



**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



*CHANDIGARH JUNE 2025*

## Message from the Executive Director

### *FDDI Chandigarh Campus*



*Dear Readers,*

*As we step into the vibrant month of June, I take great pride in acknowledging the continued enthusiasm and creative spirit that defines the FDDI Chandigarh Campus. This past month has been a testament to our commitment to excellence, innovation, and holistic growth*

*Our staff members continue to mentor and inspire, ensuring that our campus remains a hub of knowledge and inspiration.*

*We also celebrated several successful events, including workshops, International Yoga Day, and student's placements that further enriched the learning environment. I extend heartfelt congratulations to all who contributed to these initiatives.*

*Let us continue to nurture creativity, pursue excellence, and work together in shaping the future of design and footwear education.*

*Warm regards,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pragya Singh'.

**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.





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all faculty members, students, and staff of FDDI Chandigarh for their enthusiastic contributions and unwavering support in compiling the June 2025 edition of the newsletter. Your valuable inputs, achievements, and participation in various academic, creative, and extracurricular activities truly reflect the vibrant and dynamic spirit of our campus.

A sincere appreciation goes out to all departments and coordinators who shared timely updates and highlights that enriched the content of this edition. Your active involvement ensures that the newsletter remains an authentic reflection of our collective efforts and accomplishments.

We also thank the editorial team for their commitment, creativity, and attention to detail in curating and presenting this edition. Your efforts have helped document and celebrate the essence of FDDI Chandigarh's journey throughout this month.

## *Editorial Team*



Mr. Sandeep Kumar Ganjay  
Sr. Faculty & HOD



Mr. Ashok Joshi  
Faculty & HOD



Dr. Pooja Singh  
Faculty



Dr. Annu Kumari  
Faculty



Mr. Sudarshan Shahi  
Faculty



Mr. Nitin Meena  
Asst. Manager

## From the Editorial Desk – June Edition

As we bid farewell to the month of June, we take pride in presenting a glimpse of the vibrant activities and collective achievements of FDDI Chandigarh through this newsletter edition. This month stood out as a blend of awareness, wellness, and intellectual growth, showcasing the commitment of our campus community to holistic development.

The journey began with a series of thought-provoking **webinars**, focusing on the importance of **intellectual property rights**, with special emphasis on **design registration and copyright**. These sessions not only broadened our academic perspectives but also highlighted their practical relevance in the fashion and footwear industry. The active engagement of students and faculty made these webinars highly impactful.

In line with our environmental responsibility, we observed **World Environment Day** with dedication and spirit. Plantation drives, green initiatives, and awareness campaigns across campus reminded us of our role as custodians of the Earth and the importance of sustainable practices in our daily lives.

One of the most energizing moments of the month was the celebration of the **International Day of Yoga**. The yoga training session conducted by the Isha Foundation, followed by the collective yoga practice, created an atmosphere of peace, unity, and inner wellness. It was heartening to witness staff and faculty come together to embrace the essence of yoga for mind-body harmony.

We express our sincere gratitude to all departments, faculty, students, and contributors who made these events successful. A special thanks to the editorial team for their time, effort, and creativity in curating this edition.

We hope this newsletter not only informs but also inspires each of us to stay engaged, aware, and connected. Here is to more meaningful moments in the months ahead!

## Seminar on Footwear Adhesives and Their Role in the Footwear & Leather Industry

A seminar on “Footwear Adhesives and Their Role in the Footwear & Leather Industry” was recently organized for B. Des. Footwear Design and Production students and Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) undergoing training in Footwear Manufacturing & Retailing at FDDI Chandigarh. Conducted in collaboration with **Henkel Adhesive Technologies**, the event aimed to enrich the technical knowledge and practical understanding of adhesives, a critical component in modern footwear and leather product manufacturing.



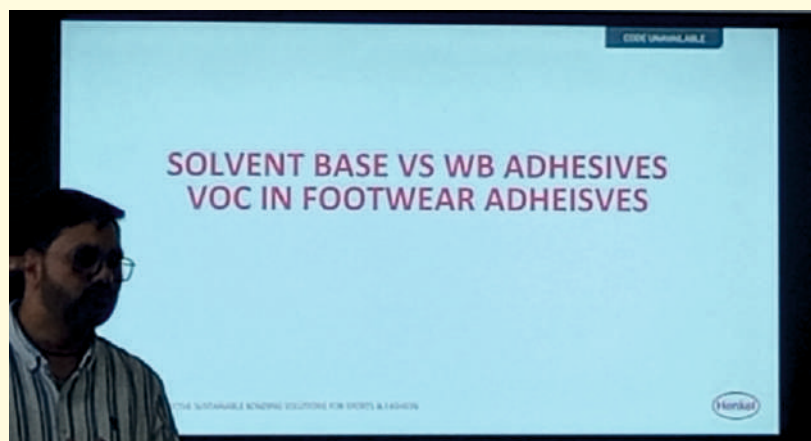
*The event reinforced the institute's commitment to nurturing skilled professionals equipped with up-to-date knowledge and practical skills relevant to the footwear and leather industries.*

The session was led by Mr. Gaurav Tiwari, a technical expert from Henkel, who shared deep insights through presentations and live demonstrations. Participants were introduced to various types of adhesives such as solvent-based, water-based, and hot-melt adhesives. The talk also emphasized the importance of surface preparation, material compatibility, and application techniques to ensure durability and quality in footwear production.

Mr. Tiwari also highlighted the growing relevance of sustainable and stitch less footwear construction. The session showcased how innovative adhesive technologies are contributing to cost efficiency, eco-friendliness and streamlined production processes in the industry.







