



भारतीय शिल्प संस्थान
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CRAFTS & DESIGN
An Initiative of Government of Rajasthan
Managed by Ambuja Educational Institute
Affiliated to Vishvakarma Skills University

Official Visit to Paris for Strengthening International Collaborations

A Report

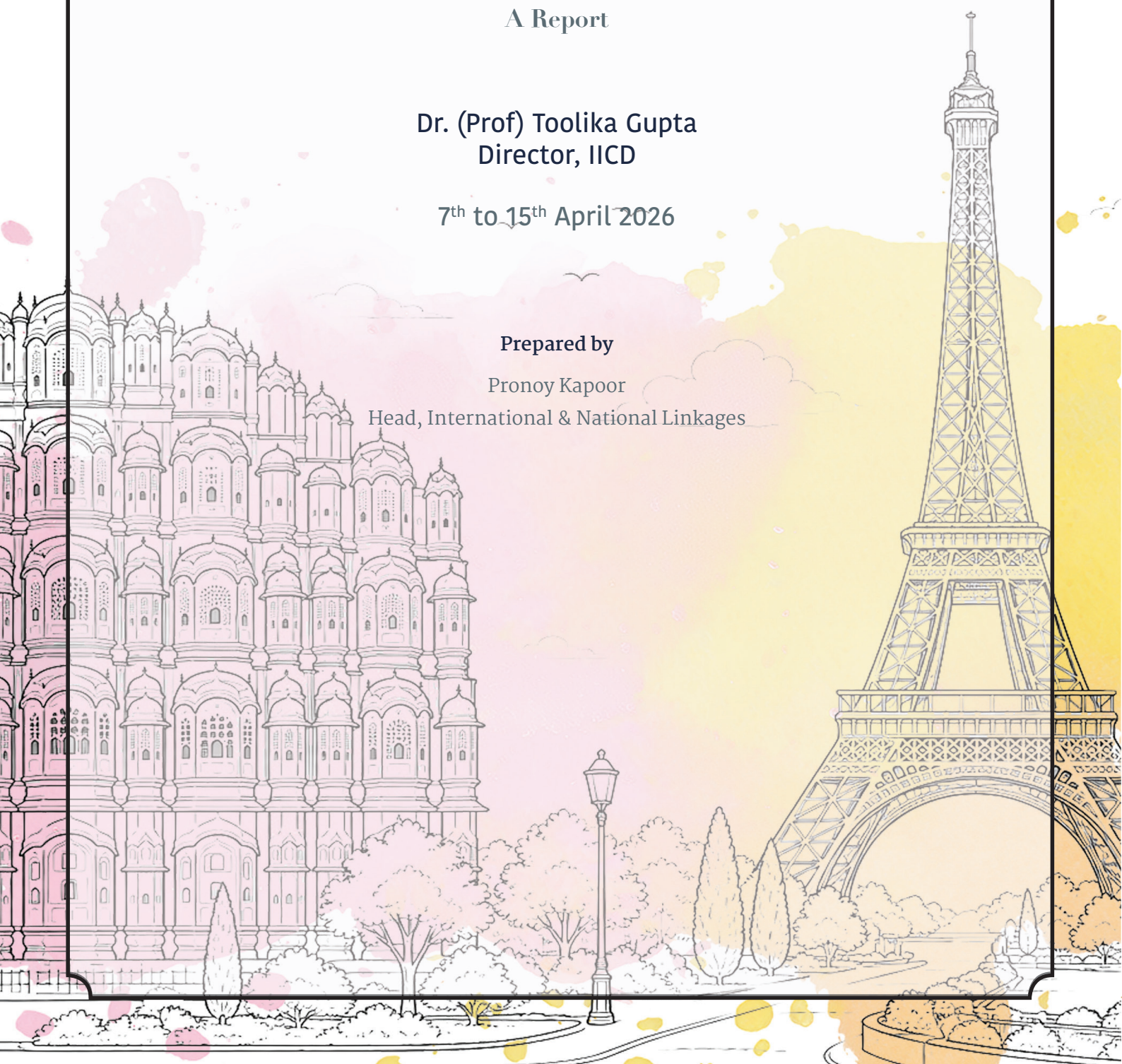
Dr. (Prof) Toolika Gupta
Director, IICD

7th to 15th April 2026

Prepared by

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Head, International & National Linkages





