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Chairman's Message



Shekhar Mehta

Serving humanity

Dear Friends of Humanity,

One of the greatest joys of life is to see the impact of Serving Humanity. This issue of Humanity Times carries some impact stories that really have made a difference either in an individual's life or in an entire community. These stories indeed showcase the power of Serving Humanity.

I am excited that Padho Bharat program to collect millions of books and make thousands of libraries is taking shape beautifully. The impact of this will be great, as it will help millions of children to be able to read. I encourage each of you to not only participate in the program by donating books but spreading the good word around to social media, personal contacts etc. so that every individual that you know can participate in this noble initiative.

It was really heartwarming to see yet another child coming from Africa under the program Saving Little Hearts program. This child from Ghana, is in fulfillment of my commitment to President of Ghana Mr Nana Akufo-Addo to do 50 Heart surgeries for children from Ghana. The number of heart surgeries for African children are now crossed 100 children from 5 different countries. Soon more children from Ghana and Ethiopia will be coming to get their little hearts operated and their lovely lives saved. Apart from this more children from India too have had their heart surgeries done.

I compliment everyone who has been a part of this journey of serving the common man.

Regards,

Shekhar Mehta

Shekhar Mehta
Chairman
India Humanity Foundation



Padho Bharat

**Together, Let's Build a
Nation of Readers.**

**Padho Bharat 2025: A Nationwide Movement to
collect lacs of books & create thousands of libraries.**

India Humanity Foundation (IHF) is proud to launch the **Padho Bharat 2025** campaign, a month-long national initiative from **8th August to 8th September 2025** aimed at promoting literacy and access to books across India.

Padho Bharat is not a new effort, it is IHF's long-running flagship literacy program that has already enabled the creation of **over 5,000 libraries** and distributed **more than 5,00,000 books** to schools, orphanages, and underserved learning spaces. This year, the campaign scales up in two impactful phases:

Phase 1 : Book Collection Drive – Mobilizing individuals, institutions, and communities across 50 cities to donate gently used or new books.

Phase 2 : Library Creation – Setting up libraries in schools and community spaces across India.

We believe that a single book can spark a lifetime of learning. Through **Padho Bharat 2025**, we aim to turn books into powerful tools of change and we are inviting various organisations like **Round Table India, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Publishing Houses, Educational institutions, NGOs, and other Corporate partners** to join us in this mission.

Cities involved

This year, the campaign will be active in **50+ cities** in India. Our **local coordinators** in each city will facilitate collections, partnerships, and awareness events.

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Know Our Trustee

Cherukumalli Kishore Kumar

Visionary leader in marine exports & social impact



With over three decades of expertise in deep-sea fishing and seafood exports, **Cherukumalli Kishore Kumar** brings unparalleled experience and dedication to both business and service. A science graduate by education, he has spent the last **35 years** shaping India's marine industry. He currently serves as the **Managing Director of Sandy Bay Sea Foods Pvt. Ltd.**, a prestigious Indo-Thai joint venture and a recognized **2-Star Export House**.

Mr. Kishore Kumar has held key leadership positions in the industry, including:

- **Vice President**, The Seafood Exporters Association of India (Andhra Pradesh Region)
- **Honorary Secretary & Vice President**, Association of Indian Fishery Industries
- **President**, Crab Meat Processors Association of India
- **Vice Chairman**, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India

His commitment extends beyond business. He is actively involved in **fish farming and prawn hatchery development**, contributing to sustainable aquaculture practices in India.

In the world of service, **Mr. Kishore Kumar has been a Rotarian since 1995**, having served as a **District Governor** and in several national and international leadership roles. For his outstanding humanitarian efforts, **Rotary International honoured him with its highest individual award— "Service Above Self."**

He is also deeply committed to philanthropy:

- Managing Trustee, **Cherukumalli Foundation**
- Trustee, **India Humanity Foundation**
- Trustee, **Gouthami Eye Hospital**
- Trustee, **Age Care Foundation**

His journey is a testament to how business leadership can be beautifully balanced with community service. We are proud to have him as a guiding force on our board.

CEO's Message



Aparna Biyani

Inspiring Change

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to each of you.

