



Shaping the Future of India's Furniture & Interior Industry

India's Furniture, Interior, and Allied sectors are entering a new era of structured growth and global competitiveness. What was once a fragmented, craft-based trade is rapidly transforming into a formalized, technology-led industry. The following article highlights how skill development and Industry collaboration are creating sustainable pathways for growth.



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CEO - FFSC

Powering India's Furniture, Interior & Allied Sector: *Pathways to Growth Through Skills & Collaboration*



The Indian furniture and interior sector is standing at a transformative moment. What was once seen as a fragmented, craft-based trade is today evolving into a structured, technology-driven industry with enormous potential for both domestic and global markets. Globally, the sector is already valued at over USD 650 billion and is projected to cross USD 900 billion by 2030. Within this landscape, India is poised to emerge as a key player. Industry estimates suggest that India's furniture and interior market will touch USD 40 billion by 2027, powered by rapid urbanization, rising disposable incomes, growth in real estate, and increasing consumer preference for modular, sustainable, and customized solutions.

But beneath these promising projections lies a critical challenge — the shortage of skilled manpower. The sector employs nearly 5 million workers, of which a staggering 85% remain in the unorganized segment. This workforce, though talented and hardworking, often lacks formal training, structured career

pathways, or global exposure. Without urgent and collective action to bridge this skills gap, India risks missing the opportunity to transform its furniture and interiors sector into a global hub. Studies indicate that if current trends continue, the country could face a skill gap of nearly 29 million workers in furniture and allied industries by 2030.

The key question, therefore, is this: how can India meet its domestic growth potential while simultaneously positioning itself as a global leader in design, manufacturing, and export of furniture and interior solutions? The answer lies in a bold, collaborative approach that integrates skilling, certification, industry participation, and structured career development.

PATHWAYS TO SOLUTIONS: FRSCS & SKILL ACADEMIES

Without urgent and collective action to bridge this skills gap, India risks missing the opportunity to transform its furniture and interiors sector into a global hub.

The Furniture & Fittings Skill Council (FFSC) has been working to address this challenge head-on by building an ecosystem that empowers the workforce and formalizes the industry. Two critical interventions stand out: FFSC Regional Skill Chapters (FRSCs) and Skill Academies.

1. Formalizing the Unorganized Workforce

India's furniture sector has been driven for decades by traditional artisans, carpenters, and technicians who acquired their skills informally, often passed down from one generation to the next. While this heritage is valuable, it also means that workers lack certifications, social security, or access to modern tools and processes. FRSCs are bridging this gap through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programs. These initiatives map existing capabilities of

artisans and technicians, validate their skills, and convert them into nationally recognized certifications. This not only uplifts worker dignity but also helps them transition into the formal economy, opening pathways to better jobs, higher wages, and international mobility.

2. Delivering Industry-Relevant Training

The nature of work in the furniture and interiors sector is changing rapidly. Roles today demand not only craftsmanship but also proficiency in CAD modeling, modular assembly, interior project management, logistics, supervision, and installation. FRSCs and Skill Academies are responding to this need by designing curricula in close collaboration with industry and academia. This ensures that training is not generic, but job-role specific, preparing candidates for immediate deployment. From beginner programs that equip youth with entry-level skills to advanced apprenticeships

and Centers of Excellence focusing on emerging technologies, the academies are creating a pipeline of talent aligned to both current and future needs.

3. Raising Aspirations & Attracting Youth

One of the sector's biggest challenges has been perception. For too long, furniture-making has been seen as a low-value, informal occupation. FRSCs are working to change this narrative by promoting careers in furniture and interiors as aspirational, sustainable, and respected pathways. By engaging schools, colleges, and communities, they are inspiring young talent — including women and those from underrepresented groups — to consider this sector as a place where creativity meets technology, and tradition meets innovation.

