

FOUNDATION FORWARD

ASME Foundation India

EDITION 4
MARCH - MAY 2026

CONTENTS

- Letter from the Deputy Director's Desk
- Philanthropy
Engineering Change Where It Matters Most
- MEEed
Empowering the Next Generation Engineers
- Featuring Humans of ASME
- Memberships
Sustaining a Connected Ecosystem
- Professional Sections
Driving Localised Technical Discourse
- Student Sections
Campuses in Action
- Introducing Charcha Unfiltered
- Student Programs
Innovate, Create, Compete, Celebrate

LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Readers,

As ASME Foundation India (AFI) celebrates its two-year anniversary, having been established on 10 April 2024, we are reflecting on our journey and the roadmap ahead. To scale our impact in this next chapter, we are preparing to get more hyperlocal. In the coming year, we will deepen our engagement with regional partners and supporters to locally sustain and invest in our grassroots initiatives.

This local focus is vital because engineering, at its core, is about equipping people with the tools to build and rebuild. When technology meets grit, communities don't only recover; they leap forward.

We were reminded of this reality when severe floods devastated Vaishali, Bihar, wiping out an entire season's harvest. The women farmers we work with through our EWSEI project (Empowering Women through Social and Engineering Innovation) didn't only need temporary relief, they needed a sustainable way forward. By adopting scientific farming practices like Zero Tillage, these women turned waterlogged fields into their highest-yielding harvest yet.

To provide this kind of impact on a national scale, we rely on a highly connected ecosystem. I am proud to share that our community has grown to 8,300 active members, energised by 11 newly established student sections. To support this expanding network, we recently hosted our first in-person All Chairs Meet (Professional Sections only) in Delhi NCR, where our regional leaders rolled up their sleeves and drafted actionable, localised roadmaps for the next two years.

We are also challenging how the next generation learns. Through our upcoming MEEed initiatives at IIT Delhi and IMECE India 2026, we are pushing to shift engineering education from a traditional "TELL" framework to an "ASK" model—one rooted in Systems Thinking. Our student community are already rising to the challenge: at the recent Design to Build Challenge, over 850 participants demonstrated exactly what happens when you ask them to turn complex problems into working solutions under constraints.

Whether in a simulation lab, on a factory floor, or in an agricultural field our members are applying their skills to problems that truly matter. Thank you for standing with us as we continue to shape an engineering workforce that is as deeply empathetic as it is technically brilliant.

Warm regards,

Avni Malhotra

Deputy Director, ASME Foundation India

PHILANTHROPY ENGINEERING CHANGE WHERE IT MATTERS MOST

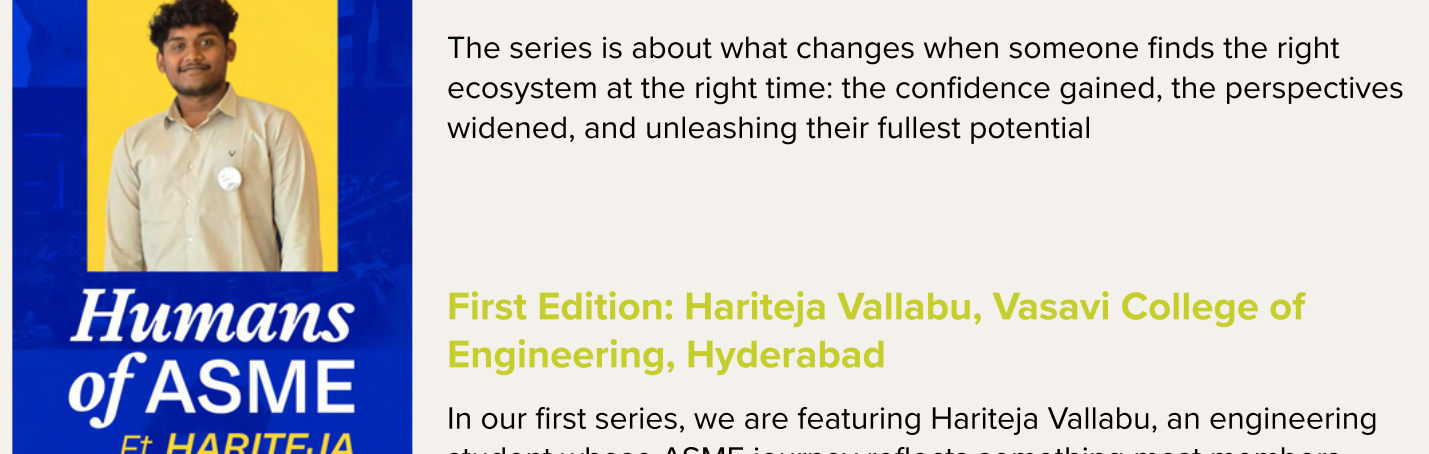
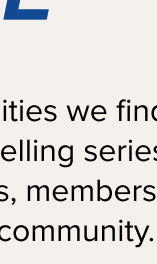


