

NEWSLETTER



**FOOTWEAR DESIGN
& DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE**

An Institution of
National Importance



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Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Union Minister of Communications and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India Visits FDDI Guna, Inspires Students Towards Innovation and Excellence

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Communications and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, visited the FDDI Guna campus on 16 March 2026.

The Hon'ble Minister was accorded a warm welcome by Shri Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI; Mrs. Manju Mann, Executive Director; Mr. Manoj Agarwal, CAO, Mr. Jitender Gupta Centre In-Charge, along with senior officials, faculty, and students.



From Left: Shri Vivek Sharma, IRS, MD, FDDI engaging in discussion with Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India

In his welcome address, the Managing Director highlighted that FDDI plays a pivotal role in building a skilled workforce aligned with the evolving needs of the country's footwear, fashion, leather, and retail sectors.



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During his visit, Shri Scindia interacted with students, faculty members, and officials, and reviewed the institute's academic and technical facilities. He appreciated FDDI's significant contribution towards developing skilled professionals for the footwear, fashion, leather, and retail industries.



A view of the interaction with a student

During the visit, he toured various academic and technical facilities of the institute, including the design, cutting, closing, component, and lasting laboratories. Students showcased different processes involved in footwear design and production, providing a comprehensive demonstration of their practical learning.



A student presenting key concepts of footwear design to Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia



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Addressing the students, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia encouraged them to embrace innovation, skill development, and creative thinking. He emphasized that India's youth hold immense potential to shape the nation's future, and institutions like FDDI are equipping them with the capabilities to compete on a global stage.



Felicitation of a student by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia for outstanding extracurricular achievements

The Minister also felicitated students for their achievements in extracurricular activities, appreciating their all-round development.



The Hon'ble Union Minister of Communications and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia along with the employees and students of FDDI

On this occasion, Mrs. Manju Mann, Executive Director, FDDI Guna and Noida, delivered a presentation highlighting the institute's key activities, infrastructure, and ongoing skill development initiatives.

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- Photography Workshop Inspires Creative Learning at FDDI Ankleshwar;
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- FDDI Showcases Sustainable Design Innovation Using Vegan Leather at ICAR-NINFET;
- Research Paper Presentations by FDDI Chennai Campus Students at International Conference;

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Notably, the FDDI Guna campus was inaugurated in 2017 by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia during his tenure as Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Today, the campus has emerged as a prominent hub for design education and skill development in the region.

IN THIS ISSUE (Continue from last page..)

- Webinar-cum-Workshop on Lifestyle, Nutrition and Positive Living at FDDI Banur (Chandigarh) Campus;
- FDDI Faculty Participate in ET Great India Retail Summit & Awards 2026.

FDDI commemorates International Women's Day 2026: Promoting Awareness, Equality & Respect

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2026, FDDI organized a special awareness session focused on women's rights, gender equality, and workplace empowerment, reaffirming its commitment to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive work environment on 09 March 2026. The session was conducted in hybrid mode across 12 campuses, witnessing active participation from employees.



A women employee being felicitated by Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director, FDDI



Dr. Aditi Kaushal Bhardwaj, Labour Law and POSH Consultant and Advocate providing valuable insights during the session

As part of the celebration, women employees were felicitated in recognition of their contributions, adding a meaningful and celebratory dimension to the occasion.



A view of the participants at Noida



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FDDI was honoured to host Dr. Aditi Kaushal Bhardwaj, Labour Law and POSH Consultant and Advocate associated with the Supreme Court of India, who shared valuable insights on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. Her session effectively explained key legal provisions and procedures through practical examples, enhancing awareness and understanding of POSH compliance.



A view of International Women's Day celebration at FDDI Jodhpur

The session was engaging and impactful, sensitizing employees to issues related to women's rights, equality, and empowerment, while encouraging a culture of respect and accountability across the organization.

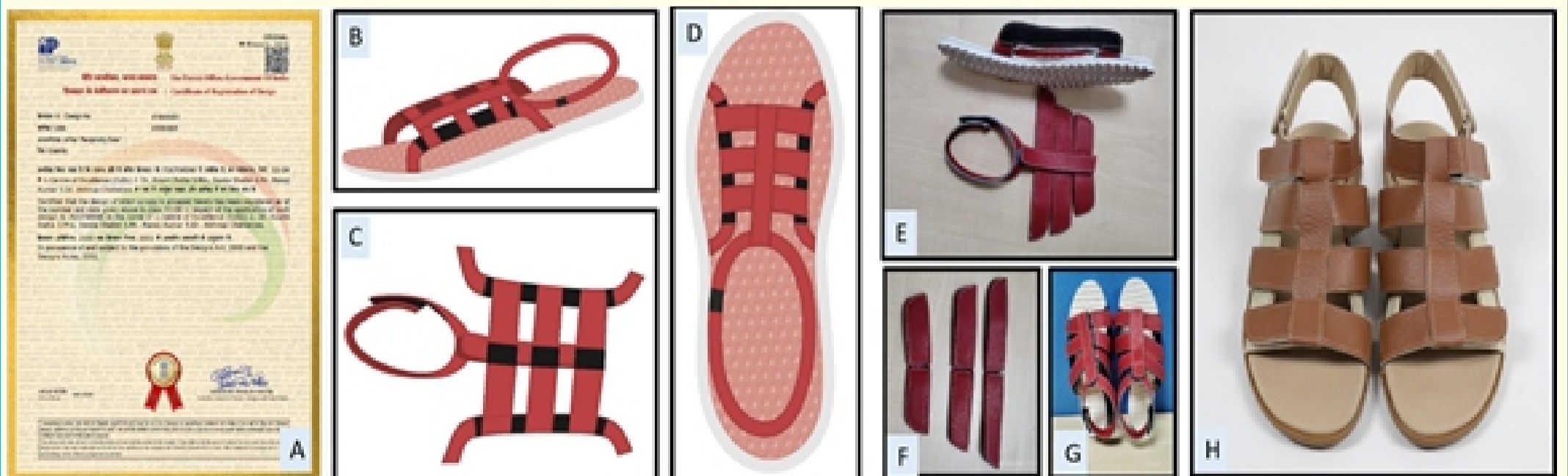
FDDI Jodhpur celebrated the day with warmth and enthusiasm, reinforcing the values

of awareness, equality, and respect while honouring the invaluable contributions of women within the institute.

