

NEWSLETTER



**FOOTWEAR DESIGN
& DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE**

An Institution of
National Importance



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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

77th Republic Day celebrated at FDDI

FDDI celebrated the 77th Republic Day on 26th January 2026 across all its campuses with great pride, patriotic fervour, and enthusiastic participation from students and staff.



Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI unfurling the National Flag

At the FDDI-HO & Noida Campus, the National Flag was unfurled by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI, in the presence of the Executive Director Noida Campus, faculty members, employees, and students.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vivek Sharma delivered an inspiring keynote speech highlighting the significance of the Preamble to the Constitution of India and its core values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. He encouraged students to uphold constitutional values in their professional and personal lives, emphasizing that responsible citizenship, integrity, and innovation are essential for nation-building. He also reaffirmed FDDI's commitment to contributing to India's growth through skill development, sustainability, and design excellence.



A view of the launch of FDDI's Quarterly Magazine – "Creative Horizons"

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- Industry Session on Financial Literacy at FDDI Hyderabad;
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- FDDI Hyderabad Conducts Site Assessment for Proposed Non-Leather Footwear Training Centre in Odisha;
- Academic Delegation Visit to FDDI Jodhpur;
- Retail Marketing Concepts Interpreted Through Creative Displays at FDDI, Noida;
- FDDI Jodhpur at Handicraft Expo 2026;
- Students of FDDI, Patna Campus Explore Sustainable Craft Practices at Shilpkala Kendra;
- Exposure Workshop on Skill Education under NEP-2020 by FDDI Fursatganj;
- FDDI and Nav Yuva Foundation Host 'Nav Yuva Chhatra Sansad 2026' at Rohtak Campus;
- FDDI Kolkata participated in the National Fashion Show and won the "Best Inventor Designer Award";
- FDDI Ankleshwar Participates in Bharuch's 1st Biggest Higher Education Fair-2026;
- FDDI Patna Campus Commences Footwear Manufacturing Training for KVIC Artisans;
- FDDI Ankleshwar-KVIC Conclude 25-Day Skill Development Program for Leather Footwear Repair Artisans;

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A special highlight of the celebration at FDDI-HO & Noida Campus was the launch of FDDI's Quarterly Magazine – "Creative Horizons". The magazine was formally unveiled by the Managing Director, the Executive Director Noida in the presence of the dedicated editorial and creative team behind the publication, along with faculty, employees, and students. The launch marked another milestone in showcasing FDDI's academic excellence, industry engagement, research contributions, and creative achievements.



Patriotic musical performance and 'Nukkad Natak' at FDDI, Noida

The celebrations also recognised excellence and effort through a Prize Distribution Ceremony, with awards graciously presented by the Managing Director and Executive Director, encouraging student participation and achievement.



A view of the Prize Distribution Ceremony

At other FDDI campuses, the Executive Directors unfurled the National Flag, followed by cultural programs and patriotic tributes.



Republic Day celebrations at FDDI Patna and FDDI Ankleshwar Campus



A view of the cultural programme at FDDI, Jodhpur

The Republic Day celebrations witnessed an inspiring blend of patriotism and culture, led by enthusiastic students who presented vibrant performances through dance, music, and thoughtful presentations reflecting the spirit of unity in diversity.

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- Research Contribution on Zero-Waste and Low-Waste Pattern Cutting Strategies in Footwear Upper Design by FDDI Fursatganj Faculty;
- FDDI Centre of Excellence Shines as Dr. Koumi Dutta Receives Research Honour;
- Design Patent Granted to FDDI Chennai Faculty for Palm Leaf Utility Pouch;
- FDDI Faculty Research Paper Published in Indexed, Peer-Reviewed, NAAS-Rated Journal;
- Scholarly Contribution in International Publication by Faculty, FDDI Banur Campus;
- Five-Day Management Development Programme at FDDI Rohtak Campus;
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- Creative Expressions in Home Furnishing at FDDI Patna;
- Experiential Learning for FDDI, Ankleshwar students through Exposure Visit at Sujani Arts, Bharuch;
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FDDI and IFCOMA Host India-Vietnam Meeting on Trade and Manufacturing Synergies

On 27th January 2026, FDDI, in collaboration with the Indian Footwear Components Manufacturers Association (IFCOMA), hosted a high-level meeting with a Vietnamese delegation under the theme “Exploring Trade, Manufacturing, and Investment Synergies.” The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the footwear and leather sectors through focused discussions on skill development, quality enhancement, technology exchange, and joint venture opportunities.



Second from Right: Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI presenting memento to Mr. Bui Trung Thong, Trade Counsellor and Head of Trade Office, Embassy of Vietnam

Conducted in hybrid mode from the Conference Hall at FDDI Head Office, Noida, the meeting sought to establish structured institutional and industry-led collaboration between India and Vietnam.

The Vietnamese delegation comprised Mr. Bui Trung Thong, Trade Counsellor and Head of Trade Office, Embassy of Vietnam; Mrs. Tran Thi Lan Huong, First Secretary, Trade Office, Embassy of Vietnam; and Ms. Sonia Das, Advisor, Vietnam Trade Office.

FDDI was represented by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD); Col. Pankaj Kumar Sinha, Secretary; Ms. Manju Maan, Executive Director, Noida Campus; Mr. Manoj

Agarwal, CAO; Ms. Rashmi Asthana, Head – ITC; Ms. Renu Sharma, Head – Academics; Mr. Sharad Srivastava, Joint Director – CoE; and Mr. Prashant Saxena, Head – Business Development.

Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI, and Mr. Sanjay Gupta, President, IFCOMA, formally welcomed the dignitaries and delegates, underscoring the importance of deeper India-Vietnam engagement in the footwear value chain.

Industry partners participating through IFCOMA included Ess Aar Universal Pvt. Ltd., Versatile Enterprises Pvt. Ltd., Shroff Polytech Pvt. Ltd., Shoes & Accessories, and Harman Sales Pvt. Ltd. Representatives shared insights into component manufacturing, material innovation, supply chain integration, and potential avenues for cross-border collaboration.

As part of the visit, the Vietnamese delegation toured FDDI's International Testing Centre (ITC) laboratory. The visit provided firsthand exposure to FDDI's advanced testing infrastructure, research capabilities, and industry support services, reinforcing the institute's role in innovation, quality assurance, and skill development.

During the session, FDDI presented an overview of India's footwear ecosystem, highlighting education, research and development, testing, design capabilities,



Mr. Bui Trung Thong, Trade Counsellor and Head of Trade Office, Embassy of Vietnam highlighting about the promotional support initiatives



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and skill training. IFCOMA followed with a focused perspective on India's footwear components industry, emphasizing manufacturing clusters, export potential, and the expanding depth of the domestic supplier base.



Vietnamese delegation being briefed about the testing facility available at FDDI's – ITC, laboratory

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 –



A view of the participants who attended the India-Vietnam meeting at Noida

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 engagement concluded on a positive note, laying the foundation for structured, long-term cooperation between India and Vietnam in the footwear and leather sectors, driven by innovation, quality, and shared growth objectives.



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FDDI Celebrates Foundation Day 2026 with Flagship Industry Conclave Curtain Raiser for “40 Years of Excellence”

FDDI marked its Foundation Day on 14th January 2026, with a grand Foundation Day & Industry Conclave, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, alumni, academicians, students, and strategic partners from across the footwear, leather, fashion, and allied sectors.

The day marks a significant milestone in FDDI's journey, as it was on this date in 1986 that Mr. Premnath Seth was appointed as the first Chairman of the institute, laying the foundation for its growth and excellence.

This year's celebration carried special significance as it also served as the Curtain Raiser for FDDI's upcoming “40 Years of Excellence.” The milestone sets the stage for year-long commemorative initiatives celebrating four decades of contribution to skill development, design innovation, and industry advancement since the institute's establishment in 1986.



Lighting of the inaugural lamp by the dignitaries

The event reflected on FDDI's transformative journey under the guidance of DPIIT, Government of India, and highlighted its expanding national and global footprint. A major highlight was the unveiling of Vision 2030, outlining FDDI's strategic roadmap focused on innovation-

led education, sustainability, entrepreneurship, industry integration, and global competitiveness.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI, said “As we mark this Foundation Day and unveil the Curtain Raiser for 40 Years of Excellence, FDDI reaffirms its commitment to being future-ready, industry-driven, and globally relevant, while remaining deeply rooted in sustainability and Indian heritage. Continued collaboration with DPIIT and industry will remain central to strengthening skills, innovation, and nation-building.”



Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI felicitating Mr. Rajeev Lakhara, IRS (Retd.), Ex MD - FDDI

The event was attended by eminent dignitaries, industry leaders, and former senior functionaries of FDDI, reflecting strong institutional continuity and industry engagement. Prominent attendees included Mr. Moti Lal Sethi, President – Indian Leather Garments Association (ILGA) and Member, FDDI Governing Council (GC); Mr. Rajeev Lakhara, IRS (Retd.), Ex MD - FDDI; Mr. Ajay Kumar, IRS (Retd.), Ex- MD – FDDI,



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Mrs. Meenakshi Ratnakar, Ex-Employee – FDDI, Mr. Sanjay Kumar, CEO – Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) and Mr. Ajay Gaur, Deputy Director – IFCOMA.



