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NEWSLETTER



FOOTWEAR DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

An Institution of
National Importance



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FDDI Exchanges MoU with Indian Institute of Packaging During Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Presence of Hon'ble Minister Shri Jitin Prasada Ji

In a significant step towards strengthening academic excellence, research collaboration, innovation, and industry engagement, Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) during the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of IIP held in Mumbai on 14 May 2026.



A view of the MoU exchange

The MoU was exchanged between Shri Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI, and Shri R. K. Mishra, IRS, Director, Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) and Additional DGFT, Mumbai, in the esteemed presence of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Jitin Prasada Ji.

The occasion marked an important milestone in the journey of both institutions and reflected their shared commitment towards advancing knowledge, innovation, and industry-oriented education.

The collaboration brings together two premier institutions under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, with a shared vision of fostering excellence in education, research, innovation, training, and capacity building.

During the celebrations, senior officials of FDDI and IIP deliberated on various avenues of collaboration in the esteemed presence of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Jitin Prasada Ji. The partnership aims to promote interdisciplinary learning, strengthen industry-academia linkages, and develop future-ready talent equipped to address the evolving needs of industry and society.



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The MoU envisages cooperation in a wide range of areas, including joint research projects, innovation and product development, skill development programmes, faculty and student exchange initiatives, industry-oriented training, expert lectures, workshops, seminars, and collaborative academic activities. Both institutions will also explore opportunities for knowledge sharing, consultancy, testing, incubation support, and the development of specialized programmes aligned with emerging industry requirements.



Dignitaries discussing collaborative initiatives to address evolving industry needs

The collaboration assumes particular significance for sectors such as footwear, leather, fashion, retail, packaging, lifestyle products, and allied industries, where design, sustainability, product innovation, supply chains, consumer experience, and packaging technologies are increasingly becoming interconnected. By leveraging their respective strengths, FDDI and IIP aim to create a robust platform that bridges academia and industry while fostering innovation-led growth.

The partnership is expected to provide students, researchers, faculty members, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals with enhanced opportunities for learning, research, experimentation, and professional development. It will also facilitate the exchange of best practices and promote collaborative solutions to address contemporary challenges relating to product design, packaging, sustainability, technology adoption, and market competitiveness.

Prior to the formal exchange of the MoU, an FDDI delegation led by Dr. Renu Sharma, Academic Head, along with Mr. Anoop Singh Rana, Head of School – LGAD, and Mr. Neeraj Sharma, Head of School – FDP, visited the Indian Institute of Packaging, New Delhi, on 08 May 2026 to explore opportunities for academic, research, and industry collaboration.

During the visit, the delegation toured key facilities including the Design Studio, AI Lab, Library, R&D



Team FDDI at IIP



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Centre, and advanced testing laboratories covering chemical, physical, food packaging, and logistics testing. The visit offered valuable insights into IIP's robust ecosystem for research, innovation, testing, and technical advancement.

The FDDI delegation also held extensive discussions with Dr. Tanweer Alam, Campus Director, to identify potential avenues for collaboration. The deliberations focused on joint research projects and publications, Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs), certificate and short-term courses, expert-led online sessions, workshops, and industry-oriented collaborative initiatives. The institutions also explored the possibility of developing joint Ph.D. programmes in product packaging and allied interdisciplinary domains.

FDDI, India and University of Northampton, United Kingdom Move Towards Expanding International Education Opportunities

A delegation from the University of Northampton (UoN), United Kingdom (UK), comprising Ms. Debra Hinds, Director of Global Engagement; Ms. Nouhaila Jouibi, International Officer, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Department for Global Engagement; along with Mr. Puneet Malhotra, Principal Representative, North India & Nepal Region, visited FDDI on 22 May 2026.

FDDI had signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the University of Northampton, UK, last year, establishing a framework for academic collaboration between the two institutions. The partnership aims to introduce international academic programmes, including dual-degree and joint academic initiatives, to enhance global exposure and academic mobility for students.

During the visit, the delegation met Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI, and held discussions on strengthening the institutional partnership and taking forward collaborative initiatives. Mr. Sharad Srivastava, Joint Director, Centre of Excellence (CoE), was also present during the interaction. The discussions focused on expanding academic engagement, developing a basket of courses, and identifying new areas of cooperation aligned with emerging industry requirements.



Discussion in progress

Discussions also covered faculty and student exchange programmes, collaborative research and development initiatives, and knowledge-sharing platforms to promote innovation and address evolving industry challenges.

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Jewellery Design Exhibition Showcases Innovation and Creativity at FDDI

The Jewellery Design Exhibition presented by Semester 6 students of the School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD) was successfully held on 8 May 2026 at FDDI, Noida.

The exhibition showcased an impressive collection of handcrafted wire jewellery and digitally developed jewellery pieces created using Rhino software and advanced 3D printing techniques. Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), visited the exhibition and appreciated the students' creativity, innovation and technical excellence.



A view of the jewellery design exhibition



Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI watching a jewellery design

Throughout the semester, students explored the complete jewellery design process, including hands-on jewellery making, tool handling and digital modelling, transforming their creative concepts into wearable designs. The exhibition and jury reflected the students' artistic vision, technical proficiency and growing understanding of contemporary jewellery design.

Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh Ji Appreciates FDDI Faculty's Design Innovation and Craft-Based Research at National Exhibition

Dr. Rambabu Muppidi, Senior Faculty at FDDI, received appreciation for his contributions to design innovation, handicraft research, and intellectual property creation during a prestigious exhibition held in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The event was attended by Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh Ji, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Textiles and Handicrafts Smt. Savitha, senior officials from the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation, Lepakshi Handicrafts, and other distinguished representatives from the textile, handicrafts, and MSME sectors.

At the exhibition, Dr. Muppidi showcased a portfolio of 33 Indian Design Patents along with a range of innovative products inspired by traditional Indian crafts and contemporary design practices. The exhibits included educational and handicraft-based toys, leather accessories, utility products, decorative items, eco-friendly innovations, and research-driven design solutions developed through CAD/CAM applications, prototyping, and intellectual property initiatives.

Appreciating Dr. Muppidi's efforts, Shri Giriraj Singh Ji highlighted the importance of transforming traditional crafts into contemporary products through innovation, design protection, and product development. He emphasized the role of the "Make in India" initiative in

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strengthening India's textile, handicraft, toy, and creative manufacturing sectors and encouraged continued efforts towards innovation, skill development, entrepreneurship, and artisan empowerment.



Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh Ji at the stall of FDDI

Belonging to an artisan family from Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Muppidi has consistently worked towards preserving traditional and endangered crafts through research, documentation, design education, and innovation-led product development. His work draws inspiration from indigenous craft traditions such as Kondapalli and Etikoppaka toys, bamboo crafts, wooden handicrafts, and palm-leaf products. Through design patents and research-based innovations, he continues to promote sustainability, creativity, and awareness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among students, artisans, and young designers.

FDDI Noida Hosts IAS Officer Trainees of 2024 Batch Attached with DPIIT

As part of their institutional exposure and learning programme, IAS Officer Trainees of the 2024 Batch attached as Assistant Secretaries with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, visited FDDI Noida Campus on an educational and industry-orientation visit on 29 May 2026.



Officer trainees being briefed to FDDI's integrated academic and industry-oriented ecosystem



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The visiting officer trainees included Ms. Ayushi Pradhan, Mr. Benjova P. Jose, Mr. Phadtare Aniket Ashok, Ms. Priya Rani, Ms. Saloni Chhabra, and Ms. Zufishan Haque.



Officer trainees attending the meeting

During their visit, the officer trainees were introduced to FDDI's integrated academic and industry-oriented ecosystem encompassing Footwear Design & Production, Fashion Design, Leather Goods & Accessories Design, and Retail & Fashion Merchandise. The delegation toured the campus and visited state-of-the-art testing and chemical laboratories, gaining valuable insights into quality assurance systems, product development processes, research capabilities, and industry-focused training methodologies.

During the meeting, a comprehensive presentation highlighted FDDI's academic programmes, institutional framework, skill development initiatives, industry collaborations, research and innovation activities, and its significant contribution towards strengthening India's footwear, leather, fashion, retail, and lifestyle sectors.

The visit also featured interactive sessions with the Executive Director, CAO, Academic Head, Heads of Schools (HoSs), and Heads of Departments (HoDs). Discussions centred on innovation, sustainability, skill development, industry preparedness, entrepreneurship, and the evolving role of design-led manufacturing in advancing India's economic growth and global competitiveness.

Such engagements play an important role in fostering stronger linkages between policy, industry, and academia while providing future administrators with first-hand exposure to sectors that generate employment, promote entrepreneurship, and contribute significantly to the nation's economic development.

FDDI Ankleshwar Team Visits Holistic Research Centre for Wellness-Oriented Learning

On 24 May 2026, a team from FDDI, Ankleshwar Campus visited the Holistic Research Centre to gain exposure to holistic development practices and wellness-oriented learning approaches.

The visit focused on understanding various activities related to personality development, meditation and mindfulness, moral value education, staff wellness, and holistic learning methodologies. The interaction provided valuable insights into the importance of mental well-being, value-based education, and personal growth in academic and professional environments, highlighting how such practices contribute to building balanced, focused, and emotionally resilient individuals.

The experience opened avenues for future collaboration in wellness programmes, personality development initiatives, and holistic training modules for students and staff.



Team at Holistic Research Centre

FDDI Jodhpur Felicitates Students for Outstanding Performance at EPCH Fashion Show

FDDI Jodhpur organized a grand Student Felicitation Ceremony to honour students who showcased their creativity and design excellence at the Artisan Handicrafts Expo Fashion Show, organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) at the Trade Facilitation Centre, Boranada, Jodhpur, in January 2026.



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The students were recognized for their remarkable contribution in presenting innovative fashion creations that seamlessly blended India's rich handicraft traditions with contemporary design aesthetics. Their outstanding performance at the prestigious event received wide appreciation from industry representatives, artisans, buyers, and visitors from India and abroad.



A student being felicitated

एफडीडीआई के डिजाइनिंग स्टूडेंट्स सम्मानित: आर्टफैक्ट्स एक्सपो में हुनर दिखाने वाले युवाओं को ईपीसीएच ने सराहा

केवल बलासक्तम एजुकेशन नहीं, प्रैक्टिकल एक्सपोजर है हमारी प्राथमिकता: अनिल कुमार
वैश्विक मंच पर पहचान बनाने का सामर्थ्य रखती है युवा प्रतिभा: निर्मल भंडारी



३३ प्रयोग भारतीय जोधपुर। फुल्टाइम डिजाइन एंड डेवलपमेंट इंस्टीट्यूट (एफडीडीआई), जोधपुर के प्रांगण में शुक्रवार को भाग्य स्टूडेंट्स फेलोशिप प्रोग्राम के आयोजन किया गया। इस समारोह में उन होनहार डिजाइनिंग विद्यार्थियों को सम्मानित किया गया, जिन्होंने जनवरी 2026 में कोसनाहा स्थित डेड फॅसिलिटेशन सेंटर में एक्सपोर्ट प्रमोशन काउंसिल फॉर हैंडीक्राफ्ट्स (ईपीसीएच) द्वारा आयोजित एक्सपो के दौरान शो में अपनी रचनात्मक प्रतिभा का लोहा मनवाया था। उन्होंने इन विद्यार्थियों को सर्वोत्कृष्ट ऑफ आर्टिस्टिक्लेशन से नवाजा गया। समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि ईपीसीएच के सीओओ सदस्य एवं पैटन निर्मल भंडारी ने विद्यार्थियों के हुनर की तारीफ की। उन्होंने कहा कि एफडीडीआई के विद्यार्थियों ने पारंपरिक भारतीय हस्तशिल्प को आधुनिक डिजाइन दृष्टिकोण के साथ पेश करके यह सर्वोत्कृष्ट प्रतिभाएं वैश्विक पैशन और डिजाइनिंग इंडस्ट्री में नई पहचान बनाने का पूरा सामर्थ्य रखती हैं। ऐसे लक्ष्य एक्सपो विद्यार्थियों को किताबी ज्ञान से परे व्यावहारिक व्यावहारिक अनुभव प्रदान करते हैं। कार्यक्रम के विशिष्ट अतिथि और ईपीसीएच के क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधक गोपाल शर्मा ने कहा कि एक्सपो के दौरान आयोजित फैशन शो ने देश-विदेश से आए उद्योग प्रतिनिधियों और आगंतुकों को गहराई से प्रभावित किया। हस्तशिल्प और आधुनिक डिजाइन संस्कृतिक विरासत को संभालने का काम कर रहा है। उन्होंने ईपीसीएच के साथ इस संयोजन को छात्रों के करियर के लिए एक बड़ा टर्निंग पॉइंट बताया। समारोह का संचालन सुहासि कुमार ने किया तथा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन फैशन शो की समन्वयक वर्षा सोनिका सैमुरल ने दिया था। इस दौरान संस्थान के फैकल्टी मेंबर, स्टूडेंट्स और गी गी आर प्रशिक्षणार्थी मौजूद रहे। विद्यार्थियों ने इस अवसर को अपने करियर का बड़ा प्रोत्साहन बताया और संस्थान व ईपीसीएच

