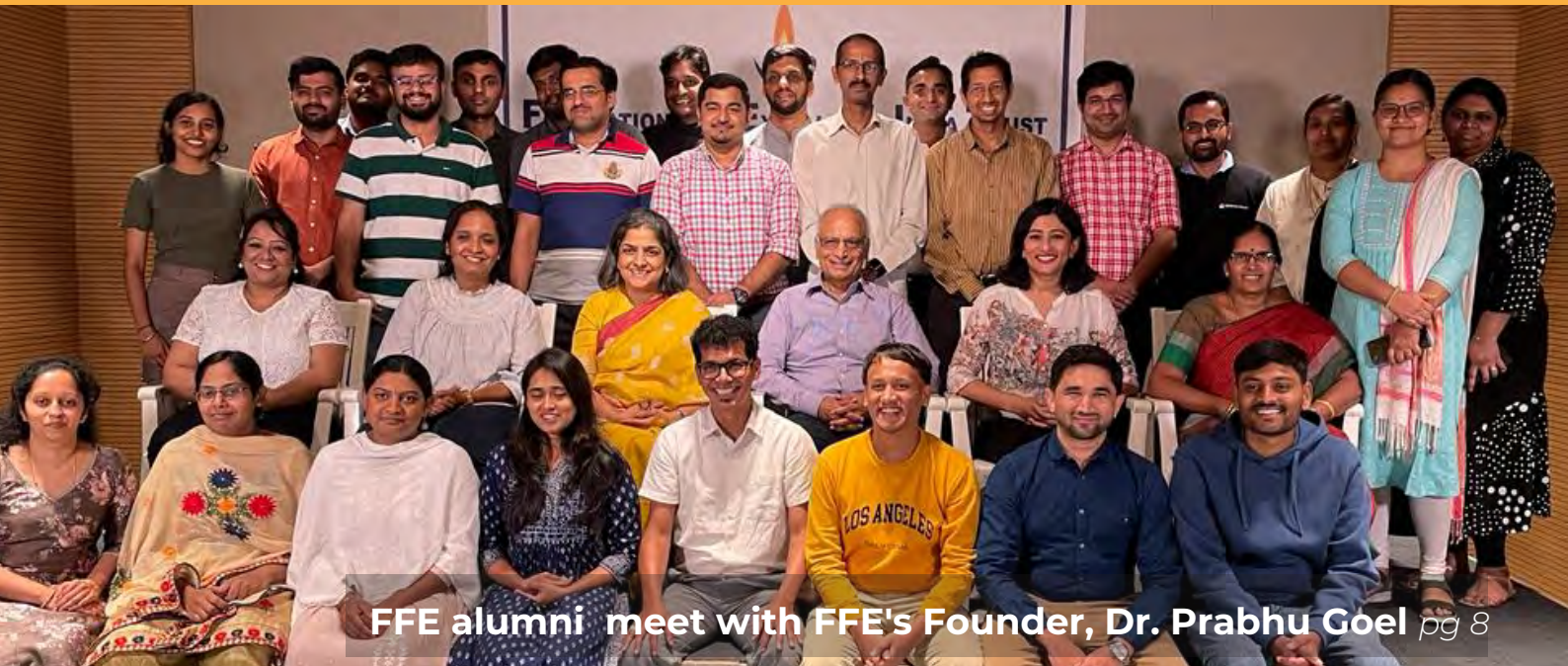




FFE alumni meet with FFE's Founder, Dr. Prabhu Goel pg 8

FFE raises \$1.32 million at Annual Gala in California pg 4



DONOR FEATURE

read more
pg 17



Dear Friends,

It has been a period of intense activity at FFE, just prior to the start of scholarship season, when students renew their applications and new applicants seek assistance.

We were delighted and uplifted to host FFE Founders, Dr. Prabhu and Mrs. Poonam Goel, during their trip to India this quarter. Amidst a whirlwind of events in Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai, the visit provided them with an opportunity to meet and interact with our stakeholders in person. This was soon followed by a successful fundraising gala in California, which brought together individuals committed to FFE's mission. The founders' vision, to create lasting impact in a single generation, is particularly relevant today as education and learning need to be reimagined so that students are prepared to adapt and excel in today's rapidly changing, competitive landscape.

We continue to evaluate and focus our efforts to assist students in developing crucial 21st-century skills, including problem-solving, creative and critical thinking and global competency, which, together with career guidance, can help them become key decision-makers of tomorrow. These lessons are imparted virtually or in person, in the form of webinars, boot camps, certification courses and, of course, through FFE's robust mentoring program. All of these have been made possible thanks to the magnanimous support of over 60 corporates, individuals and FFE alumni worldwide. We have also leveraged our partner network of donors to enhance the learning experience of FFE scholars through several value-added courses.

We continue to seek your support to create an effective and robust program for over 12,000 students, whether financially, to support more students; through introducing us to relevant NGOs and institutions; by facilitating new and relevant courses, be it technical, leadership or soft skills; for internships and jobs. As FFE grows and nurtures young talent, we are together creating a better future for the students and for all of us as well.



**Message from
Dr. Sudha Kidao,
Managing Trustee,
Foundation for
Excellence
IndiaTrust (FFEIT)**

Dear Friends,

The second quarter of the year is a special time for us as we connect with our scholars and get a glimpse into their incredible journeys. This time, we connected virtually with nearly 10,000 students through four engaging open house events, which gave us valuable insights into their aspirations and dreams. We also held in-person meetings in Chennai, including one donor-scholar meet, where we were left awed by the inspirational stories and immense progress our scholars have made. Many of our alumni have transitioned into becoming influential role models, reflecting the transformative power of education.

