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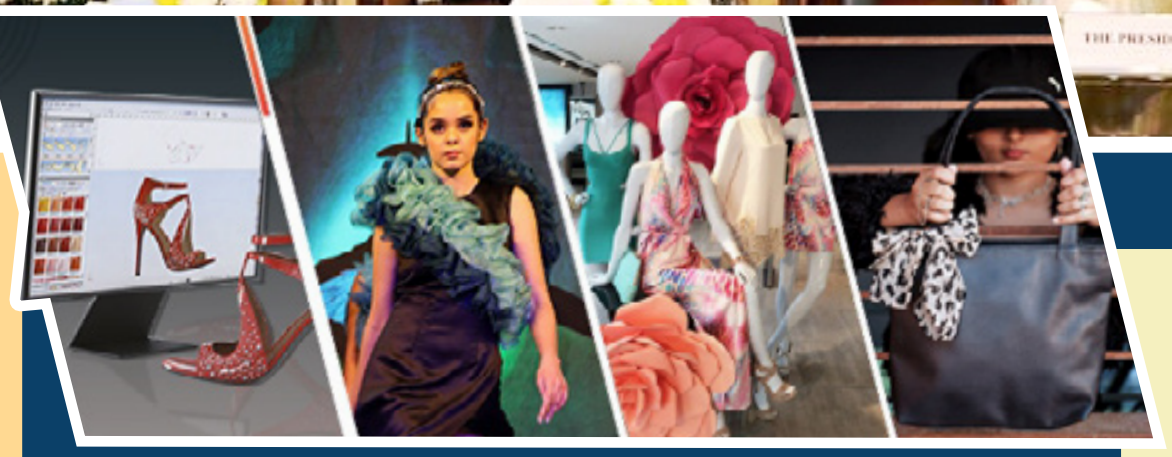
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
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DPIIT

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ISSUE NO. 15 _____ May 2026

NEWSLETTER







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FDDI Signs MoU with UPAY to Promote Inclusive Education and Social Innovation

On 17 April 2026, FDDI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UPAY, an organisation dedicated to providing quality education and holistic development opportunities to underprivileged children. The partnership reflects a shared vision of leveraging education, skill development and innovation to create sustainable social impact.

On behalf of FDDI, Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI signed the MoU whereas Ms. Yashvi Sharma from UPAY signed the MoU during which Mr. Varun Shrivastava, Founder & Chairman UPAY was also present.

Through this collaboration, FDDI will contribute its expertise in design, innovation and industry-oriented training, while UPAY will extend its strong community outreach and educational initiatives that have already impacted more than 10,000 children across India.



A view of the signing of MoU

The collaboration aims to strengthen skill development among underserved youth, promote sustainable and affordable product innovation, encourage grassroots entrepreneurship and support community upliftment through integrated education and vocational training initiatives.

A key extension of the initiative will be led by the FDDI Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell), which will connect the partnership to a broader innovation ecosystem through collaborations with leading entrepreneurship cells and incubators such as Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi), Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM Ahmedabad) and NSRCEL.

The MoU marks a significant step towards integrating education, innovation and entrepreneurship to drive inclusive growth and meaningful community empowerment.

FDDI Signs MoU with CII-IQ to Strengthen Quality and Competitiveness in the Footwear & Leather Sector

On 09 April 2026, FDDI formalised a strategic collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry, Institute of Quality (CII-IQ) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

On behalf of FDDI, Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), FDDI signed the MoU whereas Maj Neil Castelino, Chief, CII-IQ signed the MoU.

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The partnership aims to strengthen competitiveness, productivity and quality standards across India's footwear and leather ecosystem through focused industry collaboration and capacity-building initiatives.

Key areas of collaboration include industry access and cluster development, enabling CII-IQ to engage with MSMEs and OEMs across the country to build quality-driven industrial clusters. The partnership will also focus on structured training programmes on operational excellence and Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) for FDDI professionals and industry stakeholders.



A view of the exchange of MoU

In addition, CII-IQ will extend its consulting expertise nationwide to support measurable improvements in operational performance and MSME cluster transformation through periodic reviews and continuous improvement frameworks. The collaboration will further promote the development of a robust quality ecosystem through model excellence clusters, certification pathways and exposure to industry best practices.

The implementation roadmap for the partnership was jointly deliberated with active participation from Mr. Prashant Kumar Saxena, Mr. Rohan Krishanmoorthy and Mr. Vishal Saxena.

This strategic collaboration reflects a shared commitment towards building a future-ready, quality-driven and globally competitive ecosystem for the footwear and leather industry in India.

FDDI: Strengthening Industry Collaboration for Student Development and Skill Enhancement

On 9 April 2026, Mr. Raj Bhatia, Managing Director of D2 International visited FDDI and held discussions with Mr. Vivek Sharma, IRS, Managing Director (MD), during which Dr. Renu Sharma (Academic Head) and Mr. Anoop Rana, Head of the School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD) were present.

The interaction focused on strengthening industry–academia collaboration through initiatives related to academic development, skill enhancement, internships, placements, retail exposure and visual merchandising practices. Discussions also emphasized aligning education with evolving industry requirements and creating long-term opportunities for students.

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The visit was followed by a tour of the LGAD laboratories and an interaction with students, during which Mr. Rajiv shared valuable industry insights and motivated students towards innovation and professional excellence.



Discussion in progress

The initiative reflects a shared commitment towards bridging the gap between academia and industry while preparing students with practical exposure and industry-relevant skills.

FDDI Kolkata Student Shines at Global Sustainability Challenge Finals in Germany

Under the Mentor & Technical Guide of Mr. Prashanta Nanda, HOD, School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), Ms. Anneasa Manna, a student of the FDP, (B.Des. 2023–27) from FDDI Kolkata Campus, participated in the prestigious Global Sustainability Challenge Finals held at the Technical University of Munich (TUM), Garching Campus, Germany, from 28–30 April 2026.