Participants actively engaged in hands-on demonstrations, observing the correct techniques for applying adhesives and solving common bonding challenges. The interaction fostered real-world learning and allowed students to connect classroom theory with industrial practices.

The seminar witnessed active participation from students, faculty members, and JCOs, who benefited from the opportunity to engage with industry professionals and explore current trends along with solutions in footwear manufacturing. The event proved to be a meaningful learning experience, reinforcing the critical role adhesives play in shaping the future of footwear and leather manufacturing.



## Seminar on Business Scope in Footwear Industry: Marketing & Entrepreneurship

The Footwear Design & Production department, recently hosted an engaging seminar on “Business Scope in Footwear Industry: Marketing & Entrepreneurship” delivered by Mr. Kumar Gaurav Tiwari, an expert in the footwear sector. The event brought together students, faculty members, and Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs), all keen to explore the real-world possibilities of turning their interest in footwear into entrepreneurial ventures.



The seminar was highly interactive, where participants actively engaged in discussions, asking questions and exchanging ideas. Mr. Tiwari shared valuable insights into emerging business opportunities within the Indian and global footwear markets. His session included practical advice on launching a footwear brand, effective marketing strategies, and the importance of digital platforms and e-commerce in scaling businesses.



Participants were introduced to the entrepreneurial journey from ideation and brand positioning to managing challenges that come with starting a business. Mr. Tiwari's experiences and real-world examples resonated with the audience, offering a clear picture of what it takes to succeed in the footwear industry.

The event also highlighted FDDI-Chandigarh's commitment to bridging classroom learning with industry relevance. With its strong industry linkages and strategic location in North India's industrial corridor, the institute continues to provide students with valuable exposure through seminars, industrial visits, and internships.

The seminar proved to be a motivating experience for aspiring footwear professionals. It not only enhanced their understanding of branding and marketing but also sparked the entrepreneurial spirit among attendees, encouraging them to blend creativity with business acumen to build future ready ventures.





# Plantation Drive on World Environment Day

“This #WorldEnvironmentDay, let's deepen our efforts towards protecting our planet and overcoming the challenges we face. I also compliment all those working at the grassroots to make our environment greener and better.”

**Honorable PM of India:- Shri Narendra Modi**



To mark *World Environment Day* on **5th June 2025**, we organized a **Plantation Drive** on campus, reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability and green practices. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the staff members who came together to plant a variety of saplings, including native and ornamental species, within the institute premises.

This initiative aimed to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy ecosystem and the role everyone can play in combating environmental degradation. Staff members actively engaged in planting and nurturing the saplings, fostering a spirit of responsibility and care for nature among the campus community.

The drive not only contributed to the campus's green cover but also highlighted FDDI's ongoing efforts toward eco-friendly development and environmental education. The event concluded with a collective pledge to protect and preserve nature, making the day both meaningful and impactful.



# Webinar On Design Registration

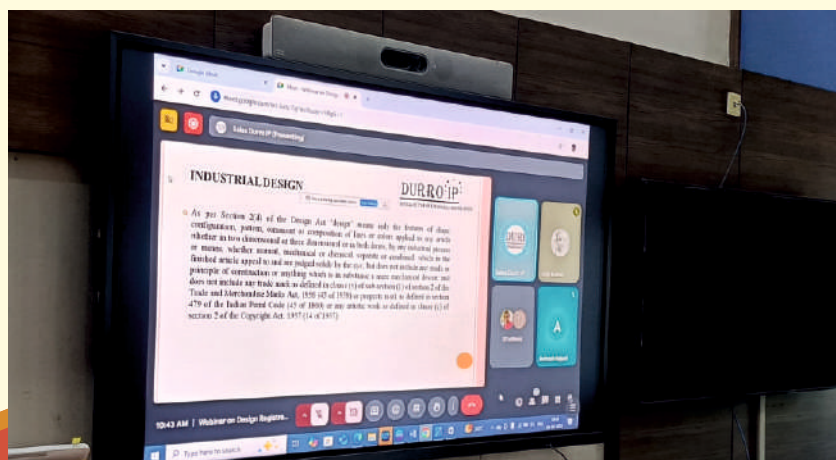
A webinar on Design Registration was conducted on June 6, 2025, at 10:30 AM in the Digital Classroom, in collaboration with Durro IP, a renowned firm specializing in intellectual property rights. The session aimed to provide insights into the legal and procedural aspects of protecting design innovations.



The esteemed speakers for the webinar were Mr. Ashutosh Bansal, Partner at Durro IP, and Dr. Madhu Smita, Senior Partner. Both speakers brought in-depth knowledge and practical insights into the importance, procedures, and legal aspects of design registration in India.

The session was highly informative and engaged participants, including students and faculties. More than 100 participants have attended the session. Attendees gained valuable understanding of how protecting design rights contributes to innovation and market competitiveness.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A round, where participants actively engaged with the speakers to clarify their queries and gain practical insights.





## Exposure Visit – St. Xavier's School, Bathinda

Students and faculty from St. Xavier's School, Bathinda visited FDDI Chandigarh as part of their academic tour, aimed at exploring career opportunities in Footwear Design & Production, Fashion Design and Retail & Fashion Merchandise. The visit provided students a valuable exposure of the institute's along with advanced infrastructure and industry-aligned learning environment.

During the tour, the group explored several specialized facilities integral to fashion and footwear production:

- Students engaged with advanced 2D and 3D design software used in footwear and garment development. The lab demonstrated how digital tools streamline design, enhance accuracy, and support rapid prototyping in modern manufacturing.



- The group was introduced to various materials and components used in footwear and garments production, helping them understand the importance of material selection in design and quality manufacturing.
- Students observed both manual and digital cutting techniques, learning how machine cutting enhances efficiency and accuracy in leather and component processing.



