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EDITION 197



VisionUVCE
Rejig to Reform

Sampada

Your window to UVCE

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HOSTEL OLD BLOCK HAND
OVER TO COLLEGE

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3 More Editions For 200
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EDITORIAL

This Editorial is being written as we are prepping for “UVCE Parva” - Felicitation programme for our esteemed alumnus, Shatavadhani Dr Ganesh on being conferred the Padma Bhushan Award recently. You will read all about it in the next edition. Some of you would have attended the event and we are sure will have some thoughts to share. That’s for 198th edition But, what about the 200th edition? We want to make it special and need all the support and help from your end.

Do you have some rare photographs that you would like to share with the readers? How about writing a “Memory Down The Lane” article about the college days? Would you like us to interview someone from your batch and publish in the Special edition? Do you have any interesting trivia about UVCE that each and every UVCEian should know about? Or how about your thoughts and feedback about Sampada’s journey through these 16 years? Well, please share it with us and we would love to publish it. Write to us at sampada@uvcega.org

Lets get back to the current edition in hand... You can see the photos of the new Mechanical Block that is under construction. As per the sources, the ground, first and second floors will be handed over shortly (once the Electrical works are completed) and the interiors and lab furnishings have to be taken up by the college post that. Hoping it will happen soon

You will read about the Hostel Renovation saga and the Hand Over ceremony to the college authorities in detail. It was definitely a nostalgic moment to all the alumni who had gathered on the day. It was at this very place they shaped their personality, got ready for facing the real world and built a career. It is understandable about the emotional bonding with the place. We are very proud about the successful completion of this project, in a efficient manner with quality standards being addressed. It is definitely not about the amount spent, but the efforts and intent behind it that we wish to highlight and promote among the alumni community. You can also read about updates from IEEE & MARVEL along with Interview series from the Entrepreneurship Cell UVCE. We are also glad to be reproducing an Hindustan Times newspaper article from Roopa Pai (our own alumni) which highlights the legacy of FKCCI and how Uma Reddy (again, our alumni) is making an impact as the first woman President.



The water filter at the college campus had a different story of neglected maintenance. Luckily, it was brought to the notice of UVCEGA in the right time, before it could cause any serious health hazard. The necessary repairs/maintenance routine was carried out and the facility opened for use. The timely maintenance also extended the lifespan and efficiency of the campus infrastructure, reflecting UVCEGA's commitment to practical, high impact support.

By prioritizing essential amenities, the association reinforces its role in sustaining student well-being and promoting a healthier campus environment. This initiative exemplifies how alumni engagement directly benefits current students and complements ongoing institutional efforts to maintain robust campus facilities.

We are also glad to know that few of the alumni from 1961 batch met on 20th May 2026 at MTR 1924, JP Nagar. The occasion was BN Jagannath who is in USA was visiting Bengaluru. So, BN Jagannath, PR Sadasiva, MA Chowdappa, N Rajagopala Gupta met and had a great time. Thanks to Sadashiva sir for sharing this info with us. He also proudly mentioned that BN Jagannath has written 4 books which are published by American Society of Materials. These are the kind of stories and news that encourages us to publish Sampada.



- Team Sampada

MECH BLOCK CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS



*** All photos taken by Sampada Team only. We had taken necessary permissions to click these from the authorities. Dated 6th June 2026**

HOSTEL RENOVATION - THE JOURNEY

Seeing is believing. This is how the UVCE Boys Hostel (Old Block) renovation story started. There were talks of it's poor condition often, but I never imagined it's gravity until I happened to visit the hostel one day. The mouldy & leaking ceiling, peeling paint and bedbugs infested everywhere - the building was crying out for renovation. Spoke to a few of my batchmates and the decision to make the beginning was made.

We decided to tackle the leaking ceiling first, because that was the main culprit. Climbing on to the roof was also a herculean task as there was no steps provided for that. We erected temporary contraption and climbed onto the roof to assess the damage. The condition was very bad and all due to years of poor maintenance.

We brought in experts in old building renovation and with their advice drew a plan and budget for the roof renovation. My 1984 batch voluntarily agreed to sponsor the project, especially Sampath Kumar Rai of 1984 EEE, a renowned paint and chemicals manufacturer, agreeing to provide all the chemicals and paints, both for cleaning and waterproofing of the roof free of cost. The next step was execution and my batchmate, Gopalraj, an expert in building renovation agreed to lead it with expert workmen. With this planning we could successfully complete the renovation of the entire roofing just before the 2025 monsoon. A total of around 3 Lakhs was spent towards this project.

