FDI

Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Government of India
DPIIT

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NEWSLETTER



FOOTWEAR DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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National Importance

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

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FDDI Observes Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 Across Its Campuses

FDDI successfully observed the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 2026 across its campuses, promoting cleanliness, environmental sustainability, community participation and the dignity and welfare of sanitation workers.



View of Swachhata Pledge Ceremony at FDDI, Head Office

The campaign was observed from 17 September to 2 October 2026 under the theme “Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat,” encouraging active public participation and collective responsibility towards cleanliness, environmental sustainability and the vision of a cleaner, healthier and developed India.



Plantation of sapling by Shri Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI



Poster making & awareness creation

Activities were undertaken in alignment with the campaign's five pillars, encompassing cleanliness awareness, transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs), Jan Bhagidari, waste management and SafaiMitra welfare.

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The campaign featured cleanliness and sanitation drives, awareness programmes, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (RRR) initiatives, waste segregation, environmental sustainability activities, creative reuse of waste materials and community engagement.





Essential health screenings & consultations at Health check-up camp of SafaiMitras

A total of 128 identified Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) were transformed, reflecting FDDI's commitment to maintaining clean, hygienic and sustainable surroundings.





Cleanliness drive

Initiatives such as “Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath” Shramdaan and “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” further encouraged collective responsibility towards a cleaner and greener environment.



Waste-to-Wealth





Felicitation and recognition of SafaiMitras for their contribution towards cleanliness

As part of the Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign, SafaiMitra Suraksha evam Samman Shivir were held to felicitate and recognise SafaiMitras for their contribution towards cleanliness.

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FDDI Leads Industry Dialogue on Bihar's Leather & Footwear Sector

FDDI actively participated in the Roundtable Discussion on "Opportunities in Bihar's Leather & Footwear Sector", held in Patna on 22 September 2026, bringing together the Government, industry and technical institutions to discuss the development of a strong and integrated footwear manufacturing ecosystem in Bihar.

The Hon'ble Industries Minister, Government of Bihar, Ms. Shreyasi Singh, welcomed Shri Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI, along with senior FDDI officials and industry representatives.

Senior Government officials participating in the interaction included Shri Alok Ranjan Ghosh, IAS, Managing Director, Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA); Shri Kundan Kumar, Secretary, Department of Industries, Government of Bihar; and Shri Mukul Kumar Gupta, IAS, Director of Industries.

The FDDI delegation included Shri Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director; Shri Prashant Saxena, Head – Business & Skilling, FDDI HQ; Shri Sanjeev Mishra, Head of Department (Footwear); and Shri Shyamanand Jha, Faculty & Business Coordinator, FDDI Patna.

Senior Government officials participating in the interaction included Shri Alok Ranjan Ghosh, IAS, Managing Director, Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA); Shri Kundan Kumar, Secretary, Department of Industries, Government of Bihar; and Shri Mukul Kumar Gupta, IAS, Director of Industries.



From Left: Hon'ble Industries Minister, Government of Bihar, Ms. Shreyasi Singh, felicitating Shri Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI

Representing the industry, the discussion included Shri Sanjay Gupta, President, IFCOMA; Shri Ajay Gour, Deputy Director, IFCOMA; Shri Anurag Gupta, Tingle Manufacturing Company and Member, IFCOMA; Shri Danish Prashad, Managing Director, Competence Exports; Shri Murshid Raja Khan, Industry Delegate; Shri Govind Raju, Bata; and Shri Naushad, VKC, along with representatives from leading footwear and allied industries.



Dignitaries and industry representatives during the roundtable discussion

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The roundtable deliberated on developing Mahwal, Muzaffarpur, as an integrated leather, footwear and accessories manufacturing hub; attracting footwear and component manufacturers; developing an industry-ready skilled workforce; strengthening supply-chain and common infrastructure; promoting technology, innovation and product development; and creating opportunities for investment, employment and industrial growth.



Shri Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI sharing his views

During the interaction, Shri Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI, highlighted the scale and quality of infrastructure being developed at the Mega Leather, Footwear & Accessories Park, Mahwal, and its potential to support a comprehensive footwear manufacturing ecosystem.

FDDI also reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Bihar through skill development, technical training, industry engagement, technology support, product development and industry-oriented capacity building. The Institute's expertise can help strengthen the linkage between industrial infrastructure, skilled manpower and the evolving requirements of the footwear and leather industry.



Dignitaries at Mega Leather, Footwear & Accessories Park, Mahwal, Muzaffarpur

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The roundtable marked a significant step towards fostering collaboration among the Government, industry and technical institutions, with a shared focus on building a skilled, technology-enabled and industry-oriented leather and footwear ecosystem in Bihar.

FDDI Showcases Industry Expertise at the 18th Meet at Agra 2026

FDDI participated in the 18th edition of Meet at Agra, held from 3–5 October 2026 at the Agra Trade Centre, Agra, organised by the Agra Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Chamber (AFMEC).



Students showcasing their spectacular collections on the ramp during 'Fashion Fusion 2026'

The prominent B2B exhibition brought together footwear manufacturers, exporters, suppliers and technology providers to showcase innovations in footwear components, materials, machinery and manufacturing technologies.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, CEO, Uttar Pradesh State Transformation Commission, as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI, as the Special Guest, along with office-bearers and representatives of AFMEC, includingMr. Gopal Gupta, President, AFMEC; Mr. Pradip Wasan, General Secretary, AFMEC; Mr. Puran Dawar, Convener, AFMEC and Chairman, Development Council for Footwear and Leather Industry (DCFLI) and Mr. Sanjay Gupta, President, IFCOMA.

A key highlight was the presentation of the Best Innovative Footwear Components Award to Mr. Sunil Gupta of M/s Sandeep Rubber Industries, Agra, in the presence of distinguished dignitaries.

At its pavilion, FDDI showcased its capabilities in business development and consultancy, International Testing Services, quality testing and compliance support, industry training, technology solutions, design and product development.



Mr. Sunil Gupta of M/s Sandeep Rubber Industries, Agra along with the Best Innovative Footwear Components Award

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The participation provided a valuable platform to engage with industry stakeholders, showcase institutional expertise and explore opportunities for future collaboration.



Discussion in progress at the stall of FDDI

Strengthening Industry–Academia Linkages through FDDI–BAA Collaboration

As part of the Industry Preparedness Initiative proposed by the Head, School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD), FDDI Head Office, Noida, organised a focused interaction on 09 September 2026 with representatives of the Buyer Agent Association (BAA) to explore opportunities for an upcoming industry-led workshop for final-year students.



From Left: Ms. Sarika, Managing Director, Bespoke Sourcing India and BAA Member, Mr. Michel, Managing Director, Made in India Sourcing and Governing Board Member, Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI and Ms. Rohini Suri, Advisory Member, BAA during their interaction at FDDI Noida

The initiative aims to strengthen students' industry awareness, professional readiness and practical understanding of contemporary business practices.

The BAA delegation comprising Mr. Michel, Managing Director, Made in India Sourcing and

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- Strengthening Industry–Academia Linkages through FDDI–BAA Collaboration;
- FDDI Launches a Weekly Knowledge Series on Footwear Design and Manufacturing;
- FDDI Fursatganj Secures Design Registration for Carved Leather Footwear;
- FDDI Jodhpur Hosts Zenist 2026: A Celebration of Sports & Culture;
- FDDI Kolkata Strengthens Industry–Academia Connect through Master Classes;
- FDDI Fursatganj Takes a Step Towards a Greener Campus with 255 kW Solar Plant;
- Pro Life Foundation Extends ₹1 Lakh CSR Support to FDDI Ankleshwar;
- FDDI Students Take Design Research to the Global Stage at INDIS 2026;
- FDDI Hyderabad and TGCOST Join Hands to Empower Artisans through Footwear Training;
- FDDI Hyderabad Brings Industry and Academia Together at Industry Conclave 2026;
- FDDI Ankleshwar Hosts AAVEG '26, a Celebration of Student Talent and Team Spirit;
- FDDI Explores New Industry, Craft and Innovation Opportunities at UPITS 2026;
- Army Public School Students Explore Design and Technology at FDDI Ankleshwar;
- FDDI Chennai Student Secures Double Bronze at Tamil Nadu CM Trophy;
- Industrial Visit to Perla Textile Processor for FDDI Chennai students;
- FDDI, Noida Students Gain Industry Insights at Alpine Apparels, Faridabad;
- FDDI, Noida Students Participate in FUTUREFORGE 2026
- Apache Footwear Pvt. Ltd. Bridges Classroom Learning and Workplace Realities at FDDI Hyderabad;
- FDDI Patna Concludes Advanced Training Programme on Leather Footwear Manufacturing;
- Inspiring Creativity Through Art: FDDI, Noida Students Visit NGMA;
- FDDI Chennai Students Gain Industry Exposure through Visits to K.H. Exports and Sara Leather Industries;
- Expert Session-Cum Workshop on Advanced Excel held at FDDI, Hyderabad;
- FDDI, Hyderabad Students Gain Real-World Retail Exposure;
- Chhatra Rachnatmak Pratibha Samman Samaroh Celebrates Student Creativity and Achievement at FDDI Jodhpur;
- FDDI Jodhpur Hosts Yuva Samagam – CrossOver 2026 on AI, Innovation and Start-ups;

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Governing Board Member, BAA; Ms. Sarika, Managing Director, Bespoke Sourcing India and BAA Member; and Ms. Rohini Suri, Advisory Member, BAA, met Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI, and held discussions on developing a structured industry-oriented learning programme for FDDI students.