- They witnessed the processes of assembling and stitching footwear uppers, gaining insights into industry-standard techniques and workflows.
- This lab showcased traditional hand-lasting and modern machinery, highlighting their role in shaping and finishing footwear products efficiently.
- Students learned the basic steps from pattern development to garment assembly, providing hands-on exposure to apparel creation techniques.



Overall, the tour provided a comprehensive overview of the interconnected processes and technologies that drive contemporary fashion and footwear manufacturing, bridging theoretical knowledge with practical, industry-relevant skills which inspire students to consider creative careers in design. The delegation expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality and interactive sessions with FDDI Staff members, which made the visit both informative and inspiring.



## Webinar On Copyrights

A webinar on *Copyrights* was held on June 13, 2025, in collaboration with Durro Ip—an esteemed firm specializing in intellectual property law. The session focused on the relevance of copyright protection in the fashion and footwear industries, emphasizing its role in safeguarding original creations.



**Mr. Ashutosh Bansal**  
Partner at Durro IP

The speakers for the session, Mr. Ashutosh Bansal (Partner) & Dr. Madhu Smita (Senior Partner) from Durro IP, delivered comprehensive insights on copyright laws, their application to design work, and the legal remedies available in case of infringement. The discussion highlighted how copyright supports designers in protecting artistic expressions, fabric prints, digital content, and branding material.

Particularly beneficial for students and professionals in fashion and footwear design, the session illuminated real-world scenarios, rights management strategies, and creative ownership—empowering participants to confidently navigate the creative business environment.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A segment, where participants raised practical questions related to copyright application, duration, and international protection.





## Celebration of International Day of Yoga

The International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 20th and 21st June 2025 with great enthusiasm, embracing the theme “*Yoga for One Earth, One Health.*” The events highlighted the importance of yoga in promoting holistic well being.

On 20th June, Mr. Rajesh, a volunteer from the **Isha Foundation**, conducted a yoga training session for staff members. The session included simple breathing techniques, basic asanas, and mindfulness exercises, helping participants feel relaxed and energized. Mr. Rajesh also emphasized the long-term lifestyle benefits of regular yoga practice.

The celebration continued on 21st June with a campus-wide yoga session from 9:45 a.m onwards. Staff members actively participated in various asanas and guided meditation, promoting balance, flexibility, and inner peace. The event concluded with a pledge to incorporate yoga into daily life and continue the journey toward better health and harmony.





# DGR Resettlement Program For Junior Commissioned Officers

On 25th June 2025, a remarkable exhibition was organized to showcase the footwear crafted by the Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) as part of their training program.

This event celebrated their dedication, precision, and the new skills they have acquired undergoing “Certificate Course in Footwear Manufacturing and Retailing”.

The exhibition featured two major categories

1. Leather footwear and
2. Non-Leather footwear demonstrating the versatility and craftsmanship of the participants.



In the Leather category, the JCOs displayed 40 pairs of finely crafted Derby and Oxford shoes, reflecting their command over classic footwear construction along with 14 pairs of safety footwear uppers highlighting their technical understanding and functionality-focused design.

In the Non-Leather footwear category, they presented 21 pairs of sneakers, which combined comfort with contemporary styling aligning with current market trends.

The event not only served as a platform for the JCOs to exhibit their work but also marked a significant milestone in their skill development journey.

Their work was appreciated by Jury members, faculties, staff and peers, reinforcing the effectiveness of hands-on learning in the footwear domain.



## Summer Camp 2025

As part of the *DesignXplore Summer Camp 2025*, we successfully conducted a vibrant and skill-based **T-Shirt Design and Printing workshop** from **June 23 to June 27, 2025**. Three-day certificate course provided young participants with a creative platform to explore design fundamentals while learning practical techniques in fashion surface design.



Guided by expert mentors, students learned how to conceptualize, sketch and stitch their ideas into garments. They explored pattern making, layout planning, cutting, stitching and fabric-friendly printing technique through block printing. The course encouraged self-expression, problem-solving and teamwork, making it a well-rounded experience for all participants.

Aided by material kits provided by the institute, students produced unique, T-shirts reflecting a range of personal interests. The final day featured a showcase of the designed T-shirts, with participants proudly presenting their creations, demonstrating both creativity and growing technical proficiency.

This workshop was one of several creative courses offered during the camp, alongside Tie & Dye, Footwear Making, Digital Design and Garment Sizing.

By the end of the program, students not only earned a certificate but also carried home their self-designed T-shirt—a symbol of their creative journey and a proud memory of their time at FDDI Chandigarh.



# योग और साँस : सुकून की ओर एक आसान रास्ता

योग केवल शरीर को लचीला बनाने की प्रक्रिया नहीं है, बल्कि यह तन, मन और प्राण को संतुलित करने की एक प्राचीन विद्या है। आज की तेज-तरार ज़िंदगी में अगर कोई चीज़ हमें रुककर खुद से मिलने का मौका देती है, तो वो है — योग और साँस। हम हर पल साँस लेते हैं, लेकिन क्या हम सच में ध्यान देते हैं कि हम कैसे साँस ले रहे हैं?