With the roof fixed, the next target was the hostel rooms, the corridor and the external walls. We decided to sponsor this task from the UVCEGA, got an approval from the Execom and took up the execution in January 2026. As we didn't have spare capacity to shift all the inmates, we had to take up the task 3 - 4 rooms at a time. Even though it was time consuming, we didn't have a choice. The whole task took us almost 6 months.



We arranged a hostel meet midway to make an awareness drive for the alumni community, which helped us to get fresh funding for the project. We did a number of social media campaigns to make the alumni community aware of the progress we are making in respect of the project. The whole work was well supervised with almost daily visit by one of the alumni in charge of the project and periodic meeting of the entire team to align the progress of the project with the approved plan.

Often we build infrastructure with good intent but miss crucial fine details, and users suffer silently for years until someone notices and provides a practical solution. That is what happened at the UVCE boys hostel. Hostel houses 900+ students, but the water filter is just one of 100LPH capacity.

One hostel meet organized by UVCEGA and one Alumni's (Venkata Subba Rao 1965) intent to give back, we could install a new 100LPH water filter at the hostel, much to the relief of the students staying in the old block. The overall project budget —rooms interior, exterior walls, corridor, water filter - everything put together is around 17.5 Lakhs and I personally thank the donors who joined hands with us.

Hostels are more than dorms—they're the college's lifeline, especially for economically weaker students from rural Karnataka and beyond. These bright minds, often the first in their families to pursue engineering, arrive with talent but little else. Hostels provide not just shelter, but equality, a safe haven for focused study, peer support, nutritious meals, and a sense of belonging that levels the playing field. Without robust hostels, we risk losing these future innovators to financial hardships or subpar living conditions, weakening UVCE's mission to uplift and empower.

- Lt Sukumar Rao (Retd), Vice President, UVCEGA, 1984 Batch

A HOME RESTORED, A LEGACY RENEWED

There are some buildings that serve a purpose. And then there are some buildings that shape lives.

For generations of UVCE students, the Boys Hostel has been much more than a place to stay. Within its walls, friendships were forged, ambitions took shape, late-night discussions sparked ideas, and young students slowly transformed into engineers, leaders, entrepreneurs, and public servants. For countless alumni, the hostel remains one of the most cherished chapters of their UVCE journey.

Over the years, however, time had left its mark on the old hostel block. While memories remained vibrant, the infrastructure had begun to show its age. Among alumni, conversations often returned to the same thought: Could we do something for the hostel that had given us so much?

That question eventually became a mission.

On 16 May 2026, that mission reached a significant milestone when the UVCE Graduates Association (UVCEGA) formally handed over the renovated Boys Hostel building to the college administration at the hostel premises in KR Circle, Bengaluru.



The occasion brought together alumni across generations, faculty members, students, and hostel residents in a celebration that was as much about community as it was about infrastructure.

Among those present were Major General B. S. Neelakantappa, Shri H. G. Dattatreya, Interim Director of UVCE Prof. Kempaiah, Chief Warden Prof. Shivarudraiah, members of the UVCE Graduates Association, faculty members, alumni, and students.

The project itself was the culmination of months of planning, coordination, fundraising, and execution. The journey had begun the previous year with waterproofing work on the hostel roof initiated by the 1984 batch at a cost of approximately ₹3 lakhs. Encouraged by the progress and determined to make a lasting impact, UVCEGA expanded the scope of the effort into a comprehensive renovation project.

The result was a complete transformation of the old hostel block. Nearly ₹16.5 lakhs were invested in renovating 50 hostel rooms, undertaking structural repairs, refurbishing interiors and exteriors, repainting the building, and installing a modern water purification facility near the cafeteria for the benefit of hostel residents.

The formal program began with Prof. Paul Vizhian, who provided an overview of the renovation initiative. Along with Lt. Sukumar of the 1984 batch, he had been one of the driving forces behind the project. In his address, Prof. Vizhian walked the audience through the origins of the initiative, the challenges encountered along the way, and the collective effort that transformed an idea into reality.



Listening to him, one could appreciate that this was never merely a construction project. It was a labour of affection undertaken by alumni who believed that preserving the hostel was also a way of preserving a part of UVCE's heritage.

Prof. Kempaiah, Interim Director of UVCE, then addressed the gathering. He expressed his appreciation for the alumni community's continued involvement in the institution and acknowledged the significant contribution that such initiatives make toward enhancing the student experience. His remarks reflected a sentiment shared by many present, that the strength of an institution lies not only in its history but also in the willingness of its alumni to remain engaged in its future.

Major General B. S. Neelakantappa followed with an inspiring address that highlighted the enduring relationship between an educational institution and the generations of students it nurtures. His words reinforced the idea that alumni support is not merely an act of giving back, but an expression of gratitude and responsibility.

