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**FOOTWEAR DESIGN
& DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE**

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National Importance



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FDDI Represents Footwear Sector at National Quality Conclave 2026

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



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

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

Shri Jitin Prasada noted that as global opportunities expand, India must decisively transition towards quality-led manufacturing. He emphasised that platforms such as the National Quality Conclave play a crucial role in strengthening India's position as a trusted global manufacturing and export destination.

Secretary, DPIIT, Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, highlighted that strengthening India's industrial ecosystem requires coordinated engagement among government, industry, and institutions, supported by quality-driven policy frameworks. He stressed that sustained quality improvement is essential for meeting global demand, building international trust, and positioning India as a reliable partner in global supply chains.



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Chairperson, Quality Council of India (QCI), Shri Jaxay Shah, underscored that quality must go beyond audits and certifications to become a daily discipline at the shopfloor level. He stated that for Viksit Bharat 2047, quality is not merely a pathway but the destination.



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

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

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



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

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FDDI officials Mr. Prashant Kumar Saxena, Head BD & SD; Mrs. Rashmi Asthana, Head ITC; Mr. Sharad Srivastava, Chief Faculty; and Mr. Dinesh Kumar K., HoD – Footwear Department, participated in the two-day deliberations alongside QCI and industry stakeholders. Their discussions focused on integrating quality pillars into the national roadmap for industry growth, competitiveness, and sustainability.



Team FDDI at the NQC

Through its participation, FDDI reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening quality standards, fostering innovation, and supporting the development of a globally competitive footwear industry in India.

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

FDDI participated in the 39th India International Leather Fair (IILF-2026), which was held between 1st to 3rd February 2026 at Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, Chennai.



Dignitaries at the inauguration session of 39th IILF

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- RBI Officials Conduct Financial Literacy Session at FDDI Jodhpur;
- Masterclass on Synthetic & Vegan Materials at FDDI Noida;
- FDDI Ankleshwar Promotes Safe Digital Practices on Safer Internet Day;
- Leather Grading and Quality Inspection Workshop Conducted by FDDI, Noida at Mochiko Shoes Pvt. Ltd.;
- Dr. Srishti Maurya, FDDI Faculty Joins International Peer Review Panel;
- Rajbhasha and Cyber Security Awareness Session at FDDI Jodhpur;
- Teachers' Meet at FDDI Ankleshwar;
- FDDI Jodhpur Students Visit Amarata Haat;
- Industry Session: "The Visual Edge – Styling for Design Success" at FDDI Chhindwara;
- Educational and Industrial Exposure Visit for FDDI Hyderabad Students;
- Copyright Recognition for Artistic Works;
- "Idea to Impact" Expert Session with AIC, IIT-Delhi;
- Design Patent granted to Faculty of FDDI and others.



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The event brought together prominent stakeholders from the global leather and footwear industry. As a flagship event of India's leather sector, the fair provided a significant platform for presenting innovations, sustainable practices, and emerging trends in leather, footwear, and allied industries.



Dignitaries at the stall of FDDI

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

The fair was inaugurated by Mr. Jawed Ashraf, Chairman – India Trade Promotion Organisation

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

FDDI Pavilion received visits from these distinguished dignitaries, who appreciated the institute's innovative displays.



A view of the display at the stall of FDDI



Stall of FDDI



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Representing the theme “Sustainovation – where sustainability meets innovation,” the FDDI Pavilion at CCF01 Convention Centre showcased eco-friendly product collections and “TechxCraft,” a concept highlighting the future of traditional leather craftsmanship blended with contemporary design innovation.

As one of the premier events in India's leather and footwear industry, IILF provided FDDI with an excellent platform to highlight its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and cutting-edge design education. The fair attracted a wide spectrum of industry stakeholders, including manufacturers, exporters, designers, policymakers, and international participants, creating opportunities for networking, collaboration, and business exchange.



A view of the fashion show

The FDDI stall displayed a diverse range of student-designed products, including footwear, leather goods, garments, and accessories. Many of these designs had previously received recognition at prestigious national competitions, reflecting the creativity, craftsmanship, and design excellence of FDDI students. The exhibits featured high-fashion and innovative designs, with a strong focus on eco-friendly materials and sustainable production processes, aligning with global industry trends.

Visitors were also informed about the services offered by FDDI's International Testing Centres (ITC),

which support the footwear and leather industry through advanced testing and quality assurance. Additionally, information about FDDI's academic programmes was shared with aspiring students.

During the IILF, a technical session titled “From Hide to Heel: Circular Design Strategies and Sustainable Materials in Footwear and Leather Goods” was presented by Dr. Vimudha Muralidharan, Senior Project Engineer and Head, Centre of Excellence, FDDI Chennai. The session highlighted innovative approaches to integrating circular design principles and sustainable materials within the footwear and leather goods industry.

During the IILF, FDDI participated at International Leather Fashion Show at ITC Chennai on 01 February 2026. From bold silhouettes to refined details, the fashion show brought together innovation, tradition, and contemporary design — showcasing how leather continues to evolve on the global stage.

The show highlighted a diverse range of creations across footwear, fashion apparel, leather goods, and lifestyle accessories, demonstrating the institute's strong emphasis on design excellence and industry-oriented training.



FDDI collection presented by models at leather fashion show



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Seva Sankalp Resolution Meeting at FDDI

A Seva Sankalp Resolution Meeting was held on 2 March 2026 at FDDI Head Office and across all campuses, with active participation from officers and employees. The programme began with the formal reading of the Seva Sankalp Resolution in Hindi and English, reaffirming the collective commitment to ethical, accountable, and citizen-centric public service.



A view of the officers and employees of FDDI Head Office and Noida Campus who attended Seva Sankalp Resolution Meeting

Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD) - FDDI, addressed the gathering and emphasised the importance of adopting a citizen-focused approach in day-to-day functioning. He highlighted that FDDI must remain stakeholder-oriented while engaging with students, industry partners, and the Ministry. Referring to the principle of “minimum government, maximum governance,” he noted that institutions should act as facilitators, ensuring seamless processes and reducing procedural delays.



Audience sharing their views



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He further stressed continuous learning, skill enhancement, and the adoption of emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, to improve efficiency and transparency. Urging collective responsibility, he encouraged employees to work with integrity and shared purpose towards the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.



A view of the Seva Sankalp Resolution Meeting at FDDI Fursatganj and Patna Campus

An interactive open-house session followed, where employees shared reflections and suggestions aligned with the resolution. Discussions focused on digital adaptability, accountability, structured task management, time efficiency, and the importance of regular capacity-building initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to transparent, efficient, and citizen-oriented service delivery in line with national governance priorities.

FDDI Hyderabad Marks Academic Milestone with 5th Convocation

FDDI, Hyderabad celebrated its 5th Convocation Ceremony on 21 February 2026 at the campus auditorium, marking an important milestone for the graduating Class of 2025. The ceremony recognized the achievements of students completing programmes in Footwear Design & Production (FDP), Fashion Design (FD), Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD), and Retail and Fashion Merchandise (RFM).



Lighting-up of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries



Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI delivering the 'Keynote Address'



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The event was graced by Mr. G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister for Coal & Mines, Government of India, as the Chief Guest.

The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing knowledge, wisdom, and progress.

The Chief Guest, in his address, highlighted India's growing global leadership in manufacturing, innovation, and skill development, and encouraged graduates to harness technology, sustainability, and design innovation to enhance the country's global competitiveness.



The graduating class recites the Convocation Oath

The ceremony was presided over by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI, who delivered the 'Keynote Address' and congratulated the graduating students. He highlighted FDDI's commitment to nurturing globally competent professionals and encouraged graduates to embrace innovation, sustainability, and design excellence while contributing to the growth of India's footwear, fashion, and retail industries.



A graduating student receiving Degree from Mr. G. Kishan Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister for Coal & Mines, Government of India



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Mr. Tej Lohit Reddy, IAS, Executive Director, FDDI Hyderabad, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the campus's significant growth since its establishment in 2018, including the development of modern laboratories, a Centre of Excellence, and strong industry collaborations.

Students Detail			
Sr. No.	Batch	Session	No. of Students
1	B.DES FDP	2021-2025	16
2	B.DES FD	2021-2025	32
3	B.DES LGAD	2021-2025	9
5	MBA RFM	2023-2025	14
TOTAL			71



The graduating batch along with the dignitaries

Subsequent to the administration of the Convocation Oath, a total of 71 students from the Batch of 2025 received their degrees and diplomas. Gold and silver medals were awarded to meritorious students in recognition of academic excellence.

