

waves

Where Every Week Tells A New Story



IN FRAME: PRIYAM MONDAL INTERACTING WITH HIS BUYER AT AILPA(LEATHER LIFESTYLE AND PRODUCT DESIGN DEPARTMENT, BATCH 2023)

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FDDI'S PARTICIPATION AT AILPA SOURCING FAIR 2025

The All India Leather Products and Allied – Sourcing Fair (AILPA 2025), organised by the Indian Leather Products Association (ILPA), serves as a vibrant networking platform for Indian manufacturer-exporters and international buyers. The fair provides immense business opportunities and fosters collaborations within the global leather industry.

The event connects prominent manufacturers and influential buyers while showcasing high-quality leather goods, sustainable innovations, and contemporary designs. Aligned with the national initiative “Make in India”, AILPA strengthens the country’s leather value chain and highlights Kolkata’s role as a hub of craftsmanship and design excellence.



Students from the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) played a vital role in the success of the AILPA 2025 Sourcing Fair as part of the organising and hospitality team. Entrusted with assisting international buyers from countries such as the USA, Germany, Italy, Australia, Russia, and the UAE, they managed key responsibilities including coordination, communication, and ensuring a smooth and professional experience for every delegate. Their contribution was instrumental in maintaining the event’s high standards and global appeal. The experience provided students with invaluable exposure to international trade practices, buyer interactions, and the professionalism expected in the global leather industry.



In addition, FDDI set up a dedicated stall at the AILPA 2025 Sourcing Fair showcasing the creative excellence, craftsmanship, and design innovation of its students. The display featured an impressive range of leather bags, footwear, and garments, highlighting the institute's focus on sustainability, material understanding, and design thinking. The collection of biodegradable leather bags developed in collaboration with ICAR received special appreciation for its eco-conscious craftsmanship. The stall attracted several eminent visitors and international buyers, earning widespread praise and reinforcing FDDI's growing presence in the global leather and sustainable design industry. The FDDI stall became an important attraction at the fair, and the institute was honoured with the "Best Design Award" under one of the three top design categories, recognizing the students' creative excellence and the institute's leadership in design innovation.



A heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Basumitra Ghosh Mukherjee(Head of COE Kolkata) for providing us with this incredible opportunity to be part of the AILPA 2025 Sourcing Fair. Her constant guidance, encouragement, and belief in her students made this experience truly enriching and memorable.

Through this remarkable participation, FDDI once again reaffirmed its position as a leader in innovation, sustainability, and design excellence within the Indian leather and fashion industry.



PRESENTATION & SEMINAR ON "SOLE PURPOSE – STRATEGIES FOR NEW FOOTWEAR ENTREPRENEURS"

ON 29TH OCTOBER 2025, A PRESENTATION AND SEMINAR TITLED "SOLE PURPOSE – STRATEGIES FOR NEW FOOTWEAR ENTREPRENEURS" WAS CONDUCTED BY MR. SHARAD SRIVASTAV AND MR. PRASHANT NANDA(HOD OF FOOTWEAR DESIGN & PRODUCTION) BY FDDI, KOLKATA CAMPUS. THE SESSION PROVIDED AN IN-DEPTH OVERVIEW OF THE FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY, COVERING ASPECTS SUCH AS FACTORY SETUP, OPERATIONS, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE SECTOR. IT AIMED TO GUIDE ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS IN UNDERSTANDING THE PRACTICAL AND STRATEGIC DIMENSIONS OF STARTING AND MANAGING A FOOTWEAR BUSINESS.



STRATEGIC MEETING BETWEEN FDDI AND AILPA

During the AILPA Sourcing Fair 2025, a strategic meeting was held between FDDI and the Indian Leather Products Association (AILPA) to discuss possibilities for future collaborations and organizational growth. The meeting focused on exploring avenues for industry–academia partnerships, including initiatives in curriculum modification, skill development, sustainable material research, design innovation, and entrepreneurship support.

Both organizations expressed a shared vision of strengthening India's leather sector through knowledge exchange, training programs, and collaborative projects that promote sustainability and global competitiveness. The discussion marked an important step toward building a long-term partnership for mutual growth and development.