Yet one of the most memorable moments of the day came not from a speech, but from a gesture.

Shri H. G. Dattatreya, despite being one of the most respected and accomplished alumni present, chose not to occupy a prominent seat on the dais. Instead, he quietly took a place among the students. Throughout the program, he interacted with them, listened to their experiences, and engaged with them as an elder mentor rather than a distinguished guest.

When invited to address the gathering, he politely declined, expressing his desire to remain with the students.

In a world that often celebrates prominence, his humility spoke volumes.

The students themselves were then invited to share their thoughts. Two hostel residents spoke about their experiences and expressed their gratitude for the transformation they had witnessed. Their remarks served as a powerful reminder of why the project mattered. Behind every repaired wall and renovated room stood a student whose daily life had been improved.

Following the indoor proceedings, the gathering moved outside for the inauguration of the newly installed water purification facility. A group photograph captured the moment before alumni and guests began a walkthrough of the renovated hostel.

For many alumni, this became the emotional highlight of the day.

As they walked through familiar corridors, peered into rooms that once housed their younger selves, and exchanged stories with old friends, decades seemed to disappear. Laughter echoed through hallways once again. Memories resurfaced. Friendships were rekindled.

The hostel looked different. Yet somehow, it felt exactly the same.

The appreciation from alumni was unanimous. The renovation had not merely improved the building, it had preserved its character while preparing it to serve future generations.



As the event drew to a close, a simple message was shared with the students who now call the hostel their home. Three requests were placed by the UVCEGA before them.

First, to take ownership of the hostel and maintain it with care and pride.

Second, to make the fullest use of the opportunities that hostel life and UVCE provide, using these years to learn, grow, and prepare themselves for lives of purpose and achievement.

And third, when they eventually graduate and move forward in their careers, to remember where they came from and return to support future generations in the same spirit that today's alumni have supported them.

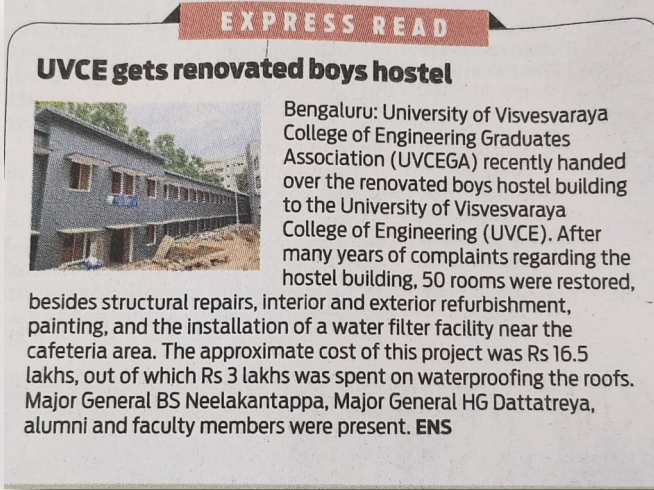
Because that, ultimately, is the UVCE way.

The renovation and handover of the Boys Hostel stands as more than an infrastructure project. It is a story of gratitude, stewardship, and community. It is a reminder that institutions endure because generations choose to invest in them not merely with money, but with time, effort, affection, and belief.

On that May morning, a building was formally handed over.

But something far more meaningful was renewed. The enduring bond between UVCE, its students, and its alumni.

- Adrian P Isaac, 2023 Alumni



This initiative from UVCEGA got coverage in the press also. Its not about the publicity , but the idea is to inspire more people to come forward and join hands in such initiatives for the welfare of the society in general. We can always question the government departments , but in parallel try to contribute from our end as well. Also, you can find a small article from one of the students staying in the hostel, sharing his thoughts about the hostel and the initiative.

ಕಣ್ ತೆರೆಸುವ ಒಲವು, ಮನ ತುಂಬುವ ಚೆಲುವು
ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೇಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಉಸಿರು, ಕಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಇದು ಗೂಡು
ಸಮಯ ಸರಿದಂತೆ ಪ್ರಬಲವಾಗಿ ಹರಡಿರುವ ಬೇರು
ತಲೆಮಾರು ಬದಲಾದರು ಬದಲಾಗದಿರುವ ಸೂರು!
ನಮ್ಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯ...



ನಮ್ಮ ನಿಲಯವನ್ನು ಸರ್.ಎಂ.ವಿ. ರವರು ಕಾಲೇಜು ಶುರು ಮಾಡಿದ ವರ್ಷದಿಂದಲೇ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕಟ್ಟಡದಲ್ಲಿನೂರಾರು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಜೀವನ ಅಡಗಿದೆ, ಅಂತಹ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಮರು ಜೀವ ತುಂಬುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಕಣ್ಣಿಂದಿದೆ.

ಹಳೆಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಜೀರ್ಣೋದ್ಧಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೊಸ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಹಳೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಅಪಾರ, ಅವರಿಂದ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯದ ಏಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಸುಗಮವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರೆ ತಪ್ಪಾಗಲಾರದು. ಅವರು ತಂಗಿದ್ದ ತಾಣದ ಬಗೆಗಿನ ಕಾಳಜಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಳೆಸುವ ಗುಣ ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿದಾಯಕವಾಗಿದೆ.

ನಿಲಯದ ಜೀವನ ಶೈಲಿಯನ್ನು ಪುಟ್ಟದಾಗಿ ಹೇಳೋದಾದ್ರೆ- ಪ್ರತಿದಿನವೂ ನೂತನ, ಕೊನೆಗೊಳ್ಳದ ಚೇತನ, ಆಟ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಲಿಕೆಗಳ ಸಮ್ಮಿಲನ. ಉಟದ ರುಚಿ ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿದೆ ವಾರದೊಂದು ದಿನ ಮಾಂಸಾಹಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಿಗುವು ಆದರೆ ಸಸ್ಯಹಾರಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಧಾನಕರ ಆಹಾರ ಬೇಕಿದೆ. ವಾರಾಂತ್ಯ ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿ - "ಭಾನುವಾರದ ದೋಸೆ ಬಲು ಸುಂದರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಬಿಜಿಗು(Busy) ಇದಕು ಏನ್ ಅಂತರ" ಬರಿಯುತ್ತಾ ಹೋದ್ರೆ ಮುಗಿಯದ ಪಯಣವಿದು.

ಕೊನೆಗೆ ಡಿ ವಿ ಜಿ ಅವರ ಒಂದು ಕಗ್ಗವನ್ನು UVCEGA ಗೆ ಅರ್ಪಿಸುವ ಹಂಬಲ ನನ್ನದು -

ಪಿಡಿ ಗಳಿಸು ಭುಜಿಸೊಡೆಯನಾಗೆನ್ನುವುದು ಮೋಹ |

ಕೊಡು ಸಲಿಸು ಸೇವೆಗೈಯೆನ್ನುವುದು ಕರುಣೆ ||

ಬಿಡು ನೀನು ನಾನುಗಳ, ವಿಶ್ವಾತ್ಮಪದವನೀ- |

ನಡೆರನ್ನುವುದು ಶಾಂತಿ - ಮಂಕುತಿಮ್ಮ || ೪೫೬ ||

- ಅಶೋಕ್, 6ನೇ ಸೆಮ್ ಇ.ಇ.ಇ

MARVEL CORNER

May was a month of competition wins, industry exposure, new programmes, and steady growth for MARVEL. BotWorks had a strong month competitively, securing 1st and 2nd place at the Rajarajeshwari College of Engineering robotics competition, and hosting a Bot Driving Competition at UVCE where Manjunath (ECE) and Ayaan (CSE) won and were recruited as future drivers. On the resources and connectivity front, the lab received four Alphabot kits from IIT Bombay's eLSI programme, restored high-speed internet in the new lab by reusing existing Ethernet infrastructure, and achieved recognition as an AWS Student Builder Group.

MARVEL showcased projects including the 8-Bit Computer, Breadboard GPU, FalconView, and drone prototypes at Elasia 2026, gaining industry exposure and networking opportunities. HeartGuard received special appreciation during a separate presentation to alumni, academicians, and industry professionals, with discussions opening doors for future collaborations and internships. The lab also contributed to the felicitation programme for Padma Bhushan Dr. R. Ganesh by creating a laser-engraved plaque and a 3D-printed model of the UVCE Main Building.



On the people and programmes side, Lochan B and Souparna Baidya were selected as the new IoT Coordinators following a competitive probation process, and a Coordinator Recruitment Drive was launched for the 2028 and 2029 batches. The Guided Projects Programme (GPP) was introduced to provide structured mentorship across Robotics, Embedded Systems, AI, FPGA, UAVs, and IoT. Weekly initiatives including Tech Tuesday and the Thursday Open Day Project Showcase were launched to promote broader technology awareness and student innovation. The lab also collaborated with training institutes across multiple domains and engaged with a Coorg coffee estate owner to explore tech-driven agricultural solutions.

Representing MARVEL and UVCE at the Career to Campus Summit

The Career to Campus Summit held on 16th and 17th May, 2026, was a valuable opportunity for UVCE to showcase the innovation, talent, and entrepreneurial spirit thriving within our institution.

