

Humanity TIMES

-serving humanity

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Humanity Summit 2025



Humanity Summit 2025

Expanding the Horizons of Service and Impact



Felicitation of Mr. Ravindra Chamaria



Attendees at Humanity Summit

Two Days of Inspiration, Collaboration, and Commitment at Novotel, Kolkata

The **Humanity Summit 2025** was held on **31st October** and **1st November** at **Novotel, Kolkata**, bringing together *changemakers, philanthropists, and development leaders* from across India. Organised by **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)**, the summit focused on strengthening initiatives in **education, health, and community development**.

The inaugural session, chaired by **Trustee Mr. Kamal Sanghvi**, included a welcome address by **CEO Ms. Aparna Biyani** and introductions by the Trustees. Key sessions featured *"Serving Humanity"* by **IHF Chairman Mr. Shekhar Mehta** and *"Philanthropy: The Elixir of Society"* by **Trustee and Rajya Sabha Member Mr. Vivek Tankha**, along with philanthropist **Mr. Ravindra Chamaria**.

Discussions on organisational structure and membership strategies were led by Mr. Shekhar Mehta, followed by the session *"Together for Humanity,"* highlighting collaborative action. Day two focused on fundraising, including *"Fundraising as Leadership"* by Mr. Mehta and interactions with Trustees, including Mr. Kamal Sanghvi.

MoU Signing

with

Raj Krishna Tankha Foundation

A major highlight was the **signing of an MoU** between **IHF** and the **Raj Krishna Tankha Foundation** to **jointly implement projects** in **education, health, women empowerment, and social development**. The **Humanity Summit 2025** concluded with **optimism, shared purpose, and renewed commitment to a compassionate, literate India**.



Signing of MoU with Raj Krishna Tankha Foundation

To have a glance of the event, **click:**



Know Our Trustee

Sandip Agarwalla

A legacy of leadership, service, and vision



Mr. Sandip Agarwalla

Mr. Sandip Agarwalla is a distinguished Rotarian, visionary leader, and humanitarian whose lifelong commitment to service has inspired countless others to give back to society. A **third-generation Rotarian**, he embodies the spirit of Rotary's motto – *Service Above Self* – through decades of leadership, innovation, and impactful action.

He joined the **Rotary Club of Bombay** at the **age of 29** and went on to become its **youngest President in the club's 95-year history**. His term was marked by *extraordinary service projects, high-quality fellowship, and record-breaking fundraising* – setting benchmarks for others to follow. Even after his presidency, his passion for Rotary never waned; instead, it grew stronger with each passing year.



Over the years, Mr. Sandip has served Rotary in a wide range of leadership roles – as **Avenue Chair, Chief Group Avenue Head of The Rotary Foundation (TRF), Group Head for TEACH and WinS, District Secretary, and Head of Public Image**. He also served as **District Endowment and Major Gifts Coordinator** and was appointed **District Governor for RI District 3141 (2022–23)**.

During his governorship, he led his district to an unprecedented milestone – raising **US\$ 6.575 million** for **The Rotary Foundation**, the **highest contribution globally** for that year and the **third-highest in Rotary's history**. His dynamic leadership also saw **18 new Arch Klumph Society** members and **108 new Major Donors** join the cause. For his exceptional service, he was honoured with **Rotary International's Avenues of Service Award**.



Mr. Sandip has played pivotal roles in several global Rotary events – including the **RI Presidential Conference 2022, RISE Zone Institute 2023 (Bengaluru), and Rotary Institute 2024 (Kochi)** – as **Chair, Co-Chair, and Learning Facilitator**. He continues to mentor future leaders through his roles as **Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator and District Learning Facilitator**.



Beyond Rotary, Mr. Sandip is a respected entrepreneur with interests in **marble mining** and **solar energy**, and a **member of Mensa International**. A true believer in lifelong learning, he also serves as **Trustee of Operation Eyesight** and **Chairman of the English-Speaking Union (Mumbai Chapter)**.

