



FOOTWEAR DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India
AN INSTITUTION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE under FDDI Act 2017



वाणिज्य एवं
उद्योग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY
सत्यमेव जयते

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JAN- 2026

- Empowering Talent
- Inspiring Innovation
- Building Careers

FDDI
CHANDIGARH



Message from the Executive Director

Dear Readers,

Greetings from FDDI Chandigarh!

As we step into the new year, January has brought with it a vibrant blend of cultural celebrations, national pride, and enriching learning opportunities for our institution.



The month began on a joyous note with the celebration of Lohri, where students and staff came together to mark the spirit of harvest, togetherness, and gratitude. Such moments strengthen our sense of community and keep our cultural roots alive on campus.

A key highlight of the month was the insightful E-Cell session conducted by IIT Delhi AIC, which provided our students with valuable exposure to entrepreneurship, innovation, and start-up ecosystems. The interaction inspired young minds to think creatively, explore problem-solving approaches, and consider entrepreneurship as a meaningful career pathway.

We also celebrated Republic Day with great pride and reverence, honouring the values enshrined in our Constitution and reaffirming our commitment to unity, integrity, and responsible citizenship. The occasion reminded us of our collective duty to contribute positively to the nation through knowledge, innovation, and ethical practice.

January has truly set an energetic and purposeful tone for the months ahead, with many more academic, cultural, and professional engagements to look forward to. I extend my appreciation to all students, faculty, and staff for their enthusiastic participation and continued dedication.

Wishing everyone a year filled with growth, learning, and success.

Warm regards,

Ms. Pragya Singh, IRS

Executive Director

FDDI Chandigarh

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ABOUT CAMPUS

Chandigarh campus is known for academic excellence and disciplined campus environment. Institute is enriched in associations with industry and academic fraternity in north India. Frequent academic & cultural activities develop the professional acumen in the scholars. Chandigarh campus is privileged to be one of the most preferred campuses of FDDI.

Besides ample air-conditioned classrooms, technical workshops equipped with modern state-of-art machineries, it has conference halls, seminar halls, auditorium, ITSC, Design Studio, CAD-CAM lab and the Digital library along with fully furnished separate Girls & Boys Hostels. This makes FDDI Chandigarh Campus a most modern and world class campus. The environment here nurtures creativity, discipline, and holistic development for every learner. The campus continues to inspire excellence, innovation, and leadership across all academic domains. The campus fosters a vibrant academic culture where industry exposure, hands-on learning, and interdisciplinary collaboration thrive. With its learner-centric ecosystem, FDDI Chandigarh remains committed to shaping future-ready professionals equipped with global competence and strong ethical values.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The January edition of the newsletter has been brought together through the collective efforts, cooperation, and unwavering support of the entire campus community. Sincere gratitude is extended to the campus leadership for their guidance, vision, and encouragement, which have been instrumental in shaping this edition.

Heartfelt appreciation is conveyed to the faculty members and administrative staff for their timely contributions, coordination, and continued support throughout the month. Special thanks are due to the students, whose enthusiasm, creativity, and active participation in events such as the Lohri celebrations, E-Cell session conducted by IIT Delhi AIC, Republic Day Celebration, and various academic and co-curricular activities form the essence of this issue.

This publication stands as a reflection of strong interdepartmental collaboration. The editorial team gratefully acknowledges all those who have contributed, directly or indirectly, to making the January edition informative, vibrant, and successful.

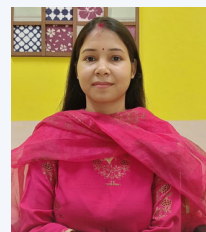
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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

Dear Readers,

As we present the January edition of the newsletter, we begin the year with renewed energy, purpose, and a strong sense of community. January marked a month of cultural celebration, national pride, and meaningful academic engagement, setting a positive and progressive tone for the months ahead.

This edition captures the dynamic spirit of the campus through a variety of significant events and initiatives. The celebration of Lohri brought warmth and vibrancy to the campus, fostering togetherness and cultural appreciation among students and staff.

A key highlight of the month was the E-Cell session conducted by IIT Delhi AIC, which offered students valuable exposure to entrepreneurship, innovation, and start-up ecosystems. The session encouraged participants to explore creative problem-solving, develop entrepreneurial mindsets, and engage with contemporary industry perspectives. The month also witnessed the observance of Republic Day, a moment of national pride and reflection. The celebrations served as a reminder of the constitutional values of unity, integrity, and responsibility. Students and faculty actively participated in commemorating the occasion, reinforcing the institution's commitment to responsible citizenship and nation-building.

This newsletter has been thoughtfully curated to document these experiences and preserve them as part of our institutional journey. Each article, photograph, and report reflects the collective efforts of students, faculty members, coordinators, and support teams who contributed with dedication and sincerity.