On this occasion, Dr. Sunita Pankaj (RAS), Registrar, National Law University was the Chief Guest, who shared insightful perspectives on empowerment and gender equality.

FDDI's CoE Secures Design Registration for Innovative Adaptive Footwear

FDDI has secured a Design Registration (No. 474545-001) under the Designs Act, 2000 from the Patent Office, Government of India, for an innovative footwear concept developed through its Centres of Excellence (CoE) and Product Development Centre (PDC), Jodhpur.



A: Design Registration Document, B: Side view of design, C: Extendable and detachable strap, D: Top view of the design, E: Prototype I: detachable upper, F: Extendable strap, G: Entire prototype I, H: Prototype II using leatherette

The design features flexible and extendable footwear that can be easily adjusted by users to suit varying needs. Particularly relevant for humid conditions and long working hours, the design addresses common concerns such as toe-box constriction, pressure on the metatarsal region, and foot discomfort. Its adaptive structure also caters to situations like swelling or minor injuries, while maintaining style and comfort.



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The innovation was driven under the guidance of Dr. Koumi Dutta, with the initial design conceptualized by Mrs. Sweta Shalini (CoE Rohtak) through CAD/CAM integration. The functional prototype was developed by Mr. Manoj Kumar (PDC Jodhpur), while the design registration process was coordinated by Dr. Abhirup Chatterjee (CoE Hyderabad). The prototype further incorporated sustainable vegetable-extracted

leatherette sourced by Mrs. Basumitra Ghosh Mukherjee (CoE Kolkata) in collaboration with ICAR.

The prototype was showcased at the 39th India International Leather Fair (IILF) in February, reflecting FDDI's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and industry-relevant product development.



From Left to Right: Dr. Koumi Dutta, Mrs. Sweta Shalini, Mr. Manoj Kumar, Dr. Abhirup Chatterjee

FDDI, Kolkata Student Wins Gold at IndiaSkills 2026

IndiaSkills Competition, the country's premier platform for vocational excellence and a gateway to WorldSkills, witnessed a notable achievement by FDDI. Ms. Anneasa Manna, a student of the School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI Kolkata, secured the Gold Medal at the State Level in the Industrial Design Technology category, qualifying for the Regional Round leading to WorldSkills 2026.

The competition comprised a rigorous 14-hour assessment conducted over three days, evaluating participants on real-world design problem-solving.

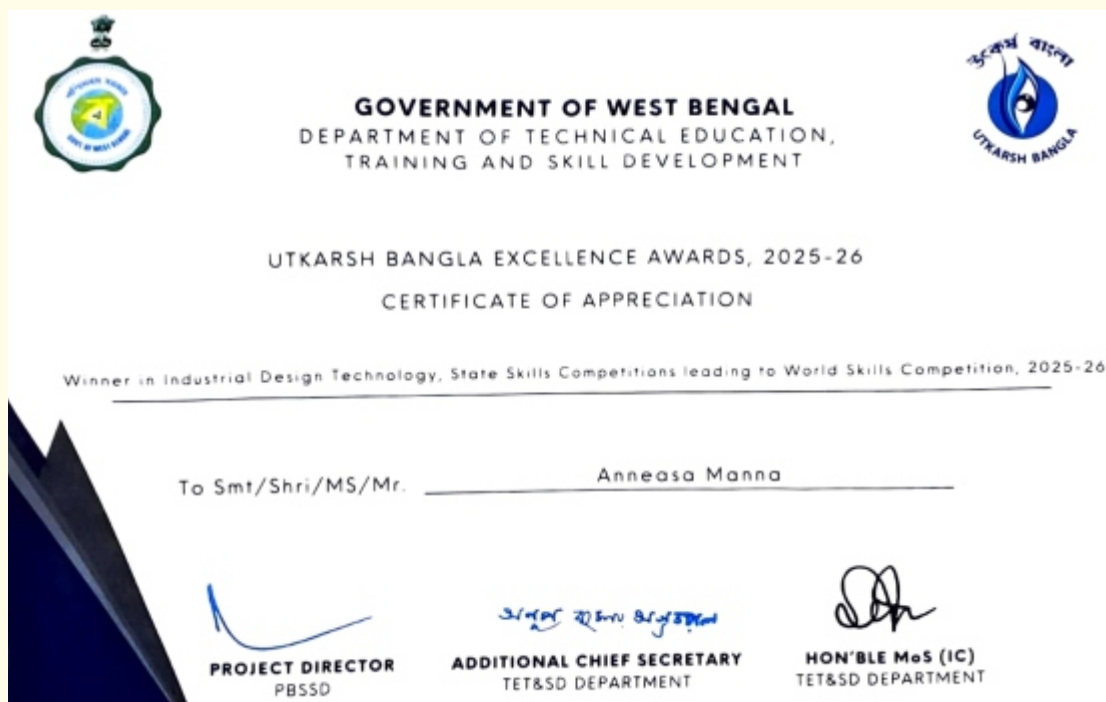
It involved research and concept development, detailed CAD modelling using Autodesk Fusion, and final presentation of the complete design process.



Ms. Anneasa Manna receiving the Utkarsh Bangla Excellence Award



Utkarsh Bangla Excellence Award trophy



Certificate of Appreciation, Government of West Bengal

In recognition of this achievement, she was felicitated by the Government of West Bengal at the Utkarsh Bangla Excellence Awards 2025-26, held on 16 February 2026 at Karigari Bhawan Auditorium, Kolkata.