Standing (From Left): Mr. Sanjay Kumar, CEO – LSSC, Mr. Moti Lal Sethi, President – ILGA and Member, FDDI – GC, Col. Pankaj Kumar Sinha, Secretary-FDDI, Mr. Ajay Kumar, IRS (Retd.), Ex- MD – FDDI, Mr. Rajeev Lakhara, IRS (Retd.), Ex MD-FDDI and present MD, FDDI, Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS

Leading industry representatives present at the conclave comprised Mr. Saurabh Bairathi (Bairathi Shoes), Mr. Subhash Jagga (Today Footwear), Dr. Sanchit Sharma (MD, Ayuthveda), Mr. Harish (Campus), Mr. Ashish Nigam (Relaxo Footwears), Mr. C. Govindraj (Bata), Mr. Saurabh Gupta (Lancer Footwear), Mr. Vaibhav Mittal, Managing Director, Lujo Trends Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Sushil Agarwal (Industrial Safety), Mr. Yunus (East West Tanners), Mr. Nirbhay Kapoor (Ninek), Mr. Hari Nigam, Mr. Sudhir Rastogi (Essar), Mr. Vipin Seth (Versatile), Dr. Namila Anand (Liberty), Mr. Nalin Gupta (XO Footwear), Mr. Inder Kaliyar (M & B Footwear), Mr. Nikhil Dixit (Abrres Sports), Mr. Dharmendra Narwala (Gurukripa), Mr. Narendra Malik (RNS Footwear), Mr. Neeraj Shah, and Mr. Siddharth Dubey. Their presence underscored the depth of industry support and the strong collaborative ecosystem associated with FDDI.



Industrialists being felicitated by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI



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The Industry Conclave featured an engaging Talk Show session with FDDI leadership, distinguished alumni, and eminent industry representatives, who deliberated on emerging market trends, evolving skill requirements, design and technology integration, and the growing importance of robust industry-academia collaboration.



A view of the audience

The dialogue reinforced FDDI's role as a critical enabler of talent development and industrial growth. Dr. Sanchit Sharma, Managing Director of Ayouthveda, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour and delivered an inspiring keynote address. His participation in the panel discussion and interaction with students added depth to conversations around innovation, responsible enterprise, and industry-driven learning.



Participants sharing their views during Talk Show session



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An Industry Advisory Roundtable further strengthened strategic engagement with senior leaders from the footwear, leather, and fashion ecosystem. The roundtable provided a focused platform for discussions on workforce development, innovation pathways, and strengthening global competitiveness.



Participants attending the Industry Advisory Roundtable

During this session, FDDI launched its Industry Membership Programme, aimed at institutionalizing structured and long-term engagement with industry partners. The conclave also witnessed the exchange of Memoranda of Understanding to reinforce collaboration in education, research, skilling, and technology transfer.

A notable Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI, and Ms. Ruma Malik, Chairperson, Buying Agents Association (BAA), to collaborate on student development initiatives such as internships and placements, faculty and curriculum support through industry-led workshops and industry-readiness modules, and the organization of joint national seminars and conclaves to further strengthen industry-academia engagement.



Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI felicitating Dr. Sanchit Sharma, Managing Director of Ayouthveda



Exchange of MoU between Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI, and Ms. Ruma Malik, Chairperson, BAA

An MoU was also exchanged with AIMIL Ayouthveda Limited as a Sponsor Partner for the Foundation Day & Industry Conclave at Noida.

Celebrating creativity at the grassroots level, the event also hosted the National Design Competition 2025 Award Ceremony, organized by FDDI in collaboration with CBSE. The competition received more than 1,500 entries from schools across the country and followed a rigorous multi-stage evaluation process. Thirty National Design Winners—15 Offline and 15 Online—were selected across five contemporary themes, including Sustainable Design & Eco-Friendly Innovation, Fashion & Lifestyle Trends, Footwear Design Innovation, Interior & Space Design



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Concepts, and Creative Product & Accessory Design. Winners were felicitated with cash prizes of ₹25,000, ₹15,000, and ₹10,000, along with medals and certificates, recognizing their creativity and design thinking. The initiative reaffirmed FDDI's commitment to nurturing design awareness and skill orientation from the school level, supported by DPIIT and industry partners.



A view of the National Design Competition 2025 Award Ceremony

Adding a vibrant cultural and sustainability-driven dimension to the celebrations, FDDI students presented a fashion showcase themed "Traditional Khadi," celebrating India's handspun and handwoven heritage. The collection seamlessly blended traditional craftsmanship with contemporary aesthetics, underscoring sustainability, indigenous textiles, and the spirit of Vocal for Local. The showcase reflected the institute's design philosophy—where tradition meets innovation and sustainability guides creativity.



Students presenting collection during the fashion showcase



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The students also presented vibrant dance performances, adding energy and cultural richness to the celebration.

The Foundation Day & Industry Conclave 2026 was more than a commemorative event; it was a powerful statement of intent. As FDDI embarks on its journey toward completing four decades of excellence, the institute stands poised with a clear and confident roadmap.



Vibrant dance performances by the students

Anchored in collaboration, innovation, and a strong industry ecosystem, FDDI continues to strengthen its role as a premier national institution dedicated to education, skill development, sustainability, and nation-building, as it moves steadily toward its 40th year and beyond.

FDDI Noida Showcases Creative Excellence at Bharat Parv 2026

FDDI Noida participated in Bharat Parv 2026, the national cultural and tourism festival organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, at the historic Red Fort lawns, New Delhi. On 26th January 2026, the institute showcased the creative excellence of its students through an engaging exhibition highlighting innovative work from its design programs.

During the occasion, Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of integrating traditional craftsmanship with modern design and sustainable practices. He highlighted FDDI's commitment to nurturing future-ready designers and strengthening India's creative economy through innovation, skill development, and industry collaboration.



Students presenting 'Nukkad Natak'



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The display featured fashion garments, woven scarves, and block- and screen-printed textiles by students of the School of Fashion Design, alongside bespoke footwear prototypes, leather garments, bags, and accessories created by the School of Footwear Design & Production. The showcase reflected technical skill, contemporary aesthetics, and strong cultural sensibilities.



FDDI students presenting contemporary collections

Visitors enthusiastically participated in interactive DIY sessions on weaving and block printing, drawing activities, and a quiz competition. Students also presented a lively 'Nukkad Natak' and flash mob, drawing wide appreciation.



Team FDDI at Bharat Parv 2026

A key highlight was the fashion showcase presenting contemporary collections, including woollen wear, khadi-based designs, leather garments, and sustainable footwear made from materials such as jute.



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FDDI's participation reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability, craftsmanship, and nurturing future-ready designers rooted in India's cultural heritage.

FDDI and AIC BIMTECH Engage in Strategic Collaboration During Valedictory Program

On 23rd January 2026, Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI, visited the Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) at Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH), Greater Noida, as the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Ceremony of a one-week Capacity Building Program organized by AIC BIMTECH.



Discussion in progress

The program was organized for a delegation from the Department of Employment and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Royal Government of Bhutan.

Delivering the keynote address, Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI emphasized the critical role of innovation-driven entrepreneurship, structured incubation support, and strong industry-academia collaboration in building sustainable startup ecosystems. He highlighted the importance of capacity building, skill development, and design-led interventions in creating globally competitive and market-ready enterprises.

The engagement focused on fostering institutional and policy-level understanding of innovation ecosystems, incubation models, acceleration frameworks, and startup ecosystem development. Representing FDDI, Mr. Prashant

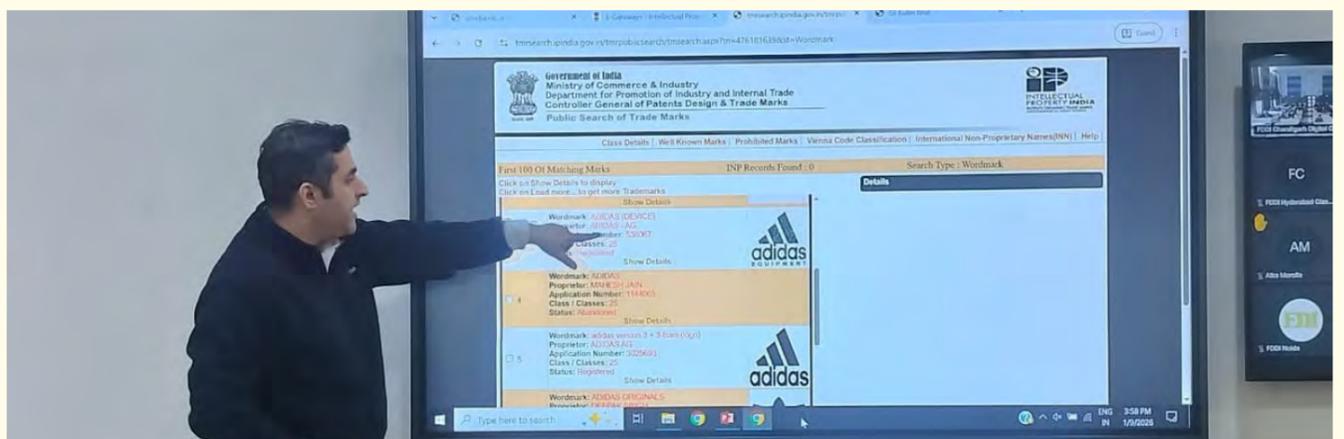
Saxena, Head – Business Development, Head Office, participated in the discussions. From AIC BIMTECH, the interaction was led by Mr. Arvind Vernedranath Shikla, Trustee; Mr. Surya Kant, Chief Executive Officer; Ms. Shalini Singh, Chairperson – CIED; and Ms. Kawarpreet, Project Manager.

