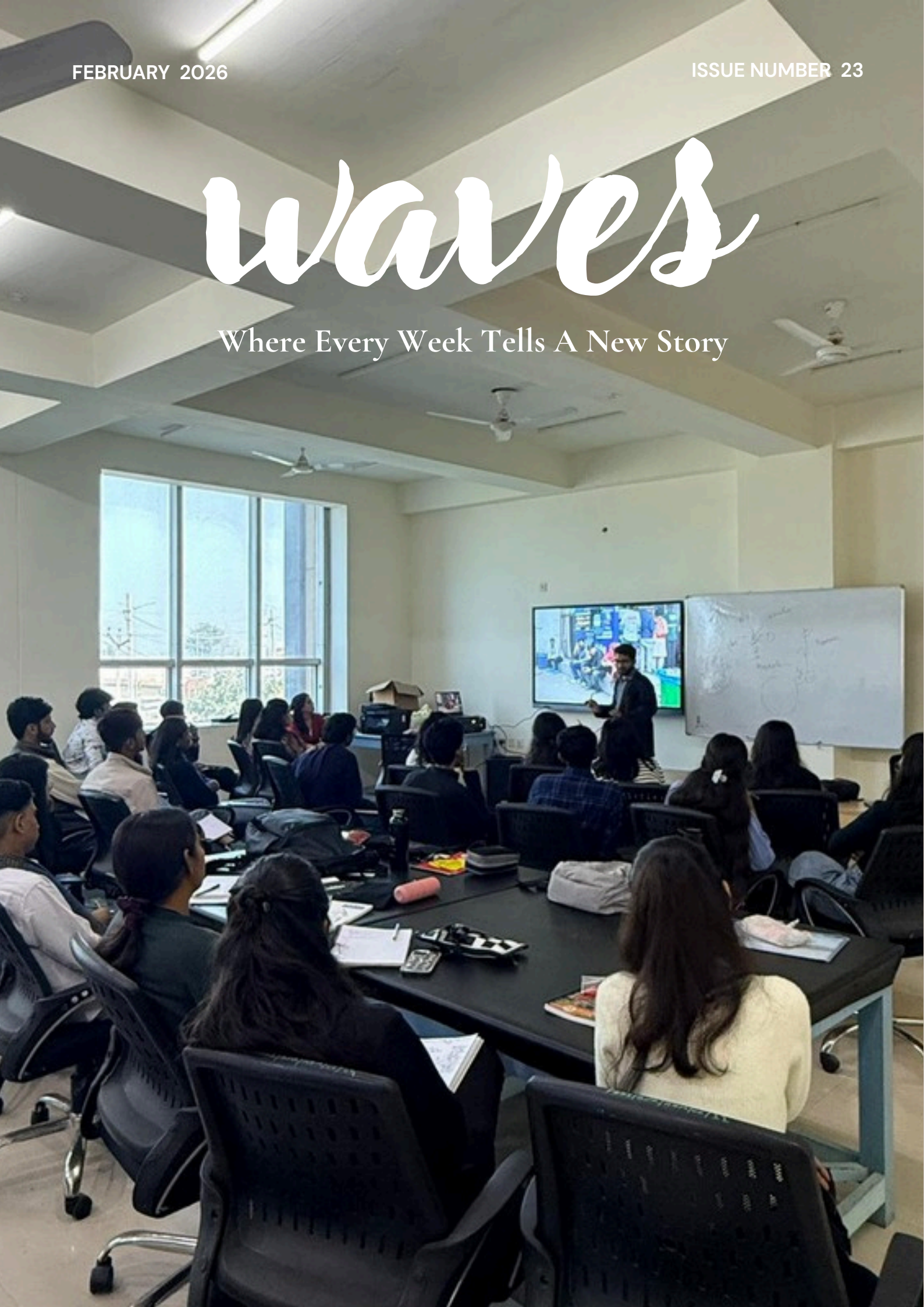


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Where Every Week Tells A New Story



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ALUMNI TALK

INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA SYNERGY:

AN INSPIRING SESSION BY MR. SHAHRUKH ZAIDI



On 25 February 2026, the LGAD and FDP Departments at Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) Kolkata hosted Shahrukh Zaidi, Founder and Curator of Studio SRZ, for an interactive session with students. With over 24 years of experience in the leather and lifestyle design industry, Mr. Zaidi shared insights from his collaborations with global brands such as Ralph Lauren, Coach, Mulberry, Tory Burch, Karl Lagerfeld, Tumi, Armani, Tommy Hilfiger, and Zara.



