

IEML launches mobile education vans on Independence Day as part of Educational CSR initiative



Mr. N P Singh (IAS), District Magistrate, Gautam Budh Nagar, inaugurates the Mobile Education Van on 15th August, 2016, in the presence of CDO, Mr. Makhan Lal Gupta, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman IEML and Executive Director, EPCH and eminent people from trade & industry like, Mr. S P Dadoo, Mr. Rakesh Gupta and Mr. O P Manchanda



Gautam Budha Society for Social Welfare was formed sometime back on the initiative of India Exposition Mart Limited (IEML) and the District Magistrate of Gautam Budh Nagar. Currently approx. 40 corporates of the district are involved with the activity under their CSR initiatives. IEML is the first one to come forward and donate four mobile vehicles comprising 32 toilets under the Swach Bharat Abhiyan.

IEML has now also donated a Mobile Education Van to educate children of the under privileged. These vans are fully equipped with audio video systems, books, stationery, creatives, etc. This van will be formally inducted and start functioning as a mobile school at the slum cluster of Sector 9/10 Noida. This Mobile school will initially educate two batches of 15 children each. The program will be implemented by M/s Niveda Foundation.

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The society and its members are committed to the development of Gautam Budh Nagar through its CSR initiative covering Education & Skill Development, Sanitation & Women Empowerment, Preventive Healthcare & Malnutrition, Environment Sustainability & Safe Drinking Water.

Independence Day celebrations at ILTC, Narsapur



EPCH member exporter, Mr. Tafsir Ahmed felicitated with Amity Export Excellence Award



Mr. Tafsir Ahmed, M/s The Kings, a SA8000:2001 and ISO 9001:2001 certified company was felicitated with Amity Export Excellence Award during WTO Summit, organized by Amity Education Group on 15th September 2016. With the theme, "India and WTO: Opportunities, Prospects and Challenges for India", this summit witnessed the presence of policymakers, top professionals from leading organizations, academicians and researchers. Leading exporters, who have worked relentlessly to ensure that India is one of the leading global economies in times to come, were felicitated on the occasion. Based on the feedback from various trade promotion organizations and Export Promotion Councils, these organization were been nominated for the award.

Candles & Home Fragrances

add to stylized homes in Australia, rule among personalized gifts

Consumers in Australia are purchasing home fragrance items including candles, diffusers and room sprays in record numbers. Not just a way for consumers to scent their homes, candles, wax melts, reed diffusers and room sprays have become products that help create an atmosphere and add another layer of style in the home.

In the US market, revenue from candles alone is about US\$2 billion per year and growing. This is reflected in Britain where, according to consultancy firm Kantar, the sale of home fragrance items went up 7.1 per cent during 2015. This is a trend the Australian market is also seeing and, like their American and British counterparts, Australian shoppers are looking for premium products to transform their space.

"The trend in home renovation and decorating has made consumers more house proud and willing to buy high quality fragrance products and homewares," says a retailer in this category and adds, "scented candles in particular have increased in popularity as consumers strive to create atmosphere and enhance a particular mood in their home. With increased spend in home fragrance and the strong consumer interest in using fragrance to relax or improve their sense of wellbeing, the popularity of scented candles remains robust." Another agrees and says consumers are "more house proud than ever. Having a beautiful fragrance burning in your home is warm and inviting and enhances an environment. They are not

only the perfect addition to a vignette in the home, but the fragrance burning often affects emotions and moods and evokes memories, elevating those everyday moments."



Home Fragrance items and candles in particular, are also increasingly given as gifts, a shift that has been helped by manufacturers emphasizing on packaging. Many brands' gift boxes encourage customers to see the products as appropriate for special occasions, and as an alternative to wine or flowers for a housewarming or dinner party. Such popularity coupled with consumers' continuing commitment to fragrance their homes, means the market continues to grow rapidly, enhanced by exotic and unusual scents. In line with the evolving scents, home fragrance brands have also become more design conscious. The dusty, nana-style potpourri is out, while products that look and smell great are in, particularly if the candle vessel or diffuser ties into a current home décor theme like industrial or Scandinavian. Candle jars are seeing innovations too, especially with metallic, marble and concrete. Some could be showcased as decorative pieces, going beyond its candle lifespan. In terms of home fragrances, customers are moving to room sprays from aerosols that harm the environment. ■

Source : *Giftguide Australia*

September Retail Imports in US Projected as 'Strong'

Even with the bankruptcy of a major South Korean shipper, US retail imports should reach high levels in September, according to a recent Global Port Tracker report from the US National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates. While the Global Port Tracker report said September cargo volume at the nation's major container ports is expected to decline by 0.2%, it should still reach 1.62 million 20-foot equivalent units (20-foot-long cargo containers or their equivalents), a near peak for the month.