During the interaction, potential areas of collaboration were explored in innovation-led entrepreneurship, incubation support systems, and structured industry-academia engagement. Both institutions deliberated on jointly supporting startups, facilitating technology commercialization, and developing scalable, market-ready solutions aligned with national and international priorities.

The visit underscored strong synergy between FDDI's strengths in design, skill development, testing, and industry consultancy, and AIC BIMTECH's incubation and startup enablement capabilities. The engagement marks a forward-looking step toward strengthening innovation-driven growth and entrepreneurial capacity building.

Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights Conducted at FDDI Noida

A comprehensive seminar on Intellectual Property Matters was successfully conducted on 9th January 2026 at the FDDI Noida, with all FDDI campuses digitally connected for participation. The session was delivered by Mr. Tarun Khurana, Partner and IP Attorney, Khurana & Khurana (K&K), a leading Intellectual Property, Tax, and Commercial/Corporate Law practice in India.



Mr. Tarun Khurana illustrating key concepts with practical examples from leading footwear companies



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Khurana & Khurana is a highly reputed firm, recognized by Legal 500, Asia IP, RSG, IAM, Chambers, Managing IP, among others. With 10 offices across India and a team of over 330 professionals, the firm represents clients ranging from start-ups to Fortune 5 corporations. K&K also advises several premier academic and research institutions including IISc, IITs, TIFR, JNCASR, Manipal University, VIT-AP, ICT, DCE, and multiple NITs.



Audience engaging in the interactive session

During the seminar, Mr. Khurana provided an in-depth overview of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), elaborating on the various types of IPRs along with their purpose, benefits, and duration of protection. He introduced the relevant IPR Acts in India and explained the key differences between patents and design registration. The session covered the step-by-step process of filing IPRs, including essential legal requirements, and discussed the strategic choice between provisional and complete specifications. He further highlighted the core patentability criteria—novelty, non-obviousness, and utility—while also addressing non-statutory subject matter under Section 3 of the Indian Patent Act. Emphasis was laid on the importance of quality drafting and effective claim strategy, along with the rights conferred by IPRs and their commercialization potential. To make the session more relatable, he illustrated key concepts with practical examples from leading footwear companies, helping participants understand how intellectual property plays a crucial role in protecting designs, technology, branding, and innovation in the footwear industry.



Participants at Noida and other FDD campuses digitally connected during the session



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The session also highlighted strategic aspects such as patent searches (Patentability, Validity, Freedom-to-Operate), international filing under the PCT route, and common drafting dilemmas in securing optimal protection.

An engaging and interactive Q&A session followed, where participants actively sought clarifications on filing procedures, protection strategies, and commercialization pathways. The seminar significantly enhanced awareness among faculty, researchers, and students about protecting innovations and leveraging intellectual assets effectively.

The session reaffirmed FDDI's commitment to strengthening research, innovation, and IP culture across its campuses.

Entrepreneurial Insights 'From Not-Worthy to Noteworthy' at FDDI Noida

On 21st January 2026, Mr. Shreesh Sharma, Founder & Director of GKW Retail Solutions, interacted with students at the FDDI Noida Campus during the session 'From Not-Worthy to Noteworthy', sharing his inspiring journey from humble beginnings to building one of India's leading retail and visual merchandising solution companies.

Starting his entrepreneurial journey at the age of 19, Mr. Sharma highlighted the importance of persistence, hard work, and seizing opportunities rather than waiting for the "perfect moment." He recalled overcoming early challenges such as limited resources and market skepticism by saying yes to every opportunity, which helped build trust, experience, and long-term client relationships.

He also shared a powerful account of rebuilding his business after a major fire at his manufacturing unit, choosing to invest in advanced machinery and future-ready systems—underscoring the need to adapt and evolve. Emphasizing strong product, material, and technical knowledge, he explained how this expertise became GKW's key competitive advantage.

Today, GKW has partnered with 1,000+ brands across India and international markets, including Shoppers Stop, Asian Paints, ASUS, CERA, and Shantanu & Nikhil. Concluding the session, Mr. Sharma encouraged students to embrace innovation, resilience, and continuous learning as the true drivers of entrepreneurial success.



Mr. Shreesh Sharma, Founder & Director of GKW Retail Solutions

FDDI Observes Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas)

FDDI solemnly observed Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas) on 30th January 2026, paying heartfelt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and all martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation.



Paying heartfelt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and all martyrs at FDDI Noida- HO and Jodhpur Campus



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In accordance with the directives of the Government of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs, a two-minute silence was observed at 11:00 a.m. across all the campuses. During this time, all academic and administrative activities were paused as faculty members, staff, and students stood together in silent tribute, reflecting on the ideals of truth, non-violence, and selfless service upheld by the Father of the Nation.



FDDI, Ankleshwar and FDDI, Patna Campus paying heartfelt tribute during the Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas)

The observance served as a moment of collective reflection and reaffirmed FDDI's deep respect for national values. It also highlighted the Institute's continued commitment to nurturing civic responsibility, constitutional awareness, and a spirit of unity, peace, and patriotism.

FDDI Ankleshwar and JCI Ankleshwar Organise Stress Management Lecture

FDDI, Ankleshwar, in collaboration with JCI Ankleshwar, successfully organised a Stress Management Lecture on 30th January 2026.

The session aimed to promote awareness of mental well-being, stress management, and emotional balance among students and young professionals. Addressing the challenges of today's fast-paced environment, the lecture offered practical insights through interactive discussions.

The programme was curated and supported by JCI Ankleshwar under the leadership of JC Chirag Dhameliya, Project Chairman, with guidance from JC Bhavin Hirani, President, JCI Ankleshwar, and coordination by JC Pankaj Sutariya, Project Co-ordinator.

The lecture received an encouraging response from students and faculty, reflecting the shared commitment of FDDI Ankleshwar and JCI Ankleshwar towards holistic development, leadership building, and mental wellness.



Students gaining practical insights during interactive discussions

FDDI Ankleshwar Students Visit Platinum Tannery for Industrial Exposure



On 29th January 2026, the students of FDDI, Ankleshwar, accompanied by faculty members, visited Platinum Tannery, Ankleshwar as part of an industrial exposure and experiential learning initiative.

During the visit, students received detailed insights into leather processing, tanning techniques, quality control measures, and sustainable practices adopted by the tannery. Industry experts interacted with the students, offering practical perspectives on manufacturing processes and prevailing industry standards.

Students accompanied by faculty members at Platinum Tannery



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Guided by faculty members, the visit effectively bridged theoretical learning with industrial application. The programme concluded with an interactive session, enhancing students' understanding of professional practices and strengthening their readiness for careers in the leather and footwear industry.

FDDI Jodhpur Supports Traffic Awareness Drive through Street Play

On 28th January 2026, FDDI Jodhpur, in collaboration with the Jodhpur Police Commissionerate (Traffic Wing), supported the organisation of a traffic awareness street play (Nukkad Natak) at prominent locations including Aakhaliya Circle and Shastri Circle, Jodhpur.

The awareness programme aimed to educate the general public and vehicle users on the importance of adhering to traffic rules and road safety norms, particularly in view of the increasing number of road accidents. Through impactful performances, the street play highlighted the consequences of traffic violations and promoted responsible driving behaviour among citizens.

FDDI Jodhpur's active participation in this initiative reflects the Institute's strong commitment to social responsibility, public safety, and community engagement.



A view of the Nukkad Natak

Visit of District Magistrate to FDDI Jodhpur



Institute officials briefing the dignitaries on academics, infrastructure, and ongoing initiatives

Mr. Gaurav Agrawal, District Magistrate, Jodhpur, along with his spouse Dr. Priti Airun, visited FDDI Jodhpur on 28th January 2026. During the visit, the dignitaries interacted with institute officials and were briefed on the academic ecosystem, infrastructure, and ongoing initiatives.