The ceremony reaffirmed FDDI's continued role in strengthening India's footwear, leather, fashion, and retail ecosystem through skill development, innovation, research, and industry integration, while promoting sustainability and global standards in design and manufacturing.

FDDI-BFDS MoU to Boost Skills and Innovation in Footwear Sector

On 25 February 2026, FDDI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bahadurgarh Footwear Development Services (BFDS) at Bahadurgarh, Haryana. BFDS is a government-supported institution established under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) MSE-CDP scheme to promote the growth of the footwear industry and skill development in India.



A view of the MoU signing ceremony

The MoU was signed by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI, and Mr. Subhash Jagga, Director, BFDS, in the presence of FDDI HQ officials including Mrs. Rashmi Asthana, Head ITC; Mr. Prashant Kumar Saxena, Head BD & SD; and Mr. Siddharth Dubey, Administration BFDS, along with dignitaries and leading footwear manufacturers from the Bahadurgarh cluster.

The partnership establishes a structured industry-academia framework aimed at strengthening the footwear ecosystem through focused skilling, testing, certification, design support, and enterprise development. Key areas of collaboration include NCQF and NCVET-aligned skill



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programmes, on-the-job training and joint placement initiatives, testing support for MSMEs, development of a commercial design and sampling facility, and certification and CE facilitation.

This collaboration is expected to significantly enhance cluster competitiveness and create a scalable model for skill-driven industrial growth, with a capacity expansion roadmap targeting training of up to 15,000 candidates annually.

FDDI Signs MoU with AIC BIMTECH to Boost Startup and Incubation Ecosystem

FDDI has signed a MoU with Atal Incubation Centre – Birla Institute of Management Technology (AIC BIMTECH) on 24 February 2026, to strengthen the incubation and startup ecosystem.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI, and Mr. Surya Kant, CEO, AIC BIMTECH, in the presence of Mr. Manoj Agrawal, CAO – FDDI; Mr. Prashant Kumar Saxena, Head BD & SD – FDDI; and Ms. Kanwalpreet Arora, Program Manager – AIC BIMTECH.



From Left: Ms. Kanwalpreet Arora, Program Manager – AIC BIMTECH, Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI, Mr. Surya Kant, CEO, AIC BIMTECH, Mr. Manoj Agrawal, CAO – FDDI; & Mr. Prashant Kumar Saxena, Head BD & SD – FDDI during the MoU signing ceremony

The collaboration aims to establish a structured incubation and startup support framework through joint programs, mentorship, and capacity-building initiatives. It will also promote innovation, industry linkages, knowledge sharing, and entrepreneurship development across sectors such as footwear, leather, fashion, retail, and allied industries.

Through this partnership, FDDI and AIC BIMTECH will work together to nurture scalable startups, encourage innovation-driven enterprises, and empower future-ready entrepreneurs within the design and manufacturing ecosystem.



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'Aarohan 2026' Ignites the Spirit of Sports at FDDI

FDDI Chhindwara Campus successfully hosted the first-ever National Sports Meet of FDDI, 'Aarohan 2026,' from 24th to 27th February 2026. The inter-campus sporting event brought together enthusiastic participants from all 12 FDDI campuses, celebrating the true spirit of sportsmanship, unity, and determination.

More than just a tournament, 'Aarohan 2026' transformed the Chhindwara campus into a vibrant sporting arena where enthusiasm, teamwork, and healthy competition created an electrifying atmosphere. Officers, students, faculty members, and non-teaching staff actively participated, reflecting the strong sense of inclusivity and camaraderie across the FDDI community.



Logo of 'Aarohan 2026'



Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD – FDDI playing table tennis with a student

A wide range of indoor and outdoor sports competitions were organised, including Volleyball, Cricket, Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess, Carrom adding excitement and energy throughout the four-day event.



A student participating in track event



Badminton competition in progress

The meet commenced on 24th February 2026 with an inspiring inaugural ceremony graced by Col. Pankaj Kumar Sinha, Secretary, FDDI, and Prof. Indra Prasad Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, Raja Shankar Shah University, Chhindwara. The ceremony began with a disciplined and spirited march past by teams representing all campuses, setting an enthusiastic tone for the competitions.



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Athletes then participated in track and field events, including sprint races and shot put, showcasing remarkable talent and determination.



A view of cricket match

The second day witnessed intense and thrilling matches in badminton, cricket, table tennis, chess, and carrom, conducted in a knockout format. Participants from every campus displayed exceptional dedication, skill, and sportsmanship, making the contests engaging for both players and spectators.



A view of volleyball match

The event concluded with a grand finale and prize distribution ceremony graced by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI, who congratulated all participants for their enthusiasm and commendable performances. He also appreciated the efforts of the organising team and encouraged the continuation of such events that foster unity, discipline, and excellence among students. Dr. Meena Rajesh, Vice Chancellor, G H Rasoni University, attended the ceremony as the Chief Guest. FDDI Chennai, Noida and Chhindwara campus secured 1st, 2nd, and 3rd position respectively in medal position.



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True to its name, 'Aarohan 2026' – "Rise of Champions" celebrated not only athletic excellence but also strengthened bonds among FDDI campuses while creating lasting memories for all participants.



A view of the prize distribution ceremony

Dy. Rector, DIT Tanzania visits FDDI

On 25 February 2026, FDDI Noida had the privilege of welcoming Prof. Ezekiel Amri, Deputy Rector of the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Tanzania. Prof. Amri was accompanied by two international students currently pursuing their studies at FDDI, reflecting the growing academic engagement between the two institutions.

During the visit, Prof. Amri toured all four Schools of FDDI to gain insights into the institute's academic framework, advanced laboratories, design studios, and industry-oriented training ecosystem. The interaction provided an excellent opportunity to showcase FDDI's integrated approach to design education, innovation, and skill development.



Discussion in progress

The Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) is one of the premier higher learning institutions in Tanzania. Established in 1957, the institute is fully accredited by the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) to offer technician and engineering programmes leading to the awards of Ordinary Diploma (OD) in Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering (BEng), and Master of Engineering (Meng).



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A formal meeting was also held with Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI, in the presence of Vertical Heads of various departments and Heads of Schools. The discussions focused on strengthening academic cooperation and exploring avenues for long-term institutional collaboration. The visit marks an important step towards expanding international academic partnerships and fostering collaborative growth between the two institutions.



Visit at FDDI, Rohtak campus

As part of the visit, the delegation also toured the FDDI Rohtak Campus, where they held a fruitful interaction with Ms. Sarita Duhan, Executive Director. The Tanzanian delegation visited the Centre of Excellence (CoE) and observed the advanced research and testing facilities available at the centre. They also explored the academic infrastructure, laboratories, and workshop facilities at the campus, gaining a comprehensive understanding of FDDI's training and research ecosystem.

FDDI Ankleshwar Launches 3-Month Artisan Training Program with GRIMCO

On 26 February 2026, FDDI Ankleshwar inaugurated a three-month Artisan Training Program in collaboration with the Gujarat Rural Industries Marketing Corporation (GRIMCO) to strengthen traditional craftsmanship and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural artisans.



A view of the inaugural session

The program was inaugurated by Dr. Anil K. Prajapati, Managing Director, GRIMCO, in the presence of Mr. H. P. Soni, Manager (Leather), GRIMCO, and Mr. Lalit Prakash Jangra, Executive Director, FDDI Ankleshwar.

The training aims to equip artisans with advanced skills in footwear design, leather craftsmanship, and modern production techniques, enabling them to enhance product quality, improve market competitiveness, and increase their income potential.

Dr. Prajapati emphasized the need to integrate traditional industries with structured skill development, while Mr. Jangra reiterated FDDI's commitment to industry-oriented training and rural empowerment.



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FDDI Chennai Hosts Ethiopian Representatives to Explore Collaboration in Leather & Footwear Sector

On 4th February 2026, FDDI Chennai hosted international representatives from Ethiopia, comprising of Mr. Zulfikar Abajihad Ababushen, Head, Manufacturing Industry Development Institute – Leather and Leather Products Industry Research and Development Centre (MIDI-LLPIRDC); Mr. Wonda Legesse Gizaw, National Project Coordinator, UNIDO; and Dr. Seid Mohammed Hussien, Senior Researcher, MIDI-LLPIRDC, along with scientists from CSIR-CLRI, Mr. P. S. Suresh and Mr. C. M. Rajesh.