Hanjin Shipping, which annually ships more than 100 million tons of cargo in a variety of product categories, filed for receivership in South Korea on Aug. 31, setting the stage for its assets to be frozen and its ships denied access to ports throughout the world. The company then filed for US bankruptcy protection under Chapter 15 of the US bankruptcy COD, a move intended to stop creditors from seizing its ships at US ports. Because of the receivership, millions of dollars' worth of merchandise is in limbo at the moment, waiting to be brought through US ports, said NRF's vice president for supply chain and customs policy. Nevertheless, "Hanjin should not significantly affect volume for the month since alternative arrangements to unload those containers or shift cargo elsewhere should be dealt with by the time the numbers are tallied," he added. In July, the most recent month with available data, import cargo volume rose 0.7% from July of last year. The Global Port Tracker report said August would produce a 0.4% decrease in volume. October's import levels are expected to rise by 5.3%, followed by a 3.8% gain in November, a 3.6% pickup in December and a 2.6% increase in January. ■
Source : NRF

Downsizing brings design oriented multi-purpose home storage to the fore

Items used to put things away are now part of a home's decor

Since downsizing has reduced the amount of closet space for many people today, storage solutions that add to home decor are gaining prominence. Design oriented multi-purpose storage boxes perfectly cater to this need and provide attractive yet practical solutions. The products which were earlier used to put things away and out of sight like storage containers, boxes, canisters etc., are now used to beautify the home in minimal spaces possible. People want every item in their home to have a specific storage location because it makes daily living so much easier. The trend is towards simplicity and minimalism.



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organize and maximize 'unseen' space in cabinets, drawers and closets. These multipurpose storage containers blend into studio lifestyles where people want to decorate their houses in a practical manner. They are planned wisely with layers to store different things to minimize the space it covers and at the same time designed exclusively to be fit into one's home decor. Storage Ottomans which are used as a stool and storage box both is an ideal example of this trend. Height adjustable shelves, storage ottomans, decorative drawers, storage bins, jewellery holders and dresser accessories, portable drawers and wardrobes are trendy choices for students and small houses today. Efficient, space savers cabinet organizers for kitchen, food storage and bathrooms storage needs remain key drivers for shoppers. Portable office supplies & organizers makes for another growing category today. ■
Source : HFN

Manufacturers offer a variety of natural materials that blend in with the décor, plus sizes and shapes that could be unusual. There are collections with brass finishes, copper, open-weave wire, maize and knit look collections that seem woven but are actually made of plastic. Storage solutions are trend right and include fashion-forward colours and patterns, says a retailer whose fashion-forward patterned bins easily work with their six-or nine-cube laminate program, creating a great storage and closet solution. Minimalist design trends are growing demand for products that

organize and maximize 'unseen' space in cabinets, drawers and closets. These multipurpose storage containers blend into studio lifestyles where people want to decorate their houses in a practical manner. They are planned wisely with layers to store different things to minimize the space it covers and at the same time designed exclusively to be fit into one's home decor. Storage Ottomans which are used as a stool and storage box both is an ideal example of this trend. Height adjustable shelves, storage ottomans, decorative drawers, storage bins, jewellery holders and dresser accessories, portable drawers and wardrobes are trendy choices for students and small houses today. Efficient, space savers cabinet organizers for kitchen, food storage and bathrooms storage needs remain key drivers for shoppers. Portable office supplies & organizers makes for another growing category today. ■



Artisanal gardening gathers momentum

'back to nature' trend gains popularity

Décor created from branches, twigs, flowers and floral patterns, from prints inspired by forest and meadow, from untreated wood, natural stone and raw silk-this is "Artisanal Gardening", the latest trend that is lifting the barrier between indoor and outdoor as warm tones from red and orange to violet and brown announce arrival of the 'Indian Summer' look. Powerful nuances of leaf, grass and moss-green combine with gentle freshness and attractiveness of natural beige, grey and blue tones. The colour palette that informs "Artisanal Gardening" is anything but over-designed. It is reminiscent of the interplay of light and changing flora that one would see on a late summer stroll through the park - contrasting but also harmonious without feeling forced.



