

Humanity

TIMES

serving humanity



2026

July - August Issue

Words From Our Leadership



Chairman's Message - Shekhar Mehta

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the work of India Humanity Foundation over the past two months, I am reminded once again that lasting change is rarely created by one person or one organisation. It happens when people come together with a shared belief that every life matters.

This issue of Humanity Times reflects that spirit beautifully

Padho Bharat 2026 is rapidly growing from a book-collection initiative into a movement for lifelong learning. With more than 61 schools enrolled and nearly 70,000 books collected, we are witnessing the extraordinary power of a simple idea—one unused book in a home can become a source of knowledge and opportunity for another child. Every library we create is not merely a room filled with books; it is a doorway to imagination, confidence and a better future.

Through Project Dignity, we have seen another dimension of humanity—restoring mobility and, with it, independence and self-respect. Across five mobility camps, 235 persons with disabilities were served and 227 assistive devices provided. Each prosthetic limb or mobility aid represents far more than a medical intervention; it represents a renewed ability to live life with dignity.

Our VIDYA Adult Literacy Programme continues to remind us that it is never too late to learn. In Purulia, our teams reviewed 23 centres serving 920 adult learners. Seeing adults learn to read, write and even sign their names with confidence is a powerful reminder that literacy can transform not just individuals, but entire families and communities.

And through Project Annapurna, we continue to address one of humanity's most basic needs—food. Reaching 6,660 individuals across West Bengal and Jharkhand demonstrates what compassionate partnerships can accomplish.

At IHF, our purpose remains simple and to empower impactfully.

I thank our volunteers, partners, donors, Akshar Saathis, schools and every individual who continues to walk this journey with us. Together, let us keep building a kinder, more inclusive and more humane India.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Shekhar Mehta

Padho Bharat 2026

An all-India book donation competition that fosters reading

Padho Bharat 2026, India Humanity Foundation's All India Inter School Book Collection Competition, invites schools across the country to transform everyday generosity into lasting impact—one donated book at a time. A single book from a home shelf, multiplied across classrooms, can become the foundation of a library that continues to serve children long after the competition ends. Students are encouraged to bring books from their homes and communities, while schools organize awareness sessions and collection drives to build momentum. No financial contribution is required—only the willingness to let a book that has already served its purpose begin a new journey in another child's hands.

INDIA HUMANITY FOUNDATION

Padho Bharat 2026

All India Inter School Book Collection Competition

A campaign to collect lacs of books & create thousands of libraries at schools, Community Centres, Orphanages, Old Age Homes etc.

- Bring books to school to donate**
(Text / Story Books, Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Novels etc. in readable conditions.)
- Donate books to create libraries nationwide**
- Last date to donate books**
31st October, 2026
- Prizes for top book donating**
51 schools across India
- Award ceremony**
on 15th November, 2026

Go Green
Reuse Books
Save Trees

Total 51 Prizes

1st Prize Rolling Trophy

Name of Winning School
Padho Bharat 2026

Helpline
+91 7439 769 372

All participating schools will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Top 3 Student Contributors from every school will receive a Certificate.

in association with
RATNA RIDHI CHARITABLE TRUST, United Education, ILEAD

Radio Partner: 100% Radio Ganga
Media Partner: सन्मार्ग



Padho Bharat 2026



Shri Sandip Agarwalla handing books to the coordinators of Lotus Rescue Peace Education Culture Creativity Society, Kolkata who are serving the children of the street

A contest becoming a movement that would build libraries and increase access to books

Schools will compete across five categories based on student strength and will be ranked by the percentage of books collected relative to their total enrolment, ensuring that a school of 200 has the same opportunity to win as one of 2,000. The last date for book donations is 31st October, 2026, and winners will be honoured with 51 awards, including the prestigious All India Rolling Trophy. Every participating school will receive a Certificate of Participation, while the top three student contributors from each school will be individually recognised. Reflecting the campaign's Go Green ethos of reusing books to save trees, Padho Bharat also powers IHF's Library Creation Initiative: for every 500 books collected by a school, a new library is established in its name—creating a lasting legacy and proving that the books lying unused in our homes today could become the key to another child's education tomorrow.



CEO's Message - Aparna Bijani

Dear Friends,

One lesson stands out from everything we have accomplished during the last quarter: lasting change is possible only through the power of partnerships. Every life we touch is the result of people and organisations coming together with a shared purpose to serve humanity.