Media coverage

The programme was graced by Mr. Nirmal Bhandari, COO Member and Patron, EPCH, as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Gopal Sharma, Regional Manager, EPCH, as the Guest of Honour. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Bhandari commended the students for their creativity and professionalism, highlighting the potential of young designers to establish a distinct identity for Indian fashion and craftsmanship on the global stage. He also emphasized the importance of industry-oriented platforms in providing practical exposure and enriching the learning experience beyond the classroom.

FDDI Ankleshwar Showcases Academic Excellence at Smart Education Expo 2026

FDDI, Ankleshwar Campus participated in Smart Education Expo 2026, held at the Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre from 22 to 24 May 2026.



Dignitaries at the stall of FDDI



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The programme was inaugurated by Satish Wagh, Chairman, CHEMEXCIL. The event was graced by the Chief Guest, M. Nagarajan, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Surat Municipal Corporation. The Guests of Honour included Ashwin Desai, Managing Director, Aether Industries Limited; Jignesh Madhwani, Director & Chairman, Torin Wealth Management; Himanshu Patel, Director, Yashashvi Rasayan Pvt. Ltd.; Nareshkumar Patel, Executive Chairman & Managing Director, Acutaas Chemicals Limited; Hiranmay Mahanta, CEO, iHub Gujarat; and Nikhil Madrasi, President, Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI).

The expo, organized under the aegis of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, brought together leading educational institutions, industry experts, and aspiring students from across the region. During the three-day event, FDDI Ankleshwar showcased its academic programmes, industry-oriented training, placement opportunities, and innovation-driven learning environment.

FDDI Ankleshwar team actively interacted with students, parents, and education professionals, providing insights into career opportunities in footwear design, fashion design, retail management, and leather goods & accessories design.



Information being provided to aspirants at the stall of FDDI

“Asthara” Exhibition Features 160 Creative Footwear Concepts by Students Inspired by Indian Heritage

The School of Footwear Design and Production (FDP), FDDI, Hyderabad Campus, successfully organized “Asthara”, a Product Display Exhibition under the India Design Language, Footwear Series, on 15 May 2026. The exhibition showcased innovative footwear concepts inspired by India's rich cultural heritage and highlighted the creative and technical capabilities of the students.



A view of the exhibition



A student explaining her concept to the jury members



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The exhibition featured 160 pairs of footwear designed and developed by students of FDDI Hyderabad. The collections reflected a thoughtful fusion of Indian craftsmanship, cultural storytelling, sustainability, and contemporary footwear design. Several projects were developed in collaboration with local artisans, demonstrating the integration of traditional craftsmanship with modern design practices.

Conceived as a platform to encourage young designers to explore India-inspired aesthetics and sustainable innovation, “Asthara” enabled students to present their creativity, technical expertise, and market-oriented design solutions through engaging product displays and presentations.

The exhibition featured student-designed footwear collections, artisan collaboration projects, India-inspired design concepts, sustainable and craft-based product innovations, and interactive product displays and design presentations, collectively reflecting the students' creativity, technical expertise, and contemporary interpretation of Indian design language in footwear.

The exhibition was attended and appreciated by distinguished guests from academia, industry, and the startup ecosystem, including Dr. Narasimhugari Tej Lohit Reddy, IAS, Executive Director, FDDI, Hyderabad Campus; Dr. Ramakrishna Kolikipogu, Professor, Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology; Dr. Sanjay, Professor, Mahindra University; designers and HR representatives from Paragon Polymer Products Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad; Hrishikesh, Startup Founder; Preetham Kumar, Representative, PrismEx Technologies Pvt. Ltd.; and Riyaz, Startup Founder.

The guests appreciated the students for their originality, technical detailing, and innovative application of Indian design language in contemporary footwear products. Their interaction with students provided valuable industry insights and strengthened collaboration among academia, artisans, startups, and the footwear industry.

FDDI, Hyderabad Faculty Publishes Research on Sustainable Fashion and Traditional Textiles

Ms. Archana Prasad, Senior Faculty Grade II, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Hyderabad, has made noteworthy contributions to the fields of sustainable fashion, pattern making, traditional textiles, and fashion education through her research publications and academic writings.



Ms. Archana Prasad, Senior Faculty Grade II



Certificate of Publication (Zero-Waste Pattern Making A Practice-Based Approach to Sustainable Fashion)

Her work reflects a strong commitment to sustainability, cultural preservation, and the integration of traditional knowledge with contemporary fashion practices.

Her research paper, “Zero-Waste Pattern Making: A Practice-Based Approach to Sustainable Fashion,” published in the International Journal of Innovative Research in Technology (IJIRT) in December 2025, explores innovative pattern-making techniques that minimize textile waste while maintaining aesthetics, fit, and functionality. The study highlights zero-waste pattern making as an effective approach for sustainable fashion education and responsible garment production.

another publication, “Sustainable Fashion Practices Among Generation Z: The Role of Thrifting and Upcycling in Reshaping Consumer Culture,” Ms. Prasad examines how thrifting, upcycling, and conscious consumer choices are driving the transition towards circular fashion and environmentally responsible lifestyles. The research offers valuable insights into evolving consumer behaviour and the future of sustainable fashion.



Certificate of Publication (Sustainable Fashion Practices Among Generation Z)



Certificate of Publication (Integration of Traditional Drapes into Contemporary Pattern Making)



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Further reinforcing the link between heritage and innovation, her paper “Integration of Traditional Drapes into Contemporary Pattern Making” explores the adaptation of Indian draping traditions such as sarees, dupattas, dhotis, and regional wraps into modern pattern-making methods. The study demonstrates how traditional knowledge can inspire innovation, sustainability, efficient fabric utilization, and culturally responsive design solutions.