Rather than just distributing relief, the initiative focused on long-term self-reliance. Through hands-on training in Zero Tillage and the System of Wheat Intensification (SWI), women farmers successfully increased their yield from a traditional 40 kg to nearly 59 kg per kattha, collectively generating over ₹12.8 Lakh in household income. As farmer Indu Devi shared, the intervention restored not just their livelihoods, but their confidence in the future.

This spirit of recovery anchored our EWSEI Annual Meet 2026. Gathering 100+ community members, we premiered our first successful on-ground intervention film, "*Engineering Fresh Possibilities*," that highlighted the strength of these women. The event also marked the starting point of the pilot intervention of the Kisan Rover, an ASME ISHOW-winning innovation, designed to reduce manual drudgery.

Addressed by Mr. Ajay Sahu, General Manager of NABARD, and Mr. Navin Kumar, General Manager of Bihar Gramin Bank, the milestone was a powerful reminder that when women are given access and tools, they redefine progress for their entire community.

Donate now:



MEEed Empowering the Next Generation Engineers

Modern engineering challenges - whether designing smart cities or deploying autonomous healthcare grids - can no longer be solved by building components in isolation. To address this, our upcoming **Regional MEEed (Mechanical Engineering Education Seminar) at IIT Delhi on June 24** is centered entirely on integrating systems thinking into mechanical engineering. With an expected audience of over 100 students, faculty, and policymakers, the event features a **Vision Talk by Dr. Abhay Jere, Managing Director and CEO, Dexit Global Limited (Former Vice Chairman of AICTE)** and insights from **Gujarat Technological University Vice Chancellor Dr. Rajul K Gajjar**. Their goal is to bridge the curriculum gap, helping students transition from component level thinking to life cycle-based approaches that respect human behavior and policy.

This thematic focus is the direct result of the strategic groundwork laid by the **MEEed Steering Committee** during their reviews. Under the leadership of **Chair Dr. B. Gurumoorthy (IISc Bengaluru)** and **Member Dr. P.V.M. Rao (IIT Delhi)**, the committee has been synthesising outcomes from our multi-institutional collaborations to ensure curriculum reform is not just theoretical but experiential. By exchanging insights from diverse campus innovation ecosystems, the committee is shaping a roadmap that aligns academic output with the "field-tested" requirements of Industry 4.0.

This philosophy of integration extends to our national strategy. We recently established the core committee for the Engineering Education Symposium at IMECE India 2026. The mandate for this committee represents a fundamental pivot in how we approach curriculum reform: shifting from a traditional "TELL" framework to an "ASK" model. By actively listening to academia, students, and industry stakeholders, we are collaboratively shaping an education system that answers the complex socio-technical demands of tomorrow.

FEATURING HUMANS OF ASME



Engineering careers are shaped as much by the communities we find as by the work we do. Humans of ASME is our new storytelling series that puts community at the center: students, professionals, members, and volunteers, and the journeys they've built within this community.

The series is about what changes when someone finds the right ecosystem at the right time: the confidence gained, the perspectives widened, and unleashing their fullest potential

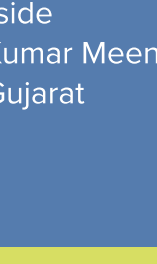
First Edition: Hariteja Vallabu, Vasavi College of Engineering, Hyderabad

In our first series, we are featuring Hariteja Vallabu, an engineering student whose ASME journey reflects something most members recognise: curiosity finding a place to go. From expanding his network and participating in ASME competitions, Hariteja's engineering journey took him to Rajasthan, Karnataka and Kerala.

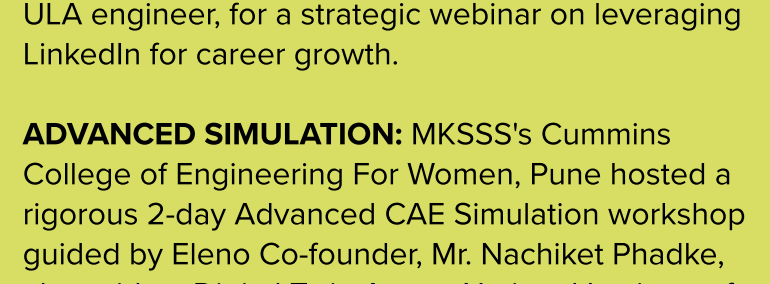
"Engineering is a mindset that is solution-driven"

~ Hariteja Vallabu

Watch the full story here:



MEMBERSHIPS SUSTAINING A CONNECTED ECOSYSTEM



A thriving engineering community requires deliberate expansion and foundational support. As of May 2026, the **ASME India network has grown to 8,300 active members**, comprising 7,241 students and 1,059 professionals.