This milestone highlights FDDI's commitment to nurturing industry-ready talent and reinforces the role of design as a structured, problem-solving discipline with real-world impact.



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FDDI' ITC Noida Audited by SATRA Technology Centre

As part of its annual laboratory accreditation programme, Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association (SATRA) Technology Centre, United Kingdom (UK) conducted an audit in the first week of February 2026, led by Mr. Oliver Chandler, Test Equipment Divisional Manager, with a key focus on evaluating the International Testing Centre (ITC) facilities alongside the institute's laboratory infrastructure, testing capabilities, and equipment standards.

FDDI holds SATRA Laboratory Accreditation status, reflecting its adherence to internationally recognized testing standards and technical practices in the footwear and leather sector.

Through its continued association with SATRA Technology Centre, FDDI strengthens its commitment to global quality benchmarks and technical excellence. The institute continues to support the footwear, leather, fashion, and retail industries through education, research, skill development, and specialized testing services.



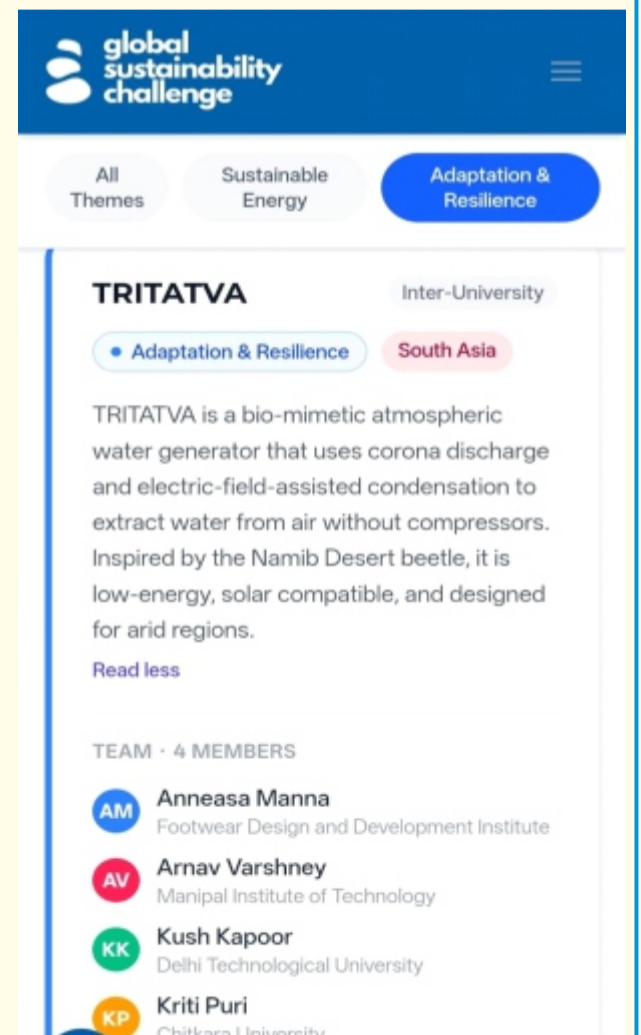
Mr. Oliver Chandler, Test Equipment Divisional Manager (at center) along with ITC, Noida Team

FDDI, Kolkata Student Innovation Gains Global Recognition in Sustainability Challenge

A student-led innovation from the School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI, Kolkata Campus has gained global recognition at the Global Sustainability Challenge, an international inter-university platform addressing critical climate issues.



Team TRITATVA at the Global Sustainability Challenge Regional Finale, IIT Bombay, 2025-26



TRITATVA listed on the Global Sustainability Challenge platform



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TRITATVA, a bio-mimetic atmospheric water generator, was developed with key contribution by a four-member inter-university team consisting of Anneasa Manna from FDDI, Arnav Varshney from Manipal Institute of Technology, Kush Kapoor from Delhi Technological University, and Kriti Puri from Chitkara University. The project addresses water scarcity in arid regions under the Adaptation and Resilience theme.

The team progressed from the initial round to the Regional Finale at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and has qualified for the Global Finale at the Technical University of Munich. It has been recognised among the Top 5 teams in South Asia and Top 20 globally.

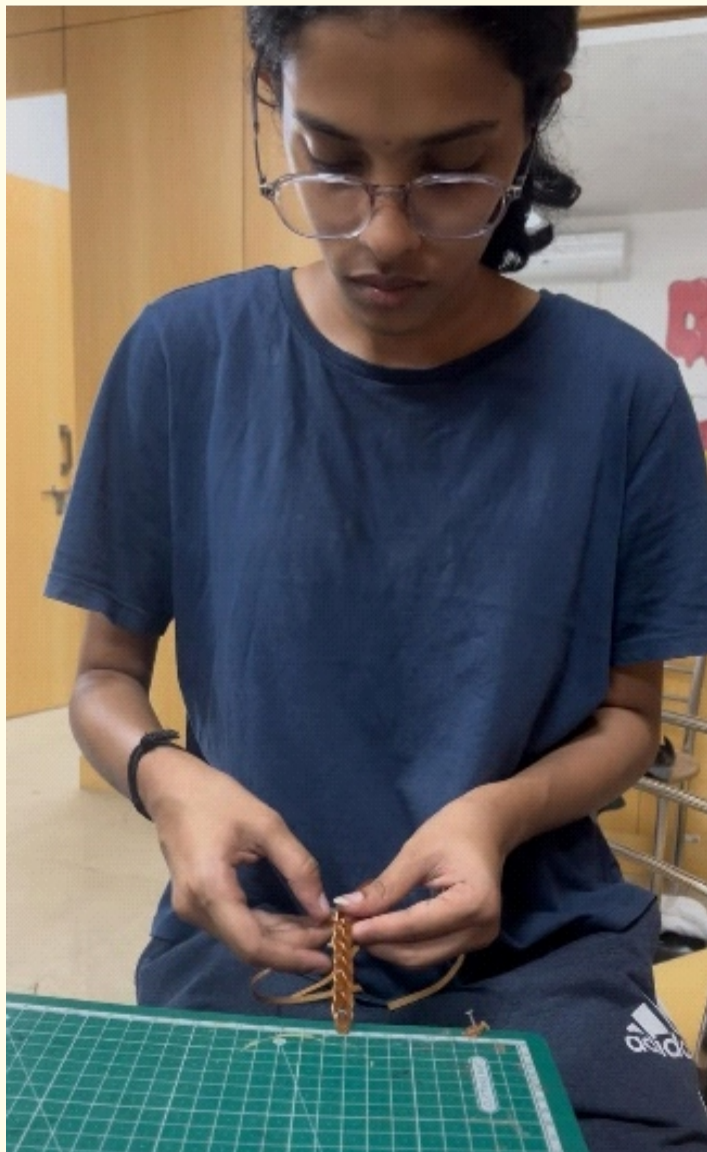
Inspired by the Namib Desert beetle, TRITATVA uses corona discharge and electric-field-assisted condensation to generate potable water from humidity, offering a low-energy, solar-compatible solution for water-stressed regions.