As we continue our journey of serving humanity, I am deeply grateful for your support and belief in our mission.

We are excited to launch the Padho Bharat Campaign – an effort to collect books and build libraries across India. Through storybooks, picture books, and course books, we hope to spread the joy of reading to thousands of children. I invite you to join us – by donating books, forging connections, or simply sharing the message. Let's create a nation of readers together!

I'm also happy to share that Jayden, a six-year-old from Ghana, recently underwent a successful heart surgery in Bangalore through our international medical aid efforts. His story reminds us that with compassion, there are no borders in service.

Meanwhile, our adult literacy programs continue across India. In a major step forward, we will now be providing literacy classes in all 61 correctional homes in West Bengal, offering inmates a fresh chance through education.

Thank you for walking with us on this path. Your support continues to bring hope, healing, and a better tomorrow.

Aparna Biyani

CEO

India Humanity Foundation

Call For Action

We invite institutions, organisations, and communities to amplify the impact of this campaign by:

- **Schools & Colleges:**
 - Organise student-led book donation drives.
 - Partner with local publishing houses or bookstores to source surplus or unsold stock.
 - Encourage students to become “Book Ambassadors” in their neighborhoods.
- **Educational Institutions & Coaching Centres:**
 - Facilitate collection bins at entrances and common areas.
 - Motivate students to books.
- **Housing Societies & Resident Welfare Associations:**
 - Set up collection points in society clubhouses or community halls.
 - Host weekend collection events.
- **Publishing Houses & Distributors:**
 - Donate overstocked or gently used books directly to IHF.
 - Collaborate on thematic book bundles for specific age groups or subjects.
- **Libraries, Book Cafés & Literature Clubs:**
 - Offer space for community collections.
 - Host book donation events, author meets, or reading marathons.
- **NGOs & Youth Clubs:**
 - Act as regional mobilisers and local coordinators.
 - Identify underserved learning spaces that can benefit from library setups.

Who Can Be a Donor?

Anyone who believes in the power of books and education! Here's who can contribute:

Individuals

- Students (school & college level)
- Book lovers with extra books at home
- Parents with children's books their kids have outgrown
- Working professionals willing to donate storybooks, academic or motivational books

Educational Institutions

- Schools and colleges (staff, alumni, and student communities)
- Coaching centers and tuition classes
- Universities with old library stock or reference books

Corporates & Businesses

- Companies through CSR initiatives or employee engagement drives
- Office libraries or team-led collections
- Bookstore chains and stationery outlets

Publishing Houses & Book Distributors

- Publishers with excess stock, old editions, sample copies, or returns
- Book wholesalers and online sellers with unsold inventory

Resident Welfare Associations & Housing Societies

- Community-level book drives and society-wide donation initiatives

NGOs & Social Clubs

- Youth groups, Rotary & Lions Clubs, Round Table India chapters
- NGOs focused on education, child rights, or community development

Libraries, Reading Clubs, Book Cafes

- Donating unused or old gently used book
- Hosting public drop-off points

What kind of books can be donated?

We accept **gently used or new books** in English, Hindi, and regional languages. Preferred categories include:

- Children's storybooks & picture books
- School textbooks (last 5 years)
- Reference books (encyclopedias, dictionaries)
- Inspirational biographies & general knowledge
- Fiction & non-fiction (age-appropriate)
- Comics and illustrated books
- Activity and puzzle books for young learners.

How can you engage beyond donations

Not just a donor? You can still be a changemaker!

- **Be a campaign ambassador**
Help us spread the word in your college, company, or social media.
- **Host a book collection event**
Set up a “Books for Change” counter in your campus, office, or society.
- **Volunteer for logistics**
Help in transporting, sorting, or cataloguing books in your city.
- **Share the impact**
Post your book donation story and tag us on Instagram with **#PadhoBharat2025**.

