FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE
Nurturing Brilliance ★ Transforming Generations

inFocus

"Education is the key that unlocks the golden door to freedom."
George Washington Carver

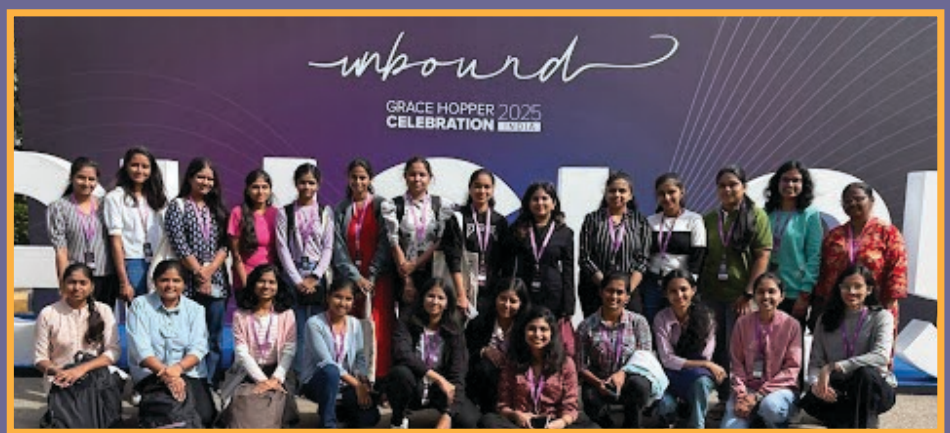
Oct-Dec 2025

FFE scholars at NetApp Scholars' Day Pg 10

Opening Doors to Aerospace Innovation Pg 12

FFE and RIST Announce Rural Healthcare Initiative Pg 11

NY25 Fundraiser: Pg 4



Female scholars at GHCI conference, KTPO, Bengaluru and FFE staff at GHCI 2025. Pg 17

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

Dear Friends,

As we welcome 2026 and pause to reflect on all that was possible—and achieved—in 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude for each one of you. Our donors, alumni, volunteers, and partners came together in extraordinary ways to make this past year enriching and meaningful for our FFE scholars. This collective effort is especially powerful given the turbulence, uncertainty, and rapid change that continue to shape our world.

This quarterly edition of the newsletter highlights what becomes possible when collaboration, commitment, and shared purpose come together to create new and exciting pathways for learning, skilling, internships, and employment. At FFE, our support for students is holistic. Alongside academic and career-focused initiatives, we continue to invest in emotional well-being, leadership development, and entrepreneurship, among other initiatives—strengthened by a robust and thoughtfully curated mentoring program, which you will read more about in these pages.

FFE believes that when talented young people are given access and opportunity, they excel. Our scholars' successful transition into meaningful employment upon graduation stands as powerful evidence of this belief. Equally inspiring are our alumni across the globe, who continue to 'pay forward'—as mentors, volunteers, facilitators, donors, and passionate ambassadors of FFE. By rallying their personal and professional networks, they truly embody the "Circle of Giving." We are immensely proud of our alumni change-makers.

It has also been heartening to see donors and students connect — virtually and in person — making personal engagement a priority. These moments of connection have left a lasting impression on everyone involved, reinforcing the shared humanity at the heart of our work.

On behalf of FFE, I thank you for shining a light on our scholars through your generosity of spirit, financial support, and invaluable time. Because of you, our journey with our scholars continues—with excitement, possibility, and hope. Today, more than ever, I believe in the unique strengths that FFE brings to bright, motivated young students. Our efforts to nurture them into leaders who act with integrity, empathy, and focus is both a responsibility and a privilege.

Wishing you and your loved ones a new year filled with hope—and with opportunities to give our very best to all that we do.

Happy New Year!

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

Dear FFE Community,

The last quarter of the calendar year is always a vibrant time filled with meetings, events, giving days, and months of celebration—and this year was no different, only better. The opportunity for in-person meetings with our partners, alumni, and scholars has instilled a unique level of energy and connection that virtual interactions simply cannot replicate. These face-to-face engagements—from corporate exposure visits at NetApp, Collins Aerospace, Synopsys, and Lam Research to meaningful donor-scholar interactions and skilling events—have deepened our bonds and reaffirmed the profound impact of our collective efforts.

Over the past few months, we have witnessed a heartening increase in interest from organizations eager to hire FFE scholars. This growing demand highlights how our grassroots approach is effectively addressing employability and inclusivity challenges. Through expanded skilling programs—reaching over 12,000 scholars annually with courses in communication, technical expertise like Generative AI & Machine Learning, leadership development, and wellness initiatives—we are bridging the gap between academia and industry.

Special emphasis on supporting girl students at the college level, including participation in events like the Grace Hopper Celebration India, ensures they gain the confidence, networks, and capabilities to thrive in competitive professional landscapes.

This quarter's highlights, including impactful mentorship feedback sessions, webinars on career readiness, and innovative programs like the TiE Entrepreneurship AI demos, underscore our commitment to holistic development. As we close this quarter and look forward to the new year, I extend my deepest gratitude to our donors, corporate partners, volunteers, alumni, and scholars for your support & commitment. Together, we continue to transform lives through education.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year filled with hope, prosperity, and continued success!

NY25 Fundraiser: An Unforgettable Evening at Bungalow

On **December 3, 2025**, the **Foundation For Excellence (FFE)** hosted its **NY25 Fundraiser** at Bungalow, the celebrated New York restaurant led by Michelin-starred **chef Vikas Khanna**. The evening was truly extraordinary—bringing together purpose, generosity, and community in an unforgettable setting.

A standout achievement of the night was the **100% attendance rate**: all **88 invited guests** joined in support of FFE's mission. Their collective generosity resulted in an outstanding **$425,000 raised for the FFE Scholarship Fund,** making the event one of the most successful New York fundraisers in the organization's history.

The emotional heart of the evening was a powerful address by **FFE Founder Prabhu Goel,** who shared his personal journey and reaffirmed his belief that education is the most transformative force for social change. His conviction—that financial hardship should never limit talent—resonated deeply and inspired a remarkable outpouring of support.
The donor community responded with exceptional momentum. Contributions from **Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) alumni in New York** played a pivotal role in the evening's success, alongside several transformative individual pledges of **$50,000, $25,000, and $10,000** or more. With nearly every guest contributing meaningfully, the night reflected a powerful alignment of shared values and purpose.

