

inFocus



FFE-HP Mentorship Closure session held at HP's Bangalore office



Amit Sawarkar
CSR Manager,
Collins Aerospace

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FFE Scholars' Visit to Collins Aerospace, Bengaluru, 19th April, 2024

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YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES

Inauguration Ceremony of Naresh Bala Excellence Fellowship



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

Dear Friends,

FFE's 30-year journey has been defined by relentless dedication to improving the lives of gifted young individuals through transformative initiatives. The merit cum means scholarship program, envisioned by FFE's Founders Dr. Prabhu Goel and Mrs. Poonam Goel, have reached a new milestone with 16,294 students awarded scholarships in FY 2023-24 alone.

FFE's growth owes much to the support of 100+ corporate partners, foundations, non-profits, thousands of individuals, and various institutions. Collaboration has been instrumental in driving impactful change, allowing FFE to leverage diverse expertise and resources across sectors. This approach enriches the scholarship program by providing comprehensive support, including financial assistance, skills training, mentoring, leadership development, emotional wellness initiatives and more.

FFE's "Pay Forward" model has been particularly significant, with alumni contributing over Rs. 7 Crores in donations last year, alongside significant volunteer contributions as mentors and Facilitators.

This edition highlights impactful connections forged between donors, mentors, and students, showcasing the profound impact of these relationships on student confidence and well-being. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors, partners, and volunteers for enriching the lives of FFE scholars.

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate the next round of scholarship applications and encourage timely donations to ensure FFE can continue its crucial work of empowering students with essential assistance when they need it most.

Together, we can make a significant difference.

As we reflect on the first quarter, we are filled with optimism and excitement for the year ahead. We began the new financial year with a planning exercise where the entire team spent quality time together. It always amazes me when we meet as a group—the collective ideas and innovations that come out are truly inspiring.

One of the significant milestones of this quarter was the conclusion of our mentoring engagement for 3rd-year students. The impact of this mentoring program is immense for our scholars, and it was heartening to hear the experiences of both mentors and mentees. The last quarter also provided opportunities to meet with different stakeholders through both virtual and in-person meetings.

Below are some of the key updates from the first quarter:

Mentoring Program Success: With nearly 2,000 mentors from over 100 organizations contributing more than 20,000 hours, the program has provided invaluable guidance and support to our scholars. The positive feedback from both mentors and mentees underscores the significant impact of this initiative.

Strategic Planning Session: Our team spent quality time discussing how to enhance our impact, effectively use technology, and improve operations. The innovative ideas generated during these sessions are a testament to our collective commitment to excellence.

Scholar and Alumni Engagement: Through various forums, I had the privilege of meeting scholars and alumni, both in person and virtually. These interactions are incredibly energizing and motivate us to continue pushing boundaries and achieving more.

Donor-Scholar Meetings: Our donor-scholar meet-ups last quarter showcased the impact of our programs to the global leadership teams of multiple organizations. The positive feedback and appreciation received have been immensely energizing and reinforce the value of our work.

As we reflect on the first quarter, we are filled with optimism and excitement for the year ahead. The dedication and collaboration of our team and volunteers continue to drive meaningful change, and I am confident that we will achieve even greater milestones in the coming months.