The challenge was organized by the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, and the Maker Bhavan Foundation. The international event brought together students, researchers, and innovators from across the globe to address sustainability and climate resilience challenges through innovation and technology.



Ms. Anneasa Manna at the Technical University of Munich, Garching Campus, Germany



Participants attending the innovation and entrepreneurship workshop

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- FDDI: Strengthening Industry Collaboration for Student Development and Skill Enhancement;
- FDDI Kolkata Student Shines at Global Sustainability Challenge Finals in Germany;
- Incubation Capacity Building Program Launched at FDDI Head Office;
- FDDI Officials Visit DPIIT and AIC-BIMTECH under "FootIn" Programme;
- FDDI Chhindwara Hosts Insightful Webinar on Modern Retail Merchandising;
- FDDI, Noida Organises Workshop on Future Retail Technologies;
- Workshop on "Handwoven – Application of Embroidery Techniques" held at FDDI, Hyderabad;
- FDDI Faculty Participates in CLO Summit Bengaluru 2026;
- Industry Exposure at Raymond Textile Division for FDDI Chhindwara students;
- Interactive UI/UX Workshop Conducted at FDDI Noida;
- India Design Language in Practice through Field Learning at Hyderabad's Footwear Micro Cluster;
- NIFT, Delhi Students Explore Advanced Footwear Manufacturing at FDDI, Noida;
- FDDI, Hyderabad Hosts Retail Business Conference;
- 'Educational Visit' for Foundation Students at NITRA, Ghaziabad;
- Interactive Session on Entrepreneurship at FDDI Chhindwara;
- FDDI, Noida Organises Insightful Session on Financial Intelligence;
- Turning Ideas into Insights: A Session on Retail Research at FDDI, Hyderabad;
- Alumni Meet 2026 at FDDI Fursatganj;
- Design Meets Creativity: Sneaker Artistry Workshop at FDDI, Hyderabad;
- Bridging Learning and Industry: Educational Visit of FDDI, Hyderabad Student to Mumbai;
- FDDI Noida Hosts Insightful Fashion Industry Masterclass;
- Expert Session on Business Communication & Personality Development at FDDI Fursatganj;
- FDDI Strengthens Academic Exchange Through NIFT Campus Visit;
- Beyond the Classroom: Hands-on Retail Experience for FDDI Chhindwara Students;
- FDDI, Foundation Students Introduced to Generative AI Tools;
- AI in Fashion, Leather & Accessories: An Inspiring Interactive Session at FDDI, Noida;
- FDDI, Hyderabad Faculty Participation at ATEXCON 2026;

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During the event, Ms. Anneasa Manna participated in orientation sessions, networking activities, and poster presentations, interacting with global participants and sustainability innovators. The programme provided valuable exposure to international research culture, innovation ecosystems, and collaborative problem-solving approaches focused on sustainable development.

A major highlight of the event was her selection among the Top 20 Global Finalists in the Adaptation & Resilience category. She presented her project titled "Atmospheric Water Generator Integrated with Air Purification System," which focused on integrating atmospheric water generation technology with air purification mechanisms through an innovative three-layer cylindrical system.

The project received appreciation for its innovative design, technical integration, and potential social impact in addressing environmental challenges related to clean air and water accessibility.

The final day included an innovation and entrepreneurship workshop conducted by former Google professionals, focusing on product thinking, scalable innovation models, and sustainable business development.

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- FDDI, Banur Faculties Publish Research on Indian Tribal Arts in Fashion & Textiles;
- NIFT Delegation Visits FDDI Noida for Industry Testing Exposure;
- FDDI Students Experience Industry Learning at Lakmé Fashion Week X FDCI 2026;
- FDDI Chennai Faculty & Others Secures Two Indian Design Patents in Craft and Technology Innovation;
- FDDI Chennai Advances Sustainable Footwear Engineering Through Innovative Research;
- FDDI Chennai Advances Sustainable Footwear Engineering Through Innovative Research.



A view of the Global Sustainability Challenge

The participation proved to be a highly enriching academic and professional experience, enhancing research capabilities, presentation skills, global exposure, and intercultural understanding.

Representing FDDI and India at such a prestigious international platform was a significant achievement and contributed greatly to the student's professional growth and innovation-driven outlook.

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Incubation Capacity Building Program Launched at FDDI Head Office

The Incubation Capacity Building Program was inaugurated at FDDI Head Office on 06 April 2026 with the launch of the four-day structured programme, "FootIn: Start to Incubate". The initiative was conducted under a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FDDI and AIC-BIMTECH.

The programme brought together Lead Incubation Coordinators from 12 FDDI campuses, with a focused objective of strengthening FDDI's incubation and innovation ecosystem.

Designed with an execution-oriented approach, the programme covers key areas such as innovation mindset and design thinking, India's startup ecosystem, incubation centre strategy, government schemes and compliance frameworks, startup onboarding and due diligence, stakeholder engagement, global innovation perspectives and incubation programme development.



A view of the Incubation Capacity Building Program

The sessions are being delivered by experienced industry practitioners and innovation leaders, including Mr. Surya Kant, CEO, AIC-BIMTECH, Dr. Punita Duhan, Director, DSEU Vivek Vihar, Mr. Atif Jamal, DST NIDHI TBI Pusa Krishi, Mr. Saurav Kumar, KIET Incubation, Dr. Rahul Singh Amritra, GIMS Innovation, Dr. Sheeba Khan, AIC Shiv Nadar, Mr. Vijay Vir Singh, Incubation and Innovation Leader, Mr. Dewansh Poddar, CEO, EvRecharge and Mr. Amit Singal, Founding Partner, Indicorn Angels.

The programme also includes practical learning and exposure through an industry immersion visit to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, a visit to AIC-BIMTECH for live incubation insights, group exercises on mapping FDDI's innovation potential and sessions on building investor-ready startups.

