



Amazon Students Meet



## MENTOR FEATURE

read more  
pg 10



## SABERA Awards Recognizes FFEIT Managing Trustee Dr. Sudha Kidao with prestigious 'Change Maker' Accolade



pg 7



Microsoft Event, Delhi

Dear Friends,

As the new year gets underway, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made so far in the nine months of this financial year. Our FFE family has grown to include over 13,000 students and thousands of alumni and donors worldwide, supported by our ever-dedicated volunteers.

FFE's Scholarships team has been working tirelessly to review renewal applications and expedite the process for awarding scholarships. All the while also working with our numerous NGO partners and volunteers to amplify awareness of our scholarship program so that more qualifying applicants throughout India have the opportunity to apply. Applications by women and persons with disabilities underscore our commitment to fostering inclusion, diversity and equity in this highly competitive field of professional education.

We are grateful to our donors, whose timely contributions have enabled students to meet their college expenses when they need them the most. And congratulations to all the FFE scholarship awardees!

FFE Founders Dr. Prabhu and Mrs. Poonam Goel's vision to maximise impact and create transformational change in a single generation has manifested in our unique 'Beyond Scholarships' program. Now in its sixth year, the structured skills training program and robust mentoring program, along with numerous learning opportunities through webinars and certification courses, funded generously by donors, have played a pivotal role in sustaining students' interest in academics and beyond. Supporting career aspirations and preparing students for a rapidly changing professional world, with new and in-demand skill sets, remains a key area of focus at FFE. More details of our current programs and the impact on students and mentors have been covered in this edition of the newsletter. In particular, our alumni continue to make us proud through their contributions—with funds, as mentors and volunteers, and as true FFE champions in their respective ecosystems!

The unprecedented number of applications we have received is humbling and disconcerting... that so many need our help. We appeal to you to please expand your support where possible so that, together, we can facilitate the success of gifted students -<https://ffe.org/donate/>.

Our wishes for a healthy and happy 2024, filled with promise for a better tomorrow.



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

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the FFE family, I extend warm wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2024 to all our scholars, alumni, donors, mentors, facilitators, volunteers and partners.

The third quarter of the financial year marks a transition period. As our graduated cohort steps into their next phase, we welcome new scholars into the FFE family. Many congratulations to all the graduates — 92% of them have already settled into jobs with an average salary of Rs. 11.8 lakhs per annum.

With over 29,000 applications received for new scholarships, our dedicated teams are working tirelessly to process all applications while striving to secure as much donor support as possible. The talent and determination evident in every application serve as inspiration.

Amidst increasing in-person interactions, the impact of going beyond scholarships to impart skills and employability training is evident and refreshing. Witnessing the transformation and growth in our scholars' confidence and awareness is truly remarkable. I extend a heartfelt thank you to over 2,500 mentor volunteers spanning across 100 organizations — your guidance creates a substantial positive change in these students.

In 2024, our focus is clear: to increase our impact both in scale and depth. I kindly request your help in connecting us with anyone who could support these bright and deserving students through our mission.



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

## A. Donor-Scholar Engagements

### Scholars connect with donors Dr. Sudha Kidao and Dr. Vivek Raghavan

Dr. Sudha Kidao and Dr. Vivek Raghavan caught up with their supported scholars in a virtual meet on October 30. Dr. Kidao spoke about her 15+ years association with FFE in various capacities as a volunteer, donor and now as Managing Trustee, FFEIT.

The two B. Pharm scholars, Gajera Ruchita and Yogesh Vallamwar, shared their college experiences and their motivations for pursuing a pharmaceutical course. Gajera said her motivation was to ensure that her father, who has worked hard all his life, could get complete rest and care once she starts to earn.



Law scholars Vinod Kelageri and Koitoree Nag shared their personal and academic progress with the donors. Koitoree spoke about her participation in trial courts. Dr. Raghavan,

Co-Founder at Sarvam AI ( a Gen AI start-up) who was previously the Chief Project Manager and Biometric Architect at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), had a discussion with her on various pertinent issues such as information privacy.

Dr. Kidao and Dr. Raghavan concluded the session by extending their best wishes to the scholars and expressing deep gratitude for being part of such inspiring journeys.