This achievement underscores FDDI's expanding footprint beyond design education into impactful, sustainability-driven innovation with global relevance.



Two-Day Workshop on Footwear Crafting under IDL Initiative at FDDI Hyderabad

The School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI Hyderabad, successfully conducted a two-day workshop titled “Footwear Crafting: A Call to Artisans” under the India Design Language (IDL) Footwear Initiative on 27–28 March 2026.



A view of the workshop

The session was led by experienced Artisan/Craftsman, Mr. Pampad Phawan Kumar, who shared his expertise in handcrafted footwear with B.Des FDP (2024–28) students. The workshop focused on artisan engagement, regional design understanding, and collaborative learning between artisans, faculty, and students.



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Participants gained hands-on experience in design development based on foot measurements, leather fundamentals, tools, pattern-making, cutting, shaping, and assembly techniques. The workshop also covered finishing processes, sustainability aspects, and market opportunities in handmade footwear.



Artisan/Craftsman, Mr. Pampad Phawan Kumar



Product outcome

Through live demonstrations and interactive sessions, students explored traditional craftsmanship, including weaving and customization in sandal making, while understanding its relevance in contemporary design. The initiative effectively promoted knowledge exchange and reinforced the importance of preserving traditional skills in modern footwear design.

Industrial Visit for FDDI, Hyderabad Students to GILT Hyderabad: Understanding the Journey of Leather – From Skin to Style

Students of Foundation Batches of FDDI, Hyderabad Campus undertook an enriching industrial visit to the Government Institute for Leather Technology (GILT), Hyderabad, on 27 March 2026. The session was led by Mr. Shaiek Iqbal Hussain, Principal of the institute, who provided valuable insights into the science, processing, and applications of leather.



Mr. Shaiek Iqbal Hussain, Principal, GILT Hyderabad explaining about the science, processing, and applications of leather



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The visit offered a comprehensive understanding of leather's transformation from rawhide to finished product. Students learned about its perishable nature and the critical role of preservation techniques such as salt curing to prevent decomposition. Key pre-tanning processes, including liming and un-hairing, were explained, highlighting their importance in developing the grain pattern, an essential factor in determining the quality, appearance, and identity of leather.

The session also delved into the scientific aspects of leather, particularly its unique three-dimensional fibrous structure and the triple helical structure of collagen, which impart strength, flexibility, and durability. It was noted that leather can withstand up to six lakh flex cycles, making it highly suitable for footwear applications. The concept of permeability was also discussed, emphasizing the comfort and breathability leather provides in footwear.

Students were introduced to major tanning techniques, including chrome tanning and vegetable tanning. Chrome tanning produces soft and flexible leather commonly used for uppers, while vegetable tanning yields thicker, firmer leather suited for soles and heavy-duty applications. Further insights were provided into processes such as the wet blue stage, dyeing, and finishing, where leather is enhanced with diverse colours, textures, and surface effects.

Various finishing techniques such as embossing, buffing (nubuck), film coating, and special effects like antique and two-tone finishes were demonstrated, illustrating how both aesthetics and functionality are achieved in leather products. The session also highlighted current industry trends, including the growing demand for premium and exotic-looking finishes. Students learned how embossing techniques can ethically replicate patterns such as crocodile and snake skin in a cost-effective manner.

FDDI Ankleshwar Showcases Academic Excellence During Inclusive Education Workshop

FDDI, Ankleshwar, successfully hosted a specialized training program titled "Inclusive Education Training for General Teachers in Service," organized by the Samagra Shiksha IED Unit under the District Panchayat, Bharuch on 25 March 2026. The initiative was aimed at strengthening the capacity of in-service teachers by equipping them with effective pedagogical strategies to support students with diverse learning needs and disabilities in inclusive classroom environments.



Participants attending the workshop

The program also served as a platform to showcase FDDI Ankleshwar's academic excellence, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and robust placement record. Participants were given an engaging campus tour, offering insights into the institute's facilities and training ecosystem.

The event concluded on a positive note, reaffirming FDDI Ankleshwar's commitment to fostering professional excellence while contributing meaningfully to inclusive and community-oriented educational development.



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FDDI Jodhpur Students Explore Dabu Printing Heritage at Pipad City

As part of its commitment to experiential and heritage-based design education, students of FDDI Jodhpur participated in a one-day hands-on workshop at the traditional Dabu printing cluster in Pipad City, Rajasthan on 25 March 2026.

The workshop was conducted under the guidance of Mr. Mohammad Yasin Chhipa, a renowned master artisan from the Chhipa community, known for his expertise in the centuries-old mud-resist Dabu printing technique. He is widely recognized for preserving and promoting the intricate art of natural dyeing and handcrafted textile printing.

