

OCT- DEC 2025

Educate | Enable | Empower

Pic: Impact Gala 2025



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.

Marching Towards Our Vision

1506 STEM scholars funded

50K+ Students reached via our STEM Events since 2021

As we wrap up the final quarter of 2025, Shooting Stars Foundation is delighted to share the remarkable momentum and meaningful impact created between October and December.

This quarter shone especially bright as it featured two of SSF's most eagerly awaited annual events—the Bay Area Impact Gala, which this year united our incredible ambassadors in Fremont, and Rangeela, a vibrant celebration of culture, creativity, and compassion.



Rangeela 2025

Oct 2025 Highlights



IBM Z Datathon 2025 (OCT 11-12)

The IBM Z Datathon 2025, organized by the Shooting Stars Foundation and powered by IBM, was a resounding success. Designed to encourage scholars to turn ideas into impact, collaborate with peers, and showcase their innovation on a global stage, the event delivered an inspiring display of creativity, resilience, and technical excellence.

15,000 + registrations
Participation from 44 countries



Over two high-energy days, participants formed teams, refined problem statements, and built impactful projects—resulting in 450+ solutions addressing real-world challenges. Our exceptional SMEs guided participants throughout their journey on the IBM Z platform, many of whom were exploring it for the first time. Their expertise and patience ensured every student had the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.



We extend our gratitude to our judges, who meticulously evaluated each project and recognized teams for their creativity, novelty, and ability to bring ideas to life on their IBM LinuxONE instances. Their insights were instrumental in celebrating the solutions that truly stood out.

The Datathon also featured a dynamic Career Panel with Filip Đuričković, Lerato Kalane, Mrudula Prashanth, and Niall A., who shared invaluable perspectives on IBM Z careers, global opportunities, and community-building. We further thank our keynote speaker, Subhathra Srinivasaraghavan, for her deep insights into AI and why AI on IBM Z is a powerful and timely combination.

We also acknowledge the contributions of our IBM Z Datathon 2024 winning teams—Data Phandas, Vajra, and Bootstrap_Samplers—who supported the pre-event preparations with enthusiasm and mentorship.

Congratulations to the Winners!

This year, the winning teams include 3 global and 9 regional teams from Chennai, Bangalore, London, Pretoria (South Africa), and Mainz (Germany). Each team will receive 3 months of mentorship from IBM Z SMEs and a chance to speak at future industry conferences.

Oct 2025 Highlights

IIT Alumni WHEELS Global Foundation Gala 2025

Held in New York on October 4, 2025, the annual IIT Alumni WHEELS Global Foundation Gala was a celebration of innovation, impact, and community. The event was attended by SSF US Board Chairperson Brian McCann, Board Member Ramnath Mani and CEO Latha Narayannan, who represented the Foundation on this inspiring global stage.

Our mission is strengthened by our meaningful partnership with the IIT Alumni WHEELS Global Foundation (WGF)—an organization driven by the powerful goal of transforming 20% of Rurban India by 2030, leveraging India's technological heritage, the IIT alumni ecosystem, and a global network of professionals. This shared vision of sustainable, scalable social impact continues to bring SSF and WGF together in purpose and passion.



The Gala brought together changemakers, thought leaders, and philanthropists committed to uplifting underserved communities through technology, education, and sustainable solutions. The evening highlighted WGF's incredible achievements over the years while also offering SSF the opportunity to share:

- Key milestones
- Impact stories from scholars
- Future goals for expanding STEM access

Nursing Scholars Interviews



As part of our mission to empower deserving students from underserved communities through quality STEM education, we conducted scholarship interviews in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, for the Paramedical and Nursing Scholarship Program 2025. Around 30 students in October and 52 students in December, along with their parents, participated in the in-person screening and enrollment process.



The event began with an informal meet-and-greet with students and parents where they were served refreshments, followed by an initiation session into the journey of SSF so far, its impact and its future goals.

NURSING SCHOLARS INTERVIEW

This was followed by the interview process where scholars and their parents were asked about their background, and why they would want a scholarship for their child. They were also asked to provide necessary documents needed for the scholarship application that were reviewed thoroughly by the SSF staff.



SSF is now under the process of finalising the applicants from Madurai for the medical scholarships and wishes all the students all the very best!