### KLA office visit for scholars in Chennai



Twenty-five scholars pursuing Engineering degrees in various colleges in Chennai, such as Madras Institute of Technology and IIT Madras, visited the KLA-Tencor Software India office in Chennai for a half-day event on October 27 as part of their Global Volunteer Week.

As a prominent part of the semiconductor industry, KLA was able to provide authentic and relevant insights into the intricate world of

semiconductor testing and possible career opportunities in the field. Scholars also participated in hands-on, group-based activities for fun and participative learning. Fourth-year students were put through sessions of mock interviews by KLA employees. All scholars who attended were also given a digital certificate of participation by the KLA team.

## FFE-IDP donor-scholar meet in Chennai



An in-person meeting between IDP Education and scholars of the FFE-IDP Scholarship Program was organized at their Chennai office on October 12.

Conducted in a hybrid mode, the meet saw 18 scholars attend in person and close to 75 scholars join virtually. These students are part of an all-female cohort supported by IDP Education who are currently pursuing one of the four courses of B.E./B.Tech, MBBS, B.Pharm and LLB.

The IDP Education team kicked off the event with an introduction and icebreaker, followed by an office tour and an interactive session that gave the scholars a taste of corporate workspace culture. The students also got the chance to interact with fellow members of their cohort studying in different courses and colleges.

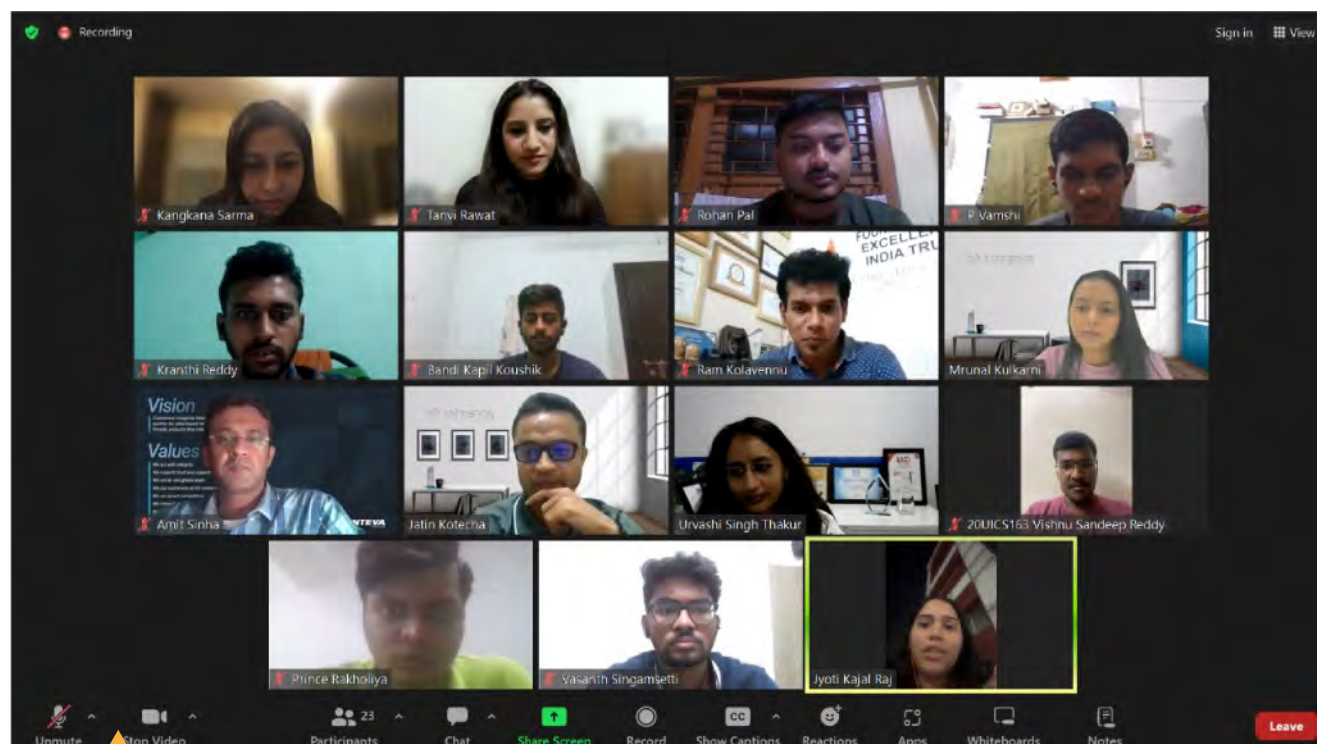
## FFE alumni facilitates scholar visit to Collins Aerospace, Bengaluru

Forty FFE scholars were presented with the remarkable opportunity to explore Collins Aerospace's manufacturing facility during their Manufacturing Week on November 3. The visit afforded them the privilege of engaging with Collins Aerospace's leadership team and gaining a first-hand glimpse into the intricate engineering processes behind the construction of various aircraft components.

