

inFocus



Celebrating Women and Girls in Science!

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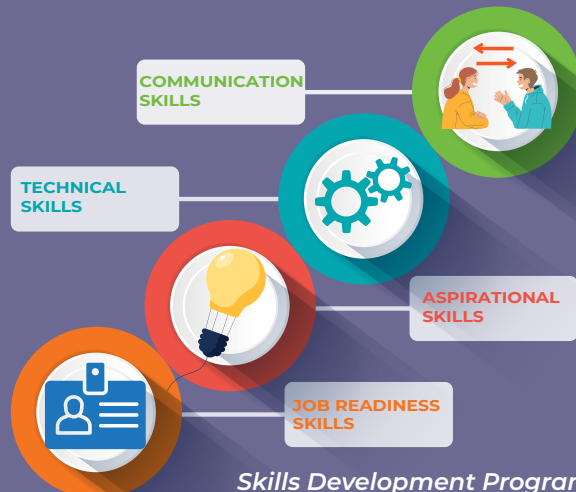
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FFE and NetApp leadership at the MoU signing ceremony

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YEARS OF TRANSFORMING LIVES



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Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we wrap up our last quarter, I want to take a moment to reflect on our collective accomplishments over the past few months. Thanks to your unwavering support, this has been a period of meaningful progress and shared victories. FFE's Founders, Dr. Prabhu Goel and Mrs. Poonam Goel whose vision for the Foundation, to bring about transformative change in the lives of academically bright students facing financial constraints through the merit cum means scholarship program attained new heights.

During FY 2024-25, we successfully welcomed 4895 new students into the FFE family, bringing the total number of scholarship awardees to 18,884, a new milestone in our 30-year history. The scholarship program along with our ancillary Programs was made possible through the generosity and support of **125+ corporates and Foundations**, individuals and FFE's own alumni, who together contributed over **INR 106 Cr**, during the year.

Hearty congratulations to the new and renewal students on being awarded FFE's scholarship, a unique award that goes beyond financial assistance!

We also scaled our skilling initiative (21 skilling programs) and expanded our mentoring program to include 2500+ mentor-mentee pairs, bringing lasting impact through these and other interventions. Your steadfast support has been instrumental in helping FFE reach these significant milestones — thank you for being part of our journey. This newsletter edition highlights FFE's activities, particularly student interactions with donors and initiatives led by our partners.

Behind the scenes, our team led by Ram Kolavennu, has been hard at work strengthening our operations, building partnerships, and ensuring that every effort helps us serve our mission. None of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our donors, partners, alumni and community volunteers. Your belief in our mission fuels our work every day, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

As we look ahead to the next FY, we continue to seek new volunteers, donors, partnerships and more as we expand our impact even further. Join us as we continue this inspiring journey, bringing hope and opportunity to every life we touch through FFE!

With Gratitude,

Sudha Kidao,
Managing Trustee



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

Dear Friends,

Our journey this year was also deeply enriched by the support of our extended FFE community—volunteers, partners, mentors, and well-wishers. You brought your time, skills, and passion to this mission, and we could not have come this far without your invaluable contributions.

Strengthening Alumni Contributions

One of the standout achievements this year has been the incredible support from our alumni community. The Alumni Circle of Giving continues to grow stronger with each passing year. In FY 2024–25, alumni contributed a remarkable ₹8.18 crore—with ₹3.35 crore given directly, and an additional ₹4.83 crore raised through their extended networks. This powerful display of gratitude and pay-it-forward spirit not only reinforces the sustainability of our mission but also reflects the deep connection our alumni continue to feel with FFE's purpose. Redefining CSR as Collective Social Responsibility.

This year, our corporate partners elevated their engagement to a whole new level. Beyond financial contributions, their teams have been actively involved in:

- Mentoring our scholars
- Conducting webinars that offer contemporary business insights not taught in classrooms
- Hosting structured training programs and offering internships
- Contributing to capacity building within the FFE team

This evolution—from Corporate Social Responsibility to what we proudly now call Collective Social Responsibility—has brought depth, dynamism, and long-term value to our partnership model.

Leveraging Technology for Innovation and Scale

We've also made strategic leaps in leveraging technology, not only to enhance operational efficiency but also to innovate how we engage with scholars, donors, and partners. Key initiatives this year included:

- Automating critical workflows
- Enhancing our digital platforms for better engagement
- Laying the foundation for cutting-edge tech adoption in the years to come

A sincere thanks to the industry leaders and tech advisors who are walking alongside us, helping us bring these innovations to life in a meaningful and mission-aligned manner.

Expanding Our NGO Partner Network

A key focus this year has been broadening the reach of our scholarship program through strategic partnerships with NGOs. These partners play a vital role in identifying and nurturing deserving students during their school years—particularly those preparing for competitive entrance exams. We're proud to share that 1 in every 8 students we supported this year came through our NGO feeder network—a clear indicator that this collaboration is helping us reach the right students, in the right way, at the right time.

While we've made great strides, we're acutely aware of the gap between the number of students in need and the number we're currently able to support. That gap continues to be our inspiration and driving force. With your continued belief in our mission, I am confident that we will scale newer heights and touch many more lives in the years ahead.