योग हमें सिखाता है — शरीर, मन और साँस के बीच एक खूबसूरत तालमेल बनाना। योग में साँस (प्राणायाम) का विशेष महत्व है, क्योंकि साँस ही वह पुल है जो शरीर और मन को जोड़ता है।



अल्का मोरोलिया  
सहायक प्रबंधक (लेखा एवं वित्त)

## योग और साँस का आपसी संबंध

संस्कृत में "प्राण" का अर्थ है जीवन ऊर्जा और "आयाम" का अर्थ है नियंत्रण या विस्तार। इसलिए प्राणायाम यानी साँस का नियंत्रित और सचेत अभ्यास — जो योग का एक प्रमुख अंग है। जब हम साँस को गहराई से और पूरी सजगता के साथ लेते हैं, तो यह हमारे मस्तिष्क को शांत करता है और ध्यान को स्थिर बनाता है। योग के आसनों के साथ साँस का समन्वय हमारी ऊर्जा को संतुलित करता है और आंतरिक शांति की अनुभूति कराता है। प्रसिद्ध योग गुरु श्री स्वामी कुवलयांनंद ने कहा है "साँस के बिना योग अधूरा है, और योग के बिना साँस एक साधारण प्रक्रिया मात्र है।"

योग में साँस लेने के महत्व कुछ इस प्रकार हैं:

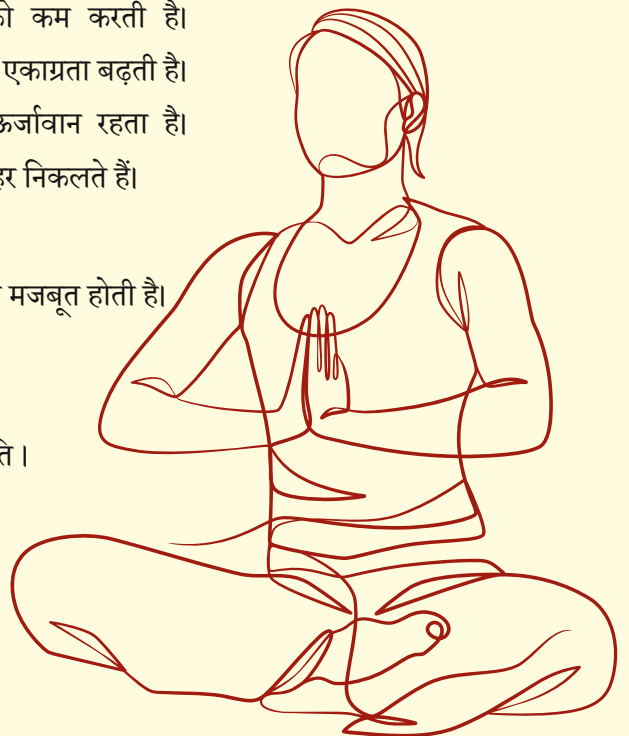
1. मनोवैज्ञानिक शांति :- गहरी साँस तनाव और चिंता को कम करती है।
2. सुधरा हुआ ध्यान :- साँस पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने से ध्यान और एकाग्रता बढ़ती है।
3. शारीरिक स्फूर्ति :- बेहतर ऑक्सीजन आपूर्ति से शरीर ऊर्जावान रहता है।
4. अंदरूनी शुद्धि :- साँस के माध्यम से शरीर से विषैले तत्व बाहर निकलते हैं।

शरीर में योग द्वारा साँस लेने के महत्व कुछ इस प्रकार हैं:

1. शारीरिक :- फेफड़ों की क्षमता बढ़ती है, रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता मजबूत होती है।
2. मानसिक :- तनाव, क्रोध और बेचैनी में कमी।
3. भावनात्मक :- आत्म-नियंत्रण और धैर्य में वृद्धि।
4. आध्यात्मिक :- आत्मसाक्षात्कार और गहरी शांति की अनुभूति।

साँस लेने की प्रमुख तकनीकें (प्राणायाम)

1. अनुलोम-विलोम (नाड़ी शोधन)
  - एक नासिका से साँस लेना और दूसरी से छोड़ना।
  - शरीर की ऊर्जा नाड़ियों को शुद्ध करता है।
  - मानसिक संतुलन और स्पष्टता लाता है।



## 2. भस्त्रिका प्राणायाम

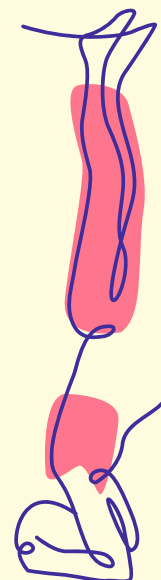
- तेज गति से गहरी साँस लेना और छोड़ना।
- शरीर को गर्म और ऊर्जावान करता है।
- सर्दियों में विशेष रूप से लाभदायक।

## 3. कपालभाति प्राणायाम

- पेट की मांसपेशियों का उपयोग कर साँस को बलपूर्वक बाहर निकालना।
- पाचन, मोटापा और फेफड़ों के लिए अत्यंत उपयोगी।

## 4. भ्रामरी प्राणायाम

- साँस छोड़ते समय भँवरे जैसी आवाज़ निकालना।
- सिरदर्द, तनाव और अनिद्रा में लाभकारी।



योग करने का सबसे अच्छा समय प्रातः काल का होता है। शांत और स्वच्छ स्थान का चयन कर, खाली पेट धीरे धीरे साँस लेना शुरू करें, अपने ध्यान को अपनी साँस के साथ समायोजित करें। साँस लेने की ऊपर डी गई तकनीकों के सहारे इसकी शुरुआत करें। इसके साथ किसी योग्य योग प्रशिक्षक की देखरेख में करें। शुरू में १०-१५ मिनट तक करें बाद में सक्षम होने के बाद अवधि को बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

**योग और साँस** का संबंध शरीर की सीमाओं से परे जाकर आत्मा की चेतना तक पहुँचता है। जब हम साँस को सजगता से अपनाते हैं, तो हम सिर्फ साँस नहीं लेते — हम जीवन को पूर्णता से जीना सीखते हैं। योग और साँस का समन्वय एक ऐसा साधन है जो हमें आज की भागदौड़ भरी दुनिया में संतुलन, शांति और आनंद की अनुभूति कराता है।





## Design for Purpose: Student Innovations from the Foundation Batch (2023–2024)

The Foundation Batch of 2023–2024 had embarked on a creative and purpose-driven design journey. During the Design Project module, students were encouraged to explore real-life problems and respond to them with practical and empathetic solutions. This hands-on experience aimed to deepen their understanding of user needs and reflect the institute's emphasis on experiential learning and social impact.