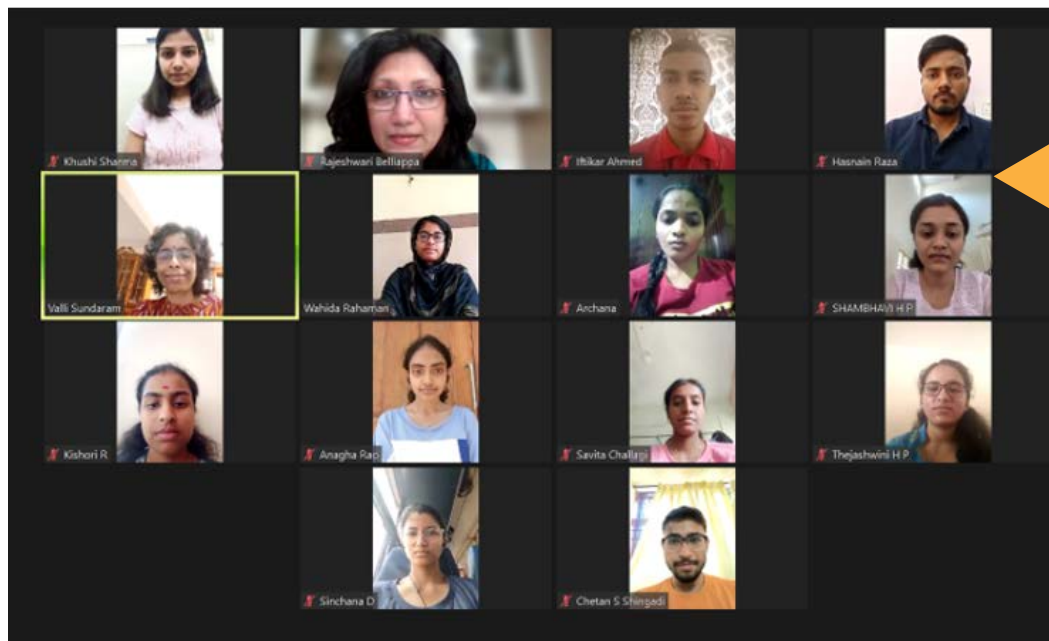


**Message from
Ram Kolavennu,
COO, FFEIT**

A. DONOR-SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENTS

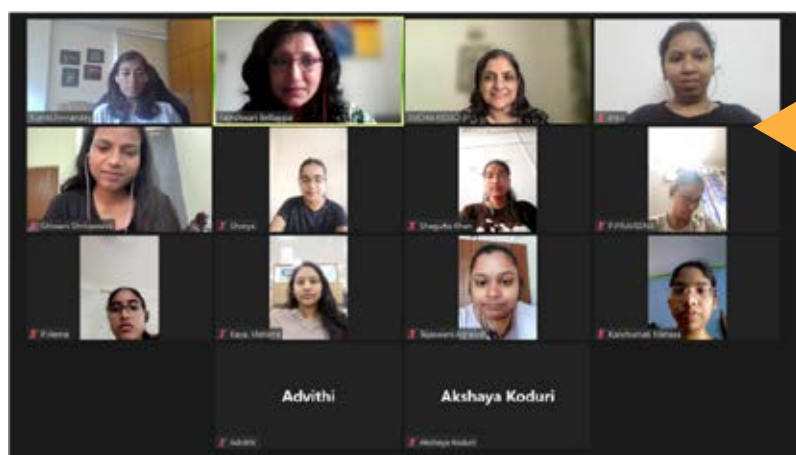
Virtual Donor-Scholar Meetup with Mrs. Karpagavalli Sundaram from Siva & Royan Foundation, 7th April, 2024

On April 7th, 2024, FFE facilitated a virtual call between donor Mrs. Karpagavalli Sundaram from the Siva & Royan Foundation and the sponsored scholars and alumni. The inspiring session encouraged the students to continually learn, stay motivated, and seek help whenever needed. The donor took the opportunity to understand the scholars' and alumni's future plans and interests. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Siva & Royan Foundation for being an integral part of the FFE family.



Online meet with FFE Donor, Mrs. Karpagavalli Sundaram from Siva & Royan Foundation

Virtual Donor-Scholar Meetup with Mrs. Rumki Fernandes, 20th April, 2024

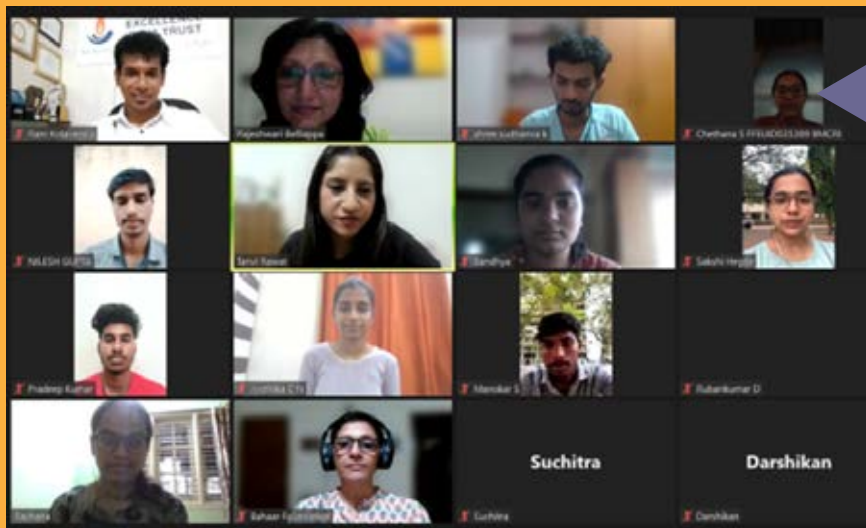


FFE's long standing Donor, Mrs. Rumki Fernandes during an online Donor-Scholar meetup

Mrs. Rumki Fernandes, a long-time FFE donor, engaged virtually with her cohort of Engineering and Medical scholars, and a few alumni on April 20, 2024. Students shared updates on their academic progress, college life, and future plans. Since 2016, Mrs. Fernandes and her husband, Mr. Michael Fernandes, have been steadfast supporters of FFE from Singapore.

Their commitment has significantly impacted many scholars' lives. FFE deeply appreciates their continued trust and support of its cause.

Virtual Donor-Scholar Meetup with FFE Donor Mrs. Meena Ganesh, 30th April, 2024



FFE's long standing Donor, Mrs. Meena Ganesh during an online Donor-Scholar meetup

On April 30th, 2024, FFE facilitated a virtual call between donor Mrs. Meena Ganesh, long-time supporter of FFE and her sponsored scholars that included 12 MBBS and Engineering students along with 2 alumni. The session motivated and inspired scholars, emphasizing resilience in the face of challenges. Mrs. Ganesh keenly explored the academic pursuits, future aspirations, and personal interests of the scholars and stressed the vital role of networking in career advancement and entrepreneurship as a potential long-term goal. We are deeply appreciative of Mrs. Meena Ganesh's dedication and commitment to the FFE family.