I am also delighted to share that, in spite of a challenging job market, our graduating Engineering students of 2022–23 have achieved an average salary of 11.5 lakhs per annum. This remarkable accomplishment is a testimony to their hard work and determination, as well as to the quality of education they have received.

With the nature of work evolving rapidly, especially with the advancement of technology, we recognize the importance of equipping our students with the knowledge and skills to successfully navigate these changes. We have proactively collaborated with industry-leading partners to inform and guide our students and enable them to adapt well to the shifting landscape. This quarter, we were able to facilitate interactions with specialists in domains ranging from aerospace engineering to medical surgery.

We have seen a surge in corporate interest in partnering with us for internships and placements. Strengthening these collaborations will be our key focus in the upcoming months. Such partnerships will expand the horizons for our students and enrich their overall learning experience, seamlessly bridging the gap between academia and industry.

As always, we seek your continued support.



**Message from
Ram Kolavennu,
COO, FFEIT**

A. FFE raises \$1.32 million at Annual Gala in California

Foundation for Excellence hosted its Annual Gala in Palo Alto, California on September 23 this year, and the event was a resounding success. The memorable evening saw over 275 esteemed guests in attendance at the Crowne Plaza, including prominent donors from the San Francisco Bay Area, FFE Founders Dr. Prabhu Goel and Mrs. Poonam Goel, Board members, and seven FFE alumni who are now working with tech giants such as Amazon, Apple, Google and Yahoo. The presence of our alumni was a reaffirmation of the impact of our work in nurturing talent and creating opportunities.

The highlight of the evening was the astounding \$1.32 million raised to support FFE's mission of empowering gifted but economically disadvantaged students in India. The generosity of the donors present at the event led to an impressive \$620,000 in pledges on the night, with donations and pledges made by those who could not attend accounting for the rest.



At the Gala

The festivities began with a warm welcome by renowned stand-up comedian Jeff Applebaum, who paid tribute to the continuous support of our donors and the incredible achievements of our alumni. FFE India Trust Managing Trustee Dr. Sudha Kidao and COO Ram Kolavennu then presented an update on all the programs supported by FFE and the importance of the 'Beyond Scholarships' program, which helps students gain additional technical skills and essential life skills. Their report highlighted the tangible impact of FFE's work and how it goes beyond providing financial aid to mentor and support students in their life journey. Later, guests were treated to a dazzling dance performance by the Mona Khan Academy, bringing the spirit of Bollywood to Palo Alto.



The night was special not only because of the funds raised, but also for the commitment to education it ignited in all those present. With the backing of our donors, FFE will continue to change lives, one scholar at a time, and pave the way for a brighter future through education.

B. FFE Founder Dr. Prabhu Goel makes a memorable visit to India



FFE's visionary founder, Dr. Prabhu Goel made an invaluable visit to India between **24th July and 18th August**. During his stay, Dr. Prabhu, accompanied by Dr. Sudha Kidao and Ram Kolavennu, actively participated in a series of impactful events, had meaningful interactions with several people who have contributed to FFE's success in the past 29 years and engaged with various stakeholders, including scholars, alumni, donors, facilitators, mentors, members of the India Trust Board and the FFE team.

Dr. Prabhu took time to visit our various partners, starting with the Amazon team in Bengaluru, where we connected with **Ms. Anita Kumar, Head - Amazon in the Community/CSR, India and APAC**. Other partner visits in Bengaluru included rewarding meetings with long-term associates **ExxonMobil and Capgemini**, with ExxonMobil announcing that they will be doubling their support to FFE in the current financial year.

Hearteningly, two partner visits in Chennai were facilitated by FFE alumni. **At Lennox India Technology Centre**, Dr. Goel met **Tharanggany Krishnamurthy Meena**, FFE alumnus and Special Board Invitee, who played a significant role in initiating the engagement with FFE two years ago, along with **Ms. Hema Mani, Regional Director - Human Resources**, and **Mr. Sowmyanarayanan AD, Regional Director - Information Technology**. Also present was **Mr. Sivakumar T. Govindarajan, Senior Principal Enterprise Architect, Chief IT Architect's Office & Technology Innovation**, who shared his positive experience of having an FFE scholar as an intern in his team. The visit to Altimetrik was organized by FFE alumnus and Special Board Invitee, **Mr. Srivathsan Raghavan, Client Partner at Altimetrik**, who has consistently contributed to FFE's endeavours over the years.

Dr. Goel had a productive meeting with Altimetrik's leadership, including **Mr. Arun Kumar, Product & Industry Head - CPG**,

Retail & Manufacturing, and Mr. Ganesh Raj Mohan Parimelazhagan, Head - Global Technology, Platforms, IT and Innovation.

In Delhi, Dr. Prabhu had exciting discussions with **Ms. Geeta Goel, Country Director at Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) India, and Ms. Meenakshi Shahi, Director - Business Development, Marketing, HR & Communications at the Centre for Social Responsibility and Leadership (CSRL).** While MSDF has been a steadfast supporter of FFE, CSRL plays a pivotal role in helping us reach deserving students at the grassroots level. All these meetings with partners saw a spirited exchange of ideas on how we can collaborate more effectively and create a deeper impact.

Dr. Prabhu's tour ended in Mumbai with a meeting with **Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurthy,** long time donor and supporter of FFE, who has played a crucial role in shaping FFE's Law Scholarship program, and a visit to **Aditya Birla Group's A World of Opportunity (AWOO) Foundation,** which has been a cornerstone of FFE's scholarship program. The conversation with **Dr. Santrupt Misra, Group Director, Birla Carbon and Director, Group HR, Mr. Rajiv Gupta, Secretary- The World of Opportunity Foundation, and Ms. Nupur Joshi, Organization Effectiveness, Group HR,** centred around enhancing program visibility and forging stronger ties with group companies. Dr. Prabhu Goel met AWOO-supported students and alumni as well. FFE is also thankful for the unrestricted grant support of **True North,** and it was gratifying to hear **Mr. Vishal Nevatia, Managing Partner, True North** express his satisfaction with our shared vision and robust partnership.

