



HOPE Foundation's
Finolex Academy of Management & Technology, Ratnagiri
Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering
Association of Students of Electronics and Telecommunication

**FAMT HackForge 2026: A Two-Day “Mystery Engineering Challenge” Organised
by the EXTC Department**

The Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering (EXTC), through the Association of Students of Electronics and Telecommunication (ASENT) and in association with the IETE Students' Forum (ISF), organized **FAMT HackForge 2026** on **9th and 10th October 2026** at the EXTC Department, Finolex Academy of Management & Technology (FAMT), Ratnagiri.

Themed “*Where Constraints Create Innovation*” and built around *Technology for Social Good*, it was a 6-hour hackathon combining Hardware, Software and AI in which each team took part on one of the two days.

A total of **50 teams of four students each (200 participants)** took part. Every team received an Arduino Uno and a set of mystery components (25 different combinations were prepared). Teams could not choose their components and had no ready problem statement. They had to decide on a real-world problem on their own, build a working hardware prototype supported by software, and align the solution with at least one UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). The brainstorming round was held without mobile phones, AI tools or internet. After it, AI use was limited to three 15-minute “lifelines”, with progressive mark deductions for any extra use. Projects were judged out of 100 marks on Brainstorming, Hardware Implementation, Software/Coding, Working Prototype, SDG alignment and Presentation.

Inauguration

The inauguration was held on Friday, 9th October 2026 at 09:15 a.m. in the Seminar Hall, EXTC Department. The Chief Guest was **Dr. Sudhir G. Akojwar**, Principal, Loknete Shamrao Peje Government College of Engineering, Ratnagiri. The ceremony began with lamp lighting and Saraswati Poojan, and was hosted by Ms. Anushka Ghanekar, who also welcomed the guests. It was attended by the Principal of FAMT, Dr. Kaushal Prasad, the Vice Principal of FAMT, Dr. Milind Yadav, the Head of the Department, Dr. Sharada V. Chougule, and the Faculty Coordinator, Dr. Girish G. Bhide, along with faculty, student organisers and participants.

The Chief Guest appreciated the event and its management. He spoke about the energy of young people and encouraged them to keep a habit of continuous learning and a positive, smiling outlook. He also urged the students to build a community around upcoming events and bring a large number of young people together for collective contribution. The HoD appreciated the organising team and the collective effort of the entire HackForge team. Dr. Kaushal Prasad, Principal, appreciated the organisers and noted that the team had spent about two months in discussion and brainstorming for the event. He also shared an experience from his time at IIT Kharagpur, where he sat an open-book test that was among the hardest he had faced, as the answers were not easy to find even with books open, and only a few students could frame them. Dr. Girish G. Bhide, Faculty Coordinator, also addressed the gathering.

Objectives

- To encourage students to solve real-world problems creatively within the limits of given resources.
- To strengthen hands-on skills in integrating hardware with software and dashboards.
- To promote awareness of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and technology for social good.

- To build independent thinking, teamwork and the responsible use of AI tools.
- To provide a common platform for students of FAMT and partner institutions.

Evaluation and Results

The projects were evaluated by a panel of eight judges: Dr. Yogesh M. Gajmal, Dr. Vinayak A. Bharadi, Prof. Neha A. Marathe, Prof. Gauri S. Bhosale, Prof. Vrishali V. Nimbalkar, Prof. Amol R. Sutar, Prof. Sudhir S. Wamane and Prof. Suhas H. Mhabadi. Judges also asked technical questions on the hardware, code, dashboard, working principle and design. Cash prizes totaling ₹30,000 were awarded to the top three teams, and three consolation prizes were also given.

Award	Team	Project	Institution
First Prize (₹12,500)	Hawk	Krishi Sakhi	Atharva College of Engineering, Mumbai
Second Prize (₹10,000)	Spectrum	Smart Hospital Monitoring and Assessment	Finolex Academy of Management and Technology, Ratnagiri
Third Prize (₹7,500)	Sarcas Tech	General and Emergency Lift Monitoring System	Finolex Academy of Management and Technology, Ratnagiri
Best Innovation	Spurthi	Smart Modular Safety Belt	Thadomal Shahani College of Engineering, VESIT Chembur and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (mixed team)
Best Hardware	Innov8ors	Green House Monitor	Finolex Academy of Management and Technology, Ratnagiri
Best Software	Striders	Silent Farm AI-Smart Livestock monitoring	Finolex Academy of Management and Technology, Ratnagiri

The valedictory function was arranged at the end of the second day of the event. The certificates were distributed by Dr. Kaushal Prasad (Principal), Dr. Girish G. Bhide (ASENT Faculty In-charge), Dr. Sharada V. Chougule (HoD) and Prof. Giri S. Kulkarni (IETE ISF Coordinator). The programme concluded with a vote of thanks.

Outcome

The participating teams developed and demonstrated working prototypes for problems in areas such as agriculture, healthcare and building safety, and explained how their solutions support the UN SDGs. By linking hardware, software and the SDGs under tight constraints, FAMT HackForge 2026 reinforced its message of *Technology for Social Good* and gave students a strong experience of problem-solving, teamwork and presenting their own work.

The event was organized by the Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering and ASENT (Head: Mr. Pranav Gavandi) in association with the IETE Students' Forum (ISF), and coordinated by student organizers Mr. Shridhar Naik, Mr. Sahil Nagvekar, Ms. Asmita Choudhry and Ms. Sanjana Choudhary, under the guidance of the Head of the Department, Dr. Sharada V. Chougule, and the Faculty Coordinator, Dr. Girish G. Bhide.

Photographs



Inauguration Ceremony for HackForge 2026



Teams showcasing their skills at HackForge



Prize Distribution and Valedictory Ceremony



The HackForge 2026 organizing team and volunteers