The interaction was also attended by Dr. Renu Sharma, Head Academic; Mr. Anoop Singh Rana, HOS, LGAD; Mr. Neeraj Sharma, HOS, Footwear Design & Production (FDP) (Online); Dr. Avinash Bajpai, HOS, Retail & Fashion Merchandise (Online); and Dr. Neeti Kishore, HOS, School of Fashion Design (FD) (Online).



Interaction in progress between FDDI officials and BAA representatives

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- FDDI Patna Hosts Exposure Visit for 30 CBSE School Principals;
- Shree Gattu Vidhyalaya Students Visit FDDI Ankleshwar;
- FDDI, Noida Students Visit Yashobhoomi and IIM Exhibition;
- "Orchestrating the Dream": FDDI Faculty Explores Storytelling and Value in Modern Luxury;
- FDDI Fursatganj Faculty Contribute to International Research on Sustainable Footwear and Craft Entrepreneurship;
- Major Milestone in Design Innovation and Intellectual Property for FDDI, Chennai Faculty, along with co-designers;
- FDDI Chennai Students Gain Industry Exposure at Good Leather Shoes;

A one-day industry workshop is proposed for the second week of October 2026, with FDDI Noida as the host centre and participation from other campuses through Digital Classrooms. The workshop will cover industry-relevant areas such as Merchandising, Production, Quality Control, Compliance, Logistics, EXIM Policies, Geopolitics and Emerging Industry Trends, with BAA supporting FDDI in finalising the framework, resource persons and session structure. The interaction also explored future collaboration through industry experts/guest faculty, 15-day Faculty Industry Training Programmes (FITP) and Continuing Education Programmes (CEP), further strengthening industry–academia linkages and enhancing students' industry readiness.

FDDI Launches a Weekly Knowledge Series on Footwear Design and Manufacturing

FDDI is launching a knowledge-based series on LinkedIn to share practical insights and design perspectives on the footwear industry. As part of this initiative, a new topic will be featured every month on Monday, focusing on design-led manufacturing, translating design concepts into production, footwear prototype development and effective design brief preparation.

Through this initiative, FDDI aims to promote knowledge sharing, strengthen design awareness and highlight the role of design in bridging creative thinking with practical manufacturing processes in the Indian footwear sector.

FDDI's weekly knowledge series reflects its commitment to design-led thinking, industry-oriented learning and innovation in the footwear sector. By sharing relevant insights regularly, the initiative seeks to connect design knowledge with practical manufacturing applications and encourage students, designers, industry professionals and other stakeholders to explore new perspectives on the future of Indian footwear.

The topics and their scheduled posting dates for October 2026 are listed below:

Topic & Posting Date			
Design led manufacturing for Indian footwear	**Bringing footwear design decisions onto the factory floor**	**What a footwear prototype should prove**	**Five questions that improve a footwear design brief**
			
Posting Date: Monday, 05 October 2026	Posting Date: Monday, 12 October 2026	Posting Date: Monday, 19 October 2026	Posting Date: Monday, 26 October 2026

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Join Us in Spreading Knowledge!

Follow FDDI on LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/school/fddiofficialhq) to explore the weekly insights and stay connected with the latest topics in footwear design and manufacturing. Readers are encouraged to like, comment on and share the posts with students, designers, footwear professionals, manufacturers and other stakeholders who may benefit from the information.

Your participation and support will help extend the reach of this initiative, encourage wider knowledge sharing, inspire new ideas and strengthen the connection between design and industry.

FDDI Fursatganj Secures Design Registration for Carved Leather Footwear

FDDI Fursatganj has achieved another milestone in design innovation with the successful registration of a unique industrial design for carved leather footwear under the Designs Act, 2000. The design has been formally registered by the Patent Office, Government of India, reaffirming the Institute's commitment to original design, creativity and intellectual property creation.

The registered design features a sophisticated Chelsea-style boot crafted in rich tan leather, distinguished by an intricate continuous carved pattern of swirling floral and organic motifs across the upper. The design brings together traditional leather-carving craftsmanship and a contemporary footwear silhouette, incorporating elastic side gores, a rear pull-tab and a stacked heel for a harmonious balance of aesthetics and functionality.



Carved Leather Footwear



Certificate of Registration

The industrial design was registered under Design Registration No. 510551-001 on 23 July 2026, in Class 02-04 (Footwear), with the certificate issued on 08 September 2026.



Team FDDI, Fursatganj along with the Certificate of Registration

The novelty of the design lies in the distinctive shape and overall visual configuration of the footwear, as represented in the registered design. The protection specifically covers its unique visual and ornamental character.

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This achievement highlights FDDI's continued efforts to promote design innovation, research and intellectual property awareness in the footwear sector. The registered design also demonstrates how traditional craft techniques can be reinterpreted through contemporary design thinking to create distinctive and relevant footwear products.

FDDI Jodhpur Hosts Zenist 2026: A Celebration of Sports & Culture

FDDI Jodhpur hosted the vibrant Inter-College Sports & Cultural Fest "Zenist", bringing together students from FDDI and various colleges and higher educational institutions across Jodhpur. The fest was inaugurated by Mr. Alok Ranjan, IAS, District Collector, Jodhpur, in the presence of Mr. Anil Kumar, Executive Director, FDDI Jodhpur.

The fest featured a diverse array of sports and cultural activities, providing students with a dynamic platform to showcase their talent, creativity, teamwork and competitive spirit. Sporting events witnessed enthusiastic participation, while the cultural evening came alive with traditional folk performances, Western dance, music and other creative presentations.



A view of the inaugural session



जेएनवीयू ने क्रिकेट और वॉलीबॉल में जीती ट्रॉफी

जोधपुर @ पत्रिका. फुटवियर डिजाइन एंड डेवलपमेंट इंस्टीट्यूट (एफडीडीआइ), जोधपुर में आयोजित अंतर-कॉलेज वार्षिक फेस्ट 'जेनिस्ट' का समापन खेल और सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तुतियों के बीच हुआ। शहर के विभिन्न शिक्षण संस्थानों से पहुंचे सैकड़ों विद्यार्थियों ने क्रिकेट, वॉलीबॉल, बैडमिंटन, टेबल टेनिस और डांस स्पर्धाओं में प्रतिभा का प्रदर्शन किया। क्रिकेट और वॉलीबॉल में जेएनवीयू ने खिताब अपने नाम किया।

क्रिकेट में जेएनवीयू विजेता और एग्रीकल्चर यूनिवर्सिटी उपविजेता रही। वॉलीबॉल में जेएनवीयू ने पहला तथा एमबीएम यूनिवर्सिटी ने दूसरा स्थान हासिल किया। बैडमिंटन पुरुष एकल में एग्रीकल्चर यूनिवर्सिटी और महिला एकल में एफडीडीआई जोधपुर विजेता रहा। टेबल टेनिस का खिताब आईआईटी ने जीता।

सांस्कृतिक स्पर्धा 'डांस वॉर' में एग्रीकल्चर यूनिवर्सिटी प्रथम और एफडीडीआई जोधपुर द्वितीय रहा। लोकनृत्य और वेस्टर्न डांस की प्रस्तुतियों ने दर्शकों का उत्साह बढ़ाया। विजेताओं को ट्रॉफी और प्रमाण पत्र प्रदान किए गए।

एफडीडीआइ के कार्यकारी निदेशक अनिल कुमार ने कहा कि खेल अनुशासन और टीम भावना सिखाते हैं, जबकि सांस्कृतिक मंच रचनात्मकता व अभिव्यक्ति को अवसर देता है। समापन पर डीजे, ढोल और आतिशबाजी के बीच विद्यार्थियों ने उत्सव मनाया।

विजेता टीम

Media coverage

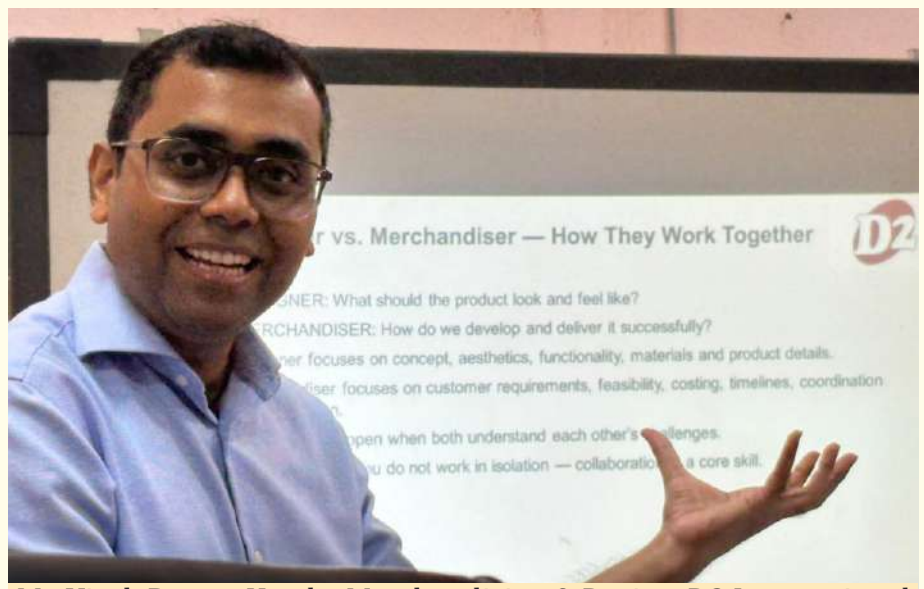
The fest concluded with an enthusiastic prize distribution ceremony, celebrating the achievements of participants and reinforcing FDDI Jodhpur's commitment to holistic student development through sports, culture and creativity.