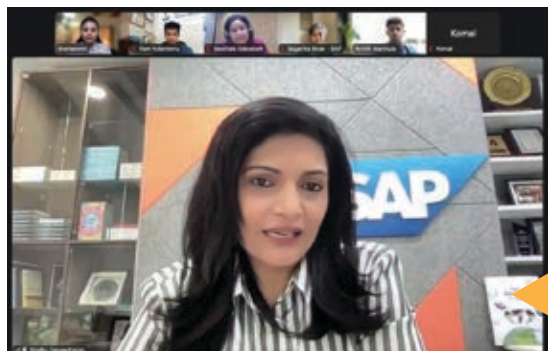
Thank you once again for your trust, support, and partnership. Let's continue to make the FFE mission stronger, more inclusive, and more far-reaching together.



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

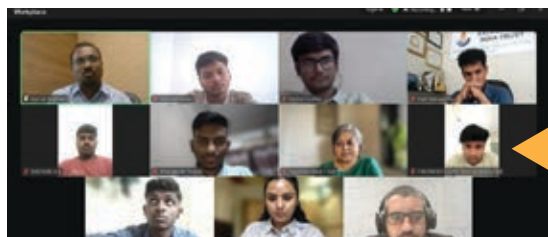
A. DONOR-SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENTS

SAP-FFE Scholarship Program Launch and Donor Scholar Meetup



The SAP-FFE Scholarship Program was launched virtually on February 17th, 2025, with a keynote by **Ms. Sindhu Gangadharan**, MD of SAP Labs India, on the "Power of Opportunity." SAP is supporting 80 BTech scholars over four years.

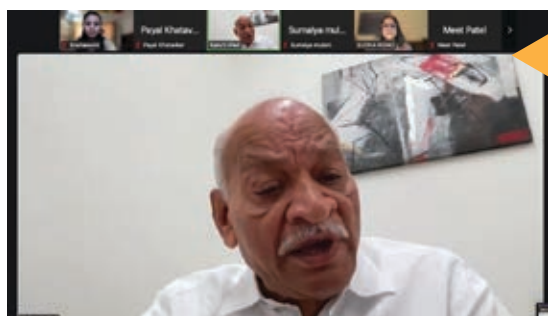
Ms. Sindhu Gangadharan, Managing Director of SAP Labs India, delivers an inspiring keynote on the "Power of Opportunity" at the SAP-FFE Scholarship Program launch, encouraging scholars to embrace career possibilities.



SAP volunteers engage with scholars in breakout sessions, offering career guidance and valuable insights into the skills needed to succeed in the tech industry.

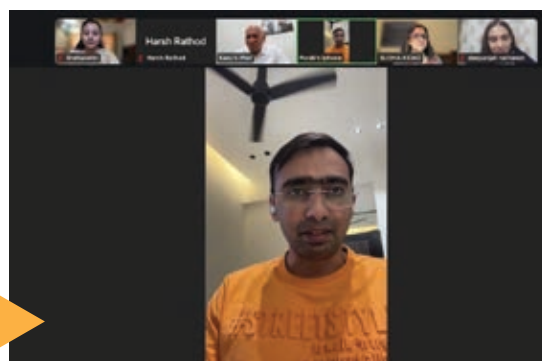
The event was attended by SAP senior management, including **Mr. Kamal Stephen**, Director of Early Career Talent Acquisition, and **Ms. Sagarika Bose**, Head of CSR. Mr. Stephen shared insights on career readiness and addressed student queries on employability. The event also featured breakout sessions where SAP volunteers provided career guidance to students, fostering meaningful interactions.

Donor scholar interaction with Mr. Kanu Bhai Patel, Amneal Pharmaceuticals



Mr. Kanu Bhai Patel engages with B.Pharm scholars, sharing valuable insights on the pharmaceutical industry and career readiness.

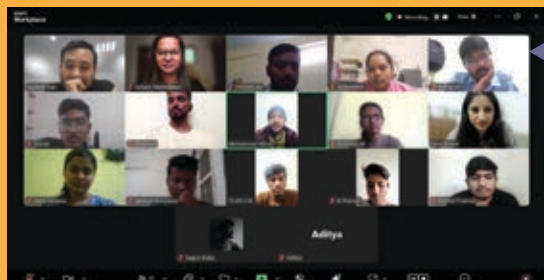
Scholars, mentors from Amneal Pharmaceuticals, and alumni reflect on the impact of FFE scholarships and the importance of continuous growth.



On February 22nd, 2025, 70 (3rd and 4th year) B.Pharm students, volunteer employee mentors from Amneal Pharmaceuticals, and 3 alumni of Kanu Bhai Patel (Amneal Pharmaceuticals) Scholarship Program participated in a meeting with Mr. Kanubhai Patel.

Mr. Patel shared insights on the evolving pharmaceutical market, essential job-readiness skills, and the importance of continuous upskilling. Amneal employee mentors shared their mentoring experiences followed by alumni sharing how the scholarship has shaped their careers. The interactive session provided valuable guidance and an opportunity for students to meet and interact with their donor.

First Virtual Donor-Scholar Meet with Linde Foundation



Virtual Interaction between Linde foundation and their supported scholars

The first virtual donor- scholar meet between Linde Foundation and their supported students was held on 28th Feb 2025. **Mr. Rajdeep Das**, Associate-CSR, represented Linde Foundation. The session was highly engaging, with scholars sharing their

academic journeys, challenges, and achievements, while the donor offered valuable advice and encouragement. The meet allowed these scholars to interact with their donors, fostering engagement and motivation to continue their academic journeys.

