

# THE BULLETIN

## Ekya FIND Festival 2024: A Transformative Journey in Education

We are delighted to reflect on the incredible success of the Ekya FIND Festival 2024, held on 17th November 2024 at Ekya Nava. This year's festival was a vibrant celebration of learning, innovation, and collaboration, bringing together educators, students, and thought leaders to explore the future of education.

The festival commenced with the grand inauguration of Ekya Nava, India's pioneering Purpose-Based school of innovation, creativity, and design. This significant event was graced by distinguished leaders in education and governance, including **Shri Madhu Bangarappa**, the Honourable Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Government of Karnataka, **Dr. K. P. Gopalkrishna**, Founder & Chairman of TISB and National Public Schools, **Dr. K. C. Ramamurthy**, IPS (Retd.), Chairman of CMR Group and Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, **Dr. Sabitha Ramamurthy**, President of CMR Jnanadhara Trust and Chancellor of CMR University, **Shri. K. R. Jayadeep**, Director of Ekya Schools and CEO of CMR Group of Institutions and **Dr. Tristha Ramamurthy**, Founder of Ekya Schools, Provost of CMR University, Vice President of CMR Group of Institutions.



“

**Shri Madhu Bangarappa** highlighted the significance of the FIND Festival and Purpose - Based schools like Ekya Nava, emphasising the pivotal role of quality education. He remarked, “Quality education matters the most. To truly improve it, we must give educators and institutions the freedom to innovate.” His words underscored the festival's mission to empower educational innovation and creativity.

This is a first-of-its-kind, purpose-based school designed to nurture a problem-solving mindset throughout a student's learning journey, igniting purpose through experiential methods and community involvement.





## Book Launch: 'Prompting the Future: AI for Transformative Teaching'

The festival also featured the unveiling of the groundbreaking book, **"Prompting the Future: AI for Transformative Teaching"**. This book is designed specifically for educators, offering practical guidance, tools, and strategies to seamlessly integrate AI into classrooms. By empowering teachers to innovate and adapt to the ever-changing educational landscape, it equips them to prepare students for a technology-driven future. Focusing on transformative education, the book highlights how leveraging AI can enhance both teaching practices and learning outcomes, paving the way for students to thrive in an evolving world.



# Panel Discussions: Exploring the Future of Education



The FIND Festival 2024 brought together thought leaders, educators, parents, and students to discuss the intersection of technology and education. Through engaging panel discussions, participants explored balancing career and family life, integrating AI into education, and envisioning the future of learning. These conversations provided valuable insights into navigating the challenges of a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

## 1 From Play Dates to Pitch Decks: The Ultimate Hustle!



This panel featured successful entrepreneurs like **Vikram Vaidyanathan** (Managing Director, Z47), **Phanindra Sama** (Founder, redBus), **Lizzie Chapman** (Founder, ZestMoney), and **Miten Sampat** (Co-founder CRED). They shared personal stories of balancing parenting and careers in a tech-driven world. Lizzie Chapman summed it up beautifully: "I truly believe children have their own internal destiny and unique view of the world. As a parent, your role is to support them in discovering their full potential."

## 2 Growing Up with AI: Opportunities and Challenges for Future Generations



Industry leaders **Nitin Sharma** (Antler Co-Head, India) and **Deepak Cheenath** (Co-founder, Quizizz Inc.) discussed how AI can simplify tasks in education and parenting. The panelists emphasised the importance of setting boundaries for ethical AI use. Deepak Cheenath noted, "Our approach to AI involves defining boundaries and establishing preferences to ensure its ethical and effective use." The session highlighted the need for schools to adapt to AI advancements, preparing students for the future.

## 3 The Future of Learning: Student Perspectives on AI, Wellbeing, and Expectations from Adults



Moderated by **Anindita Verma** (Ekya ITPL), this student-led panel featured **Siddharth Pradeep** (Ekya BTM), **Avni Saxena** (Ekya Byrathi), **Anvee Kallanagoudar** (Ekya NICE Road), and **Ria Vijay Khanchanale** (Ekya JP Nagar). Students shared how AI enhances learning through interactive methods. Siddharth Pradeep remarked, "AI is a very interactive method of learning that helps people understand concepts clearly through the use of images and videos." The discussion also emphasised the importance of mental well-being and students' expectations from adults in shaping their educational journey.