One of the highlights of the summit was the opportunity to showcase projects developed under MARVEL R&D Lab. These projects reflected the interdisciplinary nature of engineering at UVCE, bringing together expertise from domains such as Artificial Intelligence, Electronics, IoT, Software Development, and emerging technologies. The event provided a platform to demonstrate how student-led research and innovation are being translated into practical solutions for real-world challenges.

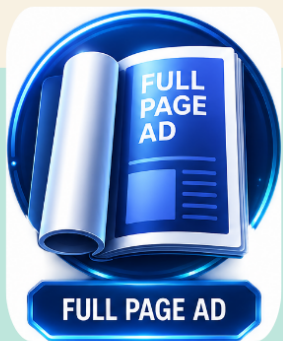
In addition to project demonstrations, we also had the opportunity to present a few startup pitches and entrepreneurial ideas being developed within the UVCE ecosystem. These presentations sparked meaningful discussions with industry experts and other peers.

Interacting with industry professionals gave us valuable insights into current trends, expectations, and opportunities in the professional world. Equally special was the chance to reconnect with and meet several distinguished UVCE alumni.



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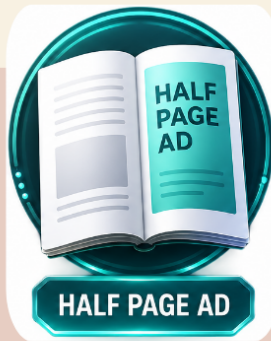


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ABOUT SAMPADA

Sampada is a monthly e-magazine sent to more than 8000+ alumni contacts around the globe, covering news about UVCE and memories of alumni and students. It has cemented its place as a documentation of the UVCE's past and present, while becoming a guide for bright and better future.



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REPRESENTING UVCE AT ELASIA'26

I had been to ELASIA 2026, which is one of the India's leading international trade exhibition dedicated to the power, electrical, controls, and lighting industries organized at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC). If it wasn't for the active persistence of our alumni, I probably would not have attended the event. Looking back, I am glad I did, because it turned out to be a very interesting and insightful experience.

ELASIA was primarily an event to showcase projects and innovations from students, startups, and companies. It was fascinating to see my juniors take responsibility for organizing everything. From setting up stalls to coordinating visitors and managing the overall event, they handled it remarkably well. Having seen the effort that goes into organizing such events, it was nice to watch them execute it successfully.



The sheer number of people who visited our stall was surprising. What stood out even more was the number of visitors who introduced themselves as UVCE alumni. Every few minutes, someone would walk up to us and begin a conversation by saying they had graduated from UVCE years ago. It made me realize how old our college is and how vast and diverse our alumni network has become over the decades. It was inspiring to see alumni from different industries and generations still taking an active interest in what students are building today.

Our stall received visits from several professors, industry professionals, and technical experts. They took the time to understand our projects, ask questions, and provide valuable feedback. Some appreciated our approach, while others pointed out areas where improvements could be made. Such interactions are always useful because they help us look at our work from perspectives we may not have considered before.

One of the most interesting aspects of ELASIA was getting the opportunity to walk around and visit the other stalls. There were exhibits ranging from smart home solutions and automation systems to developments in electrical infrastructure, cables, and industrial products. Speaking with exhibitors gave us an understanding of current market trends, industry requirements, and the direction in which various sectors are heading. It was interesting to learn not only about the technologies themselves but also about the business opportunities and challenges associated with them.

I would like to thank UVCEGA for working with the ELASIA organizers to get the stall for showcasing the talent and innovation at UVCE in the event. Especially UVCEGA Vice President, Lt. Sukumar Rao Sir who led from the front and co-ordinated to make sure it was a success. He made sure that this event allowed us to showcase its makerspace lab (MARVEL) and legacy of the institution on a global stage. He accompanied us to the event (infact, he single-handedly manned the stall on the day when students were not available) and was a constant supporter of the various activities carried out by our team. His encouragement and presence throughout the event were greatly appreciated and contributed significantly to making the experience a memorable one.



Overall, ELASIA 2026 was an enriching experience. It was an opportunity to showcase our work, interact with alumni and industry professionals, explore emerging technologies, and gain a better understanding of where the industry is headed. More importantly, it served as a reminder of the strong community that exists around UVCE and the role that alumni continue to play in supporting student initiatives.

- Sudeep V Hegde, 8th sem Mech

ECCELL INTERVIEWS

Inside the Mind of Bhaktha Keshavachar: When Patience and Deep Tech Build the Future

What was your experience during your time at UVCE, any special memories?

