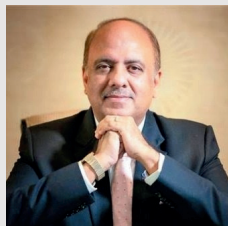


Chairman's Message



Shekhar Mehta

Changing lives

Dear friends of humanity,

There's no greater joy in life than being an instrument of change in the lives of others. We are truly blessed when we get this opportunity. One of our esteemed trustees, Shri Vivek Tankha, embodies this spirit so beautifully.

It is so heartwarming to witness the transformation in the lives of Ethiopian children and their parents as we continue to progress with our Saving Little Hearts program.

Our literacy initiatives too are gaining tremendous momentum—growing from strength to strength, making an adult literate, whether in remote villages or within correctional homes. “Making an adult literate is far beyond literacy”, It is about empowering the person, emancipating them, it is about restoring dignity. The sparkle of confidence in their eyes at their newfound ability, tells a story of true transformation.

The Padho Bharat program has evolved into a nationwide movement. Across India, hundreds of people are donating books so that children who aspired to hold even a single book but had none, will now have access to libraries.

I humbly urge each one of you to be a part of Padho Bharat. Donate books so that we can collect lakhs of books and create thousands of libraries. It is a simple yet very effective way of serving humanity.

Regards,

Shekhar Mehta

Shekhar Mehta

Chairman

India Humanity Foundation

Padho Bharat 2025:

A growing movement of books and hope



**From one city to another, India is
uniting to build libraries of learning**

Padho Bharat is **India Humanity Foundation's** **flagship literacy movement** dedicated to collecting lakhs of books and creating thousands of libraries in underserved schools and communities across the country. Running from **8th August to 2nd October 2025**, the campaign aims to establish over **thousands** of new libraries, building on IHF's legacy of setting up more than **5,000** libraries and distributing over **10,00,000** books to date. By mobilising individuals, institutions, and partners—including publishers, NGOs, corporate groups, and volunteers—the campaign transforms unused and gently used books into powerful tools of learning.

As we step into September, we are thrilled to share the inspiring progress of Padho Bharat 2025, a campaign that is fast becoming a people's movement. What began as a vision to collect lakhs of books and establish thousands of libraries is now being powered by individuals, organisations, and communities who believe in the power of knowledge. Padho Bharat is not just about bookshelves—it is about giving every child the chance to read, dream, and build a brighter future.

So far, nearly **2,00,000** books have been collected, bringing us closer to reaching underserved schools and communities. A landmark contribution came from Orient Blackswan, which generously donated **80,974** books at IHF's base in Kolkata.



City Leader, Shivendra Pandey, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

From illiteracy to confidence:

Literacy opens doors for 10,700+ adults

For many adults across West Bengal, the idea of going back to school once seemed impossible. Yet today, **thousands are discovering the joy of learning through India Humanity Foundation's Adult Literacy program**, supported by **Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar**.

The initiative began with a simple promise to give non-literate adults the tools to read, write, and count with confidence. Across **three districts, 10 dedicated NGO partners** are working hand in hand with communities, creating safe spaces where learners can pick up skills often taken for granted.



Adult learners during session

The response has been extraordinary. So far, **9,615 learners** have completed **30 sessions**, **8,882** have finished the full **60-session course**, and **8,809** have even appeared for their final examinations. Behind these figures are powerful stories—**women who now travel more confidently because they can read bus boards, men who proudly sign their names on official documents, and parents who finally help their children with homework.**

What was once a distant dream has become reality. With every session completed, learners gain not just knowledge but dignity, independence, and a brighter vision for the future.

This movement is proof that *it's never too late to learn—and never too late to change a life.*



Vidya Centre packed with learners

CEO's Message



Aparna Biyani

Empowering Minds

Dear Friends,

This **International Literacy Day** reminds us that literacy is the key to empowerment—opening doors of dignity, opportunity, and independence for every child and adult.”

I am proud to share that our **Padho Bharat campaign** is steadily growing into a people’s movement. From Kolkata to Jabalpur, from Indore to Delhi, thousands of books are being collected with the efforts of our City Leaders. It is exciting to see new teams joining our campaign. I am looking forward to setting up libraries and seeing children pick up a book and read.

