

Humanity TIMES

serving humanity...

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Chairman's Message



Shekhar Mehta

Serving the common man

Dear Friends of Humanity,

As I reflect on the financial year 2025-26, I am filled with both gratitude and determination. While we have poured our heart and soul into serving humanity and have reached lakhs of beneficiaries—bringing immense satisfaction—I am equally aware that there is still so much more to be done.

Our major focus has been, and will continue to be, making India totally literate. Our Vidya and Diksha programs are progressing remarkably well. It is heartening to see young Churamani Hembram, at 55 years of age, proudly able to read and write after attending classes at our Vidya Centre—a true testament to the dedication and tireless efforts of our team members and partner training organizations. Equally inspiring is the fact that thousands of schoolchildren across the country are volunteering to teach one adult for 60 days under the Diksha program, helping them take their first steps toward literacy and empowerment.

Our initiatives in correctional homes and tribal areas remain among the most meaningful ways of reaching underserved and marginalized communities, ensuring that education and opportunity touch lives where they are needed most.

We are also delighted to have established more than a thousand libraries through the collection of lakhs of books, opening doors to knowledge and imagination for countless children and families. At the same time, we continue our mission of nourishing young lives, having provided over one lakh meals during the year.

It was deeply moving to witness the smiling faces of children and their parents from different parts of Africa who came to India seeking a second chance at life through critical medical support made possible by our collective efforts. Such moments remind us of the profound impact compassion can have across borders and communities.

The journey so far has been deeply gratifying. Yet, the road ahead is long, and every life we touch strengthens our resolve to continue serving humanity with compassion, commitment, and hope. Together, we can build a more literate, equitable, and humane world.

Regards,

Shekhar Mehta
Chairman
India Humanity Foundation

Serving Humanity: Milestones of 2025-26

1.35 Lakh Adults Made Literate under Vidya	20,000 Adults Made Literate under Diksha	1,150 Tribal Adult Women literate	31 Adult Literacy in Correctional Homes West Bengal	22 States Covered
3.5 Lakh Books collected	1,500+ Libraries Created	40 Child Heart Surgeries done	1 Lakh+ Mid-day Meals Distributed	19 Lakh Packaged Food

CEO's Message

Reflections on a Year of Service



Dear Friends,

In a world often divided by conflict and uncertainty, we are reminded that for the common man, peace is not an abstract idea — it is the ability to live with dignity, to educate one's child, to sleep without hunger, and to face each day with hope.

As we reflect on the year gone by, I feel deeply grateful for the countless lives touched through our collective efforts. From helping adults read and write for the very first time, to nourishing children, building libraries, supporting young girls, and saving little hearts — every initiative has been rooted in one simple belief: humanity must reach those who need it the most.

This journey has only been possible because of the compassion of our volunteers, partners, donors, and well-wishers across the country and beyond. Your kindness creates real change, even in difficult times.

At India Humanity Foundation, our mission continues with humility and determination: to serve humanity by standing beside the common man in his everyday struggles.

With gratitude,

Aparna Biyani
CEO, India Humanity Foundation

Literacy: Where learning becomes life-changing

One letter at a time: IHF's Adult literacy program in 2025-26

With a mission to Make India Totally Literate, Over the years India Humanity Foundation has made more than 4 Lakh adults literate across the country.

At the heart of this work is a simple belief: that literacy is not merely a skill — it is dignity. The woman who signs her name instead of using a thumb impression. The inmate who reads the newspaper for the first time. The tribal elder who counts her earnings without assistance. These are the moments that define what IHF does — and why.

2,875

Vidya Centres (2025-26)

1.15 Lakh

Learners (2025-26)

VIDYA

Centre-Based Learning - Akshar Saathis leading the change

The Vidya Model continued to be IHF's most expansive vehicle for adult literacy in 2025-26. A dedicated community teacher — the Akshar Saathi — identifies non-literate adults in their neighbourhood, gathers them at a designated community space, and guides them through 60 structured sessions using IHF's purpose-designed primers and toolkits.