Mr. Binu Krishnankutty, Senior Director, India Operations, addressed the theme of Industry 4.0 and the current challenges facing the world. He also encouraged the scholars to cultivate a vision in their lives and diligently pursue it. Mr. Narasimha Shenoy, Senior Principal Engineer for Lighting, conducted an informative session on "Customer-Centric Product Strategy". Mr. Vinayak Shridhar Hegde, Associate Engineer, delved into the intricacies of "Product Life Cycle Management".

What added a special touch to the visit was the involvement of FFE alumni currently employed at Collins Aerospace, who organized and facilitated the entire experience.

## Virtual session for scholars with Inteva Products



A virtual interactive session took place between Inteva Products and their supported scholars on December 15. The attendees included Ms. Urvashi Singh Thakur, Director – Global Talent Management & India HR; Mr. Jatin Kotecha, Country Finance Head; Ms. Mrunal Kulkarni, Company Secretary & Legal Associate; Mr. Amit Sinha, Chief Engineer – Electronics; and Ms. Ramya R., Senior Finance Manager.

The scholars expressed their sincere gratitude to their donors for their invaluable support. Talking about their journey, they highlighted how FFE's mentorship and skill training programs have played a pivotal role in preparing them for placement interviews and in their overall personal and professional development.

The representatives from Inteva Products extended guidance and encouragement to the scholars, emphasizing the significance of academic excellence. They urged the scholars to prioritize their studies, assuring them that a strong academic foundation would pave the way for future job opportunities.

In fact, they expressed keen interest in absorbing some of the talented scholars into their workforce. FFE is thankful to Inteva Products for supporting FFE in its mission of supporting underprivileged and deserving scholars in their pursuit of higher education.

## C. Leadership Visit



On November 21st, Mr. Venkatesh Shukla, Board Member of FFEUS & FFE India Trust, and Ms. Abha Shukla visited Bangalore office. The visit included an engaging and interactive session with various teams, providing a unique opportunity for exchange and collaboration.



Mr. Shukla, renowned as the Founder & Managing Partner of Monta Vista Capital, former Chair of TiE Global, and Ex-President of FFEUS, was appreciative of the dedicated efforts of the teams. Furthermore, he enriched the session with valuable insights into our future outlook. His wealth of experience and leadership roles added depth to the discussions, leaving a lasting impact on our collective vision for future. We extend our gratitude for their visit and look forward to applying these insights in our ongoing activities.



## B. SABERA Awards Recognizes FFEIT Managing Trustee Dr. Sudha Kidao with prestigious 'Change Maker' Accolade



Dr. Sudha Kidao, Managing Trustee, FFE India Trust, received the prestigious “Change Maker” award during the sixth edition of the Social and Business Enterprise Responsible Awards, SABERA 2023, hosted at Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi, on December 7. This accolade acknowledged Dr. Kidao’s exceptional contribution and impactful initiatives in social development, as well as her exemplary work in the higher education sector in India.

The selection process for the awards was rigorous, with a total of 150 inspiring entries across various categories decided upon by a distinguished panel of jury members. The event brought together thought leaders, industry experts and changemakers, all gathering to celebrate and discuss innovative solutions for sustainable development in India.

FFE’s accomplishments were also showcased during the event in the “Empowerment” category, where the organization was selected as a top finalist. Along with Dr. Kidao’s recognition, this shone the spotlight on our impactful work. Her award is a testament to our commitment to empowering individuals through education and creating a brighter future

## C. FFE gets the Gold Seal of Trust from Give India

Foundation for Excellence India Trust achieved the Give Gold Seal of Trust for FY22-23 after undergoing the extensive due diligence process conducted by Give India. FFE's commitment to excellence, dedication to serve, and adherence to best practices have helped in delivering large-scale projects to create the required impact on the ground and earn this accolade.

