

inFocus



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Dear Friends,

As we begin the new FY and reflect on the last quarter and the year that has gone by, I am filled with pride and gratitude for what FFE has been able to achieve- thanks to your support.

The last quarter of each year is filled with anticipation and hope- that our student family will grow through the support of all our partners and their lives will be enriched in multiple ways. My thanks to each of you for your support that enabled 22,400 students to be awarded FFE's merit cum means scholarship during FY 2025-26, a new milestone that we achieved together.

On behalf of FFE, my hearty congratulations to **7152** new, incoming scholarship awardees. We welcome you to the FFE family and are happy that you have joined the large community of 15,288 scholars who renewed their scholarships this year. We unfortunately also had to turn away a record number of qualifying applicants this year due to the paucity of funds.

As FFE continues to focus on holistic support of students through their educational journey, we are thankful to our partners who offered numerous courses to our students to hone their skills, with a focus on AI in many cases. Skills training (technical and soft skills), combined with our curated and effective mentoring program seems to be a winning combination as often mentioned by students. These and details of the many heart warming interactions between donors and students are elaborated in this edition.

Whether you contributed vital funding, volunteered your time, shared your resources, or simply championed our mission to your own networks, you made a profound difference. Every success we celebrate today belongs equally to you. Our special thanks to our alumni who truly embody the "Circle of Giving", contributing generously to FFE in many ways.

As we step into a new financial year, we are looking ahead with ambitious goals and a renewed sense of purpose. Your continued support and partnership in the year ahead will ensure that our momentum doesn't just continue, but grows. And we are excited to consider new initiates and strategic partnerships to ensure that our student community reaps the maximum benefit.

Thank you for believing in our mission, championing our programs and enabling its success, and walking this journey alongside us.

With gratitude,



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

Dear FFE Community,

As we close FY 2025-26, I extend my warmest congratulations to every one of you—scholars, donors, corporate partners, mentors, alumni, volunteers, and the FFE team—for creating an exceptionally impactful year. What makes this year truly special is the powerful combination we have achieved: impact at scale, matched with greater depth and genuine transformational change.

Onboarding 7,152 new scholars this year was a proud milestone. Yet it followed the rigorous review of over 43,000 applicants, underscoring how vast the need remains. I am deeply grateful to our partners whose support enabled us to bridge this gap and reach so many more deserving students.

The depth of our impact this year is equally striking. Our scholars gained access to extensive employability skills training—nearly 2.97 lakh hours in soft skills, 4.42 lakh hours in technical skills, and over 1.04 lakh hours in aspirational learning. Our industry collaborations are now getting stronger, with 18 organisations actively recruiting our scholars because they are best suited in terms of skills, attitude, and drive. With 2,512 mentors investing nearly 38,000 hours, we are preparing scholars not only for academic success but for rewarding careers. The outcomes reflect this: an 89.56% placement rate for Engineering Scholars, an average salary of ₹10.68 LPA, and an 11x increase in household income.

In a world shaped by rapid AI advancements, the need for supplementary skills alongside quality education has become even more critical. I am heartened to see our scholars proactively embracing these opportunities—through certifications, workshops, and industry-aligned programmes—while still in college, adapting and positioning themselves strongly for the future.

My heartfelt thanks go to the hundreds of mentors who so generously share their time and expertise to groom our scholars. Your commitment is truly making the difference.

Thank you all for being part of this remarkable journey. Together, we are not just supporting education—we are building lasting, transformative change.



**Message from
Ram Kolavennu,
Chief Executive
Officer (CEO),
FFEIT**

A. DONOR-SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENTS

Celebrating a Decade of Impact: FFE–TransUnion CIBIL Donor–Scholar & Alumni Interaction, Pune | 23rd January, 2026



Scholars, alumni, and TransUnion CIBIL representatives come together in Pune to celebrate a decade of impact and continued collaboration.

On **23rd January**, FFE hosted a Donor–Scholar and Alumni interaction in Pune with TransUnion CIBIL, marking nearly a decade of partnership. The meet brought together **15** scholars and alumni supported

under the program, creating a meaningful space for reflection and connection.

Scholars shared updates on their academic journeys, internships, and early careers, while alumni offered valuable professional insights and guidance. A special highlight of the evening was the presence of an alumnus from the first batch of CIBIL-supported scholars, underscoring the long-term impact of the partnership.

Among the alumni, **Shruti**, who graduated in 2020 from BMS College of Engineering, is currently working as a Senior Software Engineer at the London Stock Exchange Group, specializing in Java and AWS. She is also a core member of WINTech (Women in Technology) at LSEG and serves as the Vice President of Education at the Eikonic Toastmasters Club.

The interaction reinforced the partnership's continued commitment to supporting scholars beyond financial aid through mentorship, engagement, and long-term guidance.

Bridging Classrooms and Careers: FFE Students Visit 3M India | 11th February, 2026



FFE students engage with 3M India professionals at Manyata Tech Park, gaining industry insights, mentorship, and career guidance.

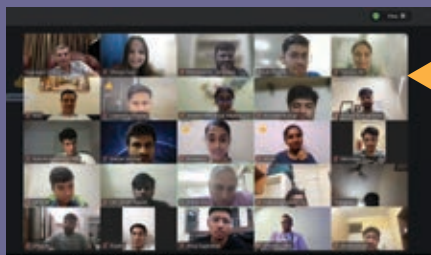
On **11th February, 36** FFE scholars visited 3M India at Manyata Tech Park, Bengaluru, for an enriching exposure experience.

The day began with a warm welcome by **Manjunatha G**, GTC Site Leader, setting the tone for an engaging and insightful session. This was followed by a **STEM talk, “Every Voice in Science,”** led by **Prabha Hegde**, Senior General Manager – R&D, Healthcare Business, who highlighted diverse career opportunities across research, manufacturing, and innovation.

Students then participated in an interactive Speed Mentoring session with 3M volunteers, gaining valuable insights into career pathways and industry expectations. A Resume and LinkedIn workshop conducted by **Priyanka Singh**, TA Specialist at 3M, equipped scholars with practical tools to strengthen their professional profiles. Additionally, **Amit Kumar A**, Manager – HR Field Generalist, introduced students to the 3M GTC–FFE Internship Program, opening doors to future opportunities.

The visit was further enriched by interactions with 3M alumni, whose inspiring journeys left the students motivated and encouraged.

FFE-IIT Delhi Alumni Virtual Donor-Scholar Meet | 17 February, 2026



FFE scholars and IIT Delhi alumni connect virtually, exchanging insights on internships, industry expectations, and career readiness.

On **17th February**, FFE hosted a virtual Donor-Scholar meet with IIT Delhi alumni, **Jagsagar Chand** and the 3rd-year FFE-IIT Delhi Alumni supported student cohort.

The session began with introductions, followed by an engaging discussion where scholars shared their internship experiences, aspirations, and challenges. Alumni provided valuable guidance on professionalism, industry expectations, and key prerequisites for securing internships. The interactive format encouraged open dialogue, thoughtful questions, and practical insights. Such sessions play a vital role in bridging the gap between academics and industry, equipping scholars with clarity, confidence, and direction as they prepare for their professional journeys.