This month, on **Teachers’ Day**, we also recognise our dedicated **Akshar Saathis (teachers at our Adult Literacy Centres)**. They have been the real pillars of our literacy program, as they teach, guide and mentor the learners.

I feel humbled to have been able to facilitate the lifechanging heart surgeries of children from Ethiopia, Ghana and closer to home – Bengal. It has been a deeply satisfying program for the entire team at IHF.

We also draw inspiration from Rtn. Pappu Ram Chaudhary, whose cycling mission for literacy and the environment shows how one individual’s courage can ignite a movement.

This Literacy Day, let us renew our pledge to build a nation where every individual—child or adult—can read, learn, and dream. Together, we can write a brighter future.

With gratitude,

Aparna Biyani

CEO

India Humanity Foundation

Know Our Trustee

Shri Vivek Krishna Tankha

Champion of justice, service & social change



Shri Vivek Krishna Tankha is a renowned **Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India**, **parliamentarian**, and **humanitarian** whose life has been dedicated to **justice**, **service**, and the **upliftment of society**. Born on **21st September 1956** in **Rewa, Madhya Pradesh**, he is the son of **Late Justice Raj Krishna Tankha**, and has carried forward his father's legacy of fairness, compassion, and public service.

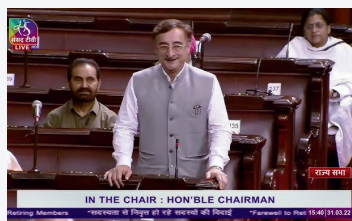


With over four decades of legal and governance experience, Shri Tankha has made notable contributions to the Indian judicial system. He has represented several landmark cases, including:

- Fighting for the survivors of the **Bhopal Gas Tragedy**
- Leading the cause of **transparency in the Vyapam case**
- Introducing the **Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)**, opening doors for thousands of law aspirants.



Over the years, Mr. Tankha has held prestigious positions such as **Advocate General of Madhya Pradesh** and **Additional Solicitor General of India**. Today, he represents Madhya Pradesh in the **Rajya Sabha**, where his strong voice continues to shape discussions on law, governance, and social justice.



Beyond his legal and political career, Mr. Tankha's contribution to **humanitarian service** is remarkable. As a long-standing Rotarian, he has led **disaster relief missions** during some of India's worst crises, providing immediate support to affected communities. He pioneered the **RAHAT Medical Outreach Program**, bringing large-scale healthcare to underserved tribal populations in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. This initiative alone has benefitted lakhs of people, including life-saving surgeries for thousands.



Equally close to his heart is the cause of children with special needs. Mr. Tankha is the guiding force behind the **Justice Tankha Memorial Rotary Institute for Special Children**, which today runs schools across Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, serving more than **700 children** with hearing impairments, autism, cerebral palsy, and other intellectual disabilities. His efforts have provided these children with education, dignity, and the opportunity to live fuller lives.



A recipient of several National and International honours, Shri Vivek Tankha exemplifies leadership that blends professional excellence with deep compassion. His journey continues to inspire, and we are privileged to have him as a trustee and guiding light in the mission of India Humanity Foundation.

Padho Bharat continued ▶



Books collected by India Humanity Foundation

But Padho Bharat is not just about numbers—it's about people stepping forward. In **Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh**, Advocate **Shivendra Pandey** has already collected **5,000 books**, saying, **“Every book I collect feels like a step towards shaping a brighter India.”** In **Indore**, **Anushuman Shrivastav** has mobilized his community and begun collections with great enthusiasm. In **Delhi**, **City Leader Madhulika Jain** has gathered more than **1,500 books** so far, inspired by her childhood love of reading: **“Books changed my life, and I want to pass that gift on.”**

Today, **70+ City Leaders** are driving book collection drives across India, with more joining every week. Together, they are proving that local action can build national change.