Donor Scholar Meet with FFE-Sushila D'Souza Memorial Scholars

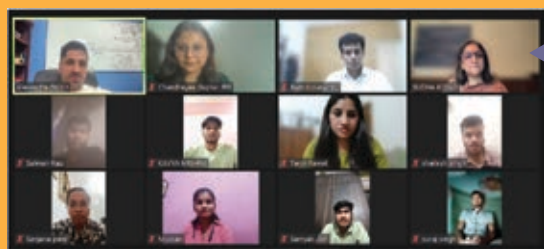


Mr. Francisco D'Souza and his family with FFE scholars at the Donor-Scholar meeting, celebrating the impact of the FFE-Sushila D'Souza Memorial Scholarship.

On March 12th, 2025, FFE hosted a Donor-Scholar meet for scholars supported by the FFE-Sushila D'Souza Memorial Scholarship. **Mr. Francisco D'Souza**, former CEO of

Cognizant, attended with his family including **Ms. Jacinta** and **Maria D'Souza**, honoring their late mother, Mrs. Sushila D'Souza. Scholars shared their inspiring journeys and heartfelt gratitude for the support. Mr. D'Souza highlighted the importance of education—a value deeply rooted in their family and echoed in the scholars' aspirations.

Donor-Scholar Meet: FFE-Fraternité France India Scholarship Program



Mr. Alexandre Guion, COO of Raphe mPhibr, engaging with FFE-Fraternité France India scholars, inspiring them to embrace continuous learning and innovation.

The first Donor-Scholar meet of the FFE-Fraternité France India Scholarship Program was held on March 12th, 2025.

Supported by Raphe mPhibr India Pvt. Ltd., and **Mr. Alexandre Guion**, Raphe's COO, the program began in FY 24-25, supporting 10 academically brilliant engineering scholars across India. Mr. Alexandre Guion, Raphe's COO, shared insights from his personal journey, including continuous learning and innovation, encouraging scholars to embrace challenges. The meet fostered meaningful connections, giving scholars a platform to share their journeys and enabling the donor to personally connect with the lives impacted through the program.

Donor-Scholar Meet with S&P Global Sponsored Scholars

On March 6, 2025, select members of S&P Global India's Senior Leadership Team including, **Pooja Nair**, Director, Program and Operations at S&P Global India, **Ratika Jasbir Singh**, Global Head of Early Careers at S&P Global, **Sahil Agarwal**, Senior Product Manager-Financial Institutions at S&P Global Market Intelligence, **Kishor Pujara**, Business Development and Growth Lead at S&P Global Market Intelligence, **Hitesh Kewlani**,



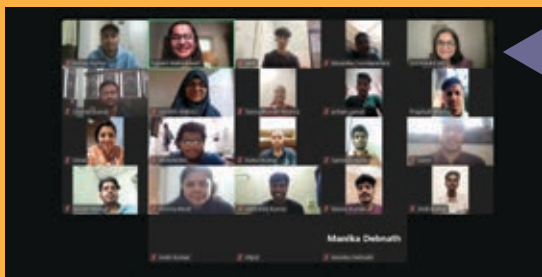
FFE-S&P Global scholars interacting with S&P Global leaders during a virtual session

Operations Manager at S&P Global India, **Swapna Deobhankar**, Manager HR -People Partner at S&P Global India and Ahmedabad SAPEX (Asian Professional for Excellence, a People Resource Group, (PRG) at S&P Global)

members met the 40 FFE-S&P scholars from the Engineering, Medical, Law and B. Pharmacy streams, over a virtual meet.

Ratika Jasbir Singh led an insightful session on “Effective Resume Writing”. The session focused on crafting impactful resumes to enhance job prospects, with expert tips on presenting skills and experiences effectively. Scholars gained valuable insights to strengthen their professional profiles and stand out in the competitive job market.

Inspiring Connections at the FFE-Celebi Aviation Scholarship Program Donor-Scholar Meet-Up

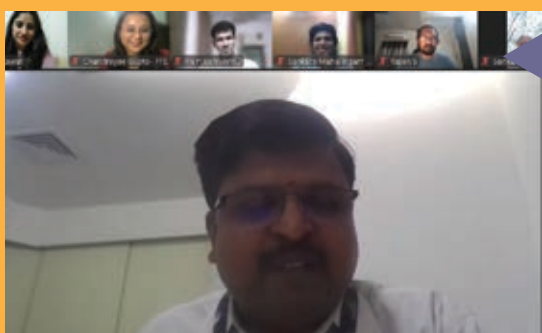


Ms. Sonal Shubham, CSR Senior Executive at Celebi, interacting with FFE scholars during the Donor-Scholar Meet-Up.

The donors of the “FFE-Celebi Aviation Scholarship Program” met their sponsored BTech students virtually on March 20th 2025. Celebi Aviation, represented by **Ms. Sonal Shubham**, CSR Senior Executive highlighted

Celebi Aviation's strong commitment to empowering futures through education and skill development. Scholars shared their academic journeys, discussed challenges and achievements, and gained valuable insights through mentorship sessions and skilling initiatives offered by FFE. It was inspiring to see how FFE's skill training programs are helping refine their abilities and shape their futures.

FFE-Firstsource Donor-Scholar Meet Inspires New Cohort of Scholars



Scholars engaging with Firstsource Leadership, gaining valuable insights and motivation for their academic and professional journeys.