The visit enabled meaningful discussions on education, creativity, and institutional growth, and underscored FDDI Jodhpur's commitment to skill development, design excellence, and industry-oriented education.

Expert Talk by FDDI, Banur Faculty on “Challenges in Sustainable Fabric Development” at CGC University, Mohali

Dr. Agya Preet, Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI, Banur Campus delivered an exclusive expert talk on “Challenges in Sustainable Fabric Development,” at CGC University, Mohali on 22nd January 2026 offering students valuable insights into the evolving landscape of sustainable textiles. The session fostered a meaningful exchange of ideas, with focused discussions on critical challenges such as responsible material sourcing, technological limitations, scalability concerns, and the pivotal role designers play in driving environmentally conscious innovation.

The session was marked by enthusiastic participation, with students demonstrating curiosity, active engagement, and posing thoughtful questions



Dr. Agya Preet, Faculty, FD delivering the expert talk



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that enriched the overall dialogue. It was truly encouraging to witness the passion and commitment of future professionals who are eager to contribute to a more sustainable, responsible, and forward-thinking fashion ecosystem.

Government Polytechnic Bharuch Students Visit FDDI Ankleshwar

On 23rd January 2026, the students of Government Polytechnic, Bharuch undertook an exploratory educational visit to the FDDI, Ankleshwar, to gain practical exposure to the footwear, fashion, and design industry.

During the visit, students were introduced to FDDI's academic programmes, state-of-the-art laboratories, workshops, and infrastructure. Faculty members and domain experts interacted with the students, providing insights into footwear design, product development, manufacturing processes, and emerging industry trends.

The visit offered valuable understanding of career opportunities, skill development pathways, and industry-oriented education, effectively bridging academic learning with practical application. The interactive sessions generated keen interest and were well appreciated by the visiting students.



Students of Government Polytechnic, Bharuch

Industry Session on Financial Literacy at FDDI Hyderabad



Mr. Kishor Gubburi, sharing valuable insights on Financial Literacy

On 23rd January 2026, the School of Retail & Fashion Merchandise, FDDI Hyderabad Campus, successfully conducted an industry session on financial literacy titled "Financial Literacy for Young Investors."

The session was delivered by industry expert Mr. Kishor Gubburi, who shared valuable insights through a simple, practical, and engaging approach. His interactive and light-hearted presentation helped students clearly understand the importance of financial literacy and investment awareness, making the session highly relevant and impactful for young investors.

Academic Visit of Dr. D. Y. Patil School of Design, Pune at FDDI Jodhpur

On 21st January 2026, FDDI Jodhpur hosted students and faculty members of Dr. D. Y. Patil School of Design for an academic visit aimed at strengthening inter-institutional collaboration in design education. The visiting delegation included Mr. Avinash Bhise, HoD – Interior Design, and Mr. Rikhil Nagpal, HoD – Fashion Design.

The visit facilitated meaningful interactions, knowledge exchange, and discussions on best practices in design pedagogy and industry-oriented learning. Deliberations were also held on exploring MoU opportunities and enhancing academic collaboration to promote innovation, skill development, and future-ready design education.



Students and faculty members of Dr. D. Y. Patil School of Design at FDDI, Jodhpur



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FDDI Hyderabad Conducts Site Assessment for Proposed Non-Leather Footwear Training Centre in Odisha

At the request of the Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA), a team from FDDI Hyderabad Campus conducted a site visit and infrastructure assessment on 20th January 2026 at Dhenkanal District, Odisha, for the proposed establishment of a Non-Leather Footwear Training Centre.

The assessment evaluated land and building infrastructure for implementing NSQF-aligned, industry-oriented skill development programmes in the non-leather footwear sector. Based on the inspection, the facility was found to be “Conditionally Suitable,” with strong potential to support skill development, workforce readiness, and employment generation in Odisha’s footwear industry.



A view of the joint site visit by FDDI Hyderabad and OSDA officials

Academic Delegation Visit to FDDI Jodhpur



Delegation being briefed by FDDI officials

On 20th January 2026, a delegation consisting of Dr. Manju Hundekar, Director – Development Cell, and Dr. Garima Bhalla, Principal, School of Fashion Technology, Maharishi Karve Stree Shikshan Samstha’s, Pune, along with Mr. Raviveer Choudhary, DC – Handicraft, Jodhpur visited FDDI Jodhpur.

Discussions with the Executive Director focused on future collaborations, academic engagement, skill development, and strengthening industry–institution linkages in fashion, design, and handicrafts.

The delegation visited the campus during which they were briefed about the infrastructure and facilities available in the campus.

Retail Marketing Concepts Interpreted Through Creative Displays at FDDI, Noida

On 16th January 2026, FDDI, Noida Campus came alive with creativity as students of the School of Retail and Fashion Merchandise showcased vibrant pin-board displays as part of a retail marketing activity. Using fabrics, cut-outs, photographs, and engaging 3D elements, the students visually narrated brand stories, identities, and global presence with remarkable imagination.



A view of the displays



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The displays reflected diverse brand inspirations. The Animal Nature theme featured brands such as Puma, Lacoste, Dove, Jaguar, Fendi, and H&M, using animal motifs and greenery to highlight nature's influence on brand identity. Real Fashion Makhani spotlighted Amul's iconic Amul Girl, presented in playful yellow hues symbolizing trust, familiarity, and everyday relevance. Built on Names celebrated founder-led brands including Disney, Baskin Robbins, Vimal, and MDH, emphasizing the legacy behind iconic names, while World of Flex creatively connected international brands through pins and strings to illustrate their global expansion strategies.

FDDI Jodhpur at Handicraft Expo 2026

FDDI Jodhpur marked its presence at Handicraft Expo 2026, held at the Trade Facility Center, Jodhpur, through a dedicated stall showcasing its academic programmes, creative initiatives, and industry-oriented approach, attracting keen interest from exhibitors, buyers, and visitors which was held from 15th - 19th January 2026.



Information about the professional programmes of FDDI being provided to aspiring students



Students presenting their collection

The campus further added vibrancy to the Expo with a fashion showcase organised by EPCH on 18th January 2026, featuring innovative student creations inspired by India's rich handicraft heritage. Blending traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design, the showcase highlighted FDDI's commitment to design excellence and industry relevance, as young designers confidently connected tradition with trend on a prestigious platform.

Students of FDDI, Patna Campus Explore Sustainable Craft Practices at Shilpkala Kendra

On 19th January 2026, students of FDDI visited the craft cluster Shilpkala Kendra, Bhagwanpur (Bihar), owned by Mr. Nagmani Roy, to gain



Students along with the faculty at Shilpkala Kendra



Products made by the artisans

first-hand exposure to the "Waste-to-Wealth" model and design development practices in the Water Hyacinth (Jal Kumbhi) craft sector.

The educational visit was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Renu Sharma, Ms. Anisha Modi, and Mr.



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Praween Khalkho, who facilitated interactive learning sessions with the artisans. Students observed the complete process of transforming water hyacinth—from cleaning and drying to its conversion into a strong natural fibre—used in creating contemporary products such as bags, mats, and baskets.

The cluster stands as a notable example of sustainable design, environmental responsibility, and women empowerment, showcasing how eco-friendly practices can address environmental challenges while generating livelihood opportunities. The visit significantly enriched students' understanding of sustainable craft development and reinforced FDDI's commitment to responsible and innovative design education.

Exposure Workshop on Skill Education under NEP-2020 by FDDI Fursatganj

FDDI Fursatganj, in collaboration with the District School Inspector, Pratapgarh organized an Exposure Workshop for principals of government, government-aided, and self-financed secondary schools of Pratapgarh district at the DIOS Office, Pratapgarh on 16th January 2026. Earlier, a similar workshop was organized in collaboration with the District School Inspector, Sultanpur district on 30th December 2025 at Government Inter College, Sultanpur.

The programme was conducted in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, focusing on strengthening awareness of skill education at the school level.



Participant attending the workshop at Pratapgarh and Sultanpur

Dr. Manoj Tiwari, Principal, Government Inter College, Sultanpur, attended the programme as the Special Guest. Addressing the participants, Mr. Sunil Dwivedi, Executive Director, FDDI, emphasized that NEP-2020 places vocational education as a key pillar of school and higher education, with mandatory skill exposure from Class VI onwards. He highlighted the importance of collaboration between schools and nearby skill-oriented institutions to prepare students for emerging career opportunities.

During the workshops, principals were introduced to innovative practices and technologies in the footwear and fashion sectors, enabling them to guide students towards diverse career pathways in vocational education and service employment.

FDDI and Nav Yuva Foundation Host 'Nav Yuva Chhatra Sansad 2026' at Rohtak Campus

FDDI Rohtak, in collaboration with Nav Yuva Foundation, organised the Nav Yuva Chhatra Sansad 2026 on 12th January at the FDDI Rohtak campus. The district-level student parliament was inaugurated by Arjuna Awardee and former Indian Kabaddi Team Captain Shri Deepak Hooda, with the objective of promoting democratic values, leadership, and national awareness among youth.