FFE-Guidewire Donor-Scholar Meet at Guidewire Office, Bengaluru | 19 February, 2026

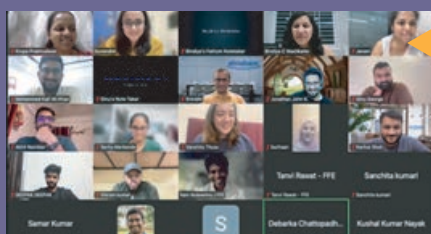


FFE scholars at Guidewire's Bengaluru office engage with leaders, explore workplace culture, and gain career insights during the in-person meet.

On **19th February**, FFE hosted an in-person Donor-Scholar meet at Guidewire's Bengaluru office. The day began with a career readiness session by a

senior leader, followed by an engaging interaction with **Jayashree**, an FFE scholar and former intern. Jayashree, who is currently employed as a Software Development Engineer, shared her insights on AI, internships, and her journey at Guidewire. Scholars experienced Guidewire's workplace culture through an office tour led by **Meena Lokesh**, Global People Operations at GuideWire. An interactive leadership session with senior leaders from EY and Guidewire offered valuable real-world perspectives. The visit concluded with a networking lunch, and the scholars received special goodies, making the experience both enriching and memorable.

Almabase-FFE Donor-Scholar Meet: Celebrating First-Gen Achievers | 26th February, 2026

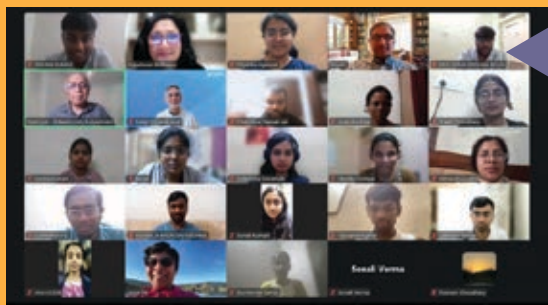


Almabase leaders and FFE scholars during the virtual Donor-Scholar Meet, sharing experiences and aspirations.

On **26th February**, FFE hosted a virtual Donor-Scholar Meet for the scholars supported by the Almabase-FFE First Gen Graduates Scholarship Program. The session brought together Almabase's leaders and sponsored

scholars for an engaging and inspiring interaction. Scholars introduced themselves, shared their academic journeys, and spoke about their interests beyond the classroom. It was heartening to witness their confidence, aspirations, and the diverse paths they are pursuing. The Almabase team actively interacted with the scholars, offering encouragement and appreciation. The virtual meet served as a meaningful platform to strengthen connections, celebrate achievements, and reaffirm the shared commitment towards empowering first-generation learners.

Building Futures: Highlights from the FFE–Joy Thomas Foundation (JTF) Virtual Meet I 28th February, 2026



Scholars and alumni connect with JTF leaders during a session on mentorship, legacy, and STEM opportunities.

The FFE–Joy Thomas Foundation Virtual Meet held on **February 28**, brought together **27** JTF supported Scholars & Alumni for an engaging and inspiring session that went beyond academics to highlight mentorship and internship opportunities. Each scholar is now

paired with a dedicated mentor, reinforcing JTF's commitment to personalized guidance. **Mr. Shyam Pillalamarri**, CEO of Joy Thomas Foundation, shared the inspiring journey and legacy of late **Dr. Joy Thomas**, his contributions to Information Theory, and JTF's mission to support underserved students in building impactful STEM careers, with a special emphasis on encouraging women in STEM. **Mr. Mani Iyer**, Operations Lead at JTF, introduced the vision of building a strong JTF–FFE alumni community and fostered an interactive session by inviting scholars to respond to thought-provoking questions via chat, enabling deeper engagement and connection. **Ms. Priya Pattathil**, spouse of **Mr. Joy Thomas**, was also present during the session, making the interaction particularly meaningful for the scholars.

Balaji Shyamkumar, Foundation for Excellence (FFE) Partnership, Scholarships & Engineering Lead at JTF, addressed the scholars, encouraging them to stay connected with the JTF members. He also shared a moving video tribute to **Dr. Joy, Thomas** which left the scholars deeply inspired.

Donor–Scholar Interaction with Ms. Pronomita Prasad I 28th February, 2026



Donor–scholar interaction between Ms. Pronomita Prasad and Thushara K.

On **28th February**, **Ms. Pronomita Prasad**, a new FFE donor, met her supported scholar, **Thushara K**, an MBBS student. Thushara shared her journey of determination and pursuing an MBBS degree thanks to her father's steadfast support, while **Ms. Pronomita** shared how she had always wanted to support a young woman's journey to becoming a doctor, and the meeting gave her the joy of witnessing the tangible impact of her support.

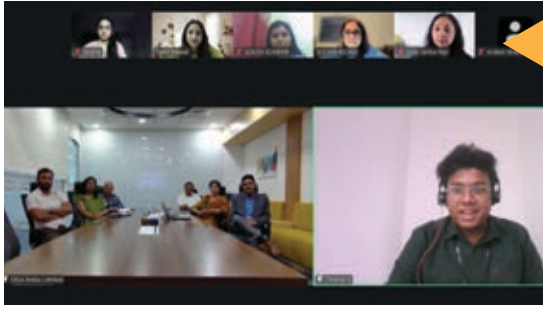
FFE Alumnus Meets Tesco India Chairman Gerry Murphy I 3rd March, 2026



An inspiring exchange of journeys and ideas at Tesco India

On **3rd March**, an FFE alumnus, **Mallikarjun Yalavigi**, supported by Tesco India had the opportunity to visit Tesco India's Bengaluru office and interact with Chairman **Gerry Murphy**. Tesco's Senior leadership and other partners were also present for the interaction. The meeting was a memorable opportunity to witness Tesco's work in India, share personal journeys, and engage in mutual learning. The visit was attended by **Ram Kolavennu**, CEO, FFEIT.

FFE-DISA India Virtual Meet: A Decade of Impact and Future Collaboration | 12th March, 2026

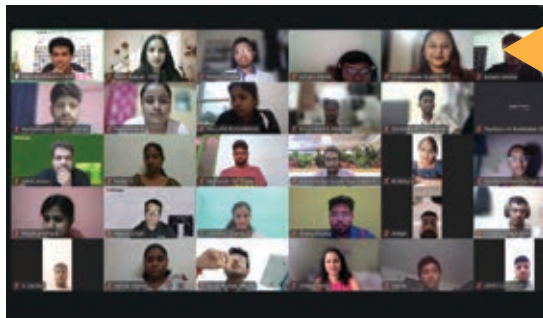


Scholars, alumni, and DISA India leadership connect virtually, sharing insights, experiences, and aspirations during the interactive session.