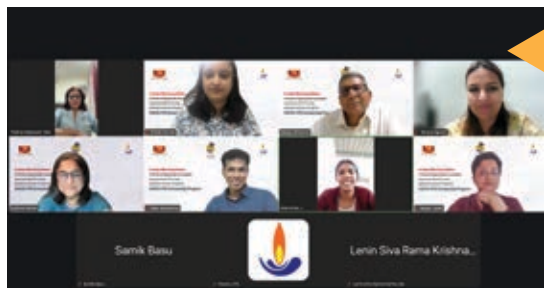
The FFE-Firstsource Scholar Meet with the Firstsource leadership team was hosted by FFE on 20th March 2025. **Mr. Govindarajulu Subramanyam**, Deputy General Manager Operations, **Mr. Sankara Mahalingam**,

Global Lead, Social Purpose Programs and **Mr. Rajan Jayaseelabaskal**, Manager HR, CSR met the new cohort of their sponsored scholars.

The scholars received valuable insights from them about personal and professional development while FFE's Leadership team shared the numerous learning opportunities available to students throughout their academic journey with FFE.

AWOO-FFE Donor Scholar Connect with Graduating Cohorts

On March 27th, AWO's graduating cohorts connected virtually with AWO leadership and industry experts for an engaging session on career readiness. Speakers included **Ms. Nupur Joshi**, Head of AWO Foundation & ABCEL; **Mr. Sanjay Shivnani**, Joint President, Corporate HR (Technical Training & HTU), Hindalco; **Dr. Sujatha Sudheendra**, Head of HR, Training & Admin, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance;



AWOO graduating cohorts engage with industry leaders for career insights.

Ms. Padma Rajeshwari, Group Head, Organization Effectiveness & HR Transformation; and **Mr. Samik Basu**, Chief Human Resources Officer, Hindalco. They discussed career transitions, workplace realities, and essential skills like confidence, communication, and networking, equipping graduates with valuable insights for their professional journey

B. NEWS & EVENTS

MOU Signing: FFE-NetApp Scholarship Program



FFE and NetApp leadership at the MoU signing ceremony

On 29th January, FFE and NetApp CSR Leadership represented by **Mr. Akhil Airan**, Regional Manager- Social Impact (India APAC & EMEA) and **Ms. Prachi Agrawal**, Social Impact Program Manager, signed an MoU to support 100 Engineering scholars under the FFE-NetApp Scholarship Program. NetApp, a global leader in data management and a long-term FFE partner,

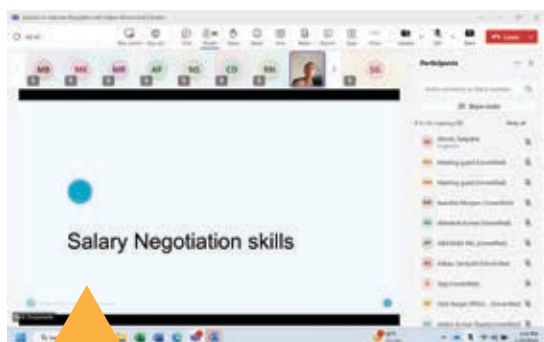
will provide financial support via scholarships, career readiness training programs, exposure visits, and internship opportunities, offering scholars valuable hands-on experience in the tech industry.

Empowering Scholars Through Learning: TU CIBIL Online Sessions



1: Session on Mindfulness and Stress Management taken by TU CIBIL leaders for mental well-being in both academic and professional life.

TransUnion CIBIL, in collaboration with FFE, organized two insightful online sessions for FFE-TU CIBIL Udaan scholars and alumni. The first session (held on January 23rd 2025), conducted by **Deepanwita Patil**, Senior Consultant – Sales at TransUnion CIBIL covered Interview Etiquette and Salary Negotiation. The second session, held on February 27th 2025, focused on Mindfulness and Stress Management and was led by **Gavin D'Souza**, Senior AVP, Learning & Development at TransUnion CIBIL. Both sessions saw enthusiastic participation from over 100 FFE-TU CIBIL scholars and alumni, equipping them with valuable skills to enhance their academic and professional growth.



2: Session on interview etiquettes and salary negotiation during an engaging session by TU CIBIL, empowering them to approach job opportunities with confidence

TU CIBIL's Engagement with FFE-TUCIBIL Scholars in Guwahati: Inspiring Minds, Strengthening Bonds

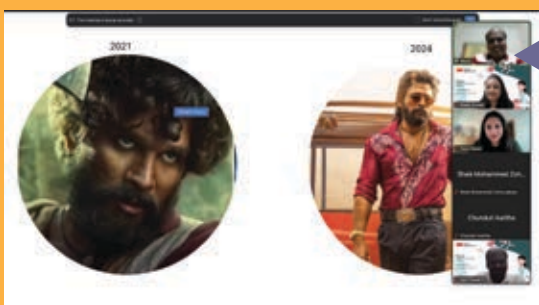
On March 5th 2025, **Ms. Niharika Gupta**, CSR Manager at TransUnion CIBIL, met with FFE-TU CIBIL Udaan scholars at IIT Guwahati. 16 scholars from IIT Guwahati, Assam Engineering College, and Guwahati Medical College shared valuable feedback and queries from students including internship opportunities, and the impact of FFE's mentorship and skilling programs.