Donor-Scholar Meet & Mentorship Program Closure Session: FFE-ExxonMobil Scholarship Program, 6th May, 2024



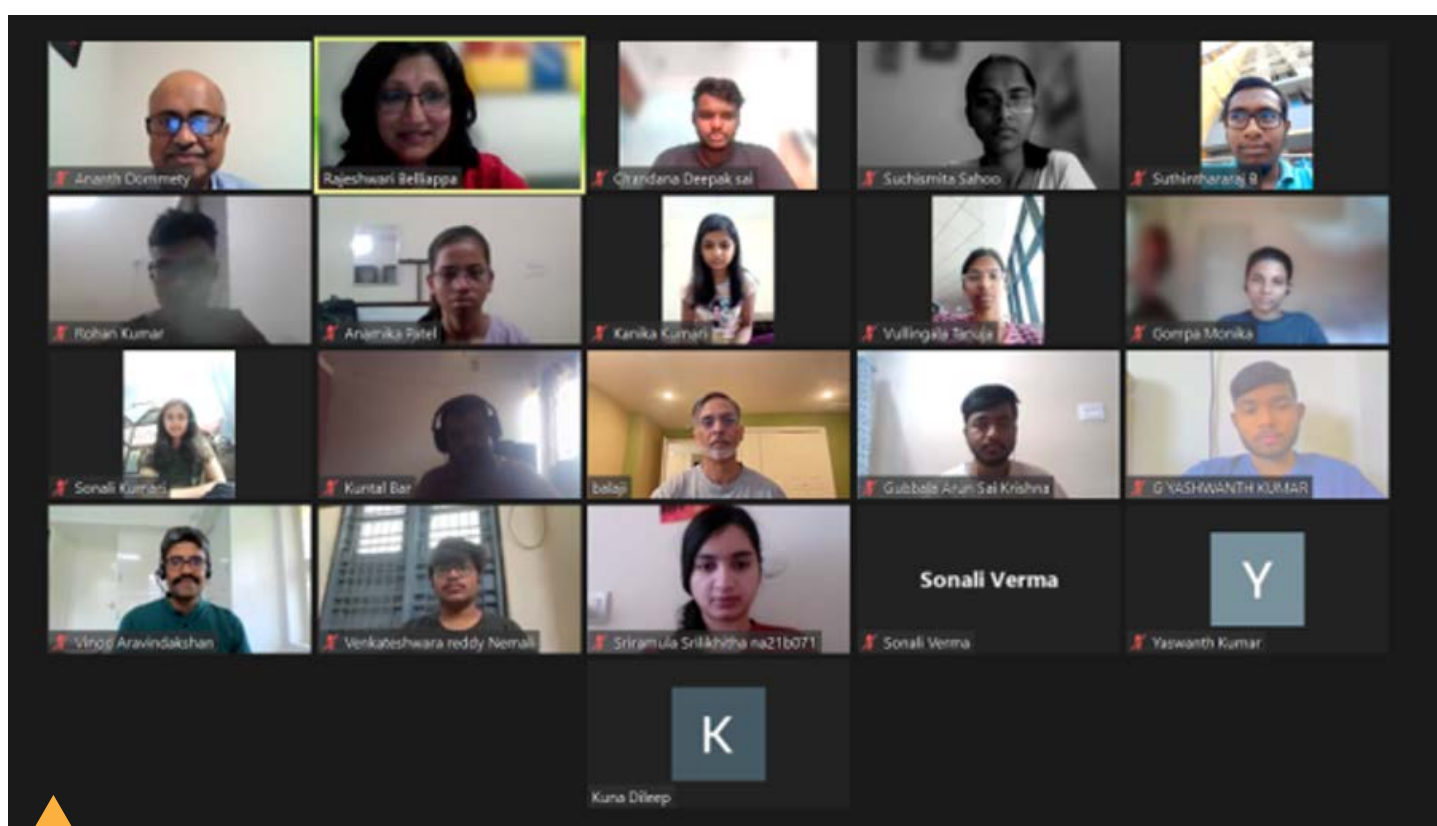
FFE-ExxonMobil scholars visit to ExxonMobil office in Bangalore

On May 6th, 2024, FFE-ExxonMobil scholars attended a Donor-Scholar meet at the ExxonMobil Services & Technology Pvt. Ltd.'s office in Bengaluru- a unique opportunity for scholars to meet and interact with their Donor. Dr. Monte Dobson-CEO and Lead Country Manager, ExxonMobil India, addressed the attendees. The event featured a stimulating science quiz, a collaborative case study exercise and an immersive learning opportunity through "Virtual Reality". The program concluded with the recognition ceremony for ExxonMobil Mentors who received certificates for their completion and commitment to the FFE Mentorship Program.

Virtual Donor-Scholar Meetup with Collins Aerospace, 5th May, 2024

On May 5th, 2024, an impactful virtual meetup was held for 50 FFE-Collins Aerospace Engineering scholars. The session commenced with Mr. Gururaja Nekkar- Manager, Collins Aerospace, introducing Collins Aerospace and its innovative product offerings. Ms. Sreelatha Pillai, Principal Engineer, Collins Aerospace, led an engaging session focused on self-motivation and communication skills. The meet motivated the scholars to pursue their academic and professional ambitions with several students sharing their personal journeys

Virtual Donor-Scholar Meetup with Joy Thomas Foundation, 11th May, 2024



An inspiring virtual meet between members of the Joy Thomas Foundation and FFE supported scholars

On May 11th, 2024, an inspiring virtual meeting was held between key members of the Joy Thomas Foundation (JTF) and the 22 sponsored scholars. Esteemed JTF representatives, including Mr. Balaji Shyamkumar- Head of Engineering & Data Science, Noonum; Mr. Ananth Dommety-President & CEO, Trans-Domain Technologies, LLC. and Mr. Vinod Aravindakshan- IIT Teaching Professor and startup founder, engaged with the students, encouraging them to read extensively, seek help when needed, and reach out to JTF for academic assistance.