The representatives were accorded a warm traditional welcome at the Centre of Excellence (CoE) by Mr. Sundaresan, Executive Director, FDDI Chennai, along with the Heads of Department. An introductory presentation highlighting FDDI's academic strengths, research initiatives, and pan-India footprint was delivered by Mr. Dinesh, Head of Department, School of Footwear Design & Production. This was followed by a detailed overview of the CoE framework and its role in advancing footwear design, materials innovation, and applied research, presented by Dr. M. Vimudha, Senior Project Engineer & Head, CoE.



Representatives from Ethiopia at FDDI Chennai

The visit included interactive discussions with the Executive Director and departmental teams, complemented by an extensive tour of the CoE facilities and academic departments at the FDDI Chennai campus. The engagement concluded on a highly positive note, with in-depth technical deliberations underscoring strong potential for future collaboration, particularly in the areas of manpower upskilling, applied research interventions, and human resource development initiatives aimed at strengthening Ethiopia's leather and footwear sector.



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Hindi Workshop Organized at FDDI Jodhpur to Promote Rajbhasha

On 26 February 2026, a Hindi Workshop was organized at FDDI Jodhpur to promote the use of Hindi as Rajbhasha in official work. The session was conducted by Mr. Babu Lal Meena, Deputy Director, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

During the workshop, he explained the provisions of the Official Language Policy, departmental rules, and recent amendments related to the use of Hindi in official correspondence, noting, and documentation. The session provided practical guidance for enhancing the use of Hindi in day-to-day administrative work and proved beneficial for FDDI personnel in strengthening the implementation of Rajbhasha in institutional functioning.



Participants attending the workshop

Industry-Academia Synergy: An Inspiring Session by Mr. Shahrukh Zaidi at FDDI Kolkata

On 25 February 2026, the School of Leather Goods and Accessories Design (LGAD) and the School of Footwear Design and Production (FDP) at FDDI Kolkata hosted Mr. Shahrukh Zaidi, a distinguished design professional with over twenty-four years of experience in the leather and lifestyle sector. As the Founder and Curator of Studio SRZ, he has led design research, product innovation, and brand development initiatives across Indian and international platforms. His career includes collaborations with globally renowned brands such as Ralph Lauren, Coach, Mulberry, Tory Burch, Karl Lagerfeld, Tumi, Armani, Tommy Hilfiger, and Zara. He has also contributed to academia as a former Associate Professor at NIFT Delhi and as an expert lecturer at leading design institutions.

The two-hour session evolved into an engaging and interactive dialogue, with second- and third-year students actively discussing career pathways, studio culture, global exposure, and the changing dynamics of the Indian market.

Mr. Zaidi shared insights from establishing design research centres to leading multidisciplinary teams, highlighting how contemporary design studios integrate research, trend forecasting, consumer insights, material innovation, and commercial strategy. His practical perspectives effectively bridged the gap between academic learning and industry expectations.



A view of the engaging and thought provoking interaction



Key highlights included the importance of market-oriented creativity, structured design methodology, balanced product development in lifestyle leather and footwear, professional preparedness, and responsible innovation.

The session concluded on an inspiring note, leaving students motivated to apply these learnings in their academic and professional journeys.



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FDDI Ankleshwar Hosts KVIC-Supported Leather Footwear Repairing Training Programme

The Opening Ceremony of the Leather Footwear Repairing Skill Development Training Programme under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana was successfully organised at FDDI Ankleshwar on 25 February 2026.

The programme is being conducted under the aegis of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India. The initiative aims to promote rural entrepreneurship and enhance employability by providing structured skill development training in leather footwear repairing.

A total of 20 candidates have enrolled in the programme and will undergo training to enhance their technical skills and livelihood opportunities, enabling them to build sustainable income sources through skill-based employment and self-enterprise.



Participants attending the opening ceremony

FDDI Faculty Participates in Dainik Bhaskar Education Conclave 2026 – Season 3

Dainik Bhaskar Education Conclave 2026 – Season 3, held on 24 February 2026 at Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport, brought together policymakers, academic leaders, and industry experts to deliberate on the evolving landscape of India's education sector. The event was organized by the Dainik Bhaskar Group.



A view of panel discussion during Education Conclave 2026 – Season 3

Mr. Gaurav Singh, Senior Faculty, School of Retail and Fashion Merchandise, FDDI Noida, attended the conclave and actively engaged in the deliberations.

The conclave addressed critical themes such as regulatory reforms, implementation of the National Education Policy 2020, integration of technology and Artificial Intelligence in education, structured education financing, institutional branding, and strengthening the education-to-employment continuum.

The keynote session – Education in India was addressed by Ms. Anupriya Patel, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare of India; and Chemicals & Fertilizers, who highlighted national priorities including healthcare expansion, women's empowerment, and the advancement of the education sector.

Panel discussions emphasized the need to balance institutional autonomy with accountability, leverage AI for personalized learning, strengthen data governance frameworks, adopt innovative financing models, and enhance institutional sustainability in an increasingly competitive environment. Deliberations on branding and digital marketing underscored the importance of credibility, stakeholder trust, and data-driven enrolment strategies.



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The conclave also reinforced commitments toward inclusivity and women's education initiatives aligned with the Union Budget 2026, positioning the event as a significant platform for collaborative dialogue and future-ready transformation in Indian education.

FDDI - Strengthening Global Design Collaboration with University for the Creative Arts (UCA), United Kingdom

Marking an important step toward strengthening international academic collaboration, FDDI, Noida had the privilege of hosting distinguished representatives from the University for the Creative Arts (UCA), United Kingdom, on 23 February 2026. The representatives included Charlotte Louise Frost, Associate Dean, Canterbury School for Creative Architecture and Design, and Lisa Li, Managing Director, LL Global Education Consulting and International Recruitment Consultant for UCA, along with supporting Indian representatives namely, Mr. Ramesh Pathi, Mr. Chaitnya, Mr. Sharvan and Mr. Krishna.

A key highlight of the visit was the student exhibition showcasing work from the School of Leather Goods and Accessories Design, School of Footwear Design and Production, and School of Fashion Design. The Visual Merchandising display curated by the School of Retail and Fashion Merchandise stood out for its strong conceptualisation, strategic execution, and professional presentation. The delegates appreciated the creativity, depth, and technical proficiency demonstrated by the students.



UCA representatives watching the student exhibition



A view of the academic session with UCA representatives

An academic session followed, featuring an overview of UCA's global framework and an insightful address on sustainability-driven design, global career pathways, and the evolving role of designers aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The session was attended in hybrid mode across FDDI campuses. A structured portfolio review provided students with valuable international-level feedback.

The visit concluded with a felicitation ceremony and strategic discussions on future collaborations, including faculty exchanges, short-term summer programmes, and potential research partnerships.



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Skill Development Workshop on Leather Hand Carving at FDDI Fursatganj

FDDI, Fursatganj organized a skill-development workshop on Hand Carving on Vegetable Tanned Leather on 20 February 2026. The workshop aimed to provide practical exposure to students and faculty members on traditional leather carving techniques and their commercial relevance in the footwear and leather goods industry.



Students acquiring the skills on traditional leather carving

The session was conducted by experienced artisans namely, Mr. Danish, Mr. Amit Gautam, and Mr. Faizal from SatKirti Agencies, Kanpur, who demonstrated how handcrafted detailing enhances the aesthetic value and market appeal of leather products.

The workshop featured a live demonstration covering selection and preparation of vegetable tanned leather, casing (moistening) techniques, use of carving tools such as swivel knives and bevelers, embossing and depth creation, and finishing and polishing methods. The session helped participants understand how traditional craftsmanship can significantly improve product design and marketability.

Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme at FDDI, Hyderabad Campus

An Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP) was successfully conducted on 20 February 2026 at FDDI Hyderabad Campus in collaboration with Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD), MSME-Tool Room, Hyderabad. The programme aimed to promote new enterprise creation, strengthen capacity among existing MSMEs, and inculcate an entrepreneurial mind-set, particularly among youth and aspiring entrepreneurs.



Students from FDDI Hyderabad and GILT actively participating in the awareness programme



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The programme witnessed active participation from students of FDDI Hyderabad and the Government Institute of Leather Technology (GILT), Hyderabad and provided practical exposure to entrepreneurship opportunities, government initiatives, and institutional support mechanisms.

Participants were familiarized with key MSME financial schemes, including MUDRA Loans, CGTMSE (Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises) for collateral-free credit, and PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme), which supports new enterprise creation and employment generation, along with the significance of Udyam Registration for formal MSME recognition and access to government benefits.