For FDDI students, AILPA 2025 was a transformative professional journey that offered firsthand exposure to the global leather trade. Assisting international buyers from countries like the USA, Germany, Italy, Australia, Russia, and the UAE, they played a vital role in ensuring smooth coordination, communication, and hospitality throughout the event. From morning interactions at The Westin to guiding buyers through the Biswa Bangla Exhibition Centre, students gained valuable insights into buyer expectations, market standards, and real-time trade dynamics. The experience reflected FDDI's strong industry integration, enabling students to develop professionalism, cultural understanding, and confidence. It stood as a milestone learning opportunity that bridged classroom knowledge with global industry practice, shaping them into emerging professionals ready to contribute to the world of design and international trade.





Mr. Arjun Mukund Kulkarni, President of the Indian Leather Products Association (AILPA), felicitated Mr. Vivek Sharma, Managing Director of the Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI), in recognition of his contribution to strengthening industry-academia collaboration and promoting sustainable practices within the leather sector.



Mr. Md Azhar, Vice President of Indian Leather Products Association (ILPA), felicitated Mr. Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director of Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) Kolkata Campus.





From 6th to 10th October 2025, fun games like Hook and Shorts, Bingo, Memory Maze, Cups and Balloons, Ring Tower, and Asphalt Legends were organized, filling the campus with happiness and sporty enthusiasm. Students participated with great excitement, and winners received exciting prizes.

6 से 10 अक्टूबर 2025 तक Hook and Shorts, Bingo, Memory Maze, Cups and Balloons, Ring Tower और Asphalt Legends जैसे मज़ेदार गेम आयोजित हुए, जिनमें छात्रों ने खुशी और खेल भावना के साथ बढ़-चढ़कर भाग लिया। विजेताओं को आकर्षक पुरस्कार मिले, जिससे कार्यक्रम और भी यादगार बना।

KDD





Mrs. Anita Ray, Head of Department, Fashion Design, FDDI Kolkata, as the External Academic Expert, felicitated by Dr. Brijesh Deore, Director of NIFT Kolkata, and Dr. Binwant Kaur

Scholarship Scrutiny Committee Meeting

The scrutiny committee for the UDAAN Scholarship Scheme met on 27th October 2025 to evaluate applications for the semester exchange program at ENSAIT, France (Jan–Jun 2026).

The committee, comprising internal members and Mrs. Anita Ray, Head of Department, Fashion Design, FDDI Kolkata, as the External Academic Expert, reviewed the applicants' academic records, statements of purpose, and financial documents, and interacted with the candidates to assess merit, motivation, and financial need in accordance with the UDAAN guidelines.

All proceedings and evaluations were duly recorded and uploaded on the SAMARTH portal for further necessary action.

UDAN

On 31st October 2025, Mr. Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director of FDDI Kolkata, visited The Asiatic Society, Park Street, to explore possibilities for collaboration and cooperative institutional development.

The meeting included detailed discussions on the availability of land or commercial space for lease. The representatives of The Asiatic Society also shared their views on the advantages of their prime location at Park Street and expressed interest in future collaborations.

The interaction was cordial and productive, providing valuable insights and paving the way for potential institutional cooperation between FDDI Kolkata and The Asiatic Society. Overall, it was a fruitful visit marked by constructive discussions and mutual goodwill.



Col. Anant Sinha, Director of The Asiatic Society, felicitating Mr. Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director of FDDI Kolkata



Col. Anant Sinha engaging in discussions with Mr. Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director, FDDI Kolkata, and their respective teams at The Asiatic Society, Park Street

1 अक्टूबर 2025 को एफडीडीआई कोलकाता के एग्जिक्यूटिव डायरेक्टर श्री नीरज कुमार ने सहयोग और संस्थागत विकास की संभावनाओं पर चर्चा करने के लिए पार्क स्ट्रीट स्थित द एशियाटिक सोसायटी का दौरा किया। द एशियाटिक सोसायटी के डायरेक्टर कर्नल अनंत सिन्हा ने उनका गर्मजोशी से स्वागत और सम्मान किया। बैठक में भूमि या व्यावसायिक स्थान को लीज पर देने तथा सोसायटी के प्रमुख लोकेशन के लाभों पर विस्तृत चर्चा हुई।



TRACK TO TRENDS

On 30th October 2025, Mr Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director, FDDI Kolkata attended as one of the dignitaries at the Handloom & Handicraft Harmony Fashion Event. The initiative brought together NIFT Kolkata students and railway employees of the Sealdah Division, who walked the ramp showcasing Khadi, handloom and handicraft garments. This collaboration emphasised the philosophy of “Vocal for Local” and highlighted the role of indigenous textiles as sustainable fashion solutions.