This award honours our collective efforts to ensure that FFE adheres to the most rigorous standards of diligence in every aspect of our operations. This not only safeguards the interests of our beneficiaries but has also helped in earning the trust and confidence of our donors and other stakeholders.

As recognition for achieving the Give Gold Seal of Trust, a certificate of excellence was awarded to FFE for the year 2022-23.



## D. Give India visits FFE office for due diligence

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## E. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Our one-of-a-kind mentoring program is specially curated to help Engineering, B.Pharm and Law scholars enhance their career-relevant skills. The ongoing six-month mentoring journey for 2,500 Engineering mentees began in August 2023 and will conclude in February 2024.

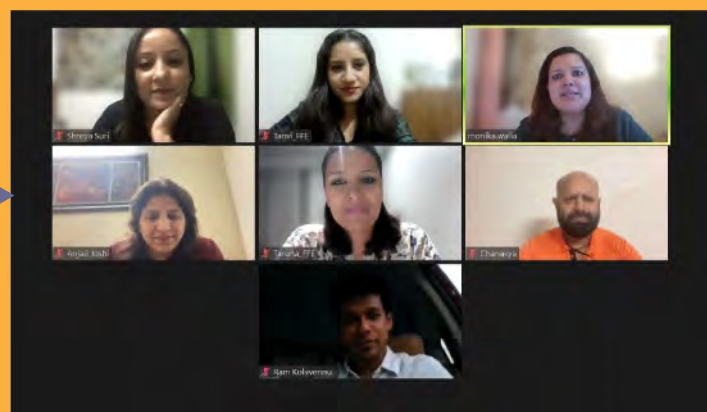
In November and December, FFE held over 30 virtual mid-program feedback sessions with all volunteers from corporate partners, individual mentors and alumni mentors to understand their mentoring experience so far. In a frank and supportive exchange, mentors gave their feedback, concerns and suggestions, which will help us enhance the program in the future. The FFE team also addressed the mentors' queries.

The mentoring program for our 60 Law and 75 B.Pharm scholars kicked off in December 2023. Currently, 49 mentees pursuing law have been paired with mentors as part of the program. Lawyers from last year's mentoring cycle, new volunteers and volunteers (lawyers) from EY Global Delivery Services (GDS) have enthusiastically registered as mentors to guide our scholars. For B.Pharm, mentors from Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Novartis, Clarivate, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and Biocon have registered. A detailed orientation session was held with each corporate partner, after which these volunteers signed up for the program.

FFE is thankful to the numerous corporate volunteers, alumni mentors and individual volunteers for their participation.

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

Oprah Winfrey



## MENTOR TESTIMONIAL



**Mr. Navarasu E. Nathan**  
**Associate Vice President**  
**– Global Operations,**  
**Indegene**

Mentoring college kids is one of the most rewarding and fulfilling things I do. Being able to share my knowledge and skills with young and eager learners and see them grow and develop as professionals is very satisfying. One of the things I enjoy the most about mentoring is the diversity of perspectives and backgrounds that the mentees bring to the table. I learn something new from them every day, and I appreciate their curiosity and enthusiasm.

Another thing I enjoy is the impact I can have on their careers and lives. I feel honoured and privileged to be able to guide FFE scholar Logesh and support him in his journey to help him achieve his goals. I'm grateful to FFE for providing me with this opportunity to work with such a talented and amazing student, and I hope to continue doing so for a long time."

## MENTEE TESTIMONIAL



**B Logesh**  
**3rd Year, Civil Engineering,**  
**Vellore Institute**  
**of Technology,**  
**Chennai**

"I would like to express my gratitude for the wonderful mentoring sessions with my mentor, Mr. Nathan. I was able to instantly connect with him in the introduction session and share my career goals. His approach made the sessions easy to understand, and his guidance on placement-related matters was incredibly beneficial. I know I will be able to use the knowledge gained in these mentoring sessions in both my professional and personal journeys. I recommend this valuable mentoring program to all the other scholars. Thank you to FFE and my mentor for this fantastic opportunity."