A glimpse of the Zoom Meeting with City Leaders

This energy was beautifully reflected in a recent **Zoom meeting with City Leaders**, where representatives from different states shared their **progress and experiences**. Their updates—from bustling collections in metros to heartfelt contributions in smaller towns—painted a picture of a campaign that is **alive with passion**. The leaders spoke with conviction and motivation, proving that **Padho Bharat is not just an initiative, but a shared dream**.



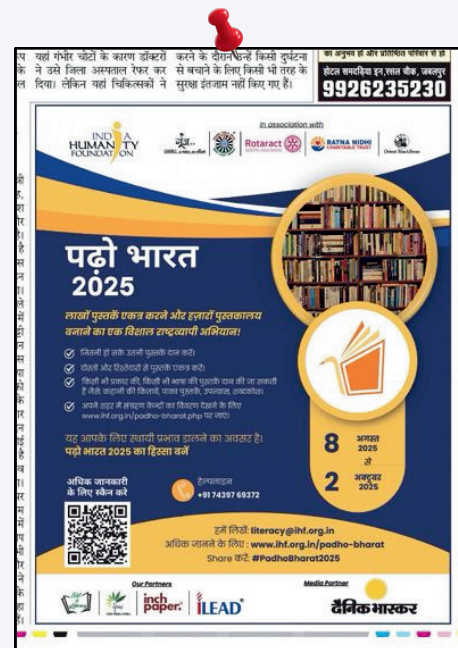
City Leader, Anshumaan Shrivastava, Indore, Madhya Pradesh



City Leader, Madhulika Jain, Delhi

Our partners—**Goonj, Round Table India, Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust, Gift a Library, Yeh Mera India, iLead**, and more—continue to amplify this impact.

Media support has also been instrumental:



दैनिक भास्कर
Dainik Bhaskar, one of India's highest circulated Hindi newspapers, is running two articles a month along with press write-ups.



News articles in Sanmarg and Dainik Bhaskar

An invitation to you

Our journey is far from over. Thousands of children are still waiting for books—books that can open imaginations, strengthen education, and build futures.

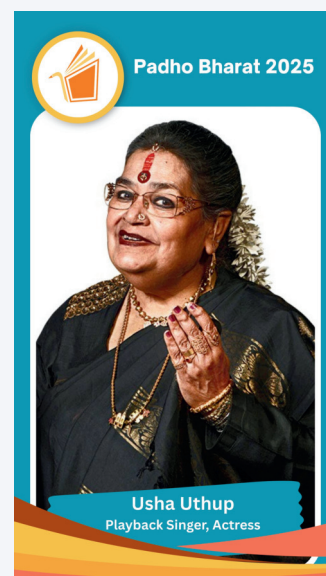
We invite you to:

- **Donate books**—storybooks, textbooks, comics, biographies, puzzles, maps, and dictionaries (in any language).
- **Spread the word** among friends, schools, and workplaces.
- **Follow and share our updates** on social media to inspire more people.

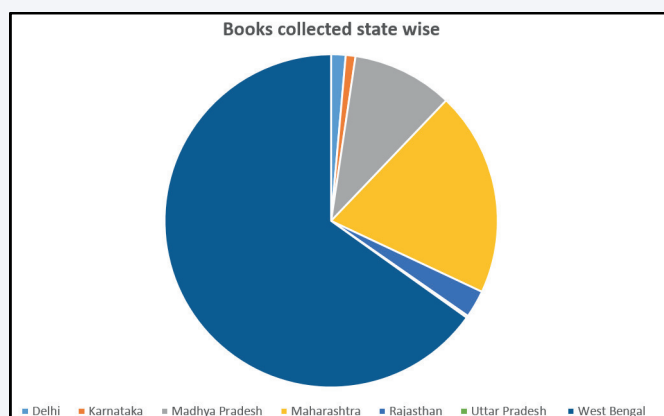
Padho Bharat 2025 is not just about collecting books—it's about creating a culture of reading and giving. From **Jabalpur to Delhi**, from **Indore to Kolkata**, the ripple is spreading. And with your support, we can turn every page into a story of hope.