The session strengthened the connection between the scholars, FFE, and TU CIBIL, reinforcing the shared commitment to empowering young minds through education and mentorship.

Niharika Gupta, CSR Manager from TransUnion CIBIL, led an enriching session with FFE-TU CIBIL Udaan scholars.

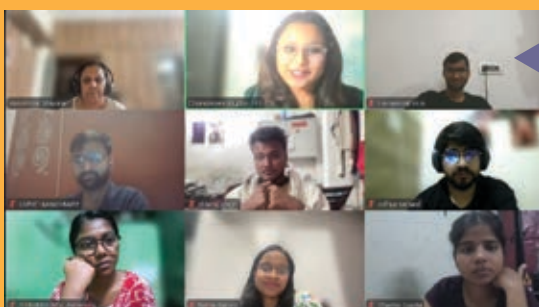
3M India Champions Digital Transformation & Women in STEM at Pragyaan Quarterly Connect



Mr. Manjunath G, Site Leader at 3M's Global Technology Center, delivering an insightful session on AI-driven Digital Transformation.

On March 6th 2025, 3M India hosted a virtual session on Digital Transformation through AI as part of the Pragmaan Quarterly Connect initiative. Led by **Mr. Manjunath G**, Site Leader at 3M's Global Technology Center, the session was highly interactive and engaging. Currently, 3M is supporting 200 female students pursuing degrees in engineering and medical fields, empowering the next generation of women in STEM.

NetApp Training Session: Kubernetes Training Series



FFE scholars engaging in the Kubernetes Training Series conducted by Ms. Neha Bansal, Backend Developer at NetApp, gaining hands-on experience in cloud technologies.

NetApp, a long-standing partner and leader in data infrastructure, continues to enhance FFE scholars' industry readiness through specialized technical training sessions. In February and March 2025, the NetApp WIT India Team, in collaboration with FFE, organized a Kubernetes Training Series for 300 scholars to strengthen their practical skills and understanding of containerized applications.

The 3-day training, held on 25th February, 11th March, and 19th March 2025, was led by **Ms. Neha Bansal**, Backend Developer at NetApp. The sessions featured live demos and interactive Q&A, offering scholars valuable hands-on experience with Kubernetes (K8s) — an open-source system used to automate the deployment, scaling, and management of

containerized applications (commonly Docker containers). This initiative helped bridge the gap between academic knowledge and industry requirements, equipping scholars with essential skills for the evolving tech landscape.



NetApp WIT India Team and FFE collaborate to equip 300 scholars with in-demand Kubernetes skills through live demos and interactive Q&A sessions.

FFE Participates in Synopsys Donor Meetup to Strengthen Partnership and Plan Future Initiatives



FFE team engaging with Synopsys and donor partners at the Bangalore office, aligning on future goals and project outcomes.

FFE participated in a meetup organized by Synopsys, Bangalore on March 17th, 2025. The event brought together Synopsys and its donor partners to discuss the highlights, impact, and

outcomes of their ongoing CSR projects implemented by their partners. The key discussions at the meet focused on the scope of work and the future direction of the FFE-Synopsys Scholarship initiative. It provided an excellent platform for all partners to align on their goals and collaboratively plan for the way ahead

Annalect Leadership Meet, Hyderabad, 25th March 2025

Dr. Sudha Kidao, Managing Trustee of FFE, with Annalect leadership at the 2025 Leadership Meet in Hyderabad.

The Leadership Meet of Annalect, an Omnicom Media Group company, was held on March 25, 2025, in Hyderabad. FFE's Managing Trustee, Dr. Sudha Kidao, engaged in a discussion with key leaders — **Vishal Srivastava** (CEO), **Kiran Guruswami** (COO), and **Devyia Patney** (Chief People & Culture Officer),



Annalect Limited, highlighting the impact of this partnership. In FY 2024-25, Annalect supported 150 academically exceptional FFE scholars pursuing Engineering and Medicine. Leveraging the expertise of Annalect employees for webinars and their engagement as mentors to FFE scholars was discussed, paving the way for a deeper and sustained engagement with this generous donor partner.

3M Celebrating Women and Girls in Science



3M India, in collaboration with the Foundation for Excellence, celebrated the International Day for Women and Girls in Science

On February 11th, 3M India, in partnership with the Foundation for Excellence, marked the International Day for Women and Girls in Science. The event, themed "From Classroom

to Career: Bridging the Gap for Young Women in STEM," brought together over 65 girls pursuing STEM courses. Hosted at 3M's R&D center in Bangalore, the celebration featured a motivational talk by Aparna Sardar, HR leader at 3M, followed by a panel discussion with Deepashree P, QA Head at Bosch; **Nibha Rai**, Head-Growth Enablement and Innovation at SKF India; **Suman Ramesh**, GM-Global Head R&D & QA at Biocon Biologics; and **Rachita Dinesh**, Product Stewardship & EHS Regulatory Affairs at 3M India. Moderated by **Dr. Sudha Kidao**, the panel shared inspiring personal stories and insights. The scholars also toured the R&D center, learning about 3M's cutting-edge technologies, while gaining valuable networking and mentorship opportunities for their future STEM careers.

C. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

FFE's Mentorship cycle for FY 2024-25 concluded in March 2025. During the program, professionals from over 100+ corporations provided guidance as mentors to 2500 FFE Scholars, spending on average 24 hours guiding our scholars, during the 4-6 month mentoring engagement, making them career ready.