From the editorial desk, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who supported content creation, documentation, and timely compilation of this edition.

We trust our readers will find the January newsletter informative, reflective, and representative of the vibrant life on campus.

Warm regards,
Editorial Team



LOHRI VIBES ON CAMPUS

The campus celebrated Lohri with great enthusiasm and cultural fervour, bringing together students, faculty, and staff to mark the traditional harvest festival of Punjab. The celebration reflected the spirit of togetherness, gratitude, and joy that Lohri symbolizes, creating a lively and festive atmosphere across the campus.

The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial bonfire, around which participants gathered to offer traditional items such as popcorn, peanuts, and rewri, symbolizing prosperity and new beginnings. Students adorned in vibrant traditional attire added colour and charm to the celebration, while folk music and energetic Punjabi beats filled the air. Cultural performances, including dance and music, showcased the rich heritage of Punjab and encouraged active participation from the campus community.

Faculty members and staff joined students in the festivities, fostering a sense of unity and cultural appreciation beyond academic boundaries. The celebration provided an opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds to experience and understand regional traditions, reinforcing values of inclusivity and cultural harmony.

The Lohri celebration not only offered moments of joy and relaxation but also strengthened bonds within the campus community.

EXPERT SESSION ON “IDEA TO IMPACT”



Team E-Cell, organized an “Idea to Impact” Expert Session on 16 January 2026 in hybrid mode, with participation from students and faculty across all 12 FDDI campuses. The session aimed to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and start-up awareness among students.

The expert session was delivered by Dr. Himanshu Agrawal, Manager, Atal Incubation Centre (AIC), IIT Delhi, who discussed the entrepreneurial journey from ideation and Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) to product development and brand establishment. He also introduced key initiatives such as the Textile-GREAT Scheme, Start-up India Fund Scheme, and the Bharat Safety Project (Honda Initiative) to familiarize participants with government and industry support systems.

The session highlighted opportunities in indoor and outdoor footwear segments and emphasized the role of incubation, mentoring, and technology commercialization support through AIC IIT Delhi. The initiative by Team E-Cell strengthened students’ understanding of the start-up ecosystem and encouraged participation in national-level innovation and entrepreneurship platforms.



REPUBLIC DAY



The 77th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit at the campus. The national flag was proudly hoisted by Ms. Pragya Singh, IRS, Executive Director, FDDI Chandigarh, in the presence of all employees and students. The ceremony began with the singing of the National Anthem, filling the campus with a sense of unity and pride.

Ms. Pragya Singh addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of the Constitution, discipline, and the role of youth in nation building. The celebration continued with the distribution of sweets, symbolizing joy and togetherness.



Students further enriched the occasion through vibrant cultural performances, including patriotic songs, dance presentations, and inspirational speeches that reflected the spirit of India's freedom and diversity.

FABULOUS FRIDAY

Session on Skill to Enterprise: Bridging Knowledge with Real-World Opportunities

An insightful session titled “Skill to Enterprise – Transforming Knowledge into Skills that Create Income Opportunities” was held on 23rd January 2026 in the Digital Classroom. The session was conducted by Mr. Chirag Saini from Elite Bedding, a specialist in the field of Soft Home Furnishing.

The interactive talk focused on how practical skills, industry understanding, and innovation can be converted into successful entrepreneurial ventures. Mr. Saini shared his professional journey, market trends in home furnishings, and valuable tips on product development, quality control, and business growth.



Students gained first-hand exposure to real industry expectations and learned how design knowledge can be transformed into income-generating opportunities. The session was highly engaging and motivating, encouraging learners to think beyond academics and explore entrepreneurship as a viable career path.

Such initiatives by FDDI continue to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and prepare students for future success.

FABULOUS FRIDAY

Session on Financial Awareness Program for Youth

A Financial Awareness Program for Youth was organized on 30th January 2026 with the objective of enhancing financial literacy among students. The session was conducted by Dr. Avinash Bajpai, HOS – School of Retail & Fashion Merchandise, who shared valuable insights on managing personal finances and making informed financial decisions at an early stage of life.

The program covered key aspects such as budgeting, saving habits, understanding income and expenses, basic investment awareness, and the importance of financial planning for long-term stability. Dr. Bajpai emphasized the role of financial discipline and awareness in building a secure future, especially for young professionals entering the workforce.

The session was highly informative and interactive, encouraging students to develop responsible financial habits. It proved to be a meaningful initiative toward empowering youth with essential life skills beyond academics.



MARTYRS' DAY



Martyrs' Day was observed with solemnity and respect to honor the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the nation. On this occasion, all employees and students gathered together and observed a two-minute silence in remembrance of the martyrs who laid down their lives for the country.