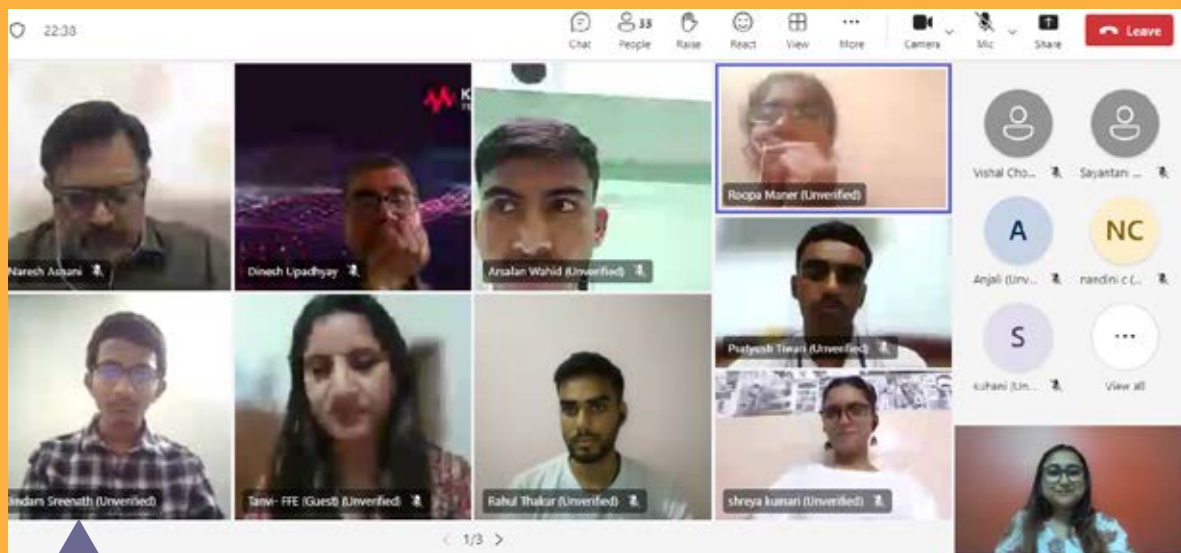
Virtual Donor-Scholar Meetup with Clarivate, 14th May, 2024

On May 14, 2024, FFE and Clarivate hosted their inaugural donor-scholar meetup virtually, providing a wonderful platform for donors to interact directly, with scholars sharing their stories and expressing their deep gratitude. Clarivate was represented by Mr. Atul Bhatia-Associate General Counsel, India; Mr. Mohit Manaktala- Senior Director, IP Operations; Ms. Anamika Chourasia-Senior Director, South APAC, Government & Academic; Ms. Geetika Nath- Senior Director, Operations; Ms. Garima Chawla Kaul-Healthcare Data and Solutions, and Mr. Pushpendra Soni- Service Operations, Senior -IP Lead.



Inaugural Donor-Scholar Meetup with FFE Donor Clarivate

Inaugural Donor-Scholar Meetup with Keysight Technologies, Inc., 15th May, 2024.



First Donor-Scholar Engagement with Keysight Technologies

On May 15, 2024, FFE organized the inaugural donor-scholar engagement between Keysight Technologies Inc. and its supported scholars. Representing Keysight were Mr. Dinesh Upadhyay, Functional Head - Enterprise Finance & Director; Mr. Vishal Chowdhry Director Accounts Payable & Cost Accounting; Ms. Sayantani Choudhary, Business Head - Recruitment Team, and others. The session was lively and engaging as the students shared their challenges, aspirations, and gratitude for the scholarship support.

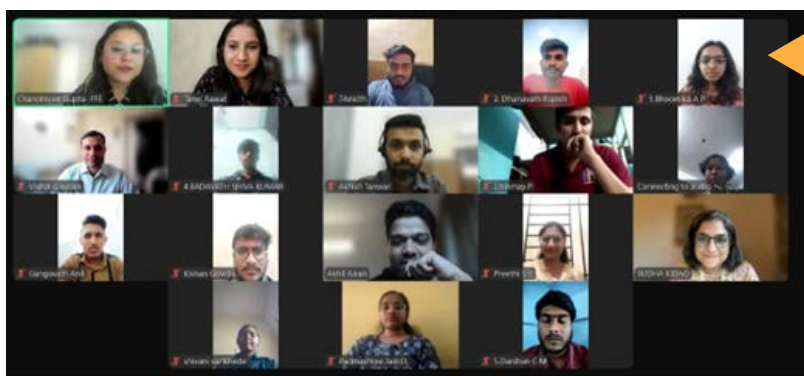
Orientation Meet: FFE Law Scholarship Program, 7th June, 2024



**Virtual Orientation
for FFE Law Scholars
with Mr. Mahesh
Krishnamurthy,
Mentor of the FFE
Law Scholarship Program**

On June 7, 2024, FFE organized a virtual orientation session for its law scholars. In FY 2023-24, FFE welcomed 65 new, first year law scholars attending 25 colleges in 15 Indian states. The orientation session featured a special message from Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurthy, mentor and donor of the FFE Law Scholarship program. The event was highly engaging, including a Q&A session and storytelling by the scholars.

Virtual Scholar meet with Donor Zscaler, 20th June, 2024



**Inaugural Donor-Scholar
meet for the FFE-Zscaler
Scholarship Program**

On June 20th, 2024, the inaugural Donor-Scholar meet for the FFE-Zscaler Scholarship Program marked a significant milestone in the partnership. Representatives from Zscaler, including Mr. Vishal Gautam- Vice President,

Engineering & Site Managing Director; Mr. Ashish Tanwar- AJP Head of Early Career Hiring; Mr. Akhil Airan- Lead of Corporate Social Responsibility, and Ms. Joyeeta Saha- Senior Engagement Program Manager, joined the scholars for an interactive session. The scholars shared their stories and expressed gratitude to Zscaler while Zscaler's leadership addressed the scholars, offering insights into the company's extensive work and providing valuable advice on career development and stress management.