Our VIDYA Adult Literacy Programme continues to transform lives because of the strong support of the Tribal Welfare Department, the Mass Education Department, our dedicated Akshar Saathis, and community leaders. During our team's recent field visit to Purulia, they witnessed adults gaining not only literacy skills but also confidence and self-belief—reminding us that education truly changes lives.

The same spirit of collaboration was evident in Project Dignity, where partnerships with Mahavir Seva Sadan, Rotary Clubs and SBI Foundation, and committed volunteers restored mobility, independence and hope to hundreds of people.

I am equally encouraged by the growing momentum of Padho Bharat 2026. With over 65 schools already registered, and the tireless efforts of our City Leaders, Zonal Coordinators, educators and volunteers, this initiative is steadily becoming a nationwide movement to build libraries and inspire a love for reading.

On 26th July, we celebrated Day of Giving (IHF's Foundation Day)—a reminder that every act of generosity, however small, has the power to make a lasting difference. Thank you to our Founder and Trustees for inspiring and leading from the front.

To every partner, volunteer, donor, school, government department and supporter who has walked alongside us, thank you. Your trust and collaboration are the foundation of everything we achieve. Together, we are building not just programmes, but a stronger, kinder and more humane India.

Aparna Bijani

A Movement Born For Lifelong Learning

In a nation where countless children grow up without access to even a single bookshelf, the Padho Bharat Campaign by India Humanity Foundation stands as a powerful affirmation that books can change lives. More than a book collection drive, it is a celebration of literature, community, and the shared belief that reading opens doors to opportunity and hope.

Through this initiative, libraries are being established in schools across the country, creating spaces where young minds can discover, imagine, and learn. We are proud to showcase some of these schools and celebrate the organizations, educators, volunteers, and children who are making this movement possible—not only to recognize their contributions, but to inspire a future where every child in India has access to books.

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“Building a library is not just about stacking shelves with books; it is about building a habit of reading, a love for stories, and a foundation for lifelong learning. We are deeply thankful that India Humanity Foundation and Indus Valley World School chose to walk this journey with us.

Thank you for believing in our children and investing in their future.”

— Camilie Johnson

Head,

Barrackpore Avenue Women's Culture & Secretary Welfare Society
Sacred Heart Day School (Junior & Senior) Happy Days School



Updates & Milestones

61+ Schools
Enrolled

70,000 books
collected

Last date to participate
- 31st October, 2026





Food Kits Donated At Rotary Vivekanand School

Bringing Annapurna Ration Kits to Communities Across Bengal and Jharkhand

In a continued effort to combat hunger and uphold human dignity, Project Dignity has rolled out a large-scale Annapurna Ration Kit distribution drive, reaching vulnerable communities across West Bengal and Jharkhand. The initiative, anchored in the values of compassion and community service, has so far benefited 6,660 individuals through coordinated efforts with multiple Rotary clubs, schools, and grassroots organizations.

The Essentials Reaching Every Doorstep

Each Annapurna Ration Kit has been thoughtfully assembled to address basic nutritional needs, comprising 200 kits in total, with each containing rice (3 kg), wheat flour or aata (2 kg), chickpeas or chana dal (1 kg), salt (1 kg), oil (1 kg), and turmeric powder (0.1 kg). Together, these amount to 2,025 kg of essential food items distributed, along with packaged food items such as Maggi 2-Minute Noodles and Maggi Masala Magic, ensuring both staple nutrition and quick, accessible meals for families in need..

The distribution drive reached eleven locations and partner organizations, with the Mimangsha Foundation in Madhupur and Koikala Chetana in West Bengal as key points. In South 24 Parganas, Al Jamiatul Hamedia School and JP Memorial School facilitated local deliveries, while Lotus Rescue covered the Sundarban area. Belgharia Kamarhati Sagar Dutta Free Higher Secondary School and Purba Barisha Shetala Mandir ensured local access in North 24 Parganas and Behala, respectively. Rotary clubs expanded outreach, notably at Rotary Vivekananda School where 600 students benefitted on June 18, 2026. Project Dignity exemplifies impactful, community-rooted humanitarian efforts.