FDDI Kolkata Strengthens Industry–Academia Connect through Master Classes

FDDI Kolkata, through the School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD), organised two industry-focused Master Classes on 29 and 30 September 2026, providing students with practical insights into the leather bags and accessories industry.



Resource person interacting with students



Mr. Vivek Rawat, Head – Merchandising & Design, D2 International sharing insights on "Key Aspects of Merchandising & Design in the Leather Bag Industry."

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Mr. Vivek Rawat, Head – Merchandising & Design, D2 International sharing insights on "Key Aspects of Merchandising & Design in the Leather Bag Industry."The session on "Export Marketing & Logistics – Leather Bags & Accessories" held on 29 September was delivered by Mr. Manoj Chakarborty, D2 International, and focused on export documentation, terminology, documentation flow, logistics, compliance and practical aspects of export operations. The session helped students understand how documentation and logistics support the movement of leather products from exporter to international markets.

On 30 September, Mr. Vivek Rawat, Head – Merchandising & Design, D2 International, conducted a Master Class on "Key Aspects of Merchandising & Design in the Leather Bag Industry." The interaction covered product development, merchandising, buyer requirements, costing, sourcing, design coordination and the interface between design, merchandising and production.

The sessions enabled students to connect classroom learning with industry practices and develop a better understanding of product development, buyer-oriented thinking, export processes, commercial considerations and production coordination. The interactions also highlighted the importance of communication, documentation and cross-functional coordination in delivering commercially viable products.

FDDI Fursatganj Takes a Step Towards a Greener Campus with 255 kW Solar Plant

On 29 September, 2026, FDDI Fursatganj inaugurated a 255 kW Solar Power Plant, marking a significant step towards promoting clean and renewable energy on campus. The installation will support the campus's energy requirements through sustainable power while improving energy efficiency and reducing dependence on conventional energy sources.





A view of the inauguration of the 255 kW Solar Power Plant

The initiative reflects FDDI Fursatganj's commitment to environmental conservation, responsible energy management and sustainable campus development. The solar power plant is expected to contribute to a greener and more energy-efficient campus while reinforcing the Institute's commitment to adopting sustainable practices for responsible institutional growth.

Pro Life Foundation Extends ₹1 Lakh CSR Support to FDDI Ankleshwar



From Left: Mr. Lalit Prakash, ED, FDDI Ankleshwar receiving the cheque from Dr. Anureet Jolly, Managing Director, Pro Life Group of Industries

FDDI Ankleshwar received a CSR contribution of ₹1 lakh from the Pro Life Foundation in support of educational and institutional development initiatives. The cheque was formally handed over to Mr. Lalit Prakash, Executive Director (ED), FDDI Ankleshwar on 27 September, 2026.

Expressing his gratitude, Shri Lalit Prakash appreciated the Pro Life Foundation for its valuable contribution and continued commitment to education, skill development and community welfare. The initiative underscores the important role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in supporting educational institutions and creating meaningful opportunities for students and the wider community.

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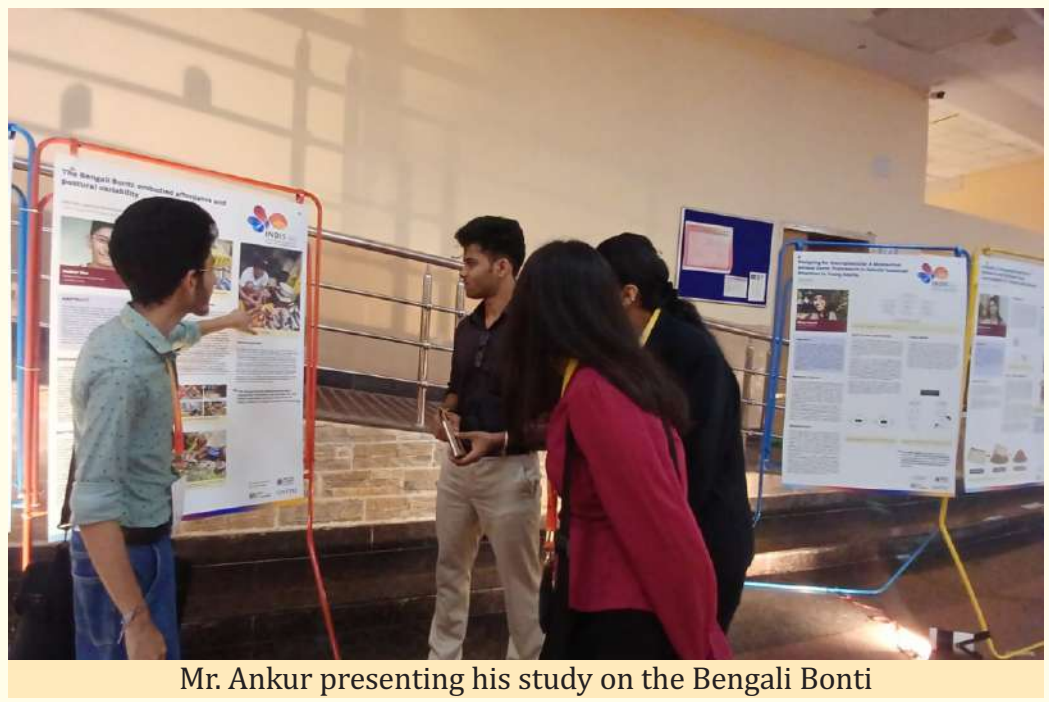
FDDI Students Take Design Research to the Global Stage at INDIS 2026

Students of FDDI represented their respective campuses at the inaugural International Conference on Design and Innovation Studies (INDIS 2026), held from 28–30 September 2026 at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati.

Organised by the Department of Design, IIT Guwahati, in collaboration with MIT Institute of Design, Pune, the conference brought together researchers, designers, industry professionals and innovators to explore emerging ideas in design, technology and innovation.



Ms. Karishma Batra presenting her research on occupational postures among urban vegetable vendors



Mr. Ankur presenting his study on the Bengali Bonti

The combined programme provided a multidisciplinary platform for academic exchange, research, exhibitions, industry engagement and international collaboration in design and creative industries. Dr. Ranoj Pegu, Assam Minister of Education, Plain Tribes and Information Technology, graced the inaugural event as Chief Guest, while Paban Kr. Borthakur, IAS (Retd.), Chairman, RERA Assam and Former Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, was the Guest of Honour at the INDIS Conference 2026.

Mr. Ankur presenting his study on the Bengali BontiMs. Karishma Batra, Semester 7 student of the School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD), FDDI Noida, presented her research paper titled “A Video Analysis Study of Vegetable Vendors in Urban India.” The study explored occupational postures and human-centred design perspectives through observational research, highlighting the role of design in understanding everyday work environments and user needs.



Ms. Vishnudharshini presenting her research



Ms. Nithiya Sri R showcasing her Tensegrity-Based Robotic Shelf research

Mr. Ankur, Semester 5 student, FDDI Kolkata, presented his research paper titled “The Bengali Bonti: Embodied Affordance and Postural Variability.” His research examined the relationship between traditional tools, human interaction and postural adaptation, demonstrating how indigenous objects can offer valuable insights into human-centred and contextual design.

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Ms. Nithiya Sri R, B.Des. student from the Footwear Design & Production (FDP) programme, FDDI Noida, presented her research project titled "Tensegrity-Based Robotic Shelf." The project explored the integration of tensegrity principles with robotic and functional furniture design, investigating possibilities for adaptive and interactive shelving systems.

Ms. Vishnudharshini, a B.Des. student of FDP programme at FDDI Chennai, presented her research project, "Coconut Grater as an Embodied Tool with Design Logic of NEAT." The study explored how the traditional Indian coconut grater encourages continuous movement, involving 8–10 distinct postures during a 3–4-minute grating session. It highlighted the tool's potential as a wellness affordance, offering insights into how traditional tools can connect embodied interaction, design and everyday physical activity.

