



SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

April- June 2025

Educate | Empower | Enable

Pic: Delhi finale- vivo Ignite

Mission and Vision

Vision: Empowering communities to break the cycle of generational poverty through STEM education

Mission: A future where all young people have equal access to the STEM knowledge and skills needed to achieve academic success, career success, upward mobility, and a lifetime of economic self-sufficiency for themselves, their families, and their communities.

April to June has been a powerful quarter of real-world connection, growth, and community-driven change at the Shooting Stars Foundation. Our scholars stepped into careers, our teams traveled across India to meet families and future leaders, our volunteers poured hours into mentorship, and our partners helped bring tech access and innovation to life.

Here's a look at what we accomplished in Q2 2025.

Marching Towards Our Vision

1240+ STEM scholars funded
40,000 Students attended our hackathons since BOY 2021



Pic: Chettinad College Keynote

Pic: Chettinad College Keynote



Pic: Meeting between scholar Pawan Shivabasappa Angadi and donor Savita Chandan

SSF Stars Shine Bright in Top Companies

Scholar Placements:

In the first four months of 2025, 31 of our scholars have secured placements in leading companies such as Microsoft, EY, Accenture, Reliance Industries, BPCL, Nvidia, Atlassian, and several others.

The average annual salary package ranges between ₹6 to ₹9 LPA, reflecting the quality and potential of our scholars.

Spotlight Placements:

- **Soumya Ranjan (IIT Kharagpur) – Software Development Engineer I, Microsoft – ₹15 LPA**
- **Gayatri Giradkar (GCOEARA Pune) – Graduate Engineer Trainee, Adani – ₹6.5 LPA**
- **Ayush Himmatsinghka (IIT Kanpur) – Software Engineer, Juniper Networks – ₹22 LPA**
- **Sweta Kumari (IIT Kharagpur) – AI Engineer, Accenture – ₹15 LPA**



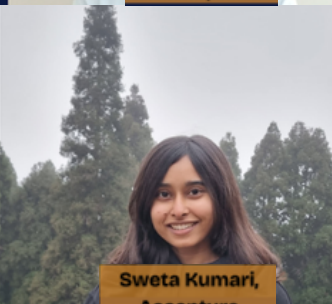
Soumya Ranjan
Mohapatra,
Microsoft



Gayatri Narendra
Giradkar, Adani



Ayush
Himmatsinghka,
Juniper Networks



Sweta Kumari,
Accenture

Building Future Leaders:

Scholar Internship Program

Launched in January 2025, the SSF Scholar Internship Program was designed to offer real-time work exposure and hands-on learning to our students. In just a few months, the program has already shown great impact.

So far, six interns have been onboarded, actively contributing to the execution of major SSF programs such as STEM hackathons, training workshops, and student engagement activities.

Their enthusiasm, professionalism, and behind-the-scenes efforts have been invaluable in ensuring program success.

A big thank you to our first cohort of interns:

Kamalini, Sunita Lama, Rupali Meena, Bhumika Panwar, Keerthana, and Sodadasu Sachin – your dedication has made a real difference, and we are proud to have you on the SSF team.



Sunita Lama



Sodadasu Sachin



Keerthana



Bhumika Panwar



Rupali Meena



Kamalini

April 2025 Highlights

Connecting with Purpose: Scholar Meet- &- Greet Across India

We believe a scholarship is more than a transaction—it's a relationship. That belief guided us as we traveled to Delhi, Coimbatore, and Bangalore to meet the students who applied to become SSF Scholars for 2025. Over 52 students, along with their parents, met our staff and alumni volunteers in person.

Pic: Meet-&-greet with potential scholars in Bangalore



Applications were reviewed, documents verified, and face-to-face interviews conducted—not just to assess eligibility, but to understand their aspirations, challenges, and potential.

For many, it was their first time sharing their story with someone who saw them not just as a student, but as a future changemaker.