On **12th March**, FFE hosted a Virtual Donor-Scholar-Alumni interaction with DISA India Limited, marking over a decade of partnership supporting 178+ engineering students. **Mr. Lokesh Saxena (MD)**, **Ms. Vidya Jain** (CFO), CSR representatives Ms. Stephys

Udayakumar, Head - HR, DISA, and FFE alumnus **Mr. Harsha K.S**, now a Disa employee, joined the session. Discussions highlighted DISA's commitment to education and future collaboration, including internships. Trustee **Dr. Rishikesh T. Krishnan** encouraged continuous learning, adaptability, and holistic development. Scholars shared their journeys and gratitude, with one highlighting an international placement in Dubai. The session reinforced the importance of industry readiness, mentorship, and sustained engagement in shaping confident, future-ready professionals.

FFE-NetApp Donor-Scholar Meet | 18th March, 2026



From scholar success stories to insights from industry leaders, the virtual meet reflected the power of sustained support, mentorship, and opportunity.

On **18th March**, FFE-NetApp scholars met the leadership team of their sponsors NetApp virtually, creating an opportunity for meaningful interaction and sharing.

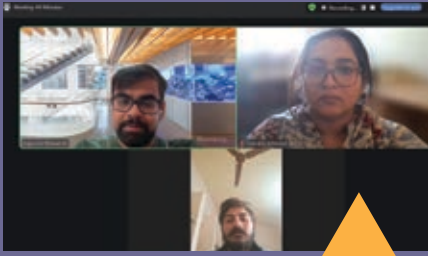
Scholars spoke about their experiences and how NetApp's support has helped them, not just through scholarships, but also through employee mentorship, skill-building sessions, and exposure visits to the NetApp office in Bangalore.

One of the highlights of the session was hearing from a scholar who secured an internship at NetApp and is now placed with the organization.

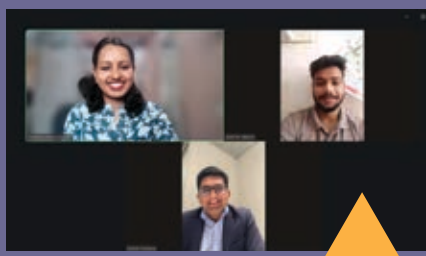
The session also featured **Mr. Ranjit Singh**, Sr. Director – HR Business Partner, who spoke about career readiness and industry expectations, and **Ms. Shilpa Hiran**, VP, Chief Audit Executive & Leader – Women in Technology, who shared her thoughts on building confidence and leadership. Members of the NetApp Team, **Mr. Akhil Airan**, Regional Manager – Social Impact (India, APAC & EMEA), and **Ms. Prachi Agrawal**, Social Impact Program Manager, were also present at the event.

FFE CEO, **Mr. Ram Kolavennu** addressed the group and spoke about the continued strength of the partnership and its impact over the years.

Strengthening Connections: Alumni–Donor Scholar Interactions



*Alumnus **Rajarshi Bhowmik** engages with scholar **Sandeep Yadav**, sharing guidance and insights to support his academic and professional journey.*



*Alumnus **Ashish Suhane** connects with scholar **Aditya Singh**, offering mentorship and sharing valuable insights on academics and career pathways.*



*Alumnus **Parag Avinash Pandav** interacts with scholar **Darshan Jadhav** in Maharashtra, sharing guidance and insights to support his academic and career journey.*

This quarter, FFE facilitated five virtual meetings and one in-person interaction between FFE alumni donors and their sponsored scholars. These sessions created valuable platforms for guidance and exchange, with scholars raising questions on academics, book references, interview preparation, and evolving job market trends. Alumni donors shared their professional experiences and offered practical advice to help scholars navigate their academic and career journeys.

They also encouraged students to actively engage in extracurricular activities and pursue hobbies, highlighting the importance of holistic development. Such interactions continue to play a key role in mentoring scholars and preparing them for well-rounded personal and professional growth.

B. NEWS AND EVENTS

FFE–GlobalLogic Donor–Scholar Meets, Noida & Bengaluru | Jan & Feb 2026



Scholars, mentors, and GlobalLogic leaders come together in Noida for an inspiring exchange of experiences, aspirations, and guidance.



FFE–GlobalLogic scholars and mentors engage in meaningful in-person interactions at the Bengaluru office, strengthening connections and sharing insights.

FFE hosted in-person Donor–Scholar meet-ups with GlobalLogic at their Delhi NCR and Bengaluru offices, bringing together **40** scholars from 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year engineering cohorts. The sessions were attended by senior GlobalLogic leaders, including **Piyush Jha**, Group Vice President & Managing Director, APAC; **Rajesh Rai**, Senior Vice President – People Development & Business HR (Engineering); **Shuchita Shukla**, Vice President – People Development, Talent Acquisition Group; **Gaurav Gupta**, Vice President – DM India; **Monika Walia**, Head – Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability; **Sridharan Venkataramanan**, Associate Vice President – Client Engagement; **Vikas Upadhyay**, Vice President – Sales; and **Mr. Jakir Hussain Tak**, Vice President – Engineering.

The sessions fostered open, meaningful exchanges, with scholars sharing their academic journeys, challenges, and aspirations—highlighting the impact of sustained support and mentorship. A special highlight was mentors meeting their mentees in person, often for the first time, strengthening these relationships. The interactions reinforced the value of the FFE–GlobalLogic partnership in building confidence, direction, and future-ready talent.

GOSU–FFE Donor–Scholar Meet at GOSUMEC Foundation Event, Mumbai | 7th February, 2026



FFE scholars, alumni, and donors come together in Mumbai at the GOSUMEC Foundation event, celebrating impact, recognition, and meaningful engagement.

On **7th February**, FFE participated in the Gayatri Thapar Memorial–GOSUMEC Foundation USA Centenary Book Release & Scholar Recognition event in Mumbai. Around **35** GOSU–FFE supported students attended and actively volunteered, contributing to the event's success.

Dr. Sudha Kidao, Managing Trustee, FFEIT and **Mr. Ram Kolavennu**, CEO, FFEIT presented FFE's work, with the Foundation appreciating its impact and efficiency. Two students were recognized for promoting the GOSU–FFE Scholarship and inspiring donor support. The event provided a valuable platform for scholars to interact with alumni and donors, while also offering prospective donors deeper insights into FFE's mission and impact.

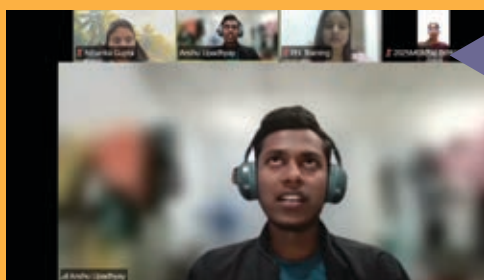
GSK Site Visit to FFE: Engaging with Scholars and Witnessing Impact Firsthand | 11th March, 2026



Ms. Sharmistha Dey from Give Grants interacting with FFE team and GSK-supported MBBS scholars during a site visit at the FFE office, Bengaluru.

On **11th March**, **Ms. Sharmistha Dey**, Sr. Associate, CSR Services at Give Grants, visited the FFE office as part of a site visit on behalf of our donor, GSK. She engaged with the FFE team and conducted one-on-one interviews with four MBBS Bangalore based scholars supported under the GSK Scholars Programme in partnership with FFE.