The combination of a wide variety of materials, textures, colours and patterns ensures a lightness that creates a relaxed home atmosphere. The barrier between indoor and outdoor is blurred and elements from folklore and hippie chic blend with vintage and collectors' items.

wooden boards as wall decorations, handcrafted brushes from Sweden, hand-blown glass objects and hand-carved animal figures. More than ever, people crave authenticity and nature offers the best examples that show that this trend is not only sustainable, but also embodies a special aesthetic that is a very long way from the jute bag look of some years ago.

An "Inspired by nature, made by hand" theme has a very sophisticated, elegant and timeless feel to it. And this is down firstly to the choice of materials, e.g. natural wood and stone, bamboo, ceramic, clay, leather, wool, fur, linen and raw silk, and secondly to the look created by the use of traditional manufacturing methods such as plaiting, weaving, embroidery, engraving and woodcarving. "Artisanal Gardening" defines not only a lifestyle inspired by the grandeur of nature, this trend is also an expression of careful management of resources, a high regard for handcrafted products and a respect for tradition and culture. Finally, the mix is key! The combination of a wide variety of materials, textures, colours and patterns ensures a lightness that creates a relaxed home atmosphere. The barrier between indoor and outdoor is blurred and elements from folklore and hippie chic, e.g. floral wallpaper and patchwork quilts, blend with vintage and collectors' items. ■ Source: *Ambiente*

Preference for relaxed, clean & functional styles for home

Neutral, neutral and neutral – that's how the majority of today's consumers in USA, from Millennials to Baby Boomers, describe their home's colour palette, according to a research.

Additionally, the new research study posed this question: Which words best describe your home's overall style? The word "relaxed" is the clear winner in defining home trends, with 61% of responding consumers using it. By region and generation, those living in the Midwest and members of Generation X have the most "relaxed" home décor.



The word "clean" is the favourite descriptor for Millennials with six out of 10 choosing the word to describe their home style. For Generation X, "relaxed" is the most popular style, and with Baby Boomers the words "relaxed" and "functional" are tied at the top. Millennials are currently between the ages of 18 and 35; Generation X is between ages 36 and 51; and Baby Boomers are ages 52 to 70. Fewer consumers use the style terms of "traditional" and "modern" to describe home's décor. Overall, 27% select "traditional," and 23% pick "modern." Baby Boomers and those living in the Midwest are the most likely to lean towards "traditional" styles, while Millennials and those living in the South are most likely to prefer "modern." ■ Source: *Furniture Today*

Trendy housewares emerge

as German kitchens embrace American way of life



German kitchens are becoming more and more American. Walls are disappearing, double-door fridges are in, breakfast bars are increasingly popular and the cooker is taking centre stage. This new openness is also reflected in the pots and pans. People want products that not only create delicious meals, but that look good too.

The American influence on German cuisine is not just limited to hamburgers and hotdogs. In kitchen design, too, there is a significant trend towards the “American way of life.”

Perhaps this is because US TV series are increasingly showing us the insides of American kitchens rather than courtrooms, oil fields or the streets of New York and San Francisco. Wherever these influences are actually coming from, the fact is that German kitchens are following the example of the American kitchen and becoming more and more open. Whereas previously kitchens were enclosed spaces with perhaps a useful hatch through to the dining room or lounge, an open cooking and living area is becoming more and more frequently the central focus of the home.

This openness naturally also influences the furnishing of the new kitchen. In the past the family’s “best china” might only have been brought out on high days and holidays, today pots, pans, knives and even electrical appliances are all exposed to public gaze. More importance is therefore being attached to kitchen fittings and equipment. When it comes down to it, people want to show off not just their style, but also what they have. ■ *Source: Koeln Messe*

Ceramic knives

keep their edge in sharpness, colours & prints

Though not the right choice for a knife-throwing act, new age ceramic knives are ultra-sharp and fit comfortably in the hand, don’t react well to extreme impact and claim to last longer than stainless steel.