Real People. Real Impact: Donor-Scholar in Dharwad

On April 26, our scholar Pawan Shivabasappa Angadi had a very special meeting—with his donor, Savita Chandan, in her hometown of Dharwad, Karnataka.

What began as a formal relationship transformed into a moment of shared humanity—tea, conversation, and the joy of meeting someone who believed in your potential.



“

“It was wonderful meeting Pawan; we ended up talking for quite some time. He had invited me to his convocation too.”— Savita Chandan

“She welcomed me like family. We spoke about my goals, and her encouragement meant a lot.”

”

—Pawan Shivabasappa

May 2025 Highlights

Career Readiness Program with Walmart & Cognizant

In May, we deepened our commitment to student outcomes—not just degrees, but jobs. SSF partnered with Walmart Global Tech and Cognizant to launch an intensive Career Readiness and Placement Mentorship Program for 48 final-year scholars who had not yet secured placements.

Across two weeks, scholars received:

- Personalized resume and LinkedIn profile support
- Mock interviews and feedback
- Insights into corporate culture and workplace expectations
- Confidence coaching and mentor sessions

The transformation was visible—not just in documents, but in demeanor. Our scholars spoke with new clarity, asked sharper questions, and walked away with a roadmap for success.



LIKHITHA B.R.
B.E/B.Tech., BNM Institute of Technology

"Thank you SSF for an amazing and informative Walmart placement training session! The interaction with Disha Saxena ma'am really helped boost my confidence and gave me new insights. Big thanks to Vinu ma'am and Shivaranjini ma'am for always supporting and guiding us. It was a great experience that encouraged me to express myself better."





TEJASWINI

"This training has been an overwhelming and enriching experience for me. I now feel much more confident and ready to face interviews without hesitation or stress. A special thank you to SSF-Vinu ma'am and my mentor





ROHITH

"We had very informative sessions with do's and don'ts for interviews. Harshita ma'am shared interview questions and explained how to tackle them. The next day with Senthil sir, we had a group discussion on 'Cybersecurity Threats in India.' It was a great experience!"





NIRMAL FAGERIA

"It was a great session! Got so many useful tips on how to improve my resume and make it stand out. The LinkedIn guidance was also super helpful — lots of practical advice. Thank you SSF and Cognizant for organizing this!"





VARSHANA

"The mock interview with Girija sir was extremely insightful. His feedback helped me structure my responses, highlight my strengths, and handle tricky questions with clarity."



Chandan Kumar
B.E/B.Tech., National Institute of Technology
Karnataka Surathkal

"It was really a great session. I met Atul and he is working in the Data Science domain and it matches with my field of interest. Got very useful feedback on my communication skills and resume. It was inspiring and gave me a clear understanding about my role and requirements. Thanks a lot to SSF."

June 2025 Highlights



vivo Ignite Delhi Finale Innovation on Stage



The vivo Ignite 2025 Grand Finale held on June 15 in New Delhi marked a defining moment in India's youth innovation journey. With over 37,000 student entries across 660+ districts, the competition narrowed down to the top 10 finalists, each showcasing working prototypes addressing real-world issues—from AI for crime detection to clean energy vehicles.

The event, held in partnership with NCERT, IIT Madras Pravartak, and the UN Global Compact, awarded ₹35 lakhs in scholarships. SSF played a pivotal role in outreach and mentorship, with our scholars shining not only as finalists but also as organizers, guides, and changemakers.



Alongside the Delhi finale, SSF hosted an in-person gathering of scholars and alumni from our North India network. These meetups, though informal, are deeply meaningful. They remind our scholars that SSF is not just a scholarship—it's a lifelong family. From job updates to startup ideas, the room buzzed with connection, support, and shared pride.

Inspiring Girls in Tech Chettinad College Keynote

As part of the WWT All India Women-Only Hackathon, we hosted a powerful keynote session at Chettinad College of Engineering & Technology on June 26.

More than 200 girls explored the future of Gen AI, automation, and tech careers. Many submitted original hackathon ideas on the spot—30+ from this campus alone.