The two-hour session became an engaging dialogue where 2nd and 3rd year students discussed career paths, studio culture, and industry expectations. Mr. Zaidi explained how modern design studios integrate research, trend forecasting, consumer insights, material innovation, and business strategy. He also highlighted the importance of structured design processes, market relevance, portfolio preparation, teamwork, and continuous learning.



The interaction provided valuable exposure to real-world design practices in lifestyle leather, accessories, and footwear development, inspiring students to approach their academic projects with stronger research, discipline, and industry awareness. The session left a lasting impact, motivating students to better prepare for professional design careers.





LEATHER VISION 2026

FDDI KOLKATA SHOWCASES INNOVATION

At the prestigious Leather Vision 2026, FDDI Kolkata emerged as a dynamic confluence of academic rigor and industry relevance, reaffirming its position as a catalyst for future-ready design education. The platform brought together key stakeholders across manufacturing, technology, and design, offering students an immersive entry into the professional ecosystem of the leather industry.

Guided by senior faculty, students translated research-driven concepts into meticulously crafted leather collections, navigating the full spectrum of design—from trend analysis and material exploration to precision construction and refined finishing. The showcased works embodied a synthesis of innovation, functionality, and sustainability, reflecting a deep understanding of contemporary market sensibilities.

Beyond the runway, this participation provided students with meaningful interactions with industry experts, helping them gain insights into emerging technologies and global standards while boosting their confidence.





Strengthening Industry–Academia Collaboration
Leather Vision 2026 served as a milestone in strengthening industry–academia collaboration. Such engagements ensure that academic delivery remains aligned with evolving industry requirements while enhancing students’ professional confidence and presentation skills.

A Proud Institutional Moment

The successful participation reflects the dedication of students and the structured mentorship provided by Senior Faculty, FDDI Kolkata. The event further strengthens the campus’s presence within the leather industry ecosystem and reaffirms its commitment to holistic design education rooted in craftsmanship, innovation, and forward–thinking practice.

Expanding Learning Beyond Classrooms

The experience extended learning beyond traditional classrooms, allowing students to engage with real–time industry dynamics. Exposure to live feedback, professional critiques, and peer learning environments helped refine their design thinking, presentation abilities, and adaptability in competitive scenarios.

FDDI KOLKATA – INSPIRING CRAFTSMANSHIP. EMPOWERING FUTURE DESIGNERS.



Tie-Dye with Natural Dyes: A Sustainable Exploration



As part of Fabulous Friday at Footwear Design and Development Institute Kolkata, a hands-on workshop on tie-dye using natural dyes was conducted, encouraging students to explore **sustainable textile practices**. Participants experimented with a variety of natural dye sources such as **turmeric, onion skins, legumes, and other plant-based materials** to create rich, earthy color palettes.

Students were introduced to multiple tie-dye techniques, including **spiral patterns, crumple (random texture), accordion or fold techniques, Bandhani-style knot tying, clamp resist (inspired by Shibori), and linear stripe bindings**. Through folding, tying, binding, and clamping, they explored how resist methods influence pattern formation and dye penetration. Each outcome reflected the unpredictability and charm of handcrafted processes, making every piece distinct.

This experiential session not only enhanced their understanding of eco-friendly dyeing methods but also fostered creativity, material awareness, and appreciation for traditional craft techniques in a contemporary design context.

DAY FABULOUS FRIDAY FABULOUS FRIDA



UDGAM: LEARNING DESIGN THROUGH RESEARCH & OBSERVATION

Udgam, a program organized by the E-Cell at the Footwear Design and Development Institute Chandigarh campus, brought together a cohort of 24 selected students from across campuses for an intensive, research-driven learning experience. The program was guided by Jagad Jay, founder of Karyashala and mentor from Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, focusing on hands-on exposure to research methodologies, particularly ethnographic documentation through photography and videography.

