

# FDDI-BFDS MoU to Boost Skills & Innovation in Footwear Sector

On 25 February 2026, FDDI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bahadurgarh Footwear Development Services (BFDS) at Bahadurgarh, Haryana. BFDS is a government-supported institution established under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) MSE-CDP scheme to promote the growth of the footwear industry and skill development in India.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI, and Mr. Subhash Jagga, Director, BFDS, in the presence of FDDI HQ officials including Mrs. Rashmi Asthana, Head ITC; Mr. Prashant Kumar Saxena, Head BD & SD; and Mr. Siddharth Dubey, Administration BFDS, along with dignitaries and leading footwear manufacturers from the Bahadurgarh cluster.

The partnership establishes a structured industry-academia framework aimed at strengthening the footwear ecosystem through focused skilling, testing, certification, design support, and enterprise development. Key areas of collaboration include NCQF and NCVET-aligned skill programmes, on-the-job training and joint placement initiatives, testing support for MSMEs, development of a commercial design and sampling facility, and certification and CE facilitation.

This collaboration is expected to significantly enhance cluster competitiveness and create a scalable model for skill-driven industrial growth, with a capacity expansion roadmap targeting training of up to 15,000 candidates annually.



A view of the MoU signing ceremony

# FDDI Signs MoU with AIC BIMTECH to Boost Startup and Incubation Ecosystem

FDDI has signed a MoU with Atal Incubation Centre – Birla Institute of Management Technology (AIC BIMTECH) on 24 February 2026, to strengthen the incubation and startup ecosystem.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI, and Mr. Surya Kant, CEO, AIC BIMTECH, in the presence of Mr. Manoj Agrawal, CAO – FDDI; Mr. Prashant Kumar Saxena, Head BD & SD – FDDI; and Ms. Kanwalpreet Arora, Program Manager – AIC BIMTECH.



From Left: Ms. Kanwalpreet Arora, Program Manager – AIC BIMTECH, Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI, Mr. Surya Kant, CEO, AIC BIMTECH, Mr. Manoj Agrawal, CAO – FDDI; & Mr. Prashant Kumar Saxena, Head BD & SD – FDDI during the MoU signing ceremony.

The collaboration aims to establish a structured incubation and startup support framework through joint programs, mentorship, and capacity-building initiatives. It will also promote innovation, industry linkages, knowledge sharing, and entrepreneurship development across sectors such as footwear, leather, fashion, retail, and allied industries.

Through this partnership, FDDI and AIC BIMTECH will work together to nurture scalable startups, encourage innovation-driven enterprises, and empower future-ready entrepreneurs within the design and manufacturing ecosystem.



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– JOSHUA BECKER

# FDDI & IFCOMA host India-Vietnam Meeting on Trade and Manufacturing Synergies

By Mr. Ashish Kumar, Managing Editor (Content)

On 27 January 2026, FDDI, in collaboration with the Indian Footwear Components Manufacturers Association (IFCOMA), hosted a high-level meeting with a Vietnamese delegation under the theme “Exploring Trade, Manufacturing, and Investment Synergies.”

Held in hybrid mode at the FDDI Head Office, Noida, the meeting focused on strengthening India-Vietnam cooperation in the footwear and leather sectors through skill development, technology exchange, quality enhancement, and joint venture opportunities.

The Vietnamese delegation comprised Mr. Bui Trung Thong, Trade Counsellor and Head of Trade Office, Embassy of Vietnam; Mrs. Tran Thi Lan Huong, First Secretary, Trade Office, Embassy of Vietnam; and Ms. Sonia Das, Advisor, Vietnam Trade Office.

FDDI was represented by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD); Colonel Pankaj Kumar Sinha, Secretary; Ms. Manju Maan, Executive Director, Noida Campus; Mr. Manoj Agrawal, CAO; Ms. Rashmi Asthana, Head – ITC; Ms. Renu Sharma, Head – Academics; Mr. Sharad Srivastava, Joint Director – CoE; and Mr. Prashant Saxena, Head – Business Development.

Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI, and Mr. Sanjay Gupta, President, IFCOMA, formally welcomed the dignitaries and delegates, underscoring the importance of deeper India-Vietnam engagement in the footwear value chain.



Mr. Bui Trung Thong, Trade Counsellor and Head of Trade Office, Embassy of Vietnam highlighting about the promotional support initiatives



Second from Right: Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI presenting memento to Mr. Bui Trung Thong, Trade Counsellor and Head of Trade Office, Embassy of Vietnam

Industry partners participating through IFCOMA included Ess Aar Universal Pvt. Ltd., Versatile Enterprises Pvt. Ltd., Shroff Polytech Pvt. Ltd., Shoes & Accessories, and Harman Sales Pvt. Ltd. Representatives shared insights into component manufacturing, material innovation, supply chain integration, and potential avenues for cross-border collaboration.

As part of the engagement, the delegation visited FDDI's International Testing Centre, gaining exposure to advanced testing facilities and research capabilities.

During the session, FDDI presented an overview of India's footwear ecosystem, highlighting education, research and development, testing, design capabilities, and skill training. IFCOMA followed with a focused perspective on India's footwear components industry, emphasizing manufacturing clusters, export potential, and the expanding depth of the domestic supplier base.



Vietnamese delegation being briefed about the testing facility available at FDDI's – ITC, laboratory