Participants sharing their views during Nav Yuva Chhatra Sansad 2026



A view of the FDDI students led a 100-foot-long Tiranga March

Around 150 students from various institutions participated in

the Nav Yuva Chhatra Sansad 2026.



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parliamentary proceedings, while FDDI students led a 100-foot-long Tiranga March, adding a strong patriotic spirit to the event. Shri Deepak Hooda emphasized the vision of Nasha-Mukt Haryana and inspired students to become agents of positive change.

नव युवा छात्र संसद में हुआ नशे के विरुद्ध प्रस्ताव पास

एफडीडीआई रोहतक में नव युवा छात्र संसद का समापन । मिशन नशा मुक्त हरियाणा हो हमारा संकल्प - कार्यकारी निदेशक

सोमवार को रोहतक के आईएमटी स्थित फुटवियर डिजाइन एंड डेवलपमेंट (एफडीडीआई) में नव युवा फाउंडेशन द्वारा नव युवा छात्र संसद का आयोजन कराया गया। इस संसद का विषय रहा छा सुरों में जहर : यह सदन मानता है कि लोकप्रिय संगीत नशे को बढ़ावा देकर उसे युवाओं में स्वीकार्य बना रहा है। इस दौरान जिलाभर के शैक्षणिक संस्थानों से तकरीबन 150 युवाओं ने इस संसद में प्रतिभाग किया। प्रतिभागियों को सभापति, उप सभापति, प्रधानमंत्री, नेता प्रतिपक्ष, संसदीय कार्यमंत्री समेत तमाम संसदीय पोटफोलियो स्क्रीनिंग के माध्यम से चूने गए। एफडीडीआई रोहतक की कार्यकारी निदेशक श्रीमती सरिता दुहन ने इस अवसर पर अपने प्रेरक संदेश में कहा, "नशा ही युवा

जीवन का सबसे बड़ा शत्रु है। एफडीडीआई रोहतक अपने छात्रों को न केवल डिजाइन और उद्योगिता के कौशल से सशक्त बनाता है, बल्कि उन्हें सामाजिक जिम्मेदारों का भी बोध कराता है। फुटवियर और टेक्सटाइल क्षेत्र में सरकारी नीतियों जैसे पीएलआई योजना और गुणवत्ता मानक युवाओं के लिए रोजगार और निर्यात अवसरों के द्वार खोल रहे हैं, जिनका लाभ उठाने के लिए कौशल विकास अनिवार्य है।" नव युवा फाउंडेशन के निदेशक प्रवीण कुमार ने बताया कि कार्यक्रम के उद्घाटन समारोह की अध्यक्षता भारतीय कबड्डी टीम के पूर्व कप्तान एवं अर्जुन अबाड़ी दीपक निवास हुडा ने की, उन्होंने राष्ट्रीय युवा दिवस के मौके पर आयोजित तिरंगा यात्रा को प्रांगण से हरी झंडी दिखाकर रवाना किया और छात्र संसद के प्रथम सत्र को

सम्बोधित किया। सदन में बहस की शुरुआत प्रश्न काल से हुई जहाँ सदन में सार्वभौमिक द्वारा निम्न प्रश्न उठाये गए : क्या संघीय में नशे को सफलता, ताकत और मर्दानगी से जोड़ना युवाओं को गलत रास्ता मोड़ता है? क्या सोशल मीडिया और रील-संस्कृति ने नशे से जुड़े गीतों के प्रभाव को कई गुना बढ़ा दिया है? क्या बार-बार सुनने से नशे को गंधीरता के प्रति संवेदनहीनता (सिरोलिड 2393 ड्रग्स) बढ़ती है? जब लोकप्रिय संगीत नशे को सामान्य बनाता है, तो क्या फैशन, डिजाइन और क्रिएटिव स्किल्स जैसे क्षेत्र युवाओं के लिए एक सकारात्मक वैकल्पिक पहचान बना सकते हैं? क्या FDDI जैसे संस्थान जो कौशल, रचनात्मकता और इंटरनेट-



एक्सपोजर देते हैं, युवाओं लिए भैरव्युक्त आउटलेट बन सकते हैं? क्या युवाओं में नशे को प्रवृत्त के लिए संगीत को दोषी ठहराना एक सरलतुक्त दृष्टिकोण नहीं है? क्या परिवार, शिक्षा, बेरोजगारी और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य जैसे कारक संगीत से अधिक प्रभावशाली नहीं कर सकते हैं? क्या युवाओं में नशे को प्रवृत्त के लिए संगीत को दोषी ठहराना एक सरलतुक्त दृष्टिकोण नहीं है? क्या परिवार, शिक्षा, बेरोजगारी और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य जैसे कारक संगीत से अधिक प्रभावशाली नहीं

हैं? क्या कलाकारों को अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर सामाजिक नैतिकता थोपना उचित है? क्या बेरोजगारी, मानसिक तनाव और सामाजिक असुरक्षा नशे के प्रमुख कारण नहीं हैं? क्या लोकप्रिय संगीत को टोप देना नीति-निर्माताओं को विफलताओं से ध्यान हटाने का तरीका नहीं है? क्या युवाओं को यह मिथ्याता ज्वलत जरूरी नहीं कि वे कंटेंट को कैसे समझें, बजाय इसके कि वे क्या देखें या सुनें? प्रश्नकाल के दौरान संसदों में तीखी बहस हुई जिसके चलते सदन को एक बार स्थगित भी करना पड़ा, इस दौरान विपक्ष के संसद कैल में अकर नारेबाजी करने लगे और सरकार से जवाब मांगने लगे। इस दौरान सदन में विशेष व्याख्यान के तहत रोहतक पुलिस के एसआई

सोहन ने टीम के साथ अकर युवाओं में बढ़ते नशे के रोकथाम सम्बन्धी कटप समझाए जिसे सदन ने अपना सम्पूर्ण समर्थन दिया। प्रश्न काल के तुरंत बाद शुभ्य काल आरम्भ हुआ जिसमें सदन के सदस्य डॉ. पांडे द्वारा फुटवियर और टेक्सटाइल क्षेत्र में सरकारी नीतियों के विषय को उठाया गया जिसके बाद सदन में विकसित भारत में कौशल विकास और एफडीडीआई जैसे संस्थानों के योगदान पर चर्चा हुई। संसद के समापन के दौरान सकारितिक लीर पर कार्यकारी निदेशक जे.के.के. सरिता दुहन ने सदैव की कृष्णी संधाली। उनके सामने सदन के फटल पर छात्र संसद के सार्वभौमिक द्वारा मिशन नशा मुक्त हरियाणा के तहत प्रस्ताव लाया गया जो देश व प्रदेश के युवाओं को नशे के विरुद्ध जागरूक करेगा, जिसे धार्चिनिमत के माध्यम से पूर्ण बहुमत द्वारा पारित कर दिया गया।

निम्न अवार्ड दिए गए: बेस्ट डेलिगेट: नरेंद्र मोदी (मंडीप) बेस्ट रीसर्च: राजेश चंद्रशेखर (हर्ष पाण्डेय) बेस्ट मिनिस्त्री: कल्पना राजावत (सहाक) बेस्ट मेंबर (सत्ता-पक्ष): चिराग पासवान (अमित) बेस्ट मेंबर (विपक्ष): मालिकाजुन खन्ने (रूपेश) बेस्ट पॉलिटिकल रैप्लिका: अनुपम ठाकुर (जयंती) इस अवसर पर KVIC के निदेशक जितेंद्र हुल, नव युवा फाउंडेशन से सुमित कुमार, प्रवीण कुमार, कोवि, पुनीत, ममता, सौदा, मोहिनी, कृतिका, हर्ष, दिव्या व FDDI संकाय सदस्य संदीप कुमार, सचिन देसवाल, रामकेश, मनोज, डा. अशुन, प्रांति देवी मौजूद रहे।

Media coverage

The programme included discussions on social issues such as drug abuse, mental health, social media, and unemployment. Executive Director Ms. Sarita Duhan guided students on discipline, dedication, and integrity. The event concluded by reinforcing the role of youth empowerment and moral responsibility in nation-building.

FDDI Kolkata participated in the National Fashion Show and won the "Best Inventor Designer Award"

FDDI Kolkata Campus participated in the National Fashion Show – Season 6 on 10th January 2026 at The Spring Club, Kolkata, organized by Magadh Production in association with Sakman Bhagya Foundation and won the "Best Inventor Designer Award".

Coordinated by the Fashion Design faculty, the participation aimed to provide students with hands-on professional exposure aligned with their curriculum.

The collection, themed "Bengal Textile and Cultural Heritage," highlighted Bengal's traditional textiles, draping styles, and cultural identity. Students from the Foundation and Fashion Design Departments actively contributed as designers and anchor, ensuring inclusive experiential learning. The event was attended by the Executive Director and industry dignitaries.