The program witnessed overwhelming participation by both Mentors and Mentees. 75% of the Mentor-Mentee pairs completed the mandatory 4 mentoring modules on soft skills, while 25% of the remaining pairs are continuing through the program towards completion. During January and February 2025, FFE conducted group mentoring sessions for students who could not participate or complete the program on topics communication skills, time management, career development & problem solving and decision making. FFE is thankful to the following speakers and mentors for their invaluable sessions -

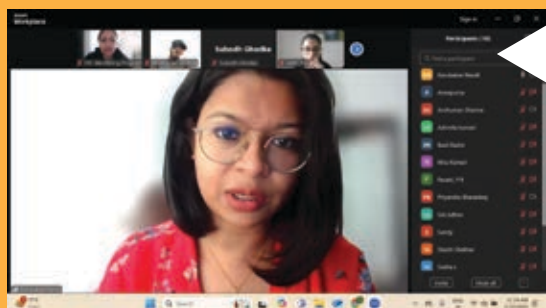
Ms. Rema Gopinathan, Senior Manager-Digital Solutions, Microsoft, **Mr. Rajat Saxena**, Software Solutions- Google, **Ms. Mona Mishra**, Senior Lead Engineer-Collins Aerospace, **Ms. Meeta Vartak-Manager**, Client Service-Capgemini.

FFE gathered feedback from mentors and mentees through surveys to gain a better understanding of their overall mentoring experience and to also identify areas for improvement. In order to gather detailed program insights and qualitative feedback, FFE hosted a series of Focused Group Discussions (FGD) with sample groups of participating mentees & mentors.

Mentors from Akamai, Altimetrik, ANSYS, Atria, Capgemini, TUCIBIL, Collins Aerospace, DELL Technologies, ExxonMobil, Global Logic, HP, IDP, KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP, Lam Research, Mercedes-Benz, Merkle, Mettler-Toledo, Microsoft India, Moneyview, S&P Global, TESCO, Thomson Reuters, Wabtec, Zscaler participated in the Focussed Group Discussions. The quantitative and qualitative insights gathered will be shared through 'Annual Impact Report 24-25' with all Mentoring corporates partners.

FFE once again is thankful to the numerous corporate employee volunteers, FFE's Alumni mentors and individuals for their participation in FFE's Mentorship program and look forward to continued support in the upcoming Mentoring Program 2025-26, starting June 2025!

Group mentoring session for Law Students by Karubake Nandi



Ms. Karubake Nandi during an interactive session with Law students on "Career path after Law school"

FFE organized a group mentoring session for 3rd year law mentees on January 25th 2025, on "Career paths after law school". The session was led by mentor, **Ms. Karubakee Nandi**, Legal

Head for Strategy and Business Development at Disney-Star India. Karubakee guided the mentees on various career options available to them after completing their law degree. Karubakee emphasized how personality plays a crucial role in deciding which law specialization to pursue and highlighted that finances and income should not always be the primary factors in making career decisions. It was clear that the mentees, in year 3 of the law program found this session to be most relevant providing them with a vision of their potential career paths, thanks to Ms. Karubakee's expert advice and guidance.

D. MENTOR-MENTEE TESTIMONIAL



***Mentor: Puja Gupta
Member of Technical
Staff, NetApp***

Choosing to become a mentor has been one of the most rewarding decisions of my journey. It has allowed me to guide and support individuals from diverse backgrounds, witnessing their growth and resilience firsthand.

Every interaction with my mentee-Abhinav has been a learning opportunity, teaching me the true value of resilience and adaptability. This enriching experience has not only enhanced my personal attributes like patience and empathy but also honed my professional skills, especially in leadership and communication. Thanks for this opportunity.

MENTEE TESTIMONIAL



***Abhinav Gangwar
Year 3
Engineering Physics-
IIT BHU (Varanasi)***

I was a mentee in FFE mentorship program under the Mentor Puja Gupta from Netapp.

The whole program was a very good experience as I interacted one-on-one with my mentor over 8 sessions where we not only covered allotted modules but I also got to learn more about corporate and professional life and the interviewing process. I found the etiquette module very relevant where I learned office etiquette, professional and workplace behavior and communication. I will try to remember all these tips and apply them when I begin my professional life. I highly recommend the mentorship program to the other 3rd year students for upskilling their soft skills towards career readiness and preparedness to enter the corporate life after graduation.

E. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



FFE's comprehensive skilling initiative is dedicated to preparing scholars for the demands of the professional world by enhancing their communication, technical, and job readiness.

Since its launch in 2017, the program has rapidly expanded from two initial courses to nearly 20 offerings, benefiting over 12,000 scholars annually. The program covers various topics, from English proficiency and technical expertise to leadership development and mental health awareness. It equips scholars with the skills they need to thrive in today's competitive job landscape.

Highlights of the program:

1. Communication Skills:

App-Based English Program:

1,900 Year 2 scholars enhanced their English proficiency with self-paced lessons from English Helper and eAge Tutors.

Hi-Touch English Program:

787 Year 3 scholars receive personalized weekly training to address communication challenges identified through assessments. The course will go on till the end of April 25.

2. Technical Skills:

Coursera Access:

1,900 Year 3 scholars are enrolling in industry-relevant courses, recognized certifications, and hands-on projects with flexible self-paced learning in their specialized fields.

