

# inFocus



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The Omnicom Global Solutions team with FFE representatives at the Hyderabad office

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**Dear Friends,**

The Foundation for Excellence had a busy and productive July-Sept quarter - centered around interactions between scholars and all our stakeholders. Since FFE's scholars are budding professionals, these virtual and in-person interactions provide students unique opportunities and access to individuals and corporate leadership that can help shape their outlook, expectations and career trajectories.

FFE's Founders, Dr. Prabhu Goel and Mrs. Poonam Goel, believed in the transformational impact of education and we are witnessing that vision come to life in a single generation, through the success of every scholar.

These connections are central to the success of all our programs, as donors, through their participation, understand the crucial role, depth and impact they create though in-person or virtual meetings. FFE prioritised these engagements in the last quarter, that is highlighted throughout this edition. The popular Open House series brought together over 12,000+ students, alumni, donors, volunteer mentors, facilitators and guests virtually, while also hosting exemplary keynote speakers and industry leaders, while amplifying the impact of FFE's work within the stakeholder community.

FFE is thankful to our generous donor community for their contributions that have fueled FFE's growth in strong financial student support, skills training, mentoring, internship and placement assistance, entrepreneurship and leadership training and mental wellness.

Testimonials from students capture the impact of these interventions documented in this edition. Thank you for helping FFE evolve from an organization that just grants scholarships to one that provides a comprehensive support network - a model that we know is truly unique and deeply impactful. Our thanks to our volunteer facilitators, NGO partners, mentors and alumni for their involvement and commitment to furthering FFE's mission.

As the professional world rapidly evolves, so must our program. We are actively evaluating and expanding our training to include cutting-edge courses and essential career skills that will better prepare FFE scholars for a rapidly changing job market. We seek your continued support as we strive to make our scholars career ready.



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

## Dear FFE Community,

As we reflect on another impactful quarter, I am filled with gratitude for the support of our donors, corporate partners, and volunteers who continue to drive the mission of the Foundation for Excellence India Trust. Your commitment is transforming lives and empowering the next generation of changemakers.

This quarter, our donor-scholar interactions, both virtual and in-person, have been profoundly moving. Hearing the inspiring journeys of our scholars and witnessing their remarkable progress is a testament to the power of education and mentorship. The guidance and encouragement provided by our donors have been instrumental in shaping their paths, helping not just academic success but also personal growth and confidence. It is equally heartening to see the deep involvement of our corporate partners' leadership teams, with their employees stepping forward as mentors to guide our scholars toward brighter futures.

Our annual SV25 Gala in Palo Alto was a resounding success, raising an impressive \$12,50,000. This event, filled with vibrant performances and heartfelt stories, underscored the trust and energy our donors—many of whom have supported FFE for years and even decades—continue to bring to our mission.

We are also thrilled by the expansion of our skilling programs, now offering nearly 20 courses to over 12,000 scholars annually. The enthusiasm for the 8-week TiE Entrepreneurship Program has been particularly inspiring, with scholars not only developing innovative ideas but also building AI agents to bring those ideas to life. This initiative is equipping our students with the skills and mindset to thrive in a competitive world.

In July, we opened applications for our new scholarships, and the response has been overwhelming, with over 20,000 applicants in just the first eight weeks—a record that reflects the pronounced need for educational support and a powerful reiteration of FFEIT's mission to empower deserving students. Thank you to our donors, partners, alumni and scholars for making this quarter so impactful. Together, we are nurturing brilliance and transforming generations through education.



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



## Silicon Valley 2025 Gala: An Evening of Inspiration and Generosity



FFE hosted its **Annual Silicon Valley Gala** on **September 13th 2025**, at the Crowne Plaza in Palo Alto. The SV25 Gala brought together over 300 guests in support of FFE's mission. The celebrations began with a graceful Antara dance performance in the courtyard, followed by a captivating Kathak performance on the Ballroom stage set to the melodies of Bollywood classics.

**Dr. Sudha Kidao** warmly thanked the guests for their presence and extended heartfelt appreciation for **Ram Kolavennu**, recently promoted to **CEO of FFE India Trust**. Ram shared inspiring updates on FFEIT's achievements and progress over the past year, underscoring the life-changing impact of scholarships and mentoring programs.

Guests were deeply moved by the powerful alumni videos of **Adithya** and **Vinodhini**. Vinodhini (Vino) Duraisamy shared her journey from a small town in South India to engineering college in Coimbatore, where she discovered FFE and received both scholarship support and mentoring that helped her secure her first job at NetApp. She later pursued her master's degree in Computer Science in the USA and now works at Snowflake, where she gives back by supporting FFE scholars. Her heartfelt story inspired many in the ballroom to donate generously.

Adding to the evening's inspiration, eight FFE alumni attended in person, sharing their remarkable journeys from India to the Bay Area.

The evening concluded on a high note when Venk Shukla and comedian Jeff Applebaum led a spirited fundraising appeal, raising an impressive \$625,000 for FFE scholarships. In addition, several donors who were unable to attend due to other commitments generously pledged and donated another \$400,000, further strengthening the cause.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, supporters, and alumni for making SV25 a resounding success and for continuing to nurture brilliance and transform generations through education.