Presenting the work at INDIS 2026 provided valuable exposure to interdisciplinary design research and encouraged further exploration of innovative structural applications.

FDDI Hyderabad and TGCOST Join Hands to Empower Artisans through Footwear Training

FDDI, Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Telangana Council of Science & Technology (TGCOST), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, conducted the TGCOST Artisan Training Programme on Advanced Footwear Making from 1 to 25 September 2026 at the FDDI Hyderabad campus.



Participants attending the inaugural ceremony

Organised by the School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI Hyderabad, under the SC & ST Cell Project, the programme aimed to strengthen the technical capabilities of artisans through practical training and hands-on exposure to modern footwear-making techniques. A total of 10 artisans participated in the programme.

The programme was inaugurated on 3 September 2026. Addressing the participants, Dr. N. Tej Lohit Reddy, IAS, Executive Director, FDDI Hyderabad, highlighted the importance of skill development, practical exposure and continuous upgradation of technical capabilities. He encouraged the artisans to make effective use of FDDI's facilities and technical expertise to enhance the quality and development of their footwear products.

Dr. Sirpa Srinivas, Project Officer, TGCOST, emphasised the role of science and technology, skill development and capacity building in strengthening artisan livelihoods. He highlighted the



Participating artisans sharing their experiences

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importance of integrating traditional craftsmanship with modern footwear-making techniques to improve product quality, design and market potential.

Throughout the programme, participants received hands-on training in various aspects of footwear making, enabling them to enhance their practical knowledge and product development skills. Interactive sessions also helped trainers understand the artisans' existing capabilities, experiences and learning requirements.



A view of the closing ceremony of TGCOST Artisan Training Programme

The closing ceremony, held on 25 September 2026, marked the successful completion of the training programme. The event was attended by participating artisans, FDDI faculty members, trainers and officials. The artisans shared their experiences and feedback, highlighting the value of the practical exposure and hands-on learning received during the programme.



Product display by participating artisans

The initiative reflects FDDI Hyderabad's commitment to artisan empowerment, skill enhancement and technology-driven capacity building, while promoting the integration of traditional craftsmanship with contemporary footwear-making practices. The collaborative effort is expected to contribute to improved product quality, innovation and sustainable livelihood opportunities for artisans in the footwear sector.

FDDI Hyderabad Brings Industry and Academia Together at Industry Conclave 2026

FDDI Hyderabad hosted the FDDI Hyderabad Industry Conclave 2026 on 19 September, 2026, at the Ballroom, Lemon Tree, Hitech City, Hyderabad, bringing together representatives from industry, academia, government and the professional ecosystem under the theme “Bridging Talent, Building Partnerships.”

The conclave served as a dynamic platform for meaningful dialogue among educational institutions, industry leaders and government stakeholders on strengthening industry–academia collaboration, nurturing industry-ready talent and creating avenues for deeper institutional partnerships.

The programme commenced with registration and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the welcome address and an institutional presentation by Dr. Narsimhugari Tej Lohit Reddy, IAS, Executive Director (ED), FDDI Hyderabad. The inaugural session also featured an address by Mr. Rajendra Kumar Jalan, Chairman, FDDI and Founder, AFPL Global Ltd.



Dignitaries during the inaugural session of the Industry Conclave 2026

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A key highlight of the conclave was a series of industry-focused panel discussions addressing emerging opportunities and challenges across design, technology, retail and talent development. The first panel discussion, “Make in India to Design in India: Engineering the Next Leap,” brought together experts to deliberate on the evolving role of design, innovation and industry capabilities in strengthening India's manufacturing and creative ecosystem. The second panel, “From Campus to Corporate: Co-Creating Industry-Ready Talent,” focused on fostering closer collaboration between educational institutions and industry to equip students with the skills, knowledge and exposure required to navigate the changing workplace.



Distinguished speakers and moderators from leading institutions and organisations sharing their insights during the conclave



A view of MoU exchange

The conclave featured distinguished speakers and moderators representing leading institutions and organisations, including Woxsen University, Flipkart, Salesforce, National Institute of Design, A.V. Thomas Leather & Allied Products, Retailers Association of India, NIFT Hyderabad and Pepe Jeans, reflecting the diverse participation and multi-sectoral character of the event.

Further strengthening the multi-stakeholder engagement, the Government Connect Session brought together senior representatives associated with TGIIC, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), NIMSME, WE HUB and the Ministry/MSME ecosystem, along with Dr. Narsimhugari Tej Lohit Reddy, IAS, ED, FDDI Hyderabad. The session provided an opportunity to deliberate on areas of institutional and industry support, collaboration and emerging opportunities.

During the conclave, an MoU Signing Ceremony was also held between FDDI, Hyderabad and A. V. Thomas Leather & Allied Products Private Limited, Chennai, to strengthen industry–academia collaboration and create enhanced opportunities for students in footwear, leather goods, accessories and allied disciplines.

On behalf of FDDI, Hyderabad, Dr. Narsimhugari Tej Lohit Reddy, IAS, ED, signed the MoU whereas behalf of A. V. Thomas Leather & Allied Products Private Limited, Mr. Zulfiqarali Kamal Basha, General Manager, Human Resources signed the MoU which aims to facilitate structured internships, campus placements and employment opportunities for eligible FDDI students, while providing them with practical exposure to industry practices across design, product development, manufacturing, quality, merchandising, production and sourcing.

As part of the collaboration, the Company may also engage with FDDI through pre-placement talks, career guidance sessions, industry visits, technical workshops, live projects, guest lectures, mentoring and other academic–industry initiatives. Internships may also provide opportunities for Pre-Placement Offers (PPOs), subject to the Company's requirements and recruitment processes.

The MoU will provide a platform for FDDI students to gain industry-relevant skills and workplace exposure, while enabling A. V. Thomas Leather & Allied Products to connect with trained and industry-ready talent from FDDI's Footwear Design & Production, Leather Goods & Accessories Design and allied programmes.

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FDDI Ankleshwar Hosts AAVEG '26, a Celebration of Student Talent and Team Spirit

FDDI Ankleshwar, hosted its annual Cultural and Sports Fest, AAVEG '26, from 28 September to 1 October 2026 that provided students with a vibrant platform to showcase their creativity, talent, teamwork and sporting spirit.

The fest was graced by distinguished local personalities, including Shri N. K. Navadiya, Visionary Leader & Social Luminary, Ankleshwar GIDC; Shri Jay Teraiya, President, BJP, Ankleshwar GIDC; and Shri Hitenbhai Anandpura, Industrialist & Social Reformer.



Dignitaries attending the inaugural session



A moment from the Table Tennis competition

The cultural segment, held on 28–29 September, featured an energetic mix of music, dance, drama and creative arts, reflecting the diverse talents and vibrant youth culture of the campus. The sports segment, held on 30 September and 1 October, featured athletic competitions and team sports that encouraged discipline, teamwork and healthy competition.

FDDI Explores New Industry, Craft and Innovation Opportunities at UPITS 2026

FDDI participated in the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS) 2026 at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, on 28 September 2026, to explore opportunities in industry collaboration, craft learning, internships, research, start-ups, MSMEs and government initiatives relevant to FDDI and School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD) students.

During the visit, interactions were held with footwear component manufacturers, craft practitioners, start-ups, B2B platforms and government representatives. Potential areas identified included joint research on insole design, materials, ergonomics and footwear comfort; student internships and craft-based learning in Moonj, Lipan, wooden toys and Black Pottery; and opportunities for design intervention, product development and village-level production.

The UP MSME ecosystem and government initiatives related to student technology access, AI certification support and ODOP were also explored for their potential relevance to FDDI students and emerging entrepreneurs. Digital display and branding solutions were further examined for possible application in FDDI campuses, exhibitions and student showcases.



From Right: Mr. Anoop Singh Rana, HOS, LGAD along with a craft practitioner

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The visit helped identify practical avenues for strengthening experiential learning and industry engagement across Industry & Research, Craft Internships, Design Intervention, Start-ups, MSME Development, B2B Market Linkages, Government Schemes and Digital Branding.

Army Public School Students Explore Design and Technology at FDDI Ankleshwar

On 28 September 2026, FDDI Ankleshwar, hosted an educational exposure visit for around 60 students accompanied by five faculty members from Army Public School, Ahmedabad. The visit was designed to introduce young learners to professional design education, footwear manufacturing, retail technologies and emerging career opportunities across creative and industrial design disciplines.



A view of career counselling session

The students explored FDDI Ankleshwar's design studios, testing laboratories and workshop facilities, gaining firsthand exposure to the institute's academic and technical infrastructure. Faculty members and technical experts also conducted demonstrations on footwear manufacturing, material testing and CAD-based design, helping students understand how creative concepts are transformed into functional products through technology and innovation.