The initiative marks a significant step towards establishing a robust, scalable and future-ready incubation ecosystem within FDDI, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and startup-driven growth across its campuses.

FDDI Officials Visit DPIIT and AIC-BIMTECH under "FootIn" Programme

As part of the "FootIn: Start to Incubate" programme, FDDI organised an exposure visit for officials from the Head Office and Lead Incubation Coordinators from campuses across India to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Startup India at Vanijya Bhawan, as well as the incubation facility at AIC-BIMTECH.

The visit aimed to connect FDDI's incubation initiatives with national-level startup support systems and strengthen institutional understanding of India's evolving innovation ecosystem.

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During the interaction with the Startup India team under DPIIT, participants gained valuable insights into funding opportunities under the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, the Fund of Funds for Startups and the broader investor ecosystem. Discussions also focused on collaboration opportunities with incubators and partner organisations, along with pathways for startup onboarding and policy alignment.



FDDI Officials at DPIIT

At AIC-BIMTECH, participants received practical exposure to live incubation processes, including startup lifecycle management, mentorship frameworks, founder support systems and incubation programme operations. The visit also highlighted the infrastructure and ecosystem support required to scale startups effectively and showcased best practices in managing structured incubation programmes.



FDDI Officials at AIC-BIMTECH

The exposure visit served as an important step towards integrating FDDI's campus incubation initiatives with key ecosystem enablers, thereby strengthening its capacity to support startups through mentorship, funding access and market linkages.

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FDDI Chhindwara Hosts Insightful Webinar on Modern Retail Merchandising

The School of Retail & Fashion Merchandise FDDI, Chhindwara, organized an engaging webinar on 24 April 2026 for students of MBA (RFM) and Fashion Design programs.

The session was delivered by Mr. Rohit Singh, Head of Buying & Merchandising at Jack & Jones (Bestseller). Students from MBA (RFM – Semester II) and Fashion Design (Semester VI) actively participated, making the session highly interactive and insightful.



Participants attending the webinar

The webinar focused on the evolving landscape of retail merchandising, highlighting how Artificial Intelligence and data-driven tools are transforming decision-making processes. Students gained insights into the shift from traditional seasonal planning to a more agile, monthly merchandising approach, enabling brands to respond swiftly to market trends and consumer behaviour.

The session provided valuable insights into assortment planning and style finalization, along with an understanding of contemporary merchandising practices. Students were introduced to key retail KPIs and mathematical indicators, while also exploring the growing role of data analytics in informed decision-making. The application of tools such as Microsoft Power BI for performance tracking and reporting further enhanced their understanding of modern retail operations.

FDDI, Noida Organises Workshop on Future Retail Technologies

At FDDI Noida, the School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design on 24 April 2026 organised an engaging workshop titled "Reimagining Retail Experience with AR/VR", highlighting the transformative role of Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) in modern retail experiences.



Session in Progress

The session was led by Ms. Sonia Jha, an expert in digital retail technologies, who provided valuable insights into emerging innovations such as virtual fitting rooms, immersive retail environments and interactive consumer engagement platforms that are redefining the retail landscape across industries.

A key highlight of the workshop was its hands-on learning approach, which enabled students to not only understand but also experience the practical applications of AR/VR technologies in real-world retail scenarios, particularly in the leather goods and accessories sector.

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Workshop on "Handwoven – Application of Embroidery Techniques" held at FDDI, Hyderabad

The School of Footwear Design & Production organized an engaging workshop on "Handwoven – Application of Embroidery Techniques" at FDDI, Hyderabad Campus, on 24 April 2026.

The workshop aimed to enhance students' design exploration skills by introducing them to innovative techniques and providing hands-on learning with expert guidance. It offered a valuable platform for students to gain practical insights and personalized feedback.

The session was conducted by Ms. Jahnavi Moturi, a Fevicryl Certified Art Professional, for the B.Des FDP 2023 and 2024 batches. She demonstrated a variety of embroidery techniques, focusing on surface texture development, intricate pattern creation, and effective manipulation of threads. Students were also guided on integrating weaving and embroidery elements into contemporary design applications.



Workshop in progress

Through detailed demonstrations and interactive engagement, the workshop enabled students to experiment with textures, understand the versatility of embroidery, and explore its application in innovative footwear design.

FDDI Faculty Participates in CLO Summit Bengaluru 2026

Ms. Anupriya Singh represented FDDI at the CLO Summit Bengaluru 2026, held on 23 and 24 April 2026, where discussions focused on the evolving convergence of Generative AI, CLO3D and digital product visualisation.



Discussion in progress

The summit brought together industry leaders, innovators and technology experts to explore the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in the design ecosystem. The discussions highlighted how AI is moving beyond experimentation to become an active driver of innovation in fashion and product development.

Key deliberations focused on the use of AI and 3D technologies to accelerate design workflows, enhance digital visualisation and develop scalable industry solutions. The summit provided valuable insights into the transformative impact of emerging technologies on the future of fashion, design and product innovation.

Industry Exposure at Raymond Textile Division for FDDI Chhindwara students

The Fashion Design Department, Hyderabad, organized an educational visit to the Textile Division of Raymond Limited at Kailash Nagar, Sausar (Chhindwara) for the B.Des Fashion Design 2024 batch (4th Semester) from 17–20 April 2026. Accompanied by Ms. Archana Prasad

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(Sr. Faculty Gr. II) and Ms. Arati Soni (Lab Assistant), the visit aimed to bridge classroom learning with real-world textile manufacturing practices.



Students at Raymond Textile Division

At Raymond Limited, renowned for producing nearly 43 million meters of suiting fabric annually under “Raymond Fine Fabrics”, students explored end-to-end industrial processes. They observed fiber-to-fabric conversion, including spinning (blow room to ring frame), weaving on high-speed looms, dyeing techniques, and advanced finishing processes such as singeing, resin finishing, shearing, and permanent finishing.