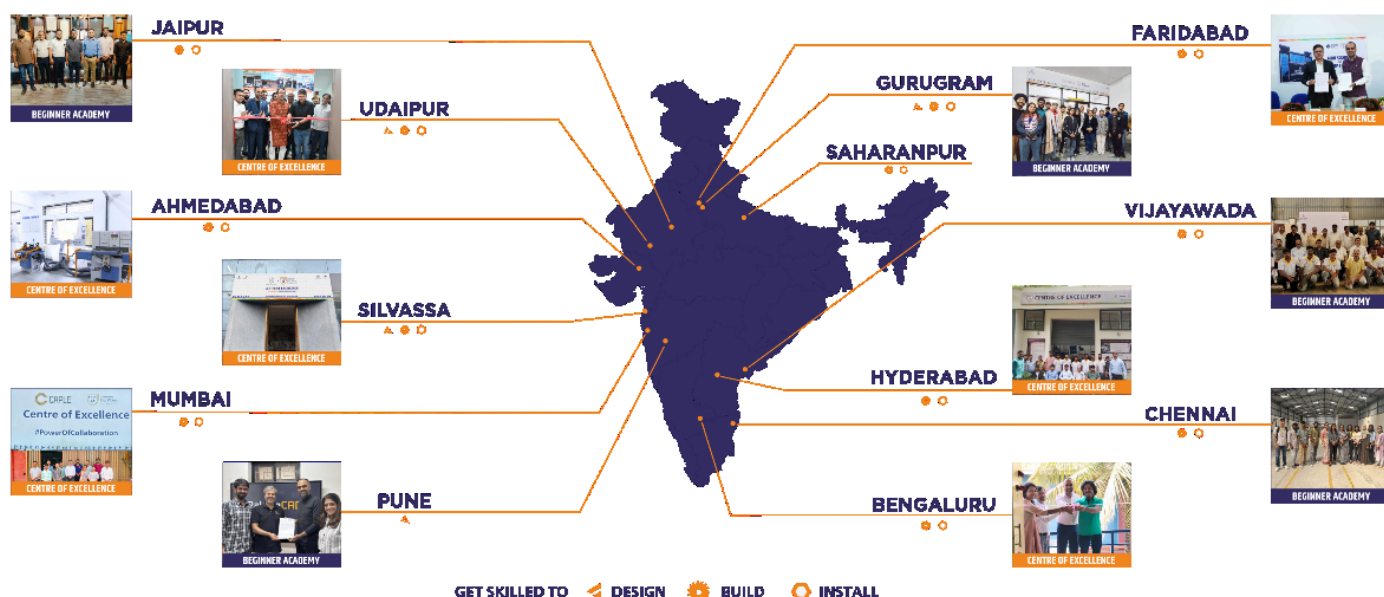


Students being trained at FFSC Centre of Excellence - Hyderabad

TRANSFORMATION ALREADY UNDERWAY

The vision is not just on paper. India now boasts more than 30+ Skill Academies, which include Centres of Excellence, Beginner Academies, and Apprenticeship Academies. With a combined training capacity of 1,200 candidates annually, these institutions have already trained and placed 260+ job-ready professionals into industry roles in just the initial phase. These are not mere statistics but real lives transformed — individuals who now see a clear career

FFSC'S PAN-INDIA SKILL ACADEMY NETWORK



ladder, companies who are able to hire trained professionals, and communities where livelihoods are being formalized.

Equally crucial has been the role of industry partners. Companies across the furniture and interiors ecosystem are taking the Skills Gap Test, a diagnostic tool that identifies workforce shortages and helps co-create tailored development plans. By aligning recruitment needs with training outcomes, businesses are ensuring that academies deliver not just certificates, but genuinely job-ready talent.

Examples from cities like Hyderabad, Udaipur, Bangalore, Jaipur, Mumbai, and Pune demonstrate this model in action. In each of these locations, collaboration between employers, training providers, and government bodies has created thriving hubs where skill meets opportunity. Trainees are gaining practical exposure, employers are accessing a better-prepared workforce, and the sector is slowly but surely becoming more competitive on a global scale.

THE WAY FORWARD: POWER OF COLLABORATION

While the progress so far is commendable, scaling this transformation to the national level will require deeper, sustained collaboration across the entire ecosystem. Here are the critical pillars of this journey:

1. Industry as the Driver of Skilling

Manufacturers, suppliers, and service providers must take ownership of workforce development. This includes

investing in apprenticeship programs, co-developing training content, and offering structured career pathways within their organizations. Companies that view skilling as an investment rather than a cost will be the ones to reap long-term benefits in productivity, innovation, and competitiveness.

2. Academia as the Knowledge Partner

Technical and design education must align more closely with industry needs. Universities, design schools, and ITIs should integrate real-world projects, internships, and technology training into their curricula. By working in tandem with Skill Academies and FRSCs, academia can ensure that graduates are not only theoretically sound but practically competent.

3. FRSCs as the Connectors

FFSC Regional Skill Chapters serve as neutral platforms where industry, academia, government, and workforce representatives can come together. Their role is to ensure that training is relevant, certification is standardized, and employability is at the core of all interventions. By scaling FRSCs to every major cluster in India, the sector can create localized solutions while maintaining a national framework.

4. Skill Ambassadors as the Mobilizers

No transformation can succeed without grassroots champions. Skill Ambassadors—industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals — play a vital role in raising awareness, mobilizing communities, and bringing new enterprises into the fold. Their voices and networks amplify the mission, ensuring

that more individuals and organizations join this movement.

ONE NATION, ONE INDUSTRY

Imagine an India where every district has a Skill Academy, every artisan has an opportunity to formalize their skills, and every enterprise has access to job-ready professionals.

By 2030, the furniture and interior sector has the potential to generate 10 million+ direct and indirect jobs, strengthening both Make in India and the broader vision of Viksit Bharat. This future would position India not just as a consumer market but as a global design and export powerhouse, with products proudly carrying the tag — Designed, Built, and Managed in India.

But achieving this vision will not happen automatically. It requires collective ownership. Industry must invest, academia must adapt, government must enable, and workers must embrace continuous learning.

Above all, we need more Skill Ambassadors — change-makers willing to step forward, advocate for skilling, and unite the sector under the banner of One Nation, One Industry.

Together, we can unlock millions of livelihoods, build globally competitive enterprises, and transform India's furniture and interior sector into a source of national pride and global recognition.

The time to act is now. Join the mission as a Skill Ambassador and become part of this transformation. Contact Team FFSC or simply send a “Hi” on WhatsApp at 8595703202 to get started. Together, we can power India’s Furniture & Interior sector into the future.

<i>For manufacturers and designers:</i>	<i>For training providers and academia:</i>	<i>For associations and institutions:</i>	<i>For individuals and entrepreneurs:</i>
Collaborate with FRSCs, offer apprenticeships, and contribute to curriculum development.	Align your programs with industry needs, ensuring practical skills are prioritized.	Use your platforms to raise awareness, mobilize members, and advocate for a unified industry identity.	Become Skill Ambassadors and inspire others to see the value in skilling.

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