WITH

The event showed how traditional crafts can inspire modern uniforms and responsible fashion in contemporary settings. With railway staff and student work presented together, it reflected strong institutional support for artisans and indigenous textiles. Overall, it highlighted meaningful collaboration to promote India’s textile heritage and sustainable practices.

TRADITION





30 अक्टूबर 2025 को FDDI कोलकाता के कार्यकारी निदेशक श्री नीरज कुमार ने Handloom & Handicraft Harmony Fashion Event में सहभागिता दर्ज की, जहाँ NIFT कोलकाता के छात्रों और सियालदह डिवीजन के रेलवे कर्मचारियों ने मिलकर खादी, हैंडलूम और विभिन्न हस्तशिल्प आधारित परिधानों की प्रभावशाली प्रस्तुति दी। इस संयुक्त रैंप-वॉक ने "वोकल फॉर लोकल" की भावना को न केवल उजागर किया, बल्कि यह भी साबित किया कि भारत की पारंपरिक शिल्प तकनीकें आधुनिक प्रोफेशनल यूनिफॉर्म और कार्यस्थल फैशन को नई दिशा दे सकती हैं।

कार्यक्रम ने दर्शाया कि जब शैक्षणिक संस्थान और सरकारी विभाग एक साथ आते हैं, तो कारीगर समुदायों को सशक्त बनाने, स्वदेशी वस्त्रों को पुनर्जीवित करने और जिम्मेदार फैशन को बढ़ावा देने की प्रक्रिया कितनी मजबूत हो सकती है। रेलवे कर्मचारियों द्वारा अपने यूनिफॉर्म और छात्रों के डिज़ाइनों का एक साथ प्रदर्शन एक महत्वपूर्ण संदेश था—कि संस्थागत समर्थन और डिज़ाइन नवाचार मिलकर भारत की वस्त्र विरासत को वैश्विक स्तर पर पुनर्स्थापित कर सकते हैं।

कुल मिलाकर, यह आयोजन परंपरा, नवाचार और स्थिरता का एक प्रभावशाली संगम बनकर उभरा, जिसने भारतीय टेक्स्टाइल क्राफ्ट की प्रासंगिकता और भविष्य की संभावनाओं को खूबसूरती से प्रस्तुत किया।



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"INDIGO DYED WOOL DENIM"



Two young innovators from humble beginnings have taken India's fashion and textile world by storm with a creation that blends science, sustainability and style. Anurag Gupta from Siddharth Nagar in Uttar Pradesh and Satendra Singh from Dholpur in Rajasthan have together presented the world's first indigo-dyed wool denim, a remarkable textile innovation that made its debut at Lakme India Fashion Week.

Anurag Gupta, who once helped at his father's medical shop while dreaming of style icons like Hrithik Roshan, found his path in design school. Satendra Singh, the son of a farmer, was inspired by James Dean's classic denim look. His academic journey led him to IIT Delhi, where curiosity and experimentation turned into a patented breakthrough the creation of wool-based denim fabric dyed with indigo.

Unlike conventional denim production, Singh's innovation minimises water usage, reduces chemical waste and results in a sustainable, all-weather fabric that merges the ruggedness of denim with the warmth and comfort of wool. When Gupta incorporated this eco-conscious textile into his latest fashion collection, it caught the industry's attention for its elegant look and responsible production.



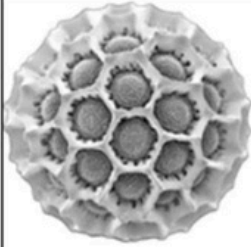
NIKE

Sport Offence

Nike launched its “Sport Offense” innovation platform, introducing performance-first footwear engineered for speed and agility. A key feature is its aero-cooling material, created from recycled textile waste to enhance ventilation during intense activity. The platform reflects Nike’s commitment to merging sustainability with high-performance technology, marking a significant step toward eco-driven athletic design.