Beyond philanthropy, NY25 was also a celebration of hospitality. Guests enjoyed the warm ambiance and world-class cuisine of Bungalow, making the evening as memorable for its culinary excellence as for its impact.

This success was made possible by the dedication and leadership of the **FFE New York team.** Special recognition goes to **Darshan Bhatt, Anita Balaji, Shobhit Arora, and Hari Chenglath,** who organized such a grand and impactful event in an extraordinary span of just **40 days.**
With the momentum from NY25, FFE is now poised to reach a milestone of **$4.2 million raised this year**, bringing the organization ever closer to its goal of supporting thousands of bright, deserving students across India.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every guest, donor, volunteer, and supporter who made NY25 a night of inspiration and lasting impact. **Together, we are nurturing brilliance and transforming generations.**

A. DONOR FEATURE

Koyel Chatterjee,
Assistant Manager – HR & Admin
Tarasafe International Pvt. Ltd.

Empowering Future Innovators.

We in Tarasafe believe in the transformative power of education and its role in shaping a brighter future. Our commitment to "Maitri" (Tarasafe's CSR program) demonstrates our dedication to a more compassionate and humane approach to corporate social responsibility. We believe that by embracing the principles of friendship, compassion and goodwill, we can make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of those we touch. Through FFE we are nurturing these talents , fostering innovation and giving back to the community. Our vision for this initiative is to pave the way for the next generation of engineers and innovators and we not only aim to support the dreams of the students we also want them to be employment ready by providing mentorship and career development opportunities to sponsored students. It is truly inspiring for us to work with FFE, our partner for this drive who are committed its mission of helping economically underprivileged and academically bright students in India mission through their Scholarship Program . Together, we strive to ensure that every student not only completes their education but also steps confidently into a meaningful and self - reliant future.

B. VOICE OF SCHOLARS

Amit Verma
B.Tech, 4th Year, CSE,
Netaji Subhash University of Technology (NSUT), New Delhi

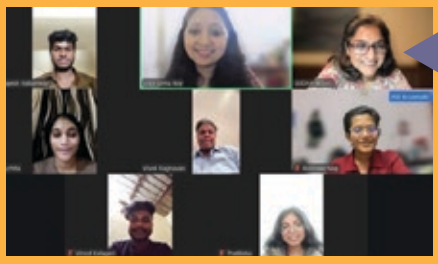
Amit Verma is a final-year B Tech student in Computer Science Engineering (Artificial Intelligence specialization) at Netaji Subhash University of Technology (NSUT), New Delhi. His journey from Burhanpur, a small town in Azamgarh district, Uttar Pradesh, has been anything but ordinary. Coming from a financially vulnerable background, Amit faced his greatest challenge in 2022 when he lost his father. With his mother, a homemaker, as the family's sole caregiver and limited household income, the dream of completing higher education appeared nearly impossible without external support.

The FFE-GlobalLogic scholarship became a turning point in Amit's life, offering far more than financial relief. In his own words, "the assistance I received through this program greatly eased my academic journey and motivated me to pursue excellence in all aspects of college life." While the scholarship lifted the burden of tuition fees and educational expenses, allowing Amit to focus entirely on his studies, it was the program's holistic approach that truly transformed his trajectory. FFE's comprehensive skill development initiatives equipped Amit with the tools to become truly career-ready. Perhaps most transformative was the personalized mentorship program that provided Amit with tailored guidance throughout his academic journey. His mentor understood his unique challenges and aspirations, offering one-on-one support that helped him refine his technical skills and build the confidence to pursue ambitious opportunities. Reflecting on this experience, Amit notes, "The training and mentoring sessions organized by FFE have been particularly valuable. They provided me with important insights into preparing for interviews, improving my communication skills and building confidence for future career opportunities." Amit built strong technical foundations in programming and software development. He also worked on multiple projects using the MERN stack (MongoDB, Express, React, Node.js) and actively participated in workshops on deep learning and several hackathons, strengthening his practical exposure.

Today, Amit stands at the threshold of his dream career. He has secured an internship at Leena AI, a performance-based pre-placement opportunity that represents a significant milestone in his professional journey. Driven by his passion for technology and innovation, Amit aspires to become a software engineer who builds impactful solutions for real-world problems. He also hopes to give back to society by supporting students from economically weaker backgrounds, just as he has been supported. He expresses deep gratitude to FFE and GlobalLogic for believing in him and empowering him to pursue his dreams with confidence and dignity.

C. DONOR-SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENTS

Donor–Scholar Interaction: Sharing Progress and Future Aspirations with Dr. Sudha Kidao and Dr. Vivek Raghavan I 7th October, 2025

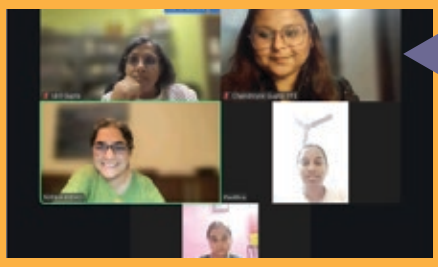


Scholars and donors engaged in meaningful dialogue during the annual interaction session

On **7th October, 2025**, FFE hosted the annual donor–scholar interaction with scholars supported by **Dr. Sudha Kidao** and **Dr. Vivek Raghavan**. Fourth-year students from Law, B.Pharm, and MBBS shared updates on their internships, research work, and academic progress. The donors offered valuable insights, guidance, and thoughtful responses to scholars' queries.

It was heartening to see the scholars' clarity and confidence about their future paths. They also expressed deep appreciation for the mentorship program, highlighting its positive impact on their communication skills and professional growth.

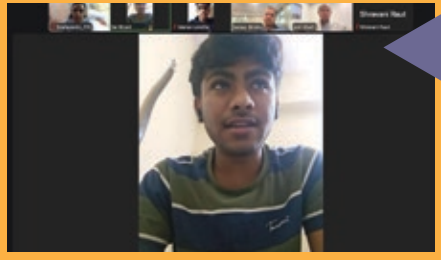
Donor–Scholar Virtual Meet with Dr. Brij Seth I 4th November, 2025



Dr. Brij Seth interacting with FFE scholars during the Annual Donor–Scholar Virtual Meet.

