

Humanity TIMES

serving humanity

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www.ihf.org.in

HAPPY NEW YEAR

20 26



May 2026 bring
renewed hope,
stronger communities,
and shared humanity
to every life we serve.

An act of teaching becomes a lifetime of learning

IHF's Diksha model Each One - Teach One

Literacy doesn't always begin in classrooms. Sometimes, it begins with one student and one learner. At the core of **India Humanity Foundation's (IHF)** literacy mission is the **Diksha Model** - a community - led approach rooted in the philosophy of **"Each One - Teach One."**

Under this model, school-age volunteers are paired **one-on-one with adult learners** from underserved communities. Using structured learning kits provided by IHF, students teach basic reading, writing, and numeracy - while building empathy, responsibility, and leadership. The focus is personal, flexible learning rather than formal classrooms, allowing adults to learn at their own pace with dignity and confidence.

Progress and attendance are tracked through a **centralized digital portal**, ensuring transparency and measurable outcomes across IHF's literacy programs. Since its launch, the Diksha Model has contributed significantly to IHF's goal of **"Making India Totally Literate,"** enabling thousands of adults to acquire essential literacy skills.



Student volunteers with adult learners

Each One - Teach One

Photo & Selfie Contest

To celebrate the human stories behind literacy, IHF hosts the Each One - Teach One Photo & Selfie Contest, inviting student volunteers to capture real moments of teaching and learning - from first words read to shared smiles.



Why Diksha works:

- One-to-one learning with dignity
- Youth-led community action
- Digitally monitored impact
- Literacy built on connection

Through Diksha, IHF proves that education grows strongest when it is **shared—one person at a time.**

To have a glance of the photos, [click](#) 

Chairman's Message

New year New hope



Dear friends of humanity,

A very Happy New Year. In the New Year let us
Look back and be grateful
Look ahead and be hopeful
Look around and be helpful

As we step into a new year, I write to you not just as the Chairman of our Foundation, but as a fellow traveller on this extraordinary journey of service, compassion, and hope.

When I look back at what we have achieved together, I feel immense pride and deep gratitude. Because of your commitment, children from Africa and India have been given a second chance at life through critical heart surgeries. Thousands of adults can now read, write, and stand with dignity because we chose literacy over indifference. Hundreds of libraries now glow as beacons of knowledge. Young girls are protected through cervical cancer vaccination. Thousands of children receive nutritious food. And through our Mangroves project, we have stood up for the environment and for generations yet unborn.

These are not just projects.
These are lives changed.
These are futures rewritten.

These are quiet miracles made possible by ordinary people choosing to do something extraordinary.

As the new year begins, I invite each one of you to pause and reflect—not on how much we have done, but on how much more is still possible.

Let us renew our promise:

- To place humanity above convenience
- To act with integrity and compassion
- To measure success not in numbers, but in lives touched

May this new year inspire us to give more of our time, our ideas, and our hearts. Let us continue to be the quiet force that creates lasting change.

Thank you for walking this path of service with me. I look forward to what we will accomplish—together—in the year ahead.

With gratitude, hope, and renewed commitment for *servicing humanity*.

Regards,

Shekhar Mehta
Chairman, India Humanity Foundation

Passing the torch of learning

How one learner turned literacy into legacy



Bangalata Devi teaching her grand-daughter

From barely writing her name to teaching her grandchildren—Bangalata Devi's journey is a quiet revolution. A resident of **Jenkapur village, Paschim Medinipur, Bangalata** had studied **only till Class 2**. Daily life moved on, but the desire to read and write never left her. When the IHF-supported Jenkapur Vidya Centre opened its doors, she stepped in—hesitant, yet determined.

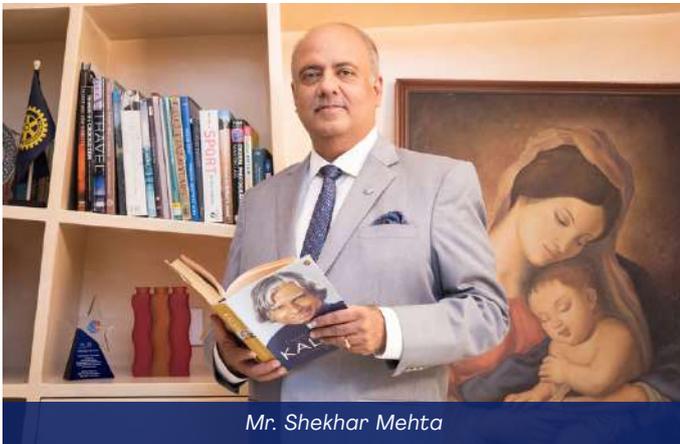
What followed was transformation. Bangalata quickly picked up reading, writing, and basic arithmetic, mastering skills she once thought were out of reach.