My time at UVCE was truly transformative. I graduated in 1989 with a degree in Electronics and Communication, during a period when UVCE was the number one college in the state. One of my fondest memories is cycling from Domlur to UVCE with friends along MG Road—something unimaginable in today's traffic. The quadrangle remains my favorite spot on campus, it's still the same whenever I visit, and that continuity is just amazing. What truly set UVCE apart was the caliber of students it attracted. We had three single-digit rankers in our class, along with numerous double and triple-digit rankers. The learning that happened through interactions with these brilliant peers was invaluable. We also had exceptional faculty like Professor A. Veerabhadrappe, Professor HN Shivshankar (HNS) and Professor Katkol whose teachings continue to influence how I approach engineering and execution even today. And for someone from my economic background, the fees was just

₹30 for the entire year, making quality education accessible. That affordability opened doors for many of us.

Can I ask you what your inspiration was to become an entrepreneur and start your own companies?

I started my entrepreneurship journey relatively late in life, during what some might call a midlife phase. Three key factors inspired this shift. First, I distinctly remember Professor A. Veerabhadrappe, the Head of Electrical Engineering, outlining the stages of life: you're a kid, then a student, then an apprentice, then an employee and finally, you should strive to become an employer and create jobs, which is especially important in a country like India. That advice stayed with me. Second, as a nation, India has not invested deeply in core technologies. I wanted to build something truly new — something that hadn't been done anywhere in the world, deploy it in India, & take it global. Lastly, I still want that red Ferrari in my garage. So maybe if we make enough money, I'll get it someday.



Can you tell us more about Chara technologies, what they do and how they started? Which industries have your companies mostly worked in?

Chara stands for “motion” in Sanskrit, deriving from words like chakra. The name reflects our mission in the context of a massive global energy transition. From hydrocarbons to electrons—driven largely by the need to combat climate change. Sustainability was a core motivation for starting this company. In the electric future, motors become the engines of the new economy, and the most efficient motors today are PMSM (Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motors), which rely on rare-earth magnets like neodymium-iron-boron.

These magnets require rare-earth elements, a group of 17 elements critical not just for motors but for our entire electric future. The problem? Rare earths are dirty and expensive to mine, and China controls about 90% of the global supply chain — a dominance they demonstrated last year by halting exports.



Just as civilizations 3,000 to 4,000 years ago were built on iron, bronze, and copper, I believe future civilizations will be built on rare earths. At Chara, we're developing motors and controllers that are as efficient and powerful as existing motors, but without rare-earth magnets. We use a technology called reluctance motors, which has not been deployed at scale anywhere in the world. When we do this in large numbers, we'll be the first — not just in India, but globally. Our motors serve mobility sectors like two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and small four-wheelers, as well as off-highway vehicles like tractors, tillers, loaders, boats, forklifts, and on-campus vehicles.

What were some early challenges you faced while starting up, and how did you deal with them?

We faced several significant challenges. First, as a deep-tech hardware company, we're not exactly the darlings of the investment community. We started in November 2019, just as the pandemic was beginning and convincing people of our vision was incredibly difficult. We were telling investors, employees, and customers that rare earths would become a critical bottleneck and that China would eventually weaponize its dominance. It took nearly five years for that prediction to materialize and only then did interest pick up. Second, finding talent in India for core technology work was challenging. While there are many people working at the application level, it's much harder to find those working on fundamental improvements in motor architecture, thermals, hardware design and algorithms. That's improving now but it was a real obstacle early on. And finally, being a COVID-era company cost us valuable time, though it also gave us space to think strategically about our next steps. Fortunately, we were able to convince some investors to back us and build this technology.



Have you been involved in any kind of mentoring, startup support, or educational work you'd like to share with us?

I haven't been doing mentoring formally, but I do help people who are starting up by offering advice based on my experience and connecting them with investors. Once I have more bandwidth, perhaps in a couple of years — I'd love to do something more methodical, especially at UVCE. I know the Entrepreneurship Cell is doing great work, and there are several of us, UVCE alumni who've had some success and who are keen to give back. I'm in touch with a few of them and I believe we can create something meaningful together for the next generation of entrepreneurs.

What mistakes should students avoid to improve their performance?

One of the biggest mistakes I see is that people lose patience quickly. Entrepreneurship demands enormous patience and perseverance — traits that are unfortunately underrated. If you look at the media, you'll see success stories like Flipkart, Lenskart, or Zepto, and it creates an expectation that everyone should raise millions, build unicorns overnight and grow explosively. The truth is, those are exceptions. Most startups follow what I'd call a "normal journey" — building something they believe is important long-term, staying patient and sticking to their vision. Another mistake is not looking far enough ahead. Based on my experience co-founding Easytap, which we successfully sold to Razorpay after ten years, I've learned that you need to build products and technologies slightly ahead of market needs. It's harder, but it often leads to larger success. There's an old saying from ice hockey: don't hit the puck, anticipate where it will be and intercept it there. That's what we should aim for. Also, if you try to solve a problem that exists today, many people will already be working on it. The key is to identify what will matter tomorrow. Lastly, always hire people smarter than you. It's an old adage, but it's true — they'll teach you what to do best.