Supported by his wife **Mrs. Malini**, an accomplished businesswoman and Past President of the Inner Wheel Club of Bombay, **Mr. Sandip** continues to lead by example – a **torchbearer of compassion, dedication, and purposeful leadership** within **India Humanity Foundation**.

Chairman's Message

Serving the circle of life



Dear friends of humanity,

The euphoria of the success of Humanity Summit 2025 is still lingering. A small but strong group of people from cross section of society from different parts of India gathered to discuss new horizons of Serving Humanity. This two-day brainstorming will go a long way in ensuring that more and more people participate in this wonderful work of healing humanity.

I compliment everyone involved in Padho Bharat program. Even as the book collection drive goes on, I am happy to share that hundreds of libraries have been created and more are coming up.

The Adult Literacy program is now going to also focus on tribal communities as well as take it forward to all the correctional homes in West Bengal.

The Saving Little Hearts program keeps tugging at our hearts as we ensure we save the lives of few more children.

Our Health Care initiative under “Empowering Girls” is taking a leap forward with vaccination of 1,350 girls against cervical cancer by providing HPV vaccinations to them.

At IHF, we feel fortunate that the entire horizon of the life cycle of humanity is being served by us. Whether it is little children, young adults, or the aging, IHF is always there, serving humanity through the circle of life.

Regards,

Shekhar Mehta
Chairman, India Humanity Foundation

CEO's Message

New Horizons



Dear Friends,

As we step into an exciting new phase of our journey at India Humanity Foundation, I am filled with optimism and gratitude for the growing community of changemakers who continue to believe in our vision – a world where compassion translates into action.

The **Humanity Summit 2025** brought together philanthropists and social leaders, from across more than ten cities across India, united by the single purpose of **servng humanity**. Mindful discussions and brainstorming sessions led to positive commitments from all the members. Many thanks to our trustees for showing the way.

Our mission to uplift lives continues on the ground as well – be it literacy or health. Through our Padho Bharat initiative, libraries are taking shape. Kudos to our City Leaders who have worked hard to gather over **2 lac books** of different genres.

I look forward to our upcoming preventive health initiative towards **Cervical Cancer Vaccination** in Kolkata **in association with CPAA**.

The road ahead is filled with opportunities to create meaningful impact, and I invite you to continue walking alongside us in this journey of hope and humanity.

With gratitude,

Aparna Biyani
CEO, India Humanity Foundation

Saving little hearts

Four children, four victories of hope

Under India Humanity Foundation's *Saving Little Hearts* initiative, young children with congenital heart defects continue to receive a second chance at life. With the support of **Yogita Kitchlu Trust** and the **Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence**, these surgeries are performed at **R.N. Tagore Hospital, Kolkata**, ensuring that children from financially challenged families receive lifesaving treatment without burden or fear. Each successful recovery is a reminder that access to quality healthcare can transform futures.



Misha Mondal

A New Beginning for Misha

Nine-year-old Misha Mondal* from **Kasba** had struggled with recurring infections caused by a **congenital heart anomaly**. On **19th August 2025**, she underwent a **Cath + ASD Device Closure procedure**. Within two days, Misha was laughing, talking, and eager to return home.

Today, she is back in school, enjoying classes just like any other child her age. Her next check-up is scheduled this month, and she has been declared absolutely healthy. Misha's mother shared deep gratitude toward the organisations that made her daughter's recovery possible.

A Ray of Sunshine for Sameer

Little **Sameer Roy*** from **Jalpaiguri** had lived most of his life under medical uncertainty. His father, a farmer, tried everything he could but could not afford specialized treatment. On **14th August 2025**, Sameer finally received the surgery he needed—**Cath + ASD Device Closure**.

His recovery was swift. In two days, he was discharged—smiling and playful. By October, doctors saw steady progress, and he returned to school with even more enthusiasm. His family thanked everyone who stood by them in their hardest days.



