

## PhilanthroBot Capstone Project – Weekly Progress Diary (Aug–Sep 2025)

S. No.	Reg. No.	Student Name (Group)	Date, Time & Venue	Key Points Discussed	Remarks by Guide	Guide Name	Guide Sign with Date
1	22BIT0013, 22BIT0100	Tanish Maheshwari, Manya Dsouza	05/08/2025, 02:00 PM, SJT 212	In the first meeting, the team and guide discussed the overall project plan and scope. The students outlined the problem of donor-NGO trust deficit and proposed the idea of a conversational agent using a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) approach. Key objectives and deliverables were identified, including building an NGO knowledge base and integrating a stateful dialogue system (LangGraph) with a large language model. The timeline for research, development, and testing was tentatively scheduled, and initial responsibilities were assigned between team members.	Guide commended the clarity of the project concept and emphasized the importance of a thorough literature review on donor trust issues. The guide advised the team to refine the project objectives clearly and ensure an achievable scope within the timeframe. Also recommended gathering initial research articles and case studies on similar conversational systems in the NGO domain as next steps.	Dr. Chiranji Lal Chowdhary	
2	22BIT0013, 22BIT0100	Tanish Maheshwari, Manya Dsouza	12/08/2025, 02:00 PM, SJT 212	By the second week, the students conducted a literature survey on trust issues in philanthropy and existing digital solutions. They presented key findings: for	Guide expressed satisfaction with the breadth of literature covered and advised focusing on trust-building mechanisms used by reputable NGOs and	Dr. Chiranji Lal Chowdhary	

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				<p>example, studies show that only around 22% of donors have high trust in charities, underscoring the need for a trust-centric solution. The team also reviewed how other conversational agents and donor platforms function, identifying gaps that <b>PhilanthroBot</b> could fill. Additionally, they discussed potential data sources for the NGO knowledge base (such as NGO directories and public reports) and refined the system requirements based on insights from the literature.</p>	<p>platforms. The guide suggested incorporating relevant statistics or case studies into the project introduction to strengthen the problem context. It was further recommended to begin outlining the system architecture now that a solid conceptual foundation is in place.</p>		
3	22BIT0013, 22BIT0100	Tanish Maheshwari, Manya Dsouza	19/08/2025, 02:00 PM, SJT 212	<p>In this meeting, the team presented a preliminary architecture design for <b>PhilanthroBot</b>. They detailed the planned RAG-based system: an LLM (gemini-2.0-flash) integrated with a vector database of NGO profiles for fact retrieval. The conversation flow was outlined using LangGraph to maintain state and user preferences across multiple turns. The team walked through a proposed workflow (from user query to retrieving relevant</p>	<p>Guide reviewed the proposed architecture and provided constructive feedback. The guide suggested clarifying how user preferences and state would be stored and leveraged across the dialogue, and ensuring the system can handle multi-turn queries robustly. With these considerations noted, the guide approved moving forward with implementation and advised</p>	Dr. Chiranji Lal Chowdhary	

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				NGO information to generating a recommendation) and discussed how trust and factual accuracy would be ensured via the RAG approach.	careful integration and testing of each module during development.		
4	22BIT0013, 22BIT0100	Tanish Maheshwari, Manya Dsouza	26/08/2025, 02:00 PM, SJT 212	During the fourth week, the team focused on constructing the curated NGO knowledge base. They reported creating a set of representative NGO profiles (each detailing mission, impact, financials, and trust indicators) to serve as source documents. Using document loaders and context-aware text splitters, the data was preprocessed into semantically coherent chunks to optimize retrieval accuracy. The students set up a vector database (e.g., Chroma) and indexed the chunks, enabling semantic search for relevant information. Initial retrieval tests were conducted, confirming that user queries can fetch appropriate NGO data to support the conversational agent's responses.	Guide emphasized maintaining high accuracy and quality in the knowledge base content, recommending verification of all NGO information used. The guide commended the successful setup of the RAG pipeline and suggested testing with a variety of query scenarios to ensure robustness. It was also advised to document this phase thoroughly for inclusion in the project report.	Dr. Chiranji Lal Chowdhary	
5	22BIT0013, 22BIT0100	Tanish Maheshwari, Manya Dsouza	02/09/2025, 02:00 PM, SJT 212	In the fifth meeting, the students demonstrated a working prototype	Guide was pleased with the functional prototype and	Dr. Chiranji Lal Chowdhary	

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				of the <b>PhilanthroBot</b> conversational agent. They integrated the knowledge base with the LLM via the RAG pipeline: user questions triggered retrieval from the NGO vector store, and the gemini-2.0-flash model generated responses grounded in the retrieved facts. The team showed how LangGraph manages the dialogue state with nodes for intent classification, preference updates, document retrieval, and answer generation. Preliminary tests during the demo indicated that the bot can handle multi-turn interactions, remember user preferences (e.g., preferred causes or locations), and include trust-related details (such as an NGO's certification or impact metrics) in its recommendations.	noted that it aligned well with the project's objectives. The guide encouraged the team to refine the conversation flow further, ensuring responses remain clear and focused. Stress-testing the system with edge cases and unusual queries was suggested to improve robustness. The guide also reminded the students to start preparing for the upcoming project review, including developing a clear demonstration script.		
6	22BIT0013, 22BIT0100	Tanish Maheshwari, Manya Dsouza	09/09/2025, 02:00 PM, SJT 212	In the final meeting before the project review, the team discussed the outcomes of comprehensive testing and final preparations. They	Guide praised the thorough testing and noted that the trust-centric design of the system was evident in its performance. The	Dr. Chiranji Lal Chowdhary	

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				<p>reported conducting extensive end-to-end tests of the chatbot, verifying that its NGO recommendations are relevant and that all responses are backed by the knowledge base to ensure factual accuracy. Minor refinements were made based on these tests (such as tweaking prompt phrasing and improving response timing). The students also finalized the project documentation and practiced the presentation. They prepared to demonstrate <b>PhilanthroBot's</b> capabilities, including a potential integration with WhatsApp for real-world deployment, and outlined how they would articulate the system's trust-centric features and future enhancement plans during the review.</p>	<p>guide provided final advice, suggesting the team highlight the innovation of the stateful RAG approach and be ready to discuss data sourcing and ethical considerations during the review. Expressing confidence in the work done, the guide encouraged the students to deliver a clear and impactful presentation.</p>		