Students gained hands-on insights into quality control systems, defect identification, and post-production operations like cutting, folding, packaging, and warehousing. The visit offered a comprehensive understanding of polyester-viscose fabric manufacturing and highlighted the importance of precision, automation, and efficiency in large-scale production.

Overall, the experience was highly enriching, equipping students with practical exposure, industry awareness, and a deeper appreciation of textile processes, essential for shaping future design professionals.

Interactive UI/UX Workshop Conducted at FDDI Noida

On 20 April 2026, FDDI Noida Campus hosted an engaging and insightful UI/UX design session that seamlessly bridged creativity with real-world digital applications. The session was conducted by Mr. Chetan Kapoor, who guided students through the fundamentals and evolving significance of user-centric design.



Session in progress

The session introduced participants to the key differences between User Interface (UI) and User Experience (UX) design, while highlighting the importance of creating intuitive, meaningful and visually engaging digital experiences. Students explored essential concepts such as design thinking, wireframing, prototyping, usability and accessibility principles.

A major highlight of the session was the live demonstration using industry-standard tools like Figma, which provided students with practical exposure to interface design and digital prototyping.

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India Design Language in Practice through Field Learning at Hyderabad's Footwear Micro Cluster

On 16 April 2026, students of the Footwear Design & Production (FDP) Department, FDDI Hyderabad, undertook an educational visit to a footwear micro cluster in Durga Nagar, Sanjeev Nagar, and Jiyaguda, as part of the India Design Language – Footwear Series. The visit aimed to provide practical exposure to grassroots-level manufacturing and indigenous design practices.

Students observed artisans engaged in home-based footwear production, gaining insights into decentralized, skill-driven manufacturing systems. Divided into groups, they interacted directly with artisans, conducted interviews, and learned about production processes, challenges, and socio-economic aspects.





Students learning from master artisans

The visit offered hands-on understanding of key techniques such as pattern cutting, stitching, assembling, and finishing. It also highlighted the significance of traditional craftsmanship in contemporary footwear design, fostering appreciation for the cultural and technical value of indigenous practices.

NIFT, Delhi Students Explore Advanced Footwear Manufacturing at FDDI, Noida



Live demonstration being given to the students by the expert of FDDI

On 17 April 2026, the students from National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi, specializing in Leather Design, visited FDDI, Noida Campus for an immersive technical session on advanced footwear manufacturing processes and technologies.

The session introduced students to cutting-edge industry practices, including 3D printing in product development, advanced foot scanning technology and the complete journey from concept development to prototype creation. A detailed walkthrough of specialized machinery and manufacturing facilities provided valuable practical exposure, helping bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world production processes.

A major highlight of the visit was the live demonstration of boot pattern making and prototype development, which offered students hands-on insight into the technical precision, craftsmanship and innovation involved in footwear creation.

The visit served as an enriching learning experience, enhancing students' understanding of modern footwear technology and industry-oriented design practices.

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FDDI, Hyderabad Hosts Retail Business Conference

On 17 April 2026, the Retail & Fashion Merchandise Department, FDDI, Hyderabad Campus, successfully hosted a Technical Conference designed to transform entrepreneurial ideas into viable retail ventures. The conference aimed to equip students with practical insights into establishing and sustaining a retail business, bridging the gap between academic learning and industry realities.



Mr. Chandra Sekhar sharing expert insights on building successful retail ventures



Ms. Pratyusha M, Charter Accountant, simplifying finance with clarity

The event featured engaging sessions by eminent industry experts. Ms. Pratyusha M, Charter Accountant, demystified the complexities of finance, presenting key concepts in a clear, structured, and relatable manner that made financial planning approachable for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Adding further value, Mr. Chandra Sekhar, Head – Business Development at Arvind Fashions, delivered a dynamic and insightful session on building a successful retail enterprise. He walked students through the entire journey from identifying the right opportunity and timing to navigating challenges and ensuring profitability. His interactive delivery and active student participation made the session particularly impactful.

Overall, the conference provided a comprehensive understanding of retail business fundamentals, empowering students with the confidence and clarity to translate concepts into successful ventures.

'Educational Visit' for Foundation Students at NITRA, Ghaziabad

On 17–18 April 2026, students from all Foundation batches of the B. Design programme undertook an educational visit to the Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The visit was organized with the objective of familiarizing students with the functioning of the textile industry and enabling them to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and practical application. It also provided valuable exposure to the advanced technologies and machinery used in the processing Expert from NITRA providing valuable insights to the studentsof raw fibres into textile materials.

The students were accompanied by faculty members Dr. Sushila Hooda (Junior Faculty) and Mr. Nikhil Katiyar (Faculty). During the visit, they toured various departments of



Expert from NITRA providing valuable insights to the students

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NITRA, including Spinning, Weaving & Knitting, Testing Laboratories and the Protective Lab. The students witnessed live demonstrations of textile testing procedures such as fabric quality assessment, colour fastness testing and performance evaluation. Observing these rigorous quality control processes offered them deeper insight into the scientific and technical aspects of textile production.

Throughout the visit, experts from NITRA actively engaged with the students, addressing their queries and sharing valuable insights into the textile sector.

Interactive Session on Entrepreneurship at FDDI Chhindwara

An engaging and insightful session was organized at FDDI Chhindwara on 16 April 2026 under the E-Cell activity, in collaboration with Tata STRIVE, a skill development initiative of the Tata Community Initiatives Trust (TCIT).



Briefing on entrepreneurial skills



Participants attending the insightful interactive session

The session was conducted by Mr. Dinesh and Mr. Ashish, who interacted with students from various departments and highlighted the growing importance of entrepreneurial skills in today's dynamic professional landscape. They emphasized that entrepreneurial thinking is not limited to starting businesses but is essential for career growth across industries.

