

FDDI represents footwear sector at National Quality Conclave 2026

By Mr. Ashish Kumar, Managing Editor (Content)

FDDI represented the footwear sector at the National Quality Conclave (NQC) Series-1, held on 23 February 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, addressed the gathering virtually, while the conclave was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Jitin Prasada.



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, addressing the conclave virtually

In his address, Shri Piyush Goyal emphasised that quality must become the defining mantra of India's manufacturing and export ecosystem. He highlighted that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Zero Defect, Zero Effect" will serve as the cornerstone of India's growth during the Amrit Kaal. Aligning the initiative with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the Minister stated that India's aspiration to become a \$30-35 trillion economy by 2047 rests on three key pillars – Zero Defect (quality), Zero Effect (sustainability), and Equitable Opportunity (inclusivity).

Shri Jitin Prasada reinforced the need for a decisive shift towards quality-led manufacturing to strengthen India's global competitiveness.



Shri Jitin Prasada, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry addressing the participants during NQC

Secretary, DPIIT, Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among government, industry, and institutions to build a robust, quality-driven ecosystem, while Chairperson, Quality Council of India (QCI), Shri Jaxay Shah highlighted that quality must evolve into a daily discipline beyond certifications.

The conclave featured focused discussions on Textiles, Leather, Footwear, and Pharmaceuticals, aiming to identify practical challenges, align with international benchmarks, and create actionable pathways for sustained excellence across sectors.

Representing FDDI, Managing Director Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, set the context during the Footwear Domain Session, highlighting FDDI's role in promoting quality standards, sustainability practices, and industry collaboration in partnership with the Quality Council of India (QCI) and industry clusters.



Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD-FDDI addressing the Footwear Domain Session during NQC



A team of FDDI officials actively participated in deliberations, contributing to the integration of quality-driven approaches into the sector's growth and competitiveness roadmap.

FDDI showcases Innovation and Sustainability at the 39th India International Leather Fair 2026

FDDI participated in the 39th India International Leather Fair (IILF-2026), held from 1-3 February 2026 at Chennai Trade Centre. As a flagship event of India's leather sector, the fair brought together global stakeholders, offering a dynamic platform to showcase innovation, sustainability, and emerging industry trends.

The fair witnessed participation from several countries, including Germany, Italy, Australia, Argentina, China, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Taiwan, The Netherlands, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom, reinforcing its global stature.



Dignitaries at the inauguration session of 39th IILF

The fair was inaugurated by Mr. Jawed Ashraf, Chairman – India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), Mr. Ramesh Kumar Juneja, Chairman – Council for Leather Exports (CLE), Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD) – FDDI, Mr. R Selvam, IAS, Executive Director, CLE, Mr. Sanjay Gupta, President – Indian Footwear Components Manufacturers Association (IFCOMA), Mr. Motilal Sethi, Managing Director, M/s. Saroj International, President – Indian Leather Garments Association (ILGA) and industry leaders, Dr. Neeraj Kharwal, Mrs. L. Bharathi Devi, Lt. Col. Harsh Kondilya, Mr. M. Abdul Wahab, and international dignitaries like Mr. Michael Hasper, Ms. Antonietta Bacanari, and Mr. Cameron Nobel.

Aligned with the theme "Sustainovation – where sustainability meets innovation," the FDDI Pavilion showcased eco-friendly collections and TechxCraft—a concept blending traditional leather craftsmanship with contemporary design innovation. Student-designed products, including footwear, leather goods, garments, and accessories, highlighted creativity, sustainability, and industry relevance.



Dignitaries at the stall of FDDI

FDDI also presented its capabilities through the International Testing Centre, emphasising quality assurance and technical support for the leather and footwear sector, while engaging aspiring students with information on academic programmes.

A technical session by Dr. Vimudha Muralidharan, Senior Project Engineer and Head, Centre of Excellence, FDDI Chennai on circular design and sustainable materials further reinforced FDDI's thought leadership in responsible innovation.

During IILF 2026, FDDI participated in the International Leather Fashion Show held at ITC Chennai on 01 February 2026. Showcasing a dynamic blend of innovation, tradition, and contemporary design, the presentation featured bold silhouettes and refined detailing across footwear, fashion apparel, leather goods, and lifestyle accessories, highlighting the institute's strong focus on design excellence and industry-oriented training.



FDDI collection presented by models at leather fashion show