NPTEL Courses:

166 Year 2 scholars are advancing their technical skills through IIT Madras courses.

AWS Cloud Practitioner Course:

23 final-year scholars completed the cloud computing expertise course through Ethnus

3. Aspirational Skills:

“Finding the Leader in You” (FLY):

145 Year 2 scholars developed negotiation and problem-solving skills through weekend and weekday workshops by CMI.

Wellness Program:

429 scholars participated in sessions on emotional resilience and mental health.

4. Job Readiness Skills:

Employability Assessments (AMCAT):

8,600 scholars across various years have strengthened their aptitude, communication, and data interpretation skills.

Aptitude:

1246 Year 2 scholars are engaged in this program to enhance their logical reasoning and quantitative analysis skills.

Resume Building and Mock Interviews:

2,444 Year 3 scholars are currently enrolled in courses designed to help them get industry-ready.

Skilling Events: Fostering Growth and Industry Readiness

FFE organized a series of impactful sessions and workshops this quarter aimed at equipping scholars with practical skills, career insights, and industry knowledge.

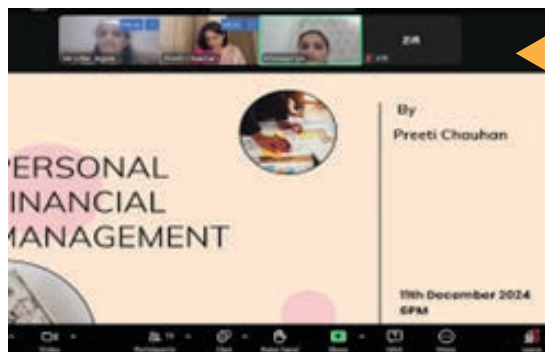
Medical Webinar on Future Ready Medicine: The Robotic Revolution, where Gynae Meets Tech

Dr. Aishwarya Karthik Nagesh, delivering an engaging session on minimally invasive gynaecology and robotic surgeries



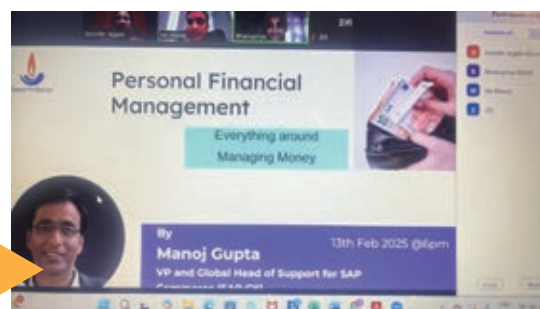
On February 9th 2025, Dr. Aishwarya Karthik Nagesh, MBBS, MS (OBG), MRCOG (UK), Fellow (Minimally Invasive Gynaecology), Consultant at Mother & Child Clinic, Bangalore, led a virtual webinar on “Future-Ready Medicine – The Robotic Revolution, Where Gynaec Meets Tech”. Nearly 700 medical students attended the session, exploring robotic-assisted and minimally invasive surgeries and their impact on the future of gynaecological care.

Financial Literacy sessions



Financial Literacy session by Preeti Chauhan for all graduating students of FFE

Mr. Manoj Gupta empowering scholars with essential financial knowledge.



FFE conducted insightful financial literacy sessions to equip scholars with essential money management skills. Sessions on September 26th and December 11th 2024, led by Preeti Chauhan, covered taxation, paychecks, investments, and savings, engaging 250 participants through interactive discussions and a dynamic Q&A session.

On February 13th, Mr. Manoj Gupta, VP & Global Head of Support at SAP, led a session on personal finance, attended by nearly 200 scholars.

LinkedIn Innovate U 5.0



FFE Engineering students at the LinkedIn Innovate U 5.0 event in Bangalore

45 FFE engineering students attended “LinkedIn Innovate U 5.0” event on March 6th 2025 in Bangalore. The workshop featured personalized mentorship, LinkedIn profile optimization, networking strategies, and mock interview demos.

Industry experts also shared insights on STEM careers, covering front-end, backend, and full-stack development, enhancing scholars' career readiness skills.

F. SKILLING TESTIMONIALS

“Recognizing the need to strengthen my development skills, I struggled to find a structured learning path. Through FFE, I gained access to free Coursera courses, which proved invaluable to me.

I started with Introduction to DevOps, earning a certificate and building a strong foundation. Now, I’m pursuing AWS Cloud Technical Essentials to expand my cloud computing expertise. These courses have been instrumental during placements, equipping me with in-demand skills. I am grateful to FFE for this opportunity and encourage fellow scholars to leverage these resources to enhance their academic and career prospects.”



Sirupa Nihal Reddy
Year 4,
B.E. Computer Science Engineering,
IIIT, Bhopal

“As part of FFE’s skills training program, the 12-day FLY course focused on five key pillars: Initiative, Innovativeness, Conscientiousness, Perseverance, and Problem-Solving.

We also participated in buddy activities, teaching one of the pillars to a friend, and worked on a capstone project promoting one of the pillars. The program helped me understand the importance of these values in everyday life and encouraged self-expression and interaction. It was a valuable experience that shaped us positively”.