Today, every evening, her home turns into a tiny classroom. She helps her grandchildren with their lessons, reads with them, and ensures learning stays alive in the family. Her story is simple, powerful, and deeply inspiring—proof that literacy doesn't just change one life; it uplifts generations.

Know Our Trustee

Shekhar Mehta

Visionary humanitarian and champion of service



Mr. Shekhar Mehta

Mr. Shekhar Mehta is a globally respected humanitarian leader and one of only **four Indians in Rotary International's 120-year history** to serve as its President. Guided by his lifelong mantra—*“Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth”*—he has dedicated nearly four decades to large-scale social transformation across education, healthcare, disaster relief, sanitation, and women's empowerment.

Mr. Mehta is a distinguished professional with a **Master's degree in Commerce** and qualifications as a **Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant, and Company Secretary**. He heads the **Skyline Group**, a leading real estate development company with projects across India. While successful in business, his life's true calling has always been service.



Distributing shelter kits in Andhra Pradesh

Mr. Mehta joined **Rotary in 1985**, rose to become **District Governor, Rotary International Director**, and ultimately **President (2021-22)**, leading **1.4 million Rotarians across 200+ countries**. During his presidency, he visited **42 countries**, engaged with over **30 heads of state**, and championed the global theme *“Serve to Change Lives.”*



Total literacy - his life mission



Hands on service

He is the **Chairman of Operation Eye Sight India**, a **Canada based organisation**. He also was the **Trustee of Shelter Box, UK**. He is **Chairman of Eastern India Rotary Welfare Trust, Jodhpur Foundation & others**.

He is the **Chairman of India Humanity Foundation (IHF)** and has been instrumental in shaping some of major impactful service initiatives. His signature contributions include:

- **Saving Little Hearts** – enabling over **2,500 pediatric heart surgeries** for children from India, Asia, and Africa
- **T-E-A-C-H & Literacy Missions** – training **2,50,000 teachers**, making **lakhs of adults literate**, and delivering E-learning to millions through **PM e-Vidya channels**.
- **Eye Care Expansion** – establishing **15+ eye hospitals**, enabling nearly **50,000 surgeries annually**
- **Disaster Response** – building **500 tsunami survivor homes** and distributing **20,000+ shelter kits**
- **COVID-19 Leadership** – mobilising **₹106 crore** for **PM CARES** and overseeing **₹150 crore** in relief projects



Heart surgery for children - his passion

He has helped set up **7,000+ rural toilets, tribal girls' education, rural healthcare, and environmental programs** across multiple countries.

An internationally acclaimed speaker, Mr. Mehta has addressed **1,000+ global forums** and received Rotary's highest honours, along with an **Honorary Doctorate for his work in literacy**.

Today, through India Humanity Foundation, his singular mission remains unwavering: to **#MakeIndiaTotallyLiterate** and ensure **dignity, opportunity, and hope** for every citizen by serving humanity.



Adult literacy centre in Jharkhand

When learning begins again

NGO partners : Arj Foundation in Jharkhand and PARDA in Odisha

In **Chatra (Jharkhand)** and **Nuapada (Odisha)**, adults are returning to classrooms—many for the first time in years. With the support of **Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd.**, **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)** is running the **Adult Literacy Program** that is turning missed opportunities into fresh beginnings.

Through **42 active literacy centres**, the initiative is reaching **1,680 adult learners**, helping them build essential reading, writing, and numeracy skills. Implemented with local partners **Arj Foundation in Jharkhand** and **PARDA in Odisha**, the program combines grassroots engagement with structured learning. Several centres have already completed **10-15 sessions**, while others are steadily progressing toward full implementation.

Current Program Snapshot

- 42 literacy centres
- 1,680 adult learners
- Chatra (Jharkhand) & Nuapada (Odisha)
- Partners: Arj Foundation & PARDA

Regular monitoring ensures progress stays on track, reinforcing a simple truth—learning doesn't expire, and opportunity can begin at any age.

CEO's Message Serving Humanity Together



Dear Friends and Well-Wishers,

As we step into a New Year, I extend my warmest wishes to each one of you. May this year bring hope, good health, and renewed purpose to all our lives.