What decision are you particularly proud of in your journey?

Patience and perseverance are the most underrated traits in entrepreneurship. I don't know why that is, but even if you look at arguably the most famous entrepreneur today – Sam Altman, it took ten years to get OpenAI to where it is now. Yes, it was well-funded, but it still took a long time to get it right when you're doing something genuinely new. Entrepreneurship is one of the hardest things you can do. As Ben Horowitz says in *The Hard Thing About Hard Things*, it's difficult – but belief and patience are critical. That patience is something I can claim we got right at Chara. One more thing: always hire people who are smarter than you. They'll teach you what to do best.



Is there anything else you'd like to say to UVCE students or future entrepreneurs?

For me, and for most people, UVCE was a path to career stability, financial security, and success. As a government college, it was extremely affordable and I think that accessibility should continue, it's one of UVCE's greatest strengths. In terms of advice for entrepreneurs, I'd say this, have a goal that goes beyond money. Money is important, it facilitates a lot in life but if money is your primary motivation, you'll likely end up disappointed. Imagine working on a startup for two years and then thinking, "If I'd just taken a job, I'd have earned so much more by now." That mindset will kill your motivation. Your goal should be something else – creating employment, proving yourself, seeking validation or as they say in English, having a "chip on your shoulder." That deeper purpose will sustain you through the tough times.



When I graduated, India was a different country. We were poor. But now, India is on a massive upward trajectory in terms of infrastructure, prosperity and education. I spent 13 years in the US before coming back, so I say this with some credibility: India is now the land of opportunity. Yes, it's hard here compared to some other countries, but if you want to do something new, something big – this is where you should be. There's political will now that was lacking before and if we continue on this path, India is the place to build large businesses. In the '90s, it was nearly impossible to build a billion-dollar company in India. Today, it's not easy, but the opportunity is real. Look at companies like Ather, it's a ₹25,000 crore company. That's the opportunity we have now.

This article is published in collaboration with Entrepreneurship Cell UVCE which is striving for entrepreneurship development within UVCE. They have started this new series of interviews with Entrepreneurs from UVCE. So, we will be publishing the same in Sampada and make sure it reaches more wider audience through our readers. To read the article online, [click here](#)

To those who are unaware, E-Cell UVCE strives to be a well recognised centre of excellence for entrepreneurship development to create successful entrepreneurs from UVCE. The main intention lies to motivate and encourage students who have an inclination towards Entrepreneurship and equip them to follow their dreams. Please check and follow their [LinkedIn page](#)

IEEE UVCE MONTHLY UPDATES

May marked a significant milestone in the journey of IEEE UVCE as the chapter celebrated the commencement of its 27th year through the successful organization of the IEEE UVCE Annual General Meet 2026. Bringing together faculty members, students, alumni and distinguished guests, the event served as both a reflection on a year of achievements and a celebration of the vibrant community that continues to drive the chapter forward.

The program began with a warm welcome, followed by an invocation song and the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony led by the dignitaries. Dr. Pushpa C N, Branch Counselor of IEEE UVCE, presented the Annual Report for 2025-26, showcasing the chapter's major events, initiatives, achievements and contributions throughout the year. Dr. P Deepa Shenoy, Branch Advisor of IEEE UVCE, officially introduced the newly appointed Executive Team for 2026-27, while the outgoing team of 2025-26 was felicitated for their dedication and valuable service towards the growth of the chapter.



A key highlight of the event was the recognition of student participation and volunteer contributions. As part of IEEE UVCE's Membership Initiative, 80 students were awarded complimentary IEEE memberships, encouraging greater engagement within the IEEE community. The Rewards and Recognition Program honored outstanding volunteers and contributors, with 38 awards presented for exemplary service and commitment. The event also featured the presentation of the Best Volunteers Awards for IMPETUS 26.0, recognizing exceptional efforts during the chapter's flagship event.

With an attendance of 128 participants, the Annual General Meet stood as a testament to the strength, unity and spirit of the IEEE UVCE community. As the chapter embarks on another year of growth and innovation, the event reaffirmed its vision of empowering students, fostering professional development and creating meaningful impact through technology and collaboration.