## FFE Virtual Open House Series 2025

The 2025 edition of FFE's Virtual Annual Open House Series once again brought the entire FFE community together through a thoughtfully designed agenda that emphasized connection, recognition and inspiration.

The series opened on 26 June with the Law cohort, where **Dr. Anup Surendranath, Professor of Law and Executive Director of The Square Circle Clinic (formerly Project 39A) at NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad**, set the tone with an engaging keynote following FFE's introductory updates on the year's progress and goals. Students actively participated in the Q&A session that followed, sharing their aspirations and seeking guidance. On **3 July**, **Mr. Shripati Acharya, Co-Founder & Managing Partner at Prime Ventures** addressed over 2,700 first-year engineering students. His inspiring keynote was followed by lively interaction with students eager to learn from his experiences.

The Open House session for FFE's Engineering students was hosted in three state-based clusters. On **17 July 2025**, students from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh interacted with keynote speaker **Dr. Alex Guion, Chief Strategy and Procurement Officer, Raphe mPhibr** whose journey, from his educational choices to his current position, resonated deeply with aspiring engineers navigating the next stage of their journey. The **31 July 2025** session for students from Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh and Goa featured **Ms. Karthiheyini Subbiah, Chief Customer Officer at SAP Labs India**, whose message on resilience and leadership struck a chord. On **7 August 2025**, scholars from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Mizoram and Kerala engaged with **Ms. Vasanthi Ramesh, Vice President of Engineering NetApp India**, who emphasized adaptability and lifelong learning that led into a lively Q&A from the participating audience.

The series concluded on **24 August 2025** with medical students participating in an interaction webinar by **Dr. Ritu Garg, Chief Growth & Innovation Officer, Fortis Healthcare** which drew the highest participation. Dr. Garg inspired future doctors with her reflections on purpose-led careers and the responsibility that comes with service.

Across the six sessions, more than 15,000 students participated, representing every state in the country. The structured format anchored by speaker insights, student engagement, and voices of mentors, alumni and facilitators ensured that each virtual forum was both impactful and uplifting.

## A. DONOR FEATURE



### Nupur Bansal, Client Principal / Partner at Axtria - Ingenious Insights

“Axtria has been a proud and long term partner of The Foundation for Excellence India Trust for the past four years. Through the Axtria KIRAN Programme, Axtria has enabled the education of talented youth, which has always been close to our hearts. Our collaboration with FFE enables us to not only sponsor scholarships but also mentor these talented students 1:1, helping students build confidence, industry readiness, and a vision for their future.

It’s truly inspiring to see the passion and purpose the FFE team brings to transforming lives through education. Over the past three decades, they have supported more than 38,000 students and built a strong community of 6,000+ alumni who are now paying it forward in their own ways. What stands out most is that FFE’s work goes far beyond financial aid, it’s about mentorship, guidance, and emotional support. Their ever-expanding reach across states and disciplines continues to touch more lives every year and that’s something we deeply admire.

We at Axtria are grateful for the opportunity to be part of this incredible journey. Our heartfelt thanks to the entire FFE team for their relentless dedication, and to all the scholars who inspire us with their resilience, dreams, and drive.”

## G. VOICE OF SCHOLARS



### Harsh Pampattiwar, B.Tech, Fire technology, National Fire Service College, Nagpur Maharashtra, Batch of FY 2024–25 Fire and Safety Officer at HPCL

Hailing from Ballarpur, Maharashtra, Harsh Pampattiwar completed his schooling at Montfort Hr. Sec. School, Bamni, and went on to graduate in Fire Engineering from the National Fire Service College, Nagpur. Coming from a modest family, his father a tuition teacher and his mother a homemaker, Harsh shares that the FFE scholarship was a turning point in his academic journey.

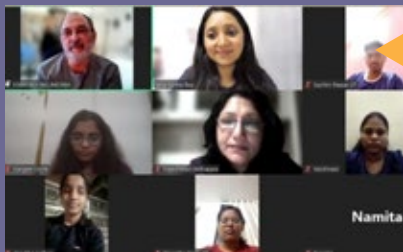
He highlights the mentoring and skill-training programs as one of the most enriching aspects of the FFE journey. “The sessions were insightful, and my mentor played a pivotal role in helping me enhance my communication skills and prepare for placements. Her constant encouragement helped me believe in myself,” says Harsh.

Today, Harsh is proud to serve as a **Fire and Safety Officer at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**. A fitness enthusiast and singer, he continues to pursue his hobbies alongside his professional commitments. Passionate about sustainability and cleaner energy sources, Harsh aspires to contribute meaningfully to creating a safer and more sustainable future.

“The FFE experience has shaped me into a confident and compassionate individual,” he concludes. “It gave me the strength to dream big and the support to make those dreams come true.”