In contrast to stainless or steel, ceramic blades are not forged, they are “baked” and then ground by hand. The hardness of these super-effective knives compares to that of diamond. They are manufactured at temperatures of more than 1500°C under 300

tonnes of pressure from zirconia (zirconium oxide), a ceramic material also used in the medicine and aerospace sectors. The manufacturers normally supply a protective cover to prevent accidents in the cutlery drawer. These stainless blades can be dyed and printed in any colour you like, but there are really no serious competitors to snow-white and stylish anthracite. Particularly in Japan – the land of sushi and sashimi – ceramic knives are highly prized and are available in many traditional forms of blade.

Shorter ceramic blades are the most suitable for peeling and cutting up easily damaged fruit and vegetables as they effortlessly cut through fibres and stems. They are also great at cutting clean, wafer-thin slices for decoration. And, of course, the ceramic material is neutral in terms of odour and taste. There are lots of other advantages, too. There is no oxidation from acid foodstuffs. The surface of the knife remains free of stains. It is suitable for use by allergy sufferers as no metal ions are left behind in the food. In terms of hygiene, these knives are in the top league.

A characteristic trend seen in the premium class of ceramic knives is the emulation of the wave pattern. These new blades are manufactured in a process in which the ceramic is exposed to pressures of up to 20,000 tonnes.

Other blades with an innovative wave shape prevent friction so that no foodstuff clings to the surface. In short, the improved high-tech ceramic blades boast an impressive performance that has turned these kitchen “outsiders” into the ultimate cutting implement. ■ *Source: Koeln Messe*



Back with the old

From recycling to upcycling - green glass design

The issue of sustainability is becoming increasingly important in design, as elsewhere in life. Companies and manufacturers have long been aware that resources are finite, and are always looking for suitable ways to marry design with innovative, environmentally friendly ideas.

Tableware is in the ascendency. Manufacturers and producers are now especially keen on recycling. Old glass is melted down and made into new items. This not only saves resources, it also helps protect the

environment. Using such methods, manufacturers like Ritzenhoff & Breker save nearly six litres of water per kilogramme of glass produced. They also consume approximately 20% less energy – enough to light a 100 W bulb for nearly 4 hours. The reason for this is that recycled glass can be melted down more easily than its constituent parts – and it can be completely melted, repeatedly, without any drop in quality.

But recycling is not the only way of breathing new life into existing materials and products.

Manufacturers such as Kimoto Glass Tokyo are also turning to 'upcycling'. The product retains its original form, but its design and function are transformed and enhanced. Who would have thought that bottle-shaped lamps could create such beautiful, minimalist lighting? The same goes for the arty curves of Green Glass's Corona bottle dish. The well-known logo remains intact, adding a lovely retro touch. ■ *Source: Ambiente*



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US holiday sales to increase 3.6% forecasts NRF

The US National Retail Federation announced it expects sales in November and December, excluding autos, gas and restaurant sales, to increase a solid 3.6 percent to \$655.8 billion that is significantly higher than the 10-year average of 2.5 percent and above the seven-year average of 3.4 percent since recovery began in 2009. Additionally, NRF is forecasting non-store sales to increase between 7 and 10 percent to as much as \$117 billion.

"All of the fundamentals are in a good place, giving strength to consumers and leading us to believe that this will be a very positive holiday season," NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay said. "This year hasn't been perfect, starting with a long summer and unseasonably warm fall, but our forecast reflects the very realistic steady momentum of the economy and industry expectations." "We remain optimistic that the pace of economic activity will pick up in the near term," continued Shay.

Holiday sales in 2015 increased 3.2 percent over the previous year. "Consumers have seen steady job and income gains throughout the year, resulting in continued confidence and the greater use of credit, which bodes well for more spending throughout the holiday season," NRF Chief Economist Jack Kleinhenz said. "Increased geopolitical uncertainty, the presidential election outcome



and unseasonably warm weather are the main issues at play with the greatest potential to shake consumer confidence and

impact shopping patterns. However, the economic spending power of the consumer is resilient and it should never be underestimated." continued Kleinhenz.

NRF's holiday sales forecast is based on an economic model using several indicators including, consumer credit, disposable personal income and previous monthly retail sales releases. The overall forecast includes the non-store category (direct-to-consumer, kiosks and online sales). ■

Source: Gifts & Decoratives