A career counselling session further familiarised the students with FDDI's academic programmes, career pathways and entrepreneurship opportunities in footwear, fashion and retail.

FDDI Chennai Student Secures Double Bronze at Tamil Nadu CM Trophy

On 22 September 2026, Ms. Lenita Varshini S., a Third-Year B.Des. Fashion Design student of FDDI Chennai, brought pride to the institution by securing third place in both the 100m and 200m sprint events at the Tamil Nadu CM Trophy District Inter-College Competition.

Representing FDDI Chennai, Lenita showcased remarkable speed, determination and sporting spirit across both events. Her impressive performance earned her two Bronze Medals, one in each sprint, along with a cash prize of ₹2,000.

Her achievement exemplifies the importance of holistic student development, highlighting the value of balancing academic pursuits with sports and extracurricular activities.



Ms. Lenita Varshini S. along with her two Bronze Medals and certificate

Industrial Visit to Perla Textile Processor for FDDI Chennai students

An industrial visit to Perla Textile Processor was organised for the II Year B.Des. (Fashion Design) students on 24 September 2026, as part of the academic curriculum for the subject Fiber, Yarn and Fabric Science. The visit was coordinated by Dr. D. Anita Rachel, Senior Faculty Grade II, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Chennai.

The visit provided students with practical exposure to textile processing and an understanding of the various stages involved in converting





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textile materials into finished fabrics. Students observed key processes such as scouring, bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing, along with garment dyeing techniques and the machinery used in industrial operations.



Students observing the Dryer Machine Process and Garment Dyeing Process at Perla Textile Processor

The visit also familiarised them with industrial workflows, quality control measures and safety practices, enabling them to relate classroom concepts to real-world applications.

FDDI, Noida Students Gain Industry Insights at Alpine Apparels, Faridabad

The students of the School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD), FDDI Noida, visited the production unit of Alpine Apparels Pvt. Ltd., Faridabad, on 18 September 2026. The visit provided valuable real-world exposure to the industrial-scale manufacturing of small leather goods and offered students insights into how a design is transformed into a finished product.

Established in 1986 by Mr. Sanjay Leekha, Alpine Apparels has evolved from a glove manufacturer into a leading exporter of leather goods, fashion accessories and lifestyle products, including handbags, small leather goods, headwear and belts. Based in Faridabad, the company is recognised as a Star Export House by the Government of India and serves several renowned international brands.

During the visit, students were taken through the complete production process, beginning with the sampling and pattern-making stage, where designs are developed into prototypes, followed by leather cutting, splitting, embossing, reinforcement, edge colouring and assembly. They also observed fusing, cleaning, hand-stitching, embossing and quality-control operations, gaining an understanding of the precision and craftsmanship involved at every stage.

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The visit highlighted the importance of accuracy in pattern-making and cutting, appropriate material selection, and the role of linings and reinforcement materials in achieving the desired quality, structure and appearance. Students also learned how the characteristics and behaviour of different leathers influence construction techniques. Particular emphasis was placed on quality control, with checks carried out at multiple stages of production to minimise defects and ensure consistency, as corrections at the final stage can be particularly challenging in small leather goods.



Students gaining industry insights at Alpine Apparels

The students also interacted with the company representatives, who shared valuable insights into Alpine Apparels' journey, manufacturing practices and the evolving leather goods industry. The visit offered an enriching blend of design learning, technical understanding and industrial exposure, strengthening students' appreciation of the precision, collaboration and craftsmanship required to create high-quality leather products.

FDDI, Noida Students Participate in FUTUREFORGE 2026

FDDI, Noida students participated in FUTUREFORGE 2026, an enriching conference that provided an opportunity to learn beyond the conventional classroom environment. The event held on 25–26 September 2026 at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK), Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, brought together academicians, industry professionals, institutional leaders and students, fostering meaningful knowledge sharing, interaction and networking.

Sessions on transformational leadership, artificial intelligence, people analytics, digital transformation and the future of education offered valuable insights into the evolving professional landscape. The discussions encouraged students to recognise the importance of adaptability, creativity, collaboration, communication and the responsible use of technology in their future careers.

The Youth Dialogue provided an engaging platform for students to share their perspectives and interact with experienced professionals. The heritage visit to India Gate and the National War Memorial, along with the networking dinner, further added a cultural and informal dimension to the overall experience.



FDDI students at FUTUREFORGE 2026

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With its central theme, “Shifting from Counting People to Making People Count,” FUTUREFORGE 2026 encouraged students to recognise individual potential, develop meaningful capabilities and contribute positively to society and the workplace. The conference proved to be a valuable learning experience, inspiring FDDI students to approach their academic and professional journeys with greater awareness, confidence and purpose.

Apache Footwear Pvt. Ltd. Bridges Classroom Learning and Workplace Realities at FDDI Hyderabad

FDDI Hyderabad conducted an insightful industry interaction, “Industry Insights: From Classroom to Workplace,” on 18 September 2026, featuring Mr. Uday G, Vice-Manager, Business Planning, Apache Footwear Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Shareef, HR & Compliance Manager, Apache Footwear Pvt. Ltd., TADA, Andhra Pradesh who provided students with practical insights into the transition from academic learning to professional life and the evolving footwear industry.

The session offered an overview of the Apache Group's operations and footwear value chain, covering Product Development, Dies & Last, Production, Administration & Support, and Shipment. Students were also introduced to the organisation's global market presence across Europe, North America, Greater China, Japan and Korea.



Mr. Uday G, Vice-Manager – Business Planning, Apache Footwear Pvt. Ltd., introducing students to the Apache Group and its diverse footwear product portfolio



Mr. Shareef, HR & Compliance Manager, Apache Footwear Pvt. Ltd., sharing insights on the journey from idea to finished footwear

A key focus of the interaction was the transition from classroom learning to workplace expectations. Students were encouraged to understand the importance of applying theoretical knowledge in practical situations, working effectively in teams, meeting production and delivery timelines, responding to feedback, and maintaining quality and productivity.



Students attending the session

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The session also provided insights into the scale and complexity of modern footwear manufacturing, highlighting the coordination required across design, product development, materials, production, quality, planning and shipment. Students were introduced to emerging manufacturing technologies, including automatic and laser cutting, computerised stitching, semi-automated processes and automated printing, underscoring the importance of technological awareness and adaptability.

Emphasis was also placed on developing a strong "Quality Mindset," with students encouraged to recognise that quality is a shared responsibility across the entire manufacturing chain. The interaction further highlighted diverse career opportunities for footwear graduates in areas such as footwear design, product development, CAD/3D, technical development, materials, Students attending the sessionsampling, production, quality, industrial engineering, planning, merchandising and supply chain.

The discussion on "Your First 90 Days" offered practical guidance for students entering the workplace, emphasising observation, effective communication, openness to feedback, professional discipline, responsibility and continuous learning.

The interaction served as a meaningful industry–academia engagement, enabling students to connect classroom knowledge with workplace realities and gain a broader understanding of the skills, technology, teamwork and adaptability required to build successful careers in the footwear industry.

FDDI Patna Concludes Advanced Training Programme on Leather Footwear Manufacturing

FDDI Patna successfully concluded a five-day Refresher/Advanced Training Programme on Leather Footwear Manufacturing, conducted from 14–18 September 2026 for 20 previously trained artisans sponsored by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana.



A view of the participants attending the closing of Advanced Training Programme on Leather Footwear Manufacturing

The programme focused on upgrading artisans' skills through practical and technical training in modern leather footwear and sandal manufacturing techniques, with emphasis on design, quality improvement and efficient production processes. The training equipped participants with contemporary techniques that can be applied to strengthen their existing work and enterprises.

At the concluding ceremony, training certificates were presented to all 20 participants in the presence of Mr. Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director, FDDI Patna, and Mr. R.N. Singh and Mr. Kumar Sandeep, Executive Officers (Gramodyog), KVIC. Mr. Neeraj Kumar congratulated the trainees and encouraged them to apply their newly acquired skills to enhance their businesses and self-employment opportunities.

Inspiring Creativity Through Art: FDDI, Noida Students Visit NGMA

On 17 September 2026, third-semester students of the School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD) visited the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi, as part of an enriching educational experience beyond the classroom.

The visit offered students an opportunity to explore India's rich artistic heritage through an extensive collection of paintings, sculptures and other artworks. Students observed diverse artistic styles, techniques, colours, forms and themes, while engaging in discussions on the cultural, historical and social narratives reflected in the artworks.



FDDI Noida students at NGMA

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The experience encouraged students to view art not only as a form of visual expression but also as a medium for understanding culture, history, emotions and diverse perspectives.

The visit fostered creativity, critical thinking and cultural awareness, while encouraging students to learn through observation and exploration.

FDDI Chennai Students Gain Industry Exposure through Visits to K.H. Exports and Sara Leather Industries

The School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI Chennai, organised industrial visits on 15 September 2026 for students of the B.Des. and M.Des. programmes to K.H. Exports India Pvt. Ltd. and Sara Leather Industries, Ranipet, providing valuable first-hand exposure to the footwear manufacturing industry.