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Introduction

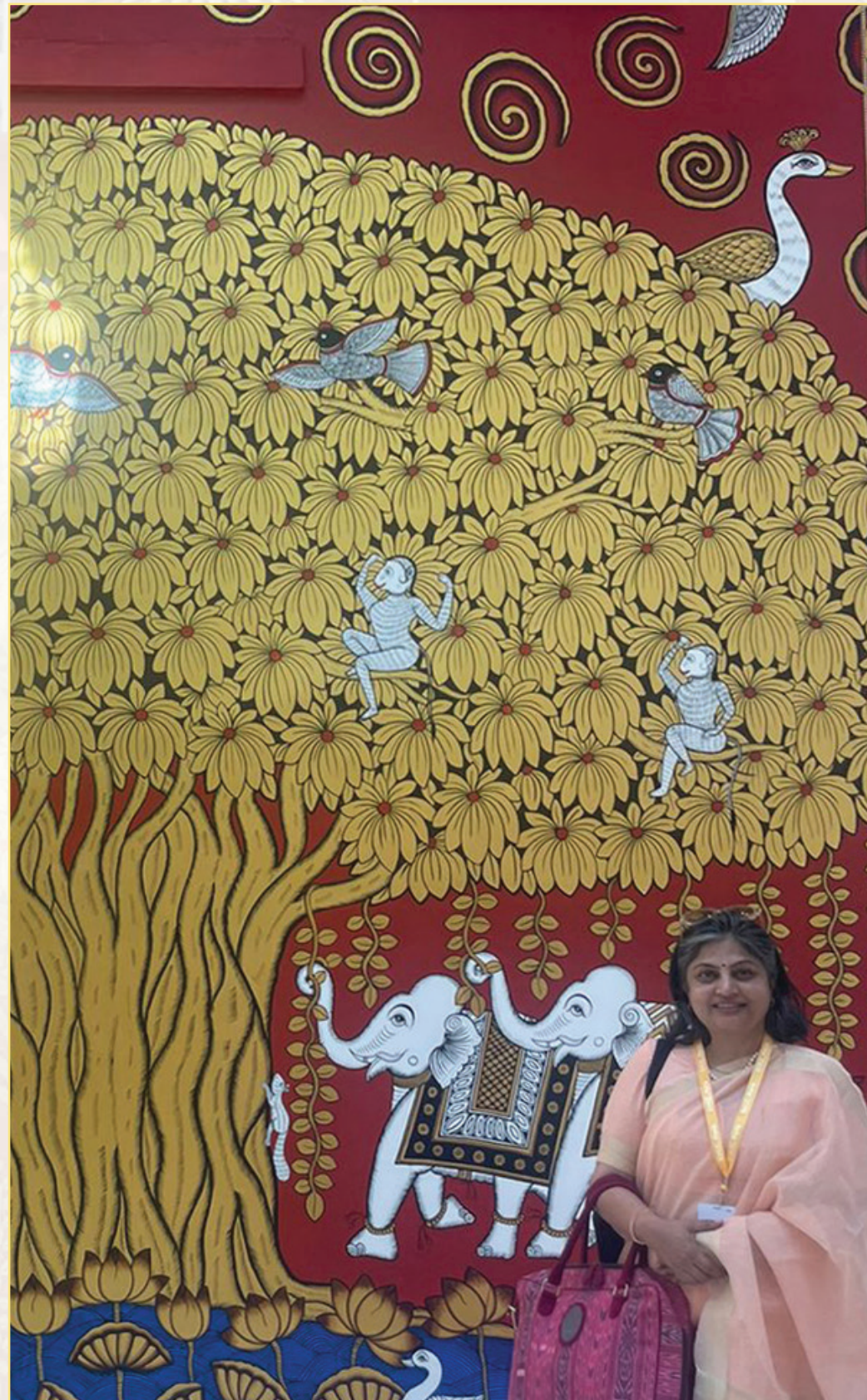


The official visit to Paris undertaken by Dr. (Prof.) Toolika Gupta, Director, Indian Institute of Crafts and Design, from 6–16 April 2026 was aimed at strengthening international collaborations and exploring new opportunities for academic, cultural, and institutional engagement in the fields of art, craft, design, fashion, and cultural heritage.

The visit provided an important platform for engaging with leading French institutions, cultural organizations, museums, and industry professionals to discuss possibilities for student and faculty exchange, collaborative programmes, workshops, exhibitions, incubation initiatives, and interdisciplinary academic partnerships. The meetings also focused on expanding IICD's global outreach while promoting Indian crafts, traditional knowledge systems, and design education at an international level.

