

An open and constructive discussion explored manufacturing partnerships, sourcing models, technology transfer, and design collaboration. The deliberations maintained a practical orientation, emphasizing commercially viable and scalable frameworks for cooperation. FDDI also outlined its capacity to support partnerships through R&D, product and design development, quality testing, and specialized training programs. The possibility of formalizing cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vietnamese institutions was also discussed.

The meeting witnessed strong participation from across the footwear and allied sectors, reflecting industry-wide interest in enhancing India-Vietnam collaboration. Distinguished participants included Mr. Erik Oliver, Secretary – IFCOMA; Mr. Ajay Gaur, Deputy Director – IFCOMA; Mr. Amit Chopra, Managing Director – ACDC Group; Ms. Dipika Chopra, Founder Director – Shoes & Accessories Magazine; Ms. Tripti Pandey, Associate – Invest India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry; Mr. Sanjay Kumar, CEO – Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC); Mr. Navin Anand, Director – Creations World Wide Ltd (UK/China); Mr. Kamal Ahuja, AVP – Alpine Shoes Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Sumeet Bhatere, Director – Alpine Shoes Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Saurabh Shroff, Director – Shroff Group; Mr. Virender Narula, Director – AMS Narula Labels Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Sudhir Rustagi – ESS AAR Universal Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Yogesh Madan, General Manager – Marketing, Enkay Rubber Group; Mr. Deepak Manchanda, Partner – Top Lasts; Mr. Prem Madan, CEO – Pitch Perfect; Mr. Pradeep Walia, Consultant – Sourcing, Aero Club Woodland; Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Manager – Standards, LSSC, Noida; and Mr. Kartik (Nandi Foot Wears Pvt. Ltd.), among others. Online participants included Ms. Snigdha Agrawal (The Foot Replica), Mr. Yogesh Mankar (Colour Kicks), and Mr. Sunil Kumar (LLPD Buying Agency).

The meeting concluded on a positive note, laying the groundwork for long-term India-Vietnam cooperation driven by innovation, quality, and shared growth objectives.

## FDDI's Corporate Grooming & Personality Development Program: Be Seen. Be Heard. Be Hired.

FDDI conducted a comprehensive Corporate Grooming, Interview Preparedness, and Personality Development & Styling Program across all campuses, aimed at enhancing students' employability and corporate readiness. The sessions conducted by Placement Department witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting a strong commitment among students to prepare for competitive career opportunities.

The Corporate Grooming & Interview Preparedness session by Ms. Ananya Raje, Placement Executive (HR), focused on communication skills, resume building, professional behaviour, and interview techniques. Students were introduced to various interview formats and guided on the importance of preparation, ethics, and creating a strong first impression, particularly within the crucial first 60 seconds.

Practical tools such as structured self-introduction and the STAR method further strengthened their confidence and clarity.

Complementing this, the Personality Development & Styling session by Ms. Sweta, Certified Personal Stylist, emphasized confidence, grooming, and impactful presentation. Students gained insights into overcoming psychological barriers, maintaining professional hygiene, and mastering styling essentials such as colour coordination and wardrobe planning. The importance of non-verbal communication including posture, eye contact, and body language was also highlighted as a key factor in professional success.

Further strengthening its student-centric approach, FDDI introduced one-to-one interaction sessions as part of its Phase-3 Placement Drive. Conducted virtually by the Vertical Head – Placement, these sessions provided a personalized platform for students to discuss their placement readiness, challenges, and career aspirations. Key areas such as profile evaluation, communication skills, and employability were addressed, enabling tailored guidance and mentoring.

Insights from these interactions are being used to identify skill gaps and enhance placement strategies, ensuring better alignment between student capabilities and industry requirements. This initiative underscores FDDI's commitment to personalized mentoring, transparency, and effective career support.

Blending skill development with individualized guidance, FDDI continues to empower students to transition confidently from campus to corporate.



A view of one-on-one interactions



**"IF EVERY DAY WERE EARTH DAY WE WOULDN'T BE IN THE MESS WE'RE IN."**

– NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

# Sustainability as a Strategic Imperative in Leather Bag Manufacturing

In the global leather industry, sustainability has evolved from a compliance requirement to a core business strategy. For export-oriented leather bag manufacturers, it directly influences competitiveness, buyer trust, operational stability, and long-term growth. Increasingly, sustainability determines not only who survives in international markets, but who leads.

Sustainability must be integrated across factory systems, processes, and organizational culture. It extends beyond environmental responsibility to include ethical sourcing, material efficiency, energy management, workforce development, compliance, and transparent governance. When approached holistically, sustainability strengthens industrial performance while positioning manufacturers as reliable global partners.

*Sustainability is not a parallel initiative. It is central to industrial strategy.*

### Responsible Sourcing and Supply Chain Transparency

Sustainable production begins with ethical sourcing. Partnering with Leather Working Group (LWG) rated tanneries and adopting low-impact leather processes supports global environmental standards. Increasing adoption of vegetable-tanned and low-chrome leathers further supports environmental stewardship while meeting evolving buyer expectations.

Equally critical is traceability, from raw hide origin to finished product. Ethical partnerships with suppliers of hardware, linings, and packaging materials help build transparent and accountable supply chains. This transparency strengthens buyer confidence, reduces compliance risk, and supports long-term commercial relationships in demanding export markets.

### Waste Reduction and Material Optimization

Material efficiency lies at the intersection of sustainability and profitability. Through digital marker planning, lean cutting techniques, and structured scrap-segregation systems, manufacturers can significantly improve yield percentages. Repurposing leftover leather into small accessories such as wallets, pouches, and keychains transforms waste into value-added revenue streams.

Optimized material utilization reduces environmental impact while improving margins, reinforcing the principle that sustainable practices drive operational excellence rather than constrain it.

### Energy Efficiency and Workforce Development

Energy management is a critical lever for cost and carbon