Shekhar Mehta's video for Padho Bharat



Usha Uthup's participation in Padho Bharat



The Padho Bharat 2025 campaign has seen an inspiring response across states, the pie chart tells a powerful story of how the campaign is uniting India for literacy. West Bengal leads as the frontrunner, contributing the lion's share of books and reflecting the state's deep love for reading. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh follow with strong contributions, showing how communities are stepping up for the cause. Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka add their own spark to the movement. Together, these efforts paint a vibrant picture of a campaign that is fast becoming a people's movement across India.

Asian International School has come forward to **support** the **Padho Bharat** campaign by sending a generous collection of books through our **City Leader, Chandan Gupta**, for the book collection drive. These books will soon find their way into the hands of children in underserved communities, opening doors to imagination and learning. The school has also shared that if students wish to donate more, they will **continue the drive and send a second lot of books**. This thoughtful gesture reflects the school's commitment to nurturing not just its own students but also countless others across the country by fostering a culture of reading Together, efforts like these bring us closer to building a nation of readers, one book at a time.



IHF staff with teachers from Asian International School



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

Serving humanity - Impact Stories

Learning that transforms lives:

1,315 empowered with the support of Tirupati Vancom



Women excited to attend the Adult Literacy classes

In 2024, India Humanity Foundation (IHF), with the generous support of Tirupati Vancom Pvt. Ltd., brought education and dignity to **hundreds of underserved families** in West Bengal. What began as a partnership soon turned into a **life-changing movement** for both adults and children long deprived of learning.

Empowering Adults through Vidya

Under the **Vidya Adult Literacy Program**, non-literate adults **aged 15 and above** were given a second chance at education. Through **60 structured sessions** led by trained community teachers, learners mastered the basics of reading, writing, and numeracy. Assessments ensured progress, and successful participants proudly received certificates equivalent to Grade III.

A new chapter in Naresh's life:

Turning struggle into strength

For **43 years**, Naresh Majhi of Saraipada, Nuapada District, Odisha, lived without the ability to read or write. Having **never attended school**, he worked as a **migrant labourer** with his wife, Bimala, moving from place to place in search of wages.

His life changed when **Mr. Bedram Sahu, a staff member of India Humanity Foundation's partner organisation PARDA**, encouraged him to join the **Vidya Adult Literacy Centre at Saraipada**. Initially, Naresh planned to attend for just two weeks, but once he experienced the joy of learning, he continued regularly—two hours each day. Slowly, his skills and confidence grew, and he began reading and writing with ease.

By the end of 2024, **1,215 adults** across **South and North 24 Parganas** had completed the program. For many, signing their name or reading a newspaper for the first time became a milestone, boosting confidence and independence.

Building Futures through Asha Kiran

Alongside adult literacy, the **Asha Kiran** initiative brought **100 out-of-school children** in **Jalpaiguri district** back into classrooms. Through a **nine-month bridge course and mentoring**, they were successfully mainstreamed into **government schools**, opening brighter futures.

This impact was made possible through **Tirupati Vancom's ₹7 lakh contribution**, which supported both adult literacy centres and child development programs—**restoring hope, dignity, and opportunity to 1,315 lives**.



Happy children in Asha Kiran centre

The proudest moment came when Naresh received his **literacy certificate**. With newfound confidence, he opened his own savings account and **began reading the Odia newspaper daily**, sharing the news with his wife.

Naresh's story proves it's never too late—education with support empowers all ages, opening doors to dignity, confidence, and hope.



Naresh Majhi, during class in Vidya Centre

"Now I live a happy and healthy life with my family, all thanks to the proper guidance of PARDA and India Humanity Foundation."

- Naresh Majhi, Adult learners

Saving little hearts across borders:

Three Ethiopian children get a second chance at life



Rajeev Sharma
Chair,
Saving Little Hearts
Ethiopia



V. R. Muthu
Chair,
Saving Little Hearts,
South India

In a powerful testament to compassion beyond boundaries, **three children** from **Ethiopia** have recently received **lifesaving heart surgeries** in **India** under the **Saving Little Hearts** program of the **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)**. Their stories reflect both the fragility of life and the resilience that comes when care and hope are extended across nations. This milestone was made possible through the dedicated efforts of **Mr. V. R. Muthu from Kerala** and **Mr. Rajeev Sharma from Ethiopia**, whose commitment ensured that these young lives received the timely care they needed.