## Empowering Minds: Interactive Workshops

The workshops at the FIND Festival provided an enriching platform for participants, led by industry experts who emphasised experiential learning, social-emotional development, and inclusivity. Catering to educators, parents, students, and community members, these sessions explored themes like technology integration, AI in education, and fostering creativity.



### Building Smart Bots

Facilitated in partnership with STEMed Tech, this workshop offered insights into the creation and implementation of intelligent bots, showcasing the practical application of AI in educational contexts.

### Building Blocks of Learning: A Hands-On Workshop for Kids & Parents

In collaboration with TROY World, this workshop provided a unique opportunity for kids and parents to engage in hands-on learning activities, enhancing understanding through interactive experiences.



### The AI Edvantage

**Facilitator:** Tanmay Dhote, Co-founder of Polymath AI  
This session explored the role of AI in education, offering strategies for integrating AI tools to enhance learning outcomes.

### Demystifying Data Decisions in a Classroom

**Facilitator:** Prasanna Sundaram, Principal Founder, Augmented Understanding

Participants learned about making informed data-driven decisions in educational settings, improving classroom dynamics and student engagement.





## Feels Like Learning: The Role of Affect and Emotions in Learning

**Facilitator:** Medha Narayanan, Learning, Experience & Design Lead at Open House

This workshop delved into the emotional aspects of learning, emphasising the importance of affect and emotions in educational success.

## Social Inclusion of Neurodivergents: The Mindful Way

**Facilitator:** Bhargavi Raman, Expressive Arts Therapist

Focused on promoting social inclusion, this workshop addressed neurodiversity with mindfulness strategies.



## Games for Learning and Creativity

**Facilitators:** Maneesha Warkade and Namitha Vijayakumar

Explored how games can be utilised to foster creativity and enhance learning experiences.

## Wild Shaale

**Facilitator:** Archana S, Senior Program Manager, Centre for Wildlife Studies

This session offered insights into wildlife education and conservation, inspiring participants to engage with environmental issues.



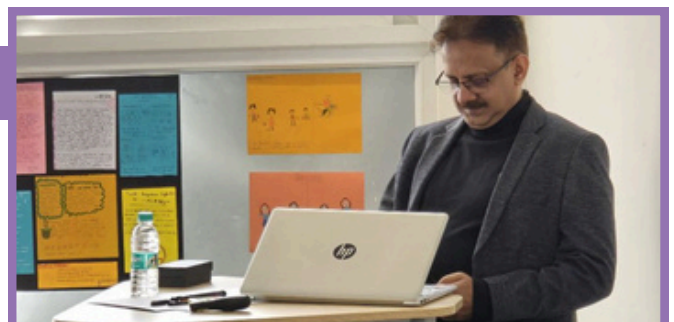
## Game-Based Learning: Play, Learn, and Create

**Facilitator:** Abhijith, Meha, Strategist Ontum Education

Participants discovered innovative ways to integrate game-based learning into educational practices, promoting creativity and engagement.

## New Age Parenting

The workshop helped parents understand how to raise Gen Z and Gen Alpha by teaching them how to support emotional growth, manage technology use, and blend traditional and modern parenting techniques.





# Design Thinking Challenge

The Design Thinking Challenge at FIND Festival 2024 showcased the creative engagement of students as they tackled real-world challenges. This year, the event saw participation from **15 schools, with more than 100 students forming 30 teams**. The challenge centred around the problem statement: **"How might we use technology to promote kindness in our community?"** This prompted students to develop innovative solutions, ranging from apps that encourage acts of kindness to interactive platforms fostering empathy.

Participants were provided with essential resources, including student handouts, observation and research sheets, and access to a well-equipped material station.