## B. DONOR-SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENTS

### Donor-Scholar Interaction with Mr. Farrokh Billimoria | 4th July, 2025

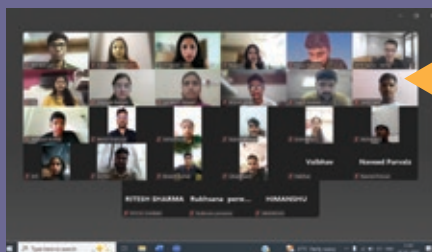


*Mr. Farrokh Billimoria shares his inspiring story with FFE scholars.*

FFE hosted a Donor-Scholar Interaction with Mr. Farrokh Billimoria, who instituted the 'Naju and Keki Billimoria Scholarship' in FY 2021–22 in memory of his parents. His endowment currently supports eight scholars, primarily female engineering students in

Pune. Mr. Billimoria shared his inspiring journey — from missing out on IIT due to financial constraints to becoming the first Indian man on Wall Street without an MBA. Encouraging scholars to bet on themselves, he emphasized the importance of stepping beyond comfort zones and embodying values of reliability, honesty, motivation, and hard work for lasting success.

### Donor-Scholar Engagement with Axtria India Private Limited | 7th July 2025



*Scholars engaging in a virtual interactive session with leaders from Axtria India Private Limited.*

On **7th July 2025**, FFE organized a donor-scholar meet with **Axtria India Private Limited**. Scholars shared their personal journeys and future ambitions, while representatives from Axtria motivated them with their

valuable insights and encouragement. **Ms. Nupur Bansal (Principal Delivery)** and **Mr. Amit Sarna (Principal Marketing)** from Axtria, participated whose motivating session left the scholars inspired, confident, and better prepared for their professional journeys.

### Empowering Futures Through Partnership: FFE–Akamai Donor-Scholar Meet | 9th July, 2025



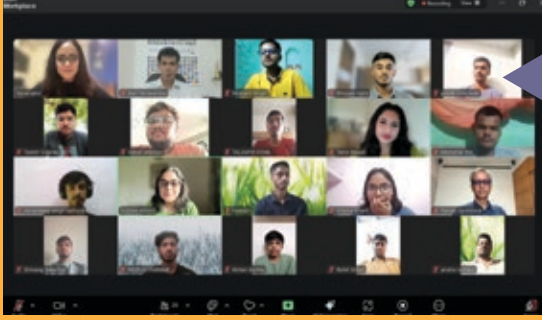
*Akamai and FFE teams with scholars at the first Donor-Scholar Meet*

The first Donor-Scholar Meet of the FFE–Akamai Scholarship Program was held on **July 9, 2025**, marking an important milestone in this growing partnership.

The event brought together FFE–Akamai scholars and members of Akamai's CSR Core Team, fostering a meaningful exchange of ideas and experiences. The Akamai team shared insights into the company's CSR vision, focus areas, and impactful community initiatives, while also offering personal reflections that inspired the scholars.

FFE–Akamai scholars pursuing Engineering across India expressed heartfelt gratitude, sharing how the scholarship and FFE's technical and soft-skills training have supported their academic and professional growth. Akamai mentors, who guide scholars one-on-one, also joined the session—reflecting the program's shared commitment to nurturing future changemakers.

## FFE–Amansa Donor-Scholar Meet | July 9, 2025



*FFE–Amansa Donor-Scholar Meet: Inspiring exchanges and valuable mentorship.*

The first Donor-Scholar Meet under the FFE–Amansa Scholarship Program was held on July 9, 2025. The session was graced by Mr. Pawan Kumar Sachdeva, Impact Investment Analyst from Amansa Capital, who engaged in a warm

and insightful interaction with the scholars. During the meet, scholars shared their journeys, challenges, and aspirations, while Mr. Sachdeva encouraged them to make the most of their college years and FFE’s mentorship and skill-building opportunities. He also highlighted the importance of having a mentor- for guidance, support and inspiration. The session left the scholars motivated and deeply appreciative of Amansa’s support.

## Milestone Announcement: FFE–Zscaler Partnership | 15th July, 2025

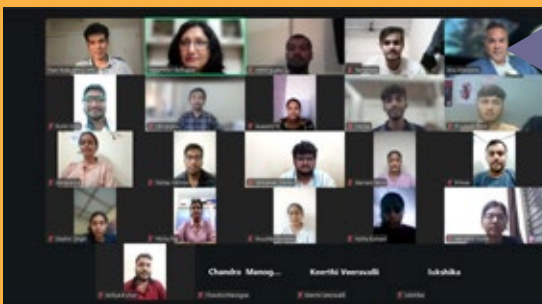


*Zscaler and FFE leaders with scholars at the Milestone Announcement*

On **July 15, 2025**, Zscaler Softech India Pvt. Ltd. hosted a Milestone Announcement Event, reaffirming its commitment to support a new cohort of 100 academically brilliant yet financially underprivileged engineering scholars across

India. A panel discussion brought together the Zscaler CSR Committee, Zscaler Academy, FFE leadership, mentors, and scholars, highlighting the 360-degree impact of this partnership. Scholars and mentors shared inspiring experiences that reflected how the initiative goes beyond financial aid to offer mentorship, career readiness, and holistic development. The event also featured the formal handover of the cheque to FFE, symbolizing the continued commitment of Zscaler to empower scholars and transform lives through education and skill development.