FFE hosted its Annual Donor–Scholar Virtual Meet on **November 4, 2025,** bringing together **Dr. Brij Seth**, four sponsored scholars, and one alumnus. Dr. Seth shared his inspiring professional journey, from leading Advanced Power Generation Materials at Westinghouse Electric Corporation to senior executive roles at Siemens. A distinguished technologist, he has authored over 50 technical papers, holds 25 patents, and is a Fellow of the American Society of Metals, as well as a recipient of the William Hunt Eisenman Award.
Dr. Seth has established permanent merit scholarship endowments at Foundation For Excellence through the Gehrilal and Manoharbai Seth Scholarship Program, in memory of his parents. Reflecting on his association with FFE since 2016–17, he expressed deep satisfaction in seeing scholars graduate and build meaningful careers. To date, six scholars have graduated and are employed with leading organizations, and one alumnus has begun giving back through FFE's Circle of Giving, completing a powerful cycle of impact. Dr. Seth encouraged scholars to fully leverage FFE's training programs, strive for excellence, and give back to society.

GOSUMEC donor–scholar interaction with Batch of 2024 I 19th November, 2025



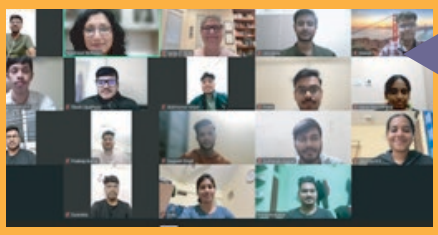
Moments from the GOSUMEC donor–scholar interaction, where GOSU–FFE scholars discussed peer-led initiatives to strengthen support for future cohorts

GOSUMEC (Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College) Foundation's Donor–Scholar interaction was held with **Dr. Sanjay Bindra and Dr. Anil Sheth,** joined by 16 GOSU–FFE scholars. Students shared their personal journeys, speaking openly about their family backgrounds, aspirations and academic milestones while expressing how the scholarship

has been a steady foundation enabling them to focus on their education with dignity and confidence. This interaction was special as it was GOSUMEC alumni engaging with scholars from their alma mater.

The dialogue also sparked new ideas for expanding student support, including a student-led, structured book-sharing initiative to reduce learning costs and a plan to guide future applicants through peer mentorship. The interaction closed on an energising note, with scholars looking forward to an in-person meet scheduled for 7th February, 2026 — a continued step toward building a stronger, more connected scholar community.

Donor–Scholar Virtual Meet with Mrs. Savita Sinha I 10th November, 2025

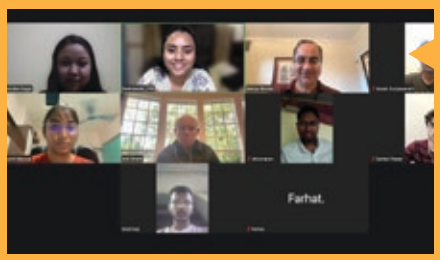


Mrs. Savita Sinha interacting with FFE scholars during the Donor–Scholar Virtual Meet.

FFE hosted its Annual Donor–Scholar Virtual Meet on November 10, 2025, with Mrs. Savita Sinha and the 18 Engineering and Medical scholars she supports. The scholars shared their personal journeys, reflecting on how changing family circumstances shaped their aspirations and inspired not only themselves but also their families, towns, and villages. Drawing from her experience in clinical research and academia, Mrs. Sinha encouraged the scholars to stay focused, persevere with determination, and always remember the importance of giving back to society. She shared that her association with Foundation For Excellence began with a simple yet powerful desire to give back, and expressed how deeply blessed she feels to be able to support students through education.

The interaction was a meaningful continuation of FFE's US Donor–Scholar engagements and was further strengthened by two major endowments—the Dr. P. D. Ojha Scholarship Program, established in memory of her father, and the Rajiv Sinha Scholarship Program, instituted in honor of her late husband. The session was heartfelt, inspiring, and deeply motivating for all scholars present.

GOSUMEC Donor Scholar Interaction with Batch of 2023 I 27th November, 2025

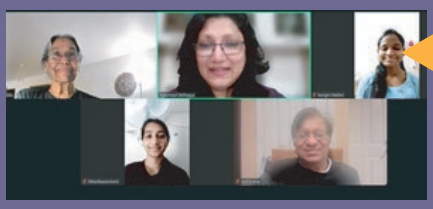


GOSU–FFE scholars engaging in meaningful dialogue with Dr. Sanjay Bindra and Dr. Anil Sheth

A GOSUMEC donor–scholar interaction was held on **27th November, 2025** with **Dr. Sanjay Bindra, Dr. Anil Sheth**, and five GOSU–FFE scholars from the 2023 batch. During the interaction, scholars shared insights into academic progress, while also reflecting on the meaningful impact of the scholarship on their education.

The discussion also explored additional ways in which GOSUMEC could further support scholars, and students were encouraged to guide the next batch of applicants through the FFE application process, fostering a spirit of peer mentorship. The interaction concluded with an announcement about the upcoming event scheduled for **7th February, 2026.**

Donor–Scholar Virtual Meet with Dr. Sita Amba-Rao I 7th December, 2025

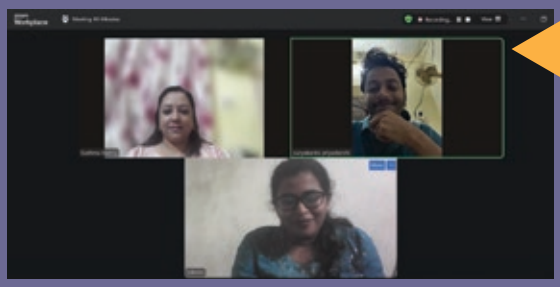


Dr. Sita Amba-Rao engaging with FFE scholars during the Donor–Scholar Virtual Meet.

FFE hosted a Donor–Scholar Virtual Meet on **December 7, 2025,** with Dr. Sita Amba-Rao and the two scholars she supports through the FFE–C.L. and Sita Amba-Rao Make a Difference Scholarship Program, initiated in 2023–24. Dr. Amba-Rao shared her inspiring journey spanning continents and disciplines—from her education in India to earning degrees in science and law, and completing a PhD in Industrial Relations at Purdue University.