The visits enabled students to understand the footwear manufacturing ecosystem, from component and sole manufacturing to finished footwear production. They observed the production of TPU, TPR, EVA, rubber and leather soles, along with processes such as material preparation, cutting, upper closing, stitching, lasting, sole attachment, finishing and quality inspection.



FDDI Chennai students gaining valuable industry insights during their visit to K.H. Exports India Pvt. Ltd.

Students also gained insights into modern production machinery, CAD/CAM-assisted processes, quality control, industrial safety and 5S practices. Interactions with production, HR and technical teams provided an understanding of customer-specific quality requirements, productivity, workplace practices and career opportunities.



The group at the Sara Leather Industries – Full shoe division with Mr. Arsalam, General Manager and Full Shoe Division Manager

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The industry exposure complemented classroom learning in areas including Advanced Cutting Technology, Advanced Closing Technology, Bottom Construction and Footwear Finishing, enabling students to relate theoretical concepts to real-world manufacturing practices.

FDDI Chennai Students Explore Shoe Last Manufacturing at Sanghavi Shoe Last Accessories

On 15 September 2026, FDDI Chennai organised an industrial visit to Sanghavi Shoe Last Accessories, Vellore, for 71 students from the Second Year Footwear Design & Production (FDP) and First Year M.Des. programmes, providing them with valuable first-hand exposure to the shoe-last manufacturing industry.

During the visit, students explored the industrial setup and advanced equipment used in last manufacturing, product development and CAD/CAM-based processes. They observed various stages of the last-making process, including last mulling, design development and production, gaining insights into how digital design technologies are translated into precision-manufactured shoe lasts.

The students also witnessed reuse and zero-wastage practices, highlighting the importance of resource efficiency and sustainable manufacturing. Exposure to production-line organisation and integrated manufacturing operations further enhanced their understanding of industrial workflows.

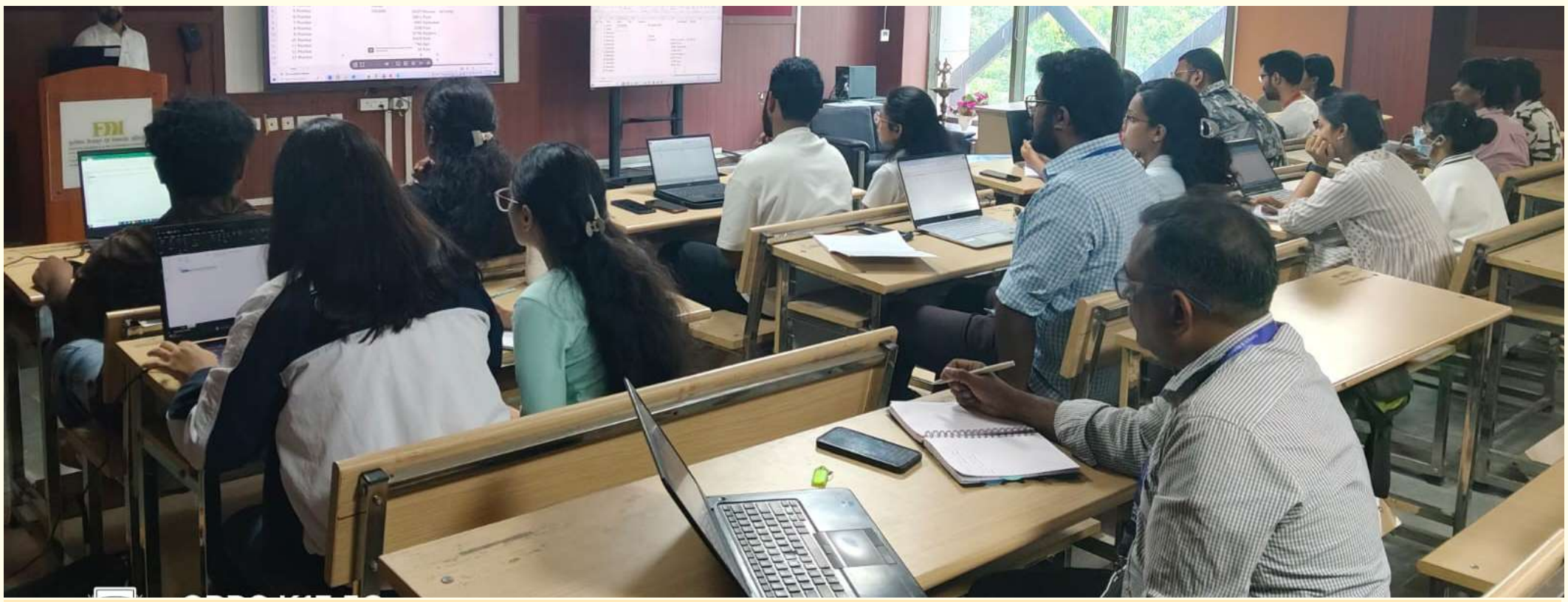


Students gaining valuable industry insights on shoe-last manufacturing

Expert Session-Cum Workshop on Advanced Excel held at FDDI, Hyderabad

The School of Retail & Fashion Merchandise (RFM), FDDI, Hyderabad Campus conducted an expert session-cum-workshop titled “Beyond the Basics: Advanced Excel for the Real World” on 11 September 2026.

The session was led by Mr. Mayur Jain, Data Analyst and Finance Specialist, who brings expertise in Advanced Excel, MIS Reporting, Power BI, Tableau and Power Query. The workshop focused on the practical application of Advanced Excel in real-world retail business and professional environments.


A view of the expert session-cum-workshop

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The session provided students with valuable exposure to data analysis, MIS reporting, Excel automation, dashboard creation and other practical applications of Excel. Through these industry-oriented applications, students gained a better understanding of how Excel can be leveraged for efficient reporting, data interpretation and informed business decision-making.

Designed to be interactive and practice-oriented, the workshop enabled students to connect their academic learning with practical industry requirements. The expert interaction also provided insights into the importance of data and analytics skills in contemporary retail and business environments.

FDDI, Hyderabad Students Gain Real-World Retail Exposure

The School of Retail & Fashion Merchandise (RFM), FDDI, Hyderabad Campus organised an Industry Visit to Nexus Mall, Hyderabad on 11 September 2026 as part of its experiential learning initiatives. The visit provided students with valuable practical exposure to marketing, consumer behaviour, advertising and mall management, enabling them to relate classroom concepts to real-world retail practices.



Students along with their faculty at Nexus Mall, Hyderabad

As part of the visit, Ms. Vishakha, Faculty, assigned students a series of observation-based tasks related to Consumer Behaviour, Marketing and Advertising. Students undertook these activities during the visit under her guidance and coordination, gaining first-hand insights into customer interactions, retail environments, promotional practices and the application of marketing concepts in an operational setting.



Store official providing practical insights to the students

A particularly valuable learning experience was provided by the ongoing renovation of a Max store. Following an interaction with store officials, students gained practical insights into the planning and development of a retail store, including aspects of store setup, visual presentation, space utilisation and operational requirements. The interaction helped students understand the various considerations involved in transforming a retail space into a customer-oriented store environment.

The visit also served as an important platform for industry networking and institutional engagement. Dr. Chitresh Shrivastava, Head, RFM, interacted with the Mall Manager, Zara Store Manager, Max VM Manager, Area Manager, HR and Marketing professionals to explore avenues for strengthening industry–academia collaboration with FDDI.

The discussions focused on creating future opportunities for students through live projects, internships, expert sessions and placement support, while also exploring avenues for sustained engagement between FDDI and the retail industry.

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Chhatra Rachnatmak Pratibha Samman Samaroh Celebrates Student Creativity and Achievement at FDDI Jodhpur

The Chhatra Rachnatmak Pratibha Samman Samaroh, organised on 10 September 2026, celebrated the creativity, talent and achievements of students, providing an inspiring platform to recognise and honour their accomplishments.



Prof. Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, VC, JNVU, Jodhpur, addressing the gathering



सीखने और सृजन से बनेंगे भविष्य के डिजाइनर : कुलगुरु

जोधपुर @ पत्रिका. फुटवियर डिजाइन एंड डेवलपमेंट इंस्टीट्यूट (एफडीडीआइ) जोधपुर में छात्र सम्मान समारोह आयोजित किया गया। जय नारायण व्यास विश्वविद्यालय के कुलगुरु पवन कुमार शर्मा मुख्य अतिथि रहे। समारोह में कला एवं स्थानिक डिजाइन, टिंकरिंग स्टूडियो डेवलपमेंट और क्रॉसओवर-2026 सहित विभिन्न गतिविधियों में उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन करने वाले विद्यार्थियों को पुरस्कार और प्रमाण-पत्र दिए गए।

कुलगुरु पवन कुमार शर्मा ने विद्यार्थियों को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि आज की शिक्षा का उद्देश्य सीखने की प्रक्रिया को सोच, समस्या समाधान, नवाचार और सृजन में बदलना होना चाहिए। उन्होंने जोर दिया कि सीखने के साथ सोचने और सृजन करने की क्षमता ही भविष्य का डिजाइनर बनाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि विकसित भारत के लक्ष्य की दिशा में युवाओं की रचनात्मक सोच, नवाचार क्षमता और तकनीकी समझ महत्वपूर्ण है। एफडीडीआइ के कार्यकारी निदेशक अनिल कुमार ने कहा कि डिजाइन केवल किसी वस्तु को सुंदर बनाने तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि समस्या को समझकर रचनात्मक और प्रभावी समाधान खोजना है।

Media coverage

The event was graced by Prof. Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Vice Chancellor (VC), Jai Narayan Vyas University (JNVU), Jodhpur, as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Sharma appreciated the students for their creative pursuits and achievements and encouraged them to nurture their skills, embrace new ideas and strive for excellence.