Rise and Lead: Lessons from Women Leaders | Webinar | 27th March 2026



Women leaders from TransUnion CIBIL and Programme Udaan alumna Ms. Shruti Hegde interact with scholars.

As part of International Women's Day Month, TransUnion CIBIL in partnership with Foundation for Excellence hosted an engaging webinar titled "Rise and Lead: Lessons from Women Leaders" on 27th March 2026.

The session brought together **70** scholars and alumni from the TU CIBIL–FFE Programme Udaan, offering them a unique opportunity to learn from accomplished women professionals. Five inspiring leaders from TransUnion CIBIL—**Ms. Manisha Sarkar**, **Ms. Ruchika Gupta**, **Ms. Pradnya Sawant**, **Ms. Garima Joshi**, and **Ms. Khyati Vora**—shared their personal journeys, challenges, and insights on navigating careers and leadership.

Adding a powerful alumni perspective, **Ms. Shruti Hegde**, Programme Udaan alumna and Senior Software Engineer at London Stock Exchange Group, reflected on her journey beyond the programme and the role of perseverance and continuous learning in shaping her career.

The interactive session enabled scholars to engage directly with the speakers, ask questions, and gain valuable guidance—making it a meaningful and motivating experience for all attendees.

FFE Mid-Year Meet 2026 | Band Baaja Baarat Edition



From haldi hues to sangeet sparkles - FFE Mid-Year Meet 2026 was a celebration of teamwork, joy, and togetherness.

The FFE family came together in Bengaluru on 20th January, 2026 for a vibrant and memorable Mid-Year Meet; celebrated in true Band Baaja Baarat style. Blending purpose with celebration, the day reflected what FFE stands for: Commitment. Fun. Family. The morning began with “Sunkissed Haldi & Serious Talks”- a productive All Hands session filled with reflections, updates, and shared goals for the year ahead. This was followed by a celebratory cake-cutting, marking new milestones and renewed energy.

As the day progressed, the vibe shifted to “Mehendi, Moves & Thumkas”, where teams let their hair down, bonded over music, and filled the room with laughter and dance.

The celebrations culminated in a dazzling Sangeet & Cocktail Night, where spreadsheets truly turned into sparkles, and the FFE spirit shone in all its glory.

The Mid-Year Meet was not just an event; it was a celebration of our journey, our people, and the strong sense of community that drives FFE forward.

C. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



Group Mentoring Webinar Series for 3rd-year Engineering scholars, Jan-Feb 2026, covering foundational soft skill modules.

FFE's Mentorship cycle for FY 2025-26 concluded in February 2026. 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.

In this cycle, **75%** of the Mentor-Mentee pairs completed the mandatory 4 mentoring modules on soft skills, while **25%** of remaining pairs move towards program completion. During January and February 2026, FFE conducted **5** group mentoring sessions for students who could not participate or complete the program on the following topics: Communication Skills and Interview Preparation, Etiquette, Career & Corporate readiness, Time & Stress Management & Problem Solving and Decision Making. FFE is thankful to the following speakers for taking out time and guiding FFE students on Career readiness - **Mr. Somesh Agarwal**, Sr. Director – SecOps, o9 Solutions, **Ms. Pavani Anne**, Consultant Manager, Microsoft, **Mr. Rahul Maheshwari**, Director, Axtria . **Ms. Nandita Naik**, Director, Capgemini & **Mr. Hrishikesh Chennakesavula**, Director, Publicis Sapient

Post program completion, FFE shared feedback survey forms with Mentors and Mentee to gain a better understanding of their overall mentoring experience and to also to 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 enrolled in the FFE mentorship program in 2025-26. Mentors from **Akamai Technologies, Inc., ANSYS, Axtia India Pvt. Ltd., Broadridge Financial Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd, Capgemini, Cognizant Technology Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Goodrich Aerospace Services Private Limited, Danfoss India, Dell Technologies Inc, ExxonMobil Services & Technology Private Limited, Firstsource Solutions Limited, Guidewire Software Solutions India Private Limited, H&M Services Private Limited., HP PPS India Operations Private Limited., IBM India Pvt. Ltd, Microsoft GDC, Microsoft IDC, Nasdaq Corporate Solutions (India) Private Limited, NetApp India Private Limited, o9 Solutions Management India Private Limited, Omnicon Global Solutions, Reliance Foundation, Reliance Industries Limited, Synopsys (India) Pvt. Ltd., Thomson Reuters International Services Pvt. Ltd., TransUnion CIBIL, Walmart Global Tech India, Wabtec India Industrial Private Limited, Wipro Cares, Zscaler Softech India Private Limited and 3M India Limited** participated in the Focused Group Discussions. The quantitative and qualitative insights gathered from both the sources will be shared through '**Annual Impact Report 25-26**' with all Mentoring partners (corporates).

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 2026-27, starting June 2026!**

The conclusion of the Mentoring Program 25-26 was followed by Mentoring closure sessions. These forums were a platform for FFE to highlight the program's achievements and impact, and an opportunity for FFE to express their thanks to employee volunteers for their participation and commitment to the program.

3M Mentoring Closure Session, Bengaluru | 11th February, 2026



FFE scholars and 3M mentors celebrating the closure of the mentorship program and sharing reflections on their journey.

The 3M-FFE Mentorship Programme concluded with a closure session at the 3M India office on **11th February**, as part of a student exposure visit, celebrating the successful completion of the programme and enabling mentors to reflect on their mentees' growth.

Of the **21** employee volunteers from 3M who enrolled in FFE's mentoring programme, **15** successfully completed it, supporting the assigned scholars with goal setting, confidence building, and career guidance.

FFE-OGS Mentoring Closure, Bengaluru | 18th February, 2026

The FFE-OGS (Omnicon Global Solutions) Mentoring Programme Closure Session was held on **18th February** at the OGS office in Bengaluru. The event brought together dedicated OGS employee volunteer mentors who participated in FFE's mentoring programme.



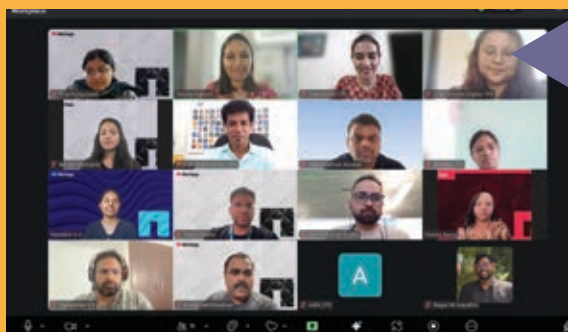
FFE-OGS Mentoring Closure Session at the OGS office in Bengaluru.

The session was graced by **Mr. Krishan Shah**, CFO, OGS and **Mr. Ram Kolavennu**, CEO, FFE India Trust, who felicitated the mentors.

A total of **62** employees volunteered as mentors in the programme, strengthening scholars'

employability skills, confidence and career clarity. FFE is deeply grateful to OGS and its committed mentors for their meaningful contributions towards career readiness of our scholars.