## Donor-Scholar Virtual Meet with Anu Manocha | 9th Sept, 2025

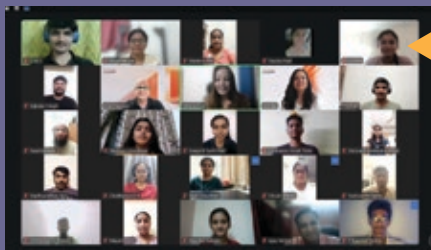


*Mr. Anu Manocha interacts with his sponsored scholars during the virtual meet.*

FFE hosted its first Virtual Donor-Scholar Meet with Mr. Anu Manocha, Founder & Managing Director of Universal E-Business Solutions LLC, New York, and his 25 sponsored Engineering Scholars on September 9, 2025.

The session saw 23 scholars join in with enthusiasm, making it a lively and inspiring interaction. Mr. Manocha shared that the program is close to his heart and encouraged scholars to make the most of their college years, to learn from peers, mentors, and experiences, and to strive for excellence that will reward them in the future.

## GlobalLogic–FFE Virtual Donor-Scholar Meet | 25th September, 2025



*FFE–GlobalLogic scholars in conversation with Mr. Arun during the virtual meet*

On **September 25, 2025**, FFE and GlobalLogic hosted the first virtual donor–scholar meet with 2nd-year scholars (Cohort 4) supported by GlobalLogic. The session opened with scholars sharing their inspiring

journeys, followed by an engaging interaction with **Mr. Arun Pisapati**, Vice President – Engineering (FinTech, InsurTech, Mobility & Industrial), GlobalLogic APAC. Scholars asked thoughtful questions on career guidance, industry trends, personal growth, and overcoming challenges. **Mr. Arun’s** candid responses and genuine interest in their aspirations made the dialogue highly impactful. The meet reinforced the value of connecting scholars with industry leaders who can mentor, motivate, and guide them towards fulfilling professional paths.

### Alumni Donor-Scholar Interactions

In Q2 FY 2025, FFE hosted **five enriching virtual sessions** between FFE Alumni Donors and their adopted scholars. During these inspiring interactions, alumni shared their personal journeys, offered valuable guidance on **courses, books, and placements**, and encouraged scholars to stay focused on their goals. These meaningful exchanges not only

helped strengthen scholars’ career paths but also **empowered them to make informed academic and professional choices** with greater confidence.

It was heartening to witness success of the **first two virtual meets** of our Donor Referral campaign – Fuel the Dreams. These sessions brought together our passionate alumni community, united by a shared vision to **empower the next generation of changemakers**.

#### Meet 1 Highlights:

Our inaugural session saw enthusiastic participation from FFE alumni from leading corporates including **IBM, Microsoft, Juniper Networks, Deloitte, and NVIDIA**. Their energy and encouragement set a strong tone for the fund raising campaign, reaffirming the power of the FFE alumni network to create lasting impact.

#### Meet 2 Highlights:

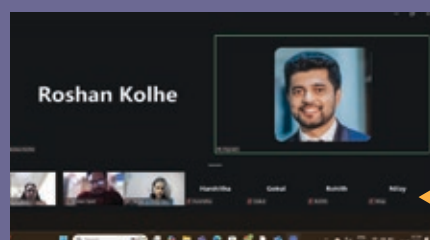
The second session featured FFE alumni from **VISA, Deloitte, Palo Alto Networks, and ServiceNow**, who shared invaluable insights on their organizations’ **matching grant programs**, including timelines and participation mechanisms. These contributions are set to further **amplify the reach and impact of FFE’s fundraising efforts**.



*FFE Alumni Roshan Kolhe and Rahul Kotecha share their journeys and insights during the Alumni Donor-Scholar Interaction session.*



*FFE Alumni Prasanna Venkatesh reflects on his experience and the impact of giving back through FFE.*



*FFE Alumni Vignesh Munian engages with scholars, offering guidance and motivation for their professional growth.*

## C. NEWS AND EVENTS

### Dr. Kumkum Bhasin Meets Her supported FFE-LHMCAANA Scholars in India

On September 10, 2025, Dr. Kumkum Bhasin, one of our U.S. donors from the FFE-LHMCAANA Scholarship Program, met two of her supported scholars - Ms. Mansi Ghamandi Lal and Ms. Anjali Umesh Kumar. They had a wonderful and engaging conversation, sharing experiences and insights about their academic journeys. Dr. Bhasin also took a tour of the hostel, making the visit a memorable and inspiring experience for everyone involved.

#### Messages of Gratitude from the Scholars



Mansi Ghamandi Lal

“Dear Miss Kumkum Bhasin Ma’am,  
Thank you very much for your generous support and for giving me the opportunity to meet you in person. That meeting has left a lasting impression on me — it gave me fresh motivation and reminded me that behind every scholarship is someone who genuinely believes in the potential of students like me.