Nine-year-old **Marken Hareru Bekele** was born with a serious **congenital heart defect**. His mother, Hana, recalls how feeding him as a toddler was always a struggle. In recent years, his condition worsened to the point that even simple activities left him breathless and his heart racing. With IHF's support, Marken and his mother travelled to the **Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Cochin, Kerala**, where on **17th August 2025** he underwent a successful **corrective surgery**.



Marken Hareru Bekele



Alemayehu (Eza) Tekel

One-year-old **Alemayehu (Eza) Tekel**, also born with a **severe cardiac condition compounded by Down Syndrome**, faced similar challenges. Her mother, Tsegaw Zinash Feten, noticed irregularities in feeding and breathing within her first few months. Eza's fragile health made her case especially urgent. On **21st August 2025**, she underwent a complex heart surgery at Amrita Institute. She is stable and recovering steadily.



Happy faces of children from Mondelēz International

Seven-year-old **Efrata Reta Kumsa**, another child with **Down Syndrome**, had lived with **cardiac issues** since infancy. Her caretaker, Senayit, shared how breathlessness had become part of her daily life. Thanks to IHF's intervention, Efrata also underwent surgery at Amrita Institute on **21st August 2025**. Currently, she is under **cervical traction**, yet her cardiac health has greatly improved. Her caretaker calls this journey nothing short of miraculous.



Efrata Reta Kumsa

These recoveries were made possible not only by the skill of doctors at Amrita Institute but also by the coordinated support provided through IHF.

As these three children prepare to return to **Ethiopia**, their stories remind us that healing has no borders. Through **Saving Little Hearts**, IHF continues to prove that **every child, no matter where they are born, deserves the chance to grow, play, and dream of the future**.



The children and their caretakers were received by Rotary members at Cochin airport

Turning Miles into Milestones:

An extraordinary journey of cycling, service, and spreading literacy

India Humanity Foundation (IHF) had the privilege of welcoming **Rtn. Pappu Ram Chaudhary**, a man on an extraordinary mission that embodies **courage, commitment, and compassion**. His upcoming **Mission Everest 2026**—a **60,000 km solo cycling journey across India**, combined with the **plantation of 1,00,000 trees**—reflects the spirit of service and vision our country needs today.

His initiative, **Shakti Sankalp Safar**, is a powerful movement to raise awareness about environmental protection, health, and community empowerment. Each kilometre he pedals and each sapling he plants, is a message of responsibility towards the earth and future generations.



Rtn. Pappu Ram Chaudhary

We at IHF were particularly inspired by his dream to cycle all the way to the **Everest Base Camp**. This is not just a physical challenge but a symbolic act of **resilience, unity, and unwavering love for the motherland**.

During his interactions, Chaudhary ji also shared how deeply he resonates with IHF's mission of literacy. He firmly believes that education is the foundation of empowerment, and he has pledged to carry the message of Making India Totally Literate during his travels. The thought that he will inspire communities across India to embrace learning fills us with renewed hope and determination.

The India Humanity Foundation values such partnerships of vision and action. Mr. Chaudhary's courage to dream big, his will to act, and his compassion for people reflect the very ideals we strive for. His journey reminds us that change begins with individuals who are willing to step forward, led by example, and dedicate themselves selflessly to the greater good.



Mr. Chaudhary on his way to make a change, cycling India and sowing tomorrow

As he prepares for this monumental expedition, we extend our heartfelt wishes for his safe travels, unshakable strength, and resounding success. May his journey turn miles into milestones and inspire millions to walk—or cycle—the path of service. Because *when a man pedals with purpose, an entire nation begins to move forward.*

IHF is happy to recognise the outstanding NGO partners

Ghuskira Birds Samity, West Bengal
Mr. Saddam Hossain

Samarpan, Jharkhand
Mr. Indramani Sahu

Gopabandhu Seva Parisad, Odisha
Mr. Pradip Kumar Moharana