Students conducted field visits to the Rock Garden of Chandigarh and Sector 17 Market, where they observed and documented user behavior, interactions, and spatial dynamics. Throughout the process, core design principles such as ergonomics, affordances, and spatial perception were emphasized, helping students understand how people interact with environments and objects in real contexts.



Students actively participated in collecting user data, particularly focusing on how people carry everyday items like water bottles and wearing footwear. Based on their observations, they translated insights into simpler and more innovative solutions through hands-on prototyping, encouraging practical problem-solving and user-centered design thinking.

This immersive experience enabled students to develop a deeper, more empathetic approach to design, offering new perspectives on research, observation, and user-centered thinking.



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REINVENTION AND RENEWED ENERGY: LONDON FASHION WEEK ENTERS A NEW ERA

London Fashion Week February 2026 marked a defining moment for the fashion industry, signaling a new chapter under the leadership of Laura Weir. With a strong emphasis on inclusivity, the event reduced barriers for participation and welcomed a wider mix of emerging designers, global buyers, and media. This season was characterized by reinvention at multiple levels. Designers reinterpreted classic British elements like trench coats and tailoring, while also exploring bold themes of identity, history, and subculture. Established houses such as Burberry delivered grand showcases, while rising talents introduced experimental materials, knit techniques, and sustainable practices.

There was also a noticeable shift in design approach—streetwear evolved into more imaginative forms, historical silhouettes like corsetry and exaggerated hips were modernized, and craftsmanship gained renewed importance.

Overall, the event reflected a fresh creative energy, positioning London as a hub for innovation and cultural storytelling, and highlighting a broader industry move toward more inclusive, expressive, and forward-thinking fashion.

It also reinforced fashion's growing global influence beyond just clothing.



AI, Design Technology and Innovation in Fashion: India AI Impact Summit 2026

The India AI Impact Summit 2026, held from 16 to 21 February 2026 in New Delhi, highlighted how artificial intelligence is transforming fashion through design technology and innovation. The event brought together designers, technologists, and industry leaders to explore the future of fashion, with a major highlight being the showcase of different types of robots, demonstrating advancements in robotics technology and human-machine interaction.

A key focus was on AI-driven design processes, where technology is used to predict trends, generate concepts, and personalize products. Innovations such as virtual prototyping, digital fashion, and smart manufacturing aim to make fashion more efficient and sustainable.

Overall, the summit emphasized a shift toward tech-integrated fashion, where creativity is enhanced by data and innovation, shaping smarter and more user-centered design solutions.



Ban on Destroying Unsold Clothes: A Major Shift in Fashion

On February 2026, the European Union introduced a significant regulation banning brands from destroying unsold clothing and accessories. This move marks a major turning point in the fashion industry, addressing long-standing concerns about overproduction and waste.

For years, many fashion brands disposed of excess inventory to maintain exclusivity and control supply. However, this new rule forces companies to adopt more responsible practices such as recycling, resale, and donation. It encourages a shift toward circular design systems where products are reused and repurposed rather than discarded.

Overall, this development highlights a growing commitment to sustainability in fashion, pushing brands to rethink their production strategies and move toward a more ethical and environmentally conscious future.

Global Textile Innovation Boom: VIATT 2026

February 2026 witnessed a major milestone in design innovation with the success of VIATT 2026, which emerged as a global hub for textile and product design advancements. The event brought together over 17,000 visitors and hundreds of exhibitors from across the world, highlighting its growing international importance.

VIATT 2026 focused strongly on sustainable materials, smart manufacturing technologies, and cross-border collaboration. Designers and manufacturers showcased innovations such as eco-friendly fabrics, advanced production techniques, and digitally integrated textile solutions.

This development reflects a significant shift in the design industry, where textile innovation and product design are increasingly interconnected. It highlights how future design will rely not only on aesthetics but also on technology, sustainability, and global collaboration.