Students demonstrating outstanding performance and creative potential were felicitated during the ceremony. The recognition served as a source of motivation, inspiring them to further explore their capabilities and pursue greater achievements.

FDDI Jodhpur Hosts Yuva Samagam – CrossOver 2026 on AI, Innovation and Start-ups

FDDI Jodhpur organised "Yuva Samagam – CrossOver 2026", a youth engagement programme focused on Artificial Intelligence, Design, Innovation and Start-ups. The programme held on 08 September 2026, brought together students from FDDI Jodhpur, Jai Narayan Vyas University (JNVU), MBM University, JIET and B.M. Law College to exchange ideas and explore emerging opportunities in technology, entrepreneurship and future careers.

Addressing the participants, Mr. Anil Kumar, Executive Director, FDDI Jodhpur, emphasised the importance of developing an innovative mindset and preparing students to respond to evolving industry requirements. Mr. Harshvardhan Purohit and Mr. Raunak A view of the interactive sessionSinghvi, iStart Advisor, shared insights on the start-up ecosystem, entrepreneurial opportunities and government support available to aspiring entrepreneurs.

The interactive sessions encouraged interdisciplinary participation, idea sharing and discussions on emerging technologies and entrepreneurial pathways. The programme concluded with the felicitation of outstanding participants through awards and certificates, recognising their enthusiasm, creativity and active participation.



A view of the interactive session

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FDDI Patna Hosts Exposure Visit for 30 CBSE School Principals

FDDI Patna hosted a one-day Exposure Visit for 30 Principals of CBSE-affiliated schools from Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand on 7 September 2026. The programme aimed to familiarise school leaders with skill and vocational education, modern technologies, higher education pathways and the academic and practical facilities available at FDDI.

The programme was attended by Mr. Gopal Lal Yadav, Regional Officer, CBSE, as Chief Guest and Mr. Shantanu Borgohain, National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), Patna, as Guest of Honour. The event commenced with Saraswati Vandana and ceremonial lamp lighting, followed by addresses highlighting the growing importance of skill-based and vocational education in preparing students for emerging career opportunities.



CBSE School Principals witnessing practical demonstrations in the Footwear Department

During the visit, FDDI department heads presented the academic programmes, curricula, laboratories, technical facilities and career opportunities offered across various disciplines. The Principals also toured the laboratories and departmental facilities, witnessed students' practical and design work, and interacted with faculty members.

The programme concluded with an interactive Question & Answer session covering skill education, vocational programmes, emerging careers, industry–academia collaboration and higher education opportunities.

Shree Gattu Vidhyalaya Students Visit FDDI Ankleshwar

On 05 September 2026, Shree Gattu Vidhyalaya, Ankleshwar, organised an educational exposure visit to FDDI Ankleshwar, with approximately 300 students and 20 teachers participating.



Students of Shree Gattu Vidhyalaya being briefed about the professional courses conducted by FDDI



Students and teachers of Shree Gattu Vidhyalaya at FDDI Ankleshwar

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The visit provided students with firsthand exposure to footwear and fashion design, manufacturing, technology and skill development. Through interactions and a tour of the campus, students gained insights into how creative concepts are transformed into practical products and the importance of technical and professional skills in today's industries.

The exposure also familiarised students with vocational and career-oriented education, encouraging them to connect classroom learning with real-world applications and explore emerging career opportunities in creative and technical fields.

FDDI, Noida Students Visit Yashobhoomi and IIM Exhibition

On 3 September 2026, students of the 3rd Semester of School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD), FDDI Noida, visited Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, to attend the IIM Exhibition. The visit provided students with an opportunity to explore contemporary products, materials, innovations and design applications showcased by various exhibitors.



FDDI students



Product display during the exhibition

Students observed how design, technology, manufacturing and functionality converge in professional product development, gaining valuable insights into contemporary design practices and emerging industry trends. The exhibition also offered meaningful industry exposure and helped students connect their classroom learning with real-world applications.

The visit served as an enriching learning experience, broadening students' perspectives on innovation, materials and the evolving role of design across industries, while encouraging them to approach design with greater creativity and professional awareness.

"Orchestrating the Dream": FDDI Faculty Explores Storytelling and Value in Modern Luxury

Ms. Archana Prasad, Senior Faculty Grade II, School of Fashion Design, FDDI Hyderabad, has contributed a research chapter titled "Orchestrating the Dream – Storytelling, Experience, and Value in Modern Luxury" to the edited book Breaking Boundaries: Emerging Perspectives on Entrepreneurship, International Trade, and Global Business (ISBN: 978-93-7525-110-1), published by Wordsswiggle Publication.



Ms. Archana Prasad, Senior Faculty Grade II



CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

Ms. Archana Prasad
Sr. Faculty Gr. II, Fashion Design
School of Fashion Design
Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI), Hyderabad
Ministry of Commerce and Industry – Government of India

BB622

has contributed a chapter titled

Orchestrating the Dream – Storytelling, Experience, and Value in Modern Luxury

to the edited book "*Breaking Boundaries: Emerging Perspectives on Entrepreneurship, International Trade, and Global Business*", published by Wordsswiggle Publication in August 2026 (ISBN: 978-93-7525-110-1).

We sincerely acknowledge and appreciate the author's scholarly contribution to this publication.

CO-EDITOR EDITOR

Certificate of Publication

The edited volume brings together scholarly contributions from researchers and academicians exploring emerging perspectives in entrepreneurship, international trade, global business and contemporary industry practices. Ms. Archana's contribution appears as Chapter 18, reflecting FDDI's continued emphasis on academic research, knowledge creation and scholarly engagement in the fashion and luxury domain.

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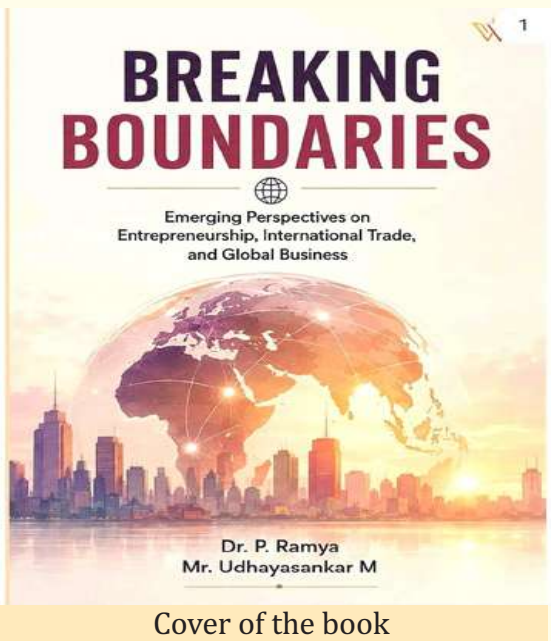
FDDI Fursatganj Faculty Contribute to International Research on Sustainable Footwear and Craft Entrepreneurship

Faculty members of the School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI Fursatganj, have contributed to the edited volume Breaking Boundaries: Emerging Perspectives on Entrepreneurship, International Trade, and Global Business, published by Wordsswiggle Publication in August 2026 (ISBN: 978-93-7525-110-1).

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Mr. Abhishek Kumar Saxena, Faculty



Cover of the book



Certificate of Publication

Mr. Abhishek Kumar Saxena, Faculty, FDP, authored Chapter 17, "Crafting Luxury: Aughi Embroidery as a Catalyst for Fashion Entrepreneurship and Premium Footwear Brands." The chapter explores Aughi embroidery, a traditional Lucknow craft involving metallic wire embroidery on leather, and examines its potential integration into contemporary luxury footwear. Through craft research, material analysis and industry case studies, the study highlights opportunities for heritage preservation, community empowerment and fashion entrepreneurship, supporting the vision of the Indian Design Language (IDL).

Ms. Shalini Patel, Jr. Faculty, FDP, contributed Chapter 22, "Developing Bio-Entrepreneurship Composite Acupressure Pad Circular: Entrepreneurship and Podiatric Performance of Natural Fibres Footbed." The chapter explores the development of a bio-based, circular acupressure footbed using natural fibres, focusing on sustainable material innovation, circular product development, podiatric performance and entrepreneurial opportunities. The work demonstrates the potential of natural fibre composites in advancing environmentally responsible and innovative footwear solutions.