Adding to her academic accomplishments, Ms. Archana authored a book chapter titled “Costume Culture of Bihar — From Ancient to Modern”, published in PARIDHAN: Special Issue – Costumes: Ancient to Modern (2025–26). The chapter traces the evolution of Bihar's textile and costume heritage, highlighting the role of indigenous craftsmanship, regional identity, and socio-cultural influences while examining the impact of modernization on traditional costume practices.

These scholarly contributions underscore FDDI's commitment to research excellence, sustainable development, cultural preservation, and innovation-driven fashion education.

FDDI Ankleshwar and Rotary Club Organize Career Awareness Seminar for School Students

A career guidance seminar was successfully organized at MET High School in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Bharuch Heritage for students of Classes 9 to 12 on 12 May 2026. The programme aimed to create awareness about emerging career opportunities and guide students towards informed academic and professional choices.

Mr. Lalit Prakash Jangra, Executive Director, FDDI Ankleshwar addressed the students and emphasized the importance of skill-based education and creative career opportunities in the footwear and fashion industry.

The seminar covered important topics including future career opportunities, industry trends and innovation, courses and admission guidance, scholarship opportunities, placement and entrepreneurship prospects, and skill development in creative education. The session encouraged students to explore diverse career pathways and understand the growing potential of design- and innovation-driven industries.

Experts and representatives shared valuable insights to help students identify career directions aligned with evolving industry demands. The programme received enthusiastic participation from students and motivated them to think beyond conventional career options, particularly in the fields of fashion, footwear, retail, and design.



A view of the seminar

FDDI, Fursatganj Faculty Publish Research on AI-Enabled Smart Footwear for Healthcare Applications

Mr. Abhishek Kumar Saxena, Faculty and Mr. Mukesh Saini, Senior Faculty Grade-II from the School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI Fursatganj, have published a research paper titled “Smart Wearable Shoes for Deep Learning-Based Gait Analysis and Abnormal Walking Pattern Detection” in the International Journal of Innovative Research in Technology (IJIRT), Volume 12, Issue May 2026.

The research highlights the growing potential of smart footwear in healthcare and wearable technology. The study presents an intelligent shoe system equipped with pressure sensors, accelerometers, gyroscopes, and AI-based deep learning models (CNN and LSTM) for real-time gait



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analysis. The system achieved an accuracy of approximately 93–95% in detecting abnormal walking patterns associated with Parkinson's disease, arthritis, stroke-related impairments, and other mobility disorders.



Mr. Abhishek Kumar Saxena,
Faculty , FDP



Certificate of Publication



Mr. Mukesh Saini, Senior
Faculty Grade-II



Certificate of Publication

By integrating footwear design, wearable technology, healthcare monitoring, and artificial intelligence, the research offers an innovative solution for early diagnosis, rehabilitation support, and continuous health monitoring while ensuring user comfort. The publication reflects FDDI's commitment to research, innovation, and the development of technology-driven footwear solutions that contribute to improved healthcare outcomes and quality of life.

Workshop on Fabric Artistry Enhances Creative Learning at FDDI Kolkata

A two-day workshop on “Fabric Artistry and Enrichment Techniques” was successfully organized at Footwear Design and Development Institute Kolkata Campus on 08 May and 11 May 2026 for students of Fashion Design and Foundation. The workshop was conducted by Bharat Das and Abir Chowdhury with the objective of providing students with practical exposure to fabric surface ornamentation and enrichment techniques, thereby enhancing their creative and technical understanding.

During the first day of the workshop, students were introduced to printmaking and experimental surface development techniques such as Linocut, Monoprint, and Collograph. The sessions emphasized hands-on exploration of textures, motifs, composition, and manual printing methods.



Students acquiring experiential learning and exposure

On the second day, students received practical training in Screen Printing and Batik techniques, including demonstrations on stencil preparation, colour application, wax-resist methods, and fabric surface enhancement processes.



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The workshop proved to be highly interactive and enriching, providing students with valuable experiential learning and exposure to both traditional and contemporary textile art practices.

FDDI Ankleshwar Organizes Workshop on Gujarat Padukas under Indian Design Language Series

FDDI, Ankleshwar Campus organized a three-day workshop titled “Indian Design Language, Gujarat Padukas (Kutch/Gujarati Jutti)” from 07 to 09 May 2026. The workshop was designed to promote traditional Indian footwear craftsmanship while encouraging innovation and contemporary design understanding among students.



A view of the workshop



Students acquiring necessary skills during the workshop

The programme featured traditional craftsmanship demonstrations, hands-on footwear making sessions, design reinterpretation workshops, material and embellishment exploration, and contemporary collection development under artisan guidance. The initiative provided students with practical exposure to indigenous craft traditions and strengthened their understanding of Indian design language in footwear and fashion.

The workshop was conducted with the participation of renowned artisans Kalidas Jadharam and Mahadev R. Gordiya, who specialize in embroidered and crochet craftsmanship associated with traditional Gujarati footwear.

Students from the Footwear Design, Foundation, and Fashion batches, along with faculty members, actively participated in the workshop. Through this initiative, FDDI Ankleshwar aimed to bridge traditional craftsmanship with modern design education while contributing to the preservation and promotion of India's rich artisanal heritage.

FDDI Hyderabad Promotes Craft-Based Innovation through “Cheriyal Chronicles on Footwear” Workshop under India Design Language Initiative

On 09 May 2026, the School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP) at FDDI, Hyderabad Campus organized an enriching workshop titled “Cheriyal Chronicles on Footwear” under the India Design Language, Footwear initiative.

The workshop was conducted by Mr. Rakesh D, a distinguished artisan from Telangana with over two decades of experience in preserving and promoting the traditional art of Cheriyal painting.



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During the session, Mr. Rakesh D introduced students to the rich heritage of Cheriyal painting, renowned for its vibrant colours and narrative motifs, and demonstrated techniques for adapting these intricate designs onto footwear uppers and straps. The workshop provided valuable practical exposure to surface embellishment techniques, traditional art application, and artisan-led craftsmanship.



Mr. Rakesh D demonstrating techniques to the students



Creative outcome

Through hands-on participation, students created their own Cheriyal-inspired footwear designs, successfully blending heritage with innovation. The workshop enhanced their understanding of sustainable design practices and reinforced the importance of preserving Indian crafts through contemporary product development.