During the visit, interactions were held with renowned institutions including École supérieure des arts et techniques de la mode (ESMOD), L'École de Design Nantes Atlantique, École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués et des Métiers d'Art (ENSAAMA), École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD), cultural spaces such as 19M, and organizations including Alliance Française Foundation and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre established by the Government of India.

The visit contributed significantly towards identifying future collaborative pathways for Indian Institute of Crafts and Design in the areas of international academic exchange, design innovation, entrepreneurship, craft-based learning, and cultural diplomacy.



Acknowledgements



FromLeft to Right : Dr. Toolika Gupta, Gaia , and Isabelle Moulin

The Director expresses sincere gratitude to all the institutions, organizations, and individuals in France who extended their hospitality, shared their valuable insights, and engaged in meaningful discussions during the visit. Their openness and collaborative spirit greatly contributed to the success of the visit and the strengthening of international engagements for Indian Institute of Crafts and Design.

As the President of Alliance Française de Jaipur, the Director also expresses sincere appreciation to Sanjana Sarkar and the entire AFJ team for their valuable support, cooperation, and assistance throughout the visit. Their continued encouragement and efforts greatly contributed to facilitating meaningful exchanges and strengthening cultural and institutional connections during the engagement in France.

Special appreciation is extended to Isabelle Moulin for her exceptional support, guidance, and coordination throughout the visit. Despite her personal commitments, she graciously accompanied the Director to various meetings, facilitated important institutional introductions, and enabled meaningful interactions with organizations and professionals across Paris. Her efforts played a significant role in making the visit productive and impactful.

The Director also acknowledges the support and cooperation extended by the representatives and officials of partner institutions, cultural organizations, alumni, and collaborators who contributed their time and expertise towards exploring future opportunities for academic and cultural collaboration with IICD.





Dr. Toolika Gupta at la Galerie du 19 M

Objectives of the Visit



- To strengthen international partnerships and explore new collaborations for the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD)
- To discuss opportunities for student and faculty exchange programmes with leading French institutions
- To explore collaborative academic initiatives, including dual-degree programmes, workshops, short-term courses, and interdisciplinary projects in design, craft, sustainability, and innovation
- To identify opportunities for exhibitions, cultural exchange, collaborative curatorial projects, and international exposure for IICD alumni, incubatees, and craftspeople
- To explore future collaborations in entrepreneurship, incubation, creative industries, and international funding frameworks such as Erasmus+
- To strengthen Indo-French cultural and academic relations through long-term cooperation in design and craft education



Itinerary



Duration of visit

7th –15th April 2026

Single Member Delegation



Dr. (Prof.) Toolika Gupta
Director IICD



7 April
2026

**École supérieure des arts
et techniques de la mode
(ESMOD)**

Discussion on academic partnerships, student and faculty exchange, fashion business programmes, and AI in design education

**L'École de Design Nantes
Atlantique**

Renewal of MoU, discussion on double-degree programmes, preparatory classes, and workshops



8 April
2026



9 April
2026

**École Nationale Supérieure des
Arts Appliqués et des Métiers d'Art
(ENSAAMA)**

Discussion on Erasmus+ collaboration, textile exchange, and interdisciplinary design education

**École nationale supérieure des
Arts Décoratifs
(ENSAD)**

Renewal of MoU and continuation of student exchange collaboration



9 April
2026



9 April
2026

Musée Guimet

Discussion on collaboration opportunities for the India-themed exhibition in 2028

la Galerie du 19M

Visit to exhibition and discussion on collaborative cultural and craft initiatives



10 April
2026



10 April
2026

Art Paris Fair

Visit to Art Paris Fair at the Grand Palais

**Online Meeting
with
Juhi Agarwal**

Discussion on collaboration opportunities and alumni engagement



11 April
2026



13 April
2026

**Meeting
with
Maximiliano Modesti**

Discussion on incubation, pop-up exhibitions, IFM collaboration, and international exposure for alumni

Alliance Française Foundation

Discussions focused on exploring possibilities for collaborative initiatives



14 April
2026



14 April
2026

**Meeting
with
Lea**

Discussion on curated craft tours of India

**Swami Vivekananda
Cultural Centre**

Discussion on European market opportunities for IICD alumni and craftspeople



14 April
2026

École supérieure des arts et techniques de la mode

Brief Profile of the Institution

ESMOD is one of the world's oldest and most prestigious fashion design institutions, founded in 1841 in Paris. Internationally recognized for its excellence in fashion design, pattern making, and fashion business education, ESMOD has established a strong global presence through campuses and collaborations across several countries. The institution is known for integrating creative innovation with technical expertise and industry-oriented training, thereby making a significant contribution to the global fashion and apparel sector. ESMOD actively collaborates with fashion houses, designers, and academic institutions to promote innovation, cultural exchange, and professional development in the field of fashion and design.