Sameer Roy



Rivansh Yadav

Little Rivansh's Life-Saving Surgery

Six-year-old **Rivansh Yadav*** travelled from **Ranchi, Jharkhand**, hoping for a miracle. On **2nd August 2025**, he underwent a **Cath + VSD Device Closure surgery**. The entire procedure was funded, lifting an enormous weight off his father, a daily wage labourer.

Rivansh's first follow-up brought happy news—he was recovering well. A month later, he returned to school, energetic and full of life.

A New Heartbeat of Hope for Manoj

Five-year-old Manoj Pramanik* from **Pingla, West Medinipur**, was born with a **congenital heart defect** that left him weak and unwell. His father, sought treatment with the hope of giving his son a healthier future. On **2nd August 2025**, Manoj underwent a successful **PDA Device Closure surgery**.

India Humanity Foundation is proud to have supported his treatment. His follow-up check-up showed **steady recovery**, and today, **Manoj is back in school—active, cheerful, and full of life**. His journey is a reminder that timely care can truly heal little hearts.



Manoj Pramanik



Orientation at Rotary Vivekananda School

Protecting Futures: IHF & CPAA Launch HPV Vaccination Drive

The Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA), a 56-year-old national organisation dedicated to supporting underprivileged cancer patients through treatment aid, rehabilitation, awareness, and screening programs, has joined hands with India Humanity Foundation (IHF) for a cervical cancer vaccination initiative in West Bengal.

Cervical cancer claims nearly 80,000 lives every year in India, yet it is largely preventable through timely HPV vaccination and awareness. To address this, IHF and CPAA are launching a vaccination drive for 1,350 underprivileged girls aged 9–18 years across 10 government schools in Howrah and South 24 Parganas. The programme will be conducted on 18th & 19th November 2025.

In preparation for the drive, an orientation session was held at Rotary Vivekananda School, where parents were informed about HPV vaccination, its benefits, and the importance of early protection—leading to strong community support.

By bringing awareness and preventive care directly to schools, IHF and CPAA aim to safeguard young girls against a preventable disease and take one more step toward a healthier future for women in India.



Adult literacy centre

Adult Literacy: Restoring Dignity Through Education

Across rural India, adults who never attended school often depend on others to read, sign, or understand simple information. Under India Humanity Foundation's Adult Literacy Program, that reality is changing.

Through the **Vidya (centre-based) model**, IHF has helped **over 3 lakh adults** become functionally literate. In South 24 Parganas alone, **2,068 learners** completed the programme across **55 community learning centres**.

These learners—farmers, domestic workers, labourers, vendors, and homemakers—joined with hesitation but a strong desire to learn. The curriculum focused on practical skills: reading simple text, recognising public instructions, writing names, and performing basic arithmetic.

The change has been life-altering. Mothers read prescriptions, elderly workers sign their own name, and parents help children with homework. Literacy has brought confidence, independence, and dignity.

The impact has been recognised by **BELRAG**, acknowledging **IHF's Adult Literacy program**. What began as small centres has grown into a movement of empowerment—and IHF remains committed to ensuring no adult is left behind in the journey of education.



Padho Bharat



Sorting of books at Shivendra Pandey's collection centre

Sorting Smiles, Stacking Futures

Padho Bharat 2025 continues to gather remarkable momentum as the campaign enters its next crucial phase—sorting and categorising the lakhs of books collected nationwide. With collection centres overflowing, the energy is high and the mission is clear: every book must reach the child who needs it most.

Across Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Indore, Jaipur and other cities, City Leaders and volunteers are working tirelessly. Books are being organised by subject, language, and reading level—from primary and secondary school materials to storybooks and reference texts. What began as collection drives has now turned into community-powered sorting sessions, where students, teachers, and citizens spend hours turning donated books into ready-to-use learning resources.

The need for volunteers is greater than ever. India Humanity Foundation invites individuals, colleges, schools, and corporate groups to step forward. Just a few hours of volunteering ensures thousands of children get access to their first books or school library.