During the visit, students gained practical exposure to the complete Dabu printing process, including mud paste preparation, block printing, drying techniques, and traditional indigo dyeing. The immersive experience enabled them to closely observe the craftsmanship, use of natural materials, and sustainable practices inherent to this textile tradition.

The visit offered valuable hands-on learning and deeper insights into Rajasthan's rich craft heritage, helping students understand how traditional techniques can be integrated into contemporary design and product innovation.

The workshop served as an enriching academic experience, strengthening students' appreciation for artisan-led learning, sustainable craftsmanship, and heritage-inspired design.



Students acquiring knowledge on traditional Dabu printing

Design Workshop Conducted by FDDI Chennai at Velammal Bodhi Campus, Kolapakkam

FDDI Chennai conducted a Design Awareness Session and an engaging workshop on Sneaker & Garment Designing at Velammal Bodhi Campus, Kolapakkam, on March 24, 2026. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 100 school students.



FDDI experts briefing during the a Design Awareness Session



Students attending the workshop

The program began with an insightful session introducing students to the dynamic field of design education, highlighting diverse career opportunities and the importance of creativity and innovation. This was followed by a hands-on workshop where students explored key concepts such as sketching, colour coordination, material understanding, and trend analysis.



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The interactive session encouraged students to think creatively and express their ideas through design, providing them with a practical glimpse into the world of fashion and footwear. Overall, the event successfully inspired young minds and promoted awareness about design as a promising career path.

Toolkit Distribution Ceremony under KVIC Programme at FDDI Ankleshwar

A toolkit distribution ceremony was held on 24 March 2026 for trainees of FDDI Ankleshwar who successfully completed the 25-day skill development programme conducted under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). The event took place at Hotel Swagat, Gandhinagar.



A view of the toolkit distribution ceremony

The toolkits were distributed by Mr. Ashok Kumar, Chairman, KVIC Gujarat State, in the presence of dignitaries, faculty members, and participants, marking the successful completion of the training programme.

The initiative aims to promote skill development, entrepreneurship, and self-employment by equipping trainees with practical knowledge and essential tools. It reflects KVIC's continued efforts to empower youth and support local economic development.

Industry Visit by FDDI, Chennai Students to Express Avenue Mall, Chennai: Exploring Fashion Trends & Retail Practices

On April 20, 2026, 18 students of 3rd year B.Des (Fashion Design), School of Fashion Design, FDDI, along with faculty, undertook an academic visit to Express Avenue Mall, Chennai, as part of the course "Fashion Trend Report & Forecasting." The visit provided valuable exposure to real-world retail environments, effectively bridging classroom learning with industry practices.

Students engaged in an in-depth market research exercise, observing consumer behaviour, visual merchandising techniques, and contemporary fashion trends across branded retail stores. Key areas of focus included window and entrance displays, mannequin styling, colour blocking, lighting techniques, and product presentation.

They also analyzed product range and variety, fabrics and materials, sizing and grouping, and garment construction quality. The visit enabled students to identify emerging trends in colour, silhouette, and styling, thereby enhancing their practical understanding of fashion forecasting and retail dynamics.



Students at Express Avenue Mall, Chennai



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FDDI Kolkata Hosts Insightful Workshop on Luxury Brand Careers

FDDI Kolkata, under the School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD), organized an engaging offline workshop titled “From Classroom to Luxury Brand – Your Journey Begins Here” on 20 March 2026.

The session was conducted by Ms. Puja Mondal, Sourcing Associate at Ralph Lauren – Polo Girls and an alumna of FDDI Kolkata (Fashion Design, Batch 2020–2024). Drawing from her professional journey, from working with international brand Next to entering the luxury fashion segment, she shared valuable insights into the transition from academic learning to the global industry.

The session strongly resonated with students, as Ms. Mondal offered a relatable perspective on career growth, emphasizing consistency, adaptability, and continuous learning. Students from LGAD, Fashion Design (FD), and Footwear Design & Production (FDP) participated, making it a multidisciplinary learning experience.

Key insights included an overview of liaison and buying offices, real-time sourcing and merchandising practices, industry expectations from fresh graduates, and challenges in coordination across teams and vendors. A special emphasis was placed on the importance of effective communication in client interactions, internal coordination, and minimizing production errors.

To enhance practical learning, students engaged in a design thinking activity where they developed brand concepts, covering aspects such as brand identity, target audience, product planning, and retail strategy. Group presentations and discussions enabled students to connect creative ideas with real-world applications.



Ms. Puja Mondal providing key insights during the session

Photography Workshop Inspires Creative Learning at FDDI Ankleshwar



A view of the Photography Workshop

FDDI Ankleshwar Campus organized “Photography Workshop” on 20 March 2026 for Foundation, 3rd Semester, and 5th Semester students, aiming to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry practices.

The session was conducted by renowned fashion photographer Rahul Ramling (Libra), who shared valuable insights into creativity, lighting, and visual storytelling, the key elements of fashion photography. Students were introduced to essential concepts such as ISO, shutter speed, aperture, and composition techniques, along with an overview of the professional workflow from shoot planning to final editing.

The workshop received an enthusiastic response, with students appreciating the practical insights and real-world examples. The session inspired many to explore photography further, while also highlighting the value of hands-on learning for future workshops.



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Peace Education Session at FDDI Noida

A 'Peace Education' session was successfully conducted on 20 March 2026 at FDDI, Noida witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members.



Participants attending the session

The session, conducted by experts from the Prem Rawat Foundation for the Peace Education Program namely Mr. O. P. Singh and Mr. Shashank Jha focused on essential human values such as inner peace, self-awareness, clarity, and appreciation, emphasizing their relevance in today's fast-paced world.

Participants were introduced to the idea that peace is an inner experience, cultivated

through self-understanding rather than external circumstances. Through interactive discussions and reflective exercises, the session encouraged individuals to explore their own sense of hope, balance, and fulfillment.