A focused session on project report preparation guided participants through essential components such as cost estimation, market analysis, and financial planning required for availing institutional finance and scheme support. The programme also highlighted digital and institutional market access platforms, including the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), enabling participants to understand pathways for expanding market reach and online visibility.

Motivational sessions emphasized innovation, resilience, and self-employment opportunities, while sensitizing participants to the support ecosystem offered by institutions such as CITD, MSME Development & Facilitation Offices, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Tool Rooms, and Testing Centres. The programme effectively reinforced entrepreneurial awareness and strengthened FDDI Hyderabad's commitment to fostering start-up culture and MSME development.

Workshop on AR & VR Technology in Fashion Design at FDDI Rohtak

The School of Fashion Design (FD) at FDDI, Rohtak Campus organized a 10-day intensive workshop on "AR and VR Technology in Fashion Design" from 9–20 February 2026. The workshop aimed to familiarize students with emerging digital technologies that are transforming the fashion industry and redefining design and retail experiences.



Participants attending the session being conducted by Ms. Sonia Jha

The session was conducted by Ms. Sonia Jha, Founder of Interact.edu, who shared practical insights into immersive technologies. Under her guidance, students converted garments created on CLO 3D into interactive AR experiences, developing fashion filters and virtual try-on garments for enhanced e-commerce engagement. In the VR module, students designed virtual fashion stores, creating immersive digital retail environments.

The workshop provided valuable exposure to how AR and VR are transforming fashion presentation, digital merchandising, online retail experiences, and sustainable fashion practices through virtual sampling, making it a highly enriching learning experience for the students.



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From Pixels to Powerful Brands: Expert Session on E-Branding at FDDI Noida

On 20 February 2026, an expert session titled “Pixel to Persona” was conducted by Ms. Muskan Jain Bhandari, Dynamic Designer, Entrepreneur and Founder & CEO of The Social Culture. The session offered valuable insights into the evolving dynamics of digital branding and e-branding in today’s rapidly transforming retail landscape.



Ms. Muskan Jain Bhandari taking the session



Participants of the session

Ms. Bhandari explained how brands evolve from simple visual identities to powerful digital personas that meaningfully engage audiences across online platforms. She also discussed different branding personas and strategies, helping students understand the process of brand positioning and digital storytelling.

The interactive session provided students with practical insights into building a strong digital identity, enhancing consumer engagement, and navigating the contemporary branding ecosystem, equipping them with relevant knowledge for the modern retail and design industry.

FDDI Rohtak Hosts Principals' Meet on NEP 2020 and Skill Education

A Principals' Meet was organized at FDDI, Rohtak Campus on 19 February 2026, bringing together over 120 school principals from across the district. The meet was held under the chairmanship of Manjeet Malik, District Education Officer, and focused on promoting skill development in alignment with National Education Policy 2020.



Principals attending the meet



Principals visiting the campus facilities

During the session, faculty members highlighted the importance of vocational education in areas such as footwear design, fashion design and merchandising, and retail management, emphasizing how skill-based learning can enhance students' career readiness. Participants also discussed strategies to encourage students to explore emerging career opportunities and integrate skill-oriented education at the school level.



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Following the discussions, the principals visited the campus facilities and observed live demonstrations of footwear and fashion-related machinery, gaining first-hand exposure to modern technologies and industry practices.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Manjeet Malik emphasized that skill development is essential for empowering youth and promoting self-reliance. Ms. Sarita Duhan, Executive Director, FDDI Rohtak, reaffirmed the institute's commitment to collaborating with government schools to promote skill-based education in Haryana.

Understanding Fashion Roots: An Educational Visit for FDDI, Chennai students to Government Museum, Chennai

On 16 February 2026, the II Year B.Des Fashion Design (FD) students of FDDI, Chennai Campus, accompanied by faculty members, visited the Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai, renowned for its rich and diverse collection of textiles, sculptures, paintings, and archaeological artifacts. The visit commenced with a guided tour of the textile and art galleries, where students explored exhibits showcasing ancient weaving techniques, handwoven fabrics, natural dyeing processes, intricate embroidery styles, and traditional attire representing various periods of Indian history. The galleries featuring temple sculptures and paintings further enhanced students' understanding of historical draping styles, motifs, and ornamentation used in traditional fashion.

The visit enabled students to gain a comprehensive understanding of ancient Indian textile traditions, including handloom weaving, natural dyeing, and regional embroidery techniques, while deepening their appreciation of fashion history and the adaptation of historical costumes in contemporary design. Exposure to traditional artifacts enhanced their recognition of the skill, precision, and cultural significance of indigenous craftsmanship, inspired them to incorporate heritage elements into modern fashion concepts, and reinforced the importance of textile conservation as a key component of sustainable fashion practices.



FD students at the Government Museum, Egmore, Chennai

FDDI Jodhpur Sets Up Awareness Stall at Krishi Vigyan Mela



A view of the stall of FDDI

FDDI, Jodhpur set up an awareness stall at the Krishi Vigyan Mela held on 14 February 2026 at the Agriculture University Jodhpur, Mandore. The agricultural fair witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers, students, researchers, and entrepreneurs from across the region.

Through the stall, FDDI Jodhpur showcased information about its academic programs, skill development initiatives, and career opportunities in footwear, leather products, and fashion design. The FDDI team interacted with visitors and students, sharing details about the institute's design education, industry-oriented training, and career prospects.



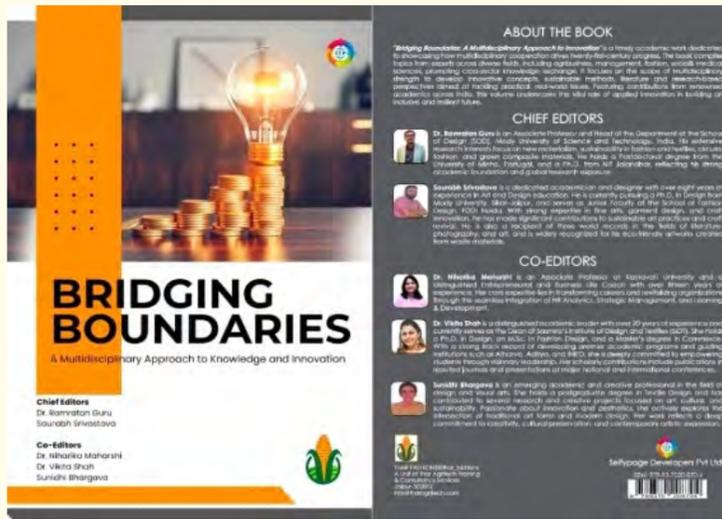
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Mr. Saurabh Srivastava, FDDI Faculty Contributes to Multidisciplinary Academic Publication

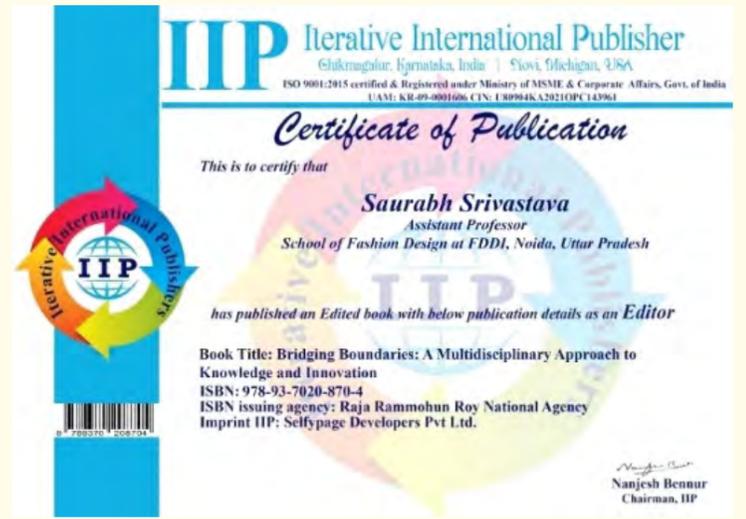
Mr. Saurabh Srivastava, Junior Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Noida Campus, has authored a chapter titled “भारतीय शिक्षा में कला का महत्व”, published as Chapter 12 in the book Bridging Boundaries: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Knowledge and Innovation (e-ISBN: 978-93-7020-498-0). He also served as the Chief Editor of this multidisciplinary volume.