Your kindness has not only eased my financial challenges but has also inspired me to strive harder and make the best use of every opportunity that comes my way. It feels very encouraging to know that there are people who care and who want to see young scholars succeed.”

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Mansi



Anjali Umesh Kumar

“Dear Miss Kumkum Bhasin Ma’am,  
From the deepest corner of my heart, thank you so much, Ma’am.

I still can’t fully express the overwhelming sense of gratitude and joy I felt when I had the chance to meet you. Walking alongside you through the same grounds where you once studied, I could feel the inspiring legacy of Hardinge come alive. It felt like every step of yours connected the past with the present, and now you stand as a guiding light for students like me — filling my heart with hope and motivation.

The scholarship you have so selflessly provided is far more than financial support; it is a symbol of belief in our potential, a gentle reminder that someone who once dreamed now helps others dream too. I am eternally grateful to have had that moment — to feel your encouragement, to witness your grace, and to carry your inspiration forward. Thank you for giving us hope, for walking this path with us, and for making such a beautiful difference in our lives.”

With gratitude,  
Anjali Umesh Kumar

## FFE Launches Law Webinar Series with Supriya Sankaran, Co-Founder of Agami | 1st September, 2025



*Ms. Supriya Sankaran interacts with FFE law scholars, sharing insights on careers, internships, and the future of law in the age of AI.*

On **September 1**, FFE hosted an engaging session with **Ms. Supriya Sankaran, Co-Founder of Agami**, which drew participation from over 120 law students. Supriya shared valuable insights on internship opportunities, freelancing

avenues, and diverse career pathways that students can pursue both during law school and after graduation. She also responded to questions about her journey in founding Agami, the emerging role of AI in law, and the key skills law students should focus on developing during their academic pursuits. The session was both informative and inspiring, and was an inspiring kickstart to FFE's webinar series planned for law students.

## Strengthening Partnerships: Sage Publications Visits FFE | 25th September, 2025

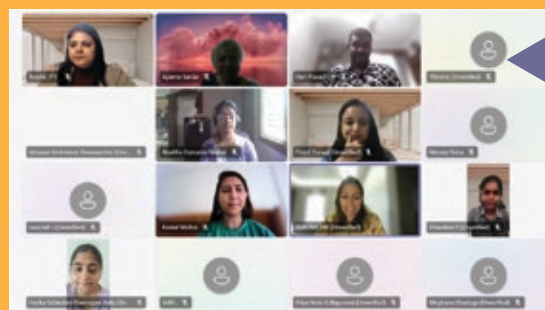


*FFE engages with Sage Publications leadership to discuss collaboration and scholar empowerment.*

On **25th September 2025**, FFE hosted senior leaders from Sage Publications, **Ms. Sonia Kumar, Managing Director**, and **Dr. Sugata Ghosh, Deputy Managing Director**. The visit included engaging discussions with **Dr. Sudha Kidao** and **Mr. Ram Kolavennu**, focusing on the impact and reach of the FFE Scholarship and Beyond Scholarship programs.

The meeting also explored potential avenues to strengthen collaboration, reflecting a shared vision of empowering scholars through education and mentorship.

## C. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



*Mentoring Program Launch for FFE-3M India Mentor-mentees*

FFE launched its Mentorship Program for FY 2025–26 cycle in July, continuing to build on the success of previous years. As part of FFE's Beyond Scholarship Program, the Mentorship program engages 3rd-year Engineering Scholars and connects them with working professionals

across industries for one-on-one mentoring, focusing on their soft skills and making them career ready. This year, over 2,500 Engineering mentees registered and have been paired with mentors from over **57** corporates, along with **34** individual mentors and **36** alumni mentors. FFE is delighted to welcome **13** new corporates whose employees have enrolled in the Mentoring Program – 3M India, Omnicom Global Solutions, Broadridge Financial Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd, Cimpres India, Contentstack India Pvt. Ltd, Cyient Foundation, Danfoss India, Griffith Foods, Guidewire Software Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., H & M Services Private Limited, Jindal Stainless Ltd, Nasdaq, and IBM India Pvt. Ltd– further expanding the program's reach and diversity.

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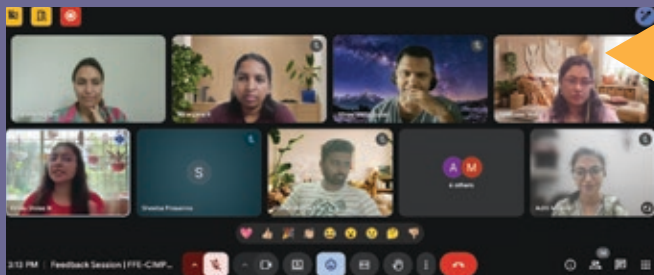
Prominent companies like Cognizant Technologies, Capgemini, Wabtec, KPMG India, Microsoft, Broadridge and Dell Technologies have significant participation with over **100** employees enrolled as mentors from each.