Virtual Interaction with Indus Towers Limited



On 25th June 2024, Mr. Budh Prakash Kanoujia, Program Manager, CSR Team at Indus Towers Limited virtually connected with four scholars, who are being supported under the FFE-Indus Towers Scholarship Program. Students shared their experience with the program, their educational journey, and aspirations. This interactive session provided important insights about personal and professional development.

Virtual interaction between Indus Towers Limited and a few of their supported scholars

B. OTHER EVENTS:

FFE Scholars' Visit to Collins Aerospace, Bengaluru, 19th April, 2024



CSR event
organized by
Donor Collins
Aerospace

On April 19th, 2024, the Collins Aerospace CSR team organized a site visit as part of the Global Month of Service (GMoS-2024) initiative, tailored for FFE's Engineering students. Collins Aerospace invitees included 40 FFE scholars who were provided a comprehensive tour of the Hoodi operations plant (Bengaluru), where they explored shop floor facilities, gained insights into various aircraft systems, and engaged directly with Collins Aerospace leaders, including Mr. Sreekanth Rao- Senior Principal Engineer and Mr. Abhilash K- Senior Engineering Manager. Dr. Ruby Makhija, a prominent ophthalmologist turned social activist, conducted an insightful session on waste management, emphasizing the importance of individual contributions to achieving a plastic-free environment.

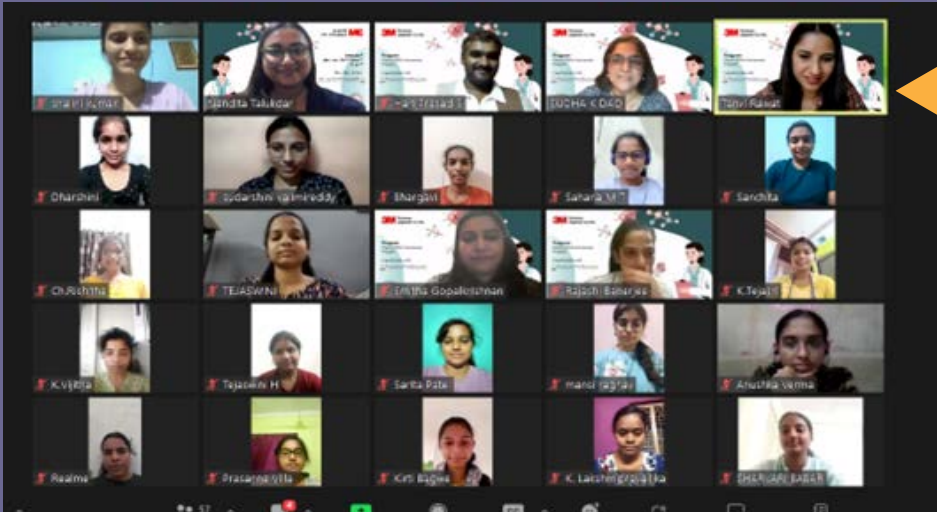
CSR Town Hall Event by KLA Corporation, Chennai on 15th May, 2024

On May 15, 2024, FFE's long-standing partner, KLA Corporation, invited Foundation for Excellence to participate in their CSR Town Hall at KLA's office in Chennai. This provided an excellent platform for FFE to highlight the significant impact of the scholarships, and for KLA employees to gain firsthand understanding of how their financial support has profoundly benefited the recipients. The scholars shared their inspiring stories, detailing their dreams and aspirations, thanks to the support they received.



KLA Scholars with Mr. Hari Rajagopalan -
Director , Software Engineering at KLA

Launch of 'PRAGYAAN – Girls in STEM Scholarship Program' with 3M India Ltd., June 6, 2024



Virtual launch of 'PRAGYAAN – Girls in STEM Scholarship Program' with 3M India Ltd.

On June 6, 2024, the first donor-scholar interaction marked the formal launch of the unique 'PRAGYAAN – Girls in STEM Scholarship Program', sponsored by 3M India Ltd., supporting 200 meritorious girls pursuing BTech and MBBS degrees. Mr. Ramesh Ramadurai- Managing Director of 3M India Ltd., congratulated the scholars for their determination in pursuing higher education despite challenges. Ms. Deviyani Mani- Area Portfolio Manager at 3M India Ltd., emphasized on the importance of perseverance while enjoying the college experience. During the event, students shared their heartfelt stories of courage, hardship and successes, while also expressing gratitude for the scholarship leaving a lasting impression.

FFE Open House Events 2024-25: Inauguration, 27th June, 2024



On June 27, 2024, FFE hosted its inaugural Open House for the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha, attracting over 2,000 participants. This event marked the beginning of a series of annual Open House events aimed at connecting, updating, and engaging with FFE's esteemed stakeholders: Scholars, Donors, Alumni, Volunteers, Mentors, Facilitators, and other valued partners, including NGOs and institutions.

The highlight of the event was the keynote address by Mr. Pankaj Rai, Group Chief Data & Analytics Officer, Aditya Birla Group. In his inspiring address, Mr. Rai shared his success strategies and motivated the scholars with his thought-provoking insights on the topic, "Careers in the age of AI". During an engaging Q&A session, he offered advice on navigating the rapidly evolving fields of data science and technology through honing soft skills.

D. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The FY 2023-24 mentorship cycle for Engineering Students concluded in February 2024. Professionals from more than 100 corporations participated, offering mentoring and guidance to 1,949 FFE Engineering (BE/BTech) Scholars.

To express appreciation to FFE's corporate partners and their employee volunteers, 19 Mentorship Closure Sessions were conducted during May and June 2024. Sessions for Pure Storage India Pvt. Ltd., HP, Exxonmobil Services & Technology Pvt. Ltd., and Wabtec Corporation took place at their offices in Bengaluru, while Keysight Technologies India Private Limited held theirs in Gurgaon.

Virtual closure sessions were conducted for KPMG India, Alvarez & Marsal India Pvt. Ltd., TransUnion CIBIL, Cognizant Technologies, Mu Sigma, o9 Solutions, Dover India Pvt. Ltd., Reliance, Indegene Ltd., Goodrich Aerospace Services Private Limited (Collins), Altimetrik India Pvt. Ltd., Capgemini Technology Services India Pvt. Ltd., Firstsource Solutions Ltd., and Microsoft GDC.



FFE-HP Mentorship Closure session held at HP's Bengaluru office



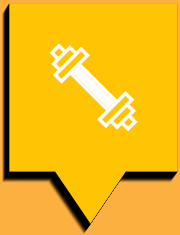
FFE-Wabtec Mentorship Closure session held at Wabtec's Bengaluru office

During this event, mentors who qualified under the 'Star' and 'Outstanding' categories were recognized with Certificates. The event also showcased the impact of the Mentoring Program through volunteerism. Valuable feedback from mentors and mentees was collected through feedback forms, which was included in the 'Annual Impact Report 23-24' shared with all corporate partners who were enrolled in the Mentoring program..

The mentorship program for FFE's Law (LLB) and Pharmacy (BPharm) students commenced in December 2023 and concluded in June 2024. The program included 45 mentor-mentee pairs for Law students and 56 mentor-mentee pairs for BPharm students.

In June 2024, FFE organized four group mentoring sessions for Law students who were unable to participate in the regular mentoring program. These sessions covered essential topics such as Communication Skills, Problem Solving and Decision Making, Career Development, and Corporate Etiquette. FFE extends its gratitude to the speakers — Ms. Shraddha Agarwal- Senior Consultant at EY; Ms. Karubakee Nandi- Legal Head for Strategy and Business Development at Disney-Star India; Ms. Saradha Kumar- Independent Legal Consultant; and Ms. Puja Mondal- Global Contract Management at Mercedes-Benz Research and Development India, for their valuable participation and guidance.

Launch of FFE Mentorship Program 2024-25



Based on students feedback during focused group discussions, FFE advanced its Mentorship Program to June-July 2024. The onboarding process for mentees and mentors for the program is currently underway.



In June 2024, FFE conducted 35 Mentorship Orientation sessions for FFE's corporate partners and third-year students. FFE's orientation sessions play a crucial role in establishing clear objectives, expectations, timelines, and guidelines for both mentors and mentees. In June 2024, 1,200 mentor-mentee pairs embarked on their mentoring journey.



FFE expresses its heartfelt gratitude to all enrolled corporate volunteers, alumni & individuals for their dedicated commitment to guiding and supporting students over the next 6-8 months in this new mentoring cycle.



FFE-NBEF Mentorship Program inauguration ceremony organized by School of Meaningful Experiences (SoME), 16th June, 2024



Inauguration Ceremony of Naresh Bala Excellence Fellowship (NBEF) and FFE Mentorship Program

Naresh Bala Excellence Fellowship (NBEF) partnered with FFE supporting the education of Engineering and Medical scholars. In association with School of Meaningful Experiences (SoME), the Mentorship Program was launched to enhance the life skills of FFE-NBEF scholars. The scholars were invited to the inauguration ceremony on 16th June 2024 where they had the opportunity to meet and interact with the NBEF, SoME and FFE Team.

Guest Speaker, Mr. Uday Singh, Director and Member of BoG, SoME and Mr. Ram, NBEF Trustee addressed the scholars in the ceremony.

MENTOR-MENTEE TESTIMONIAL

MENTOR TESTIMONIAL



**Swati Sharma,
Consultant, TransUnion CIBIL**

"I've had the privilege of participating in the FFE Mentorship Program for the past two years, and I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve as a mentor. This program has allowed me to share my knowledge and experiences with individuals eager to learn and develop. Mentoring provides me with a profound sense of fulfillment and purpose, knowing that I am making a positive impact on someone's life and helping them achieve their aspirations. Moreover, being a mentor has taught me valuable lessons.

Witnessing Vipul's progress has been incredibly rewarding, knowing that I have contributed to his personal and professional growth. Vipul's fresh perspective and enthusiasm has reminded me of the importance of remaining open-minded and adaptable. His curiosity has encouraged me to stay informed about various career paths, fostering a continuous cycle of learning and growth for both of us.

The mentorship program offered by FFE is an exceptional platform for nurturing both professional and personal development. I look forward to continuing my involvement with FFE and contributing further to the success and growth of aspiring individuals."

MENTEE TESTIMONIAL



**Vipul Shukla
3rd Year BTech Scholar,
Metallurgical
& Materials Engineering,
National Institute of Technology,
Rourkela**

"My mentor, Ms. Swati Sharma, was exceptional. Through our mentorship sessions and discussions, I have learned a lot. She provided valuable tips on effective communication and etiquette, helping me improve my spoken English. She also guided me on available career options, assisting me in choosing my future goals. Her advice on effective time management has been particularly beneficial. I feel fortunate to have had such an outstanding mentor and highly recommend this program to every FFE student. It is a fantastic opportunity to learn and receive one-on-one guidance from experienced professionals."

E. SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Cohort	Training Programs	No. of scholars	Supported by
2023-24 (1st Year Engineering scholars)	Baseline Assessment	3484	MSDF*
2022-23 (2nd Year Engineering Scholars)	Aptitude Training - Ethnus	1319	MSDF* & Lenovo
2021-22 (3rd Year Engineering Scholars)	Endline Assessment	2594	MSDF* & Capgemini
	Technical Skilling – Coursera	1738	
	Hi-Touch English	1074	
	Mock Interviews - SHL	2228	
Pharma (2nd year)	Technical skilling - Coursera	70	Mr. Chirag Patel & Mr. Kanu Bhai Patel Markit India Services Pvt.Ltd.(S&P Global) MSDF*
Law (2nd year)	Coursera	50	Mr. Mahesh Krishnamurthy Markit India Services Pvt.Ltd.(S&P Global)



OTHER SKILLING INITIATIVES

FLY (Finding the Leader in You) Program - a 12-Day Workshop by Competitive Mindset Institute Inc.

Since its inception in 2021, this 12-day workshop has seen participation from 1,563 scholars to date. During the quarter, a total of 140 participants in 6 batches enrolled in the Program.

This academic year saw the introduction of weekend batches, allowing scholars to complete the course over three consecutive weekends. The workshop, conducted by the Competitive Mindset Institute Inc. (CMI), is designed to teach noncognitive skills for students' personality and character development.

Summer Research Internship at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat

On May 15th 2024, four third-year Engineering scholars began a two-month Summer Research Internship program at Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, which will continue until the end of July. The students are engaged in various projects, including Development of a Portable Universal Testing Machine; Prediction of Battery Remaining Useful Lifetime Using Machine Learning; Thompson Jumping Ring and Linear Induction Motor and Video Image Detection.

Medical Webinar on Career Prospects Post MBBS by Dr. Jogin Desai



Webinar for Medical students by Dr. Jogin Desai

On May 19, 2024, a webinar was held for all FFE medical scholars on the topic "Career Prospects Post-MBBS." The session was conducted by Dr. Jogin Desai, Founder and CEO of Eystem. Over 400 participants attended the virtual program, which covered various aspects of career opportunities for graduating medical students and concluded with an interactive Q&A session.

Mental Wellness Program

Since November 2023, FFE has successfully implemented the Wellness Program for all its beneficiaries, aiming to enhance awareness and knowledge of comprehensive mental health services. Launched in collaboration with Mpowerminds, this program seeks to nurture the emotional well-being and resilience of our scholars. The aim is to provide a structured, 24/7 support system that encompasses all aspects of mental wellness. Additionally, one-on-one counseling sessions are available to all FFE scholars as required. To date, over 1,500 students have participated in the workshops, gaining valuable insights into identifying mental health issues and learning strategies for remedial action.



QMed Literature Searching Program for MBBS students

In November 2023, 169 medical scholars from year 2 and 3 enrolled in the Medical Literature Searching program by QMed Knowledge Foundation. They are actively engaged in completing various course modules, including Information Resources and Literature Searching (IRLS), Introduction to Referencing (IR), Mastering PubMed (PM), Reference Management with Mendeley (RMM), Reference Management with Zotero, and Advanced PubMed Searching for Authoring Systematic Reviews.



G. SCHOLAR TESTIMONIALS

Gowtham

**BTech,
3rd Year,
Information Technology,
National Institute of Technology
Surathkal, Karnataka**



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"FFE has been an invaluable support system with its financial assistance, and I am deeply grateful. Recently, FFE enabled us to enhance our skills with the Ethnus app, and the experience exceeded my expectations. The course was outstanding, with interactive elements and engaging teachers making the learning process enjoyable. Regular quizzes kept us engaged, and the teachers were dedicated to our active participation. We gained extensive knowledge across various subjects and skills.

I feel highly confident and empowered by this experience. I extend my heartfelt thanks to FFE for providing this incredible opportunity. They continuously offer excellent prospects for students like me."

Kaviya S.

**BTech 2nd Year,
Electronics and Communication Engineering
Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Engineering
and Technology,
Hyderabad**



"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to FFE for granting me the opportunity to participate in the FLY program. It has been an incredibly enriching experience. As someone who is naturally introverted, I have noticed significant positive changes in myself through this program. The FLY program has imparted numerous valuable lessons, such as developing leadership skills, thinking creatively, and enhancing problem-solving abilities.

During the initial days of college, I felt anxious about speaking on stage. However, with the skills I acquired from the FLY program, I can now confidently address audiences. This program has been immensely beneficial, empowering me to think innovatively and approach challenges with confidence."



Prashant Kumar,

**BTech 4th Year,
Computer Science and Engineering
National Institute of Technology, Patna
Placement Information: Accenture**

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FFE scholar, Prashant Kumar hails from Gaya, Bihar. His father is a farmer and his mother a homemaker. Recognizing the importance of education, Prashant's parents encouraged him to excel academically from a young age. With self-preparation, Prashant cracked the JEE Mains, securing a rank of 15,663. This achievement earned him admission to the prestigious National Institute of Technology (NIT) Patna, in the branch of Computer Science and Engineering.

