

## 18th July 2025 (Friday)

This session was dedicated to Session Management and User Persistence. The mentor began by explaining that authentication alone is not enough — we also need a mechanism to remember a logged-in user even after the app is closed. For this purpose, we learned about SharedPreferences, a lightweight data storage solution in Android used to save small pieces of information like user credentials or login states.

In the first hour, I implemented SharedPreferences in my project. When a user logs in successfully, their unique user ID and email were stored locally. Then, when the app launched again, it automatically checked whether the user was already logged in and redirected them directly to the chat interface instead of the login screen.

The second hour was spent enhancing app flow and usability. The mentor introduced a splash screen that briefly appears before the main interface, allowing time for login state verification. This gave the app a more professional feel. I also added a logout feature that cleared SharedPreferences, forcing a re-login when desired.

This session taught me not only the concept of maintaining sessions but also the importance of enhancing user experience through smooth navigation. I left the class feeling more confident, realizing how minor features like session handling significantly improve an app's overall polish and usability.