30th July 2025 (Wednesday)

The topic for today was User Status and Presence Tracking — allowing users to see if their friends are online or offline. This was an exciting step toward making our chat system more interactive.

In the first hour, we discussed presence systems conceptually. The mentor explained how Firebase's .info/connected property can detect user connection status and update real-time indicators in the database. I implemented logic to set user status to "Online" when active and "Offline" when the app was closed.

In the second hour, I displayed the status below usernames in the chat screen and the chat list using colored dots — green for online, gray for offline. Testing this across two emulator devices was fascinating: when one user closed the app, the other immediately saw the status update. This live synchronization was made possible by Firebase's automatic real-time listener mechanism.

This feature gave a sense of realism and liveliness to the chat app, marking a major milestone in user experience enhancement.