Models showcasing the Bengal Textile and Cultural Heritage and craft items



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The exposure enabled students to gain practical insights into backstage management, professional styling, garment presentation, and live event execution, further strengthening their readiness for the fashion industry.



The jubilant FDDI Team

कोलकाता में फैशन शो में दिव्यांग बच्चों सहित 70 से अधिक महिलाओं ने रैंप पर किया कैटवाक

एक दर्जन महिलाओं को नारी सम्मान पुरस्कार से किया गया सम्मानित

कोलकाता, समाज्ञा : भारतीय सेना की वीरता व महिलाओं के सम्मान में सकमन भाग्य फाउंडेशन और मगध प्रोडक्शन की ओर से शनिवार को कोलकाता में नारी मिशन शक्ति पर केंद्रित फैशन शो व नारी सम्मान समारोह आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें दिव्यांग बच्चों के साथ 70 से अधिक महिलाओं ने रैंप पर कैटवाक कर अपना जलवा बिखेरा। स्प्रिंग क्लब में आयोजित इस भव्य रंगारंग समारोह में करीब एक दर्जन महिलाओं को नारी सम्मान पुरस्कार से भी सम्मानित किया गया। कार्यक्रम में भारतीय सेना सहित विभिन्न विभागों के कई वरिष्ठ अधिकारी उपस्थित थे।



कार्यक्रम के आयोजक व सकमन भाग्य फाउंडेशन के डायरेक्टर आशुतोष कुमार ने बताया कि प्रतिष्ठित हस्तियों की मौजूदगी में फैशन शो में बंगाल सहित विभिन्न राज्यों से आई युवा महिला प्रतिभागियों ने रैंप पर कैटवाक किया। समारोह में विशेष तौर पर आमंत्रित केरल से आए 40 से अधिक दिव्यांग बच्चे भी कार्यक्रम के गवाह

बने और फैशन शो में अपनी प्रतिभा का प्रदर्शन किया, जिसको सभी ने सराहा। उन्होंने बताया कि नेशनल फैशन शो का यह छठा संस्करण था। कोलकाता में यह लगातार दूसरे साल हुआ है। इससे पहले चार बार दिल्ली में यह फैशन शो आयोजित हुआ था। कार्यक्रम के आयोजन में कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड, निफ्ट, एफडीडीआई व अन्य संस्थानों का सहयोग रहा।

Media coverage

FDDI Ankleshwar Participates in Bharuch's 1st Biggest Higher Education Fair-2026

FDDI, Ankleshwar actively participated in Bharuch's 1st Biggest Higher Education Fair-2026, hosted by Amicus International School, Bharuch, on 10th January 2026. The fair brought together over 31 reputed institutions from across India, providing students with a comprehensive platform to explore higher education opportunities.

Through interactive sessions, FDDI Ankleshwar guided students and parents on academic programmes, admission processes, and career prospects in footwear, leather goods, fashion, and allied industries. The participation reinforced FDDI's commitment to outreach, career awareness, and promoting industry-relevant, skill-based education.



A view of the stall of FDDI



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FDDI Patna Campus Commences Footwear Manufacturing Training for KVIC Artisans

FDDI Patna Campus commenced a Footwear Manufacturing Training Programme for 30 artisans under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on 7th January 2026. The programme aims to enhance the technical skills and production capabilities of artisans engaged in the footwear sector.

The training provides hands-on exposure to key aspects of footwear manufacturing, including material selection, cutting, stitching, lasting, finishing, and quality control, in line with current industry standards. By integrating traditional craftsmanship with modern manufacturing techniques, the initiative seeks to improve artisans' employability and entrepreneurial prospects.

Through this programme, FDDI Patna Campus reinforces its commitment to skill development, artisan empowerment, and industry-oriented education, while supporting KVIC's objective of promoting sustainable livelihoods and strengthening the footwear manufacturing ecosystem.



Participants attending the training programme

FDDI Ankleshwar-KVIC Conclude 25-Day Skill Development Program for Leather Footwear Repair Artisans

FDDI, Ankleshwar, in collaboration with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), successfully concluded a 25-day skill development training programme in leather footwear repair for 30 local artisans, aimed at enhancing employability, technical proficiency, and self-reliance.



A view of certificate and machine distribution ceremony

The programme culminated in a Certificate and Machine Distribution Ceremony held on 2nd January 2026. The event was graced by Mr. Jay Teraiya, President, BJP Ankleshwar Notified Area, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC), as Chief Guest; Mr. Manish Tandel, General Secretary, BJP Ankleshwar Notified Area, GIDC, as Guest of Honour; and Mr. Lalit Prakash Jangra, Executive Director, FDDI.

Certificates and essential machinery were distributed to all participants to support sustainable self-employment and improved livelihoods. The dignitaries

appreciated the FDDI-KVIC collaboration for empowering grassroots artisans through structured skill development, reinforcing FDDI Ankleshwar's commitment to community development, vocational empowerment, and inclusive growth.



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Outreach and Career Awareness by FDDI Patna at Saras Mela

FDDI Patna Campus actively participated in Saras Mela, Patna, by setting up an information and interaction stall from 13th December 2025 to 4th January 2026. The initiative provided an effective platform for outreach and direct engagement with students, parents, and aspiring professionals interested in design education.

Faculty and representatives interacted with visitors, sharing insights on academic programmes, admission processes, career opportunities, and campus facilities. The stall received enthusiastic response from school students and parents seeking guidance in fashion, footwear, leather goods, and allied design disciplines.

Through one-to-one counselling, brochures, and informative interactions, visitors gained a clear understanding of FDDI's industry-oriented curriculum, skill-based training, and placement support. The participation strengthened FDDI Patna Campus's community connect and reaffirmed its commitment to career awareness, skill development, and quality design education.



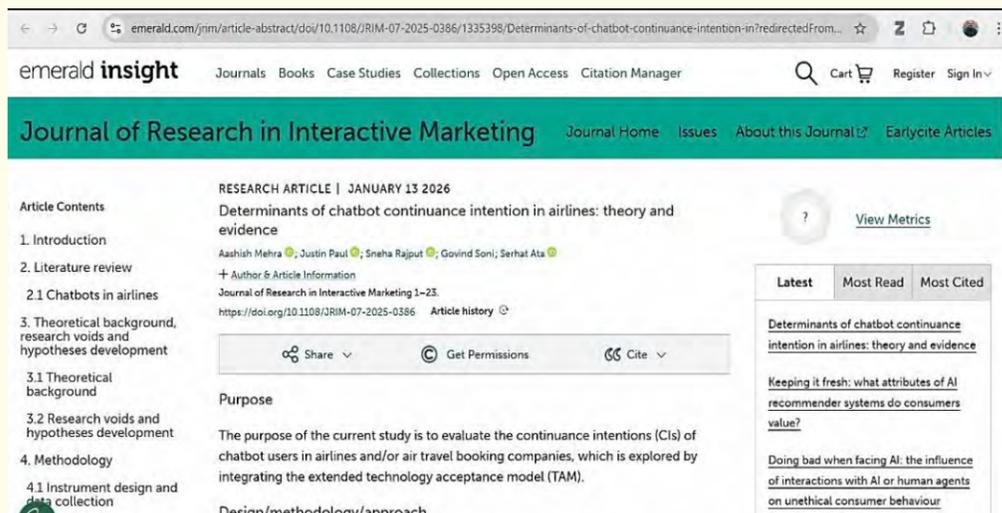
A view of the stall of FDDI, Patna

FDDI Chhindwara Faculty Publishes SCOPUS & Web of Science-Indexed Research Paper

Dr. Govind Soni, Sr. Faculty- RFM, FDDI- Chhindwara has achieved a significant academic milestone with the publication of a research paper titled "Determinants of Chatbot Continuance Intention in Airlines: Theory & Evidence" in the Journal of Research in Interactive Marketing (ISBN: 2040-7130). Published by Emerald Insight in January 2026, the journal is indexed in ABDC (Category B), Scopus (Q1), SSCI, and Web of Science (WoS), with an impressive CiteScore of 21.6, Impact Factor of 11.6, and H-index of 69 (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1108/JRIM-07-2025-0386>).



Dr. Govind Soni, Sr. Faculty- RFM, FDDI- Chhindwara



Research Paper Title: "Determinants of Chatbot Continuance Intention In Airlines: Theory & Evidence"

The study was co-authored by Dr. Aashish Mehra, Prof. Justin Paul, Dr. Sneha Rajput, and Mr. Serhat Ata. It examines the continuance intentions (CI) of chatbot users in airlines and air travel booking companies by integrating the extended Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). Empirical analysis was conducted on data collected from 467 airline travelers, using AMOS for structural equation modeling.

The study was co-authored by Dr. Aashish Mehra, Prof. Justin Paul, Dr. Sneha Rajput, and Mr. Serhat Ata. It examines the continuance intentions (CI) of chatbot users in airlines and air travel booking companies by integrating the extended Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). Empirical analysis was conducted on data collected from 467 airline travelers, using AMOS for structural equation modeling.