A meeting with the Sattva consulting team proved to be particularly fruitful, as we delved into their comprehensive 28-year impact report of our work and, inspired by Dr. Prabhu, explored innovative approaches to evaluating social impact through models such as ROI (Return on Investment) and SRoI (Social Return on Investment).

The FFE India team, too, got the chance to spend some time with our founder. Dr. Prabhu spoke of his delight at meeting the 35+ passionate and dedicated individuals, all united by

a common goal, whose hard work has made FFE's progress possible. Later, FFE hosted a dinner that was attended by our long-standing well-wishers and corporate donors. It was a gratifying evening, filled with encouraging feedback and heart-warming appreciation for FFE's incredible journey, as everyone reaffirmed their unwavering support for our mission. The donors also noted the professionalism and transparency of FFE's work.

Dr. Prabhu also had the opportunity to meet with 25 FFE alumni in Bengaluru, and nearly 200 FFE scholars at an in-person event in Chennai. His interactions with these young minds were deeply inspiring, leaving a lasting impact on both scholars and alumni alike.

The atmosphere at the Madras Institute of Technology campus in Chennai was electrifying, as facilitators, alumni, students and mentors all came together to celebrate our work. The event commenced with a brief overview of FFE's progress over the past year, highlighting our initiatives that aid students in increasing employability skills and bridging industry gaps. In his keynote address, Dr. Prabhu emphasized the significance of teamwork, the importance of being passionate about learning beyond the confines of college coursework, and the value of networking.



Dr. Prabhu Goel with FFE scholars and facilitators at MIT Chennai during the Chennai Open House

Overall, the trip was an enriching experience of engagement, reflection and appreciation, reaffirming our belief in the transformative power of education. Every dialogue consolidated our ongoing work while ambitiously charting the course for future accomplishments. FFE is indebted to Dr. Prabhu for his support, insightful guidance and inspiring presence

C. Donor-Scholar Engagements

ExxonMobil hosts FFE meet in Bengaluru

ExxonMobil hosted an engaging meet with FFE at their Bengaluru office on July 25, bringing together their sponsored scholars, mentors, alumni and the FFE India team. The event was graced by the presence of [redacted] and FFE Founder Dr. Prabhu Goel, who highlighted the impact of FFE's work and the value of ExxonMobil's long-term association with FFE. Attending scholars got the chance to interact with mentors and FFE alumni now working at ExxonMobil, as well as participate in group sessions with ExxonMobil volunteers that gave them an immersive experience of the corporate workspace and ExxonMobil's technical work.



ExxonMobil and FFE teams during the workshop



Capgemini leadership during the Digital academy program event with FFE

Capgemini event celebrates partnership with FFE

On July 25th, Capgemini, a long-standing supporter of FFE for over a decade, organized a unique event showcasing the 'Digital Academy Program', a digital inclusion program aimed at making employability effortless for the neglected strata of the society. The event was attended by FFE Founder, Dr. Prabhu Goel, FFEIT Managing Trustee Dr. Sudha Kidao and FFEIT COO, Ram Kolavennu. The tone for this enriching session was set by **Dhanashree Page, Head of Operations, Digital Inclusion - CSR at Capgemini**. In his keynote address, Dr. Prabhu stressed the importance of collaboration between industry and academia and expressed his appreciation for the shared spirit of innovation at Capgemini. Capgemini leaders **Mr. Swaminathan and Mr. Balasubramaniam** reiterated their commitment to the association with FFE.

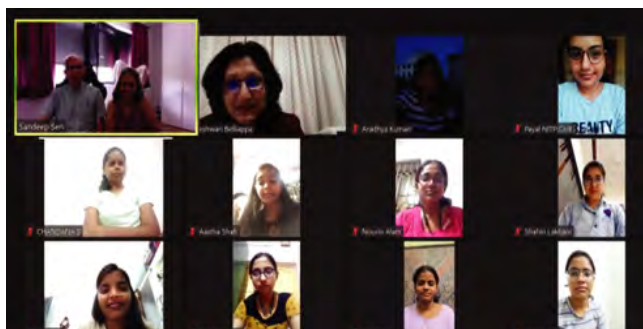
Later, mentors from Capgemini talked about their experience and shared their feedback, offering invaluable insights. **Vidhya Krishnaswamy, Vice President and Head of CPRD (Consumer Products, Retail & Distribution) India Business Unit at Capgemini**, touched hearts when she spoke about how she had learned as much from her mentee as the mentee had gained from her. **Kavya Reddy, an FFE alumni now working at Capgemini**, movingly described the importance of the scholarship in her life, how it enabled her to pursue her dreams and laid the foundation of her future home.

The event fostered several fruitful discussions and sparked innovative ideas, culminating in a delightful special lunch organized by the Capgemini team.

Virtual donor-scholar meet with Mr. Sandeep Sen and Mrs. Sagarika Sen

Long-time FFE donors, **Mr. Sandeep Sen and his wife, Mrs. Sagarika Sen** took part in a virtual interaction on July 9 with two medical interns who graduated in 2022–23 and the current cohort of 16 Engineering and Medical women scholars who have benefited from their generous sponsorship. The students spoke about the progress they have made in their studies, their life at college, their extracurricular activities and their future plans.