This year, with the CSR support of Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd., 42 Vidya centres came alive in Odisha and Jharkhand — bringing together 1,680 adult learners, many of whom stepped into a classroom for the very first time. Simultaneously, in Palghar, Maharashtra, thousands of adult learners completed the full literacy journey, gaining the functional skills to read everyday signs, fill basic forms, and navigate their daily lives with new-found confidence.



Mr. Shekha Mehta and Mr. Sandip Agarwalla
distributing certificates to adult learners

DIKSHA

Each One Teach One - Young change-makers reshaping their communities



A quiet moment where knowledge passes across generations

Through the Diksha Model, IHF has unleashed one of its most powerful forces for literacy: India's young people. Students from Classes 7 to 12 volunteer to teach one non-literate adult from their own family or community — spending 45–60 minutes a day for 60 sessions using IHF's structured curriculum and learner-friendly primers.

The momentum of Diksha continued to build in 2025–26, with thousands of young boys and girls taking on the role of teacher — educating parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and neighbours. IHF recognises student volunteers with medals.

20,000+

Student Volunteers
Nationally

100+

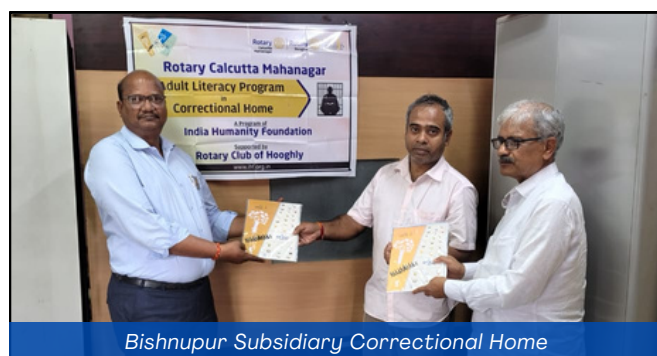
Schools

Literacy in Correctional Homes

Spreading literacy, restoring dignity - Behind every wall, a second chance

Time behind bars need not be time lost. In one of IHF's most distinctive initiatives — implemented in collaboration with Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar — adult literacy was extended to all 60 correctional homes across West Bengal.

A defining strength of this programme is its peer-led model: educated inmates are trained as Inmate Teachers, empowering them to teach their fellow inmates. This approach not only maximises reach within constrained institutional settings, but builds the leadership, confidence, and sense of purpose of the teachers themselves.



Bishnupur Subsidiary Correctional Home



Serampur Correctional Home

60

Correctional Homes covered -
West Bengal

3,616

Inmate Learners

"By spreading literacy across every correctional home in the state, Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar and IHF have demonstrated that education can restore dignity, instil hope, and transform lives — even behind prison walls."

Literacy among the tribes: Purulia

Where tradition meets learning - Tribal women claim their rights to read

In the red-earth landscape of Purulia — one of West Bengal's most underserved tribal districts — 1,150 women are writing a new chapter. In collaboration with the Mass Education Extension and Library Services (MEELS), Government of West Bengal, and the West Bengal Tribal Development Co-operative Corporation Ltd. (WBTDCC), IHF established 23 LAMP centres across Purulia to bring adult literacy to communities that formal education has long bypassed.

A 3-day Training of Master Trainers was held in February 2026 at the DRDC Purulia centre — bringing together 46 Master Trainers from across all 23 LAMP centres, inaugurated by senior officials from MEELS and WBTDCC Ltd. All centres are now fully operational, with classes held 3-4 times per week. Akshar Saathis guide learners through alphabets, numeracy, and word formation — and the energy in every classroom, whether indoors or under open skies, is palpable.



Government officials of WBTDCC and MEELS inaugurating Adult Literacy Program in Purulia



Online monitoring at a "Vidya" centre in Purulia

23

LAMP Centres Operational

1,150

Tribal Women Enrolled

Churamani Hembram: Reclaiming dignity through the power of learning

A story from Purulia — It is never too late to rewrite your story

For the first time, Churamani stepped into a classroom. Holding a pencil, recognising letters, forming words — all felt unfamiliar. Yet, she showed up every day with determination. Today, she can write her name, recognise Bengali alphabets, and count from 1 to 20.

For 45 years, Churamani Hembram's life in a small village in Purulia revolved around hard work — farming, gathering firewood, and caring for her family. Education never found its way into her early years. Like many women in rural communities, responsibilities came first, and learning remained out of reach.