A significant driver of this presence was the formation of 31 new sections and onboarding of 956 paid student members into our ecosystem. But scaling a community is only effective if the member experience remains seamless. Between March and April, our Customer Care Helpdesk operated as a centralised support system to enhance the membership experience by addressing queries related to onboarding, renewals, and membership services. The helpdesk successfully managed and resolved 77 member queries and 6 concerns, achieving 100% resolution. Demonstrating a strong commitment to customer satisfaction excellence, over 95% of all queries and concerns were addressed within 24–48 hours. This efficient handling of member queries and concerns contributed to improved satisfaction levels, smoother member journeys, and strengthened trust in ASME's support ecosystem.

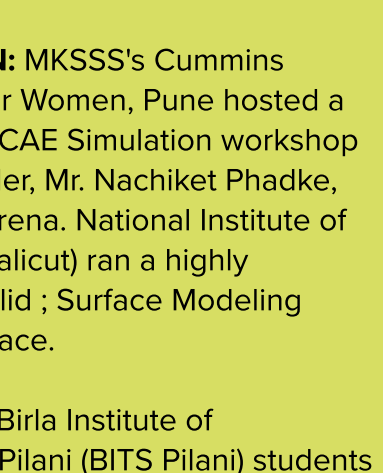
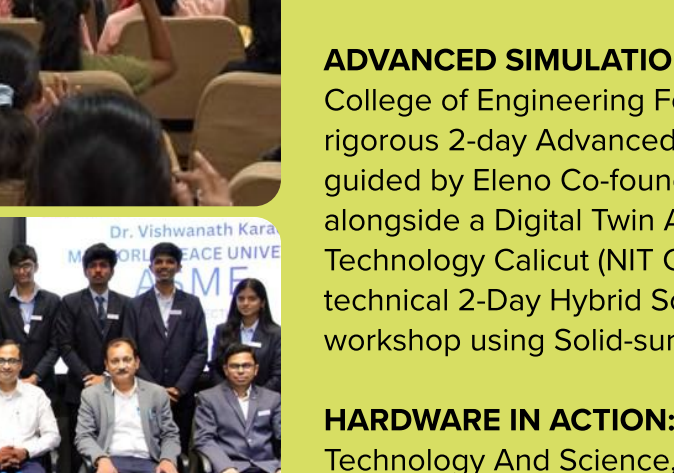
To ensure our leadership is aligned to support this growing network, we hosted the **first in-person All Chairs & Vice Chairs Meet in Delhi NCR**. Bringing together 18 leaders from all 10 professional sections, the two-day workshop bypassed standard presentations. Facilitated by Vistaar, the sessions explored the unique identity and purpose of regional leadership. Supported by virtual insights from **ASME senior directors, Mr. Drew Lentz and Ms. Evelyn Taylor**, each state leadership team actively drafted a two-year roadmap detailing their specific vision for member engagement, industry partnerships, and technical programming.



PROFESSIONAL SECTIONS DRIVING LOCALISED TECHNICAL DISCOURSE

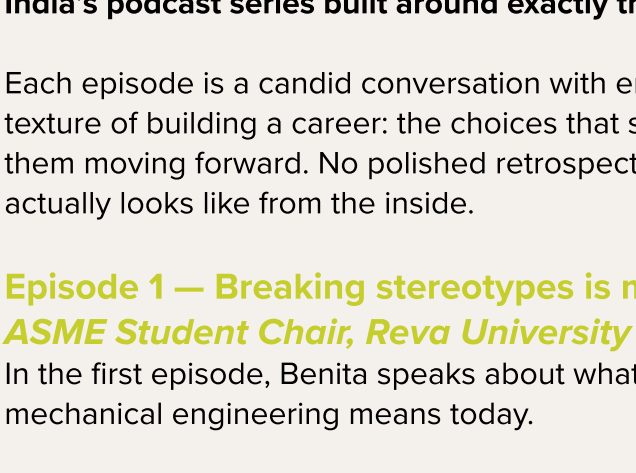
Across the country, our Professional Sections are bridging theoretical discussions with immediate, real-world industry applications.