Padho Bharat has already begun changing lives. Books that once sat unused are now reaching underserved schools and villages, helping children read, learn, and dream. Every sorted book is a step toward a literate, empowered India—one child, one library, and one community at a time.



Sorting of books at India Humanity Foundation

Some of the shining stars of Padho Bharat



Pran Mehta
New Delhi



Nargis Gaur
Mumbai



Shivendra Pandey
Jabalpur



Swati Herkal
Wai



Rajiv Mehta
Mumbai



Rajendra Rai
Bangalore



Anshumaan Shrivastava
Indore



Raju Doshi
Kolhapur



Subir Roy
Durgapur



Madhulika Jain
New Delhi



Chandan Gupta
Kolkata



Kirti Thakuria
Bangalore



Vikram Mittal
Bhadoli



Raghav Soni
Kolkata



Sunita Kabra
Kota



Bindu Singh
Patna



Sarthak Sethi
Jabalpur



Piyush Doshi
Kolkata



Manu Kumari
Dehradun



Payal Agarwal
Kolkata

Age Didn't Stop Kajal

In Sautia village, 60-year-old Kajal Jana proved that learning has no age limit. For years, she wished to read and write, but early responsibilities and lack of opportunity kept her away from school. When the India Humanity Foundation (IHF) established its Vidya Adult Literacy Centre in the village, Kajal joined with hesitation but strong determination.

Attending evening classes regularly, she gradually learned to recognise letters, form words, and read simple sentences. Today, she can read signboards, identify bus routes, and recite religious texts during her prayers—an achievement that brings her immense pride.

Her progress has also strengthened her confidence. She now helps her grandchildren in their studies and motivates other women to enrol in the literacy program. Kajal's journey shows how adult literacy brings dignity, independence, and self-reliance. Through IHF's Vidya centres, many adults like Kajal are gaining the education they missed and the confidence they deserve.



Kajal Jana reading religious book

From the Forest to the Future

In the Sundarbans, where survival often replaces schooling, eight-year-old Baisakhi's life changed with one opportunity. After her father—a honey collector—was attacked by a tiger and left bedridden, school became impossible. But when India Humanity Foundation (IHF), in partnership with Jejursa Women Health and Welfare Society, launched an Asha Kiran Centre in her village, everything shifted. Quiet at first, Baisakhi soon began reading, writing, and reciting poems with confidence. Today, she attends Birsa Munda Primary School in Class 2 and dreams of becoming a teacher. For children like her, Asha Kiran isn't just education—it's a bridge from hardship to hope.



Baisakhi during Asha Kiran classes

Transforming Learning, Restoring Dignity

Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar & IHF launch key literacy initiatives



From L to R: Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Shekhar Mehta, Dr. R. Homchaudhuri, Sanjay Bhalotia, Pradeep Agrawal

On 24th October 2025, the event “Shiksha” was held at Hotel Hindustan International, Kolkata, inaugurated by Chief Guest **Dr. Rajesh Kumar, IPS**, with **Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, District Governor, RI District 3291**, as Guest of Honour. The event highlighted the shared mission of **Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar** and **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)** to bring learning, dignity, and equal opportunities to underserved communities. Literacy initiatives were launched, reflecting a strong commitment to improving education access across West Bengal.

Major Initiatives Launched Under Shiksha:

Uplifting Tribal Communities:

Establishing community learning centres to make 2,000 adults literate.

Providing Dignity:

3,000 inmates literate across 61 correctional homes in West Bengal.

Libraries for the Underserved:

Creating 50 libraries by donating 10,000 books to schools and communities.



Mr. Shekhar Mehta sharing his thoughts



Dr. Rajesh Kumar

The Shiksha event was not just a celebration—it was a promise. A promise to uplift those who have been forgotten, empower those who have been ignored, and ensure that education becomes a fundamental right, not a privilege.

Together, Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar and IHF are creating a movement where every adult can learn, every inmate can reclaim dignity, and every child can hold a book with pride.