## Awards Presented

| Award   |   | School                        |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Presentation Prowess Award                    | ➤ | National Academy For Learning |
| Design-Tech Virtuoso                          | ➤ | CMR NPUC, BTM Layout          |
| Collaboration Maestro Award                   | ➤ | Ekya BTM                      |
| Innovation Visionary Award Award              | ➤ | Ekya JPN                      |
| Special mention for Innovation & Presentation | ➤ | Gopalan National School       |



# Living Books: The Human Library Experience

The Human Library at FIND Festival provided a unique and enriching experience where individuals served as "books," sharing their personal stories and experiences. This initiative was warmly received by participants, promoting empathy and understanding through open conversations. By engaging with people from diverse backgrounds, attendees were able to challenge stereotypes and foster mutual respect, creating a deeper sense of community and connection.



## Here are the 'Human Books' who participated:

- Ms. Mathangi Rajasekaran, HOS Ekya NICE Road
- Mr. Haider Jasdan, Psychotherapist
- Pooja Sriram, Brand Marketer and Author
- Roopa Roy, Architect and Educator
- Abhishek K Singh, Senior SDE at NxtGen
- Ms. Avanthi N Rao, Environmental Activist
- Vinay Jois, IT professional



The Learning Area Showcase featured a vibrant display from over 300 students in Grades 3 to 8 across our campuses, showcasing the diverse learning experiences cultivated within our classrooms. This event was a testament to the rich and varied educational practices we engage in every day, highlighting the integration of creative, analytical, and experiential learning in our curriculum. The Showcase brought to light the tangible outcomes of our educational approach, with students demonstrating enhanced creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork.



## Learning Areas Showcased at FIND Festival 2024



## Languages



STEM



## Creative Arts



## Life Skills



## Technology



The Student Life Gallery Walk featured ten engaging displays, each highlighting key aspects of our Student Development Program designed to connect students with the wider world. Volunteers at each display shared stories and insights, bringing the exhibits to life. The displays showcased reflections and personal insights, certifications from work exposure programs, and trophies marking achievements. Vibrant photos captured the essence of outbound trips, field trips, summer camps, and wrap-around programs. The gallery also highlighted experiences from school events, service learning programs, and leadership bootcamps. Together, these displays celebrated the diverse experiences and holistic growth that empower students to engage meaningfully beyond the classroom.



A total of 16 installations were created on various themes like:

- Human emotions
- Collaboration
- Self expression
- Creativity
- Perceptions
- Effects & uses of technology
- Journaling & mindfulness
- Human development
- Evolution
- Future of humanity, etc



## Creative Expressions: The Museum Installations

The museum installation at the FIND Festival was a vibrant exhibition showcasing an art collective from all our school campuses. Conceptualised by the Visual Arts (VA) and Makery faculty at each campus, the installations were thoughtfully designed to reflect the festival's theme while integrating seamlessly with the curriculum developed for each grade. These creative concepts were brought to life by students, illustrating how the ideas are intricately connected to their specific grade-level studies.

The installations involved techniques from the curriculum such as:

- Collaborative art
- Mixed media installation
- Interactive installation
- Found material installation
- Upcycled art
- Sculpture art
- Wire frame installations
- Charcoal & pastel art
- Kinetic installations
- Colour theory
- Reimagining everyday objects
- Sensory installations
- Themed installations
- Contour Art

## Other Attractions



Adding to the festival's dynamic energy, a lively mix of food trucks and vendor stalls delighted attendees with savory snacks and sweet treats. Vendors showcased unique products like LattooLand's sensory toys, Kids MBA-ABE UK's entrepreneurial programs, the Centre for Wildlife Studies' conservation insights, Ignite India's educational resources, and more, creating an engaging and interactive experience for all. The Scholastic Book Fair was another highlight, featuring a captivating collection of books for children, from beloved classics to the latest releases. A selection of pre-loved books provided affordable options, inspiring a love for reading and celebrating the joy of literature.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of FIND Festival 2024. Your participation and insights were crucial in enriching our educational discussions. Stay engaged with our community for future updates and collaborations. For more information, visit our website @ [ekyaschools.com](http://ekyaschools.com)