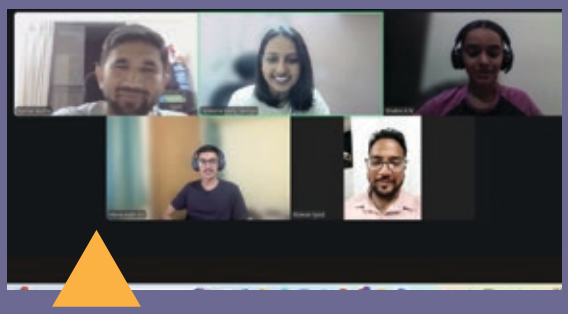
Her career includes teaching in the U.S., leadership roles at ISRO and Bharat Dynamics Limited, and years of mentoring students at Indiana University. She encouraged scholars to fully leverage FFE's training programs, strengthen soft skills and communication, and build emotional intelligence, adaptability, and time management. Her practical guidance offered valuable insights for both professional growth and personal well-being.

Strengthening Connections Through Alumni and Donor Engagement



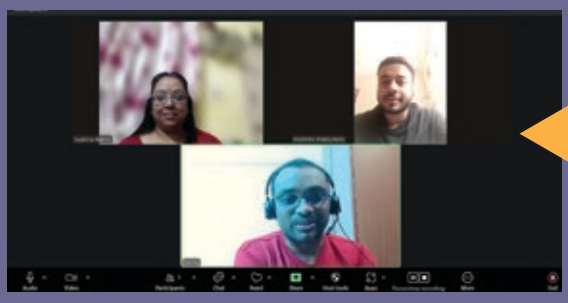
Donor Sibani Das with Engineering Scholar Suryakanta Priyadashi

Last quarter, the team facilitated 10 virtual meetings between FFE alumni, donor referred by them, and their adopted scholars. Alumni shared first-hand guidance on courses, resources, and placement opportunities, helping scholars gain clarity, confidence, and motivation while strengthening donor–scholar relationships.



Alumni Shalini A N and Manjunath Gopalakrishna with the team

As part of the Donor Referral Campaign – Fuel the Dreams, FFE also hosted our third alumni meet with professionals from Pega Systems, Adobe, Dell, and Cisco. Alumni shared insights on their organizations' matching grant programs, timelines, and processes, enabling FFE to better leverage these opportunities to amplify impact for scholars.



Alumni Referral Donor Prasanna Kumar Palanisamy with Medical Scholar Parthiv Panisurya

D. NEWS AND EVENTS

NetApp Webinar- Generative AI and Resume-LinkedIn profile review I 16th October, 2025

NetApp's virtual webinar with FFE scholars

On **16th October 2025**, FFE's long-term Donor partner, NetApp, hosted an insightful virtual webinar for its supported scholars, with a focus on Generative AI and Resume-LinkedIn profile.

NetApp's Curriculum Manager, **Mr. Pramod Prasad**, along with his team, conducted an engaging and practical training session on Generative AI. As part of NetApp's ongoing training and engagement initiatives, the webinar also served as a virtual mentoring platform. NetApp employees interacted closely with FFE-NetApp scholars, offering guidance on effectively leveraging Generative AI to build strong professional profiles, making them career ready.

FFE scholars at NetApp Scholars' Day I 28th October, 2025

FFE scholars at NetApp Scholars' Day

FFE scholars gain firsthand career insights from NetApp leaders during an engaging panel on industry skills growth, and future opportunities.

FFE scholars engaging with NetApp leaders to explore career pathways, emerging skills, and future opportunities

On **28th October, 2025**, NetApp hosted the NetApp Scholars' Day, an inspiring and enriching experience filled with learning, mentorship, and meaningful interactions for our FFE scholars.

The day commenced with a thought-provoking panel discussion moderated by FFE's CEO, **Mr. Ram Kolavennu** and with these esteemed panelists from NetApp.

- **Ms. Vasanthi Ramesh - VP, Engineering and Site Leader, NetApp India**
- **Ms. Shilpa Hiran - VP, Internal Audit, WIT Leader, NetApp India**
- **Ms. Anju Mohan - Senior Director, Enterprise Data and Analytics, AI/ML, NetApp**
- **Mr. Joseph Chinnaya - Director, Learning Tools & Technology, NetApp**

NetApp Leaders shared valuable insights on career growth and current industry skills and trends, offering scholars a deeper understanding of the professional landscape as they prepare to begin their careers in the technical fields.

This was followed by one-on-one mentoring sessions for FFE scholars where the NetApp employees volunteered their time to provide personalized guidance and career advice. In the afternoon, scholars participated in an interactive session with an FFE alumni currently working at NetApp and a current FFE scholar interning with NetApp. Their journeys and experiences served as an inspiration to the FFE scholars. The day concluded with a guided tour of the NetApp Data Center, giving scholars a learning opportunity to understand NetApp's advanced infrastructure and technology.

Law Students Masterclass on Resume Writing, Cover Letters, and the Application Process by VAHURA I 29th October, 2025.

Resume Writing and Application Masterclass conducted by FFE in partnership with VAHURA

A well-crafted resume is often the first step towards securing a valuable internship or interview. As part of our ongoing efforts to make our Law scholars career-ready, FFE in partnership with VAHURA conducted a 2-hour masterclass on Resume Writing, Cover Letters, and the Application Process for 3rd, 4th, and 5th year Law scholars on **29th October, 2025.**

The session was highly engaging and interactive, with concepts explained in a simple, practical, and relatable manner—helping scholars gain clear, actionable insights to strengthen their applications and prepare confidently for future opportunities.

FFE and RIST Announce Rural Healthcare Initiative – A New Direction for Impact I 15th November, 2025

FFE and RIST teams in discussion during their Delhi meet, exchanging insights and exploring future directions for the Rural Healthcare Scholarship Program

On **15th November, 2025**, Foundation For Excellence (FFE) and Rural India Supporting Trust (RIST) met in Delhi to advance a significant new collaboration—the FFE–RIST Rural Healthcare Bridging Program.

The meeting brought together leadership teams from both organisations to review early progress, discuss design elements and align on next steps, marking the beginning of a long-term effort to strengthen healthcare in India's rural regions.

This partnership reflects FFE's ongoing work to expand its impact beyond scholarships by aligning education support with a wider nation-building vision. The initiative focuses on a critical national challenge: although 65% of India's population lives in rural areas, only about 20% of doctors are available there, leaving many communities without timely medical care.

To address this gap, the program has two core components:

- **MBBS Scholarships for first-year medical students from rural, low-income households**
- **A Rural Fellowship Pilot that will support two batches of 25 FFE doctors to serve in rural health centres, with financial support, mentorship and PG-prep support**

The meeting with RIST's global team reinforced a shared commitment to ensure that student success also strengthen the communities they come from, by building a steady pool of doctors who are equipped and encouraged to work in rural India.