Despite this success, the financial constraints of his family made it difficult for him to pursue higher education. Determined to overcome this obstacle, he applied for the FFE Scholarship during his first year at NIT Patna, enduring a rigorous selection process. For the next four years, Prashant benefited from the FFE-WABTEC Accelerating Careers Scholarship Program, sponsored by Wabtec Corporation. This vital financial support allowed him to focus on his studies without the burden of financial worry, significantly easing his educational journey. Additionally, FFE's Skill Training and Mentorship Program enabled Prashant to hone his soft skills and technical skills. "Over the four years of my engineering course, the FFE-WABTEC scholarship not only supported my education but also empowered me with the necessary skills to excel in my career", says Prashant.

Prashant's hard work recently paid off with him securing a placement at Accenture with a competitive CTC of ₹11 LPA, marking a significant transformation in his family's financial situation.

Prashant extends his heartfelt gratitude to FFE and Wabtec Corporation for their unwavering support and generous contribution. He says, "I am deeply grateful to FFE and Wabtec Corporation for their support over the past four years. The FFE-Wabtec Accelerating Careers Scholarship Program has been a lifeline for my education and career. With your help, I was able to focus on my studies and develop my skills. Thank you for believing in me and providing the means to achieve my dreams."





Malla Poorna Chandu

**Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad,
(2019-2-23)
Software Development Engineer,
InMobi, Bangalore**

In his FFE Scholarship application in 2019, Malla Poorna Chandu wrote, "When I start earning, I will help poor students by donating money to FFE." True to his word, Chandu, who studied Computer Science and Engineering at the Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad, and graduated in 2023, has already begun to give back. In July 2023, he started working as a Software Development Engineer at InMobi in Bangalore. Just two months later, in September 2023, Chandu adopted an FFE scholar under the Adopt a Scholar Program (ASP).

Chandu stands out as one of the youngest alumni ASP donors at FFE, exemplifying the humane spirit that drives the Circle of Giving. While most alumni take a few years to settle into their careers before they start donating, Chandu began contributing almost immediately. His motivation is straightforward: "The scholarship really helped me. It gave me financial freedom. Why can't I provide the same help to someone else?"

Grateful for the support he received, Chandu thanked his mentor, Mr. Arun Kumar Dogra, his facilitator, Mr. Balaji Sholavaram, and all those who provided him with skill training. He particularly acknowledges the help he received in improving his spoken English, as earlier he used to struggle to give answers in English in interviews or while speaking. The training turned his weakness into a strength.

When asked for advice for current scholars, Chandu, initially hesitant, aware that he was in their position just a year ago, acknowledges

that "advice is based on perspective and might not suit everyone." Nonetheless, he shares a piece of wisdom that likely resonates universally: "Don't worry about unreasonable expectations. Whatever you do, do it with genuine interest; otherwise, you won't be able to do it justice."

Chandu encourages alumni to find more and better ways to collaborate to help advance FFE's mission. He believes that alumni must appreciate the interconnectedness of the Circle of Giving and come forward to help current scholars in any way they can. Reflecting on his journey and the impact of the FFE scholarship, Chandu shares, "If I didn't get the scholarship, I wouldn't have had financial freedom. Then I was happy because I got the scholarship. Now I am happy because I am able to help someone else get the same scholarship."



"If I didn't get the scholarship, I wouldn't have had financial freedom. Then I was happy because I got the scholarship. Now I am happy because I am able to help someone else get the same scholarship."

H. DONOR FEATURE



Amit Sawarkar
CSR Manager,
Collins Aerospace

“Collins Aerospace has been in a fruitful partnership with the Foundation For Excellence (FFE) for the past three years through our Project, The FFE-Collins Aerospace Scholarship program. This collaboration has been nothing short of exceptional. The FFE's pragmatic, transparent, and professional approach to managing the project has been truly commendable. Their dedication and hard work have been instrumental in creating transformative opportunities for academically gifted yet economically disadvantaged students.

I am particularly impressed by FFE's 'Self-Sustainability' model. This innovative approach encourages each FFE Scholar to pledge to support the education of at least two more scholars during their lifetime. This model not only empowers individual students but also creates a powerful multiplier effect, fostering a cycle of continuous educational support and societal upliftment.”

I. FACILITATOR FEATURE

Suresh Lahoti, an esteemed FFE Facilitator volunteer from Maharashtra, has been a pivotal force in taking FFE's mission forward since 2005. His journey with FFE began during a visit to his son in the USA, where his son, after discovering about FFE online, recommended him to explore the organization due to his extensive background in education.

This recommendation led Suresh to join FFE as a facilitator, while his son took on the role of coordinator. Demonstrating firm dedication, Suresh has recommended over 500 scholars to date, with more than 90 introduced just last year.

Suresh completed his MSc in Physics and served as the Head of the Physics and Electronics Department at Jalna Education Society (JES) College until 2010. Currently, he leads the Jalna Education Foundation (JEF) as its President. JEF, a non-profit organization, strives to improve education quality in schools, focusing on foundational literacy and providing scholarships for vocational courses such as Polytechnic and CA. Suresh finds great joy in his work with FFE.



Suresh Lahoti
Maharashtra

The opportunity to interact with students and assist them in realizing their dreams brings him immense pleasure. He draws inspiration from FFE scholars, who often come from underprivileged and challenging backgrounds. Many former FFE scholars maintain contact with Suresh, sharing updates on their personal and professional journeys. His tireless efforts and heartfelt dedication continue to make a profound impact on the lives of many students, inspiring them to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.



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