Recognition & gratitude

We value every effort. All active partners and contributors will receive:

- **A Certificate of Contribution**
- Feature in our **Humanity Times: Impact Edition**
- Social media shoutouts and event coverage
- Opportunities to interact with on-ground beneficiaries

If you would like to contribute books, volunteer, or partner with us in any capacity, reach out at:

✉ literacy@ihf.org.in

☎ +91 74397 69372

🌐 www.ihf.org.in

Impact Stories

From lost to limitless: The journey of Akash Mondal



Akash Mondal in the Asha Kiran Centre in 2016

Asha Kiran - A ray of hope is our flagship **Child Development Initiative** aimed at bringing **150,000 out-of-school children back into the education system**. Under this program, we work with children from vulnerable communities—those who have never been enrolled or who have dropped out—and **help them return to school** after a period of dedicated academic support. The objective is to bridge the learning gap and facilitate their admission into mainstream state-funded **primary and elementary schools**, giving every child **the chance to learn and grow**.

Akash Mondal's story is one that continues to inspire us.

In a village in West Bengal, Akash Mondal spent his early childhood away from school—helping with chores and watching other children head to class. For him, education felt out of reach.

That changed in 2016, when our team met Akash during an outreach visit. With support from local NGO partners, we enrolled him in the Asha Kiran program. He began attending informal learning camps and quickly discovered a love for learning.

More than just reading and writing, Akash learned about his rights and began to dream. His dedication was unmatched—he walked barefoot for miles, never missing a session. With mentorship and encouragement, his confidence soared.

"I used to think school was for someone else's child," he shared. "Today, I dream of building things that help people—just like someone once helped me."

Akash soon began mentoring younger children and encouraging families in his community to value education. With steady support, he was eventually mainstreamed into formal schooling.

Today, Akash is a college student pursuing technical education. He also tutors underprivileged children in his locality. His journey—from exclusion to empowerment—embodies the essence of Asha Kiran: *a ray of hope, a new beginning, and a future every child deserves.*



Akash Mandal, during college 1st year

Restoring water, rebuilding lives:

A Rayagada success story



First catch from revived water body

In 2023, **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)**, in partnership with **Rotary India Water Conservation Trust**, **Rotary Club of Rayagada (RI District 3262)**, **NBAW Association (IIT)**, and **PRABHAT NGO**, launched the **Restore Promise of Water (RPOW)** project in the drought-prone **Chandrapur block of Rayagada district, Odisha**. What began as a collaborative water conservation effort has grown into a story of transformation for hundreds of farming families.

Six critical irrigation tanks in **Harishankar, Kaparagangi, Jugapadar, Teperima, Bangaroda, and Chakra** were desilted and rejuvenated. But beyond physical restoration, the initiative empowered local communities. A total of **479 farmers** carted nearly **1,00,000 cubic meters** of nutrient-rich silt to their farmlands, reviving soil fertility and agricultural productivity.

The results are compelling:

- **Year-round Water Security:** All tanks now retain water even during peak summer.
- **Boost to Livelihoods:** Pisciculture thrives, yielding over 50 quintals of fish annually.
- **Agricultural Revival:** 15 acres of infertile land now produces rice, mustard, lentils, vegetables, and sesame.
- **Green Transformation:** Kitchen gardens and vegetable farms now surround the tanks.

The **RPOW** project is more than just a conservation effort—it is a blueprint for community-led ecological renewal. With every drop saved, hope and opportunity are restored, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

DIKSHA orientation at Shri Shikshayatan School



Students actively engaging during the orientation session

India Humanity Foundation (IHF) successfully conducted an orientation session on its flagship adult literacy initiative, DIKSHA, at Shri Shikshayatan School, Kolkata, on 17th July, 2025.

The event was led by IHF CEO **Ms. Aparna Biyani**, who addressed the gathering with an inspiring message on the power of youth-driven change and the importance of bridging the country's literacy gap.

School Principal **Ms. Sangeeta Tandon** extended her wholehearted support to the initiative, emphasizing the school's commitment to meaningful community engagement.

Students were enthusiastic to identify one adults each and teach them for 60 sessions using the toolkits designed by IHF. curiosity, showing genuine interest in contributing to the adult literacy cause. Their active participation and willingness to serve as peer educators signal a promising path forward for the DIKSHA program in the region.



Students and educators come together to embrace new beginnings and shared responsibilities

"We are heartened by the energy and dedication shown by these young minds. This is how change begins—one school, one student, one step at a time."