Unable to read or write, she relied on memory and others for everyday tasks. But that began to change when IHF's Adult Literacy Program reached her village through a Vidya Centre.



Churamani Hembram in the "Vidya" centre

"What may seem small to others has transformed her sense of independence and confidence. Through education, Churamani is not just gaining knowledge — she is rediscovering her self-worth."

Alka Soren: Lighting the Lamp of Literacy in Amruhansa

A story from Balarampur – even a small decision to learn can become the beginning of lasting change



Alka Soren,
adult learner

In the tribal village of Amruhansa in Balarampur, Alka Soren's life had long been shaped by responsibility and loss. After losing her husband, she depended on her son and daughter-in-law – but her inability to read and write made everyday tasks like handling documents or bank work difficult and often frustrating.



Pandit Rughunath Murum LAMPS



Learners at a "Vidya" centre in Purulia

Her turning point came when she heard about a literacy centre in her village. Curious, she visited the centre at Balarampur Amruhansa Primary School, where an Akshar Sathi introduced her to the Adult Literacy Program. Without hesitation, Alka chose to learn.

Her decision was initially questioned at home, but with gentle guidance from the Akshar Sathi, her family began to understand the value of education and extended their support. Since then, Alka has been attending classes regularly – learning step by step. With every word she reads and writes, she gains confidence and a sense of control over her life.

Books on the Move: Padho Bharat 2025

A year of stories finding new homes – 3,50,000 books collected, 1,500+ libraries built

Padho Bharat is a nationwide initiative by India Humanity Foundation that brings books closer to those who need them the most. Rooted in the belief that every book has the power to change a life, the program brings together communities, volunteers, and partners to collect, sort, and share books—transforming them into libraries for schools and underserved areas. More than just a campaign, it is a collective effort to turn unused books into opportunities for learning, growth, and hope.

Over the last year, more than 3,50,000 books were collected across India. Since November 2025, these have helped create 1,500+ libraries, each with 150–200 books. Partners including Goonj, Round Table India, Orient Blackswan, and Gift a Library, with media support from Dainik Bhaskar, Sanmarg, and 91.9 Friends FM, amplified the campaign's reach across the nation.



Classroom library at Rotary Vivekananda School



Volunteers sorting books

3,50,000+

Books Collected

1,500+

Libraries Created

Health: Every life is worth saving

Saving Little hearts, across borders



Children and their caretakers being received by Rotary members at Cochin airport

Not every child is born with the luxury of a healthy heartbeat. For many families, the sound of their child struggling to breathe becomes a quiet, constant fear. Through the Saving Little Hearts programme, India Humanity Foundation has been standing beside such families — turning moments of uncertainty into moments of hope.

This year children from Ethiopia and Ghana found their way to India for life-saving heart surgeries — their journeys made possible through the heartfelt efforts of Late Mr. V. R. Muthu, Mr. Rajendra Rai, and Mr. Rajeev Sharma, with support from Rotary clubs across Ghana and India.

Closer to home, in Kolkata, 18 children received life-saving surgeries through a collaboration between IHF, Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence, and Yogita Kichlu Welfare Trust — at Narayana R. N. Tagore Hospital and Neotia Bhagirathi Woman and Child Care Centre.

40

Children Operated

22

Children - International (2025-26)

18

Children - Kolkata (2025-26)

Stories that stay with us

When hope found Aditi*



At just four years old, Aditi Mula had already been living with a serious heart condition her family deeply feared. Her father Dipankar Mula earns ₹10,000 a month — and the path to treatment felt overwhelming. Referred to Neotia Bhagirathi Woman and Child Care Centre, Aditi was enrolled under IHF's Saving Little Hearts programme, supported by Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence and Yogita Kichlu Welfare Trust.

She underwent a successful ASD Device Closure — and was discharged, stable and on the road to recovery. The fear that once surrounded her family slowly gave way to relief.

Taye's* journey: Healing beyond borders

When six-year-old Taye Nhyiraba arrived from Ghana, his journey carried both urgency and hope. Diagnosed with a complex congenital heart condition, he was admitted to Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, Bangalore. Under IHF's Saving Little Hearts programme, he underwent a successful surgery — and gradually returned to health, strength, and laughter.