Mr. and Mrs. Sen are chartered accountants residing in Munich, Germany, who have been associated with FFE since 2014. They admire FFE's processes of selection, nurturing and providing skilling and placement assistance to students, and derive satisfaction from witnessing the students graduate and become self-sufficient.



FFE Donors Sandeep Sen and Ms. Sagarika Sen during an online scholar meet up

Special session for FFE alumni with Dr. Prabhu Goel

25 FFE alumni had the privilege and pleasure of meeting with Dr. Prabhu Goel, the visionary founder of FFE, on an emotional and gratifying evening in Bengaluru on July 25. This exclusive alumni session also allowed Dr. Prabhu to personally hear the aspirations and success stories of our former scholars, coming from diverse backgrounds and belonging to scholarship years spanning from 1999 to 2021. Many of those present, the alumni attendees are now role models in their communities and are also supporting FFE as facilitators, mentors or donors, serving as a

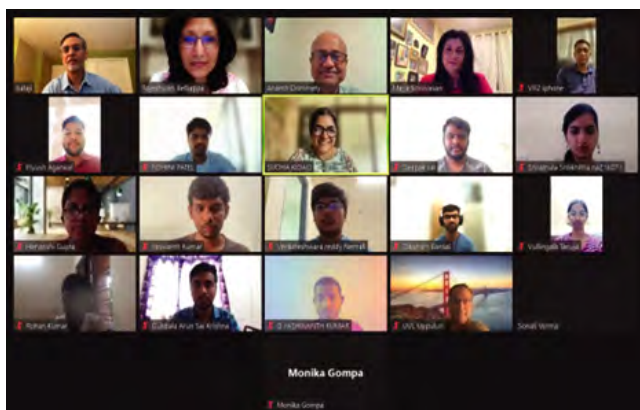


shining example of the enduring bond between the organization and our dedicated alumni.

During his address to the group, Dr. Prabhu expressed his immense pride and heartfelt appreciation for the exceptional potential and unwavering passion exhibited by each scholar. He emphasized the significance of their contributions to the 'Circle of Giving' and the profound impact that their continued support has on FFE's mission.

Dr. Prabhu firmly believes that FFE belongs to its alumni and that they are the future leaders, capable of leading the organization forward. Recognizing this, FFE has included them as part of the Board, to allow them to play a crucial role in shaping our future.

Joy Thomas Foundation members connect with sponsored scholars



Students supported by the Joy Thomas Foundation during the virtual meet up

In an inspiring virtual meet on September 2, key members of the Joy Thomas Foundation (JTF), including **Mr. Balaji Shyamkumar, Mr. Ananth Dommety, Mrs. Maya Srinivasan, Mr. Venu Raju and Mr. UVL Narayana**, engaged with

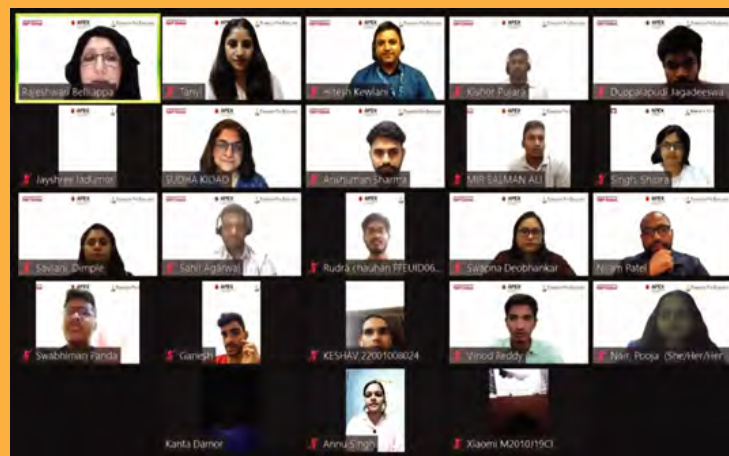
the 17 sponsored FFE-JTF scholars. In addition to financial support, JTF offers mentoring and internship opportunities. Every scholar, including those in their second year, is paired with a dedicated JTF mentor, who provides guidance to the scholar as per their individual needs. This mentorship plays a crucial role in shaping the students' academic and professional paths and is in keeping with JTF's mission to positively impact STEM education and careers globally.

S&P Global delivers insightful session on personal branding for FFE scholars

The senior leadership team of S&P Global, led by **Mr. Nilam Patel, Managing Director of India Operations**, and **Ms. Pooja Nair, Director at S&P Global**, virtually met with their sponsored scholars in Engineering, Medical, LLB and BPharm programs on September 12.

The Asian Professionals for Excellence (APEX) team from S&P Global then conducted a session on 'Personal Branding' for over 85 FFE students, where they emphasized the importance of creating a strong digital presence in today's professional landscape.

In the session, students learned how to use LinkedIn as a professional networking tool and the art of crafting a prominent online identity. They received practical tips to optimize their LinkedIn profiles and create compelling elevator pitches, to help them make a better impression in interviews and at networking events. The value of the session was clear from the enthusiastic response of the scholars in attendance.



FFE-S&P Global scholars interacting during a virtual workshop with S&P Global leaders

"The ability to read, write, and analyze; the confidence to stand up and demand justice and equality; the qualifications and connections to get your foot in the door and take your seat at the table — all of that starts with education."
—Michelle Obama

The 2023–24 Mentorship Program kicked off with the enthusiastic participation of over 2,500 third-year Engineering scholars in the Mentee Orientation session. We also saw more than 50 corporates, as well as several individuals and alumni, register as mentors, taking the total number of mentors for this cycle to over 2,300.