In **Tamil Nadu**, 63 attendees gathered for an intensive webinar on CO₂ (R744) Refrigeration, exploring the thermodynamics of transcritical and subcritical systems, booster configurations, and ejector technologies. In **Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**, members brought 16 students from Integral University directly to the MSME Kanpur factory floor to witness manufacturing realities firsthand. Meanwhile, the **Kerala Section** hosted ENGInEX 2026, challenging 112 attendees to showcase physical innovations tied to sustainability, and **Karnataka** launched the ECE Charcha podcast at their Annual Meet, also featuring invaluable industry insights from **Ms. Maria Elena Cardwell (Boeing)** and **Dr. Dheepa Srinivasan (Baker Hughes)**.



We recently concluded the ASME India Professional Section Recognition Program, unlocking over ₹4 Lakh in funding for future regional activities. **Top honors for engagement and growth went to the Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, and India Sections.** We also proudly awarded the Distinguished Leadership Contribution Award to **Mr. Rajendran Nair (Chair, ASME Kerala Section)**, alongside dedicated runners-up **Dr. S. Christopher (Treasurer, ASME Tamil Nadu Section)**, **Dr. Vijay Kumar Meena (Chair, ASME Chandigarh Region Section)**, **Mr. Bose Babu Nallapaneni (Treasurer, ASME Gujarat Section)**, and **Mr. Venkadesan Neelakrishnan (Secretary, ASME Tamil Nadu Section)**.

STUDENT SECTIONS CAMPUSES IN ACTION



Our student chapters continue to transform university campuses into active hubs of technical mastery and career preparation.

MENTORSHIP: Government Engineering College Barton Hill (GECBH) Thiruvananthapuram connected students with **Mr. Davis Booth**, a former NASA and ULA engineer, for a strategic webinar on leveraging LinkedIn for career growth.

ADVANCED SIMULATION: MKSSS's Cummins College of Engineering For Women, Pune hosted a rigorous 2-day Advanced CAE Simulation workshop guided by Eleno Co-founder, **Mr. Nachiket Phadke**, alongside a Digital Twin Arena. National Institute of Technology Calicut (NIT Calicut) ran a highly technical 2-Day Hybrid Solid ; Surface Modeling workshop using Solid-surface.

HARDWARE IN ACTION: Birla Institute of Technology And Science, Pilani (BITS Pilani) students brought mechanical combat to life by hosting ROBOTOWARS at the APOGEE technical fest.

TECHNICAL DISCOURSE: Federal Institute of Science And Technology (FISAT) fostered deep learning and meaningful discussions at their Tech Conclave 2026.

EXPANDING FOOTPRINT: We proudly inaugurated vibrant new chapters at MIT World Peace University (MIT-WPU) Pune, National Institute of Technology Warangal (NIT Warangal), and Prasad V. Potluri Siddhartha Institute Of Technology (PVPSIT), Andhra Pradesh.

FEATURING EARLY CAREER ENGINEERS

Most conversations about engineering careers skip the middle part — the uncertainty, there calibration, the moments that don't make it into a professional bio. **Charcha Unfiltered is ASME India's podcast series built around exactly that.**

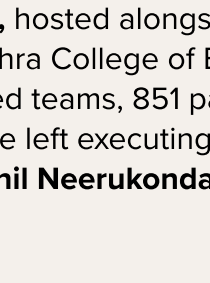
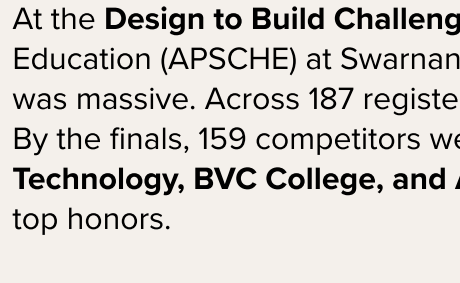
Each episode is a candid conversation with engineers and early-career professionals about the real texture of building a career: the choices that shaped them, the doubts they navigated, and what kept them moving forward. No polished retrospectives. Just honest dialogue about what the journey actually looks like from the inside.

Episode 1 — Breaking stereotypes is my thing: Featuring Benita Shirely S, former ASME Student Chair, Revu University

In the first episode, Benita speaks about what it means to be a woman mechanical engineer and what mechanical engineering means today.