A key highlight of the session was the introduction of a free online Entrepreneurship Certification Program offered by the Tata Group. Students were guided on the enrolment process and informed about the benefits of gaining foundational knowledge in entrepreneurship through this initiative.

FDDI, Noida Organises Insightful Session on Financial Intelligence

The School of Retail and Fashion Merchandise (RFM) at FDDI, Noida organised an insightful workshop on “Financial Intelligence” on 16 April 2026.

The session was conducted by esteemed guest speaker Ms. Neha Sharma, who shared valuable insights on the strategic management of personal and professional finances. The workshop was designed to enhance participants' understanding of financial decision-making through engaging methodologies, including role plays, practical discussions and real-life examples.

Participants gained knowledge about effective money management practices, smart investment strategies and various financial platforms that support long-term financial planning and financial security.



Participants attending the session on Financial Intelligence

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Turning Ideas into Insights: A Session on Retail Research at FDDI, Hyderabad

On 15 April 2026, the Retail & Fashion Merchandise Department, Hyderabad Campus, organized an expert session under the Retail Research Module titled “Research Unlocked: From Idea to Impact.” The session aimed to strengthen students' understanding of the research process and its practical relevance in retail and merchandising.

Session in progress

The session was delivered by Dr. M. Annaji Sarma, Professor at NIFT, who shared valuable insights drawn from his extensive academic and industry experience. He explained the complete research process from idea generation to deriving meaningful insights emphasizing the importance of identifying relevant research problems, particularly in areas such as consumer behavior and market trends.

A key highlight of the session was a practical case study, which illustrated each stage of the research process, including framing objectives, designing methodologies, data collection and analysis, and drawing actionable conclusions. The discussion also highlighted how research can support effective merchandising decisions, enhance customer experience, and drive business growth.

Alumni Meet 2026 at FDDI Fursatganj

The Alumni Meet held at FDDI Fursatganj on 11 April 2026 brought together around 27 alumni from diverse domains, including footwear, fashion, and retail. The event served as a valuable platform for interaction between alumni and current students, fostering meaningful exchange of experiences, career insights, and industry perspectives.

Alumni shared their professional journeys, offering practical guidance on career development and industry expectations. The meet also included constructive discussions on enhancing the curriculum to make it more industry-oriented and aligned with evolving market needs.

Executive Director, Mr. Sunil Kumar Dwivedi appreciated the enthusiastic participation of alumni and emphasized the importance of sustained engagement. He highlighted that the relationship between an institution and its alumni is a lifelong partnership that contributes to mutual growth and strengthens the legacy of FDDI.



Alumni at the Meet

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Design Meets Creativity: Sneaker Artistry Workshop at FDDI, Hyderabad

The School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), Hyderabad, organized a workshop on "Sneaker Artistry" on 10 April 2026 at FDDI Hyderabad. The session was conducted by renowned sneaker artist Mr. Rahul Dev (Unhinged Customs), known for customizing sneakers for leading global brands such as Nike and Adidas.

The workshop introduced students to the creative and technical aspects of sneaker customization, highlighting artistic expression on footwear and the growing trend of bespoke sneaker design in the fashion industry.

Students participated in an engaging hands-on session, exploring techniques such as surface design applications, color treatments, and creative detailing to transform sneakers into personalized artistic products. Live demonstrations and interactive discussions further enriched the learning experience, enabling students to gain practical insights into contemporary footwear customization and craftsmanship.



Mr. Rahul Dev, Sneaker Artist- Unhinged Customs



Workshop in progress

Overall, the workshop was highly interactive and insightful, enhancing students' creative skills and understanding of emerging trends in sneaker design.

Bridging Learning and Industry: Educational Visit of FDDI, Hyderabad Student to Mumbai

The Fashion Design Department, Hyderabad, organized an educational visit to Mumbai for the B. Des Fashion Design (6th Semester, FD 2023 batch) students from 8 to 11 April 2026. The visit aimed to provide valuable industry exposure and practical insights into the fashion and textile sector.

The visit began with an exploration of Mumbai's local markets, where students observed current fashion trends, fabric varieties, pricing strategies, and consumer behavior, gaining an understanding of real-time retail dynamics and merchandising practices.



Mr. Kashyap, CEO, Kessi Group explaining the process of embroidery



Students acquiring stitching techniques

On the second day, students visited Kessi Group (Surat – Chaap Brand), an established organization associated with export houses and Myntra's in-house labels. They interacted with design and production teams and gained insights into the complete design development process from concept to bulk production. The visit also included their manufacturing unit, Raftar Creation, where students observed large-scale production, workflow management, and quality control systems.

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Sr. No.	Date	Place Visited	Key Activities
1	8 April 2026	Local Markets, Mumbai	Study of fashion trends, fabrics, pricing strategies, and consumer behaviour
2	9 April 2026	Kessi Group (Chaap Brand) & Raftar Creation	Interaction with design & production teams; exposure to design development and manufacturing processes
3	10 April 2026	Designer Houses – Rozina & Anokhi	Understanding design philosophy, collection development, and traditional-modern fusion
4	11 April 2026	Gartex Exhibition	Exploration of textile technologies, machinery, and live demonstrations

The third day included visits to renowned designer houses such as Rozina and Anokhi. Students gained exposure to design philosophy, collection development, and the integration of traditional elements with contemporary fashion.

On the final day, students attended the Gartex Exhibition, exploring advanced technologies and innovations in the textile and garment industry. They observed modern machinery, including CAD-CAM systems, plotter machines, and advanced embroidery units, along with live demonstrations of digital printing techniques. The exhibition also provided exposure to knitted garments, fabric variations, and accessories.





Students and Faculty at Gartex Exhibition

Overall, the visit was highly enriching, effectively bridging the gap between academic learning and industry practices. It enhanced students' technical knowledge and provided valuable insights into the professional world of fashion and textiles.