Véronique Beaumont (L) with Dr. Toolika Gupta (R)

Key Discussion Points

The meeting commenced with an overview of the distinguished legacy and evolution of ESMOD. Véronique Beaumont shared insights into the institution's historical journey and informed that ESMOD is presently owned by a Japanese company. She elaborated on the institutional changes that have taken place over the past year, including the strengthening of partnerships with institutions and collaborators in Malaysia, China, and New York.

Discussions also focused on the

Areas of Mutual Interest

- Fashion design and fashion business education
- Entrepreneurship and incubation programmes
- Integration of Artificial Intelligence in design education
- International academic collaboration and exchange
- Cross-cultural learning initiatives in fashion and design

institute's future direction under its current ownership and management. It was noted that the institution has recently involved professionals from Japan in the administration and functioning of the institute, while simultaneously remaining keen to explore new international partnerships and collaborations.

Particular emphasis was laid on the success of ESMOD's Fashion Business programmes and the potential for collaboration in this domain. Opportunities for integrating elements of entrepreneurship, incubation, and accelerator programmes through collaborative teaching initiatives were explored.

The meeting also included an engaging discussion on the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in design education and practice, with both institutions expressing interest in exploring future academic and pedagogical engagements in this emerging area.

Proposed Collaborations / Outcomes

Both institutions expressed interest in strengthening formal institutional engagement through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Discussions were initiated regarding future collaborations in the areas of student exchange, faculty exchange, joint academic projects, and online teaching engagements by faculty members from both institutions. The meeting laid the foundation for sustained dialogue and future collaborative initiatives between IICD and ESMOD.



Julia Martiano (L) with Dr. Toolika Gupta (R)

Date of Meeting 7 April 2026

Officials Met

- Véronique Beaumont (Director General, ESMOD)
- Benedict (Head of Business School)

L'École de Design Nantes Atlantique

Brief Profile of the Institution

Nantes is a leading French design institution known for its interdisciplinary and innovation-driven approach to design education. Situated 385 kms away from Paris in the city of Nantes, the school is recognized for integrating sustainability, social innovation, industry collaboration, and global engagement into its academic framework. With a strong international presence and partnerships with universities, industries, and research organizations worldwide, the institution actively promotes cross-cultural learning, collaborative projects, and professional development in the field of design.

IICD has maintained an academic partnership with NANTES through a MoU signed in 2021.

Key Discussion Points

The discussions focused on strengthening and expanding the existing relationship between the two institutions beyond conventional exchange programmes and towards more meaningful engagement in the crafts and design sector. Both institutions expressed interest in building upon the broader Indo-French cultural and educational relationship and developing deeper institutional collaborations.

The renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a further period of five years was also discussed and signed, with both sides expressing a positive intent towards continuing and strengthening the partnership.

Proposed Collaborations / Outcomes

1. Double Degree Programme

Discussions were initiated regarding the possibility of developing a 2+1+1 curriculum structure in Interior Design, enabling students to pursue two years of study in India, followed by one year in France, and a final year in India. The programme would potentially lead to the award of the French National Diploma

along with a local Indian Bachelor of Design degree. Students may also have the opportunity to apply for Master's programmes in Nantes through a fast-track admission process.

The possibility of participation in the institution's International Third-Year Bachelor Programme was also explored.

2. Preparatory Class Programme

The institution proposed the possibility of organizing a one-year preparatory programme in Jaipur in partnership with Alliance Française for secondary education students aspiring to pursue French-speaking art and design curricula in France.

The programme would include:

- French as a Foreign Language training (A2 to B2 level within one year)
- Introduction to design education
- Exposure to French culture and academic systems

The collaboration may also involve training of local faculty members and visiting professors.

Areas of Mutual Interest

- Craft-based and interdisciplinary design education
- Student mobility and international exposure
- Curriculum development and joint academic programmes
- Design education integrated with cultural heritage and crafts
- Intensive workshops and skill-based learning programmes

3. Workshops and Summer Camps

Both institutions discussed the possibility of organizing intensive workshops and summer programmes in Jaipur and Nantes. These programmes could focus on arts, crafts, and traditional knowledge systems, while offering credits or micro-certifications to participating students. The initiative was envisioned as a means to encourage cross-cultural learning, skill exchange, and collaborative engagement between students and faculty of both institutions.