Foundation Batch Students Visit Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Park for Experiential Learning

FDDI, Chennai Campus, organized an educational visit to Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Park on 08 May 2026 for Foundation Batch students as part of experiential learning under the subject Observation Drawing.



Students of Foundation Batch with Faculty members

The visit provided students with an opportunity to closely study the architectural monument, surrounding landscape, structural elements, spatial composition, and environmental aesthetics of the memorial park. The activity encouraged students to observe and appreciate form, proportion, symmetry, texture, and perspective while developing their visual interpretation and analytical skills.



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Faculty members guided the students in understanding how designers and artists cultivate observational abilities through the study of real-life structures, natural environments, and public spaces. The visit also helped students gain insights into architectural forms, heritage-inspired design elements, landscaping, and visual storytelling through observation.

FDDI Team Visits Sheela Foam to Strengthen Industry-Academia Partnership

As part of its commitment to strengthening industry-academia engagement, a team from FDDI visited the manufacturing facility and corporate office of Sheela Foam, Greater Noida, on 07 May 2026. The visit provided valuable exposure to advanced foam manufacturing technologies and facilitated discussions on potential areas of collaboration.

During the visit, the team toured the manufacturing facility and gained insights into the complete foam production process, including foam formation, curing, cutting, packaging, testing, and quality assurance procedures. The team also visited the testing laboratory to understand the diverse applications of foam in sectors such as footwear, furniture, automotive, mattresses, bags, and other lifestyle products.



Team FDDI at Sheela Foam

The FDDI delegation interacted with senior management, including Mr. Vasant Singhal, President, Sheela Foam, and discussed opportunities for collaboration in areas such as joint certification and micro-credential programmes, industry-oriented curriculum development, skill enhancement initiatives, internship opportunities, and the formation of industry-academia committees.

The visit offered valuable insights into material innovation, manufacturing excellence, and emerging industry requirements, further reinforcing the importance of integrating practical industry exposure with academic learning.

Annual Academic Fest, Design Sync 2026 Fosters Creativity and Design Thinking at FDDI Hyderabad

FDDI Hyderabad organized its Annual Academic Fest, Design Sync 2026, on 7–8 May 2026, providing students with a vibrant platform to showcase their creativity, innovation, and problem-solving abilities through a range of academic and design-oriented activities.

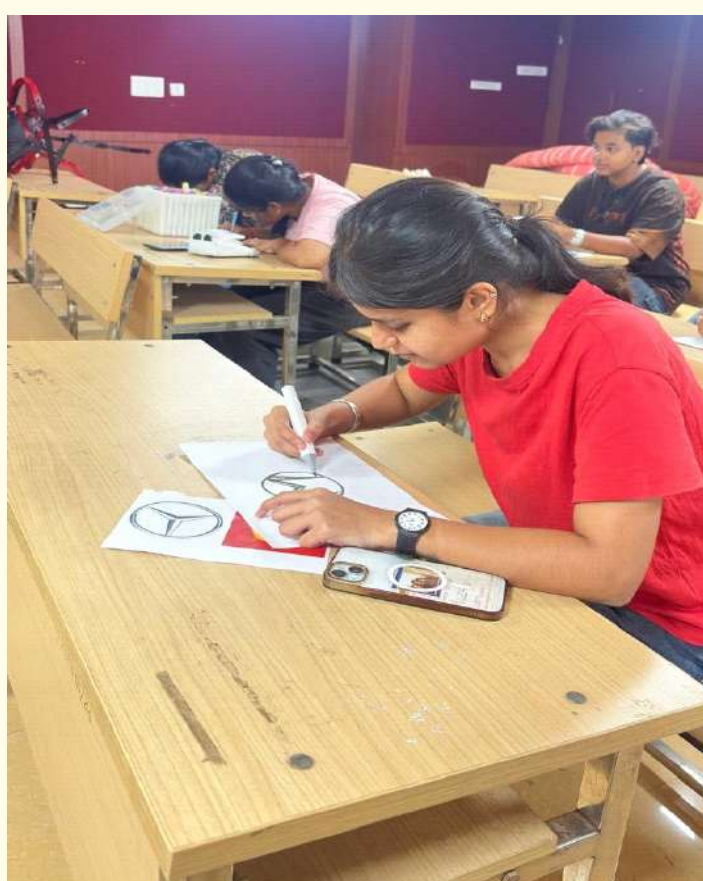


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The School of Foundation conducted several engaging competitions on 8 May 2026, aimed at promoting teamwork, critical thinking, and design skills. Key events included the Blindfold Art Challenge, where participants worked in pairs to complete artistic tasks through communication and coordination;

the Mystery Room, which tested students' analytical and problem-solving abilities through design-related puzzles and clues; and the Mystery Logo Remix, where participants creatively combined elements from different logos to develop innovative new brand identities.

The competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across departments and provided valuable experiential learning opportunities. Design Sync 2026 successfully encouraged creative expression, collaboration, and design thinking, making it a memorable and enriching academic event for all participants.



A view of the engaging competitions

FDDI Jodhpur Strengthens Innovation Culture with Modernized Design Tinkering Lab

In a major step towards strengthening its innovation ecosystem, FDDI Jodhpur inaugurated its newly renovated and upgraded Design Tinkering Lab, providing students with an enhanced platform for creative exploration, prototyping, problem-solving, and hands-on learning.

The state-of-the-art facility was inaugurated by Ms. Shalini Raj, ADCP, Jodhpur, in the presence of faculty members, staff, and students. During her visit, Ms. Raj appreciated FDDI's efforts in creating a modern and collaborative environment that encourages design thinking, experimentation, problem-solving, and innovation among young learners.

Equipped to support creative exploration and hands-on learning, the upgraded Design Tinkering Lab will provide students with opportunities to transform ideas into practical solutions, develop prototypes, and enhance their technical and design capabilities. The facility is expected to play a vital role in nurturing innovation-driven learning and interdisciplinary collaboration.



A view of the upgraded Design Tinkering Lab



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FDDI Jodhpur Provides Career and Technology Exposure to Polytechnic Students

FDDI Jodhpur hosted an educational visit for students and faculty members from Government Polytechnic College, Jodhpur, on 8 May 2026. The visit aimed to provide participants with firsthand exposure to industry-oriented education, innovation, and career opportunities in the footwear, fashion, retail, and lifestyle sectors.