Opening Doors to Aerospace Innovation: FFE Scholars at Collins Aerospace I 18th November, 2025

FFE scholars during their corporate exposure visit to Collins Aerospace's Yelahanka campus

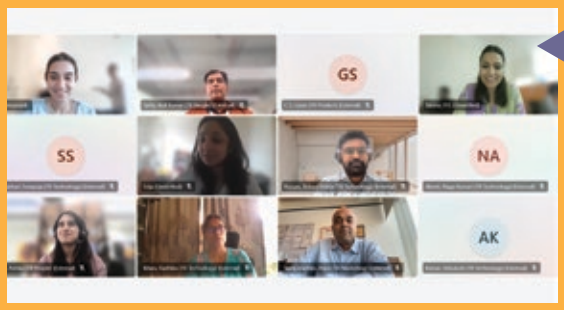
On **18th November**, Collins Aerospace hosted 34 FFE scholars at its Yelahanka, Bengaluru engineering campus for an engaging and inspiring corporate exposure visit

The students toured advanced engineering labs, interacted with passionate Collins volunteers, and attended insightful sessions led by **Mr. Savyasachi Srinivas** (Vice President), **Mr. Sasikumar Muthusamy** (Sr. Director), and **Mr. Amit Sawarkar** (Manager – CSR). A key highlight was the unique opportunity to experience pilot simulation training and explore various aircraft components, including engines, nacelles, and wipers.

The visit also included a Mentorship Mid-Cycle Feedback Session, featuring experiences shared by Collins mentor-mentee pairs (including virtual participation), and concluded with a dynamic Speed Mentoring segment, where mentors guided small groups of scholars on career pathways and professional development.

Currently, Collins Aerospace supports 100 FFE scholars through scholarships. The visit offered students not only a glimpse into the cutting-edge world of aerospace engineering but also inspiration to fuel their future careers.

E. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



Virtual Mid-Cycle Feedback session with Thomson Reuters Mentors | 6th November

FFE's Mentoring program is specially curated for its Engineering and Law scholars to enhance their career-relevant skills. The Mentoring program for Engineering students commenced in June 2025 and is expected to conclude in January 2026, where over **2400 Engineering mentees** have been paired with **Mentors** from over **59 Corporates**. Mentors include **40 Alumni** and **35 Individuals** from various corporates.

Hybrid Mid-Cycle Feedback Session with Lam Research mentors at their Bengaluru Office | 5th November

Last quarter, FFE conducted a series of mid-cycle feedback sessions with corporate partners, individual mentors, and alumni mentors to capture reflections on their mentoring experience. These interactions—held both virtually and in person—enabled FFE to gather candid inputs on program effectiveness, mentor engagement, scholar progress, and areas for continuous improvement.

Mid- mentoring feedback was gathered through virtual meetings with **H&M Services Pvt. Ltd., KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP, Dell Technologies, TransUnion CIBIL, Axtria India**

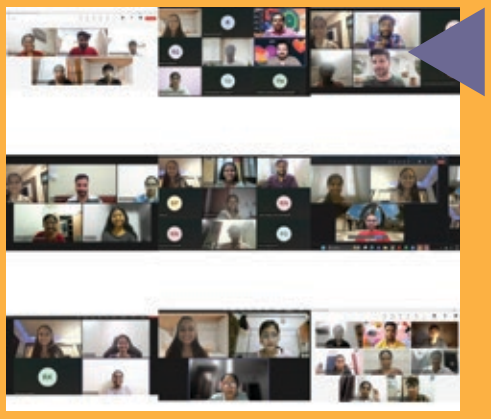
Pvt. Ltd., Broadridge Financial Solutions (India) Pvt. Ltd., Terrapay Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Akamai Technologies India Pvt. Ltd., Cyient Foundation, Danfoss India, S&P Global, Thomson Reuters, Cognizant Technology Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Microsoft, Wabtec India Industrial Pvt. Ltd., Alvarez & Marsal, NetApp, o9 Solutions Management India Pvt. Ltd., Zscaler Softech India Pvt. Ltd., and **Société Générale.** In-person feedback sessions were held with **Synopsys , Lam Research India Pvt. Ltd., Collins Aerospace** and **Google India** at the respective Bengaluru corporate offices.

Synopsys Mentoring–Scholar Visit | 5th November, 2025

FFE scholars in a mentoring and corporate exposure visit at the Synopsys office, Bengaluru

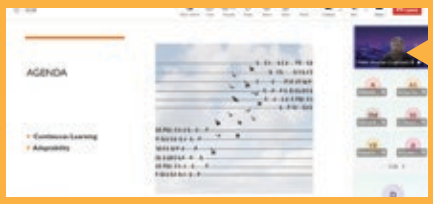
Synopsys hosted a mentoring and corporate exposure visit for **11, 3rd year** FFE Engineering scholars at Synopsys, Bengaluru. The visit aimed to provide industry exposure, gather mentorship mid-cycle feedback, and strengthen mentor-mentee connections through focused one-on-one speed mentoring sessions. During the session **Mr. Sriram Balasubramanium**, Executive Director – IPG, Synopsys, engaged with the scholars, sharing insights and guidance that resonated deeply with the group.

Microsoft Giving Month – Mock Interview Sessions | October, 2025



FFE scholars engaging in virtual mock interview sessions with Microsoft employee volunteers during Giving Month 2025.

FFE extends its heartfelt gratitude to **80 Microsoft** employee volunteers who dedicated their time to mentor over **200+,** fourth-year FFE's engineering scholars during Microsoft's "Giving Month Campaign 2025." In October, these volunteers conducted **110 virtual sessions** focused on Interview Preparation and Career Readiness skills, contributing over 100+ hours of guidance. The sessions offered students invaluable real-world insights, professional feedback, and practical tips to enhance their interview preparedness and career prospects. FFE deeply appreciates the unwavering commitment of Microsoft mentors in fostering positive change and empowering the next generation of engineering professionals.

Cognizant Mentoring Matters Webinar | 5th December, 2025

Cognizant's Mentoring Matters webinar on "Adaptability and Continuous Learning"

Under the "Mentoring Matters" series, FFE and Cognizant hosted a webinar on "Adaptability and Continuous Learning", attended by engineering scholars .
The session focused on embracing change, cultivating a growth mindset, leveraging emerging tools, and building resilience for future careers.

The session was led by **Mr. Bhushan Pawar,** Technology Architect at Cognizant, who shared insights from his 14+ years of experience in digital transformation, scalable systems, and AI-driven innovation, along with practical guidance for staying future-ready.