Mr. Saurabh Srivastava



Front and Back cover of the book



Certificate of Publication

The book presents diverse academic perspectives with a focus on knowledge integration and innovation. His chapter highlights the significance of art in the Indian education system, emphasizing its role in nurturing creativity, cultural awareness, critical thinking, and holistic student development.

The publication that serves as a valuable academic resource for students, researchers, and faculty engaged in the fields of art, design, and multidisciplinary studies is accessible through the DOI: <https://www.doi.org/10.58532/nbennurBBMAKI12>, and the publication can be viewed at: <https://iipseries.org/viewpaper.php?pid=7383&pt=>

Exploring India's Craft Heritage at Surajkund Mela

In the second week of February 2026, the students of FDDI, Rohtak and Noida from School of Leather Goods and Accessories Design (LGAD), School of Fashion Design (FD), School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), and Foundation batches enthusiastically undertook an enriching academic visit to the 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Surajkund, themed “Aatmanirbhar Bharat 2026.”



Students at 39th Surajkund International Crafts Mela



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The visit, held under the guidance of faculty of FDDI served as a live classroom experience, allowing students to explore India's diverse craft traditions, regional handlooms, and indigenous materials.

Through direct interactions with master artisans, students gained insights into traditional techniques, cultural narratives, and the craftsmanship behind handmade products. The experience also enabled them to study how traditional textiles and materials can be adapted for contemporary design, reinforcing the importance of heritage, sustainability, and innovation in design practice.

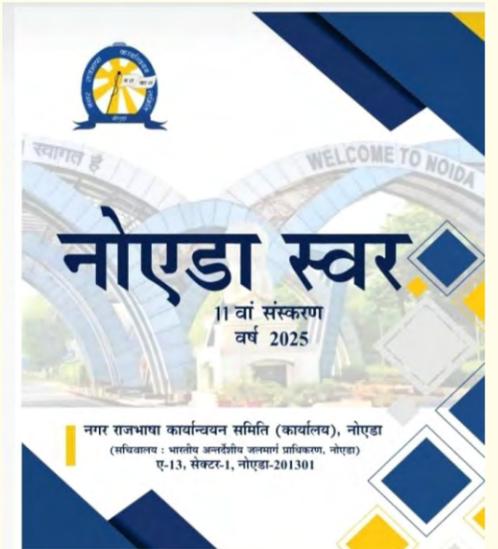
Faculty Article Featured in Government Annual Magazine 'Noida Ke Swar'

An article titled "Bhartiya Shiksha Mein Kala Ka Mahtwa" of Mr. Saurabh Srivastava, Junior Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Noida Campus has been published in the 11th Edition (2025) of Noida Ke Swar, a government-run annual Hindi magazine published under the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC), Noida.

Notably, his work was also selected for publication in the 2024 edition, marking his feature in consecutive editions of this esteemed annual magazine. This recognition reflects his continued academic and creative contribution and stands as a significant milestone in his scholarly journey.



Mr. Saurabh Srivastava



Front cover of the magazine

FDDI Jodhpur Students Explore Traditional Durrie Weaving at Salawas

On 13 February 2026, students of FDDI, Jodhpur visited Balaji Durries Udyog located in Salawas, about 30 km from the campus. Salawas is widely recognized for its traditional handloom durrie weaving, a craft practiced by local weaver families for generations.



Students acquiring knowledge on traditional handloom durrie weaving

During the visit, students interacted with Mr. Mala Ram, a traditional weaver, and his son Mr. Chena Ram who represents the fourth generation continuing this craft. Students observed various weaving patterns, learned about the use of multiple shuttles for different colours, and gained insights into how weaving costs are determined based on workmanship.

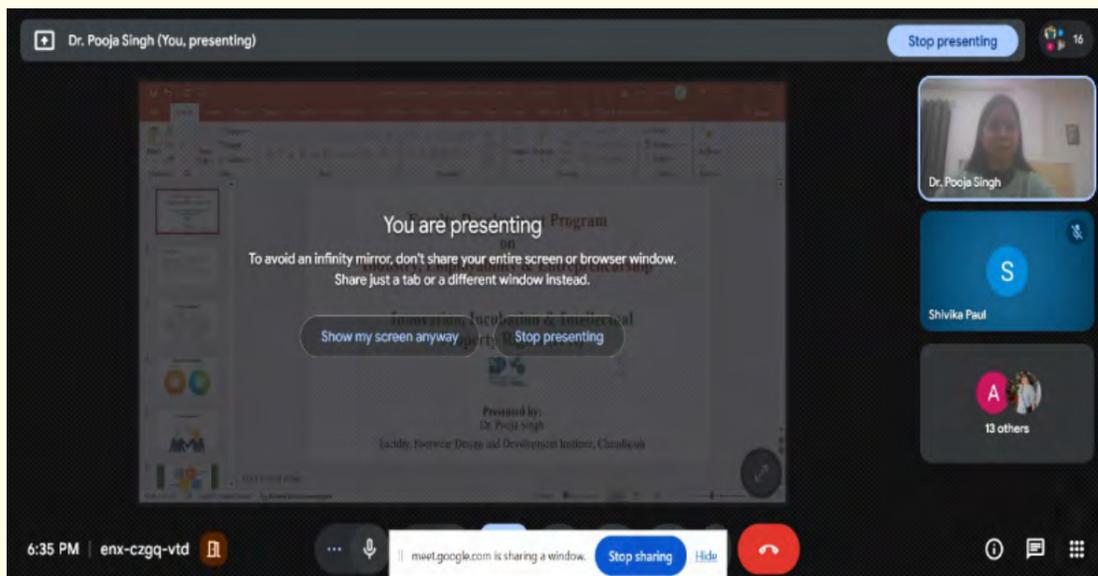
The visit provided valuable exposure to traditional craftsmanship and handloom techniques.



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Driving Innovation Culture: Dr. Pooja Singh Addresses FDP on IPR and Incubation

Dr. Pooja Singh, Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI, Chandigarh (Banur) campus, was honoured as a Keynote Speaker at the Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Innovation, Incubation & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), organized by Utthan Foundation, New Delhi, on 13 February 2026. The programme which was conducted online, brought together academicians and professionals to deliberate on strengthening the interface between academia and industry, enhancing employability, and nurturing future-ready professionals.



Dr. Pooja Singh, Faculty, FD taking the session



Certificate of Appreciation

In her insightful address, Dr. Singh highlighted the critical role of cultivating a robust culture of innovation within academic institutions, supported by structured incubation ecosystems and strong awareness of intellectual property rights. She emphasized that integrating innovation, entrepreneurship, and IPR literacy into academic frameworks is essential for empowering students and faculty to translate ideas into scalable and sustainable outcomes. Her keynote resonated strongly with participants, reinforcing the need for institutions to align education with emerging industry expectations and national innovation priorities.

Industry Insights at FDDI Noida by Ms. Anima Gupta, Myntra's VM Head

On 13 February 2026, the School of Retail & Fashion Merchandise at FDDI, Noida, hosted an insightful industry session on “Display Dynamics – The Strategic Blend of Creativity and Commercial Insights that Transforms Retail Space into an Engaging Brand Experience.” The session was delivered by Ms. Anima Gupta, Pan-India Visual Merchandising Head at Myntra Pvt. Ltd., an esteemed alumna of FDDI who currently leads visual merchandising for global brands such as Mango, Nautica, and NEXT.



Students who attended the interactive session



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With over 13 years of industry experience, Ms. Gupta shared valuable perspectives on how visual merchandising extends far beyond decorative displays, functioning as a strategic, revenue-driving tool that shapes customer perception and influences purchasing decisions. She emphasised the importance of capturing the “Attention” stage in the AIDA model, highlighting how thoughtfully designed retail environments can significantly impact consumer behaviour.

The session also shed light on the role of data-driven tools such as planograms and KPI tracking, which enable retailers to optimise product placement and maximise sales per square foot. A key takeaway from the interaction was her compelling insight that while marketing attracts customers into the store, visual merchandising persuades them to make the purchase.

By integrating creativity, consumer psychology, and analytical insights, the session provided students with a deeper understanding of how retail spaces are strategically designed to evoke customer engagement and deliver measurable business outcomes.

Where Ideas Find Identity: An Insightful Entrepreneurial Session at FDDI Chennai

At FDDI Chennai, the Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) successfully organized a guest lecture on 13 February 2026 titled “Idea to Identity – The Art of Becoming an Entrepreneur.” The session provided students with valuable insights into the entrepreneurial journey and encouraged them to explore how innovative ideas can be transformed into meaningful and sustainable ventures.