Currently **2,496** mentor–mentee pairs have been onboarded. FFE has completed launch and orientation sessions across corporates and student groups to familiarize participants with the mentoring process, portal usage, and program expectations.

On 1st August 2025, FFE successfully hosted the launch event for FFE-3M India Mentorship Program. Ms. Nandini D R, Specialist – Technical Service, R&D from 3M India participated and shared her valuable insights on mentoring. It was heartening to hear mentor-mentee pairs share their expectations and enthusiasm for the program.

As we reach the **mid-program mentoring cycle** for corporates that started in the first phase i.e. June & July 2025, FFE is conducting virtual feedback sessions with those corporates, for feedback on their mentoring experience until date. 10 virtual feedback sessions were held with the following partners: Omnicom Global Solutions, Ansys Software Pvt. Ltd, Cimpres India, Danfoss India, H & M Services Private Limited, Hexagon Capability Centre India Limited , Contentstack India Pvt. Ltd, Collins Aerospace, KPMG India and Reliance Foundation

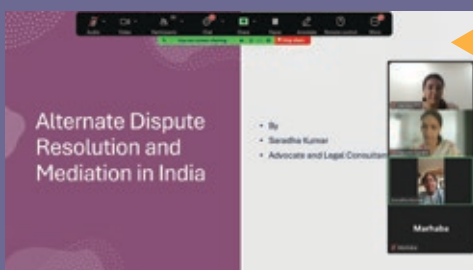
## Mid cycle feedback session for FFE- Cimpres Mentors, 18th September 2025



Mid-cycle feedback sessions are also being held for Mentees to provide them required support to enable smooth progression in the program.

In parallel, the 11 months Law Mentorship Program that started in January 2025 is progressing actively and will conclude in December 2025, with 60 mentor–mentee pairs currently engaged. As part of the Law Mentoring program, FFE hosted a Group Mentoring Session on **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Mediation** on September 13, led by **Advocate and Legal Consultant Saradha Kumar**. Around 60 scholars participated in the highly interactive session, engaging in thoughtful questions and rich exchanges that made the experience deeply insightful and enriching for all involved.

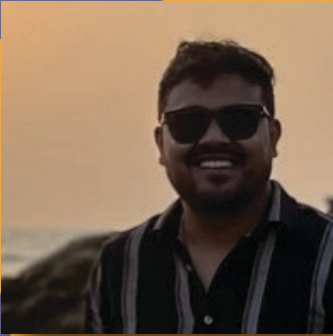
## Group mentoring session for Law students



FFE is deeply grateful to all corporate partners, individual mentors, and alumni who have stepped forward this year. Their contributions are shaping the journeys of thousands of FFE scholars and preparing them for successful careers.

## D. MENTOR-MENTEE TESTIMONIAL

### MENTOR TESTIMONIAL



**Mentor:**  
**Mr. VISHAL JAISWAL**  
**Apprentice Leader,**  
**MuSigma Inc.**

“I wanted to give back by guiding students with potential but who lack access to the right resources or direction. Having benefited from mentors myself, I know how transformative the right guidance can be. Seeing my mentee’s perseverance despite challenges reminded me of the power of focus and self-belief. The journey was about more than sharing knowledge, it was about helping them overcome doubt and make confident decisions. Watching my mentee grow and move closer to her goals was deeply rewarding.

Mentoring has made me a better listener and communicator, while reinforcing the value of lifelong learning. Every interaction brings new perspectives. If you have knowledge and experience to share, mentoring is one of the most meaningful ways to give back, and grow in the process!”

### MENTEE TESTIMONIAL



**Mentee:**  
**KOMAL YADAV**  
**4th Year,**  
**Computer Science**  
**and Engineering,**  
**NIT Kurukshetra**

“Being part of this program was a truly enriching experience. Interacting with Mr. Vishal Jaiswal was always inspiring—his approachable nature created a space where I could openly discuss doubts and challenges. His real-life examples and practical insights made each session valuable and relatable.

One of my biggest takeaways was learning how to manage stress and make better decisions under pressure. The etiquette module, in particular, helped me enhance my communication and presentation skills—skills I’ve already started applying in interviews and group discussions.

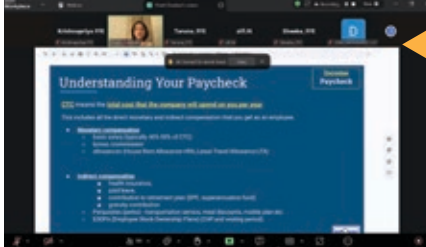
This program offers the kind of industry-relevant knowledge and personal mentorship you rarely find in classrooms. I’m deeply grateful to Vishal Sir for his guidance and encouragement throughout this journey.”

## E. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### 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.

**Technical series by SAP:** As part of a series of technical sessions planned by SAP starting June 2025, the first two sessions were held in June covering – Agile and Basics, Software Craftsman/Coding Principles.