## F. SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

| Cohort                                  | Training Programs             | No. of scholars | Supported by                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2022–23 (2nd Year Engineering Scholars) | English Training-Enguru       | 1,738           | MSDF*                                                           |
| 2021–22 (3rd Year Engineering Scholars) | Technical Skilling – Coursera | 1,371           | MSDF* and Capgemini                                             |
|                                         | Hi-Touch English              | 1,074           | MSDF* and Capgemini                                             |
| 2020–21 (4th Year Engineering Scholars) | Mock Interviews               | 777             | MSDF*                                                           |
| B.Pharm (2nd Year)                      | Technical Skilling – Coursera | 70              | Mr. Chirag Patel and Mr. Kanu Bhai Patel<br>S&P Global<br>MSDF* |
|                                         | English Training-Enguru       | 83              |                                                                 |
| LLB (2nd Year)                          | Technical Skilling – Coursera | 50              | Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurthy<br>S&P Global                          |
|                                         | English Training-Enguru       | 42              |                                                                 |
| MBBS (2nd and 3rd Years)                | Hi-Touch English              | 1,0             | Mr. Babu Joseph                                                 |

\*Michael and Susan Dell Foundation

*“Without Knowledge, Skill cannot be focused. Without Skill, Strength cannot be brought to bear and without Strength, Knowledge may not be applied.”*

Alexander the Great

## Other Skilling Initiatives

### FLY (Finding the Leader in You) Program

Since it began in 2021, 1,233 scholars have participated in the FLY program to date. This is a 12-day workshop, conducted by the Competitiveness Mindset Institute (CMI), which teaches non-cognitive skills for the personality and character development of students. From October to December, the program covered five batches, including 170 participants in their second year of Engineering.

### Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) Boot Camp

As part of the Amazon Future Engineer (AFE) program that started in May 2023, the second batch of 500 FFE scholars is currently immersed in an intensive 10-month boot camp. The first batch of 68 scholars attended an eight-week internship program at Amazon.

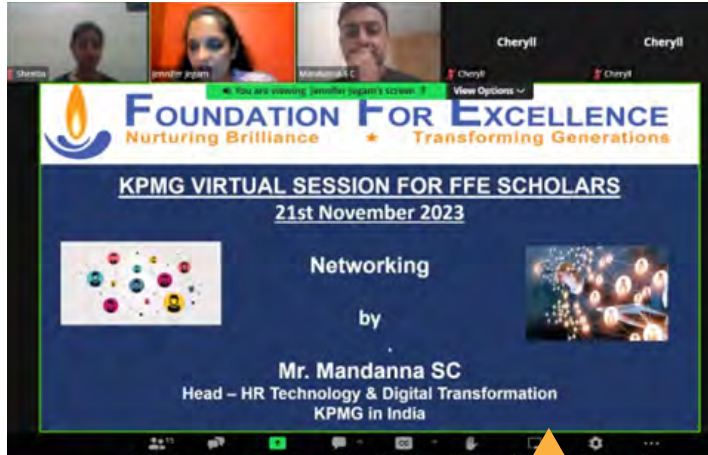
The boot camp provides deep learning on data structures and algorithms in Java, covering over 22 modules and featuring live sessions, doubt-clearing classes and mentoring sessions to upskill scholars and help them acquire internship opportunities next year.

### Wadhvani Foundation's Job Ready Program

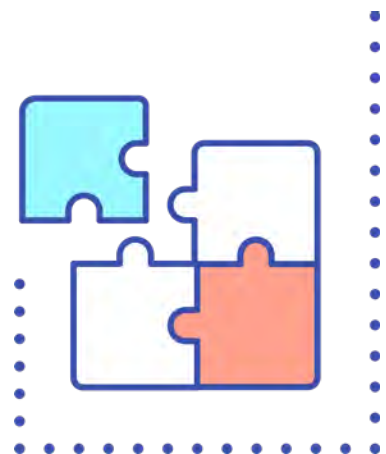
Five hundred second-year Engineering scholars are close to completing the Job Ready program offered by the Wadhvani Foundation. This six-month program began in June 2023 and focuses on enhancing the employability and job readiness skills required by scholars for internships and placements. The program 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.



## KPMG Virtual Sessions on Soft Skills



In November, the Leadership Team of KPMG in India conducted a series of webinars for FFE scholars on topics like personal branding, networking and interview skills. The speakers for the webinar included Mr. Kurush Dordi, Head of Talent Strategy for Risk Advisory, Deal Advisory and Corporate Functions, Mr. Mandanna SC, Head of HR Technology and Digital Transformation, and Mr. Sahil Nayar, Senior Associate Director of HR. Each session was attended by over 450 Engineering scholars.