The lecture was delivered by Ms. Kumari Soni, Founder of Kocoon, a brand celebrated for its emphasis on individuality through craftsmanship and customization. With clarity and conviction, she guided students through the process of identifying market gaps and translating them into purpose-driven solutions rooted in empathy and user understanding. She underscored that entrepreneurship begins not with a product, but with a deep awareness of human emotions and real-life challenges, urging students to observe keenly, question assumptions, and innovate with intent.

The session further highlighted that branding extends far beyond logos and visual aesthetics. Through practical insights and relatable examples, Ms. Soni inspired aspiring designers and entrepreneurs to move beyond fleeting trends and focus on authenticity, values, and storytelling. The interactive exchange sparked curiosity, confidence, and critical thinking among students, reaffirming the E-Cell's commitment to nurturing visionary minds equipped to transform ideas into impactful identities.



Ms. Kumari Soni, Founder of Kocoon sharing her views during interactive session

RBI Officials Conduct Financial Literacy Session at FDDI Jodhpur

In line with the Financial Literacy Week 2026 observed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from 09–13 February 2026, a Financial Literacy Awareness Session was organized at FDDI Jodhpur Campus on 12 February 2026. The week was celebrated on the theme “KYC – Your First Step to Safe Banking / KYC – सुरक्षित बैंकिंग की ओर पहला कदम.”



Participants attending the session

The session was conducted by Mr. Raja Ram Bairwa, Lead District Officer, RBI Jodhpur; Mr. Manish Manda, District Development Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Jodhpur; Mr. Shyam Purohit, Lead District Manager (LDM), Jodhpur; and Mr. Manish Ramawat, Area Manager, Centre for Financial Literacy, Jodhpur.

During the session, the speakers emphasized the importance of KYC compliance, the Central KYC Registry (CKYC), periodic KYC updates, and the need to remain vigilant against financial frauds and money muling, encouraging students to adopt safe and responsible banking practices.



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Masterclass on Synthetic & Vegan Materials at FDDI Noida

On 11 February 2026, the School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD) at FDDI Noida organized a special Industry Insights session featuring Vasan Sai, Founder and Leather Finishing Consultant. The masterclass focused on the evolving landscape of synthetic and vegan materials in the global fashion and footwear industry.



Students raising queries during the session

The session introduced students to the structural and chemical differences between synthetic and imitation leathers, while also exploring the growing importance of plant-based and bio-engineered alternatives in sustainable product design. Students gained practical insights into material selection, performance considerations, and finishing techniques required for contemporary design applications.

The interaction helped students understand how responsible material choices can support sustainability, innovation, and global industry standards, reinforcing FDDI's commitment to developing designers who are not only leather specialists but also well-versed in emerging material technologies.

FDDI Ankleshwar Promotes Safe Digital Practices on Safer Internet Day

On the occasion of Safer Internet Day, FDDI Ankleshwar organised a virtual awareness webinar on "Staying Safe Online in the Age of AI" on 10 February 2026 through the Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) mode.



A view of the participants attending the webinar

The webinar was conducted by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing under the Information Security Education and Awareness Project. Based on the theme "Smart Tech, Safe Choices – Exploring the Safe and Responsible Use of AI," the session highlighted the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in digital activities and the importance of practicing safe online behaviour.

All employees of FDDI Ankleshwar participated in the session and gained insights into cybersecurity awareness, digital responsibility, and the safe use of AI technologies, encouraging them to make informed and secure digital choices.



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Leather Grading and Quality Inspection Workshop Conducted by FDDI, Noida at Mochiko Shoes Pvt. Ltd.

A Leather Grading and Quality Inspection Workshop was conducted from 10 to 14 February 2026 at Mochiko Shoes Private Limited, Noida, a leading manufacturer producing sports and casual footwear for major international brands such as Adidas, Puma, New Balance, Skechers, Reebok, Asics, Crocs, Decathlon, Clarks, and US Polo.



Participants acquiring professional skill during the workshop

The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Sharad Srivastava, Chief Faculty, Centre of Excellence, and Mr. Deepak Choudhary, Head of Department, School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI, Noida. Conducted in an on-site format combining theory with practical sessions, the programme provided hands-on training to professionals from the Incoming Quality Control (IQC) department.

The sessions covered key topics including introduction to leather, leather technology, leather grading, leather sorting, storage practices, inspection techniques, and quality control procedures. The workshop enabled participants to strengthen their understanding of leather quality assessment and industry best practices used in footwear manufacturing.

Dr. Srishti Maurya, FDDI Faculty Joins International Peer Review Panel

Dr. Srishti Maurya, Faculty at the School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Fursatganj, has been invited to serve as a peer reviewer for the reputed international academic publication Journal of Sustainability, an open-access and peer-reviewed journal launched in collaboration with Roskilde University, Denmark.

The journal builds upon the success of its sister publication, The Journal of Circular Economy, which is indexed in Web of Science. Notably, the Journal of Sustainability was officially accepted for inclusion in Scopus on 8 February 2026, further strengthening its global academic standing.

The editorial board invited Dr. Maurya to review a submitted manuscript that closely aligns with her area of expertise, reflecting confidence in her scholarly knowledge and professional judgment. This recognition highlights the growing academic contribution of FDDI faculty to international research and scholarly discourse.



Dr. Srishti Maurya, Faculty, FD

Rajbhasha and Cyber Security Awareness Session at FDDI Jodhpur

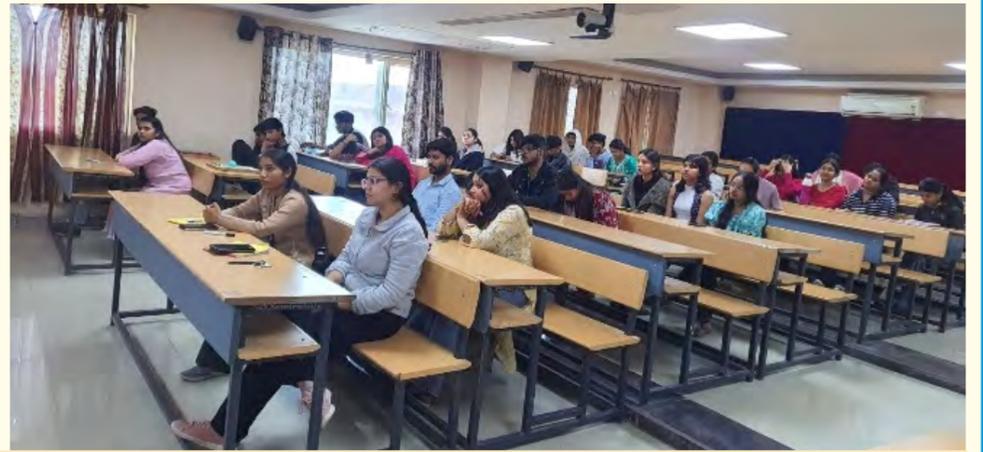
A Rajbhasha Workshop and Cyber Security Awareness Session was organized on 06 February 2026 at FDDI, Jodhpur to promote the use of Hindi as Rajbhasha in official work and to create awareness about cyber security practices.

The session was conducted by experts from Bank of Baroda, including Mr. Krunal Agrawal, Chief Manager; Mr. Amit Chaudhary, Senior Manager & Member-NRAC; and Mrs. Surpreet Kaur, Senior Manager, Jodhpur.



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During the workshop, the speakers emphasized the importance of using Hindi in official correspondence in accordance with the Government of India's Official Language policy. They also shared valuable insights on cyber security, safe digital banking practices, and precautions to prevent online frauds.



Participants attending the Rajbhasha and Cyber Security Awareness Session

The session proved highly informative for FDDI officers, staff, and students, enhancing awareness about Rajbhasha implementation as well as cyber safety in day-to-day digital transactions.

Teachers' Meet at FDDI Ankleshwar

A Three-Day Teachers' Meet was successfully organised from 3 to 7 February 2026 at the FDDI Ankleshwar Campus, in association with the District Education Officer (DEO), Bharuch, Gujarat. The event provided a valuable platform for academic interaction, collaborative discussions, and institutional engagement among educators.

As part of the programme, a Teacher Interaction Meet was held where faculty members and education professionals actively participated in discussions on inclusive and skill-based education, promoting the exchange of ideas and best practices.

Adding a distinctive element to the event, students set up product stalls within the campus, showcasing student-designed and student-manufactured products that reflected their creativity, technical skills, and entrepreneurial mindset. Students engaged directly with visitors by presenting their products, gaining practical exposure to product presentation, communication, pricing strategies, market understanding, and sales techniques.