F. MENTOR-MENTEE TESTIMONIAL

MENTOR TESTIMONIAL

ANANYA DAS
Director, IT Service, Life Science
Capgemini

"This was my first-year mentoring with FFE, and it was an incredibly rewarding experience. Watching **Dipanshu** grow in confidence and self-expression was deeply fulfilling. The program design, combined with strong support from FFE and commitment from the mentee, made the journey impactful despite work pressures. I have grown professionally through this experience and look forward to participating again, while encouraging my colleagues to do the same."

MENTEE TESTIMONIAL

DIPANSHU KUMAR MISHRA
3rd Year, Electrical Engineering, NIT, Agartala

"The FFE mentorship program has been a truly transformative experience for me, both personally and professionally. Being mentored by **Ananya Das** Ma'am from Capgemini helped me develop clarity in decision-making, communication, time management, and problem-solving. The mock interviews and presentation sessions significantly boosted my confidence and preparedness for the corporate world. I am deeply grateful to FFE and my mentor for this enriching journey and encourage fellow scholars to make the most of this opportunity."

G. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

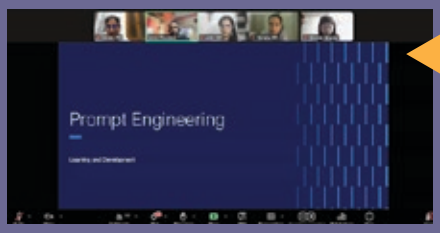
FFE's comprehensive skilling initiative continues to transform scholar readiness for the professional world by building strong communication, technical, and aspirational skills. What began in **2017** with just **two** courses has now grown into nearly **20** offerings, positively impacting over **12,000** scholars every year. This quarter, communication skills took center stage with multiple tailored English programs: **2,432** second-year scholars enrolled in the English Helper program supported by **Capgemini; 1,103** third-year scholars began advanced **Hi Touch English** training backed by **MSDF;** and **85** final-year scholars launched a placement-focused communication program supported by Lenovo. Adding to this momentum, FFE piloted a new Spoken English program with **Orbit Skilling** for third-year scholars, emphasizing real-life communication and confidence-building, set to begin in December.

On the technical and aspirational front, FFE bridged academia and industry through high-impact partnerships and leadership initiatives. A total of **136** scholars enrolled in **NPTEL courses**, with **101** earning certifications, while **420** scholars joined the **LearnTube** technical skilling program. In collaboration with **Microsoft, 1,600+** scholars were onboarded onto **19** Gen AI courses via a dedicated LMS, and over **2,100** third-year scholars began industry-relevant Coursera programs for FY25. Leadership and wellbeing were equally prioritized: **538** scholars participated in the "**Finding the Leader in You"** workshop, **2,005** engaged in wellness sessions, and **300+** scholars benefited from the **Harvard-led Aspire Leaders Program** across three cohorts. Complementing this, FFE and Mpower delivered impactful focus group sessions on self-esteem, digital wellbeing, and assertive communication facilitated by Psychologist **Payel Chakraborty**—ensuring scholars grow not only as professionals, but as confident, resilient individuals ready to lead in a competitive world.

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.

Dell session on Prompt Engineering: Practical Use Cases & Live Demo with Copilot, 30th October, 2025



Prompt Engineering session by Mr Rowald from Dell with 300+ participants

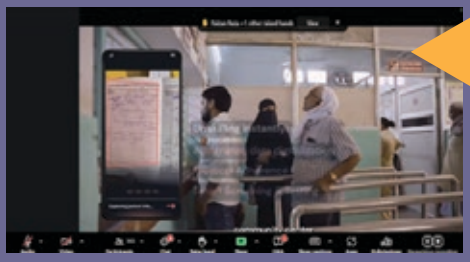
On **30th October,** FFE hosted an exciting and highly interactive session on "Prompt AI", led by **Jason Rowland Machado** Senior Advisor, Program Management – Dell Social Media.The session saw an impressive turnout, with **300+** scholars participating. **Jason** guided students through a series of engaging activities and quick exercises, giving them practical, hands-on experience in prompt engineering.

Microsoft AI Skills Series –October, 2025

Microsoft volunteers lead an engaging AI Skills Series for FFE scholars, with each session drawing 50+ participants

During Microsoft Giving Month in **October, Microsoft** employees volunteered their time to deliver sessions on the AI Skills Series for FFE engineering scholars. This four-part program, conducted as part of Microsoft Giving Month, saw strong engagement, with over 50 FFE scholars participating in each session, highlighting keen interest in emerging AI technologies. The series provided hands-on exposure to AI tools, agentic systems, and responsible AI practices, making it a highly valuable upskilling opportunity for the scholars.

Medical Webinar, 5th October, 2025:



Mr. Ankit Modi presenting "AI's Role in Modern Medicine" to 358 participating scholars

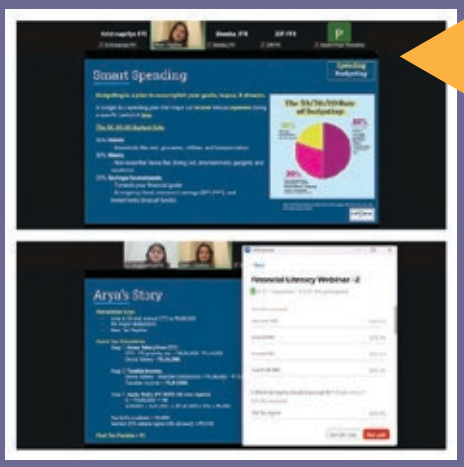
On October 5th, FFE hosted an insightful webinar titled "From Algorithms to Outcomes: AI's Role in Modern Medicine" with **Mr. Ankit Modi**, Founding Member and Chief Product Officer at Qure.ai. Around 358 scholars participated in the session which highlighted how AI is transforming healthcare, enhancing diagnosis, improving treatment, and expanding access to care.

FFE at Google Giving Month

FFE team sharing FFE's work during Google's Giving Month

This **November,** FFE had the opportunity to participate in Google's Giving Month, where FFE shared an overview of our programs and their impact. The event helped raise awareness among Googlers about FFE's mission and the transformative role of our initiatives. A special highlight was meeting two of FFE's 2019 alumni, now working at Google, who spoke warmly about their journeys and the positive influence of the FFE mentoring program. Their stories were truly heartwarming and reaffirmed the long-term impact of FFE's work.