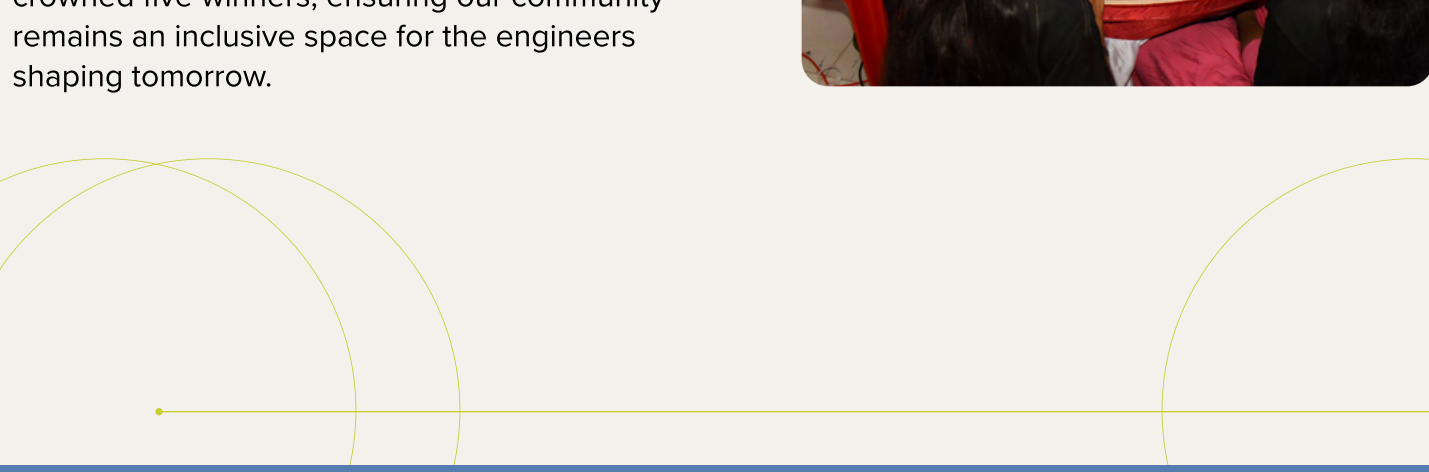
Episode 2 — ASME - A hope icon to ME students all over the world: Featuring Ajay Krishna, V S, FORD Motor Company, Chennai

Ajay's episode leans into the mindset behind staying consistent and building confidence incrementally through ASME's engineering competitions. He highlights how winning ASME awards gave him a competitive edge during corporate interviews.



Both episodes are live on ASME India's official YouTube Channel

STUDENT PROGRAMS INNOVATE, CREATE, COMPETE, CELEBRATE

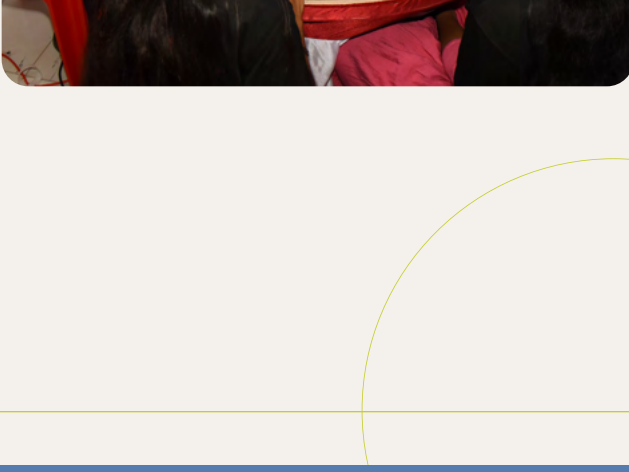


Providing platforms where students can test their knowledge against global standards and physical constraints is central to our mission.

At the **Design to Build Challenge**, hosted alongside Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) at Swarnandhra College of Engineering & Technology, the scale of participation was massive. Across 187 registered teams, 851 participants tackled five complex problem statements. By the finals, 159 competitors were left executing solutions on the floor, with **KLS Gogte Institute of Technology, BVC College, and Anil Neerukonda Institute of Technology and Sciences** claiming the top honors.

Globally, the virtual **ASME E-Fest Tech Connect 2026** drew 3,185 registrants, with a massive **68% joining from India**. Students engaged directly with deep-tech frameworks: Ragav Krishna from ATATRI broke down Digital Twins for Mechanical Systems, while Janak Patel from Quantiphi explored how AI Learns the Laws of Physics to build smarter systems.

We also continued to champion diverse voices within the profession. Celebrating **International Women's Day**, the FEME Collective gathered 78 participants for a targeted Power Talk, alongside a Photography Contest and Poster Competition that crowned five winners, ensuring our community remains an inclusive space for the engineers shaping tomorrow.



ASME® The American Society of Mechanical Engineers®

asme.foundationindia.org
instagram.com/asme.india/
linkedin.com/company/asme-india