A view of the product stalls

FDDI Jodhpur Students Visit Amarata Haat



Students at Amarata Haat

On 6 February 2026, students of FDDI, Jodhpur visited Amarata Haat, an artisan fair showcasing the rich traditional crafts of Rajasthan. The fair featured products by artisans from handloom units, cottage industries, self-help groups, home-based startups, and women entrepreneurs, including textiles, recycled fabric items, wood and iron handicrafts, and traditional Rajasthani Mojari.

Students explored various crafts such as block printing, hand painting, candle making, durrie weaving, and wood and iron carving, along with traditional techniques like appliqué, patchwork, Bandhej, and Ajrakh prints. The visit provided valuable exposure to artisans' craftsmanship and design practices, enriching students' learning in textile design, footwear design, and sustainable product development.



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Industry Session: “The Visual Edge – Styling for Design Success” at FDDI Chhindwara

The Department of Retail & Fashion Merchandise (RFM), FDDI Chhindwara organized an insightful industry session titled “The Visual Edge: Styling for Design Success” on 05 February 2026. Aimed at enhancing students' understanding of styling as a critical component of design success, the session was organized and coordinated by Dr. Vinit Verma, Senior Faculty-II (RFM) and witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 100 students of MBA, B.Des (FDP), B.Des (FD), and Foundation programmes.

The session was conducted by Ms. Riya Jain, Entrepreneur and Founder of Beyond Style By Riya, who served as the resource person. The workshop was designed to equip students with advanced styling techniques, visual design principles, and practical strategies to enhance aesthetic appeal and user engagement. Emphasis was laid on bridging the gap between technical garment construction and market-ready visual presentation—an essential requirement in today's competitive fashion industry where visual impact plays a decisive role in consumer engagement.



Students attending the session

Through interactive discussions and hands-on practical demonstrations, Ms. Jain highlighted that successful design is a thoughtful balance of aesthetics, functionality, strategy, and user-centric thinking. She emphasized that effective styling transforms garments into compelling stories that resonate with target audiences and align with business objectives. The session also provided valuable insights into the commercial dimensions of fashion, reinforcing the idea that even the most well-designed product requires strong visual presentation to succeed in the marketplace.

Educational and Industrial Exposure Visit for FDDI Hyderabad Students

The School of Footwear Design and Production (FDP), FDDI Hyderabad organized a comprehensive educational and industrial exposure visit from 29 January to 3 February 2026 for 21 students of the FDP 24 batch. Under the guidance of the faculties namely Ms. Anila Sasi, Mr. Srinivasan, and Mr. Kanwar Singh, the visit was structured to provide hands-on exposure to leather processing, footwear component manufacturing, industry interaction, and market dynamics, thereby strengthening the integration of academic learning with real-world industrial practices.



Students at Ria Enterprises gaining hands-on exposure to leather processing



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On 29 January 2026, students visited Ria Enterprises, a leather processing and tannery unit in Hyderabad. Students observed the conversion of wet blue leather into finished leather and studied the processing of cow and goat leather using industrial machinery such as processing drums, setting machines, and measuring equipment. The unit's sustainable practices, including water circulation systems, were also highlighted. A technical session by Mr. Rajeah from the Colour Matching Department familiarized students with colour consistency, quality control, finishing processes such as assortment, hand spray booth finishing, plating, and buffing, along with testing methods including rubber drop, dry drop, and tape tests.



Students understanding manufacturing operations at Sanghavi Shoe Accessories

On 30 January 2026, an industrial visit was conducted at Sanghavi Shoe Last Accessories, Vellore. The session was led by Mr. S. Sathish Kumar, Deputy General Manager (Technical), who explained the technical and operational aspects of footwear last manufacturing. Students were introduced to both 2D and 3D last designing techniques and witnessed the complete manufacturing process—from raw granules to final last shaping—using modern machinery. Emphasis was placed on precision engineering, sizing standards, and demand-driven production planning.



Students exploring swatch collections at 39th IILF



Technical interaction with industry professionals during 39th IILF

From 1 to 3 February 2026, students attended the 39th India International Leather Fair (IILF) at the Chennai Trade Centre. The fair provided exposure to a wide range of national and international exhibitors showcasing leather, footwear, components, machinery, and accessories. Students actively interacted with industry professionals, gained insights into emerging trends and innovations, explored internship and career opportunities, and collected samples for academic reference.



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Copyright Recognition for Artistic Works

Dr. Pooja Singh, Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI, Chandigarh (Banur) campus, along with Ms. Sakshi Singh, student, FD 2021 Batch has been granted Copyright Registration under the Copyright Act, 1957 for their original artistic works titled "Sahej Samarpan" and "Bhil Vriksha." Both works were officially entered in the Register of Copyrights on 29 January 2026.



Dr. Pooja Singh, Faculty, FD



Ms. Sakshi Singh, student



Copyright Registration - Sahej Samarpan



Copyright Registration - Bhil Vriksha.

These creative compositions present a harmonious blend of traditional inspiration and contemporary design interpretation, reflecting the integration of academic research with artistic expression. The registration formally acknowledges the authorship and ownership of the works, providing legal protection and safeguarding their originality.

This achievement underscores FDDI's continued encouragement of innovation, originality, and intellectual property protection. Such recognitions reinforce the institute's commitment to fostering creative excellence and promoting awareness of IPR within design education and research.

"Idea to Impact" Expert Session with AIC, IIT-Delhi

At FDDI, Chandigarh (Banur) campus, the Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) successfully organized a pan-institutional expert session titled "Idea to Impact" on 16 January 2026. Hosted by FDDI Chandigarh and conducted in hybrid mode, the session witnessed active participation from students and faculty across all 12 FDDI campuses, reinforcing a unified entrepreneurial ecosystem within the institute.



A view of the interactive session with Dr. Himanshu Agrawal, Manager, AIC, IIT-Delhi

The expert session was delivered by Dr. Himanshu Agrawal, Manager, Atal Incubation Centre, IIT-Delhi, who provided practical and structured guidance on transforming innovative ideas into scalable and sustainable start-ups. His address covered the complete entrepreneurial lifecycle, including Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), product development, market validation, and brand building, offering participants a clear roadmap from ideation to commercialization.



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The session also highlighted important government and industry-driven initiatives such as the Textile-GREAT Scheme, Start-up India Fund Scheme, and the Bharat Safety Project, enabling participants to better understand funding avenues, incubation support, and opportunities for industry collaboration.

During the interactive session, the queries of the participants were effectively addressed with real-world examples and industry perspectives.

Design Patent granted to Faculty of FDDI and others

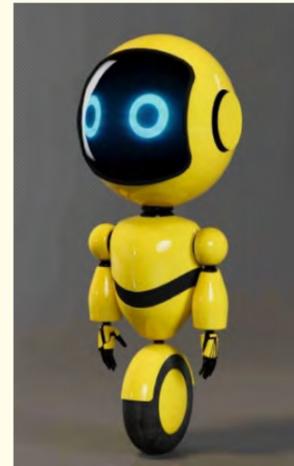
Dr. Ram Muppidi, Senior Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI, Chennai Campus along with his team, has achieved a significant milestone with the publication of four design patents by the Indian Patent Office, Government of India. This achievement further strengthens his long-standing contribution to design innovation, academic excellence, and intellectual property development in India.

The 24th Design Patent, registered under Application No. 476276-001 is classified under Class 09-01 which relates to “Coconut Shell Bottle” Design. The design patent was filed by Mr. Anirudh Mettagunja as First Author, with Dr. Rambabu Muppidi as Co-Author, supported by 4th-year student of Leather Goods and Accessories Design (LGAD) FDDI Hyderabad. Academic assistance was provided by Professor Dr. Kiran Kasi Udaya Kumar, K.L.E.F, and legal and procedural support was rendered by Mr. Subhajith Sahi, IP Advocate, along with Mr. Shailendra Kumar and Ms. Keerthi.

Coconut shell bottles are an innovative example of zero-waste design that supports a cleaner and more sustainable environment. Made from discarded coconut shells, these bottles transform natural waste into durable and functional products, helping to reduce landfill waste and promote responsible consumption. Unlike plastic bottles, they are biodegradable and eco-friendly, contributing to lower environmental pollution. This simple yet creative initiative reflects the harmony between nature and sustainable living, inspiring individuals to adopt greener alternatives for a healthier planet.