G. VOICE OF SCHOLARS



SAYALI JADHAV

Year 4,

Electronics and Telecommunication

Engineering, MKSSS's Cummins

College of Engineering For Women, Pune

Sayali Jadhav, an FFE scholar from Ahmednagar, is pursuing Electronics & Telecommunications Engineering at Cummins College, Pune. The daughter of a farmer and a homemaker, Sayali’s family includes her younger brother studying in Standard 11. Despite financial challenges, Sayali’s parents consistently motivated her to aim high

and pursue her dreams with determination. A pivotal moment came when she was awarded a FFE scholarship, which greatly alleviated her financial stress and helped her focus on her academics.

Beyond studies, Sayali excels in sports, particularly throwball, where her team secured the 2nd runner-up position in college tournaments. Sports have helped her develop teamwork, discipline, and resilience, which she applies in all aspects of her life.

Her greatest source of inspiration has always been her parents—their unwavering commitment and sacrifices have fueled her ambition and their support has become the cornerstone of her success.

FFE’s mentoring and skill training programs have strengthened her confidence, and improved her communication and professional skills. She recently secured a placement at Oracle and aspires to make a mark in the tech industry. Grateful to her donor, GlobalLogic, for their invaluable support, she is determined to make her parents proud and inspire others through her journey of resilience, courage and success.

H. ALUMNI



Akhila Tantri **Graduate of the 2017 batch,** **QA Engineer, Cloobeas, Bengaluru**

Akhila Tantri, a 2017 Computer Science graduate from BMS College of Engineering, Bengaluru, has come full circle, from being awarded FFE's scholarship to now mentoring and donating to FFE as a proud FFE alumnus. Raised in Udupi (coastal Karnataka), as a single child, Akhila grew up with the strong values instilled by her parents—her father, an electrician, and her mother, a homemaker—who emphasized the importance of education.

She excelled academically while studying in a Kannada-medium school until Class X, but financial challenges threatened her dream of pursuing engineering. Akhila had received academic scholarships during school days as well. Though she managed to save some money, it was enough only for her first year. Suddenly continuing her education seemed out of reach—until FFE stepped in to support her journey. The FFE scholarship was made possible through FFE facilitator Mr. R Madhavaraj to whom she is grateful.

“FFE made studying engineering easy for me,” says Akhila. “With my fees covered, I could focus entirely on academics.” Akhila enrolled in FFE's mentoring program; her FFE mentor Ms. Yashoda Shetty, provided invaluable emotional support to Akhila and helped her train for campus placement interviews. Akhila credits the mentoring she received for helping her get her first job as an Assistant System Engineer in Tata Consultancy Service in 2017. Akhila worked at TCS for four and a half years. For the past three years, she has been working with M/s Cloobeas as QA Engineer.

Akhila is now a mentor to FFE scholars and also sponsors a student through the Adopt a Scholar Program (ASP).

“To find your true self, you must step out of your comfort zone,” says Akhila. Akhila's journey exemplifies resilience and perseverance and the transformative impact of scholarships.”

I. DONOR FEATURE



Karishma Bhuyan, **CSR Lead- APJ & India,** **Zscaler Softech India Private Limited,** **Bangalore**

We at Zscaler are incredibly proud to partner with the Foundation for Excellence and sponsor the FFE-Zscaler Scholarship Program. This collaboration stands as a testament to the transformative power of education and its profound ability to shape the future of talented students facing financial hardships. We at Zscaler are incredibly proud to partner with the Foundation for Excellence and sponsor the FFE-Zscaler Scholarship Program.

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FFE's transparent processes, thoughtful initiatives, and unwavering commitment to empowering students resonate deeply with Zscaler's vision of fostering innovation and enabling access to education. Beyond scholarships, we are exploring ways to further connect with these students through mentorship and skill-development programs, ensuring they are well-equipped to excel in today's ever-evolving world.

Together, we are doing more than supporting education—we are creating a ripple effect of empowerment, opportunity, and lasting change. We are excited to continue this impactful journey with FFE and remain committed to helping deserving students realize their dreams and make meaningful contributions to society.

J. FACILITATOR FEATURE



Ms. Nita Das
Bhubaneswar, Odisha,

A longtime advocate for education, Ms. Nita Das from Bhubaneswar, Odisha, has been associated with the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) since 2000-2001. With a rich academic background, including an MA in English, an MBA, post graduate diploma and certificate in the Teaching of English, and an advanced diploma in Russian from the Pushkin Institute in Moscow, Ms. Das has been faculty Business Communication at Regional College of Management, Bhubaneswar for a decade.

She has also taught as Guest Faculty at Department of Tourism, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar. before transitioning into a mentorship role.

Ms. Das has taught in CSE schools in Cuttack, she currently serves as a Facilitator, Spoken English in New Stewart School, Cuttack.

She enrolled as an FFE facilitator, identifying and mentoring underprivileged students across Odisha. Over the years, she has helped nearly 60 scholars secure FFE scholarships, guiding them toward successful careers.

"Students require counseling, and I strongly believe facilitators play a crucial role in meeting this need," says Ms. Das. "Working with FFE gives me immense satisfaction as I help scholars follow their dreams and reach their destinations."

Committed to fairness and ensuring that scholarships reach the most deserving students, Ms. Das continues to make an impact beyond FFE. She teaches Spoken English at Stewart School in Cuttack and actively supports handloom weavers through Lions Club International. Her dedication to mentorship and social service reflects her deep commitment to empowering students and shaping brighter futures.



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