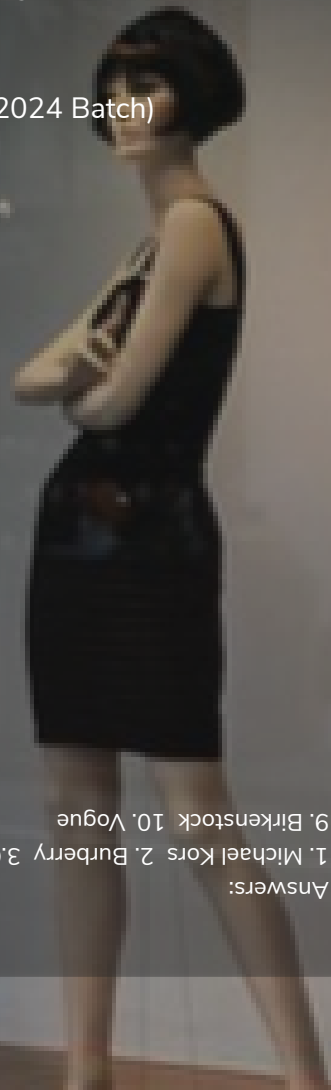
FASHION QUIZ!!

1. Which famous American designer brand often shows glamorous collections at New York Fashion Week?
2. Which British luxury fashion house is a highlight of London Fashion Week?
3. Which American clothing company partnered with Harlem's Fashion Row in February 2026 to redesign denim pieces and support designers of color?
4. Which jewelry brand released a collection inspired by the Netflix series Bridgerton in 2026?
5. Which famous designer collaborated with Zara in 2026 to bring couture-inspired design to a wider audience?
6. Which international trade fair focuses on footwear innovation and trends?
7. Which fashion brand celebrated the 40th anniversary of the bandage dress in 2026?
8. Which designer popularized the Little Black Dress (LBD)?
9. Which footwear brand collaborated with the luxury fashion house Etro and presented a designer version of the Boston clog during Milan Fashion Week in February 2026?
10. Which famous fashion magazine was first published in 1892?

Prepared By - Sanghamitra Mallik(Fashion Design Department, 2024 Batch)

Answers:
1. Michael Kors 2. Burberry 3. Gap 4. Pandora 5. John Galliano 6. Micaiah 7. Hervé Léger 8. Coco Chanel
9. Birkenstock 10. Vogue

HANEL



STUDENT'S CREATION

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Leather Crochet Fusion Bag
By: Aksha Rose Thomas
(leather, lifestyle and product Design
Department, 2024 batch)



**Unstitched leather bags
according to colour of the
year “Cloud Dancer”**
By: Ankur Kar
(Leather Lifestyle & Product Design
Department, 2024 batch)

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"SOMEWHERE BETWEEN YOUR FIRST SKETCH AND THE FINAL PRODUCT... REALITY QUIETLY STEPS IN."

AND THAT'S WHERE THE REAL LEARNING BEGINS.

WORKING AT RALPH LAUREN INDIA AS A SOURCING ASSOCIATE, I'VE REALIZED THAT FASHION ISN'T JUST ABOUT CREATING—IT'S ABOUT MAKING THINGS WORK. EVERY DECISION HAS TO BALANCE DESIGN WITH COST, TIMELINES, AND PRODUCTION.

IN COLLEGE, WE'RE TAUGHT TO THINK FREELY AND EXPERIMENT. IN THE INDUSTRY, YOU LEARN HOW TO ADAPT WITHOUT LOSING YOUR IDEA. THAT BALANCE IS WHAT REALLY SHAPES YOU. ONE THING I'VE UNDERSTOOD IS—CLARITY MATTERS MORE THAN COMPLEXITY. THE SIMPLER AND MORE PRACTICAL YOUR APPROACH, THE STRONGER YOUR OUTCOME.

YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING FIGURED OUT RIGHT NOW. JUST STAY OPEN TO LEARNING, OBSERVING, AND IMPROVING.

BECAUSE GROWTH DOESN'T COME FROM KNOWING MORE—IT COMES FROM UNDERSTANDING BETTER.

THANK YOU.

**Puja Mandal (2020 - 24Batch)
Fashion Design Department**



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FOOTWEAR DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार | Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

(एफ.डी.डी.आई. अधिनियम २०१७ के अन्तर्गत 'राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान')

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