

In the years ahead, environmental performance will become an important competitive differentiator alongside quality, cost and innovation.

Institutions such as FDDI and industry bodies like IFCOMA have an important role to play in this journey. Through industry-academia collaboration, skill development, technology dissemination and policy advocacy, they can help accelerate the next phase of growth and strengthen the industry's global competitiveness.

The transformation of India's footwear component industry demonstrates the power of entrepreneurship, investment and adaptability. From a sector once heavily dependent on imported technologies and materials, it has evolved into a vital pillar supporting one of the world's largest footwear manufacturing industries.

As global sourcing strategies continue to diversify and supply-chain resilience becomes increasingly important, India's footwear component industry is well positioned to play a larger international role. The achievements of the past four decades are substantial, but they may ultimately be remembered as the foundation for an even more significant chapter of growth and global recognition.



Mr. Sanjay Gupta
President
IFCOMA

Mr. Sanjay Gupta is an experienced entrepreneur in footwear components and accessories. He has been in this field for the last 30 years. He had been elected as president of IFCOMA during 2021. Also, Mr. Gupta is a Governing Council (GC) member of FDDI and is nominated to the regional committee of Council for Leather Exports (NR).

During his tenure with IFCOMA, several initiatives were undertaken, including the establishment of a display centre at the FDDI Complex and successful industry platforms such as Shoetech Agra and Kanpur, which received wide appreciation. Through these initiatives, he continues to support the growth of the SME sector and enhance India's footwear component industry presence in domestic and global markets.

Bairathi Shoes: Advancing Engineering Excellence in Mass-Market Footwear

By Mr. Niraj Shah | Footwear Consultant

The evolution of India's footwear industry has been shaped by enterprises that combine innovation with accessibility, and Bairathi Shoe Company Pvt. Ltd. stands as one such example. Under the leadership of Dr. Saurabh Bairathi, Managing Director, the company has demonstrated how engineering excellence, product quality and large-scale manufacturing can together create meaningful value for consumers across diverse market segments.

From its base in Jaipur, Rajasthan, Bairathi Shoes has steadily expanded its footprint across the country through a growth model anchored in operational discipline, strong distribution and a deep understanding of consumer needs. The company's progress reflects a balanced approach that places equal emphasis on scale, consistency and product reliability.



At the core of this journey is a strong focus on engineering-led product development. By prioritizing fit, comfort and functionality through anatomically designed lasts and adopting advanced materials such as PU and EVA, the company has worked towards delivering lightweight, durable and performance-oriented footwear suited to Indian conditions. Its growing presence in the safety footwear segment further underscores its commitment to creating solutions that support protection, endurance and workplace efficiency.

Beyond manufacturing excellence, Dr. Bairathi has actively contributed to strengthening the footwear ecosystem through engagement with FDDI and participation in leading industry platforms including CII, CLE and MSME forums, supporting dialogue on quality enhancement, innovation and sectoral growth.

The journey of Bairathi Shoes reflects the aspirations of a modern Indian footwear industry, where engineering, accessibility and sustained innovation come together to serve millions while creating benchmarks for future growth.

Building the FUTURE Deep-Tech, Design & India's Innovation Moment

- Dr. Arijit Bhattacharyya | Founder, Virtualinfocom & DeepTechKnowledge

Deep Tech Is a Commitment, Not a Buzzword

After more than 27 years at the intersection of technology, business, and innovation, one truth has become increasingly clear to me: Deep-Tech is not a trend – it is a commitment.

It is a commitment to solving complex, fundamental problems through science, engineering, and long-term vision. These are not surface-level optimizations or incremental upgrades. Deep-Tech is rooted in real breakthroughs, technologies built to redefine industries rather than merely improve existing processes.

Deep-Tech asks a fundamentally different question from traditional startups.

Not *“What problem can I solve quickly?”*

But *“What problem is worth solving—even if it takes ten years?”*

The timelines are longer. The risks appear earlier. And the rewards, when they arrive, are generational. When you build Deep-Tech, you are not just creating a company—you are laying a foundation for the future.

Technology builds the engine ♦ Design makes people use it ♦ Interdisciplinary thinking makes it impactful ♦

A World Being Reshaped by Convergence

The global Deep-Tech ecosystem is not being shaped by any single breakthrough. It is being shaped by convergence.

Artificial intelligence has evolved from a tool into a core infrastructure layer, progressing toward co-creation and, increasingly decision-making.

Intelligence is leaving the screen and entering the physical world through robotics, autonomous systems, smart manufacturing, and connected cities. Climate technology has shifted from moral obligation to economic necessity.

Extended reality is quietly transitioning from entertainment and training infrastructure into industrial.

Blockchain has matured beyond speculation into a trust layer for supply chains, traceability, and decentralized identity.

The most powerful innovations ahead will not come from mastering a single domain. They will emerge at the intersection of multiple disciplines, where AI meets materials, where biology meets manufacturing, where design meets data.

For India, this moment is particularly significant. Talent availability, cost efficiency, and digital public infrastructure are converging simultaneously. A deep tech solution that works in India, across scale, diversity, and complexity can work anywhere in the world.