

**Prada announces launch of limited-edition sandals,  
inspired by Kolhapuri Chappals, alongside dedicated artisan training program in India**

**Bengaluru, Milan, Mumbai, 27 April** – As part of the “PRADA Made in India x Inspired by Kolhapuri Chappals” project instituted in December 2025, Prada is pleased to announce the launch of its limited-edition collection of sandals, inspired by the Indian Kolhapuri Chappals, now available globally in 40 selected Prada stores and on Prada.com.

Manufactured in India by skilled artisans from the Maharashtra and Karnataka regions, where traditional Kolhapuri Chappals are handcrafted, the collection combines traditional techniques with Prada’s contemporary design and premium materials to create a unique dialogue between Indian heritage and modern luxury expression. This collection is developed in collaboration with **LIDCOM** (Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and Charmakar Development Corporation Ltd) and **LIDKAR** (Dr Babu Jagjivan Ram Leather Industries Development Corporation Ltd) – the Indian government organizations focused on safeguarding, promoting and developing the Indian leather industry and heritage of Kolhapuri Chappals.

This is a new chapter in Prada’s “Made In...” project, launched over a decade ago to celebrate artisanal excellence globally. It aims to identify and collaborate with master craftspeople on contemporary, innovative designs that embody an unparalleled standard of quality transcending geographical boundaries.

Prada Group is also pleased to announce the foundation of a training program dedicated to artisans from the eight districts in India where Kolhapuri Chappals are traditionally manufactured. The program is designed to strengthen design and technical skills, enabling artisans to create products that meet evolving market needs, while ensuring the continued relevance of this traditional craft.

This initiative, which will be fully funded by Prada, including through the proceeds of the sale of the limited-edition sandal collection, reflects the Group’s long-standing commitment to reinvest in education and culture. The program will run over three years in structured six-month modules, reaching a total of 180 artisans over the period. Applications are open to artisans aged 18 to 45, with the program developed in collaboration with LIDCOM and LIDKAR, and also in partnership with leading design institutes – the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** and the **Karnataka Institute of Leather & Fashion Technology (KILT)** – where the training courses will be delivered.

The program brings together design fundamentals, digital skills, and an understanding of trends and market needs, guiding participants through the complete journey: from product development to market readiness. A strong emphasis is placed on practical learning, with dedicated studios at each institute equipped with the necessary tools and materials to support hands-on training.

The first program will commence this summer. Applications for the initial 30 seats (15 at NIFT and 15 at KILT) will open in May 2026 on LIDCOM, LIDKAR and the institutes’ websites. At the end of each six-month module, select participants will have the opportunity to continue their training at the Prada Group Academy in Italy, where they will further develop their craftsmanship and technical expertise while learning directly from the Group’s Maestros.

*“Education is a fundamental pillar in ensuring that craftsmanship remains a living practice. With this training program, we are translating a shared cultural dialogue into a concrete opportunity for learning and growth. Supporting artisans through structured training means safeguarding knowledge, strengthening local communities, and ensuring that traditional craftsmanship*

*continues to evolve and thrive.*” commented **Lorenzo Bertelli, Prada Group Head of Corporate Social Responsibility.**

**Ms. Prerna Deshbhratar, I.A.S., LIDCOM Managing Director,** declared: *“This collaboration will enable sustainable global positioning of our traditional craftsmanship, fostering cross-cultural design dialogue and long-term value for artisans.”*

**Dr. KM Vasundhara, LIDKAR Managing Director,** echoed: *“This collaboration with the Prada Group represents a significant step toward elevating Karnataka’s traditional craftsmanship to the global stage, while reinforcing our commitment to artisan’s welfare through responsible and sustainable CSR initiatives.”*

**Siddalingappa B. Pujari, KILT Director,** commented: *“Partnering with a globally renowned luxury brand marks a significant milestone for KILT. This collaboration will empower our artisans with exposure to international design sensibilities, evolving market demands, and cutting-edge technologies. It is a step towards bridging traditional craftsmanship with global excellence, ensuring our artisans remain competitive, innovative, and future-ready.”*

**Tanu Kashyap, I.A.S., NIFT Director General,** declared: *“Prada’s initiative to reach out to Kolhapuri artisans and collaborate with NIFT, India’s leading academic Institute in design education, marks a transformative step in taking this GI-tagged craft to the global stage. It is time that Indian traditional crafts take their rightful place on the world stage and being acknowledged as the new luxury. The initiative will empower artisans to carry forward the legacy of handcrafted and handmade traditions into the commercial arena, representing the true essence of sustainable and heritage fashion.”*