During the visit, the students were taken on a comprehensive tour of FDDI's state-of-the-art infrastructure and specialized facilities, including the Design Tinkering Lab, Computer Labs, CAD/CAM Laboratories, Pattern Making Lab, Product Development Centre, Library, Smart Classrooms, Workshop Facilities, and Student Activity Areas. The visitors also interacted with faculty members and gained valuable insights into the Institute's practical training methodologies, technology-driven learning environment, and industry-focused academic programmes.



FDDI faculty member providing insights to students and faculty members of Government Polytechnic College, Jodhpur

The visit offered students a deeper understanding of emerging trends, technological advancements, and career pathways in the design and manufacturing sectors, while highlighting FDDI's role in nurturing skilled professionals and future innovators.

FDDI Noida Organizes IDL Workshop on Khadi-Based Design

As part of the Indian Design Language (IDL) initiative, FDDI Noida organized a three-day workshop on Khadi-Based Design from 6–8 May 2026. The workshop aimed to promote sustainable design practices and encourage students to explore the rich heritage and contemporary applications of Khadi in fashion and product design.



A view of the IDL Workshop on Khadi-Based Design

The workshop focused on enhancing students' understanding of sustainable materials, market trends, footwear design, and innovative product development using Khadi. Industry experts conducted interactive sessions and demonstrations, providing valuable insights into design techniques, material applications, and evolving consumer preferences.

Faculty members guided participants through sessions on fabric understanding, surface development, material exploration, design innovation, and contemporary styling. Students actively engaged in practical exercises and prototype development, creating innovative concepts that combined traditional craftsmanship with modern aesthetics.

The workshop concluded with the presentation of student prototypes and samples, showcasing creativity, sustainability, and cultural relevance. The initiative provided valuable exposure to eco-friendly design approaches while strengthening students' appreciation of India's rich textile heritage.



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FDDI, Noida Students Gain Industry Exposure at Shahi Exports

Students of the School of Retail and Fashion Merchandise (RFM) who were accompanied by their faculty members, FDDI, visited Shahi Exports, Faridabad, on 7 May 2026 as part of an industrial exposure programme aimed at enhancing their understanding of the apparel and export industry.

During the visit, students interacted with industry experts who shared valuable insights into the apparel export sector, emerging market trends, and career opportunities in the industry.

The students also toured the manufacturing facility and gained first-hand exposure to various aspects of garment production, including production planning, manufacturing processes, quality control, and workflow management.



FDDI students at Shahi Exports

FDDI Jodhpur Promotes Health and Professional Growth Through Expert Sessions

FDDI Jodhpur organized an informative workshop on “Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyle” on 7 May 2026 to promote awareness about health, wellness, and overall well-being among students and staff.



Participants attending the session

The session was conducted by Dr. Namita Bhandari, Nutrition and Dietetics Expert, who emphasized the importance of balanced nutrition, healthy eating habits, and positive lifestyle choices in maintaining physical and mental well-being. She also shared practical guidance on diet planning, disease prevention, and adopting sustainable healthy habits for a better quality of life.

The programme also featured an engaging session by Dr. Priyanka Baid on “What I Learnt After Joining Industry”, during which she shared valuable professional experiences, industry expectations, and key lessons from her career journey. Her insights encouraged

participants to develop the skills, attitude, adaptability, and professionalism required to succeed in today's dynamic work environment.

FDDI Strengthens Innovation and Entrepreneurship Focus at ASSOCHAM Global IP Conclave

A delegation from FDDI, comprising Dr. Renu Sharma, Academic Head, and Mr. Anoop Singh Rana, Head of School, Leather Goods & Accessories, participated in the ASSOCHAM Global IP Conclave (AGIPC) 2026 held on 6 May 2026 at Hotel The Lalit, New Delhi. The conclave, themed “Reimagining India's IP Future: The Next Leap to Global Leadership,” brought together policymakers, industry leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and international experts to discuss the future of Intellectual Property (IP) in India.

The event also highlighted the entrepreneurial achievements of FDDI alumni, including Ms. Prerana, Founder of The Green Hyde, a sustainable fashion venture; Mr. Ajeet Raj, Founder and CMO of Alen Gallery; and Mr. Sameer, Co-founder of Desi Sawad, a start-up promoting Bihar's traditional delicacy, Thekua.



Team FDDI at ASSOCHAM Global IP Conclave



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The conclave featured insightful discussions on India's growing innovation ecosystem, strengthening IP protection mechanisms, commercialization of intellectual assets, technology transfer, and emerging opportunities in AI and green technologies. Participants also gained insights into recent developments in the country's IP landscape, including significant growth in patent filings and government initiatives supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.

The event provided a valuable platform for networking and knowledge exchange, enabling FDDI representatives to engage with national and international stakeholders.

Industry Expert Shares Insights on Supply Chain and Logistics Management at FDDI, Hyderabad

To strengthen industry-academia collaboration and provide practical industry exposure, the School of Retail & Fashion Merchandise (RFM), FDDI Hyderabad, organized an expert session titled "From Click to Delivery: The SCM & Logistics Journey" on 5 May 2026.



Mr. Ramesh Nalluri briefing during the session

The session featured Mr. Ramesh Nalluri, an experienced SCM and Logistics professional who provided valuable insights into the end-to-end supply chain process, covering order processing, warehousing, inventory management, transportation, and last-mile delivery through the framework "Click → Process → Manage → Deliver." He also highlighted emerging career opportunities in the logistics sector and the skills required for success in the industry.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from BBA, MBA, and DGR students, who actively engaged in discussions on logistics challenges, technology adoption, and career pathways.

Drawing on real-world examples, Mr. Nalluri addressed students' queries and shared practical industry perspectives.

FDDI Noida Hosts Open Street Dance Competition

FDDI, Noida, successfully organized an Open Street Dance Competition, bringing together talented young dancers for an evening of vibrant performances, creativity, and artistic expression on 04 May 2026.

Participants from various categories showcased their skills through energetic solo performances and exciting dance battles, captivating the audience with their confidence, stage presence, and passion for dance. The event created an electrifying atmosphere filled with enthusiasm, rhythm, and healthy competition.