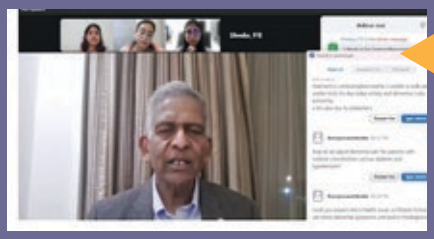
Financial Literacy Session, 20th November, 2025



Financial literacy second session by Preeti Chauhan, attended by **100+** *scholars*

FFE successfully conducted the second session of its ongoing Financial Literacy Webinar Series 25-26, covering income management, smart spending, savings and investments, insurance, and debt management. Led by personal finance expert **Ms. Preeti Chauhan**, the session saw active participation from over **150** scholars across disciplines, with practical insights and an engaging Q&A that simplified key financial concepts.

Medical Webinar, 27th November, 2025



Dr. Yogesh Shah guides 200+ MBBS students on Early Detection of Alzheimer's Dementia

On **27th November**, FFE hosted an engaging session on "From Forgetfulness to Hope: Early Detection of Alzheimer's Dementia" with **Dr. Yogesh Shah MD, MPH, FAAFM–** Medical Director, Broadlawns Memory Clinic-USA. With nearly **200+** Medical scholars attending, the session covered topics from early detection, prevention, and lifestyle interventions, inspiring students to contribute to future advancements in geriatric care.

QMed Literature Searching Program

QMed Program orientation held on 3rd December, 2025 with more than 150+ medical students participating

Post orientation, **98** Medical scholars onboarded the one year program in December 2025. The QMed Program offers skills for online searching in the medical and allied health domain. It strengthens research capabilities through structured training in literature searching, referencing, and reference management. This is the third year of medical students participating in the Qmed program.

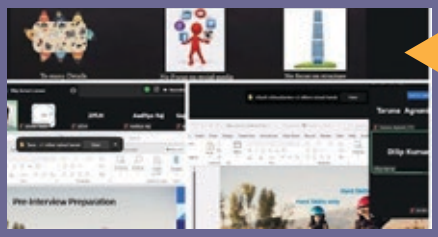
Grace Hopper Celebration by AnitaB.org Dec 2nd - 4th December, 2025 (GHCI 2025)

Female scholars at GHCI conference, KTPO, Bengaluru and FFE staff at GHCI 2025

The Grace Hopper Celebration India (GHCI) 2025 was held from **2nd - 4th December, 2025** at the KTPO, Bengaluru. This event brought together women technologists to foster diversity, innovation, and collaboration in technology. Organized by AnitaB.org India, the conference had powerful keynotes, engaging masterclasses, and thought-provoking discussions around AI, leadership, and the future of entrepreneurship.

40 women FFE engineering scholars participated in the workshops held at the venue, while 500+ women FFE engineeringscholars opted for the virtual format, ensuring wide accessibility. FFE also hosted a two-day booth at the event, showcasing initiatives under the AFE–FFE program (Amazon Future Engineers Program), raising awareness about FFE's scholarship offerings, and connecting with corporate partners for mentorship collaborations, supported by our donor partner, Amazon.

SAP Learning Series Concludes Successfully



250+ scholars explore SAP Technical series.

FFE successfully delivered the SAP Learning Series, comprising 8 technical sessions and 3 career readiness sessions (during the current quarter), beginning in **June 2025.**

Across all 11 sessions, scholars received valuable career and technical training designed to enhance employability, industry readiness, and practical software skills.

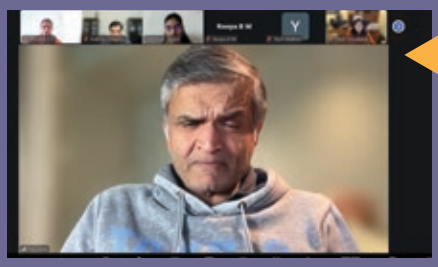
Career Readiness Series (3 Sessions)

Session 1 on 10th October 2025: Interview Preparedness – Mr. Dilip Kantharaj, Talent Discovery Partner, SAP Labs India

Session 2 on 7th November 2025: Soft Skills for Workplace Success – Mr. Dilip Kantharaj, Talent Discovery Partner, SAP Labs India

Session 3 on 14th November 2025: Resume Building – Ms. Aishita Singhal, Senior Talent Discovery Partner, SAP Labs India

AI Agent Demo Sessions – TiE Entrepreneurship Program



Innovation in action- scholars presenting their AI agent projects

FFE successfully concluded the 8-week TiE Entrepreneurship Program with AI Agent Demo Sessions held on **6, 7, 13, and 14 December**. During the finale**, 37** engineering scholars showcased innovative AI solutions addressing real-world challenges—from wellness advisors and climate-risk assessors to storytelling and travel-planning agents—highlighting strong creativity, technical skills, and entrepreneurial thinking.

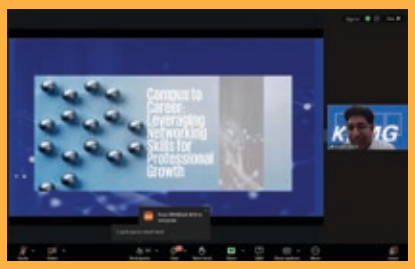
Prof. Raj Jaswa, Mr. Aubrey Aloysius, Mr. Vijay Anand, and **Ms. Dipti Srivastava,** participated as panelists and shared their insights and feedback to students on their startup ideas.

Focus Group series by Mpower:

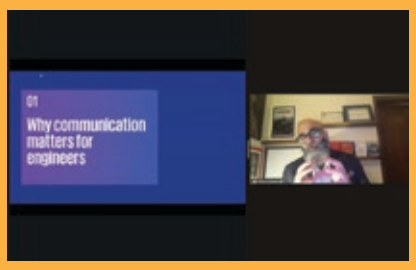
Session on Assertive Communication and boundaries by Mpower

FFE launched a new Focus Group Series in collaboration with Mpower, facilitated by psychologist **Payel Chakraborty**. During FY 25–26, four interactive sessions were conducted on **Self-Esteem** (August), **Peer & Parental Pressure** (September), **Digital Wellbeing** (October), and **Assertive Communication & Boundaries** (November). The series saw strong participation and provided valuable guidance on emotional wellbeing and personal growth.