DELHI SCHOLAR MEET



The Delhi Regional Meet-Up brought together scholars and alumni for a vibrant and inspiring afternoon designed to strengthen bonds, encourage peer learning, and create space for personal expression and growth. The event opened with warm introductions over refreshments, setting a comfortable and welcoming tone for the day.



To spark interaction, a series of quick and engaging icebreakers helped participants get to know each other and build an immediate sense of familiarity. These activities infused the room with positivity, energy, and ease—laying the foundation for deeper conversations that followed.



Nov 2025 Highlights

Participants then immersed themselves in a reflective Vision Board Activity, creatively expressing their dreams, goals, and future aspirations. Sharing their boards with peers encouraged meaningful dialogue, bonding, and mutual encouragement.



The event concluded with a wholesome lunch, informal conversations, group photos, and a thoughtful token—a rose for each participant. A brief feedback session helped gather insights to enhance future meet-ups.



The Delhi Meet-Up was a heartwarming, engaging, and empowering gathering—strengthening community connections and nurturing confidence, creativity, and shared aspirations. SSF extends a heartfelt thank you to all scholars and alumni who participated and made the event truly special.

Nov 2025 Highlights



Impact Gala 2025

On November 15, 2025, the Shooting Stars Foundation community came together at the Downtown Event Center in Fremont, CA, for the annual Bay Area Impact Gala—an evening filled with gratitude, powerful stories, and renewed commitment to our shared mission.

The Gala welcomed our incredible ambassadors, supporters, and alumni for a night that celebrated courage, compassion, and the transformative power of education.

Inspiring Voices That Lit Up the Evening



One of the most impactful moments of the evening came from Arjun Sen, a cancer warrior once given only 100 days to live. His extraordinary journey—and the life-changing question his daughter asked—sparked the creation of the Filmfare 2024 award-winning Bollywood film "I Want to Talk", starring Abhishek Bachchan.

Arjun's message of choosing purpose even in the darkest moments moved the entire room. His resilience and clarity reminded us why we do what we do at SSF: to inspire hope, amplify opportunity, and uplift communities.

We were honored to hear from MR Rangaswami, founder of Indiaspora, who has spent decades building bridges between the U.S. and India. His insights into leadership, community building, and global collaboration encouraged every guest to think bigger and give forward.



The highlight of the evening was hearing from SSF alumni Harika J and Shasi Reddy K, now thriving in the U.S. Their stories of how education transformed their paths deeply inspired the audience.

In a heartwarming moment, Harika announced that she had chosen to become a donor herself—a powerful reminder that those who are lifted often return to lift others.

Over appetizers, dinner, and heartfelt conversations, guests connected, celebrated, and reflected on the collective impact made possible through SSF's mission. The sense of unity and purpose carried the evening long after the formal program concluded.



Thank you to all speakers, organizers, volunteers, and Bay Area ambassadors for making this Gala meaningful. Together, we continue to build futures—one scholar at a time.

Nov 2025 Highlights



Impact Gala 2025



Dec 2025 Highlights



Rangeela 2025 A Symphony of Color and Culture



Rangeela 2025 was more than just a show; it was a breathtaking explosion of culture, community, and compassion. The auditorium was transformed into a sea of energy as nearly 500 audience members—ranging from excited youth to supportive seniors—came together to celebrate the arts.



Event Highlights:

- The show opened with a high-octane performance by the Golisoda teen band, who captivated the crowd with songs in various languages.
- 22 gorgeous performances took place, featuring a massive ensemble of 150 fabulous dancers and musicians.
- The event introduced Portland's first Battle of Bollywood for middle schoolers and Quartet Combat, both of which were smashing successes with six high-quality performances each.
- The "Spice of Life" dance competition brought a rich variety of styles and guest performances that added to the night's euphoria.

Dec 2025 Highlights

The true heart of Rangeela 2025 was its mission to drive change through the SSF Fundraiser. The evening reached a poignant peak when Shooting Stars Foundation student, Harika, shared her touching success story on stage. Her journey from a hopeful scholar to a success story moved the audience deeply, showcasing how collective support can transform a life. This powerful moment opened the hearts of our attendees, who contributed generously to the cause of education. Every donation collected during the event will go directly toward empowering more students like Harika, ensuring that financial barriers do not stand in the way of their dreams.



This meticulously crafted show was made possible by a fabulous team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure a creative and crisp performance. We are also deeply grateful to our sponsors whose support forms the backbone of our mission to empower students through education.

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.



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SHOOTING STARS
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