FFE-Netapp Mentoring Closure | 10th March, 2026

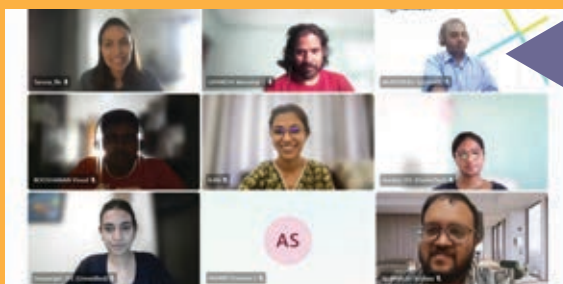


FFE-Netapp Virtual Mentoring Closure Session

FFE and NetApp concluded the fourth cycle of the FFE-NetApp Mentorship Program with a virtual closure session celebrating the journey of mentors and mentees. During the year, **24** mentor-mentee pairs participated in the program, with **18** pairs successfully completing the mentoring requirements for which FFE is

deeply thankful to **Ms. Prachi Agrawal**, Social Impact Program Manager at NetApp, joined the session and shared a few words, while also supporting the coordination of the mentoring cycle.

FFE-Hexagon Mentoring Closure | 13th March, 2026

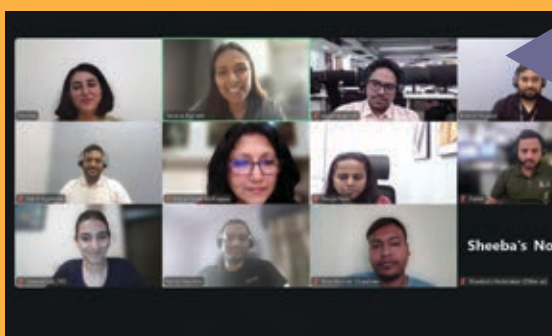


FFE-Hexagon Virtual Mentoring Closure Session

FFE concluded the third cycle of the FFE-Hexagon Mentorship Program with a virtual closure session, marking another year of strong partnership and engagement. It was encouraging to see a mix of first-time and returning mentors actively participate in this cycle.

Over the past three years, the number of mentor volunteers has steadily grown, reflecting the continued commitment and enthusiasm of the Hexagon team. It was especially heartening to hear that many mentors are eager to return and continue their mentoring journey with our scholars in the upcoming cycles.

FFE-S&P Global Mentoring Closure | 13th March, 2026



FFE-S&P Global Virtual Mentoring Closure Session

FFE successfully concluded the second cycle of the FFE-S&P Global Mentorship Program with a virtual closure session, celebrating a highly engaging mentoring journey. The program achieved an impressive **85%** completion rate, with mentors demonstrating strong commitment and involvement throughout the cycle.

S&P Global continues to support FFE not only through mentoring but also by funding **28** third-year scholars this year. The session featured mentors sharing their experiences, with some creating personalized learning content to better support their mentees, exemplifying a different level of commitment.

Ms. Pooja Nair, Director at S&P Global, joined the session and shared her thoughts. A sincere thank you to the S&P team for their continued support and partnership.

FFE–Guidewire In-person Mentoring Closure Session | 17th March, 2026



FFE–Guidewire Mentoring Closure Session at Guidewire Office on 17th March, 2026

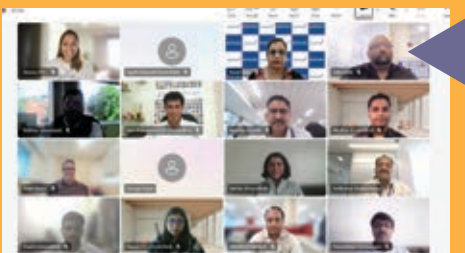
FFE successfully concluded the first cycle of the FFE–Guidewire Mentorship Program with an in-person closure session at Guidewire's office, celebrating a meaningful and impactful mentoring journey. This cycle saw **25** mentor–mentee pairs participate, with **24** pairs successfully completing the program requirements and no dropouts.

We thank our mentors for their time, commitment, and support, and for their positive feedback on the program and scholars. The session was enriched by the presence of **Ms. Lakshmi Ramachandran** (Head of Developer Experience and Communities) and **Mr. Satish Patil** (Director of Engineering) from the Guidewire leadership team, who joined as mentors and shared their experiences. The team also expressed interest in further engagement, including potential mock interview sessions for scholars.

Law Mentoring Program Closure Session of the Cycle 2025–26

The 10 month Law Mentoring Program 2025 concluded this quarter, marking another successful year of structured mentoring support for FFE law scholars. Reflections from participants highlighted increased confidence, clarity in career direction, and stronger professional readiness.

FFE-HDFC Law Mentoring Program | 10th February, 2026



Law scholars and mentors sharing reflections on their growth and experiences during the FFE-HDFC Parivartan closure session.

The FFE–HDFC Parivartan Mentorship Programme for Law students concluded with an online closure session attended by mentors, mentees and the senior leadership team from HDFC Bank.

The session was addressed by **Mr. Sharukh Taraporewala**, Zonal Head – Partnerships & Communications, CSR, HDFC Bank Parivartan & **Mr. Anilkumar Neelambaran**, Sr. VP II – Corporate Legal, HDFC Bank, who thanked the mentors for their guidance and support and spoke about the importance of mentoring in the early years of a scholar's life.

Dr. Sudha Kidao, Managing Trustee and **Mr. Ram Kolavennu**, CEO - FFEIT expressed their appreciation to HDFC and the mentors for their continued commitment. The session also featured mentee testimonials highlighting confidence building and application of learning to real-life situations.

During the program, **16 out of 17 mentor–mentee pairs** successfully completed the programme, building student career readiness skills.

D. MENTOR-MENTEE TESTIMONIAL

MENTOR TESTIMONIAL



***Haresh Panjwani**
Project Manager,
L&T Technology Services*

“Every mentoring journey teaches the mentor as much as the mentee.

It was a truly rewarding experience mentoring **Darsh Dobariya**. His eagerness to learn, reflect, and apply new concepts made every session engaging and meaningful. Seeing Darsh evolve in his thinking, decision-making, and self-awareness throughout the sessions was genuinely fulfilling. His curiosity and willingness to act on feedback reminded me that people grow best when guided—not directed.

I’m thankful to FFE for trusting me with this mentoring opportunity and for championing a culture of learning and development.”

MENTEE TESTIMONIAL



***Darshkumar Dobariya**
3rd Year,
Mechanical Engineering,
Pandit Deendayal
Energy University, Gujarat*

“This program has been extremely valuable and has significantly contributed to my growth from both a future job perspective and an academic perspective.