The program fostered a positive and engaging environment, enabling participants to share their thoughts openly. Many noted that the session offered valuable insights into managing stress and maintaining emotional well-being in both personal and professional life.

KVIC Trainees at FDDI Ankleshwar Gain Industry Exposure at Condor Footwear

Under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana, trainees enrolled in the Leather Footwear Repairing Skill Development Programme, organized by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in association with FDDI Ankleshwar visited the Condor Footwear Factory on 20 March 2026 as part of an industrial exposure initiative.

The visit provided valuable practical insights into various stages of footwear manufacturing, including material selection, cutting, stitching, assembly, and finishing. Participants also observed quality control practices and modern production techniques adopted in the industry.

The exposure enabled trainees to connect classroom learning with real-world



KVIC Trainees at Condor Footwear

applications, enhancing their technical understanding and confidence. KVIC officials highlighted the importance of such initiatives in strengthening skills and promoting self-employment opportunities.



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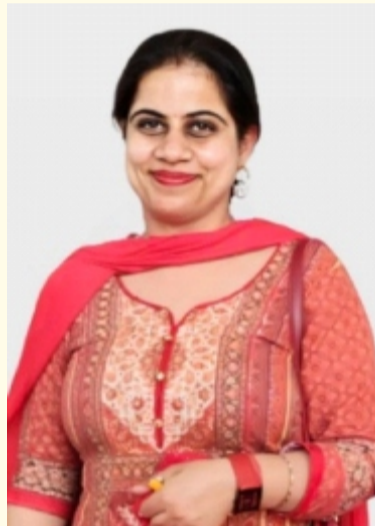
The programme, being conducted at FDDI Ankleshwar, Gujarat, aims to empower individuals through skill development in the leather footwear sector.

FDDI, Banur Faculty: Recognition for Academic Contribution

Dr. Agya Preet, Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD), FDDI Banur Campus, has been awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the International Journal of Materials Science and Applications (IJMSA) in acknowledgment of her valuable contribution as a reviewer.

Dr. Preet is a member of the journal's reviewer committee, and her name is featured on the official IJMSA website among an esteemed panel of international reviewers from across the globe. The recognition has been conferred for her review of the manuscript titled "The Role of Quality Control in Improving Productivity in the Garment Industry."

An invitation to serve as a reviewer for the journal was received in February 2026. Upon successful empanelment, the first manuscript was assigned in March 2026. Following the completion of the review, a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded in recognition of the valuable contribution.



Dr. Agya Preet, Faculty, FD



Certificate of Recognition

This achievement highlights her academic expertise and reflects FDDI's continued commitment to research excellence and scholarly engagement.

WGSN Fashion Trend Vision 2027 Workshop at FDDI, Noida

The School of Leather Goods and Accessories Design (LGAD) of FDDI organized an insightful workshop on 20 March 2026 on WGSN Fashion Trend Vision 2027, aimed at enhancing students' understanding of future fashion trends and forecasting.

The session was conducted by industry experts Mr. Prasant Srivastava, Ms. Anvita Mittal, and Ms. Abhipsa Marndi from WGSN. Key themes included evolving consumer behaviour, sustainability, regenerative fashion, and the growing role of technology in design.



A view of the participants attending the workshop

Participants were introduced to emerging trend directions such as expressive aesthetics, functional fashion, and heritage-inspired craftsmanship, along with the importance of data-driven insights in forecasting.

The interactive workshop effectively bridged academic learning with industry practices, inspiring students to develop innovative, future-ready design solutions aligned with global fashion trends.



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Industry Readiness & Skill Calibration Workshop at FDDI Noida

On 18 March 2026, FDDI Noida organized an Industry Readiness and Skill Calibration Workshop under the initiative of School of Leather Goods and Accessories Design (LGAD) in collaboration with Alpine Leathers Pvt. Ltd. The session aimed to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations, particularly for students preparing for internships.

Alpine Leathers Pvt. Ltd., based in Faridabad (Delhi NCR), is a well-established manufacturer of high-quality leather products, including gloves, handbags, belts, and small leather goods.

The workshop was conducted by the HR team of Alpine Leathers along with Mr. Vikrant Rana (Industry Head). While students at the Noida campus attended offline, participants from Kolkata and Hyderabad campuses joined online via the Digital Smart Classroom, ensuring wider engagement.

The session provided valuable insights into the leather industry, emerging career opportunities, and key job roles such as sustainability and digitalization specialists. Students were also guided on entry-level roles, career growth pathways, and industry expectations, including technical expertise, creativity, communication skills, and a problem-solving mindset.

Experts emphasized the importance of practical exposure, continuous learning, and strong professional relationships, highlighting that portfolio and attitude often matter more than marks. The interactive session proved highly beneficial for students as they prepare for upcoming internships, offering clarity on required skills and career direction.



Mr. Vikrant Rana (Industry Head), Alpine Leathers Pvt. Ltd. briefing about aligning academic knowledge with industry requirements



Participants attending the workshop at FDDI Noida

Overall, the workshop strengthened industry-academia collaboration and reinforced FDDI's commitment to developing industry-ready professionals.



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FDDI Fursatganj Faculty Research Published in IJIRT

A research article authored by Mr. Abhishek Kumar Saxena, Faculty - FDDI Fursatganj, has been published in the International Journal of Innovative Research in Technology (IJIRT) (March 2026, Vol. 12, Issue 10).

Titled "Algorithm-Based Pattern Nesting for Waste Reduction in Footwear Upper Cutting: A Systematic Literature Review," the paper examines advanced computational techniques to minimize material wastage in footwear manufacturing. The study reviews 50 research publications (2003-2025) and analyses approaches such as genetic algorithms, heuristic methods, and AI-based optimization.

The findings indicate that algorithm-driven nesting can improve material utilization by approximately 15%, while enhancing efficiency compared to conventional methods. The study also underscores the role of digital tools, AI, and Industry 4.0 in enabling sustainable and efficient production systems.