Adding to the excitement, RJ Riddhi Ojha from Radio Ishq 104.8 FM engaged the audience with her lively interaction and dynamic presence, making the event even more memorable.

The competition provided a valuable platform for young talent to express themselves, celebrate creativity, and connect through the performing arts, contributing to a vibrant cultural environment on campus.



A view of the competition



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FDDI Chennai Hosts SYNARA 2026 Graduation Fashion Show

SYNARA 2026, the Graduation Fashion Show of FDDI Chennai, was a vibrant celebration of creativity, craftsmanship, and innovation, organized by the School of Fashion Design and the School of Footwear Design & Production on 2 May 2026 at VR Chennai. The event showcased the remarkable talent, dedication, and design excellence of the graduating students, marking the culmination of their academic journey.



Students presenting their collection during SYNARA 2026

The event was graced by distinguished jury members, including Mr. Abhinash, Actor, Designer and Model; Ms. Sindhu, Celebrity Fashion Designer; and Ms. Adira Udyakumar, Celebrity Fashion Designer. Their valuable insights, industry expertise, and interaction with students added immense value to the showcase and inspired the young designers.

More than a fashion show, SYNARA 2026 served as a platform for students to translate ideas, stories, and identities into compelling visual narratives through innovative garments, accessories, and footwear collections. The runway featured a diverse range of themes inspired by heritage textiles, contemporary culture, architecture, nature, sustainability, and social narratives, reflecting both creative expression and market relevance.



A view of SYNARA 2026 Graduation Fashion Show

Each collection represented months of rigorous research, trend forecasting, material exploration, design development, draping, garment construction, styling, and execution. The showcase highlighted the students' technical proficiency, artistic vision, and ability to transform concepts into professionally executed collections.



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SYNARA 2026 also reflected FDDI's commitment to nurturing industry-ready professionals by encouraging critical thinking, innovation, and the development of a distinctive design identity. The event stood as a testament to the Institute's efforts in shaping the next generation of fashion and footwear designers equipped to contribute meaningfully to the creative industries.

FDDI Ankleshwar Organizes Incubation and Startup Awareness Session

FDDI, Ankleshwar Campus successfully organized an Incubation & Startup Awareness Session for its employees and officers on 27 April 2026 following participation in the FootIn Innovation Program: Start to Incubate conducted at the FDDI Head Office, Noida.

The session aimed to create awareness about innovation, entrepreneurship, startup culture, and incubation opportunities among faculty and staff members. It served as an interactive platform to share the key learnings and experiences gained during the innovation training programme held at FDDI Noida.

During the session, participants were introduced to the fundamentals of the startup ecosystem, including idea development, incubation support mechanisms, and the importance of fostering innovative thinking within educational institutions. The initiative encouraged attendees to explore entrepreneurial opportunities and contribute towards building a culture of creativity and innovation on campus.



A view of the session

FDDI Research Team Wins Second Best Paper Award for Innovative Transformable Footwear Design

The research paper titled "Altere: Redefining Women's Footwear Through Transformable Design" was conferred the Second Best Paper Presentation Award under the Product Design theme at the Three-Day International Conference on "Creative Design Practices, Interdisciplinary Research & Emerging Technologies", jointly organized by the Amity School of Fashion Technology (ASFT) and the Amity School of Architecture and Planning (ASAP), Amity University Chhattisgarh, from 15–17 April 2026.



Dr. Pooja Singh



Mr. Ashok Joshi



Mr. Sudarshan Shahi



Ms. Jhanvi Garg

The award was received by the research team comprising Dr. Pooja Singh, Mr. Ashok Joshi, Mr. Sudarshan Shahi faculties and Ms. Jhanvi Garg, a student of batch of 2022 in recognition of their innovative contribution to transformable footwear design.



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The research explores adaptable footwear solutions that seamlessly integrate functionality, aesthetics, and user-centric design. By enabling multiple styles and uses within a single product, the concept promotes versatility, enhanced user experience, and sustainable consumption. The study presents a contemporary approach to footwear innovation, addressing evolving consumer



preferences while contributing to advancements in product design and design-led innovation.

The achievement reflects FDDI's continued commitment to fostering research excellence, creativity, and innovation in footwear design, while encouraging interdisciplinary solutions that address emerging industry and consumer needs.

From Advanced Nanocoatings to AI Creativity: FDDI Banur Faculty at the Forefront of Innovation



Dr. Agya Preet, Faculty, FD

Dr. Agya Preet, Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Banur Campus, presented a research paper titled "Advanced Nanocoatings: Innovations in High Performance Surface Engineering" at the National Conference on Innovations in Protective Textiles held on 09 April 2026.

The conference was organized by Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA) with support from the National Technical Textiles Mission under the Ministry of Textiles. The research paper highlighted emerging advancements in nanocoating technologies and their applications in developing high-performance, durable, and protective textile surfaces.

Further strengthening her engagement with emerging industry trends, Dr. Agya Preet participated in a webinar titled "AI in Textile Design – Possibilities, Challenges & the Future of Creativity", organized by the North India Section of The Textile Institute (NISTI) on 23 May 2026.



Certificate by NITRA



Certificate for participated in webinar

The webinar provided valuable insights into the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in textile and fashion design. Discussions covered key areas such as trend forecasting, pattern development, virtual sampling, creative workflows, craft innovation, and the evolving relationship between technology and design. The session offered participants a deeper understanding of how AI-driven tools are reshaping the future of creativity and product development within the textile and fashion sectors.



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FDDI Chennai Faculty Secures Three Indian Design Patents, Advancing Craft-Based Innovation and Design Research

Dr. Rambabu Muppidi, Senior Faculty Member, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Chennai, has achieved a significant milestone by securing three Indian Design Patents for innovative product designs that blend contemporary design thinking with traditional Indian craft knowledge.