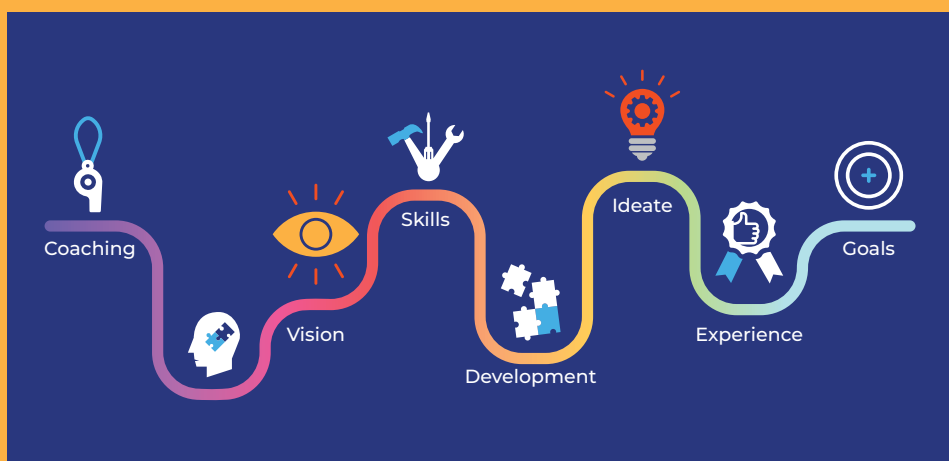
I would like to especially thank my mentor,

Mr. Haresh Panjwani, for his constant guidance, dedication and support throughout the mentorship journey. He shared many real-life examples that made the learning practical, insightful and easy to understand. His mentorship has played a vital role in shaping my confidence and professional outlook.”

E. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

FFE's comprehensive skilling initiative continues to strengthen scholar readiness for the professional world by building strong communication, technical, aspirational and job-readiness skills.

This quarter, communication programmes remained the focus area. A total of **2,432** second-year scholars completed the English Helper programme supported by Capgemini; **1,103** third-year scholars are progressing through the Hi Touch advanced English programme backed by MSDF; and **85** final-year scholars undertook placement-focused communication training supported by Lenovo. FFE also launched a pilot advanced English programme in partnership with Orbit Skilling for **50** 3rd year engineering scholars to strengthen real-world communication, placement preparations and learner confidence.



Across technical and aspirational programmes, **136** scholars enrolled in courses on NPTEL, of whom **101** successfully certified; **420** scholars are progressing in LearnTube technical skilling programme; more than **1,600** scholars are taking Generative AI certification courses offered by **Microsoft**; and over **2,100** third-year scholars enrolled in industry-relevant technical programmes on Coursera for FY25. Job-readiness initiatives scaled significantly, with **1,581** second-year engineering scholars enrolling in the aptitude training programme for improving logical reasoning and quantitative analysis skills and **3,396** third-year scholars participating in mock interviews, both supported by MSDF. Mock interview initiative comprise a Technical Round and a Personality Round to prepare scholars for upcoming placements

In addition, **104** final-year scholars are undergoing campus recruitment training delivered by ExcelR. The pilot program focuses on aptitude, technical skills, and interview preparation through sessions led by experienced industry trainers. Leadership and wellbeing programmes engaged **757** scholars through the "Finding the Leader in You" workshop, **2,088** scholars through structured wellness sessions, and more than **300** scholars, across three cohorts, through the Aspire Leaders Program led by Harvard University. In January 2026, Cohort 4 of the Aspire Leaders Program commenced, further strengthening scholars' development as skilled, confident and resilient professionals.

98 medical students are part of QMED Literature Searching Program, a year-long program started in December 2025. The QMed Program offers skills for online searching in the medical and allied health domain.

Skilling Events: Fostering Growth and Industry Readiness

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

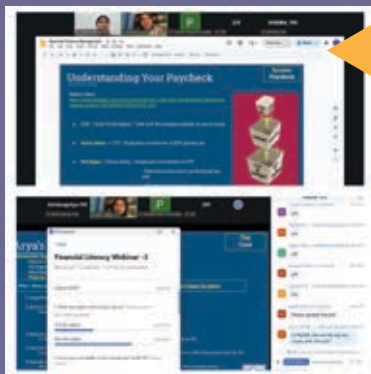
QMed Orientation Session – Evidence Pyramid of Research Papers I 10th January, 2026



Medical scholars during the QMed research orientation session

On **10th January**, as part of the QMED Literature Searching Program, a webinar for **98** medical scholars was conducted on the topic “Evidence Pyramid of Research Papers.”

Financial Literacy Webinar Series – Session 3 I 21st January, 2026



Scholars engage in the 3rd session of Financial Literacy Webinar Series

On **21st January**, FFE conducted the 3rd session of its Financial Literacy Webinar Series, aimed at equipping scholars with essential money management skills. The session was led by **Ms. Preeti Chauhan**, Personal Finance Expert, who simplified key concepts and encouraged meaningful discussions. Scholars explored practical topics including income planning, smart spending, savings and investments, insurance, and debt management.

Campus Placement Readiness Webinar in Collaboration with Joy Thomas Foundation I 28th January, 2026



400+ scholars attend placement readiness webinar with Mr. Vinod Aravindakshan

On **28th January**, FFE conducted a webinar in collaboration with Joy Thomas Foundation (JTF) titled “Getting Ready for Campus Placements” for 3rd and 4th year engineering scholars.

Around **400** scholars participated in the session. The webinar was led by **Mr. Vinod Aravindakshan**, Adjunct Faculty, IIT Palakkad, Kerala, who shared practical insights on placement preparation, understanding industry expectations, and building career readiness. The session equipped scholars with structured strategies to approach campus recruitment confidently that are required to succeed in interviews.

AMD Employability Skilling Program and Roundtable Engagement I 3rd February, 2026



FFE team at AMD roundtable with 10 NGO partners

On **3rd February**, FFE participated in an AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) roundtable alongside 10 partner NGOs to showcase impactful STEM initiatives. The team engaged in meaningful discussions with **Ms. Anne Fertitta**, Senior Manager- Global Community Impact, AMD.

This is AMD-FFE's first year of partnership under the Employability Skilling Program (FY 2025–26). The 6-month online initiative (October 2025–March 2026) will support **385** pre-final-year engineering scholars from Karnataka, Telangana and NCR, focusing on technical employability skills, certifications and placement readiness.

More Than Bones & Plaster” with Dr. Chandeeep Singh I 8th February, 2026



Dr. Chandeeep Singh addressing 270 scholars during the orthopaedics webinar

On **8th February**, FFE hosted a medical webinar titled “More Than Bones & Plaster: A Journey Through Orthopaedics,” led by **Dr. Chandeeep Singh**, Senior Director - Orthopaedics, Max Institute of Musculoskeletal Sciences, Max Healthcare (Delhi &

Gurugram). Around **270** scholars participated in the session. **Dr. Singh** shared insights on the evolving future of orthopaedics, emerging innovations in musculoskeletal care, and guidance for NEET aspirants exploring specialisation pathways.

Session on Interview Skills by Vahura | 10th February, 2026

On **10th February**, FFE conducted a session on Interview Skills in collaboration with Vahura for **3rd, 4th, and 5th** year law scholars. The session provided a structured understanding of what law firms assess during interviews, including knowledge fit, role fit, culture fit, and goal alignment.

Scholars also gained practical insights on interview-day readiness—covering punctuality, presentation, confidence, and clarity—along with exposure to commonly asked technical questions on legal concepts, case laws, internships, and academics. The session concluded with an assignment on “Tell me about yourself,” enabling students to practice and receive feedback.