The research investigates six trust-related constructs (TRU) influencing customer experience (CEXP), which in turn drives users' continuance intention to use airline chatbots. Additionally, the relationship between customer experience and continuance intention is mediated by Need for Interaction (NFI) and Anthropomorphism (ANTH), offering nuanced insights into consumer-technology interactions.



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FDDI Chennai Faculty Research Published in USA-Based International Journal

A research paper titled, 'Traditional Bamboo Mat Weaving of North Godavari: Cultural Documentation and the Role of Media Promotion' authored by Dr. Rambabu Muppidi, Senior Faculty-II, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Chennai Campus, along with Dr. Yogesh Babu,

former Assistant Professor, Nagarjuna University, has been published in the USA-based international journal Current Trends in Fashion Technology & Textile Engineering (CTFTTE) (ISSN: 2577-2929), California, in January 2026.



Dr. Rambabu Muppidi,
Sr. Faculty -II, FD, Chennai Campus



Front page of the publication

The study documents the artisan legacy of the Muppidi family of North Godavari, highlighting the cultural significance of traditional bamboo mat weaving. Rooted in local heritage, sustainable materials, and skilled handcraft techniques, these mats play an important role in both everyday life and ritual practices. The research also underscores the role of media promotion in preserving and revitalizing traditional crafts.

This publication reflects FDDI's continued commitment to research, cultural documentation, and the promotion of India's rich craft traditions on global academic platforms.



Field study



Certificate of Publication

The article is available at <https://juniperpublishers.com/ctfte/CTFTTE.MS.ID.555772.php>
DOI:10.19080/ctfte.2026.09.555772

Research Contribution on Zero-Waste and Low-Waste Pattern Cutting Strategies in Footwear Upper Design by FDDI Fursatganj Faculty

A research article authored by Mr. Abhishek Kumar Saxena, Faculty -FDDI Fursatganj, has been published in January 2026 in the International Journal of Innovative Research in Technology (IJIRT) (Volume 12, Issue 8, ISSN: 2349-6002).



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Titled “Zero-Waste and Low-Waste Pattern Cutting Strategies in Footwear Upper Design,” the paper presents a rigorous technical investigation into waste-minimizing pattern engineering methodologies for footwear upper development. The study addresses material inefficiencies inherent in conventional pattern cutting practices, which often result in excessive offcuts and unused material.



Mr. Abhishek Kumar Saxena, Faculty
–FDDI Fursatganj



Certificate of Publication

Adopting a qualitative, practice-based research approach, the study integrates an extensive literature review with pattern experimentation and prototype development. It evaluates strategies such as integrated component layouts, geometric restructuring of pattern pieces, and optimized marker planning. The findings demonstrate significant improvements in material utilization efficiency while preserving essential design parameters, including ergonomic fit, structural integrity, functional performance, and visual appeal.

The research emphasizes the importance of incorporating sustainability-driven interventions at the design stage and advocates for the integration of zero-waste and low-waste pattern engineering approaches within academic curricula and industrial practices, contributing to responsible and scalable production systems.

FDDI Centre of Excellence Shines as Dr. Koumi Dutta Receives Research Honour

In a distinguished moment of recognition and scholarly achievement, Dr. Koumi Dutta, Associate Project Scientist, Centre of Excellence (CoE), FDDI Jodhpur was honoured with the Research Excellence Award at the prestigious Two-Day International Conference — MMPhysioCon 2026, held on January 23–24, 2026, at Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana–Ambala, Haryana. The University, a premier institution of higher learning, is accredited with NAAC A++ grade.

The award was conferred by the MM Institute of Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation in collaboration with the IQAC and R&D Cell, in recognition of Dr. Dutta's outstanding research contributions at the FDDI, CoE, Jodhpur.

This dual honor, comprising a certificate and medallion, marks a significant milestone in the pursuit of academic and research excellence in healthcare and rehabilitation sciences. It stands as a testament to Dr. Dutta's tireless dedication, pioneering research efforts, and meaningful contributions to the evolving landscape of preventive healthcare interventions. The recognition further reinforces FDDI's commitment to fostering impactful research and interdisciplinary excellence across domains.



Dr. Koumi Dutta
Associate Project Scientist
CoE, FDDI Jodhpur



Award given to Dr. Koumi Dutta



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Design Patent Granted to FDDI Chennai Faculty for Palm Leaf Utility Pouch

Titled “Zero-Waste and Low-Waste Pattern Cutting Strategies in Footwear Upper Design,” the paper presents a rigorous technical investigation into waste-minimizing pattern engineering methodologies for footwear upper development. The study addresses material inefficiencies inherent in conventional pattern cutting practices, which often result in excessive offcuts and unused material.

The design, filed under Application No. 478334-001 and classified in Class 09-05, was registered on 29 October 2025 and officially published on 23 January 2026. The patent details appeared in The Patent Office Journal No. 04/2026, dated 23/01/2026, on Page No. 12334, marking another landmark in Dr. Muppidi's sustained contribution to design innovation and intellectual property creation.

Developed using naturally fallen palm leaves, the Palm Leaf Utility Pouch embodies zero-waste and sustainable design principles. The product completely eliminates plastics and synthetic materials, offering a biodegradable and eco-friendly alternative while seamlessly blending traditional material wisdom with contemporary utility design.



Dr. Rambabu Muppidi,
Sr. Faculty -II, FD, Chennai Campus

FDDI faculty secures 23rd Indian design patent

TFP | CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN 23

Dr. Rambabu Muppidi, senior faculty member at the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI), has achieved a major milestone with the publication and grant of his 23rd Indian Design Patent for a Zero-Waste Palm Leaf Utility Pouch. The design, registered under Application No. 478334-001 (Class 09-05), was officially registered on October 29, 2025, and published by the Indian Patent Office on Janu-

The patented design focuses on sustainability by using naturally fallen palm leaves to create a biodegradable, plastic-free utility product, promoting zero-waste and circular design principles. Dr. Muppidi's work integrates traditional materials with contemporary design, aligning with India's sustainability and responsible consumption goals.

Widely recognised across South India, Dr. Muppidi's innovations bridge indigenous craft knowledge with mod-

Media coverage

The design emphasizes zero-waste material utilization, features eco-friendly and biodegradable construction, follows a circular design with responsible production practices, and actively promotes the use of indigenous and natural materials.

Dr. Muppidi's design innovations have received wide recognition across India, particularly in South India, where palm-based materials hold strong ecological and cultural significance. His work demonstrates how locally sourced, traditional materials can be transformed into globally relevant sustainable products.

This achievement further enhances FDDI's reputation as a leading institution in innovation, research excellence, sustainability-driven education, and intellectual property generation.



Product Design: "Palm Leaf Utility Pouch"



Design Patent Certificate

FDDI Faculty Research Paper Published in Indexed, Peer-Reviewed, NAAS-Rated Journal

A research paper titled “Phuldigitize: Conversion of Traditional 'Phulkari Embroidery' to Digital Form” has been published in the International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development, an indexed and peer-reviewed journal with a NAAS Rating of 5.04.

Authored by Dr. Sarita Devi, Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Rohtak and Dr. Sushila, Faculty, School of Footwear Design and Production (FDP), FDDI Noida, the paper appears in Volume 8, Special Issue-11, November 2025 (pp. 100-104).

The study documents traditional Phulkari motifs and digitizes them using Wilcom E2 embroidery software, demonstrating how digital tools can help



Dr. Sarita Devi



Dr. Sushila



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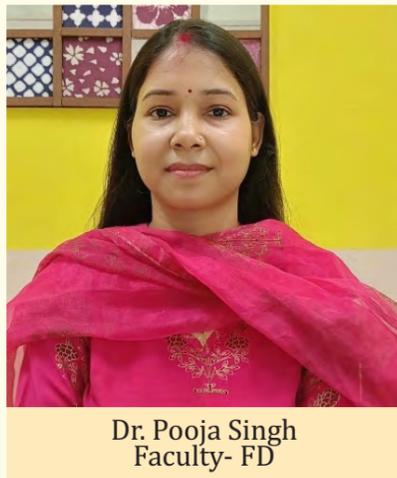
preserve and revive this historic craft. The digitally developed designs were highly appreciated by both consumers and experts.

The published paper is available online at DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2025.v8.i11Sb.2700>.