Project Annapurna

Project Dignity



Mifa, a patient from Surat getting his prosthetic leg at the camp

An opportunity to support and transform the lives of people with disabilities

There is a distinct kind of silence that surrounds those who have lost their mobility—a silence marked by dependence and the hope that someone will help. Through Project Dignity, India Humanity Foundation organised five mobility camps across Surat, Ankleshwar, Dharampur, Umbergaon, and Virar, providing free assessments and customised Jaipur Foot prosthetics to underserved communities. The initiative was supported by the Rotary Club of Bombay, SBI Foundation, and Mahavir Seva Sadan, with leadership from **IHF Trustee Sandip Agarwalla** and **IHF Member Paritosh Rungta**. We also thank **Mr. Manoj Mohnot** of Mahavir Seva Sadan for his invaluable support in making the initiative possible.

Finding individuals who need mobility assistance is the most challenging aspect of mobility camps. Traveling to a camp can feel daunting for those with limited mobility. At the Virar camp, nearly 200 potential beneficiaries were screened through individual outreach by volunteers. A WhatsApp group kept participants informed, alleviating uncertainty. Seventy-one were deemed eligible, with fifty attending, highlighting the real obstacles faced. Mahavir Seva Sadan and local Rotary clubs enhanced outreach efforts by leveraging their networks and volunteers, connecting directly with their communities beyond mere advertisements.

Mifta received a new heart in Bengaluru. Ramesh received a new foot in Surat. The geography of their stories is different. The nature of the miracle is the same — a body restored to its full capability; a life returned to the person who owns it.

As Project Dignity continues its work into future camps, the initiative stands as proof that dignity is not an abstract ideal. It can be measured, delivered, and fitted — one limb, one device, one independent step at a time.

The camp served 235 persons with disabilities, providing 134 custom artificial limbs, 81 mobility aids, and 12 prosthetic hands. A total of 227 assistive devices restored independence for many. Project Dignity, an India Humanity Foundation initiative, exemplifies organized compassion — transforming humanitarian efforts into lasting infrastructure that bridges gaps and fosters community support.



Strengthening Adult Literacy Through Field Engagement in 23 LAMPs of Tribal areas in Purulia

As part of its continued commitment to ensuring the quality implementation of the VIDYA Adult Literacy Programme, India Humanity Foundation (IHF) conducted a field review visit to Purulia, West Bengal. The visit was led by Korak Banerjee, Manager – Programs (IHF), and Barnali Pramanik, Field Supervisor, with the objective of reviewing programme progress, interacting with stakeholders, and strengthening implementation through collaborative discussions.

The review covered 920 adult learners of all 23 VIDYA Centres across Balarampur and Nituria. The meetings were attended by Regional Manager Mr. Sashi Kumar Chowdhury and Regional Development Officer Mr. Pulak Gayen, whose active participation and continued guidance enriched the discussions and reaffirmed the shared commitment towards achieving the programme's objectives.

The review focused on learner attendance, programme progress, digital reporting, and interactions with 'Akshar Sathis' (Teachers) who are leading literacy sessions across the centres. Encouraging progress was observed throughout the programme, with dedicated efforts from Akshar Sathis and Centre Managers ensuring regular learning opportunities for adult learners. The interactions also provided an opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and strengthen coordination among all stakeholders, further enhancing the effectiveness of the programme.



One of the most inspiring outcomes of the visit was the documentation of learner success stories. These stories highlighted the transformative impact of literacy, showcasing adults who are now able to read, write, and sign their own names with confidence. Their journeys stand as powerful examples of how access to education empowers individuals, strengthens families, and creates lasting change within communities.

The field visit also reinforced the importance of continuous monitoring, timely reporting, and close coordination among programme teams to ensure sustained progress. The Regional Manager encouraged all Centre Managers and Akshar Sathis to maintain their excellent momentum and continue supporting learners with dedication and enthusiasm.

The visit reaffirmed that the success of the VIDYA Adult Literacy Programme is built on strong community partnerships, consistent field engagement, and the dedication of every Akshar Sathi who is helping transform lives—one learner at a time.



Insights and voices from the field visit at the Purulia Adult Literacy Centre



Akshar Saathi Voices

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Being associated with the VIDYA Adult Literacy Programme has given me the opportunity to bring meaningful change to my community. It is a matter of pride to help adults become literate and more confident.

Jaba Hembram, Akshar Saathi

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I feel honoured to be a part of this wonderful initiative. Seeing learners read and write independently gives me immense satisfaction and motivates me to continue this journey.

Kabita Murmu, Akshar Sathi

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