Cybersecurity Essentials Webinar with Mr. Abhisek Chaudhuri I 12th February, 2026



300 scholars attend cybersecurity webinar led by Mr. Abhisek Chaudhuri.

On **12th February**, FFE conducted a technical webinar titled “Cybersecurity Essentials,” led by **Mr. Abhisek Chaudhuri**, Product Manager-Cybersecurity, Google, and also a Mentor in the FFE Mentoring program 2025-26. The session witnessed participation from close to **300** engineering scholars across all academic years, with active interaction throughout. The webinar provided practical insights into cybersecurity

fundamentals, the role of AI in security systems, and preparing students for careers in cybersecurity and related domains.

Session on Career Options after Law School by Vahura | 25th February, 2026

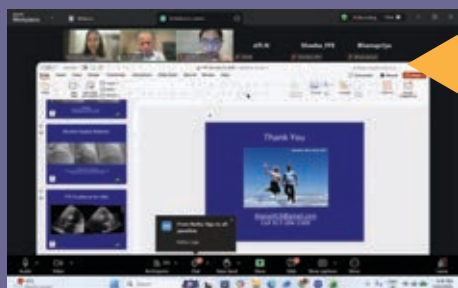
On **25th February**, FFE conducted a session on Career Options after Law School in collaboration with Vahura for law scholars, providing a comprehensive overview of

potential career pathways.

The session covered diverse opportunities including law firms, litigation, in-house roles, judicial services, policy and research, and alternative legal careers. Scholars gained clarity on the skills, expectations, and growth trajectories across these paths, helping them make more informed career decisions.

The session encouraged thoughtful reflection, enabling students to align their interests and strengths with their long-term career goals.

Medical Webinar: “Structural Heart Interventions” by Dr. Kishor Harjai | 10th March, 2026



Dr. Kishore Harjai addressing 300+ scholars during the webinar on Structural Heart Interventions.

A medical webinar was conducted on 10th March on the topic Structural Heart Interventions by **Dr. Kishor Harjai**, an experienced Interventional Structural Cardiologist currently working at the Piedmont Heart Institute, Macon, Georgia, USA.

Around **300** medical scholars joined the session.

The webinar was highly insightful and covered the latest advancements and technologies in heart interventions, including modern procedures used to treat complex heart conditions. **Dr. Harjai** also spoke about the growing opportunities and emerging fields in cardiology, giving scholars a broader perspective on careers in this domain.

During the session, he shared video clips demonstrating how high-risk and complex heart procedures are performed. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A session.

Session on Design Thinking with Md. Nadeem, SAP | 24th March, 2026



Md. Nadeem during the session on topic Design Thinking.

As part of the SAP series of sessions, the first session for this year was conducted on **24th March 2026** on the topic of Design Thinking by **Md. Nadeem Shaik**, Product Manager – Spend Analytics at SAP. Around **300** engineering scholars attended the session.

The session covered the different stages of Design Thinking, along with examples of problem-solving and various approaches to analyzing and finding solutions. It was highly interactive and engaging, and included a Q&A segment.

Session on Evolution of Advanced Battery Technologies and their expanding role in our lives by Dr Ratnakumar Bugga | 27th March, 2026



Snapshot from the webinar on “Evolution of Advanced Battery Technologies” with Dr. Kumar Bugga, attended by 350+ scholars,

On **27th March**, we hosted an engaging webinar on “Evolution of Advanced Battery Technologies” with

Dr. Ratna Kumar Bugga - Senior Fellow, Lyten, former NASA JPL Technologist and contributor to Mars Rover missions.

With around **350** students in attendance, the session saw incredible enthusiasm and participation. Students asked insightful questions and showed keen interest, not just in the topic, but also in exploring career pathways in space research and advanced technologies.

F. SKILLING TESTIMONIALS

My name is **Ananya C. M.**, a third-year Computer Science and Engineering student at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru. I am grateful for the opportunity provided by FFE to participate in the Systems Thinking – Global Leadership Program by Rishihood University. I joined the program to understand how complex systems function beyond surface-level problems, and it exceeded my expectations. Under the guidance of our trainer, Shridhar Sir, I learned how interconnected systems, feedback loops and leverage points influence long-term outcomes.

The sessions helped me move from step-by-step problem solving to thinking more holistically and strategically. This experience has strengthened my leadership mindset and given me a more responsible and structured approach to decision-making. I sincerely thank Rishihood University and FFE for this transformative opportunity.



Ananya Cm
3rd Year, Computer Science & Engineering,
Sir M Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology, Bangalore
Program Undertaken: Systems thinking- Global Leadership



Peeyush Gupta
2nd Year, Electrical Engineering,
Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur
Program Undertaken: English Helper Program

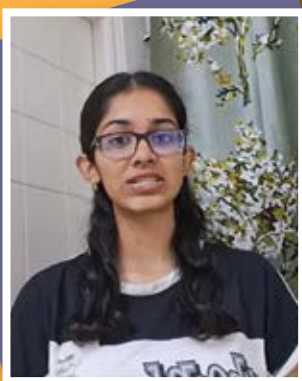
Through FFE , I had the opportunity to enroll in the English Learning Program, for which I am truly grateful. Before joining, I recognized the importance of strong English communication skills but lacked a structured platform to improve them. The program was well-organized, engaging, and easy to follow, helping me enhance my speaking, writing, and listening abilities. I now feel more confident expressing my thoughts clearly and effectively. The course has significantly improved my communication skills and boosted my confidence for interviews and professional interactions. I highly recommend that other students take full advantage of such initiatives, as they can greatly enhance both confidence and career readiness. I sincerely thank FFE and the English Helper team for their continued support in students growth.

Strengthening Employment Linkages for Future-Ready Engineers

FFE is committed to making its engineering scholars job-ready by partnering with corporates for internships, training, and hiring, creating lasting opportunities, bridging India's skills gap, and building a future-ready workforce.

In 2025 and early 2026, FFE's partnerships with companies including Wabtec, NetApp, Zscaler, Thomson Reuters, 3M India, Lenovo, Akamai, 7 Procure, Data Hash, SAP, Global Logic and Amazon have enabled scholars to thrive as interns and entry-level professionals, gaining critical hands-on experience. FFE remains committed to bridging the education-to-employment gap by expanding partnerships and co-creating impactful initiatives with its corporate partners through internship opportunities and job opportunities. We seek support from corporates to join us in creating meaningful opportunities and shaping a future-ready workforce.

inFocus



Subasini Jaganathan
Computer Science and Engineering
College of Engineering, Guindy,
Anna University
Year of Graduation - 2025

Watch Subasini Jaganathan share her experience:
<https://youtu.be/zJTZgk95BsU?si=J3r2JCehbifaB5Xv>

Shreyas D K
4th year,
Information Science
and Engineering,
BMS College of Engineering,
Bangalore



"When I first received the Foundation For Excellence scholarship, I thought it was only financial support, but it turned out to be so much more. FFE invested in my holistic development through industry visits, long-term mentorship, professional certifications, and placement readiness programs that truly prepared me for the real world.