## Cognizant Salesforce Virtual Internship Program

Ninety-three FFE scholars are currently enrolled in the Salesforce Virtual Internship program, initiated by Cognizant towards the end of September 2023. This is an intense eight-week program that develops interview skills through exclusive soft skills training and provides access to Salesforce Professional certifications. The allotted 120 hours of learning include hands-on boot camps, project work and mentoring support.

## IBM SkillsBuild Certification Program



Last quarter, 2,000 second-year Engineering scholars enrolled in the IBM SkillsBuild program that involves three months of portal-based learning followed by project-based learning. Participants cover IT-related courses like cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, data analytics, blockchain and cloud computing. The portal also focuses on job readiness and professional skills such as resume writing, LinkedIn profile building, design thinking, professional upskilling and project management. After an orientation session in October to familiarise scholars with the onboarding and enrolment process, students are actively involved in learning, and over 1,300 students have completed a course on the portal through self-paced learning.

## Office Visit and Career Development Sessions with Microsoft



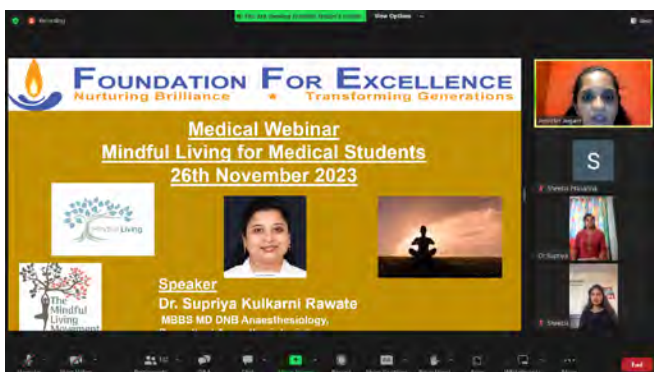
FFE donor Microsoft India organized a day-long event on October 10 by inviting 40 Engineering scholars to their offices in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Noida. The visit, which commenced with an engaging icebreaking session, included a highly interactive session on career development. Leaders from Microsoft India shared valuable insights into the latest industry trends and offered quick tips on effective resume-building and interview preparation.

For the eager students, the event provided a platform to engage in one-on-one interactions with industry leaders and ask questions relating to career development. Overall, the day proved to be an enriching experience for the FFE scholars, fostering meaningful connections and empowering them with knowledge for their professional journeys.

## Medical Webinars



On September 23, a medical webinar was conducted on “A Career in Surgery – Beyond the Hype” by Dr. Nikhil Nanjappa, M.S., FRCS Ed., M.IPD Ed., M. FST Ed., MRCS Ed., CESR (UK), Consultant Colorectal Surgeon and Surgical Gastroenterologist, Aceso BKG Multi Speciality Health Centre. Close to 1,195 participants learnt about different aspects of surgery, its subspecialties, and what it takes to be a surgeon.



A webinar on “Mindful Living for Medical Students” was conducted on November 26 by FFE Alumnus Dr. Supriya Kulkarni Rawate, MBBS, M.D., DNB Anaesthesiology, Consultant Anaesthesiologist at MMFHA and KEM Hospital, Pune. The session was attended by close to 500 participants and highlighted the importance of meditation, mindful living for medical professionals and its relevance in their lives, and steps to initiate and practice mindfulness

## Microsoft Mock Interviews

In November, Microsoft India conducted mock interviews for 96 final-year Engineering scholars as part of their Giving Campaign 2023. Nearly 60 volunteers from the Microsoft team gave an online workshop on interview-handling skills and resume-building abilities. Students were given feedback on their performance and suggestions for their resumes.

## FFE Mental Wellness Program

FFE launched the Mental Wellness program for all its beneficiaries on November 18, which aims to create awareness, foster education, advocate prevention and provide holistic mental health services. For this program, we have partnered with Mpower Minds to build a positive environment and stamp out the stigma of mental illness. During the year-long program, students will be onboarded in batches for a weekly workshop on the mental health program. All students will have access to a 24x7 helpline number to seek support whenever required, and counselling sessions on a one-to-one basis will also be made available.