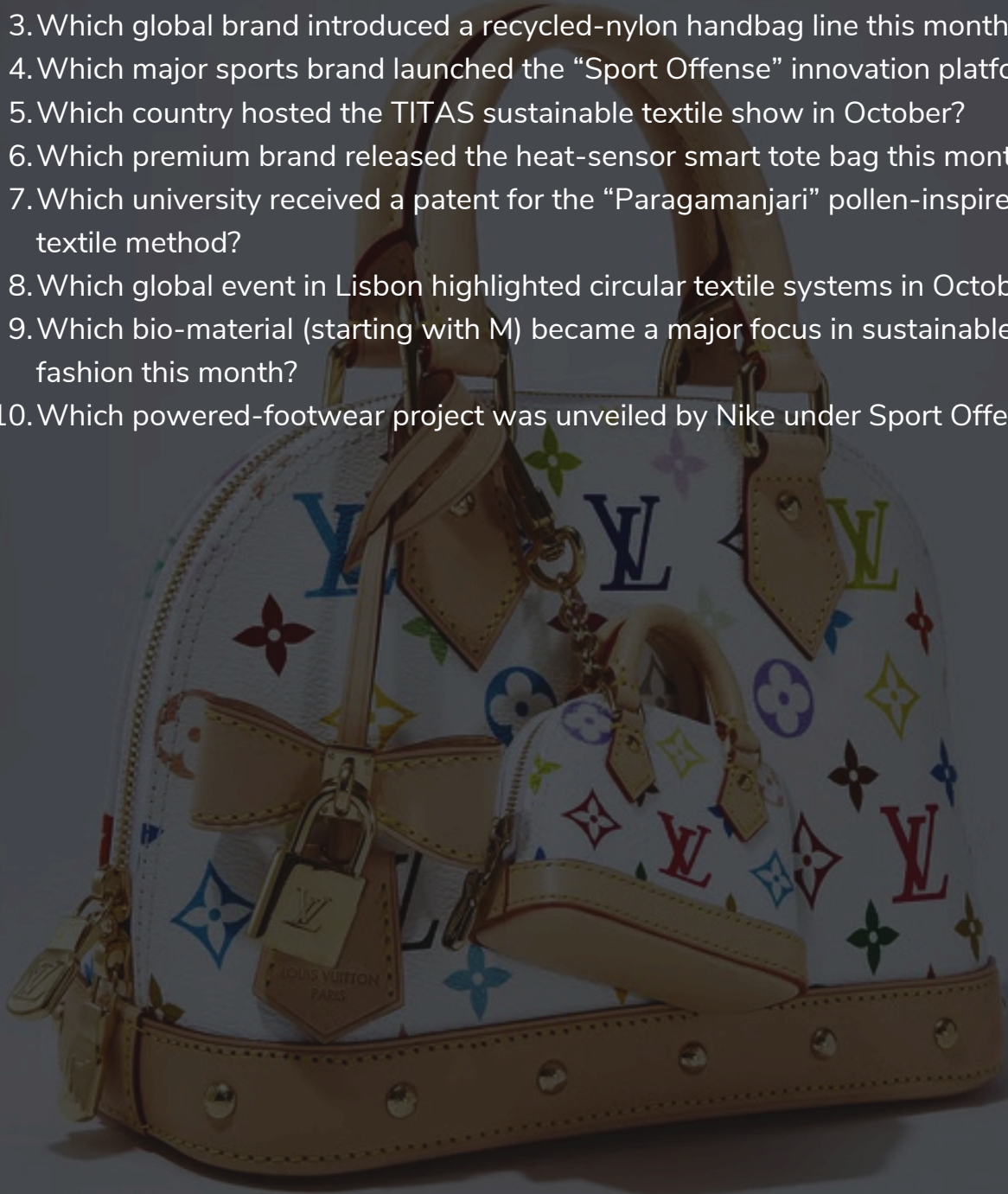
Paragamanjari

Osmania University (India, Hyderabad) received Patent on 7th August 2025 for its “Paragamanjari” method, which creates pollen-inspired textile motifs by merging botany with design innovation. Developed by Shivani Chilukuri and Dr. A. Vijaya Bhasker Reddy, the technique uses microscopic pollen structures to generate nature-based patterns, offering vast possibilities for unique fashion and textile designs. In October Osmania University began its commercial production on textiles and fabrics in preliminary basis.