FFE conducted 50+ Mentorship Orientation sessions for our corporate partners, which include Cognizant, Alvarez & Marsal, Wabtec, o9 Solutions, Fractal Analytics, TransUnion CIBIL, Axtria, Omnicom Media Group, Mu Sigma, Tesco, Thomson Reuters, NetApp, Microsoft GD & India Development Center (IDC), Intel, KLA-Tencor Software India Private Limited, L&T Technology Services (LTTS), Lam Research, Capgemini, ExxonMobil, VMware, Altimetrik, Hewlett-Packard (HP), Firstsource, Publicis Sapient, Societe Generale, Hexagon, Indegene, IDP Education, Wipro, Dover India, Gardner Denver, Ansys, Keysight, Joy Thomas Foundation, Synopsys, Pure Storage, Collins Aerospace, KPMG, Reliance Foundation, WestBridge, RBL Bank, Mercedes, Merkle, Lennox International and Avanade.

FFE's orientation sessions help both mentors and mentees set expectations, timelines and objectives for the mentoring program. With 2,068 mentor-mentee pairs commencing their journey in September 2023, we are grateful to all the mentors for their commitment to supporting a student over the next 6–8 months.



"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself." Oprah Winfrey

MENTOR TESTIMONIAL



Ms. Sanghimitra Dalal
Head - New Product
Launches, India,
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories

"Life is always about give and take. In our life journey, we have received a lot from our guides, which has helped us reach our current position. Volunteering has helped me immensely. One has to 'give back' to society.

There is always a learning curve with every individual and group we connect with. I have also been a mentee, so I know that it is good to have an honest and transparent discussion with the mentor when we are stuck or need to make decisions and are looking for direction. Being part of a mentorship program, whether as a mentor or mentee, is a beautiful relationship of mutual learning and trust. Thank you to FFE for giving me this opportunity, and I look forward to associating with the organization's goal for the greater good of all."

MENTEE TESTIMONIAL



Smita Shinde
3rd Year, B.Pharm,
Government College
of Pharmacy, Karad

"FFE's mentorship program has been one of the best learning experiences of my life. I chose the modules where I was struggling the most, such as communication skills. By using her personal experiences, my mentor, Sanghimitra Dalal ma'am, gave me crucial advice and guidance on improving in those modules. Her suggestions for effective time management have really helped me manage my college curriculum along with other activities. She also counselled me on the importance of meditation to improve my concentration and focus on my studies. Sanghimitra Ma'am is very warm and welcoming, which allowed me to freely discuss my difficulties with her. Thank you to my mentor and the FFE team for such a helpful mentorship program and the guidance I have received."

Cohort	Training Programs	No. of scholars	Supported by
2022–23 (2nd Year Engineering Scholars)	English Training-Enguru	2,330	MSDF* and Wadhvani Foundation
2021–22 (3rd Year Engineering Scholars)	AMCAT Midline Assessment	1,509	MSDF* and Capgemini
2020–21 (4th Year Engineering Scholars)	AMCAT Endline Assessment	1,412	MSDF*
	Mock Interviews	777	MSDF*
	IT Reskilling – Coursera	715	MSDF*
B.Pharm (2nd Year)	AMCAT	90	Mr. Chirag Patel and Mr. Kanu Bhai Patel IHS Markit MSDF*
	English Training-Enguru	83	Mr. Chirag Patel and Mr. Kanu Bhai Patel IHS Markit
LLB (2nd Year)	AMCAT	68	Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurthy IHS Markit
	English Training-Enguru	42	

*Michael and Susan Dell Foundation

Other Skilling Initiatives

FLY (Finding the Leader in You) Program

The FLY program comprises a 12-day workshop, conducted by the Competitive-Mindset Institute (CMI), to teach non-cognitive skills for the personality and character development of students. To date, a record 1,010 FFE scholars have participated in the program since it began in 2021. Workshops were conducted for four batches from July to September 2023, with a total of 138 participants in their first year of Engineering. We thank Mr. Ron Mehta for his generosity in sponsoring the FLY program.

Wadhwani Foundation's Job Ready Program

In June this year, 500 second-year Engineering scholars enrolled in the Job Ready program offered by the Wadhwani Foundation, which focuses on enhancing the employability and job readiness skills that are essential for acquiring internships and placements. The program is a combination of self-paced learning modules, available on a dedicated online portal, and weekly mentoring sessions. These mentoring sessions are designed to provide a deeper understanding of the course content and encourage practical application of the acquired knowledge. The different topics covered under this program include basics of communication, digital literacy skills, workplace awareness, entrepreneurial mindset and success in job interviews.

Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) Boot Camp

A second batch of 500 FFE scholars is currently immersed in an intensive 10-month boot camp as part of the Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) program. This boot camp has been meticulously designed to provide comprehensive instruction in Data Structures and Algorithms in Java, encompassing an impressive array of over 22 modules. It offers a dynamic learning experience, featuring live sessions, dedicated doubt-clearing classes and personalized mentoring sessions. By enhancing their skills, the boot camp gives scholars a better chance at seizing internship opportunities in the coming year.

The inaugural batch of the AFE-FFE Scholarship program saw 68 scholars qualify and participate in an eight-week internship at Amazon. This internship took place from June to September 2023 and gave students valuable practical experience and exposure to corporate life.

FUEL Conference by Avanade

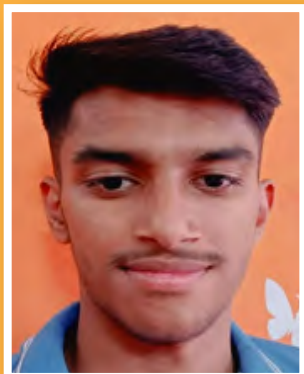
Sixteen FFE scholars from the second and third years of Engineering participated in the annual FUEL: Innovation, Technology and Leadership Conference conducted by Avanade between 18th to 21st July. The three-day virtual conference included workshops on professional skills, career development and personal development. A hackathon was also conducted where participants could choose between two themes: Path to Net-Zero and AI-First World.