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## **Prada Group**

Pioneer of a dialogue with contemporary society across diverse cultural spheres and an influential leader in luxury fashion, Prada Group founds its identity on essential values such as creative independence, transformation, and sustainable development, offering its brands a shared vision to interpret and express their spirit. The Group owns some of the world’s most prestigious luxury brands, Prada, Miu Miu, Church’s, Car Shoe, Versace, the historic Pasticceria Marchesi and Luna Rossa, and works constantly to enhance their value by increasing their visibility and appeal. The Group designs, manufactures and distributes ready-to-wear collections, leather goods and footwear in more than 70 countries through a network of 843 stores as well as e-commerce channels, selected e-tailers and department stores around the world. The Group, which also operates in the eyewear and beauty sector through licensing agreements, has 25 owned factories and 17,901 employees (at December 31, 2025, including Versace). For more information, please visit [www.pradagroup.com](http://www.pradagroup.com).

## **LIDCOM**

Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and Charmakar Development Corporation Ltd. (LIDCOM) is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) established on 1 May 1974 by the Department of Industries, Government of Maharashtra. As per a Government of Maharashtra Resolution, LIDCOM was brought under the Department of Social Welfare, Cultural Affairs and Sports from the Industries Department, with the objective of extending financial assistance to communities engaged in the development of the leather industry. With a legacy of over 50 years, LIDCOM is committed to supporting and empowering Maharashtra’s traditional leather craft artisans. The corporation plays a key role in preserving India’s rich

craft heritage through its network of empanelled artisans who handcraft authentic GI-tagged Kolhapuri footwear and a wide range of leather products. Aligned with the “Make in India” initiative, LIDCOM works to provide a sustainable platform for Indian craftsmanship to thrive and to secure its rightful place in contemporary markets and modern design.

### **LIDKAR**

Dr Babu Jagjivan Ram Leather Industries Development Corporation Ltd. was established by the Govt of Karnataka in the year 1976. Since 2011 the corporation is working under Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Karnataka. The Corporation is well known by its brand LIDKAR. The corporation’s main objective is overall development of leather industry in Karnataka and upliftment of socio-economic conditions of scheduled caste Leather Artisans to promote, support and develop the leather industry across the state. Through training, employment-generation programs, industrial support, marketing assistance and welfare initiatives, LIDKAR works to uplift traditional leather-working communities and preserve their craft heritage. The Corporation plays a significant role in strengthening artisan livelihoods, enabling modernisation while safeguarding traditional skills, and facilitating sustainable economic development within Karnataka’s leather sector. Apart from the Development Schemes, the corporation has taken up commercial activities. The genuine leather products made by leather artisans and small-scale industries are being sold under Lidkar’s Brand name through 15 Lidkar Leather Emporiums across the state and through Exhibition cum sales being organized in different places and through e-commerce channels and platforms.

### **KILT**

The Karnataka Institute of Leather & Fashion Technology (KILT) established in the year 1983–84, is a premier institution dedicated to skill development in the leather sector, affiliated to All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Government of India and Department of Technical Education (DTE), Government of Karnataka. It functions under the aegis of Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Karnataka. KILT offers a diverse range of programmes including a three-year Diploma in Leather & Fashion Technology, short-term skill training courses of three- and six-months covering leather goods and garments, shoe upper closing, lasting, full shoe making, finishing, and shoe fabrication, as well as a one-year vocational diploma. The core objective of the institution is to create globally competent “leather technologists and fashion experts / designers” with a strong technological & industrial exposure to meet social, environmental & economical challenges.

### **NIFT**

The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), founded in 1986 by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, is India's top fashion and design school. It educates about 14,000 students in fashion design, technology, textiles, lifestyle accessories, and fashion management at 19 locations across India. Innovation, sustainability, and cultural heritage are integrated into NIFT's academic framework, making graduates globally competitive and industry-ready. Beyond its academic prowess, NIFT is vital to India's design ecosystem by engaging with and enabling artisan communities and craft clusters. Design interventions by NIFT faculty and students have helped in boosting livelihoods and market links. Prestigious projects like India Size Project, VisioNxt, USTTAD and many others done with government collaborations demonstrate its ability to link grassroots knowledge systems to industry needs. In the top 10–15 fashion schools worldwide, NIFT's global status highlights its influence on fashion education and India's creative prominence. For more information, please visit [www.nift.ac.in](http://www.nift.ac.in)