Date of Meeting
8 April 2026

Officials Met

- Frédéric Degouzon
Director of International Strategy & Development
- Zoë Lacey
Head of International Relations



From Left to Right: Frédéric Degouzon, Christian Guellerin, Dr. Toolika Gupta and Smon Lozac'h

École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués et des Métiers d'Art

Brief Profile of the Institution

ENS AAMA is a prestigious French institution dedicated to applied arts, design, and crafts education. Based in Paris, the institution is renowned for its strong emphasis on artistic excellence, technical expertise, and innovation across disciplines such as product design, textile design, graphic design, interior architecture, fashion, and métiers d'art. ENS AAMA combines traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design practices and encourages interdisciplinary learning rooted in creativity, research, and professional engagement. The institution actively collaborates with cultural organizations, industries, and academic partners, contributing significantly to the advancement of art, craft, and design education in France and internationally.

Date of Meeting
9 April 2026

Officials Met

- Pascale Serck – Head of International Relations
- Vincent Giavelli – Faculty Member

Key Discussion Points

The visit to ENSAAMA provided valuable insight into the diverse creative and interdisciplinary work being undertaken at the institution across textiles, space design, and other applied arts disciplines. The interaction with faculty members highlighted the institution's strong emphasis on experimentation, material exploration, and innovative pedagogical practices.

Particular appreciation was expressed for the enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by the faculty and students. The students actively shared their projects and research work, especially in areas such as natural dyes, textile practices, and architectural and spatial explorations. The energy, creativity, and openness observed during these interactions were highly inspiring and indicative of a vibrant academic environment fostering innovation and craftsmanship.

The discussions also explored possibilities for deeper academic engagement and collaborative activities between the two institutions.



From Left to Right: A Student, Dr Toolika Gupta, Vincent Giavelli and Pascal Serck

Proposed Collaborations / Outcomes

Both institutions expressed interest in strengthening academic cooperation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the Erasmus+ Programme framework. Erasmus+ is the European Union's flagship funding programme for education, training, youth, and sport, aimed at promoting international academic collaboration and mobility opportunities.

Discussions focused on facilitating future student and faculty exchanges (beginning with Textile Design), collaborative workshops, and academic interactions aimed at fostering cross-cultural learning and institutional partnership in the fields of art, craft, and design.

Areas of Mutual Interest

- Student exchange programmes
- Faculty exchange initiatives
- Collaborative workshops and academic engagements
- Craft-based and interdisciplinary design education
- Textile research and sustainable material practices

École nationale supérieure des Arts Décoratifs

Brief Profile of the Institution

ENSAD is one of France’s most prestigious institutions for art, design, and applied arts education. Established in Paris in 1766 , the institution is internationally recognized for its excellence in disciplines such as graphic design, animation, interior architecture, fashion, photography, textile design, product design, and multimedia arts.

ENSAD is known for its interdisciplinary and research-oriented approach, encouraging experimentation, innovation, and critical thinking within contemporary art and design practices.

IICD has maintained an academic partnership with ENSAD through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2021.

Date of Meeting
9 April 2026

Officials Met

- Alice Chardenet Head of Student Exchanges and International Partnerships

Key Discussion Points

The primary focus of the meeting was the renewal of the existing Memorandum of Understanding between IICD and ENSAD. Discussions were held regarding the review process being undertaken by ENSAD’s legal team, following which suggested modifications, if any, would be shared prior to finalization and signing of the renewed agreement.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for interaction with students who had previously participated in exchange programmes at IICD. Their reflections and experiences highlighted the value of the academic and cultural exchange between the two institutions and reinforced the importance of continuing and strengthening such collaborative initiatives.

The discussions reaffirmed the mutual interest of both institutions in sustaining long-term academic engagement and promoting cross-cultural learning opportunities for students and faculty.

Proposed Collaborations / Outcomes

Both institutions expressed interest in renewing and strengthening the existing Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate continued collaboration in the areas of student exchange, academic interaction, and joint initiatives in art and design education. The renewal of the MoU is expected to further support long-term institutional cooperation and future collaborative opportunities between IICD and ENSAD.

Areas of Mutual Interest

- Student exchange programmes
- Faculty mobility and academic interaction
- Collaborative workshops and projects
- Cross-cultural learning and design education
- Strengthening institutional partnerships in art and design education



From Left to Right: A faculty member, Dr. Toolika Gupta and Isabelle Moulin

Visit to Musée Guimet and Collaborative Discussions

The Director visited Musée Guimet for discussions regarding the proposed exhibition on India in 2028. The visit and meetings were facilitated through the support and introductions extended by Isabelle Moulin.