– Ms. Aparna Biyani

With such partnerships and participation, India Humanity Foundation continues to move closer to its goal of **#MakingIndiaTotallyLiterate**.

Lighting the way: Adult literacy program transforms lives in Jharkhand and Odisha



Adult learners attending classes at a Vidya Center in Jharkhand

A total of **42 Vidya Adult Literacy Centres** has been established across the two states, serving as safe, welcoming spaces for **1,680 adult learners**. These learners, many of whom never had the opportunity to attend school, are now developing foundational skills in **reading, writing, and basic arithmetic**.

By fostering **self-reliance and confidence**, the program is empowering individuals—especially women—to navigate daily life with greater independence. Whether it's reading medicine labels, managing household budgets, or helping their children with schoolwork, the impact is immediate and deeply personal.

The goal of the program is not just to teach alphabets and numbers—it's about opening doors. Across villages, lives are beginning to change as learners grow more confident and capable, transforming not only their own futures but also the future of their communities. It's a ripple effect of empowerment—**one learner, one village at a time**.

Thanks to the continued support of Rungta Sons Private Limited, the India Humanity Foundation remains committed to strengthening grassroots education and building a future where **literacy is a right, not a privilege**.

In an inspiring move to bridge the literacy gap among underserved communities, **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)**, with the generous backing of **Rungta Sons Private Limited**, has launched a transformative adult education program in the heartlands of **Jharkhand** and **Odisha**.

From exhaustion to empowerment:

A story from Kumir Mari island, Sundarbans, West Bengal

On the remote island of **Kumir Mari** in the **Sundarbans' Sandeshkhali block**, education is taking root through quiet determination. In collaboration with **Sathi Seva Sandeshkhali Alaka Guchha Samity**, **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)** established **18 Vidya Adult Literacy Centres** to serve some of the region's most marginalised communities.

The learners are mainly agricultural labourers and fisherfolk, they attend evening classes after long hours of exhausting work. Fatigue often hindered participation and learning outcomes.

"After a long and tiring day of hard physical work, receiving a small snack and the opportunity to learn meant everything to us. It gave us the strength to continue and the motivation to succeed. Thank you, India Humanity Foundation, for restoring our hope and dignity."

- Basanti Mandal (adult learner)



To address this, IHF introduced a simple intervention under its Annapurna Project: providing light snacks such as biscuits during sessions.

The impact was immediate. Learners felt refreshed, classroom engagement improved, and many who once struggled to focus began participating actively. Several went on to successfully pass their final literacy examinations.

This initiative proves how small, thoughtful support can break barriers. As these centres thrive, IHF remains dedicated to empowering learners—nourishing both body and mind on the path to lasting change.

**IHF is happy to recognise the
outstanding NGO partners**

**L Dey Road Sarada Society, West Bengal
Mr. Siddhartha Giri**

**Gram Sathi, Jharkhand
Mr. Devanand Kumar**

**South Orissa Voluntary Action Sova, Odisha
Mr. Sanjit Pattanayak**

Sweet smiles with Annapurna:

A special surprise treat for thousands of children



Happy faces of children from Mondelēz International

Under its **Annapurna Program for Hunger Alleviation, India Humanity Foundation (IHF)**—in collaboration with the **India Food Banking Network (IFBN)**—has received a generous donation of **15,000 kgs** of packed food from **Mondelēz International**. This includes treats like **Tang, Oreo biscuits, and chocolates**.

These food items are being distributed through IHF's network in **Mumbai - through Rotary Clubs**, reaching schools and communities where underserved children rarely get to enjoy such delights. They not only bring joy to young faces but also provide a valuable boost of nutrition to support their learning and growth.

“Through this initiative, thousands of children will experience the joy and delight of a sweet surprise. These small but significant moments create lasting memories and bring a sense of inclusion and celebration into their lives.” – said an IHF team member.

A sip of Tang, a bite of a cookie, a shared chocolate—they bring smiles that say it all.

Thank you to Mondelēz, IFBN and our tireless volunteers for supporting our mission. Special thanks to our **Trustee Mr Sandip Agarwalla** for mobilising the distribution in Mumbai.