The outcome of the projects showcases not only the assignments but thoughtful responses to real challenges faced by people in everyday life. With a strong focus on usability, sustainability, and empathy, each student worked through the design thinking process, including problem identification, ideation, prototyping and testing. The projects were presented through physical models, visual documentation and mock-ups, offering a glimpse into the detailed process behind each concept.

One of the most impactful projects was **“The Third Hand”** by **Saksham Diwan** (Figures 1 & 2). Inspired by the struggles of underprivileged children who study in poor lighting and ventilation conditions, He designed a portable, multi-functional device. His solution combines a fan, LED light, and Type-C charging port powered by a rechargeable battery with a 7-hour runtime. The compact and affordable design ensures that children can study comfortably, even in areas without stable electricity. His project is a powerful example of how empathy and innovation can come together to address critical educational barriers.



Figure 1: Design Development (Pics) 2D & 3D

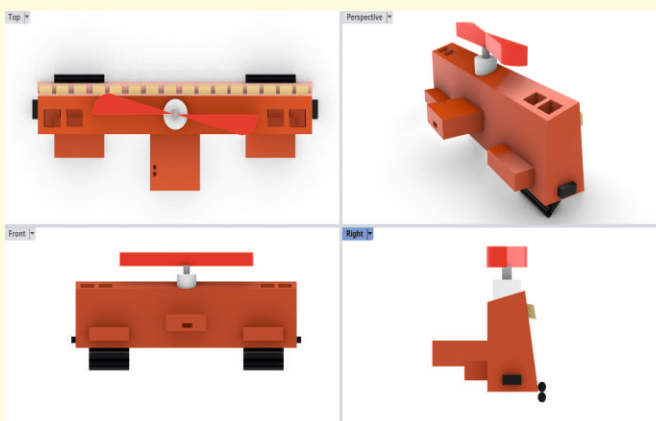
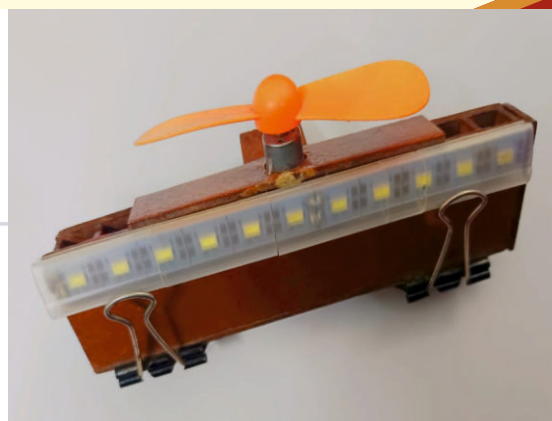


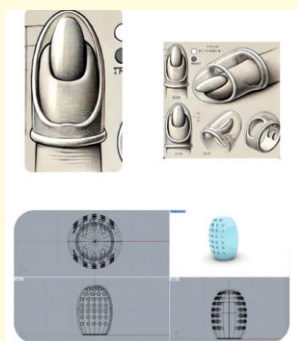
Figure 2: Designed Product



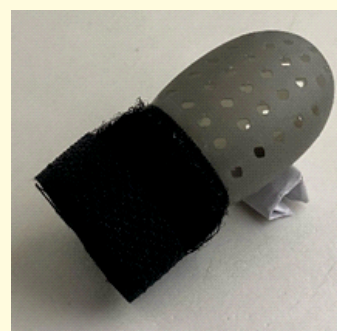
Another creative project came from **Tamanna Dhiman**, who addressed a common issue in personal grooming. Her design titled **“Nail Guard”** (Figures 3 & 4), offers a solution for freshly applied nail polish that often gets smudged through accidental contact. The wearable guard features an adjustable strap for various hand sizes and a porous structure to enhance airflow, helping nail polish dry faster. Lightweight, stylish and user-friendly her product highlights how even small inconveniences can inspire smart design when approached thoughtfully.



**Figure 3:**  
**Design**  
**Development**  
**(Pics) 2D & 3D**



**Figure 4:**  
**Nail Guard**



In 3rd creative project, **Aastha Narula** chose to solve a practical problem faced by many art and design students. Her project, **“Canvas Stand”** (Figure 5), focuses on the discomfort caused by flat painting surfaces. She created a built-in, foldable stand that attaches to the back of a canvas, allowing it to tilt at an ergonomic angle. The design improves posture and ease of use without the bulk of traditional easels, showing how minor adjustments can greatly enhance the creative process.

These projects reflect a deep understanding of design as more than just aesthetics. Each student embraced the values of user-centric design, integrating functionality, empathy and innovation. Guided by Dr. Avinash Bajpai, the batch engaged with the complete design thinking cycle, learning to observe keenly, ideate creatively, and prototype effectively.



**Figure 5:**  
**Canvas stand**

## Hostel, Hustle & Half-Burnt Maggi: A Freshman's Tale of Growing Up

It all began with a suitcase full of snacks, unwashed clothes, and a head full of dreams. College felt like freedom—no curfews, no reminders, no rules. The thrill of independence was intoxicating, but underneath it, lays a confusing new world I hadn't anticipated.

The first week was a blur—new faces, late-night tea, laughter over momos, and friendships built over Wi-Fi complaints and skipped classes. But with those



Aditya Kumar  
FDP Student, Batch 2024

friendships came subtle influences. I said yes to things I once wouldn't have, not from pressure, but the fear of missing out. Fun started replacing focus. Classes took a backseat, and Netflix marathons became the new routine.