Meetings were held with H       Gascuel and Pierre Baptiste to explore potential collaboration opportunities between the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design and Mus       Guimet. Discussions focused on engaging with Indian collections from an Indian perspective, as well as bringing in Indian craftspeople, technical experts, and traditional knowledgesystems to contribute to the exhibition through demonstrations and collaborative interpretation.

Date of Visit
10 April 2026

Officials Met

- H       Gascuel
- Pierre Baptiste

Further discussions also included the possibility of engaging with Mrs. Neotia's collection for future collaborative initiatives, along with exploring the India connection in the works and archives of Henri Cartier-Bresson and other related areas of shared interest.



Mus       Guimet (Image Source: Internet)

Visit to la Galerie du 19M and Collaborative Discussions

Date of Visit
10 April 2026

Officials Met

- Gaia

19M is a cultural and creative space in Paris owned by Chanel, dedicated to promoting craftsmanship, artistic m      s, and contemporary creative practices through exhibitions, workshops, and collaborations. The Director visited 19M, where an exhibition inspired by the Japanese concept of the five elements was being showcased. The exhibition featured rare and beautifully curated works reflecting craftsmanship, materiality, and artistic excellence.

The visit was facilitated by Isabelle Moulin, whose support and coordination enabled meaningful engagement with the institution. Gaia, assistant curator of the gallery provided detailed insights into the exhibition and its curatorial concept.

Discussions were held regarding potential collaboration opportunities between Indian Institute of Crafts and Design and 19M, including engagement with Indian collections from an Indian perspective, involvement of Indian craftspeople and technical experts, and possible collaborative initiatives related to Mrs. Neotia's collection and the India connection of Henri Cartier-Bresson.



Gaia (L) and Dr. Toolika Gupta (R)

Visit to Art Paris Fair



The Director visited the Art Paris Fair, held at the Grand Palais, as part of a cultural and professional engagement aimed at gaining deeper exposure to contemporary developments in the global art and craft sector. The visit that was facilitated by Mr Maximiliano Mdesti, provided an opportunity to explore a diverse range of artistic expressions, innovative craft techniques, and emerging design practices showcased by renowned artists, galleries, and creative institutions from around the world.

During the visit, the Director visited the booth setup by Belgium artists in partnership with Mr Modesti. Together, they engaged in extensive discussions on the evolving landscape of art and craft, focusing on current trends, the preservation of traditional craftsmanship, sustainable design practices, and opportunities for collaboration between artisans and international markets.

Date of Visit
9 April 2026

Officials Met

- Maximiliano Modesti

Left: Modesti Perdriolle Gallery booth at Art Paris Fair

Discussion with Juhi Agarwal

Date of Meeting
11 April 2026

Officials Met

- Juhi Agarwal

A discussion was held with Juhi Agarwal, a NIFT alumna and a budding entrepreneur, during her time in Paris. Owing to ill health, it was decided that further detailed discussions would be conducted online.

The conversation explored potential collaboration opportunities with POPUS in Switzerland. Ms. Agarwal also reiterated her suggestion that Dr. Gupta should visit St. Gallen, and expressed her willingness to organize a future visit for Indian Institute of Crafts and Design and its alumni network.



Entrance to Art Paris Fair at Grand Palais Website)

Meeting with Maximiliano Modesti

About Maximiliano and Kalhath Foundation

Maximiliano Modesti is a craft and fashion entrepreneur based between Mumbai and Paris since 1994. Trained as a fashion and textile designer, he previously worked as studio manager to Azzedine Alaïa and later established Les Ateliers 2M, a design studio and production centre collaborating with Indian artisans and textile artists for leading international luxury brands. His work has played a significant role in promoting Indian embroidery and textile crafts globally.

Maximiliano Modesti's contributions to Indian crafts have received international recognition, including the presentation of works by Les Ateliers 2M at the The Fabric of India at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the JSW Craftsmanship Award received in 2018 along with the Kalhath Foundation.

In 2016, he founded the Kalhath Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting excellence in Indian luxury crafts through artisan training and skill development. The Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD) has signed an MoU with the Kalhath Foundation, which has also been supporting and sponsoring IICD's Crafts Business Accelerator Program since 2022.