His story is a reminder: when compassion travels across borders, it doesn't just save lives — it gives children the chance to truly live.



"Because every little heart deserves not just to beat — but to beat freely."

**name changed*

Protecting futures before it's too late: IHF's HPV vaccination initiative

600+ Girls Vaccinated Against Cervical Cancer in Kolkata

Preventive healthcare makes the biggest difference long before illness begins – timely vaccination is a powerful act of love

Cervical cancer, primarily caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), continues to affect thousands of women in India every year. When administered during adolescence, the HPV vaccine significantly reduces long-term risk – making timely vaccination one of the most powerful preventive tools available.

In 2025–26, IHF partnered with the Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA) and conducted a two-day HPV vaccination drive in Kolkata with support from the Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar (RCM). Over 600 girls aged 9 to 18 years received the HPV vaccine – each one protected against a preventable disease.



Hunger Alleviation: Because no child should learn on an empty stomach

Project Annapurna: Nourishing lives, sustaining communities

Through the Annapurna Food Project – implemented in partnership with India FoodBanking Network (IFBN) – IHF distributed food packets & ration kits.

In 2025–26, across the year, 1,900,418 food packages valued at ₹11,88,377 were distributed – bringing small moments of joy through ready-to-consume items like biscuits, Bournvita, and fruit juice. Alongside this, 516 ration kits were utilised – each kit, filled with rice, atta, dal, oil, and spices.

At Rotary Vivekananda School, these efforts translated into over 1,00,000 meals served throughout the year. For the children, it meant more than nourishment – it meant the ability to sit in a classroom without hunger, to focus and learn.



19 Lakh+

Food packages in 2025-26

516

Ration kits distributed

1,00,000+

Med-day meals -
Rotary Vivekananda School

"What makes this journey meaningful is not just the scale, but the intention behind it – that someone cares enough to ensure no family goes to bed hungry."

Powerful and poignant: IHF chairman Shekhar Mehta at the BELRAG webinar

A shared vision for change: Educating girls, transforming nations

IHF Chairman Shekhar Mehta delivers the keynote at the BELRAG Webinar on Girls' Education & Empowerment – 13 February 2026



As Keynote speaker, Mr. Mehta opened with a powerful and universal truth: when we educate a girl, we do not just change her life — we change the trajectory of her family, her community, and her nation. Drawing from UNESCO data, he highlighted that 133 million girls worldwide remain illiterate, yet affirmed that over 50 million girls have entered schools since 2015 — reason for hope and for continued action.

Mr. Mehta spoke about the realities that still prevent girls from accessing education — poverty, child marriage, safety concerns, and lack of basic facilities. He shared the inspiring story of Sushmita — supported through the Udaan scholarship by Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar — who went on to become a pharmacist and support her sibling's education. And of another young woman who, after training in digital literacy and accounting, started an enterprise employing five women.

In his call to action, he urged Rotary clubs to adopt long-term commitments to girls' empowerment — ensuring safe school environments, supporting girls through critical transition years, and measuring outcomes like attendance, retention, and progress. His closing message stayed with everyone present: the most powerful force for transformation remains the educated girl.

"Girls' education is a force multiplier for dignity, development, and economic growth. Citing World Bank data, each additional year of schooling can increase a girl's future earnings by 10%."

Serving Humanity

Partners who make it possible

Together, we are building the India of tomorrow – one life, one school, one community at a time

IHF's work is made possible by a wide and growing network of government bodies, corporate CSR partners, Rotary clubs, and civil society organisations. In 2025–26, key partners included Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd. (adult literacy, Odisha & Jharkhand), Cancer Patients Aid Association (HPV vaccination, Kolkata), India FoodBanking Network (hunger alleviation), Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar (correctional homes & HPV drive), Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence and Yogita Kichlu Welfare Trust (heart surgeries), Mass Education Extension and Library Services — Government of West Bengal and WBTDCC Ltd. (tribal literacy, Purulia), and many more.

IHF is registered under Sections 12A & 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, and holds CSR-1 registration under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs — enabling corporates across India to channel their CSR investments through IHF for maximum, measurable impact.



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