*250+ scholars explore JAVA program in SAP's ongoing Technical series.*

In this quarter, six more technical sessions were held on topics enrolling around 300 scholars per session

- Pair programming by **Mr. Panneer Selvam**, Corporate Learning Expert at SAP Labs India Pvt. Ltd. on 11th July 2025
- Quality Principles by **Mr. Saurabh Bhalla**, Project Expert, SAP Labs India Pvt. Ltd. on 25th July 2025
- Test Cases by **Ms. Shruthi Antapnal**, Program Manager at SAP Labs India Pvt. Ltd. on 8th August 2025
- Test Driven Development by **Mr. Madhusudan Sahu**, Engineering Manager at SAP Labs India Pvt. Ltd. on 29th August 2025
- JAVA Program by **Mr. Panneer Selvam**, Corporate Learning Expert at SAP Labs India Pvt. Ltd. on 12th Sept. 2025
- UX Design by **Ms. Jeena Philip**, UX Design Specialist, SAP Labs India Pvt Ltd on 26th Sept., 2025

### LinkedIn AI Coaches Event – Empowering Scholars with AI for Career Growth:

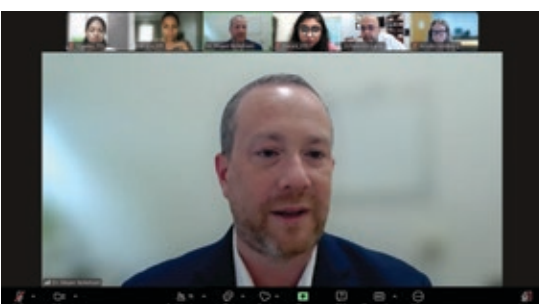


*51 scholars at LinkedIn AI Coaches event at LinkedIn Office, Bengaluru.*

FFE partnered with LinkedIn to host the LinkedIn AI Coaches Event in Bengaluru, coinciding with LinkedIn's Company Kickoff, AI Coaches launch, and the 10th anniversary of LinkedIn coaches. **51** Bangalore-based FFE scholars (3rd & 4th year, Engineering students) attended, gaining

practical strategies for AI-powered job search, networking, and interviews, along with 50-minute 1:1 mentoring sessions and LinkedIn Premium subscriptions. The event was inaugurated by **Mr. Kumaresh Pattabiraman, Country Manager**, LinkedIn India, who shared insights on AI's impact on future careers.

### Medical Webinar :



*The Stress First Aid (H.E.A.R.T.) session*

The Stress First Aid (H.E.A.R.T.) session was held on **6th August 2025**. Conducted by **Dr. Manish Sapra**, MD, Executive Director, and **Dr. Mayer Bellehsen**, Assistant Vice President, Behavioral Health Service Line, Northwell Health.

This 75-minute program engaged 100 MBBS scholars across all years, focusing on leadership development, self-care, and peer support strategies to manage stress effectively.

Northwell Health, New York's largest health system, operates 28 hospitals with over 100,000 employees, including 6,000+ doctors and 2,000 residents. Its behavioral health services include two specialty psychiatry hospitals, 600+ inpatient psychiatric beds, 650,000+ outpatient visits annually, and five psychiatry residency programs.

### TiE Entrepreneurial program:

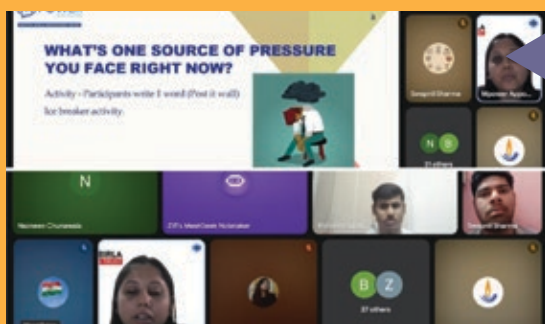
The **8-week TiE Entrepreneurship Course**, led by **Prof. Raj Jaswa** (Silicon Valley technology entrepreneur; founder of Ddyno, Opti, and Selectica), was launched for **3rd, 4th, and final-year engineering scholars**. The program focuses on **startup mindset** and skills including idea generation, customer validation, agile product development, and financial modeling. Scholars also work on an **AI-driven final project** ("build an AI agent") using tools like **ChatGPT** and **AI agents**.



*AI performance tracking session in TiE Entrepreneurship course attended by 150+ students*

The program began with an orientation on **11th August 2025**, followed by the **first session on 23rd August 2025** with **150+ participants**, and will run until **October 2025**

### Focus Group series for Mental Health and Wellness by Mpower Minds



*51 scholars at LinkedIn AI Coaches event at LinkedIn Office, Bengaluru.*

FFE launched a new Focus Group Series in collaboration with Mpower, facilitated by Psychologist **Ms. Payel Chakraborty**. The first session, held on 21st August 2025 on "Self-Esteem", was highly interactive and recorded 100% scholar attendance. The second session, conducted on 25th September 2025 on "Coping with Peer &

Parental Pressure", also witnessed strong participation. Both sessions provided students with valuable insights to navigate personal and academic challenges.