Money, once a distant worry, became a daily crisis. My carefully planned budget vanished by lunchtime. Small splurges—rickshaw rides, takeout, unnecessary shopping—snowballed. By mid-month, I was broke, blaming UPI “errors” instead of accepting my choices.

Academics slipped quietly. Once the punctual student, I now skipped lectures with promises to “start next week.” That week never came. Group studies became gossip circles. When teachers noticed, I got defensive—not because they were wrong, but because I was disappointed in myself.

Hostel life was its own chaos—loud, messy, and filled with shared secrets and Maggi nights. Some nights were magical, others lonely. Homesickness crept in silently. Calls from home became lifelines. I lied at first—said I was fine. But when my mom asked, “Are you okay?” I cracked. I didn't say everything, but I said enough to feel heard.

College hasn't just taught me subjects. It's teaching me life. I'm learning that small choices matter. That fun has consequences. That peer pressure often comes with a smile. Growing up isn't as glamorous as it seems—it's awkward, confusing, and humbling.

I'm still learning. Still making mistakes. But now, I'm learning to say no, own my choices, and be a bit kinder to myself. If you feel lost or lonely—know this: you're not alone. We're all figuring it out, one messy, unforgettable day at a time.



# Adaptive Clothing: Rethinking Inclusive Fashion

Adaptive clothing refers to garments specifically engineered to meet the needs of people with disabilities whether congenital, acquired through injury or illness, or age-related. These functional garments aim to enhance ease of dressing, mobility, dignity, and independence for users such as wheelchair users, paraplegics, arthritis sufferers, stroke victims, and individuals with sensory sensitivities. The rising demand for inclusive fashion has catalyzed innovation in the design and manufacturing of adaptive apparel, especially as the global population ages and disability awareness grows.



**Dr. Agya Preet**  
**Faculty**

## Characteristic Features of Adaptive Clothing

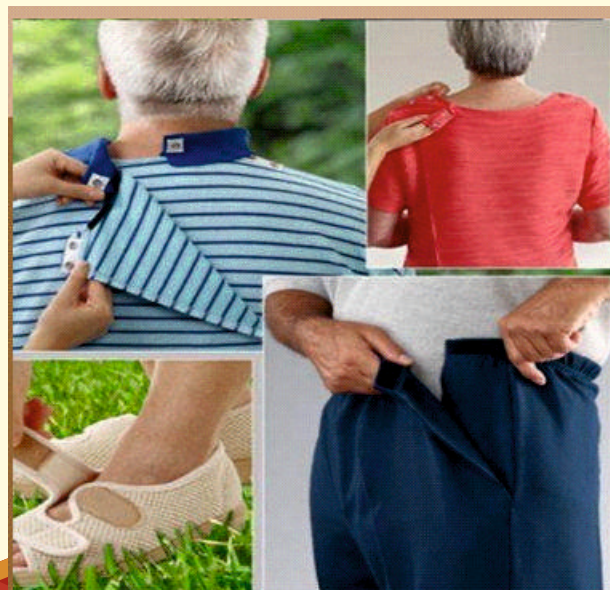
Adaptive clothing represents more than just functional apparel-it's a step toward dignity autonomy and inclusion for millions. Adaptive clothing addresses the special needs by offering:

- **Easy Dressing and Undressing:** Adaptive clothing integrates features like wide openings, velcro, magnetic closures, and adjustable fasteners to simplify the dressing process for those with limited dexterity or reduced mobility.
- **Adaptive Sizing and Fit:** To cater various body shapes and physical conditions, adaptive garments often include adjustable waistbands, extended hems and loose cuts, ensuring a comfortable fit for all wearers, including those with body asymmetries or postural needs.
- **Sensory-Friendly Materials:** Seamless designs, tag-free labels and non-abrasive finishes are vital for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or sensory processing disorders.
- **Wheelchair-Specific Features:** Garments are designed with open-back structures, dropped fronts, reinforced seats and stirrups to stay in place and to accommodate long hours of sitting. Wide leg openings and adaptive footwear with anti-slip soles further aid in mobility and safety.

- **Medical Accessibility:** Strategic openings in clothing (e.g., side seams, back closures) allow access to feeding tubes, catheters and orthotic devices without requiring the complete removal of clothing.
- **Durability and Reinforcement:** Adaptive clothing often includes reinforced seams in areas like the knees, elbows and seat to withstand wear from frequent use, transfers or accidental falls.
- **Visual and Cognitive Accessibility:** For individuals with dementia or visual impairments, high-contrast colors, oversized buttons, and distinctive patterns can aid in self-identification and dressing, supporting both autonomy and caregiver assistance.
- **Inclusive and Non-Stigmatizing Designs:** Adaptive clothing should reflect inclusive values by avoiding stereotypical gender-specific designs. Gender neutral aesthetics and anti-strip features (especially for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia) promote dignity and functionality without compromising style.

## Conclusion

Adaptive clothing represents a critical intersection of fashion, healthcare and technology. As awareness and demand continue to grow, adaptive apparel is poised to become a permanent and essential category in mainstream fashion.



Source: <https://www.ezrahomecare.com/home-care-blog/adaptive-clothing>

# Footwear Recycling

*(Stepping towards sustainability: Innovations and challenges in shoe recycling)*

Footwear recycling is an emerging trend focused on reusing, repurposing or responsibly disposing of old or unwanted shoes to minimize environmental impact. Unlike recycling paper or metal, footwear recycling is more complex due to the diverse materials involved such as rubber, leather, fabric, foam and plastics. As awareness around sustainability and waste reduction grows, footwear recycling is becoming increasingly common today.