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



Toy Robo



Design Patent Certificate



Mr. Anirudh Mettagunja, student,
LGAD

Design Number	476276-001
Class	09-01
1. Mr. Mettagunja Anirudh Student, Department of Leather Goods and Accessories Design, FDDI, HS Dharga Road, Gachibowli, Rai Durg, Telangana - 500008, India 2. Dr. Rambabu Muppidi Faculty, Department of Leather Goods and Accessories Design, FDDI, HS Dharga Road, Gachibowli, Rai Durg, Telangana - 500008, India 3. Dr. Kiran Kasi Uday Professor, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, Guntur, India - 522502	
Date of Registration	09/10/2025
Title	Coconut Shell bottle
Priority NA	



“Coconut Shell Bottle”



Design Patent Certificate

The 25th Design Patent by Dr. Rambabu Muppidi, registered under Application No. 485010-001, is titled “Toy Robo.” This innovative toy is designed as a fun and safe play item for children, crafted from recycled or natural materials. It encourages imaginative play while introducing young minds to the basics of technology and creativity. Robot toys inspire excitement among children as they create their own stories and adventures during play. Additionally, the use of eco-friendly materials promotes environmental awareness, helping children develop respect for nature while reducing plastic waste and fostering sustainable habits from an early age.



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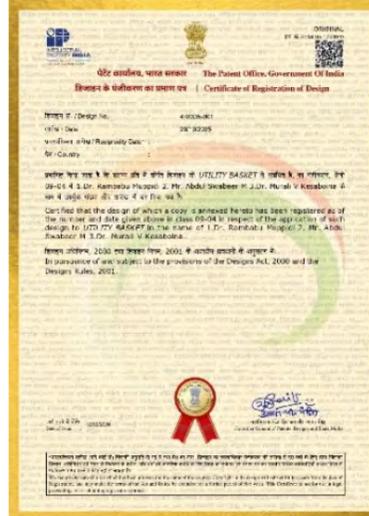
The 26th Design Patent titled “Utility Basket”, registered under Application No. 478335-001 is designed by Dr. Rambabu Muppidi (Accessories Designer) along with co-authors Mr. Abdul Swabeer M and Dr. Murali V. Kesaboina. The project emerged from extensive field research among



Mr. Abdul Swabeer



Utility Basket



Design Patent Certificate

traditional wooden basket makers in Nampally and Afzalgunj, Hyderabad, focusing on indigenous craftsmanship, material usage, and wastage patterns in conventional basket production. Through systematic observation and documentation, the traditional wooden basket concept was reimagined into a contemporary “Utility Basket” using CAD-based design intervention. The innovation

emphasizes zero-waste principles, structural efficiency, and multifunctional utility. By integrating traditional craft knowledge with modern digital design methods, the initiative supports artisan communities while promoting sustainable manufacturing practices. This patent reflects applied research, craft revival, and eco-conscious product development aligned with innovation-driven design education.

The 27th Design Patent, titled “Kora Grass Cap Basket” (Application No. 481687-001), was developed through research led by Dr. Thunga Yogesh Babu (Author) with Dr. Rambabu Muppidi as Co-author.

Design Number	481686-001
Class	09-04
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Date of Registration	26/11/2025
Title	Kora Basket
Priority NA	

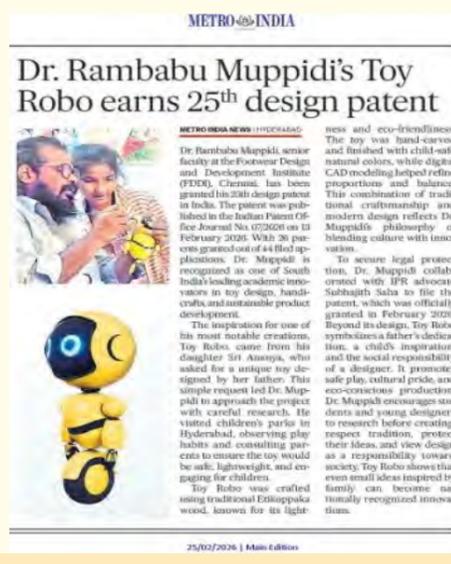


All Views



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“Kora Grass Cap Basket”



The innovation focuses on sustainable material use by employing locally available Kora grass to create an eco-friendly and zero-waste product. The basket is strong, durable, and suitable for storing fruits, vegetables, and other household items.

Being biodegradable and reusable, it helps reduce plastic waste while promoting environmentally responsible practices. The design also supports traditional craftsmanship and highlights how natural materials can be transformed into practical, sustainable products for everyday use, contributing to a cleaner and greener future.

Media coverage

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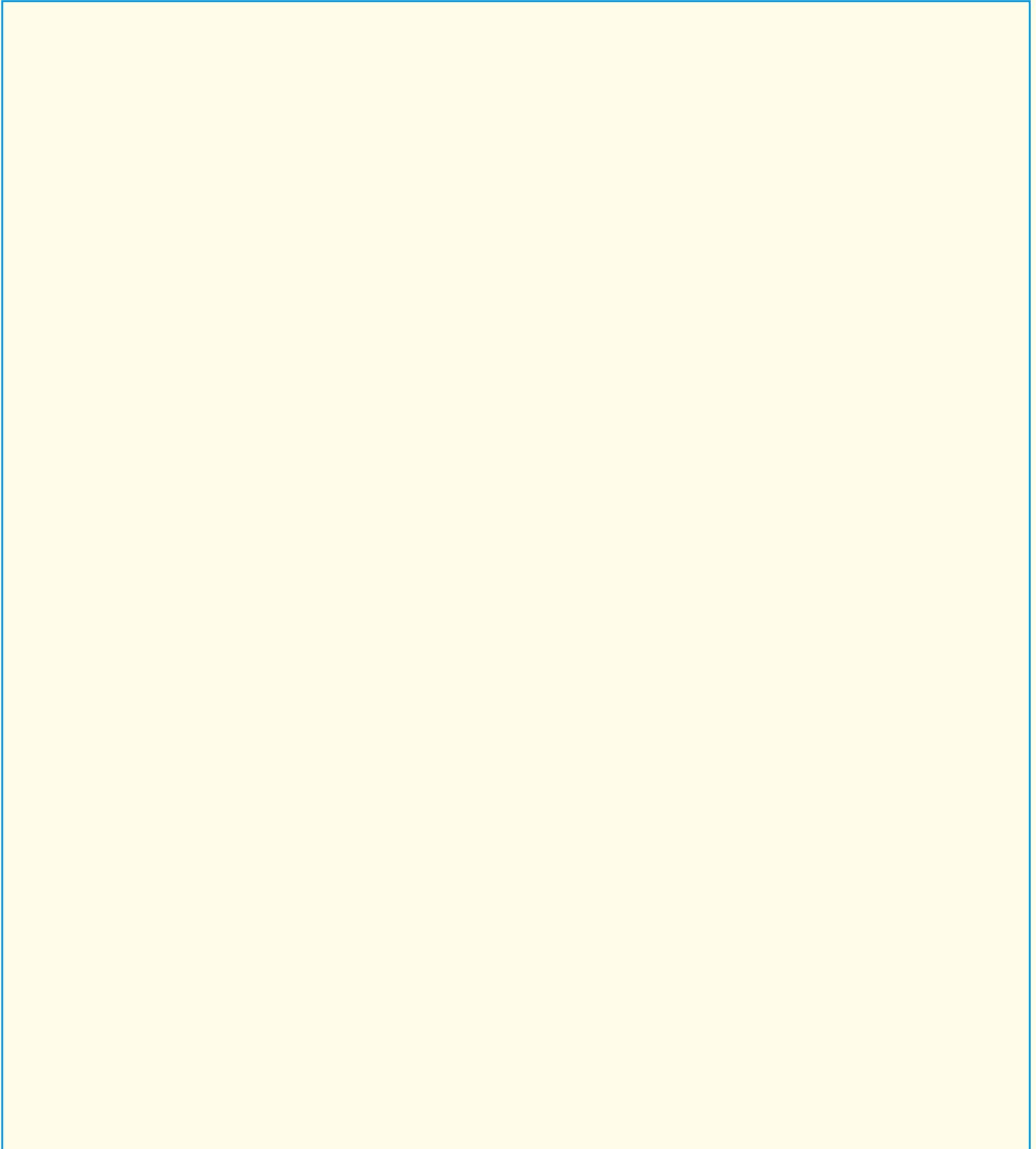


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