We are delighted to introduce the core team of IEEE UVCE for the year 2026-27, which you can find in [this LinkedIn post](#)



UVCEIAN IN LIMELIGHT

She means business: A historic year at FKCCI

In December 2025, the venerable Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) celebrated its centenary, marking 100 years of representing the interests of Indian industry and trade to the government. Founded in 1925 in Calcutta by the then 31-year-old Calcutta businessman Ghanshyam Das Birla under the mentorship of Mahatma Gandhi, ICC played an integral part in the freedom struggle, as the first organized non-governmental body to serve as the voice of indigenous Indian industry.

In 2027, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), also co-founded by GD Birla and currently the largest business organization in India, will celebrate its own centenary. Meanwhile, closer home, a similar but older body – the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) – quietly celebrated its 110th anniversary last week. This year's festivities marked a watershed event; they were presided over by a woman – FKCCI's first woman president, Uma Reddy.



The idea of a representative body to advocate for the interests of business is an old one – the Marseille Chambre de Commerce was established in France as early as 1599. Surprisingly, the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce (GCC), Britain's oldest, only made its appearance in 1783, founded in the aftermath of American independence by panicked Glaswegian merchants whose prosperity, built on the trade in Virginia tobacco, was in jeopardy. One of the GCC's top priorities was to fiercely oppose the East India Company's trade monopoly with India.

India's first tradesmen's associations came up in its thriving port cities. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) was the first, in September 1836; its counterpart in Madras opened for business a week later. It was the BCCI's relentless lobbying that was largely responsible for the building of the country's first railway (the Bombay-Thane line), and the passing of the Indian Post Office Act of 1854, which unified all regional postal systems into a centralized national network.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce came next, in 1853, and Cochin got its own Chamber in 1857. The first of the four to have an Indian president was the BCCI, in 1959!

The country's fifth Chamber, the first in a princely state, was established in Bangalore on May 8, 1916, by the visionary dewan of Mysore, Sir M Visvesvaraya, with the full support of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV. The raison d'être of the Mysore Chambers (in 1973, it was renamed FKCCI) wasn't to represent Indian business interests against British ones, but to institute an advisory body that would help guide state policy towards building a robust industrial economy. Its first president was WC Rose, an Englishman who had previously served as the first manager of the (State) Bank of Mysore (estd 1913). After Rose stepped down in 1920, the Mysore Chambers has only had Indian presidents.

Today, FKCCI has nearly 5000 direct members, drawn from trade, manufacturing and service industries across a variety of sectors; and 140 trade associations, representing various specialist groups – the Electronic City Industries Association, for instance— apart from the Chambers of every district in Karnataka. Each member comes with their own unique challenges and needs – training programs, better connectivity, improved infrastructure, revision of minimum wages; all of them must be well-represented by FKCCI.



It's a tall order, but president Uma Reddy is unfazed. An electrical engineer who went solo right after she graduated from the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering in 1984, in an age when women entrepreneurs were almost unheard of, she has served on FKCCI's managing committee for several years now, and understands the brief. Plus, her stint on the PM's council for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has given her keen insights into a sector she is particularly interested in supporting. "It is such an honour to lead an organization that Sir MV founded," she says. "I will do whatever it takes to live up to it."



(Roopa Pai is a writer who has carried on a longtime love affair with her hometown Bengaluru)

- Source : Hindustan Times ([Link for Article](#))

We would like to mention that Roopa Pai, the author of the article is also our alumni from 1992 batch. Roopa Pai is children's author and journalist living in Bangalore, India. She regularly writes in various newspapers. She has over 20 published books. We are extremely glad that she wrote about the history of FKCCI, Legacy of Sir MV while highlighting the historic achievement of Uma Reddy as first woman President of FKCCI



Uma Reddy madam has responded to this article on LinkedIn Post

Honoured to be featured in Hindustan Times for the article titled "She Means Business: A Historic Year at FKCCI."

This recognition is deeply meaningful, not just as a personal milestone, but as a reflection of the collective efforts, dedication, and vision of everyone associated with FKCCI in strengthening industry, empowering MSMEs, and fostering inclusive leadership.

Being the first woman President in the 110-year history of FKCCI is both a privilege and a responsibility. It reinforces my commitment towards creating opportunities, driving meaningful change, and encouraging more women to take leadership roles in business and industry.

The journey of FKCCI has always been rooted in service to trade, industry, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. I remain committed to contributing towards innovation, industrial development, MSME empowerment, and building stronger collaborations that create lasting impact for Karnataka and India.

Grateful to everyone who has been part of this journey and for the continued encouragement and support.



TEAM: Varsha Rao (6th sem AIML), Anupama Hegde, Adrian P Isaac, Varsha Bhat, Chitra S Reddy, Meghashree G, Satish A G & SriHarsha D V (VisionUVCE Team)