The research makes a valuable contribution to sustainable footwear manufacturing and promotes the adoption of data-driven, CAD-integrated solutions in academia and industry.



Mr. Abhishek Kumar Saxena, Faculty
-FDDI Fursatganj



Certificate of Publication

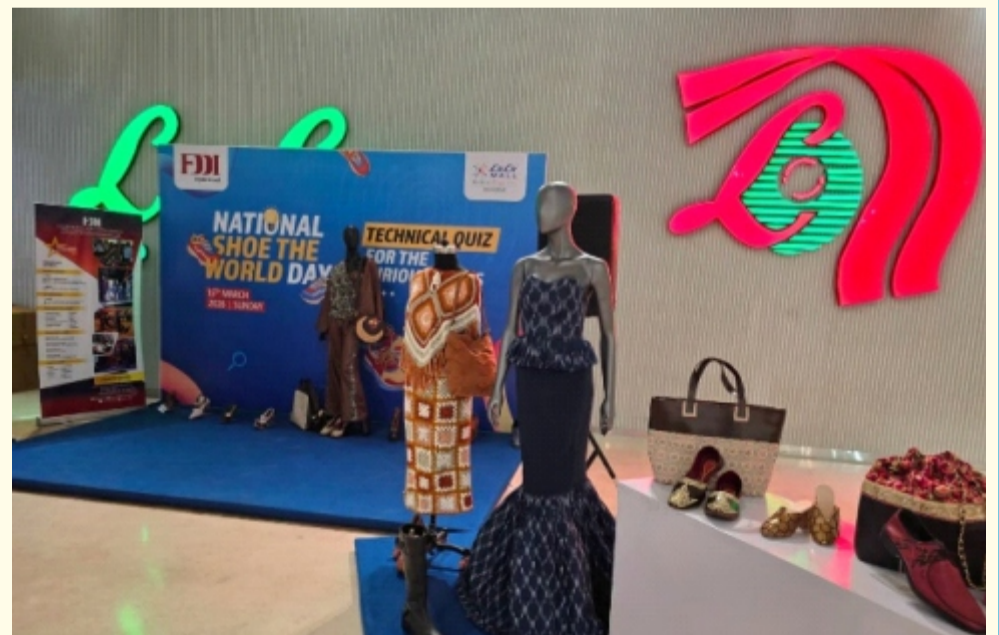
FDDI Hyderabad Celebrates National Shoe the World Day at Lulu Mall

FDDI Hyderabad celebrated National Shoe the World Day on 15 March 2026 at Lulu Mall, in association with the mall authorities. The event aimed to promote awareness about creativity, innovation, and career opportunities in the fashion and footwear industry.

Observed globally since 2014, the day highlights the significance of footwear and its impact on people's lives. Marking the occasion, FDDI students presented a vibrant exhibition showcasing innovative designs in apparel, footwear, and handbags, which drew strong appreciation from visitors.



Team of FDDI Hyderabad and Lulu International mall at FDDI's stall



A view of the stall of FDDI

The event also featured an engaging quiz competition, with winners felicitated with gifts, along with cultural performances that added to the festive atmosphere. With participation from over 500 visitors, the event witnessed enthusiastic engagement from shoppers and guests.

The initiative provided a valuable platform for students to showcase their creativity while creating awareness about emerging trends in the fashion and footwear sector. Lulu Regional Manager Muhammed Shareef, Mall Manager Ezhil Arasan, and employees and senior faculty members from FDDI were present on the occasion.



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Foot Health Awareness Campaign by FDDI Chennai

FDDI Chennai successfully organized a two-day Foot Health Awareness Campaign titled “Know Your Feet – Walk Healthy” on 14–15 March 2026, at Grand Square Mall, Velachery, Chennai, in observance of National Shoe The World Day.



A view of the Foot Health Awareness Campaign



A visitors getting her 3D foot scanning done



A visitors being briefed about foot health, proper footwear fit

The campaign aimed to raise awareness about foot health, proper footwear fit, and individual foot structure. Visitors were offered complimentary 3D foot scanning, enabling them to understand their foot size, arch type, and pressure distribution, along with basic guidance on appropriate footwear.

The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from a diverse audience. A key highlight was the use of advanced 3D laser scanning technology, which attracted significant interest and encouraged interactive engagement on common foot-related issues.

The campaign also provided valuable experiential learning for FDDI students, who actively contributed as volunteers. Overall, the initiative reinforced FDDI's commitment to promoting foot health awareness, innovation, and responsible footwear practices.

PIB Chandigarh Officials Visit FDDI Jodhpur

Officials from PIB Chandigarh visited FDDI Jodhpur on 10 March 2026 and were briefed on the institute's academic excellence, industry-oriented programs, and innovation-driven initiatives.



PIB Chandigarh Officials being briefed about the process of footwear manufacturing

Mr. Anil Kumar, Executive Director, FDDI Jodhpur, highlighted the institute's commitment to integrating Rajasthan's rich craft heritage with modern technology, enabling local design and craftsmanship to gain global recognition. He also emphasized FDDI's focus on industry-aligned curricula and emerging domains such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, and Digital Retail to keep students in sync with evolving market trends.

The delegation was further apprised of the institute's initiatives to promote start-ups and entrepreneurship, fostering opportunities for young innovators in design, retail, and product development.



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FDDI Showcases Sustainable Design Innovation Using Vegan Leather at ICAR-NINFET

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Centre of Excellence (CoE), FDDI Kolkata has been actively collaborating with ICAR–National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology (ICAR-NINFET), Kolkata. The collaboration focuses on the design and development of diversified products using biodegradable vegan leather developed by ICAR, with an emphasis on promoting sustainable alternatives to conventional materials.