FDDI Noida Hosts Insightful Fashion Industry Masterclass

A masterclass titled “From Studio to Industry — How Fashion Design Graduates Can Position, Pitch, and Perform in the Professional World” was conducted on 10 April 2026 at FDDI, Noida Campus.

The session was led by Gaurav Mandal, a well-known industry mentor and digital creator recognized for guiding aspiring designers in career development, portfolio building and understanding real-world fashion industry dynamics.



Participants attending the masterclass

The masterclass provided students with valuable insights into career-ready skills, portfolio transformation and the importance of presenting design as a problem-solving approach beyond aesthetics. Through practical examples and industry-oriented discussions, students gained a deeper understanding of professional expectations and evolving opportunities within the fashion sector.

The session served as an enriching platform for students to strengthen their professional outlook, enhance industry preparedness and confidently navigate the evolving landscape of the fashion industry.

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Expert Session on Business Communication & Personality Development at FDDI Fursatganj



Mr. Vikram Singh, President, Coaching Federation of India taking the session

FDDI Fursatganj organized an expert session on "Business Communication & Personality Development" on 10 April 2026. The session was delivered by Mr. Vikram Singh, President, Coaching Federation of India, Raebareli.

During the session, Mr. Singh shared his professional experiences and demonstrated key aspects of effective body language, highlighting its importance in personality development. He also emphasized the role of strong business communication skills in building professional success.

The session proved to be highly beneficial for students, enhancing their understanding of communication effectiveness and personal presentation.

FDDI Strengthens Academic Exchange Through NIFT Campus Visit

On 8 April 2026, a delegation from FDDI visited the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Delhi campus as part of an academic exposure and knowledge-sharing initiative. The delegation included Dr. Renu Sharma (Academic Head), Mr. Anoop Singh Rana (Head of School – LGAD), along with faculty members from various departments.

During the visit, the delegation explored the Leather, Fashion Design, Product Design, and Technology Departments, along with the institute's Innovation Cell. The team gained valuable insights into interdisciplinary projects, innovation-driven learning practices, and industry-integrated academic initiatives. Faculty members also interacted with students and academic teams to understand NIFT's pedagogical approaches, collaborative learning systems, and effective utilization of academic infrastructure.



Delegation at Fashion Design department



Delegation at Resource Centre and Library

A key highlight of the visit was the Resource Centre and Library, which houses extensive archives of garments, embroidery samples, heritage textiles, trims, and material collections preserved for academic and research purposes. The exposure to archival practices and material documentation inspired the FDDI team to envision similar resource and archive facilities across FDDI campuses to further strengthen research, design education, and material exploration.

The visit proved to be highly enriching and motivating for the academic team, encouraging the exchange of best practices and broader perspectives on pedagogy, innovation, and interdisciplinary learning. Such academic interactions contribute significantly towards institutional growth, collaborative learning, and strengthening the design education ecosystem.

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Beyond the Classroom: Hands-on Retail Experience for FDDI Chhindwara Students

The School of Retail and Fashion Merchandise, FDDI Chhindwara, organized an industry visit to DLF Mall of India, Noida, on 7–8 April 2026 for MBA students. The visit aimed to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world retail practices through first-hand exposure to store operations, merchandising, and customer engagement.



Student acquiring first-hand insights into store operations

Students participated in interactive sessions at leading brands such as Calvin Klein, Cover Story, U.S. Polo Assn., and Rare Rabbit, gaining insights into retail operations, branding, visual merchandising, premium retailing, and customer handling techniques.

The learning experience was further enriched through visits to Janpath Market and Palika Bazaar, offering exposure to street retail dynamics, along with an interaction at Dastkar, highlighting traditional crafts and their market potential. On the second day, students visited Kushal's Fashion Jewellery to understand jewellery retailing and store layout strategies, followed by an immersive experience at Sarojini Nagar Market.

Overall, the visit provided a comprehensive understanding of both organized and unorganized retail sectors, enhancing students' practical knowledge and industry readiness.

FDDI, Foundation Students Introduced to Generative AI Tools

The "AI Learning Series", led by Dr. Ritesh Yaduwanshi, was conducted on 8 April 2026 at the Seminar Hall, Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI), for Foundation students. The session introduced students to the fundamentals of Generative AI through an interactive and beginner-friendly approach.

Students explored various AI-powered tools for image generation, video creation, digital designing and no-code app development. Key topics included prompt engineering, creative workflows and AI-driven productivity, along with discussions on real-world applications of AI.



A view of the session

The session provided students with valuable exposure to emerging technologies and encouraged them to confidently explore innovation in the evolving digital landscape.

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FDDI, Hyderabad Faculty Participation at ATEXCON 2026

On 3 April 2026, Ms. Jothipriya and Ms. Archana Prasad from the Fashion Design Department attended ATEXCON 2026, held at the Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre and the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC).

The conference featured insightful panel discussions on global textile challenges and emerging innovations. Key themes included shifting trade dynamics, the balance between large-scale and agile brands, and India's growing potential in luxury textiles. Discussions also highlighted the importance of diversified material usage (cotton, MMF, and blends), along with the increasing role of automation, artificial intelligence, and smart manufacturing. Sustainability and circularity emerged as central focus areas, emphasizing their importance in shaping the future of the industry.

The accompanying exhibition, comprising 10–15 stalls, showcased advancements in textile manufacturing, sustainable practices, advanced machinery, and emerging fashion brands. Notable interactions included Creative Bee, Colourfix, Kitex, and Youngone. Creative Bee highlighted sustainable printing and dyeing processes, while Colourfix demonstrated innovative bacterial dyeing technology. Engagements with Kitex and Youngone also opened avenues for future academic collaborations, including industrial visits and knowledge-sharing initiatives.