Software Engineering Workshop by Capgemini

Capgemini organized a five-day virtual workshop between 7th September to 12th Sep on Software Testing and Quality Engineering, which was attended by 14 students of the 2023 graduating cohort. The sessions ranged from technical aspects of Java and Selenium and concepts of Performance Testing to an introduction to Cloud Testing, providing students with an opportunity to gain practical knowledge and learn about industry trends.

IBM SkillsBuild Certification Program

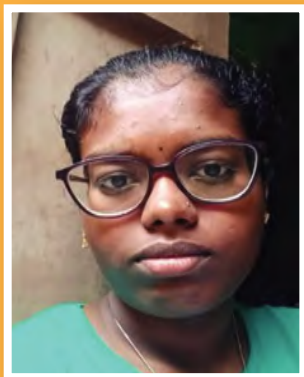
This quarter, 2,000 second-year Engineering scholars enrolled in the IBM SkillsBuild program, which focuses on helping underrepresented communities in tech develop valuable new skills and access career opportunities. Over the course of three months, through online portal-based learning followed by project-based learning, participants cover IT-related courses like cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, data analytics, blockchain and cloud computing, as well as job readiness and professional skills such as resume writing, design thinking, professional upskilling and project management.



Sandesh Shrikant Hegde

**BTech. 1st Year, Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
The National Institute of Engineering, Mysuru**

"The sessions of the Wadhwani Foundation's Job Ready program are conducted every week-end by a mentor who is both knowledgeable and helpful. They would help me recall all the information on the topics that I had watched on the online portal on a daily basis. Each session also enhanced our understanding of verbal and non-verbal skills, helping me to learn new ways of talking and writing and gain confidence by improving my vocabulary and knowledge of the subject. Overall, the program was a very good way to improve my skills, and it will help me when I go for interviews in the future for internships and jobs. Improving my communication skills in particular has boosted my confidence in so many ways. I would like to thank FFE and the Wadhwani Foundation for giving me this opportunity."



Vemula Kirananjali

**BTech. 2nd Year, Computer Science and Engineering
Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai**

The enguru program offered by FFE is very useful as it has helped me improve my speaking skills. The topics covered were interesting and related to our daily lives, which helped me to communicate more efficiently. We were also provided with mock interview questions to help us prepare for interviews, as well as several enjoyable practice exercises. The app is very user-friendly, and learning through it was a really nice experience. I am thankful to FFE for this program and for helping me enhance my skills."

Current Scholar:



Farzana Arif

**Year II, Sem 5, MBBS
Government Medical College,
Srinagar**

One of four siblings, Farzana Arif is the daughter of a driver in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, whose annual income is less than 1 lakh. The scholarship provided by FFE reduced the financial burden on her family and enabled Farzana to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.

Driven by her unwavering determination, Farzana performed well in her class 12 examinations, which won her a coveted place at the prestigious Government Medical College in Srinagar, where she continues to excel academically. Now her dream is to go beyond becoming a successful doctor; she envisions starting an NGO in the future, dedicated to alleviating poverty and rehabilitating homeless individuals, demonstrating her compassion and commitment to society.

Farzana draws inspiration from her personal mentor, Dr. Majeed. Dr. Majeed played a pivotal role in saving her mother's life during a critical illness. In gratitude for his life-saving intervention, Farzana aspires to utilize her knowledge and experiences to make a meaningful and positive impact on society. She is thankful to her generous donor, Surie Porex Industries, for enabling her dreams to flourish in spite of the hardships she has faced.

"If I hadn't had mentors, I wouldn't be here today. I'm a product of great mentoring, great coaching. Coaches or mentors are very important. They could be anyone—your husband, other family members, or your boss."

Indra Nooyi



Mr. Praveen Katageri

**The National Institute of Engineering,
Mysuru (2013–2017)
Mechanical Design Engineer, Collins
Aerospace, Bengaluru (2022 to date)**

“Originating from a family reliant on agriculture in a small village nestled within the Bagalkot district of Karnataka, our livelihood was tethered to the unpredictable rainfall patterns, which created financial instability in our growing-up years. Nevertheless, my elder brother and I managed to pursue education because of the affordable fees of government schools and colleges in Belur village in Badami taluka.

We encountered our first significant financial hurdle when my brother wanted to pursue Engineering after class 12. The financial strain was overwhelming, but our kind relatives stepped forward to sponsor his four-year Engineering course. When it was my turn to go for higher education, my parents decided to secure a loan against our agricultural land to fund my Engineering studies. Regrettably, around the same time, my father encountered an accident, so we had to use the loan funds for his medical treatment. This left me on the brink of abandoning my dreams, and I was contemplating joining a local college where I could pursue a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree to save costs.

It was at this critical juncture that I was introduced to the Foundation for Excellence by another NGO called Vidya Poshak, which had supported me during classes 11 and 12 with books and fees. With renewed hope, I applied for an FFE scholarship and had the privilege of meeting my facilitator, Dr. Ananda Betdur, in Bengaluru for document verification. With a deep understanding of my background, he encouraged me to persist with my Engineering degree. The financial support from FFE eased my path and enabled me to complete my degree without any constraints.

I am honoured to have been an FFE scholar from 2013 to 2017. I consider myself fortunate for not only receiving the scholarship, but also for

benefiting from FFE’s mentorship and training programs. I actively participated in workshops conducted exclusively for FFE scholars at partner corporations like Boeing and Microsoft at their campuses in Bengaluru, which gave me critical insights into the industry. The mentorship program further built my skill set and self-assurance. From my mentor, I learned about the industry, as well as interview techniques, time management, stress coping strategies and various career pathways.

