

FDDI Signs MoU with Wadhwani Foundation to Enhance Career Readiness

FDDI has entered into a transformative collaboration with the Wadhwani Foundation (WF) to enhance the career readiness and employability of its students. An MoU has been signed to implement an AI-powered application that will support final-year students across all 12 FDDI campuses for a period of three years, from 2025 to 2028.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI and Mr. Sunil Dahiya, Executive Vice President (EVP) - WF.

Manak Manthan on Therapeutic Footwear

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Hyderabad Branch Office, in collaboration with FDDI, Hyderabad Campus, organized a Manak Manthan session on the Draft Indian Standard "Therapeutic Footwear (Specification)" – Document No. MHD 09 (27829) WC.

Mr. Rakesh Tanneeru, Scientist E & Director, BIS Hyderabad, opened the session by welcoming represen-

The signing ceremony was conducted in the esteemed presence of Col. Pankaj Kumar Sinha, Secretary, FDDI, Mr. Manoj Agrawal, CAO, FDDI, Mr. Prashant Saxena, Head – Business Development, FDDI-HO, Col. Santosh Jha, Vice President - WF, Mr. Raman Handa, Director - WF, Ms. Priyanka Panwar, Consultant - WV, and Ms. Sheetal Bhandari, Program Manager - WF. The initiative is designed to sharpen soft skills, enhance communication, build confidence, and provide AI-driven mock interviews

By combining structured training with cutting-edge technology, the program aims to prepare students effectively for placement opportunities and align them with evolving industry expectations.

This partnership underscores FDDI's commitment to equipping its graduates not only with strong technical expertise but also with the employability skills required to succeed in today's competitive global market.

Shaping Standards:

Manak Manthan on Therapeutic Footwear

tatives from the footwear industry, faculty members from FDDI and GILT Telangana, and student participants. He provided an overview of the draft standard formulated by the Assistive Products Including Rehabilitation Appliances, Orthotic and Prosthetic Items Sectional Committee (MHD 9).

This was followed by a detailed technical presentation by Mr. Aditya Das, Scientist E & Head, Medical Equip-

ment and Hospital Planning Department (MHD), BIS New Delhi. He explained that the draft specification defines general and safety requirements for therapeutic footwear designed for individuals with diabetes, neuropathy, at-risk feet, and those vulnerable to foot ulcers. The document also elaborates on material requirements, testing parameters, and test methods, while excluding footwear categories already covered under other standards.

wallets, and portfolios.

The exhibits received high appreciation from dignitaries and visitors alike for their quality, creativity, and craftsmanship. The stall also drew strong interest from international visitors and technical experts from countries including Sri Lanka, Dubai, and Singapore.



FDDI participates in 'SHOETECH Kanpur 2025'

FDDI participated in the 15th edition of SHOETECH Kanpur 2025, a Buyer-Seller Meet-cum-Exhibition organized by the Indian Footwear Components Manufacturers Association (IFCMA) on 16-17 December 2025 at the KLC Complex, Banthar, Unnao. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Chairman, FDDI, in the presence of senior representatives from industry, finance, and skill development institutions. The exhibition showcased the latest footwear components, materials, chemicals, and advanced

technologies presented by leading domestic and international exhibitors.

A wide range of products—including specialized soles, shoe lasts, insoles, linings, chemicals, packaging solutions, and state-of-the-art machinery—highlighted the innovation and depth of the footwear ecosystem. Knowledge-sharing seminars and interactive sessions further facilitated industry dialogue and networking. FDDI's stall emerged as a key attraction, displaying an impressive collection of men's and women's footwear across casual, formal, and sports categories, along with leather goods and fashion accessories such as travelware, handbags, belts,



FDDI Hosts National Seminar & Exhibition on India's Footwear Heritage

FDDI Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Pleach India Foundation (PIF), successfully organized a three-day national seminar and exhibition titled "Tales Below the Heels: India Design Language – Footwear Series" from 28-30 November 2025. The event brought together scholars, designers, artisans, academicians, policymakers, and students to explore India's rich and diverse footwear heritage—from sacred Padukas to Juttis, Mojaris, Kolhapuris, and other regional traditions.

The initiative aimed to document, revive, and globalize India's indigenous footwear traditions by developing a unified design vocabulary rooted in heritage, while reinforcing commitments to craft preservation, artisan empowerment, and the national vision of Vocal for Local.

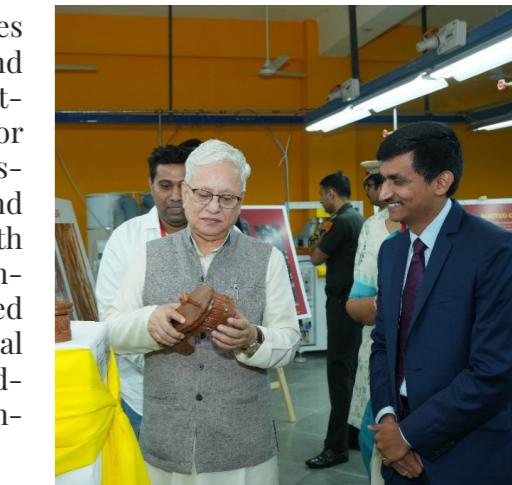
The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Jishnu Dev Varma, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, in the presence of senior dignitaries including Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary; Dr. Raghavendra Rao H. Kulkarni, Keynote Speaker; Dr. Narasimhugari Tej Lohit Reddy, IAS, Executive Director, FDDI Hyderabad; and representatives from the Archaeological Survey of India, Pleach India Foundation, and FDDI.

A booklet featuring sculptural evidence of Indian footwear and the Book of Abstracts was released on the occasion. Through multiple offline and online sessions, experts examined historical references to footwear in sculpture, coins, literature, and folk traditions, alongside



A view of the inaugural session

in-depth studies of regional styles such as Mojari, Jutti, Pulla, and Kolhapuri. Discussions highlighted the use of AI and CAD tools for documentation and revival, sustainable and vegan materials, and the fusion of heritage arts with modern ergonomic design. Contemporary perspectives included reinterpretations of traditional forms, embroidery-infused modern footwear, and global fashion insights.



A notable highlight was an intricately carved pair of shoes designed at the FDDI Fursatganj campus, which garnered widespread admiration for its seamless blend of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary design. The two-day exhibition witnessed participation from nearly 2,000 footwear component and machinery manufacturers from across India, reaffirming SHOETECH Kanpur's significance as a major industry platform and underscoring FDDI's strong industry engagement and design excellence.