Key Discussion Points

1. Incubation and International Exposure:

Discussions were held regarding the IICD incubation programme and the need to expand its international engagement after the successful completion of five years. Mr. Modesti confirmed his participation in a dinner interaction with the incubation cohort in Jaipur on 11 July 2026, followed by one-to-one discussions with incubatees and incubator alumni at IICD on 12 July 2026. Continued support towards strengthening the incubation ecosystem was appreciated.

2. Pop-up Opportunity in Paris:

The possibility of organizing a pop-up exhibition for IICD alumni in Paris in early December was discussed. Mr. Modesti suggested the possibility of collaborating with Deeya Store in Paris, owned by Anuradha Mahindra, as a potential venue for the initiative.

3. Exhibition of Mrs. Madhu Neotia's Heirloom Collection:

Discussions were also held regarding a possible exhibition featuring IICD Chairperson Mrs. Madhu Neotia's heirloom blouse collection along with the narratives associated with the garments. Reference was made to interactions

with senior curators at Musée Guimet, facilitated by Isabelle Moulin. While collaboration with the museum on the collection may be challenging due to existing textile collections, the curators expressed interest in collaborations involving Indian crafts knowledge and demonstrations by craftspeople, particularly in relation to a proposed exhibition planned for 2028.

4. Morocco Competition and Institutional Partnerships:

The discussion included follow-up plans regarding the Morocco competition initiative. It was proposed that an MoU be explored with La Salle to establish institutional collaboration and facilitate future exchanges. The initiative may eventually support the organization of the competition in Morocco next year. Appreciation was also expressed for the generous support and awards offered by Mr. Modesti and Kalhath Foundation.

5. Collaboration with IFM Paris:

Potential collaboration opportunities with Institut Français de la Mode (IFM) were also discussed. The possibility of jointly offering a programme in Luxury Management was explored, wherein students could participate in a short-term in-person component in Jaipur during the summer months, complemented by online learning modules. Mr. Modesti indicated that he may facilitate further connections with representatives at IFM to advance these discussions.

Date of Meeting
13 April 2026

Officials Met

- Maximiliano Modesti

Meeting with Alliance Française Foundation

Dr. Toolika Gupta, in her capacity as Director IICD and President of the Alliance Française Jaipur chapter, met with Jean François Hans, Geographic Delegate for Asia, Oceania, North America, and the English-speaking Caribbean at the Fondation des Alliances Françaises.

The meeting was a courtesy interaction, during which discussions focused on exploring possibilities for collaborative initiatives with the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design.

Date of Meeting
14 April 2026

Officials Met

- Jean François Hans



Jean François Hans (L) with Dr Toolika Gupta (R)

Discussion with Lea

Dr. Gupta met with Lea, a trilingual professional proficient in English and French, to discuss potential collaborative opportunities with the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design (IICD). The discussions focused on the development and organisation of curated craft tours in India. The proposal is currently under consideration, and she is reviewing the preliminary budget and collaboration framework to be shared by IICD.

Date of Meeting
14 April 2026

Officials Met

- Lea

Visit to Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre

The Director visited the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and met with Mr. Anoop Das. The meeting was facilitated through an introduction by Isabelle Moulin to Dr. Toolika Gupta for discussions on potential opportunities for Indian Institute of Crafts and Design alumni engaged in entrepreneurial and craft-based businesses.

The discussions focused on creating market platforms in Europe, particularly in Paris, for IICD alumni and craft-based enterprises. Mr. Das informed the Director that the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), through Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), has been supporting artisans participating in exhibitions and showcases in France. It was suggested that IICD may explore similar opportunities for its alumni and associated craftspeople in the future.



Above: Dr. Toolika Gupta at the SVCC
Below: Dr Toolika Gupta with Mr Anoop Das

Key Discussions and Outcomes



Academic Exchange and Institutional Partnerships

A major focus of the visit was strengthening academic partnerships and expanding opportunities for student and faculty exchange. Discussions with institutions such as ESMOD, ENSAD, ENSAAMA, and L'École de Design Nantes Atlantique reflected a strong mutual interest in long-term academic collaboration through renewed and new Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), exchange programmes, and collaborative teaching initiatives.

Collaborative Curriculum Development

Several institutions expressed interest in jointly developing innovative academic programmes. Notable among these were discussions regarding a possible double-degree programme in Interior Design with L'École de Design Nantes Atlantique and potential collaborations in Luxury Management with IFM Paris. Opportunities for preparatory programmes, online teaching modules, and interdisciplinary learning models were also explored.