As part of this ongoing engagement, Ms. Basumitra Ghosh Mukherjee, Head – CoE, FDDI Kolkata, was invited to deliver an expert lecture at the National Training-cum-Workshop on “Natural Fibre Based Vegan Leather and Low-Cost Biodegradable Flexible Composite”, held from 9–13 March 2026. The workshop brought together researchers, academicians, industry professionals, and entrepreneurs working in sustainable materials and natural fibre technologies.

Delivering her lecture on 12 March 2026, titled “Design and Development of Diversified Products Using Vegan Leather”, Ms. Mukherjee presented FDDI's work on design exploration and product development using biodegradable materials developed through ICAR's research initiatives. The session highlighted how innovative design approaches can translate eco-friendly materials into practical, market-oriented products.



Ms. Basumitra Ghosh Mukherjee delivering the lecture

The presentation showcased a range of prototype concepts across product categories such as lifestyle accessories, stationery, footwear components, and handcrafted goods, demonstrating the versatility of the material. It also highlighted the collaborative efforts within FDDI, including key contributions from CoE Rohtak and CoE Jodhpur.

The lecture generated significant interest among participants, particularly in sustainable design strategies, material adaptability, and product innovation. It also served as a valuable platform for knowledge exchange between material scientists and designers, further strengthening the collaboration between ICAR and FDDI in advancing sustainable product design.

Research Paper Presentations by FDDI Chennai Campus Students at International Conference

B.Des (Fashion Design) students of FDDI Chennai Campus successfully presented their research papers at an international conference through online mode under faculty guidance. The conference was organized by the Department of Fashion Technology & Costume Designing, Bon Secours College for Women (A), Thanjavur, as part of the ANRF-sponsored International Conference on Next-Gen Smart & Green Sustainable Textiles: Opportunities and Challenges (ICNGO-26), held on 20 – 21 February 2026 with the International Conference Proceeding "ISBN:978 - 81 - 961125 - 0 - 9.



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Sr. No.	Student Name	Year	Research Topic	Theme
1	K. Madhumitha	III Year	Magneto-Morph Textile Interface (MMTI)	Smart Textile Physics & Functional Innovations
2	Lakshmi Prajwala Banda	II Year	Block Printing: Igniting the Sustainable Textile Revolution	Green Chemistry for Sustainable Textiles
3	Haritha Lokesh	II Year	Bio Film to Polymer Fibers	Green Chemistry for Sustainable Textiles
4	Netra Venil	II Year	Mycelium-Based Bio Materials for Skin Wound Healing	Sustainable Biomaterials
5	Rithiga Elangovan	II Year	Modern Terracotta Revival	—
6	Lakeesha Mariet	II Year	Modern Terracotta Revival	—
7	Niya Baburaj	II Year	Modern Terracotta Revival	—
8	Lakshmanan S	II Year	Innovation for a Greener Future	—

This participation highlights the students' strong research orientation and FDDI's commitment to fostering innovation, sustainability, and academic excellence.

UDGAM 2026 - Research-Driven Design Workshop at FDDI Banur (Chandigarh) Campus

FDDI Banur (Chandigarh) Campus successfully organized UDGAM 2026, a five-day research-driven design workshop from 21–25 February 2026, in collaboration with Karyashalla. Led by FDDI's E-Cell and mentored by Mr. Jagad Jay, Founder of Karyashalla, the workshop brought together 24 students from 11 FDDI campuses, fostering a collaborative and inquiry-based learning environment.



Participants gaining practical insights through experiential learning



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The program commenced with orientation sessions, followed by observational learning through photo ethnography and spatial mapping. Field immersion at Rock Garden and Sector 17 Market enabled students to engage in real-world research and user insights.



A view of certificate distribution: From left to right: Dr. Renu Sharma, a student receiving the Certificate of Course Completion (at center) from Ms. Pragya Singh, Executive Director (extreme right)

Students then translated their observations into design solutions, developing prototypes such as footwear and bottle covers using single-material constraints, promoting innovation and material exploration. The workshop concluded with an exhibition and symposium, where participants showcased their research-driven outcomes, reflecting a strong integration of observation, experimentation, and presentation.

Webinar-cum-Workshop on Lifestyle, Nutrition and Positive Living at FDDI Banur (Chandigarh) Campus

FDDI Banur (Chandigarh) organized a webinar-cum-workshop titled “Lifestyle, Nutrition and the Power of Positive Living” on 20 February 2026 in hybrid mode. The session aimed to promote holistic well-being by integrating mental, emotional, and physical health awareness with practical lifestyle insights.



Expert sharing her views during webinar-cum-workshop



A view of the participants

The workshop was conducted by Mrs. Poonam Anand, Life & Health Coach and Law of Attraction Specialist, and Mrs. Sunita Kulwant, Health & Wellness Coach.

The first session focused on mind-set development through techniques such as the Law of Attraction, Ho'oponopono, and Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT). The second segment included a live body composition analysis, covering parameters like BMI, body fat, and metabolism.

The session effectively combined positive thinking with practical health awareness, encouraging participants to adopt a balanced and informed lifestyle.



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FDDI Faculty Participate in ET Great India Retail Summit & Awards 2026

Faculty members from FDDI namely, Dr. Avinash Bajpai, Dr. Chitresh Shrivastava, and Dr. Govind Soni from the School of Retail & Fashion Merchandise (RFM) participated as esteemed delegates at the ET Great India Retail Summit & Awards 2026, organized by The Economic Times at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai.



FDDI Faculty at ET Great India Retail Summit & Awards 2026

Held from 19–20 February 2026, the two-day summit brought together leading retail industry stakeholders, including innovators, brand leaders, and policymakers. With over 100 speakers and participation from more than 400 brands, the event served as a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange and industry networking.

Key discussions focused on emerging retail business models, technology integration, omni-channel strategies, sustainability, and India's expanding global retail footprint. Sessions on AI-driven retail, experiential commerce, D2C growth, luxury retail, and supply chain innovation offered valuable insights into the evolving retail landscape.