**Dr. Raghuraj Panwar**  
Faculty-FDP

*“Footwear recycling is the need and latest trend in market to save environment.”*

Millions of shoes are discarded in landfills each year, where they can take decades to break down, contributing significantly to environmental pollution. However, shoes also contain valuable materials such as rubber & textiles that can be recovered and reused. By recycling footwear, we not only reduce the volume of waste but also help conserve natural resources. Additionally, promoting shoe recycling supports sustainable fashion and advances the circular economy within the fashion and footwear industries.

## Footwear recycling involves several innovative methods

- **Material Separation & Reuse:** Shoes are carefully cut to pieces into their individual components, such as rubber soles and textile uppers. These separated materials are then repurposed to create new products like playground surfaces, athletic tracks, new shoes or insoles.
- **Mechanical Recycling:** This method is particularly effective for shoes made from a single material, such as all-rubber sandals. The materials are torn and melted down to produce new items.
- **Chemical Recycling:** Although less common and more advanced, chemical recycling breaks down complex polymers in shoes into their original chemical components, which can then be reused in manufacturing.



These methods collectively contribute to reducing landfill waste and promoting sustainability in the footwear industry.

### **Footwear recycling programs to promote sustainability and reduce waste**

- Nike (n.d.) 2025, "Nike's Reuse- A-Shoe program collects worn-out athletic shoes and processes them into Nike Grind, a material used in sports surfaces like playgrounds and athletic tracks."
- Adidas. (n.d.) 2025, "Adidas' FUTURECRAFT.LOOP initiative is a pioneering project featuring a 100% recyclable performance running shoe. The shoe is made entirely from a single material (TPU) and assembled without adhesive, enabling it to be returned to Adidas at the end of its life."

**These initiatives demonstrate a growing commitment within the footwear industry to resource recovery, waste reduction and the advancement of a circular economy.**

- **Donation:** Wearable shoes can be donated to NGOs, shelters or second-hand programs, extending their life and supporting those in need.
- **Sustainable Purchasing:** When buying new footwear, opt for shoes made from recyclable or sustainable materials, and choose brands with strong environmental commitments.
- **Up-cycling:** Old shoes can be creatively repurposed at home for uses such as planters in gardening, unique storage solutions, or art projects.

### **Challenges and Gaps**

- **Material Complexity:** Most shoes are made from a mix of materials (rubber, leather, foam, textiles, etc.), making separation and recycling difficult.
- **Limited Infrastructure & Awareness:** There are still few dedicated facilities and programs for footwear recycling and public awareness remains low.
- **Higher Costs:** Recycling shoes is often more expensive than traditional disposal methods like dumping or incineration, which can discourage widespread adoption.

# The Evolution of Footwear: From Early Civilizations to Modern Industry

Footwear has played a vital role in human society since early times, serving both practical and symbolic purposes. Its primary function has always been to protect the feet from harsh environments, extreme weather, and potential injuries enabling people to move safely and comfortably across diverse environments.

Early humans crafted elementary shoes from materials like animal skins, leaves and plant fibers to shield their feet, a need that became more pronounced as societies settled and lifestyles changed.

## Early Beginnings of Footwear



Source:- <https://shorturl.at/v8Lvj>

Footwear traces its origins to prehistoric times, with the earliest evidence dating back to 7000–8000 BCE. Early humans used plant fibers and animal hides to create basic coverings for their feet, primarily for protection against rough environment and harsh weather.

## Ancient Innovations and Social Significance

As civilizations developed, footwear became more refined and symbolized social status. In ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt, sandals made from reeds, palm leaves, papyrus and leather were common, with the wealthy ornamenting with jewels and intricate designs. By the time of ancient Greece and Rome, footwear diversified into sandals, closed shoes and boots, reflecting both utility and status. Roman soldiers wore strong leather boots called caligae for battle, while citizens wore a variety of styles according to their social standing.



Source:- <https://shorturl.at/10xyZ>



**Prateek Srivastava**  
Head of Product Dev. & Design  
Reliance Retail-Trends Footwear  
(Alumni 2010)

## Leather Footwear: Craftsmanship and Dominance



Source:- <https://shorturl.at/7Vt99>

Leather remained the dominant material for centuries due to its durability and flexibility. This tradition continued into the 19th century, with leather footwear representing both utility and prestige. Medieval European cobblers hand-stitched leather shoes, prioritizing the protection and craftsmanship during the century. The manufacturing process evolved over time, incorporating more advanced techniques in design, pattern making, cutting, stitching and finishing.

## Rise of Non-Leather and Synthetic Materials

The 20th century marked a revolution in footwear materials. The advent of synthetic alternatives such as rubber, plastics and various fibers transformed the industry. These materials offered improved flexibility, waterproofing and cost-effectiveness compared to traditional leather.

Today, materials like ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA), Polyurethane (PU) and Thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) are widely used, providing enhanced cushioning, support and durability.



Source: <https://shorturl.at/yymqV>

## Design and Production Changes



Source:- <https://shorturl.at/Ur6yS>

**Design:** Early footwear was simple and functional. Over time, design became influenced by status, occupation and fashion. The reawakening saw shoes as a canvas for artistic expression, and the Industrial Revolution enabled mass production, making stylish footwear accessible to the masses.



**Production:** Traditional leather footwear relied on skilled craftsmanship. Modern manufacturing uses advanced machinery, automation and sustainable practices, with a growing emphasis on eco-friendly materials and efficient production lines.

**Demand:** According to *Fortune Business Insights* (2025), the global footwear market is booming, valued at USD 463.87 billion in 2024 and projected to reach USD 789.52 billion by 2032. Demand is driven by rising incomes, urbanization, fashion consciousness, and increasing interest in sports and fitness.