Design, Craft, and Cultural Innovation

The meetings emphasized the importance of integrating traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design education and innovation. Discussions highlighted collaborative possibilities in textile traditions, craft-based learning, sustainable practices, natural dyes, and the role of Artificial Intelligence in design education and practice.

Workshops, Residencies, and Short-Term Programmes

Possibilities for organizing intensive workshops, summer schools, residencies, and micro-certification programmes in Jaipur and France were discussed. These initiatives are expected to facilitate cross-cultural learning, skill exchange, and collaborative engagement between students, faculty, artisans, and industry professionals.

International Exposure for IICD Alumni and Incubatees

The visit opened several opportunities for providing international exposure to IICD alumni, entrepreneurs, and incubatees through pop-up exhibitions, market linkages, and entrepreneurial collaborations in Paris and Europe. Discussions were also initiated regarding craft tours, international showcases, and networking platforms for alumni enterprises.

Exhibition and Cultural Collaborations

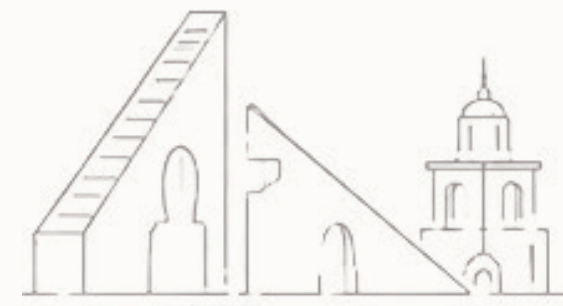
Potential collaborations relating to exhibitions, museum engagement, and craft demonstrations were explored with institutions and cultural spaces including 19M and Musée Guimet. Discussions also included possibilities related to Mrs. Madhu Neotia's heirloom collection and collaborative exhibitions focused on Indian crafts and textile traditions.



Opportunities Identified for IICD



- Expansion of international academic collaborations through renewed and new MoUs
- Enhanced opportunities for student and faculty exchange programmes
- Development of interdisciplinary and globally oriented curricula
- Introduction of collaborative short-term and dual-degree programmes
- International exposure and market access for IICD alumni and incubatees
- Partnerships for exhibitions, craft demonstrations, and cultural engagement
- Collaboration in the areas of sustainable design, craft innovation, and AI in design education
- Opportunities for participation in European academic and cultural initiatives under frameworks such as Erasmus+
- Scope for collaborative workshops, summer schools, and residency programmes in India and France
- Strengthening Indo-French institutional and cultural relations through design and craft education initiatives



Observations and Insights



The visit provided valuable insight into the functioning of leading French institutions engaged in art, design, craft, and cultural education. A strong emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, research-based pedagogy, sustainability, and industry collaboration was observed across institutions.

One of the most significant observations was the seamless integration of traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design and innovation. Institutions actively encouraged experimentation, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and engagement with cultural heritage while remaining globally relevant and industry-oriented.

The interactions with faculty, students, and institutional representatives reflected a highly collaborative academic culture that promotes openness, creativity, and international engagement. Students demonstrated confidence in presenting their work and engaging in critical dialogue, while faculty members emphasized practical learning, research, and innovation-driven pedagogy.

The visit also highlighted the growing international interest in Indian crafts, traditional knowledge systems, and artisan practices. Several institutions and cultural organizations expressed interest in collaborating with Indian craftspeople, researchers, and designers to bring deeper cultural understanding and technical expertise into exhibitions, workshops, and academic initiatives.

The exposure to exhibitions, museums, and cultural spaces in Paris further reinforced the importance of curatorial excellence, storytelling, and cultural interpretation in presenting craft and design traditions to international audiences.



Conclusion



The official visit to Paris proved to be highly productive and strategically significant for Indian Institute of Crafts and Design. The visit enabled meaningful engagement with leading institutions, cultural organizations, and industry professionals working in the fields of art, design, fashion, crafts, and cultural heritage.

The discussions and interactions undertaken during the visit opened several avenues for future collaboration in academic exchange, curriculum development, workshops, exhibitions, incubation, and international outreach. The visit also reinforced the growing global interest in Indian crafts, traditional knowledge systems, and interdisciplinary design practices.

The partnerships explored during the visit are expected to contribute significantly towards strengthening IICD's international presence and enhancing opportunities for its students, faculty, alumni, and artisans. Continued engagement and timely follow-up on the proposed collaborations will play an important role in furthering IICD's vision of becoming a globally connected institution rooted in craft, culture, and innovation.





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