## QMed Literature Search Program

In November, 169 second and third year Medical scholars were onboarded for the medical literature searching program conducted by the QMed Knowledge Foundation. This year-long program informs scholars of methodologies and specialized skills for online searching and literature in the medical and allied health domains. The health sciences curriculum also includes training students to conduct online research effectively including evidence based searches.

## LinkedIn's Community InDay Workshop

LinkedIn hosted 48 scholars at their Bengaluru and Gurugram offices on November 23 for their Community InDay. Engaging workshops conducted by volunteers from the LinkedIn team offered insights on workspace and STEM technologies, creating profiles and building a network, interviews for coding roles, and engineering roles at LinkedIn.



## Webinar for Engineering Scholars on the Research Process

A session on research for Engineering scholars was held on December 19, led by Dr. Vyas Sekar, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, Chief Scientist at Conviva, and Co-Founder of Rockfish Data. Dr. Sekar drew on his experience and work in networks, systems and security to speak to the close to 400 participants on research papers, journals and thesis, the Ph.D. preparation process, best practices to be followed, and opportunities, strategies, challenges and collaborations in the field of research.



### Abhishek Kumar

**4th Year, Electronics Engineering  
Indian Institute of Technology (BHU),  
Varanasi**

The Coursera program has had a significant impact on both my professional and personal life. It has not only enhanced my academic knowledge but has also honed my problem-solving skills and critical-thinking abilities. The diverse range of courses offered has allowed me to develop a well-rounded set of entrepreneurial skills and a forward-thinking mindset. The interactive nature of the courses, coupled with real-world examples, provided me with practical insights that I can apply in various situations. The flexibility of the online platform enabled me to balance my academic commitments with the coursework seamlessly. Overall, the Coursera program has been transformative, and I am grateful for the support and resources provided by FFE. I believe that the skills I have acquired will not only benefit me academically but will also contribute to my future endeavours in the professional arena."



### Harini US

**2nd Year, Information Technology  
Sona College of Technology, Salem**

The Wadhwani Foundation's Job Ready Program provided invaluable insights into the specific topics covered. The online platform was user-friendly and the resources provided were comprehensive, aiding in a holistic learning of the subject matter. The interactive elements kept me engaged and allowed me to deepen my understanding. I found the hands-on approach particularly beneficial. The practical exercises and real-world applications helped me apply my theoretical knowledge effectively. The program's structured curriculum and mentorship component contributed significantly to my professional growth. I also appreciate their emphasis on fostering a collaborative learning environment through networking opportunities with fellow participants as well as industry experts. It has undoubtedly enriched my knowledge and skills, and I look forward to applying what I've learned to my future endeavours. I wish to thank FFE and the Wadhwani Foundation for providing this opportunity."

## G. VOICE OF SCHOLARS

### Current Scholar:

#### Kirankumar R.

**3rd Year, B.Tech, Information Science and Engineering**  
**B.M.S. College of Engineering, Bengaluru**



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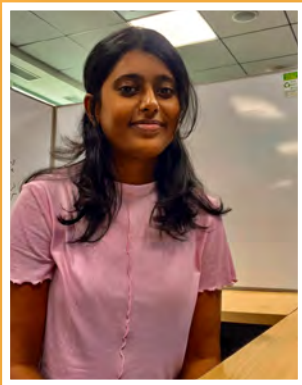
Kirankumar hails from Davanagere, Karnataka. He is one of two siblings raised by a single mother. After the untimely loss of his father two years ago, his mother, a daily wage worker, became the sole breadwinner for the family. He found inspiration in the wisdom and kindness of his primary school teacher, Mr. Raghavendra, who helped Kirankumar approach challenges with determination. The financial strain on the family was alleviated by FFE's scholarship program, which proved to be transformative for Kirankumar. This support not only eased the burden of college fees but also served as a beacon of hope, allowing him to focus on academic excellence and personal growth. Currently, he is in his third year of the Information Science program at B.M.S. College of Engineering, Bengaluru.

Driven by a passion for technology, he recently completed an online internship with CodSoft, showcasing his dedication and problem-solving skills. He is now preparing for an on-campus internship with Dell Technologies, where he will be looking to gain hands-on experience and further hone his skills.