Saving little hearts:

Lifesaving surgeries give three children a new chance at life

In a country where access to quality healthcare remains limited for many, the Saving Little Hearts initiative by **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)**, in collaboration with **Yogita Kichlu Welfare Trust** and **Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence**, is bringing lifesaving cardiac care to children from underprivileged backgrounds.

Recently, three young lives were transformed through timely surgeries conducted at **R. N. Tagore Hospital, Mukundapur**.



Sanjay Majumdar before surgery

Sanjay's* second chance at life

3 year old **Sanjay Majumdar** had always appeared frail and tired. Diagnosed with a **congenital heart defect**, his family was struggling financially and had no way to afford a treatment. With IHF's support, Sanjay underwent surgery on **1st June, 2025**, and was discharged within two days. Today, he's full of energy and steadily recovering.

A new dawn for Sahil*

Ten-month-old Sahil Barik faced persistent coughing, breathlessness, and poor weight gain. A heart defect diagnosis devastated his family, who couldn't bear the treatment costs. On **3rd July, 2025**, he underwent surgery under the initiative and was discharged the next day—smiling and healthier than ever.



Sahil Barik in R. N. Tagore Hospital



Noori with our CEO and team member

Noori's* journey across states for a lifesaving procedure

Two-year-old Noori from rural Tripura had **Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)**. Her father, a farmer, brought her to Kolkata in search of help. On **14th July, 2025** she received a successful **device closure procedure** and is now recovering well.

More than just surgeries — these are stories of survival

These stories reflect more than medical intervention—they represent resilience, opportunity, and second chances. Fully funded by IHF and partners, the surgeries ensure no child is denied care due to lack of funds.

IHF remains committed to reaching children in remote and underserved areas—**because every little heart deserves to beat strong and free.**

*(name changed)

Global compassion in action:

Jayden's heart surgery a success story

In a heartwarming story of international compassion, **six-year-old Jayden Nhyiraba** from **Ghana** has successfully undergone a critical paediatric heart surgery in India—restoring hope to his family and showcasing the power of global collaboration.

Jayden was diagnosed with a complex congenital heart condition: **Double Chamber Right Ventricle Mid Cavity Obstruction**, along with a **Residual Perimembranous Ventricular Septal Defect**—a complication from a 2024 device closure procedure. His condition required urgent surgical intervention.



Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the **Rotary Club of Accra Premiere International (Ghana)** and the **Rotary Club of Bangalore West (India)**, Jayden arrived in India and was admitted to **Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bangalore**, on **28th July 2025**.

The surgery was performed on **29th July** and was part of **Saving Little Hearts, India Humanity Foundation's flagship initiative** supporting children with life-threatening congenital heart defects.

Post-surgery, Jayden was monitored in the **ICU** until **30th July** and was shifted to the general ward on **31st July**. He continues to recover well.



Jayden and his mother received warm support throughout—from **Rotary Club of Accra Premiere International Members** who saw them off, to **Mr. Rajendra Rai** and **Rotary Club of Bangalore West team** receiving them in India and ensured their comfort.

His journey is a shining example of what empathy and action can achieve. Through **Saving Little Hearts, IHF** remains committed to ensuring that **every child gets a fighting chance—no matter where they come from**.

Saving Little Hearts - Back story

18 Children from Ethiopia who received a second chance at life through life-saving heart surgeries, performed free of cost at Jayadeva Hospital Bengaluru



1. Master Tibebeasilasse Kassahun



2. Miss Betselot Tadesse



3. Master Belisuma Mesfin

4. Master Abel Fitsum Aberha
5. Master Aminadad Alemu
6. Master Ayub Abdureb
7. Master Barkot Davit Anbaw
8. Master Naol legesse
9. Master Yeabsra Sewnet
10. Miss Adanu Leta
11. Miss Bilenworkineh

12. Miss Emanda Entesaseb
13. Miss Hafsa Sefele
14. Miss Juweiriya Abdulfeta Mohammed
15. Miss Kejan Haile
16. Miss Meryam Shafi
17. Miss Mezida Abdu
18. Miss Yeasbira Dereje Taye