Dr. Rambabu Muppidi,
Sr. Faculty -II, FD, Chennai Campus



Designer Wooden Table



Design Patent Certificate

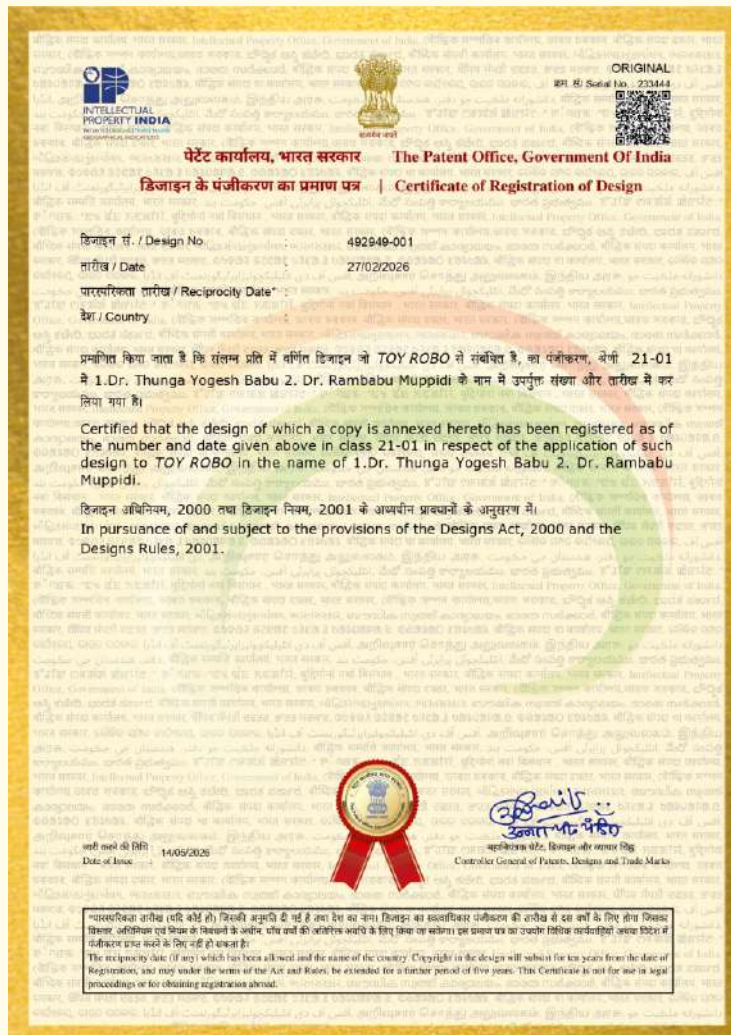
The patents, granted by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, reflect his continued commitment to design innovation, research, intellectual property development, and the preservation of India's rich artisan heritage.

The first patented design, “Designer Wooden Table” (Application No. 461895-001), developed jointly with Dr. Ravindra Babu Veguri of GITAM

University, showcases a unique fusion of traditional craftsmanship and modern furniture aesthetics. The design emphasizes functionality, visual appeal, and contemporary lifestyle requirements while demonstrating the value of interdisciplinary design research.



Toy Robo



Design Patent Certificate

The second patent, “Toy Robo” (Application No. 492950-001), developed in collaboration with Dr. Yogesh Babu, is an interactive educational toy designed to promote creativity, analytical thinking, problem-solving, and activity-based learning among children. Inspired by the traditional Kondapalli and Etikoppaka toy-making traditions of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the project successfully integrates indigenous craft knowledge with contemporary educational product design.

The third patented design, “Table Top Veena” (Application No. 455522-001), was inspired by extensive field research on the traditional Nuziveedu Veena craft heritage of Andhra Pradesh. Developed in collaboration with Mr. Sujeevan Kumar Bullard and Mr. Mattagunja Anirudh, the design reinterprets a culturally significant musical instrument into a



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contemporary decorative product while preserving its artistic and cultural essence.

Belonging to an artisan family from Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Muppidi has consistently worked towards preserving traditional and endangered art forms through design innovation, research, documentation, and intellectual property creation.

His work aligns with the vision of promoting craft-based innovation, artisan empowerment, and sustainable design practices while encouraging students and young designers to engage in original product development and research.

These achievements underscore FDDI's growing contribution to design research, innovation, and intellectual property creation, while reinforcing its commitment to preserving India's traditional crafts through contemporary design interventions.



Table Top Veena



Design Patent Certificate

Research Publication by FDDI Scholars on Social Media Influencer Marketing

Dr. Sushila Hooda, Jr. Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI, Noida Campus, along with Ms. Divya Devshree, M.Des. student, has published a research paper titled "Consumer Behaviour Influenced by Social Media Influencers in Delhi NCR Region" in IRE Journals, May 2026 issue (Volume 9, Issue 11, ISSN: 2456-8880).

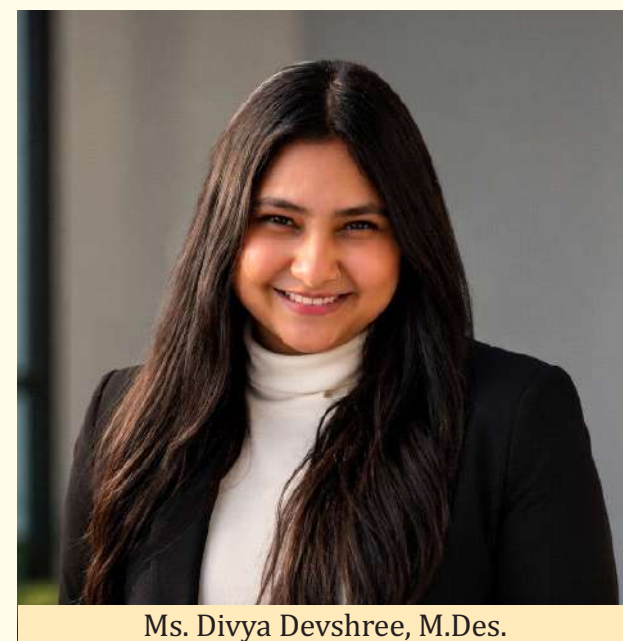
The research examines the significant role of social media influencers in shaping consumer buying behaviour, brand perception, and fashion identity among young women in the Delhi NCR region. The study highlights how influencer-generated content impacts purchasing decisions, self-expression, and individuality through fashion choices.

The paper further explores key factors such as influencer credibility, authenticity, visual storytelling, aesthetic communication, follower engagement, and brand influencer alignment in influencing purchase intentions across apparel, beauty, and lifestyle

segments. The findings reveal that social media influencers have emerged as important trendsetters, bridging the gap between luxury and accessible fashion through relatable digital narratives. The study also discusses emerging concerns related to over-commercialization, transparency in sponsored content, and declining consumer trust in influencer marketing.



Dr. Sushila Hooda, Jr. Faculty, FD



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