BORDER LAYOUT		
• <u>Passiflora violacea</u> (Passifloraceae) • Pollen Morphology: Oblate <u>Spheroidal</u>, <u>Colporate</u>, ornamentation- Reticulate		• Pollen form used in motif: <u>Exine</u> part of the pollen
		
Pollen	Motif	Open border

FASHION QUIZ!!

1. Which luxury brand launched a viral “Pumpkin Bag” collection this October?
2. Which Indian institute unveiled new indigo-textile dye innovations in October?
3. Which global brand introduced a recycled-nylon handbag line this month?
4. Which major sports brand launched the “Sport Offense” innovation platform?
5. Which country hosted the TITAS sustainable textile show in October?
6. Which premium brand released the heat-sensor smart tote bag this month?
7. Which university received a patent for the “Paragamanjari” pollen-inspired textile method?
8. Which global event in Lisbon highlighted circular textile systems in October?
9. Which bio-material (starting with M) became a major focus in sustainable fashion this month?
10. Which powered-footwear project was unveiled by Nike under Sport Offense?



Answers: 1. Balenciaga, 2. NID, 3. Prada, 4. Nike, 5. Taiwan, 6. Coach, 7. Osmania, 8. TextileExchange, 9. Mycelium, 10. Amplify.

alumni alumni alumni alumni alumni



BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

"PASSION, WHEN NURTURED WITH HARD WORK, CAN TURN EVEN THE SMALLEST DREAMS INTO REALITY."

I'VE BEEN A CREATIVE SOUL SINCE CHILDHOOD, AND FDDI KOLKATA GAVE ME THE PERFECT PLATFORM TO TURN THAT CREATIVITY INTO PURPOSE. COMING FROM A HUMBLE BACKGROUND, CHOOSING AN UNCONVENTIONAL CAREER TOOK GRIT, BELIEF, AND DETERMINATION.

I STILL REMEMBER MY FIRST DAY — A MIX OF CURIOSITY, NERVOUSNESS, AND EXCITEMENT. SOON, THOSE CLASSROOMS AND CORRIDORS BECAME MY SECOND HOME. EVERY LECTURE FELT LIKE A NEW OPPORTUNITY, AND MY PROFESSORS' ENCOURAGEMENT MADE LEARNING A JOY. OF COURSE, FUN TURNED INTO FRENZY DURING JURY DAYS — THE RUSTLE OF SKETCH SHEETS, LAST-MINUTE RUSHES, AND SLEEPLESS NIGHTS TAUGHT ME HOW TO STAY CALM UNDER PRESSURE AND PUSH BEYOND LIMITS.

COLLEGE WAS TRULY THE STEPPING STONE OF MY CAREER. IT'S WHERE MY DESIGN THINKING EVOLVED AND MY DREAMS BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE. IN MY DORM ROOM, I HAD A SMALL POSTER WITH THE NAMES OF TOP INDIAN DESIGNERS — MY DAILY REMINDER TO DREAM BIG.

THAT DREAM CAME TRUE WHEN I BEGAN MY CAREER WITH SABYASACHI COUTURE, AS THE YOUNGEST ON THE TEAM. EACH DAY THERE TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF PASSION, PATIENCE, AND PERSISTENCE IN SHAPING TRUE CRAFTSMANSHIP.

TODAY, I WORK WITH SHYAMAL AND BHUMIKA IN A SENIOR POSITION — A ROLE THAT CONSTANTLY CHALLENGES AND INSPIRES ME. FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO WORKING WITH SOME OF THE FINEST NAMES IN COUTURE, MY JOURNEY HAS BEEN FUELED BY ONE THING — THE FIRE IN MY BELLY. AND I NEVER WANT THAT FIRE TO FADE.

-Sakshi Kumari 2019-23
FD department



फुटवियर डिज़ाइन एंड डेवलपमेंट इंस्टिट्यूट

FOOTWEAR DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार | Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

(एफ.डी.डी.आई. अधिनियम २०१७ के अन्तर्गत 'राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान')

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