Leather vs. Non-Leather Footwear

| Sr. No | Feature                  | Leather Footwear                               | Non-Leather Footwear                                    |
|--------|--------------------------|--|---|
| 1      | Material Source          | Animal hides                                   | Synthetic polymers, textiles, rubber                    |
| 2      | Durability               | High<br>(with proper care)                     | Varies<br>(can be engineered for high durability)       |
| 3      | Environmental Impact     | High<br>(resource-intensive, chemical tanning) | Lower<br>(especially with recycled/renewable materials) |
| 4      | Manufacturing Complexity | Labor-intensive, skilled craftsmanship         | Highly automated, scalable                              |
| 5      | Performance              | Breathable, moldable to foot                   | Lightweight, moisture-wicking, customizable             |
| 6      | Repairability            | High<br>(can be resoled/repaired)              | Often difficult to repair                               |

Current Trends and the Future

Sustainability is now a major trend, with consumers increasingly opting for eco-friendly footwear made from organic cotton, natural rubber, and recycled plastics. Brands are expanding their sustainable product lines to meet this demand. Customization and fashion-forward designs are also driving sales, supported by the influence of social media and rapid changes in fashion trends.



Source: <https://shorturl.at/phrzM>

## Industry Demand and Trends in 2025

### Leather Footwear:

- **Market:** Valued for quality and durability, especially in luxury and formal segments.
- **Challenges:** Rising costs, ethical concerns, and stricter environmental regulations are pushing innovation in sustainable tanning and sourcing.

### Non-Leather Footwear:

- **Market:** Rapid growth due to consumer demand for sustainable, animal-free and affordable footwear.
- **Innovations:** Use of recycled ocean plastics, and other bio-based materials. Brands are integrating smart features like fitness tracking and temperature regulation.
- **Customization:** Digital tools and 3D printing allow for personalized fit and design, catering to individual preferences and reducing returns.

## Key Technological and Policy Developments

- **Automation:** Robotics and AI-driven quality control systems increase efficiency and reduce waste.
- **Sustainability:** Circular economy initiatives—take-back programs, recycling old shoes into new products—are becoming standard among leading brands.
- **Policy:** Government is supporting the industry with incentives for sustainable manufacturing, design innovation and export growth (e.g., India's 2025 Budget initiatives for leather and footwear sectors).



Source:- <https://shorturl.at/Gb7ih>

Footwear has evolved from simple protective coverings to refined, technologically advanced products. In 2025, leather footwear remains synonymous with craftsmanship and durability, but non-leather options are rapidly gaining market share due to their environmental benefits, affordability, and adaptability to modern consumer preferences. The industry is at a crucial point, balancing tradition with innovation to meet the demands of a global, sustainability-conscious market. From primitive plant-fiber coverings to high-tech, sustainable sneakers, footwear has evolved intensely. Leather remains valued for its durability and tradition,



Source:- <https://shorturl.at/aKBfB>

but non-leather alternatives are rapidly gaining ground due to their lower environmental impact and alignment with modern values. The footwear industry continues to innovate, balancing style, function and responsibility to the planet.

The footwear industry in 2025 is shaped by smart technology, AI-driven customization, sustainable innovation and seamless digital commerce. These elements not only redefine how shoes are made and sold but also address global challenges like waste, carbon emissions, and consumer demand for personalized, responsible products



# What's Hot: Global Trends, Cultural Influences & Runway Buzz in Footwear and Fashion

## Footwear Industry Highlights – June 2025



### • Prada's Kolhapuri Sandal Controversy

Prada faced backlash for launching sandals resembling India's Kolhapuri chappals without credit. Following public and political pressure, Prada acknowledged the traditional design's origins and pledged artisan engagement.

### • Paris Fashion Week SS26 – Men's Footwear Trends

Sandals, especially **thong-style and minimalist variants**, dominated the menswear runway, reflecting a move toward breathable, heat-friendly fashion.



### • Summer Sneaker Trends

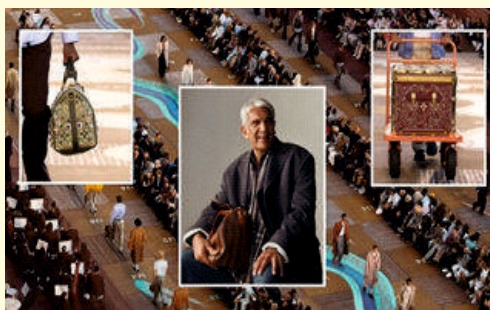
- o Rise of **sleek, retro sneakers** influenced by Y2K and 90s styles.
- o Introduction of “**sneakerinas**” – a hybrid of sneakers and ballet flats.
- o Popular styles featured bold colors, beaded laces, and playful charms.



## Fashion Industry Highlights – June 2025

### • Indian Elements at Louis Vuitton Show

Pharrell Williams presented a collection inspired by Indian culture - featuring cricket jerseys, elephant motifs, and Mumbai-crafted accessories—at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. The event was attended by Beyoncé and Jay-Z.



### • Virgil Abloh's Legacy in Fashion



Coverage across fashion media honored Abloh's influence in bridging streetwear and high fashion, especially his work at Off-White and Louis Vuitton, and his transformation of Nike collaborations into collectible art.

### • Menswear Takeaways from Paris Fashion Week

Designers embraced **relaxed tailoring**, **airy fabrics**, and **gender-fluid styling**. The trend reflects practicality and personal expression amid global climate concerns.



"As June comes to a close,  
let's look forward to  
new opportunities and growth  
in the months to come."

Editorial Team,  
FDDI Chandigarh

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