

# CREATIVE HORIZONS

Volume 01 Issue 02 April 2026 Quarterly Magazine

An **FDI** Initiative

## BRANDING & OUTREACH

**FDI** represents footwear sector at National Quality Conclave 2026

## FEATURE STORY

*Responsible luxury: rethinking leather for a sustainable future*



## INDUSTRY CONNECT

**MECHAI: Human + Machine + AI**  
*A new Industrial Balance*

## EXPERT TALK

*India-EU Free Trade Agreement: redefining global competitiveness for India's leather and footwear industry*

*"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."  
- Robert Swan -*



## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR'S DESK

*Dear Readers,*

It gives me immense pleasure to present the second issue of Creative Horizons, FDDI's quarterly magazine.

Following the launch of our premier issue, we have been truly encouraged by the overwhelming response and appreciation received from industry stakeholders, academia, and readers across the value chain.

The positive feedback and enthusiastic participation reaffirm the relevance of such a platform in fostering dialogue, sharing knowledge, and showcasing innovation within the leather, footwear, and allied sectors.

Building on this momentum, the present issue is specially curated around the theme of sustainability, in line with the spirit of Earth Day, reflecting our shared commitment towards environmentally responsible growth and conscious innovation within the leather, footwear, and allied industries.

In this issue, we have made a concerted effort to bring together a diverse range of articles and perspectives that highlight sustainable practices, emerging trends, and forward-looking approaches being adopted across the value chain.

From eco-friendly materials and circular design principles to responsible manufacturing and evolving consumer awareness, the contributions in this edition underscore the growing importance of sustainability as a key driver of the industry's future.

We look forward to further deepening our collaboration and expanding the reach and impact of Creative Horizons in the coming editions.

*Vivek Sharma, IRS*  
*(Managing Director, FDDI)*