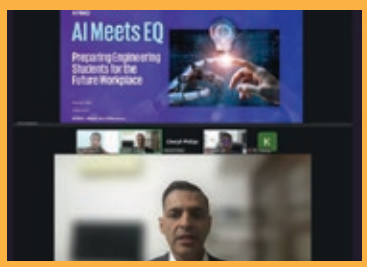
KPMG in India - FFE Learning Series: Three High-Impact Sessions Concluded



Scholars learning how to build meaningful professional networks and navigate the transition from campus to career



An interactive session focused on strengthening communication and presentation skills essential for workplace success



Scholars exploring the balance between emotional intelligence and emerging technologies in the future workplace

In **December 2025**, FFE successfully concluded a three-part learning series held on December **9th, 11th, and 12th,** featuring senior leaders from KPMG in India who shared valuable insights with FFE scholars on career readiness and workplace skills.

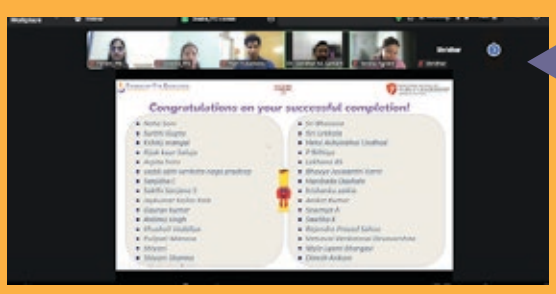
Session 1: From Campus to Career: Leveraging Networking Skills for Professional Growth
Led by **Mr. Kurush Dordi,** Head of Talent Strategy - Tax, Deal Advisory & Corporate Functions, KPMG in India, this session focused on the importance of building strong professional networks and navigating career transitions effectively.

Session 2: Communicating with Impact: Why Engineers Need Strong Communication and Presentation Skills delivered by **Mr. Rohin Nadir,** Chief Learning Officer, KPMG in India, the session offered practical strategies to enhance communication and presentation skills essential for professional success.

Session 3: **AI Meets EQ: Preparing for the Future Workplace**
Conducted by **Mr. Sushant Rabra**, Partner – Digital Solutions – Strategy & Insights, KPMG in India, this session highlighted the balance between emotional intelligence and emerging technologies in the evolving workplace.

Each session witnessed strong engagement, with over 250 scholars participating across the series, making it a highly impactful initiative in strengthening career readiness and professional capabilities among FFE scholars."

Closure session for Global Leadership program on 13th December, 2025



On **13th December**, FFE concluded its 12-week Global Leadership Program with a reflective closure session. Scholars shared key learnings in systems thinking and sustainable problem-solving, guided by insights from **Mr. Aditya Trivedi, Director & Dr. Shridhar M. Samant**, Assistant Professor - Rashtram School of

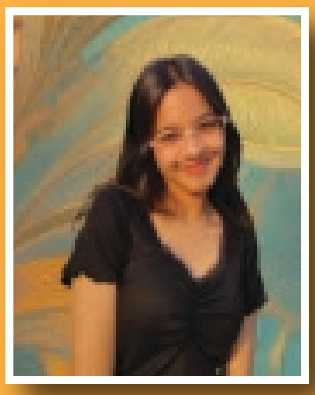
H. SKILLING TESTIMONIALS

Aspire Leadership Program

I am an enthusiastic learner, passionate about web development, data analytics, and AI. Participating in the Aspire Leaders Program helped me strengthen my skills in leadership, communication, emotional intelligence, and global collaboration. The program encouraged me to practice goal-setting, self-reflection, and team leadership, while interactions with international peers broadened my perspective. One of my best experiences was attending master classes by global experts and engaging in insightful discussions that truly enriched my learning journey.

Soumya Kanti Upadhyay
2nd Year, Computer Science & Engineering,
Jalpaiguri Government Engineering College, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

TiE Entrepreneurship Program



Pragya Jain
4th Year, Information Technology,
College of Technology, Pantnagar

Participating in the TiE Entrepreneurship Program 2025 was a truly enriching experience, transforming my journey from not knowing where to begin to understanding the finer details of building a startup. Sessions by Prof. Raj Jaswa and guest speakers offered valuable real-world perspectives.

One highlight was discovering Eleven Labs, where I built my own AI agent to solve a personal problem, an exciting hands-on experience that taught me how imagination drives innovation. I also loved the Umbrella Man story, which showed how even small ideas can create real impact.

I. ALUMNUS

Dr. Somedeb Ball, MD,
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, USA
Burdwan Medical College, Burdwan,
West Bengal, India.
Year of Gradutaion: 2009
ASP Donor

Born in Bethuadahari village in the Nadia district of West Bengal, Dr. Somedeb Ball grew up in a lower middle-class family where financial constraints were a constant reality, but the importance of education was never in question. His father ran a small shop selling bags, and his mother, a homemaker, was a steady source of motivation. “My parents always told me to dream big, work hard, and remain humble,” he shares.

Somedeb’s academic journey was marked by consistent excellence. He secured first rank in the entrance examination to Bethuadahari J.C.M. High School and went on to stand first in his class in every annual examination from kindergarten through Class 12. Drawn by a deep desire to serve society, he chose medicine and earned admission to MBBS at Burdwan Medical College (2004–2009). While this was a proud moment for the family, the cost of medical education posed a serious challenge. “With my father’s small business as our only income, we knew it would be difficult. We even explored bank loans to manage the expenses,” he recalls.

Hope arrived through Foundation For Excellence, which he learned about through a local facilitator. Being awarded the FFE scholarship transformed his journey. “FFE gave me the freedom to focus completely on my studies without the constant stress of finances.” Encouraged by FFE’s academic monitoring and mentorship, Somedeb consistently ranked among the top five students throughout medical school.

Eager to deepen his expertise, he qualified in the All India Post Graduate Medical Entrance Examination and pursued Internal Medicine at Medical College Kolkata. During this period, caring for patients with blood cancers and engaging in research ignited his passion for Hematology and Oncology. Exposure to research opportunities during rotations in the United States further shaped his aspirations.

After clearing all steps of the USMLE, Somedeb moved to the U.S., completing his residency at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and a prestigious fellowship at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center. His work led to multiple national and international research presentations and a $50,000 grant to advance care for acute myeloid leukemia.

Today, as an Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Ball reflects with gratitude: “FFE is one of the most significant contributors to my success.” Now an ASP Donor, he supports an MBBS student from West Bengal, proudly completing FFE’s Circle of Giving and paying forward the support that once shaped his own dreams.

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