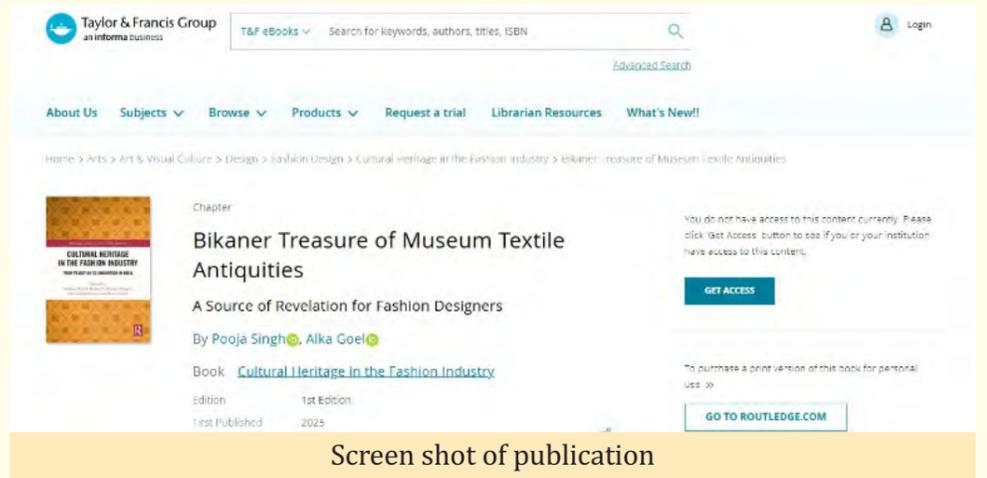
Scholarly Contribution in International Publication by Faculty, FDDI Banur Campus

Dr. Pooja Singh, Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Banur Campus, has published a book chapter titled “Bikaner Treasure of Museum Textile Antiquities” in the book Cultural Heritage in the Fashion Industry, published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.

The chapter highlights the rich textile antiquities of Bikaner and underscores the significance of cultural heritage in contemporary fashion discourse, reflecting FDDI's strong emphasis on research, heritage studies, and academic excellence. It is available at <https://www.amazon.in/Cultural-Heritage-Fashion-Industry-Innovation/dp/1032991569>



Dr. Pooja Singh
Faculty- FD



Screen shot of publication

Five-Day Management Development Programme at FDDI Rohtak Campus

A five-day Management Development Programme (MDP) was successfully conducted at the FDDI Rohtak Campus from 18th to 24th December 2025 for all faculty members, with expert support from MSME, Rohtak. The programme witnessed active participation and enthusiastic engagement from the faculty.

The programme began with an introductory session by Mr. R. K. Singh, Manager (Mechanical), MSME, Rohtak, who introduced the fundamentals of Lean Management and Design & Development. This was followed by a series of in-depth sessions by Mr. Naresh Nirban, Founder & CEO, Om Industrial Consultant, covering key Lean Management practices including product and process design, failure effects, Kaizen, and 5S principles, aimed at improving efficiency, quality, and productivity.



MDP in progress

An intensive hands-on training on NX software was conducted by Mr. Bharat Kumar, Engineer (Training), MSME, Rohtak, providing participants with practical exposure to design and development tools. The programme concluded with an insightful lecture by Mr. Rahul



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Bhatiya, Teaching Assistant, MSME, Rohtak, on the role, applications, benefits, and limitations of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in academics and industry.

Overall, the MDP was highly informative and interactive, significantly enhancing the professional knowledge, technical expertise, and managerial competencies of the faculty members.

FDDI Hyderabad Conducts Machinery Assessment in Andhra Pradesh

FDDI Hyderabad Campus conducted a comprehensive machinery assessment across Leather Parks and Mini Leather Parks established and managed by the Leather Industries Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited (LIDCAP) from 18–29 December 2025.



Machinery assessment at LIDCAP Leather Parks conducted by FDDI Hyderabad faculty

The assessment, carried out by FDDI Hyderabad faculty with support from LIDCAP technical coordinators, focused on machinery condition, utilization, maintenance practices, safety compliance, and training-related operational readiness. The exercise covered facilities in Tirupati, Ananthapuram, Palnadu, Prakasam, Eluru, and Srikakulam districts.

This initiative reflects the continued collaboration between FDDI and LIDCAP to strengthen infrastructure readiness, support skill development, and enhance the leather and footwear ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh.

Creative Expressions in Home Furnishing at FDDI Patna

The Fashion Design Department at FDDI Patna Campus organized a Home Furnishing Display on 14th December 2025, curated by 5th Semester students as part of their academic curriculum.



A view of the display by Fashion Design students at FDDI Patna

The exhibition showcased a diverse range of home décor products, including cushion covers, curtains, bed runners, table linens, wall hangings, and decorative textile accessories.

Each display reflected a unique theme, blending contemporary trends with traditional aesthetics and functional design. Students demonstrated creative use of colors, fabrics, surface embellishment techniques, and sustainable materials. Arranged in simulated interior settings, the displays offered a realistic viewing experience and received appreciation for their originality and professional presentation.



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Experiential Learning for FDDI, Ankleshwar students through Exposure Visit at Sujani Arts, Bharuch

On 13th December 2025, the students of School of Fashion Design (FD) of FDDI, Ankleshwar Campus visited Shree Bharuch District Sujani Production & Sales Co-operative Ltd., Sujani Arts – Reva Centre, Bharuch, accompanied by faculty members.

The visit provided valuable insights into traditional craftsmanship, sustainable practices, and community-led design. Students interacted with skilled artisans and gained practical exposure to embroidery techniques, textile processing, quality standards, and production workflows, effectively linking classroom learning with real-world applications.

The experience highlighted the cultural and social dimensions of fashion, reinforcing FDDI's commitment to holistic and industry-relevant education.



Students acquiring intricacies of Sujani Production

Design Competition on “Local Craft” Theme at FDDI Patna

FDDI Patna organized a Design Competition on the theme “Local Craft” on 08th December 2025 at its campus. The competition was conducted for students of government secondary and senior secondary schools at the block level, with enthusiastic participation from Patna and nearby districts.



Students participating in the competition

The event aimed to nurture creativity, innovation, and design thinking among school students and to encourage their interest in design-oriented and industry-linked education. Participants showcased innovative models and concepts in categories such as Footwear Design, Fashion Products, and Graphic Design, which were evaluated by the jury on the basis of creativity, technical skill, presentation, and innovation.

Under the Local Craft theme, Pushpa Kumari (Urehan Girls Senior Secondary School) secured the First Prize. The Second Prize was jointly awarded to Kumkum Kumari (Senior Secondary School, Naudiha) and Lalti Kumari (Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya), while the Third Prize was jointly won by Srishti Singh and Shivani Kumari (Gyan Jyoti Public School).

Mr. Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director, FDDI Patna, congratulated the winners and highlighted the relevance of FDDI's design and management programmes in the current industry landscape.

Hon'ble District Collector Visits FDDI Ankleshwar Campus

FDDI, Ankleshwar Campus had the honor of hosting the Hon'ble Collector & District Magistrate of Bharuch, Shri Gaurang Makwana, IAS, along with senior district officials on 6th December 2025.

The dignitaries toured the campus facilities and appreciated FDDI's academic excellence, industry-focused training, and contribution to skill development and nation-building.



Dignitaries being briefed about the footwear making process by the technical expert of FDDI



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FDDI Patna MBA (RFM) Students Explore Textile Ecosystem

In the first week of December 2025, students of MBA – Retail & Fashion Merchandising (RFM) from FDDI Patna Campus undertook an industrial visit to Kolkata as part of their academic curriculum. The visit aimed to provide hands-on exposure to key segments of the textile and fashion industry, bridging classroom learning with industry practices.



Students at Jay Shree Textiles



Students at Silk Cluster, Phulia

During the visit, students explored Jay Shree Textiles, a leading textile manufacturing organization, where they gained insights into large-scale textile production, quality control systems, supply chain management, and sustainability initiatives. The interaction offered a practical understanding of how manufacturing units cater to both domestic and international markets.

The students also visited Silk Cluster at Phulia, a renowned handloom hub. Students interacted with artisans and observed traditional silk weaving techniques, gaining insights into cluster-based production, artisan challenges, and opportunities for value addition and retail integration.

A key highlight of the tour was the visit to Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT), Kolkata, where they learned about the institute's role in handloom education, research, and skill development. The visit highlighted the significance of preserving India's handloom heritage while aligning it with contemporary design and market trends.

The industrial visit enriched students' understanding of merchandising, sourcing, production planning, and sustainable business models, preparing them for professional roles in the retail and fashion industry.



Students at IIHT

Young Learners Discover Design Pathways at FDDI Patna

On 3rd December 2025, FDDI Patna Campus hosted students and faculty from Saksham Coaching and Pious School for an exposure visit aimed at introducing young learners to professional design education and career opportunities.



Students and faculty from Saksham Coaching and Pious School at FDDI Patna campus

The visit commenced with an overview of FDDI's academic programmes, infrastructure, and industry linkages. Mr. Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director, FDDI Patna, addressed the students, highlighting the importance of skill-based education and encouraging them to pursue careers that blend creativity with technology.

Students were taken on a guided campus tour of design studios, workshops, and laboratories, where faculty members explained the design and production process and demonstrated modern tools and technologies. An interactive session provided insights into admissions, courses, and career prospects.

The visit was informative and inspiring, reinforcing FDDI Patna's commitment to career guidance and youth empowerment.