The New Year always reminds us of new beginnings—a chance to pause, reflect, and recommit ourselves to what truly matters. Mahatma Gandhi so beautifully said, **“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”** At India Humanity Foundation, this thought guides every step of our journey.

Our work would not be possible without your trust, encouragement, and unwavering support. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all our donors, partners, volunteers, and well-wishers who continue to believe in our mission.

I am especially proud of our literacy initiatives, particularly “Each One Teach One.” This simple yet powerful effort continues to change lives—because literacy is not just about reading and writing, but about dignity, confidence, and opportunity.

As we begin this year, I invite you to come forward—volunteer, support, and walk with us as we serve humanity together. Let us make this New Year a chapter of hope, action, and meaningful impact.

With gratitude and warm wishes,

Aparna Biyani
CEO, India Humanity Foundation

When learning finds a second chance

IHF and Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar join hands in making a change

Education has the power to unlock more than books—it unlocks belief. In **December 2025**, **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)** with the support of **Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar** strengthened its Adult Literacy Program across **six correctional homes in West Bengal**, bringing structured learning and renewed purpose to inmates seeking a fresh start.

Orientation programs were conducted at **Arambagh, Bongaon, Diamond Harbour, Tehatta, Rampurhat** and **Kalna Correctional Facilities**, marking the beginning of literacy journeys within prison walls. The response was deeply encouraging—**839 inmates**, including **32 trained prisoner-teachers**, came forward with enthusiasm, proving that the desire to learn does not fade with circumstances.



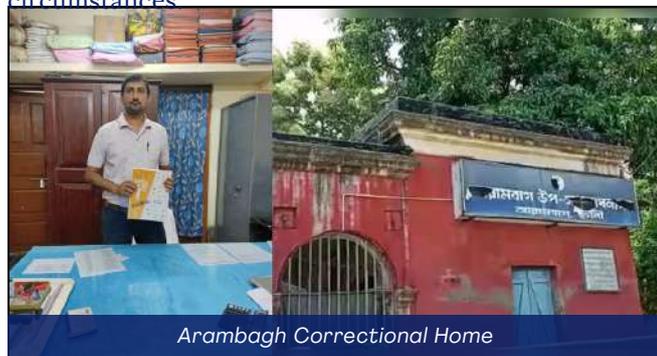
Bongaon Correctional Home



Tehatta Correctional Home



Diamond Harbour Correctional Home



Arambagh Correctional Home



Kalna Correctional Home



Rampurhat Correctional Home

Rather than traditional classrooms, the program focuses on **peer-led learning**, where prisoner-teachers guide fellow inmates in reading, writing, and basic numeracy. This model fosters dignity, responsibility, and shared growth—turning correctional spaces into centres of reflection and transformation.

Literacy here is more than a skill; it is a step toward self-worth, confidence, and reintegration into society. With every lesson, inmates reclaim agency over their future—one word, one number, one day at a time.

Why it matters

Literacy inside correctional homes plants hope where it's needed most. Through education, IHF continues to reaffirm a simple truth: **every individual deserves the chance to learn, grow, and begin again.**

Correctional homes covered

- Arambagh – 75 inmates
- Bongaon – 65 inmates
- Diamond Harbour – 336 inmates
- Tehatta – 124 inmates
- Kalna – 90 inmates
- Rampurhat – 149 inmates

Hunger Alleviation at IHF

*Feeding today.
strengthening tomorrow.*



IHF Chairman distributing treats to NGO partners

Since 2017, India Humanity Foundation's Hunger Alleviation initiative—implemented in partnership with the Indian Food Banking Network (IFBN)—has addressed food insecurity through two focused interventions: immediate snacks and sustained meal support. Together, these efforts ensure that hunger does not interrupt childhood, learning, or dignity.



Children happy to receive treats at Baruipur, South 24 Parganas



Sabita Bhakta Priti Primary School

Little treats, lasting smiles

In high-vulnerability settings such as urban slums, migrant settlements, and low-income communities, access to daily meals is often uncertain. To respond quickly, IHF rolled out large-scale treats and snacks distributions, delivering ready-to-consume foods to children and families.

