sahasranaman, Patron, ILIFO and received his valuable guidance.





INDIA MSME

Union Budget 2017 MSME

As an engine of inclusive growth, the MSME sector forms the backbone of the Indian economy. Clearly, it is critical to ensure sustainable economic development at the grass root level – and this aspect has been well addressed in this year’s Budget. Further, against the backdrop of demonetisation, this Budget offers a much needed relief while maintaining a fine balance between expectations and reality. From a sectoral perspective, Budget 2017 is important for the MSME segment.

1. Incremental tax benefits for MSMEs

Undoubtedly, the government’s focus on promoting the MSME sector is reflected through in the incremental tax reduction of 5 percent for companies with annual turnover of less than Rs 50 crore (and with profits less than Rs 1 crore). This, in turn will nudge the MSME segment to increasingly shift from proprietary/partnership firms to company structure, thereby improving the financial discipline. Furthermore, for entities with a turnover of up to Rs 2 crore, relaxation in audit norms through returns to be filed based on presumptive income, will have an extremely positive impact and ensure reduced compliance costs for financial reporting.

2. Availability of credit flow for MSMEs

The government will encourage SIDBI to refinance credit institutions which provide unsecured loans at reasonable interest rates. In addition, to facilitate a higher credit flow to MSME sector where collateral cover continues to be a challenge,

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SIDBI has been asked to increase unsecured funding on the basis of track record. This will ensure credit flow to MSME without major collateral constraint, thus addressing the transient impact of demonetisation and enabling a higher credit flow.

3. Transition into a digital economy

Post demonetisation, transition in to a digital economy has gained further momentum with increased focus on encouraging digital payment in rural and semi urban areas. The launch of BHIM application and its successful adoption by over 125 lakh people coupled with the Budget announcement to introduce Aadhaar Pay, a merchant version of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System, will ensure better access of formal credit to MSME segment as more information on health of firms will be available through visible cash flows and transparent financial data.

4. Make in India push

A strong manufacturing sector will directly benefit the MSME sector, which is the largest partner in the supply chain, both for agri and food processing as well as infra sector. In addition, the government's emphasis on expanding the Skill India initiative to over 600 districts will enable increased availability of skilled manpower across India. These will go a long way in limiting the inflationary pressure on wages due to a higher concentration of opportunities in the same geography. The strategic importance of MSME sector as a prime mover of employment and economic growth is today acknowledged across the nation.

Prioritising tax incentives for job-creating smaller companies with annual turnover up to Rs 50 crore over large ones, the government on Wednesday announced reduction in corporate tax rate for MSMEs to 25% from 30% to make them competitive and shift to a company format. The government relaxed conditions for tax-exempted start-ups to allow them to carry forward losses even after original promoters reduce their holding to below 51%. Also, the profit-linked deduction available to the start-ups for 3 years out of 5 years is being changed to 3 out of 7 years. The government had unveiled a plan to reduce the corporate tax rate from 30% to 25% in four years to make India's tax rates globally competitive.

In the subsequent year, it cut the rate to 29% for those companies which reported total turnover/gross receipts up to R5 crore in FY15 and to 25% for newly domestic firms. As per the blueprint, all tax corporate incentives for which no end date has been specified in the law will be phased out from April 1, 2017.

Justifying the reduction in corporate tax rates for small firms, Jaitley said: "2.85 lakh companies making profit of less than R1 crore pay effective tax rate of 30.26% while 298 firms making profit above R500 crore pay effective tax rate of 25.90%." Percentage-wise, 96% of companies will get this benefit of lower taxation. The revenue forgone estimate for this measure is expected to be Rs. 7,200 crore per annum.





AISHTMA



Centenary Celebration in AISHTMA

AISHTMA is celebrating an important milestone in 2017 – its 100th year anniversary !

Founded in the year 1917 under the name "The Southern India Skin and Hide Merchants Association" (SISHMA) the association has been serving the leather trade and industry of southern India, and in the years that followed, the association started extending its services to the entire nation and was renamed The All India Skin and Hide Tanners and Merchants Association.