Grateful for the scholarship, Kirankumar extends his heartfelt appreciation to his donor, Global-Logic, for their invaluable contribution to his journey. Their generosity has not only made education accessible but has also inspired him to dream beyond financial stability and strive for positive impact in the lives of those around him. While focused on achieving personal success, he envisions a future where he can contribute to the betterment of society.

Mentoring sessions and skills training with FFE have added another layer to Kirankumar's journey. Learning about communication, goal-setting and personality development has broadened his perspective and equipped him with the tools needed to face future challenges with confidence.

Kirankumar's story is not just one of academic achievement but also resilience, gratitude, and the transformative power of education. As he continues to navigate his path, he stands as a beacon of inspiration for others facing similar challenges in their educational journey.



## Vaisali Sekar

**Madras Institute of Technology,  
Chennai (2015–2019)**  
**Senior VLSI Design Engineer,  
Qualcomm**

Vaisali started her journey with FFE in 2015 during her first year of Engineering at MIT, Chennai. “I come from a lower-middle-class family – my parents are weavers who hardly earn ₹3,000 a month, and I have two younger sisters who are also studying. As we had no financial support, it was a very challenging phase in our lives.”

She spent her childhood in Kumbakonam and completed her higher secondary education at a government-aided school, excelling academically. “I always stood first in my class throughout school. In the state board public examination, I secured 1165/1200 marks, with 200/200 in Mathematics. In addition, I actively participated in science seminars and quiz competitions at the inter-school and district levels, once winning the third prize at a state-level science seminar in Chennai. I was also a volunteer with the Youth Red Cross.

I got to know about FFE through a college friend when I was applying for a loan for my Engineering degree. The scholarship from FFE helped me a lot to pursue my studies without worrying about money. During my college days, I participated in many technical and non-technical events, finishing as a pre-finalist in the famous Ms. Persofest event after 12 rounds. I was the first one in the Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) department to get placed, and joined Qualcomm as an Associate Design Engineer in Chennai.

In my second year with FFE, I was also paired with a mentor from a tech company.

expectations. In this way, the mentorship program gave me the knowledge to choose my career correctly. I have been with Qualcomm for four years now and have been promoted twice during this period.

As an electronics engineer, my role involves facing a lot of challenges while resolving problems. There are many students out there with dreams, but those dreams will never be fulfilled without sufficient money. FFE has certainly helped many students like me achieve our goals in life, and for this, I will forever be thankful to FFE. An act of giving or helping always provides inner satisfaction while also improving the lives of many families, both financially and mentally. Now I am supporting a FFE scholar and every year I do my best to help them to fulfil their dreams just like I have fulfilled mine.”



*“Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”*

Malcolm Forbes

## H. DONOR FEATURE



**Joel Gonsalves**  
**Vice President – HR, Dentsu**

“Our collaboration with FFE and Give India for the Spark Scholarship program has given us immense pride. Their commitment to enabling access to education for deserving students, coupled with a focus on holistic development through mentoring, aligns seamlessly with our purpose. Together, we will endeavour to create a transformative experience for 86 academically bright female students and empower their lives through this initiative.”

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## I. FACILITATOR FEATURE

**Mrs. V. Satyabhama**

Mrs. V. Satyabhama is a retired physics professor who taught at the National College Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, for 39 years until 2012. She has been associated with FFE for around 22 years after first being introduced to us by the Ramakrishna Mission Students' Home (SRKSH), a free hostel for poor and meritorious students.



At that time, FFE was helping not only Engineering and Medical students but also high school, pre-university and degree students. We conducted physical interviews with applicants at SRKSH to assess their genuineness. Till now, I have facilitated around 600 applicants.

I have been associated with education for almost my entire life. Born in Bengaluru, I studied in a Kannada-medium government school up to Class 10 and completed my pre-university course in a government college. I pursued a B.Sc. degree at National College Basavanagudi, Bangalore securing the fourth rank overall. I continued my studies by pursuing an M.Sc. in Physics from Central College in 1973. I have also served as a governing council member of the National Education Society of Karnataka for 10 years.

I am very proud of FFE, where the team is doing wonderful social service and keeping the morale of the students high. Through my work with this organization, I have come to know the real picture of the very poor and meritorious students of Karnataka. I value education and firmly believe that it is a weapon to eradicate poverty. Thus, I identify with the mission of FFE, and it gives me immense pleasure and happiness to be working closely with students of FFE. My best wishes to all the students and staff at the organization for the future.



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