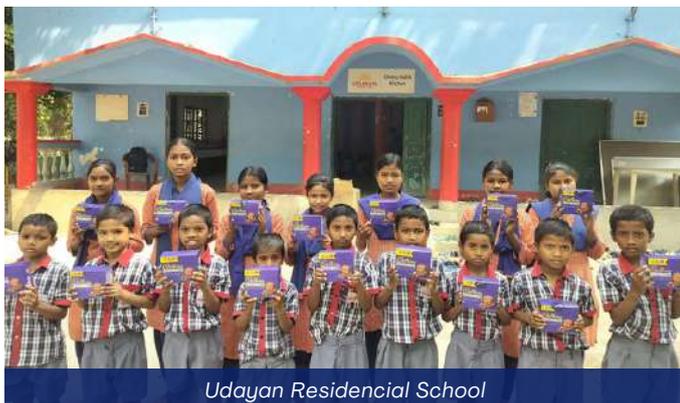


Community Action Society

Through strong collaboration with IFBN, NGOs, and grassroots partners, this initiative has reached communities across South 24 Parganas, Medinipur, Howrah, Birbhum, Bankura, Burdwan, and Kolkata's suburbs. During the COVID-19 crisis, these distributions became a vital lifeline—supporting families when livelihoods paused and kitchens went silent.



Lotus Rescue Moulali Centre



Udayan Residential School

Treats and snacks impact:

- Fast, safe nutrition in high-risk areas
- Large-scale outreach during emergencies
- Strong last-mile delivery through local partners

Ration kits & Mid-day meals – a Hunger Alleviation initiative at IHF

Since 2017, India Humanity Foundation's mid-day meal and ration kit initiative has focused on long-term nourishment for children from vulnerable communities. Through **schools, orphanages, and shelters**, carefully planned food kits—containing **grains, pulses, oil, and daily essentials**—have been distributed to support children and families over weeks and months. Even during school closures, the program adapted by converting mid-day meals into take-home ration kits, ensuring that children did not lose their most reliable source of nutrition. The initiative continues till date, sustaining food security where it matters most.

Over the past year, IHF has been consistently supporting **Rotary Vivekananda School** through this initiative. Regular distribution of ration kits has helped ensure uninterrupted nutrition for students and their families. As of now, **2,172 ration kits** have been distributed to the school—strengthening not just meals, but stability, learning, and dignity for first-generation learners.



Rotary Vivekananda School



Rotary Vivekananda School



Voices from the ground



"Most of our students are first-generation learners from families facing deep financial hardship. Even then, parents are eager to educate their children. The ration kits and mid-day meal support help families survive difficult weeks. As a school, we are deeply grateful to India Humanity Foundation for standing by our children and community."

– **Subrata Naskar**, Teacher-in-charge,
Rotary Vivekananda School.



Ananda Tirtha School, Saltlake



IHF Chairman presenting ration kits to Rotary Vivekananda School representative

Mid-day meals provided by IHF:

- 19.4 lakh+ meals distributed
- 21 schools, 10 orphanages & 31 NGOs
- **Primary beneficiaries:** children & vulnerable families



Ramnagar Gram Panchayat

More than meals

Every meal served under IHF's Hunger Alleviation initiative is an investment in health, learning, and opportunity. Whether through a food packet in a crisis or a ration kit sustaining a student through the year, the mission remains clear: **no child should learn, grow, or dream on an empty stomach.**

Our journey of impact

Transforming lives, year after year

Literacy

Through the **T-E-A-C-H** program, IHF has trained **2.3 lakh teachers**, made **3,50,000 lakh adults literate**, reintegrated **50,000+ out-of-school children**, and revitalised **4,000+ schools** across India.



Disaster Management

IHF has distributed **15,000+ Shelter Kits** to disaster-affected families and contributed ₹116 crore to the PM CARES Fund, supporting large-scale disaster recovery efforts.



Health

IHF has enabled **1,500+ pediatric heart surgeries** for children across India and neighbouring countries—an initiative recognised by the **Hon'ble Prime Minister in Mann Ki Baat**.



Hunger Alleviation

Through sustained food initiatives, IHF has distributed **30.6 lakh school meals**, **4.2 lakh community meals**, and **7 lakh treats** to underserved communities.



Water & Environment

IHF has rejuvenated water bodies and check dams in Odisha by removing millions of cubic metres of silt, and planted **6,000+ mangroves** with **7.5 km fencing** in the Sundarbans.



Empowering Girls

Placing girls at the centre of change, IHF has launched large-scale drives on **Cervical Cancer Vaccination** and **Menstrual Hygiene Management**, advancing health, dignity, and awareness.