I'm proud to share that I have secured an internship at SAP Labs, a milestone I strongly attribute to FFE's guidance and support. FFE has been more than a scholarship—they have been mentors, guides, and believers in my potential. FFE's **"No Scholar Left Behind"** mission isn't just words, it's a reality that has transformed my life and the lives of thousands of students like me.

I would like to immensely thank my donor - Exxon Mobil and the entire team at FFE for helping me turn dreams into opportunity."

G. VOICE OF SCHOLARS



**Kopuri Sivasai Venkata
Radhakrishna Murthy**

**B.Tech, 4th Year,
Mechanical Engineering
National Institute of Technology,
Srinagar**

Kopuri Siva Sai Venkata RadhaKrishna Murthy, a fourth-year B.Tech student in Mechanical Engineering at the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, hails from Vuyyuru in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh. Raised in a modest household, his father, Kopuri Pandu Ranga Vittal, is a farmer, and his mother, Kopuri Krishna Veni, is a homemaker. Sai's journey is a testament to perseverance, aspiration, and transformation.

Coming from a family with limited financial resources, pursuing engineering at a premier institute came with significant challenges. However, Sai remained determined to make the most of every opportunity. He is the second engineer in his family, following his elder sister, Kopuri Devi Prasanna, who is a Graduate Engineer Trainee at L&T, Mumbai. Inspired by his family and driven by a strong passion for science and engineering, Sai stayed focused despite financial constraints that could have otherwise hindered his academic progress. There were times when financial stress made it difficult for him to fully concentrate on academics. He knew he had the potential but needed the right support to move forward.

Receiving the FFE Scholarship marked a turning point in his journey. The financial assistance not only eased his burden but also gave him the confidence and stability to focus on his studies. "The FFE Scholarship lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. It allowed me to attend classes regularly, participate actively in labs, and truly focus on learning without constant worry." With renewed focus and determination, Sai saw steady improvement in his academic performance, reflected in his rising CGPA and deeper engagement in practical learning.

Beyond financial support, FFE played a crucial role in his holistic development. Through initiatives such as mental wellness webinars, English-speaking sessions, internship mentorship, placement guidance, and skill-development programmes, Sai gained valuable exposure and built essential life skills. He also completed a Coursera certification through FFE and actively participated in FLY sessions, which strengthened his leadership, problem-solving abilities, and technical knowledge. A significant influence in his journey was the guidance of his mentor, **Mr. Rakesh Ravuri**, CTO at Publicis Sapient, who played a pivotal role in shaping his career direction. His mentorship helped Sai understand how to effectively leverage AI in projects and navigate the competitive job market with confidence. Sai's dedication and consistent efforts culminated in a major milestone - his selection at Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group, Dubai, through campus placements.

Reflecting on his journey, Sai expresses deep gratitude to FFE and DISA India Limited, whose support has been instrumental in shaping his future. He is deeply thankful to FFE and his donors for their support and belief in him. With their encouragement, Sai has been able to continue his education with confidence. This support has not only eased his financial burden but has also empowered him to dream bigger and work towards achieving those dreams.



Hemanthkumar M

**Piping Design Engineer at Cameron,
a Schlumberger company, Coimbatore
Coimbatore Institute of Technology
Year of Graduation – 2020
ASP Donor | Facilitator**

Hemanthkumar M, a 2020 graduate of Coimbatore Institute of Technology and now a Piping Design Engineer at Cameron (a Schlumberger company), Coimbatore, is also an Adopt A Scholar Program (ASP) Donor and Facilitator—embodying the spirit of giving back.

Hailing from Muthiampatti, a small village in Tirupur district, Tamil Nadu, Hemanth grew up in a modest household with his father, an agriculturist, and his mother, a homemaker. A sincere student at RG Matric Higher Secondary School, his academic performance earned him a merit seat in engineering. However, the financial burden of college education placed immense strain on his family.

At a critical moment, Hemanth was introduced to the FFE Scholarship. Following a rigorous selection process—including academic evaluation and a facilitator home visit—he was awarded the scholarship, relieving his family of financial stress.

For Hemanth, FFE was not just financial support—it was a transformation journey. Unlike typical one-year scholarships, FFE supported him through his entire undergraduate program while investing in his overall development. Through access to high-quality resources such as English communication training (Enguru), aptitude training (FACE), Python programming (Coursera), mock interviews, and mentorship, he built the confidence and skills required to succeed in the corporate world. As he puts it, FFE is not just a scholarship provider, but a “transformation partner.” With this strong foundation, Hemanth secured a role at Cameron (SLB), a leading multinational in the oil and gas sector.

Today, his journey has come full circle. Driven by gratitude and a sense of responsibility, Hemanth now co-supports a scholar alongside another FFE alumnus and actively volunteers as a facilitator, guiding new applicants. He credits his own facilitator, **Mr. Hariharan**, for his constant support and encouragement, someone who, in his words, “adds soul to organizations like FFE.”

Hemanth’s story is a powerful reminder that when one life is supported, it creates a ripple effect of opportunity. His message to fellow scholars is simple yet profound: make the most of this opportunity, because one day, you will inspire someone else, just as you were once inspired.

I. DONOR FEATURE



Mr. Ravi Venkatesan,

Business Leader, Social Entrepreneur, and Author, Chairman of GEAPP and Founder of GAME, with leadership roles at Microsoft India, Infosys, and Cummins India, and a recognized Global Management Thinker.

inFocus

“Working with FFE has been a deeply meaningful part of my journey in supporting education and youth development. Their work highlights how capable and driven young people are, even in the face of financial constraints. What truly sets FFE apart is its integrated approach, combining financial support with mentorship, skills development, and sustained engagement, ensuring scholars are well-prepared for their careers.

Investing in young people creates impact far beyond individuals, helping families break the cycle of poverty within a generation. It remains one of the most meaningful investments I have made.”

J. FACILITATOR FEATURE

Celebrating 25 Years of Dedicated Service – Mr. T Srinivasan



Mr. T. Srinivasan’s journey reflects the transformative power of education and a deep commitment to giving back. An Electronics Engineer from PSG College of Technology and a management graduate from IIM Ahmedabad, he brings over five decades of experience across R&D, manufacturing, marketing, and leadership. He is the co-founder and Director of MEL Systems and Services Ltd., Chennai.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mr. Srinivasan has remained strongly committed to social impact. He is associated with several non-profit organizations, including Foundation for Excellence, Amar Seva Sangam, Sri Subramanya Charitable Trust, and Vasantha Memorial Trust.

He also founded the Urulikal KTR Trust to support academically bright students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in pursuing higher education.

Introduced to FFE in 2000 through his uncle, **Mr. Narayanaswami**, and his business partner, **Mr. N. Ramachandran**, Mr. Srinivasan has since played a pivotal role in identifying and mentoring deserving scholars. Inspired by his experiences as a Facilitator, he established the Urulikal KTR Trust to support meritorious students who narrowly miss FFE scholarships.

Coming from a humble lower middle-class family, he deeply understands the life-changing impact of educational support.



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