Interaction with young one – Safety wear and active wear industry

FDDI, Banur Faculties Publish Research on Indian Tribal Arts in Fashion & Textiles

Dr. Pooja Singh, Faculty, School of Fashion Design (FD) and Mr. Ashok Joshi, Faculty, School of Footwear Design & Production (FDP), FDDI Banur Campus have successfully published a research paper titled “Indian Tribal Arts: Boon for Fashion and Textile Designers” in the International Journal of Engineering Research & Technology (Vol. 15, Issue 04, April 2026).



Dr. Pooja Singh
Faculty- FD



Certificate of Publication



Mr. Ashok Joshi
Faculty- FDP



Certificate of Publication

The paper thoughtfully explores the rich cultural legacy of Indian tribal art forms such as Warli, Gond, Pattachitra, and Bhil, highlighting their aesthetic richness, symbolic depth, and growing relevance in contemporary fashion and textile design. It underscores how these indigenous traditions not only preserve cultural identity but also foster sustainable livelihoods and inspire innovative design approaches.

This publication marks a meaningful academic contribution toward the revival and integration of traditional crafts within modern design frameworks, encouraging designers to draw inspiration from India's diverse artistic heritage.

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NIFT Delegation Visits FDDI Noida for Industry Testing Exposure

FDDI, HO on 01 April 2026 hosted a distinguished delegation from National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT). The visiting team included Dr. Shiv Shakti, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Jharkhede, from the Leather Design (LD) and Accessory Design (AD) department and approximately 45 students.

During the visit, the delegation explored the display area of the School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (LGAD), where they appreciated a wide range of innovative projects and products developed by FDDI students in the domains of leather goods and allied products.



NIFT students at LGAD



NIFT students at ITC

The primary objective of the visit was to provide students with exposure to the International Testing Center (ITC) having laboratory facilities at FDDI Noida. An informative presentation was delivered by Ms. Rashmi Asthana, Head- ITC, highlighting the advanced testing infrastructure, industry testing standards for footwear, leather goods and allied products, along with compliance requirements related to BIS norms and quality assurance protocols.

The session featured engaging discussions on physical and chemical testing procedures, buyer-specific quality requirements and industry benchmarking practices. Following the presentation, the delegation visited the Physical Testing Lab and Chemical Testing Lab, where detailed demonstrations of testing equipment and methodologies were conducted by Mr. Rajesh Mishra and Mr. Bhanu Pratap Sahni.

The visit concluded with an interactive group session and photograph, marking a successful knowledge-sharing initiative and strengthening academic collaboration between FDDI and NIFT.

AI in Fashion, Leather & Accessories: An Inspiring Interactive Session at FDDI, Noida



Mr. Vibhu Shrivastava taking the session

An inspiring interactive session was conducted by Mr. Vibhu Shrivastava, a proud alumnus and Founder of Magic Moda, who brought together a unique blend of design thinking and advanced technology, redefining innovation in the fashion industry.

The session held on 3 April 2026 marked a pilot initiative aimed at exploring the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence across the Fashion, Leather and Accessories domains within an academic framework. Beyond product creation, the interaction focused on fostering innovation, creative problem-solving and future-ready thinking among students.

The session encouraged participants to integrate AI into their creative processes and develop skills that will shape the future of design and technology-driven industries.

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FDDI Students Experience Industry Learning at Lakmé Fashion Week X FDCI 2026



FDDI Students at Lakmé Fashion Week X FDCI 2026

In a significant initiative to bridge academic learning with global industry practices, FDDI organised an educational visit for students to Lakmé Fashion Week X FDCI 2026 from 19–22 March 2026. The visit brought together six students from the Chhindwara, Kolkata, Patna, Fursatganj, Jodhpur and Chennai campuses.

Guided by faculty coordinators Ms. Shraddha Jhaloya and Mr. Hitesh Suthar, the visit provided students with immersive exposure to the professional environment and operational dynamics of one of India's premier fashion events.

The event served as a live learning platform, showcasing themes of sustainability, innovation and cultural heritage. Students observed how renowned designers such as Rahul Mishra and Samant Chauhan incorporated handcrafted textiles and ethical fashion practices into their collections. They also gained insights into contemporary design innovation through presentations by designers like Amit Aggarwal and Aneeth Arora, along with emerging talent featured on the GenNext platform.

A major highlight of the visit was the students' active participation in backstage management, where they assisted designers and stylists, coordinated garment logistics and supported live show operations. The hands-on experience strengthened their skills in teamwork, time management, adaptability and professional communication in a fast-paced industry environment.

The visit proved to be a transformative learning experience, enhancing students' industry readiness and reinforcing the importance of experiential learning in design education.

FDDI Chennai Faculty & Others Secures Two Indian Design Patents in Craft and Technology Innovation

Dr. Rambabu Muppidi, Senior Faculty (FD) at FDDI, Chennai Campus, has added another significant achievement to his distinguished academic and research career with the grant of two Indian Design Patents.



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



Mr. Mattagunja Anirudh. FDDI

Widely recognized for integrating traditional craft knowledge with modern design innovation, Dr. Muppidi, a Ph.D. Gold Medalist in Handicrafts History from Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, has filed over 50 design applications, of which 29 Indian Design Patents have been granted so far.

One of the newly granted patents is titled “Slippers with Timer Monitoring Unit (Timer Slippers),” (Design No. 481687-001) under Class 02–04 (Footwear), filed on 26 November 2025 and granted in March 2026 by the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks, India. The innovative concept integrates a timer monitoring unit into slippers to track walking duration and promote health awareness and physical activity. Inspired by observations of daily walking habits and the lack of simple tracking mechanisms in conventional footwear, the design combines functionality, comfort, and technology. Developed through market research, sketching,





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rendering, and CAD modelling, the project was supported by Resolute 4IP under the guidance of Mr. Subhajit Saha, with academic collaboration from Dr. Murali V. Kesaboina and Mr. Mattagunja Anirudh.