Ms. Shalini Patel, Jr. Faculty



Certificate of Publication

Major Milestone in Design Innovation and Intellectual Property for FDDI, Chennai Faculty, along with co-designers

Dr. Rambabu Muppidi, Senior Faculty in the Fashion Design Department at FDDI Chennai, has achieved a significant milestone in his design and research journey by securing 40 Indian Design Registration and 1 UK Design Patent. The achievement reflects his sustained engagement



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with design innovation, craft research, product development, sustainability and intellectual property.

His 40 Indian Design Registration, titled "Toy" (Design No. 505365-001), features interconnected faceted forms mounted on a wooden base, combining three-dimensional geometry, creative expression, playful aesthetics, balance and visual composition. This Indian Design Application was filed on 11 June 2026 and granted on 28 August 2026. Dr. Murali V. Kesaboina and Dr. Rambabu Muppidi are the co-designers.

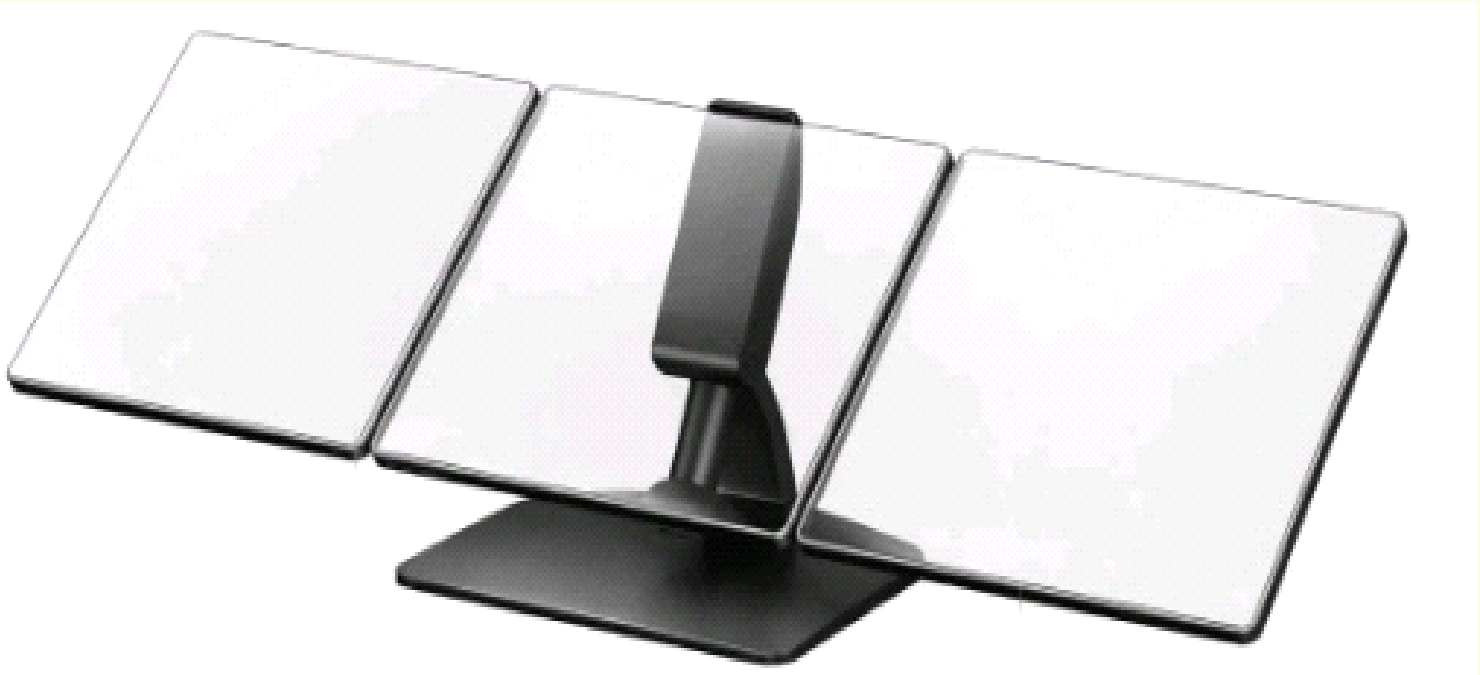


Design Number	505363-001
Class	21-01
1.**Dr. Kesaboina Venkata Murali Associate Professor, School of Arts & Design, Woxsen University Hyderabad - 502345, Telangana, India 2. Dr. Rambabu Muppidi Sr. Faculty - II, Department of Fashion Design, FDDI, Plot No 17, Bapu Hills, YSR Colony, Secretariat, Manikonda, Telangana - 500008, India**	
Date of Registration	11/06/2026
Title	TOY

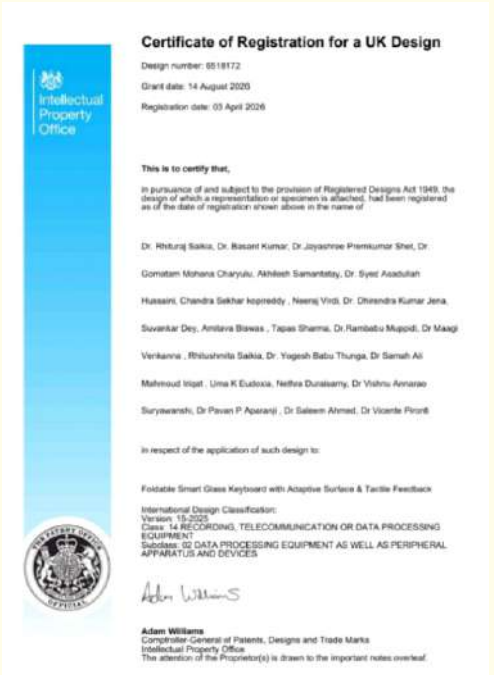


Dr. Rambabu Muppidi	Description of 40 Indian Design Registration, titled "Toy" (Design No. 505365-001)	Toy

His first UK Design Patent for "Foldable Smart Glass Keyboard" (Design No. 6518172). The compact design emphasises portability, functionality, contemporary aesthetics and space-efficient use.



Foldable Smart Glass Keyboard



Certificate of Registration for a UK Design

The design was filed on 3 April 2026 and granted on 14 August 2026 by the UK Intellectual Property Office. Dr. Rambabu Muppidi is associated with the design as a co-author/designer under the guidance of the Universal World Research Innovation Centre, London, UK.

FDDI Chennai Students Gain Industry Exposure at Good Leather Shoes

The School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI Chennai Campus, organised an industrial visit to M/s. Good Leather Shoes Pvt. Ltd., Sriperumbudur, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu, on 25 August 2026, with the participation of 87 students from the B.Des FDP and M.Des FDP programmes.

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The School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI Chennai Campus, organised an industrial visit to M/s. Good Leather Shoes Pvt. Ltd., Sriperumbudur, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu, on 25 August 2026, with the participation of 87 students from the B.Des FDP and M.Des FDP programmes.

The students were welcomed by Mr. Ramachandran, General Manager, who introduced them to the company, its manufacturing facilities, product range, production processes and safety practices. The visit provided valuable exposure to export-oriented footwear manufacturing and the company's local brand, Keethni Shoes.



Students observing the process of Direct Injection Moulding machine making the PU Soles

Students visited the Materials Store and Cutting Department, gaining practical insights into leather and non-leather material identification, storage and handling, as well as cutting-room operations including marking, splitting, fusing, embossing and component preparation. At the Product Engineering and Development (PED) Department, they learned about specification sheets, pattern development, CAM-based cutting, sole design, sample development and GDM software.



Students observing of the Cemented construction process at full shoe making

The visit also covered the Design Studio and the complete full-shoe manufacturing process, including Direct Injection Process (DIP) and cemented construction. Students observed key operations such as lasting, roughing, sole preparation and attachment, finishing, inspection and packing.

The industrial visit strengthened students' understanding of the end-to-end footwear manufacturing workflow, enabling them to connect classroom learning with practical industry processes and gain valuable insights into professional practices and industry expectations.

OBITUARY

With profound grief we regret to inform the sad demise of our colleague, Shri Rajdhan Verma, Senior Lab Assistant, FDDI - Chhindwara campus, Employee Code: 00343, who passed away on 14 September 2026. He was associated with FDDI since 13 November 2008.

His passing leaves a deep void in the FDDI fraternity, and his valuable contributions and lasting legacy will always be remembered with respect and gratitude.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and strength and solace to the family to bear this irreparable loss.



Entire staff of
Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI)

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A-10/A, Sector-24, NOIDA- 201301

Email : ashish@fddiindia.com
Website : http://www.fddiindia.com

Circulation- Incharge
Gori Shankar Sharma
Email : gori.shankar@fddiindia.com