It wasn't just a tech talk—it was a launchpad for girls to see themselves as engineers, leaders, and innovators.



Bioinformatics Bootcamp

Code Meets Curiosity

We hosted a 5-day online Bioinformatics Bootcamp for U.S.-based high school and early-college students in June. Participants explored Python, genetics, and the future of biotech

“It was the first time I applied coding to a real-world situation. That made it stick.” – Bharath Shanmuga, Participant

This wasn't just about learning—it was about relevance, application, and excitement.



HANDS-ON HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Predicting Genetic Inheritance (group project)
- ✓ Live presentations to professionals
- ✓ Python + Genetics foundation
- ✓ Career & mentorship talks

THE IMPACT

- 💡 100% Interested in STEM careers
- 🧬 86% Improved bioinformatics confidence
- 💻 72% Boosted programming knowledge

Here's what the students had to say!

Testimonials:

I really thought all of the sessions were really good, the kahoots were helpful for learning the newer content while keeping it engaging, and just the various topics like about how to start research opportunities to genetics were all just extremely interesting. Overall the camp was great because of Pranav and I really enjoyed him as a mentor for this camp.

Nathan Yu

I think the group project taught me several valuable and creative skills and I was also able to learn a better work ethic for myself

Dhanesh Vangapandu

This program benefitted me by exposing me to a practical application of coding, bioinformatics. I had experience working with python previously and this was the first case where I applied it for a "real world" situation. -

Bharath Shanmuga Sundaram



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

— “ —

This program wouldn't be possible without the support of our incredible professional volunteers.

You're opening doors to STEM for students everywhere.

— ” —

LET'S KEEP INSPIRING FUTURE SCIENTISTS!



A Celebration of Educational Families

Global Parents Day

On June 1, we honored those who make SSF's mission possible—our donors, who we proudly call our educational parents.

With over 91 attendees, our virtual Global Parents Day event featured moving stories from scholars about how their lives have changed—from remote villages to city boardrooms, from doubt to direction.

This wasn't just a celebration. It was a heartfelt "thank you" from the future to those who made it possible.



YOU ARE INVITED TO

GLOBAL PARENTS DAY EVENT

CELEBRATING THE EDUCATIONAL PARENTS
BEHIND OUR STARS

Online

2025

SUNDAY | **01** | JUNE

08:30 - 09:30 AM PST

No Ask, No Cost – Just THANK YOU!

We hope that you will be able to join us to:

- Hear inspiring voices from our scholars & alumni
- Go behind the scenes of the work you support
- Learn about the impact we've created together
- Look ahead to what's possible



KPMG Internal Audit

Strengthening the Foundation

On June 2, SSF completed its internal process audit with KPMG. These regular audits are not just compliance checks—they're catalysts for continuous improvement.

Pic: SSF staff during KPMG audit



They help us evolve, identify gaps, and ensure our scholarship, funding, and operational systems meet the highest standards of transparency and efficiency. With each audit, we reinforce our commitment to integrity and excellence.

Join Hands with Us

At Shooting Stars Foundation, we believe every dream deserves a chance to shine. Through scholarships, mentorship, skill-building programs, and holistic support, we empower underprivileged youth across India to pursue higher education, secure meaningful employment, and become change-makers in their communities.

This year, your support has helped light up countless journeys— from remote villages to corporate boardrooms, from hardship to hope. But there are many more stars waiting to rise.

Adopt a Scholar – Give a student the wings to pursue education without financial barriers.

Volunteer with Us – Share your time, skills, and knowledge to guide our students toward a brighter future.

Partner Through CSR – Collaborate with us to create scalable, sustainable impact in education and skilling.

Sponsor STEM Events – Inspire young minds through hackathons, camps, and hands-on STEM programs.

Together, we can break the cycle of poverty through education and empowerment.

Be the spark. Help us ignite possibilities.



hello@sstarsfoundation.org



<https://shooting-stars-foundation.org/>



SHOOTING STARS
FOUNDATION

EDUCATE | ENABLE | EMPOWER