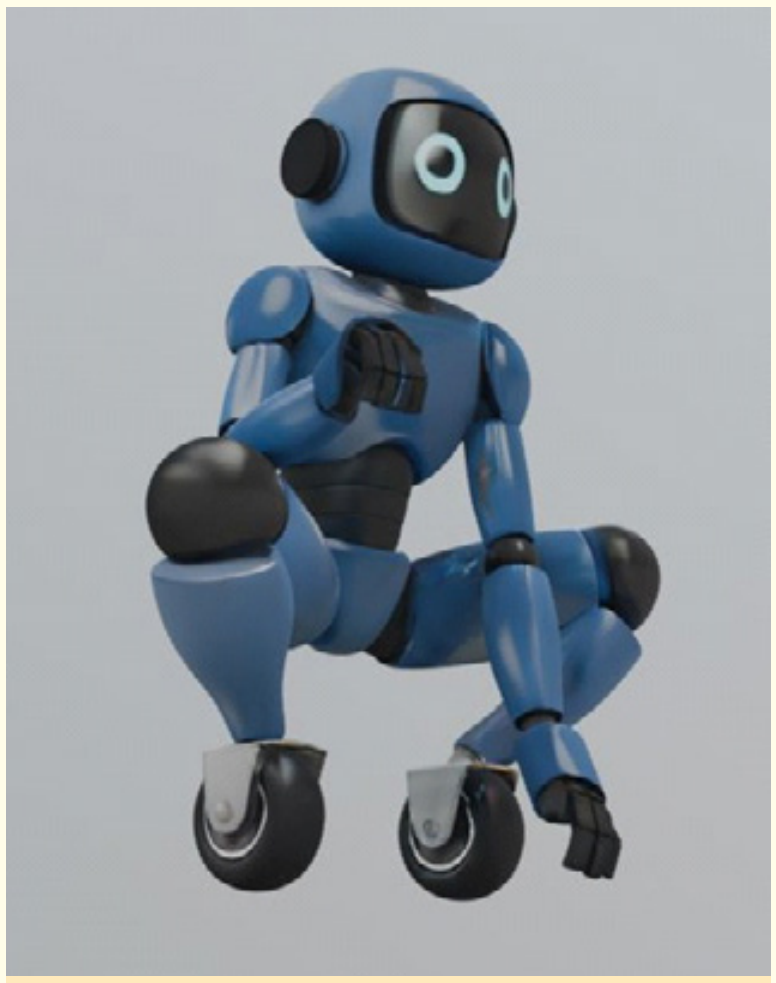


Slippers with Timer Monitoring Unit (Timer Slippers)



Design Patent Certificate

Dr. Muppidi also received a patent grant for the innovative “Craft Blue Robo Toy” (Design No. 489119-001) under Class 21–01 (Games and Toys), published in the Indian Patent Office Journal on 13 March 2026. Inspired by pose-to-pose animation techniques, the robot-themed toy is designed to encourage imagination, storytelling, cognitive development, and hands-on learning among children. The design integrates traditional craft thinking with modern production technologies through sketching, manual rendering, CAD modelling, and CAM-based development. Its ergonomic structure, lightweight build, and dynamic action-pose aesthetics make it visually engaging and child-friendly. The project was developed collaboratively with Mr. Mattagunja Anirudh of FDDI and Mr. Hari Krishna Silamanthula, Assistant Professor at Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, with IP support from Resolute 4IP.



Craft Blue Robo Toy



Design Patent Certificate

These achievements reflect FDDI's continued emphasis on innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and research-driven design education. The patents also reinforce Dr. Rambabu Muppidi's valuable contribution to India's evolving footwear and product design ecosystem through the successful integration of craft heritage, sustainability, and modern technology.

FDDI Chennai Advances Sustainable Footwear Engineering Through Innovative Research

FDDI, Chennai Campus has achieved a significant milestone in academic and research excellence with the publication of a pioneering research paper in the internationally reputed Journal of Applied Bioanalysis (ISSN: 2405-710X), a peer-reviewed open-access journal recognized for high-quality interdisciplinary scientific research.

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The research paper titled "Development of a Natural Cushion-Based Sustainable Footbed Using Plant-Derived Fibers for Environmentally Responsible Footwear Applications" presents an innovative and eco-friendly alternative to conventional petroleum-based cushioning materials such as EVA and polyurethane foams.



Certificate of Publication awarded by the journal

The study focuses on the development of a biodegradable footbed using natural coir fibers, addressing growing environmental concerns related to landfill waste and microplastic pollution in the footwear industry.

The research highlights the successful integration of plant-derived materials with footwear engineering to achieve effective cushioning, shock absorption, breathability, moisture management, and enhanced comfort. Experimental findings demonstrated gradual compression behavior and efficient pressure distribution,

ensuring ergonomic performance while maintaining industrial feasibility. The study also confirmed that the developed cushioning system can be integrated into existing footwear manufacturing processes without major modifications, making it suitable for large-scale sustainable production.

The research was carried out by Mr. M. Vishva Kumar (Senior Faculty Grade-II), Mr. H. Selvaraj (Junior Faculty), along with M.Des scholars Gokul K, Stephen William Fernandes, and Tasmina Yasmin M from the Department of Footwear Design and Production, FDDI Chennai. The publication reflects FDDI's continued commitment towards research-driven education, innovation, and sustainable development in the footwear sector.



Mr. Vishva Kumar
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Mr. H. Selvaraj Junior Faculty, FDDI, Chennai



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Publication Link: Journal of Applied Bioanalysis Research Paper : https://journalofappliedbioanalysis.com/development-of-a-natural-cushion-based-sustainable-footbed-using-plant-derived-fibers-for-environmentally-responsible-footwear-applications

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