### Systems thinking by Rishihood University:



*Systems thinking Orientation by Dr Aditya, attended by 120+ scholars*

The Systems Thinking - Global Leadership Program, organized in collaboration with Rishihood University was launched with an orientation attended by **140** scholars. In total, **168** engineering students are part of this 13-week program, from September to December 2025. Designed to broaden perspectives and strengthen problem-solving and leadership skills through the lens of systems

thinking, the program offers scholars valuable exposure to new ideas that will support both their academic journey and professional growth. insights to navigate personal and academic challenges.

## Financial Literacy Session:



*Financial literacy session by Preeti Chauhan, attended by 245 scholars*

On 17th September, the Financial Literacy Webinar Series kicked off with an engaging session on Personal Finance Management, led by **Ms. Preeti Chauhan**, Founder of mPower Girls India. Attended by over **245** scholars, the session marked a strong start to equipping our scholars with essential life and financial management

skills beyond academics. Ms. Chauhan shared relatable examples, practical tips, and real-life scenarios that sparked thoughtful questions and reflections, making the session highly impactful to navigate personal and academic challenges.

## Zscaler Cyber Academy – Empowering Scholars with Cybersecurity Skills:



*50+ scholars attend the 3 day in person training as part of Zscaler cyber Academy.*

FFE scholars recently participated in the **Zscaler Cyber Academy**, a comprehensive training program designed to build industry-ready cybersecurity skills. A total of **95** students took part, with **51** attending the in-person training in Bengaluru (21–23 July) and **28** completing the

online sessions (5–7 August). The program included self-paced learning modules, intensive hands-on training, and access to the upcoming Zscaler Digital Transformation Administrator certification exam.

The second batch of the Zscaler Cyber Academy began their training program on 1st September 2025; 3rd **71** students in the 3rd and final-year of Engineering from Hyderabad and Chennai, participated (41 from Hyderabad and 30 from Chennai). The in-person

## Aspire Leadership Program



*Aspire Leadership Program: building globally aware, socially responsible leaders among FFE scholars across India.*

The Aspire Leaders Program, a fully funded Harvard faculty-led initiative, equips FFE scholars across all disciplines with leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills through live sessions, peer learning, and mentorship.

Cohort 3 (April–July 2025) had **100** participants & Cohort 4 (August–October 2025) had **130** scholars. The program continues FFE's mission to develop globally aware and socially responsible leaders.



## 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, FFE's partnerships with companies including **Wabtec, NetApp, Zscaler, Thomson Reuters, 3M India, Lenovo, Akamai and Amazon** have enabled scholars to thrive as interns and entry-level professionals, gaining critical hands-on experience.

**International Internships:** During June- August 2025, three third-year FFE engineering scholars were selected for a prestigious, fully funded, three-month research internship at **Carnegie Mellon University**, Pittsburgh, USA. We thank CMU's faculty and professors for providing guidance and mentoring these students during their internship projects. Travel and related costs for these internships were supported by FFE's donors.

Watch Sreelakshmi Eluri share her experience:

<https://youtu.be/fBqdkbh07U4>

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.

### Testimonial from CMU Intern:



I'm **Nivedhika Rakkimuthu**, pursuing my final year of B.E. in Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering at Government College of Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

My internship at Carnegie Mellon University was a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that opened international doors for me. I worked on the XR Care project, developing a Unity-based mobile app and a web interface for remote assistance using XR. This experience helped me strengthen my technical, research, and problem-solving skills, while working alongside supportive and inspiring mentors.

I'm deeply grateful to the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) for making this incredible opportunity possible and it has been a transformative experience that has shaped my academic growth and future career.

## G. ALUMNI



**Sindhu M,  
Engineer, Sweco India,  
BTech, Government College of Technology,  
Coimbatore (2021), Alumnus Donor**

Hailing from Bharathi Nagar, a small farming village in Salem, Tamil Nadu, Sindhu M has journeyed from humble beginnings to becoming a successful engineer — and now, a proud donor giving back through FFE's ASP program.

A graduate of the Government College of Technology, Coimbatore, Sindhu's college years were marked by dedication both inside and outside the classroom. A basketball player and an active member of the Y's Youth International Club, she honed her leadership and teamwork skills early on.

Coming from a farming family, financial challenges made her academic journey difficult. But a timely FFE scholarship turned things around. With the support of her facilitator, and the confidence-building Upskill program, Sindhu overcame her initial struggles with English and communication.

"FFE taught me that making mistakes is part of learning, and growth follows perseverance," she shares.

Sindhu began her career at Conserve Solutions, later worked with WSP, and is now an Engineer at Sweco India (Sweco is Europe's leading architecture and Engineering consultancy) with four years of professional experience. Inspired by the support she once received, she now contributes as an ASP donor (ASP: Adopt a Scholar Program), continuing the cycle of empowerment. Sindhu's contribution enables a full, annual scholarship to be awarded to her student under the ASP Program.

"Though my contributions are modest, I'm proud to give back. A small act of giving can have a huge impact on someone's life."



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