The association is striding forward to constantly support the leather industry, by providing services which help to increase production and exports of leather and leather products by many folds, promote higher employment through skill development and mainly focus on compliance to international environmental standards to produce eco-friendly leather. The journey which began in 1917 has come a long way, carrying the hopes and aspirations of many in the industry. Among the dignitaries who spoke on the occasion , Shri.M.M.Hashim Head of the Organizing Committee recalled his long association with AISHTMA and the challenge it faced successfully. Shri.M.Rafeeqe Ahmed President, AISHTMA especially focused on the new challenges being faced. Dr.T.Ramasami , Former Secretary, Science and Technology, GoI presiding over the function extolled the variegated roles played by AISHTMA. The Chief Guest Mr.Micheal Kafabusa Werikhe, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Uganda and Mr. Adolf Festine Mkenda Permanent Secretary, Trade and Investment, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Tanzania spoke in glorying terms about AISHTMA and wanted its support in helping the industries in their country.

“not only represents the concerns of the leather industry but also carries the hopes and aspirations of many in the leather industry, delivering on its promises each and every time”

TIES to replace ASIDE

Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) was launched recently by the Centre to enhance export competitiveness which replaces ASIDE scheme. This scheme would have a budgetary allocation of Rs.600 Cr. with an annual outlay of Rs.200 Cr. per year and would be implemented from FY '18 till FY '20.

XXXIV IULTCS Congress 2017

The 34th IULTCS Congress inaugural meeting was held on 6th February 2017 at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai. Eminent personalities and International experts were among the speakers and attendees of the event. A presentation featuring evaluation of ZLD systems in Ranipet has been made by Mr. Jakov Buljan, former Head of Leather

2nd Designers Fair at Chennai

The event organized by CLE in Chennai during 1st week of February witnessed participation of 40 designers, 375 manufacturers and exporters and is reported to have generated business units of US\$30000. More importantly, it has brought global designers of footwear, leather goods & garments to the doorstep of Indian manufacturers.

India International Leather Fair at Chennai

IILF 2017 (February 1-3, 2017) was organized by ITPO with support of CLE, CLRI, ISF, IFLMEA, FDDI, AF-CAMI and IFCOMA. The inaugural function was marked by presentation of the CLE Export Excellence Awards.



Value addition of fish waste in the leather industry for dehairing

This study explored the feasibility of utilizing enzymes derived from fish wastes as a low cost depilatory agent. These enzymes are eco-friendly alternative to the conventional lime-sulphide dehairing process. The crude enzyme extract was partially purified with a yield of 60% (Specific protease activity is 4683 U/mg of protein). Optimum pH and temperature for enhanced protease activity of partially purified protease were 8.0 and 30°C, respectively. The partially purified protease was evaluated for its dehairing efficiency of goat skins. It was observed that the release of proteoglycans and saccharides in the spent liquor after dehairing was 4300 µg/mL and 28 µg/mL, respectively. In the wet blue stage, the enzyme treated leathers exhibited shrinkage temperature of about 110±2°C, which was found to be on par with that of control leathers. The morphological features were examined through histological and scanning electron microscopic analysis, which reveals a complete removal of hair in the skin matrix. The organoleptic properties and visual assessment of crust leathers were carried out.

The physical strength of the crust leathers developed from the enzyme treatment has met the UNIDO norms. Moreover, a significant reduction in the pollution loads was observed in terms of total solids (81%), biological oxygen demand (90%), and chemical oxygen demand (88%) in the dehairing waste stream.

R. Saranya, R. Prasanna, Jayapriya Jayaprakash, Tamil Selvi
Central Leather Research Institute Chennai

This space is exclusively for research findings and recent breakthroughs in Tannery. Articles are invited from Academicians/Industrialists/Researchers and Students. The same can be mailed to 'ilifo@vsnl.com' with the subject 'ILIFO Journal Article'.

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