The moment of silence created an atmosphere of reflection and gratitude, reminding everyone of the courage, dedication, and selfless service of India's freedom fighters and soldiers.



The gathering paid heartfelt tribute to their supreme sacrifice and reaffirmed commitment towards the values of patriotism, unity, and national pride. The observance served as a meaningful reminder of the price of freedom and the responsibility of every citizen to uphold the ideals for which the martyrs fought.

DGR 4TH BATCH CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing session of the DGR 4th Batch of Certificate Course in Footwear Manufacturing and Retailing was successfully conducted on 29th January 2026, marking the completion of the training program. The event was organized in a warm and celebratory atmosphere, reflecting the hard work and dedication of the participants throughout the course.

The session was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Mr. Rajneesh Vijra, whose encouragement and motivating words inspired the trainees to apply their newly acquired skills in their future endeavors. Certificates and relieving letters were distributed to the participants, recognizing their successful completion of the program.

The program concluded with a cordial hi-tea and refreshments for the guests and attendees, providing an opportunity for interaction and reflection on the learning journey. The closing ceremony served as a meaningful milestone, celebrating achievement and reinforcing the spirit of professional growth.



ARTISTIC WORKS SECURE COPYRIGHT RECOGNITION

A significant academic milestone was achieved with the successful grant of two artistic works, Sahej Samarpan and Bhil Vriksha, under the Copyright Act, 1957. The works were authored by Ms. Sakshi Singh (Student, Batch 2021) and Dr. Pooja Singh (Faculty), reflecting creative excellence and cultural inspiration in design education.

The copyrights were officially granted on 29 January 2026, recognizing the originality and intellectual contribution of the creators Certificate- bhil briksh

. This achievement highlights the growing emphasis on research, innovation, and protection of intellectual property within the academic environment. It further motivates faculty and students to document, preserve, and legally safeguard their creative works while contributing meaningfully to India's artistic and design heritage.



Ms. Sakshi Singh
Student, B. Des FD
Batch 2021



Dr. Pooja Singh
Faculty



Faculty Participation in Academic and Professional Development Activities

Dr. Agya Preet delivered an expert talk on “Challenges in Sustainable Fabric Development” at CGC University, Mohali on 22 Jan 2026. The session provided valuable insights into sustainable practices and innovation in textile development.



Dr. Agya Preet and Mr. Sandeep Kumar participated in a Six-Day National Faculty Development Programme on “Skill Sync: Industry Expectations in Fashion Academia” held from 05 to 10 January 2026. The programme was organized by Vivekanandha College of Arts and Sciences for Women, Tamil Nadu.



Dr. Raghuraj Panwar represented FDDI Chandigarh in a prestigious short-term course on sustainable manufacturing at NIT Kurukshetra from 19–23 January 2026. The training strengthened academic-industry integration and innovation-driven learning.



Dr. Annu Kumari, presented her research paper titled “Design Thinking-Led Curriculum for Sustainable Craft Education in India” at Research Confluence 2026, held on the theme “Tradition, Innovation & Rising India”. The conference was organized at NIFT Gandhinagar on 30th January 2026. The presentation highlighted innovative curriculum approaches that integrate design thinking with sustainable craft education in the Indian context.



FASHION HIGHLIGHTS- JANUARY 2026

74th India International Garment Fair (IIGF): Held from January 23–25, 2026, at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. The event showcased Autumn/Winter 2026-27 collections from over 400 exhibitors, focusing on sustainable garments and diverse fashion accessories.



Milan Fashion Week Men's (Jan 16–20): Featured over 76 appointments, including Prada and major presentations focused on F/W 2026-27, with a strong emphasis on "provisional" shows, such as Meryll Rogge's debut at Marni and Maria Grazia Chiuri's first Fendi collection.



Source Fashion, London (Jan 13–15): Held at Olympia London, focusing on "Analogue Futures," with a new "Fashion Deconstructed" zone highlighting repair, upcycling, and responsible sourcing, featuring over 250 international exhibitors.



FOOTWEAR HIGHLIGHTS- JANUARY 2026

Footwear India Expo 2026 (New Delhi): Scheduled for 29–31 January 2026 at Pragati Maidan, this 22nd edition served as a major B2B platform connecting manufacturers with wholesalers, distributors, and material suppliers. It featured a comprehensive display of finished footwear, machinery, and components, with a strong focus on enhancing domestic and international growth.



Leather Fashion Show & Brand Symposium (Chennai): Held on January 29, 2026, this event showcased innovative designs from 14 major manufacturers to a global market, with a focus on boosting exports following the India-EU Free Trade Agreement.



India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA): Concluded on January 30, 2026, this deal is expected to eliminate up to 17% duty on leather and footwear products, boosting exports to the EU market.



OUR PRESENCE



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YEAR OF INNOVATION AND
INSPIRATION.”***

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