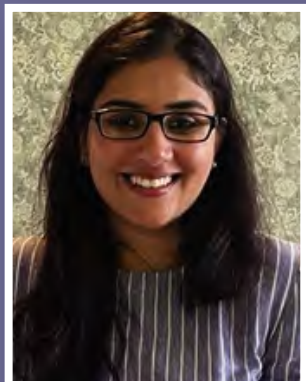
In 2017, I graduated in Mechanical Engineering and subsequently pursued a Master’s degree at B.M.S. College of Engineering, Bengaluru. After starting my career in small- and medium-scale industries in Bengaluru’s Peenya industrial area, I now work as a Mechanical Design Engineer at Collins Aerospace, Bengaluru.

On coming here, I noticed the company’s active involvement in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives aimed at driving positive societal change. Together with fellow FFE alumni at Collins Aerospace, I embarked on an effort to introduce FFE and its programs to our company’s CSR team.

Our initiative led to a partnership with FFE, resulting in the sponsorship of 50 students’ Engineering education. This achievement fills me and my fellow FFE alumni with pride as we fulfil the ‘Circle of Giving’.

For the past two years, I have also enthusiastically worked with FFE as a facilitator and mentor, allowing me the opportunity to give back. My heartfelt gratitude extends to FFE’s founder, donors and their dedicated team members, all of whom have played a vital role in my journey. I extend my best wishes to FFE for its forthcoming programs and eagerly look forward to continuing as an active participant in shaping its future endeavours.”

G. DONOR FEATURE



Ms. Bhavna Mathur **Social Impact Manager, LinkedIn India**

“At LinkedIn Social Impact, we have been in a partnership with FFE to create impact in the lives of young people facing a multitude of skilling and network gaps. We have had the opportunity to support scholarships for 91 students, enabling them to pursue their higher education. We have also found that the FFE team has the capacity to absorb the benefits of our in-house mentoring program called LinkedIn Coaches, the Ad Grants program and our other Premium offerings. We look forward to yet another year of creating impact jointly with FFE.”

inFocus

H. FACILITATOR FEATURE



Mr. Praveen Bagla

Mr. Praveen Bagla, hailing from Sirsa, Haryana, is a well-known figure who has dedicated his life to social activism and education. His commitment to social causes is rooted in his family's legacy of activism. His father, a freedom fighter and disciple of Acharya Vinoba Bhave, donated 300 acres of agricultural land to the Bhoodan (Land Gift) movement in 1959, setting a historic precedent.

Mr. Bagla was introduced to FFE in 1998. Since then, he has verified over 100 students from Haryana, finding happiness and satisfaction in FFE's mission to uplift underprivileged students. His association with FFE exemplifies his commitment to education and social welfare, inspiring countless young minds.

As Chairperson of the National College of Education, Lala Hansraj Phutela College of Law and C.M.K. National P.G. Girls College, Sirsa, Mr. Bagla has made significant contributions. He currently serves as a Board Member of Baba Bihari Netralaya (Eye Hospital) and is the Founder and Board Member of Maharaja Agrasen Naturopathy Hospital in Sirsa. He is also Chairperson of the Shri Yuwak Sahitya Sadan, a centre for arts and literature in Sirsa, boasting a library serving 3,000 students.

I. OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

FFE's Open House Journey from July to September

This quarter, FFE brought together its stakeholders from all corners of the country in its annual series of open house events. These events provide a unique platform for our diverse stakeholders to connect virtually with over 8,000 FFE students, donors, alumni, mentors, facilitators and NGO partners. Every session was meticulously structured to accommodate students from different states, expanding the accessibility of the webinar to a broader audience. We were delighted to observe an average participation of 2,100 scholars in each session.

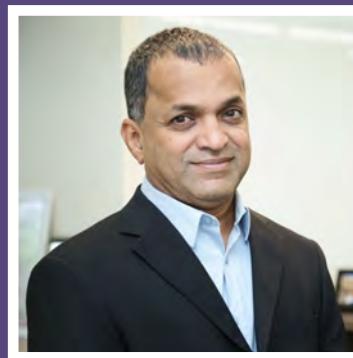
The highlight of each event was the presence of distinguished keynote speakers, who shared their wisdom on an array of compelling topics. The first open house on July 6 featured Mr. Bala Parthasarathy, Director at People+AI, Chairman and Co-Founder, Freo and Independent Director, Healthify.me, who gripped the audience with his remarkable insights on the AI revolution.

At the second open house on July 19, we welcomed Mr. Sandeep Dhar, Chief Delivery Officer, Apexon, who delivered an inspiring keynote address on 'Success Factors', taking everyone on a journey through his own life experiences as a student.

An exclusive open house for medical students was hosted on August 6, where Dr. Sunita Maheshwari, a Senior Paediatric Cardiologist and Co-Founder of RxDx Healthcare, shared her multi-faceted perspective on being a doctor, imparting invaluable knowledge to the aspiring medical scholars.

The final event took place on August 24, with Mr. Raj Vattikuti, Founder and Executive Chairman of Altimetrik, as the keynote speaker. Mr. Raj's address motivated the students to rise above their challenges, emphasizing the importance of being street-smart to make the most of one's opportunities.

The events also provided a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize and express our gratitude to our volunteer facilitators by awarding them 'Certificates of Appreciation' for their selfless service, unwavering commitment and dedication to FFE. 'Alumni Champions' of FY 2022-23, who eagerly supported FFE as donors, mentors and facilitators, were also honoured. Each meeting also had an engaging and dynamic Q&A session led by the FFE team, which saw active participation from all the students.



Mr. Bala Parthasarathy,
Director at People+AI



Mr. Sandeep Dhar,
Chief Delivery Officer,
Apexon



Dr. Sunita Maheshwari,
Senior Paediatric
Cardiologist and
Co-Founder of
RxDx Healthcare



Mr. Raj Vattikuti,
Founder and Executive
Chairman, Altimetrik

OPEN HOUSE JUNE-SEP



EVENT: 1

Date: 6th July

Keynote Speaker:

Mr. Bala Parthasarthy,
Director at People+ AI,
Chairman & Co-Founder Freo,
Independent Director,
Healthify.me

Topic:

Beyond Code: The AI revolution

Region:

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
& Karnataka

Participants: 2253



EVENT: 2

Date: 9th July

Keynote Speaker:

Mr. Sandeep Dhar,
Chief Delivery Officer,
Apexon

Topic:

Success Factors

Region:

Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh,
Maharashtra, Rajasthan,
Kerala, Tamil Nadu
& Puducherry

Participants: 2239

EVENT: 3

Date: 6th Aug

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Sunita Maheshwari,
Pediatric Cardiologist
& Healthcare
Entrepreneur,
Chief Dreamer
at the Telerad Group

Topic:

The many facets of being
a doctor

Region:

Medical Scholars
- All India

Participants: 2760



EVENT: 4

Date: 24th Aug

Keynote Speaker:

Mr. Raj Vattikutti,
Founder and
Executive Chairman,
Altimetrik Group

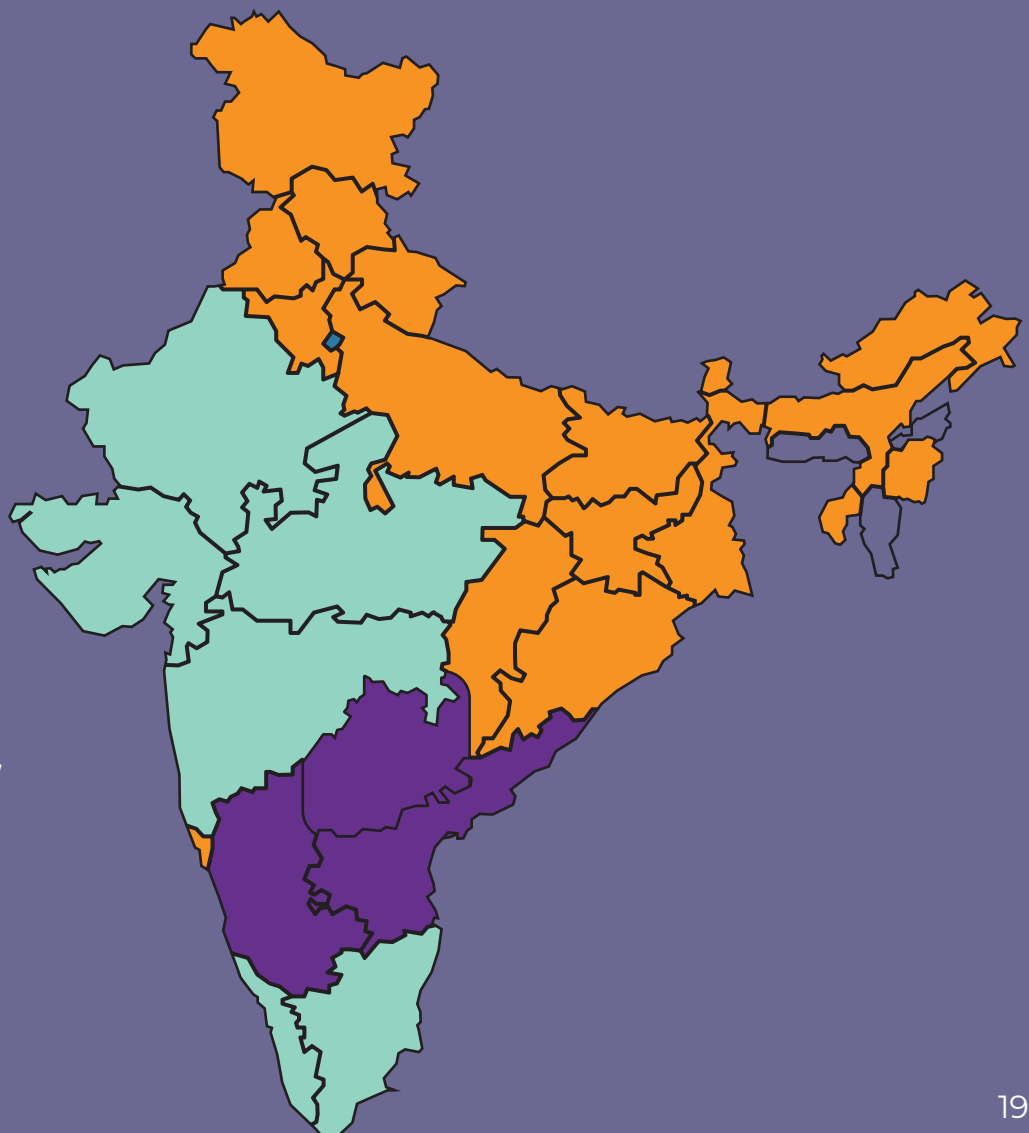
Topic:

Be street smart
to unleash unlimited
opportunities

Region:

Arunachal Pradesh,
Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh,
Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa,
Haryana, Himachal Pradesh,
Jammu & Kashmir,
Jharkhand, Manipur, Odisha,
Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura,
Uttar Pradesh,
Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Participants: 2465





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