

May 2026

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Chairman's Message



Shekhar Mehta

Serving Humanity

Dear friends of humanity,

There is a particular joy in watching seeds you planted years ago bloom into something far greater than you imagined. This month, I am experiencing that joy in abundance.

During my tenure as President of Rotary International, I had the privilege of meeting the President of Ethiopia. During that conversation, I made a commitment – that we would bring African children to India for life-saving paediatric heart surgeries. Commitments made in the spirit of humanity must be honoured, and I am deeply gratified to share that IHF is fulfilling that promise. Children from Ethiopia are arriving at our partnered hospitals and receiving the care they need, their small hearts given a chance to beat freely.

Similar were my commitments to The President of Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana and we are doing surgeries for children from each of these countries. This is what 'serving humanity' truly means.

I am equally gladdened by the reach our programmes have achieved. Our donors and supporters are no longer only from India – they come from the Indian diaspora spread across the United States and beyond. Indians living thousands of miles from home are choosing to give back to the land of their roots, and to the broader cause of human dignity. That an IHF programme in a tribal hamlet in Purulia or a school in a small town can be powered in part by contributions from New York or San Jose fills me with immense gratitude.

Our Padho Bharat 2026 initiative is also progressing beautifully. Books are reaching children and communities, libraries are being created, and the love of reading is being kindled in places where it had long been absent. I see in this programme the quiet, steady work of nation-building.

To every Indian – whether in India or abroad – and to every friend of humanity across the world: I invite you to join hands with us. You can support us financially, volunteer your time and skills, or simply spread the word. Every contribution, however small, is an ahuti in this mahayagya of serving humanity.

Together, let us build a world where no child is denied a chance to learn, to eat, or to live.

With warm regards

Shekhar Mehta

Shekhar Mehta
Chairman
India Humanity Foundation

Breaking Barriers, Building Dreams

*An update on IHF's Adult Literacy program
in Purulia*

Tribal Literacy Program Witnessing Resilience and Hope across 23 Blocks

The journey toward "Making India Totally Literate" has found a profound heartbeat in the tribal corridors of Purulia. In collaboration with the Mass Education Extension Department (MEELS) and the West Bengal Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation (WBTDC), India Humanity Foundation (IHF) is witnessing a transformation that goes far beyond the pages of our "Disha" and "Pathan" toolkits.

As we enter the final phase of this 60-session Vidya program, the results are a testament to the iron will of the 1,150 tribal women enrolled across 23 LAMP centers.



Adult Learners Studying at Arsha Lamps Vidya Centre

The Courage to Learn

In several centers, our Akshar Sathis (Master Trainers) report a level of enthusiasm that is truly moving. For many of these women, the literacy center is not just a place of education, but a sanctuary of empowerment.

While most attend with great pride, some face significant domestic hurdles. However, these brave women are choosing to negotiate for their dignity. By explaining the importance of functional literacy to their families, they continue to walk to the centers, proving that the light of knowledge is worth the struggle.

Continued on page 2 ►

Beyond the Classroom: The Multiplier Effect

One of the most heartening outcomes observed this month is the emergence of "intergenerational learning." Several mothers, having mastered basic letters and numbers at the IHF centers, are now seen teaching their own children at home. They are determined that the "education gap" they experienced will not be the reality for the next generation.

Community-Led Feedback

To make the 2-hour daily sessions more inclusive, some learners have suggested providing light refreshments during classes. This feedback highlights the deep level of engagement at the grassroots level, as IHF and its partners work to create a more supportive and comfortable learning ecosystem for these adult learners.



Adult Learners Studying at Santuri Lamps Vidya Centre

“Learning to read and write has given me a voice and confidence I never knew I had.”

— A sentiment shared by our resilient learners in Purulia.



Adult learners at Pucha Adibasi Lamps Vidya Center

A Path to Independence

Though seasonal labor often impacts daily attendance, the core group of learners remains steadfast. They are moving steadily toward the final graduation, where they will soon be able to handle financial transactions, read government forms, and write their own names with confidence and pride.

As we look toward the final assessment, we salute the women of Purulia and our dedicated Akshar Sathis who are proving that with patience and persistence, humanity truly spread its wings.



Adult learners at Raghunathput Lamps Vidya Centre

CEO's Message

Humanity has no borders



Dear Friends,

As I pen these words, my heart is full of gratitude for your unwavering support, and full of hope for the India we are collectively building, one life at a time.

This month's stories from the ground remind us why we do what we do. In the forested hills of Purulia, something extraordinary is happening in the quiet of tribal hamlets — women who once held a pen as a stranger are now writing their names, reading to their children, and stepping into the world with a dignity they always deserved. Our Adult Literacy Programme's reach into tribal communities is not merely about alphabets; it is about reclaiming voice, identity, and agency.

Closer to towns and cities, our Padho Bharat 2026 initiative is gathering momentum, with students and communities joining hands to donate preloved books. Schools across India are registering for the Inter School Competition and libraries are coming alive in schools where there were none so far.

Meanwhile, our volunteers and partners continue to ensure that no child sleeps hungry — and that even the smallest heart beats strong. Our paediatric heart surgery support programme has this month extended hope to families far beyond India's borders, touching the lives of children from Ethiopia who arrived seeking a chance at life. That a foundation headquartered in India can serve a family from East Africa is a reminder that humanity knows no geography.

Each of these stories is made possible because of you — your faith, your generosity, and your belief that change is possible. Thank you for being our strength.

With warm regards

Aparna Biyani

Aparna Biyani
CEO, India Humanity Foundation

Celebrating Milestones in Literacy

Adult literacy Odisha & Jharkhand Update



Adult Literacy Classes at Hurnali Adult Literacy Centre, Jharkhand

Adult Literacy Initiative Supported by Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd. Reaches Successful Completion.

The Adult Literacy Program, a transformative initiative by the India Humanity Foundation (IHF) supported by **Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd.**, is drawing to a successful close this month across the tribal belts of Odisha and Jharkhand. What began as a mission to bridge education gaps has evolved into a movement of self-reliance for 1,680 adult learners.

A Journey of 42 Centres

Operational across 42 active literacy centres in the Chatra district (Jharkhand) and Nuapada district (Odisha), the program has been a beacon of hope for communities that previously had little to no access to formal education. Implemented alongside grassroots partners Arj Foundation and PARDA, the initiative provided a structured 60-session curriculum designed to impart functional literacy and basic numeracy.



Sakhatara, Odisha, India
Adult Literacy Classes at Sakhatara Vidya Center, Odisha
Lat 20.848235° Long 82.543058°

“Literacy is not just about words; it is about opening doors to dignity and self-reliance.”

Transforming Lives: Beyond Reading and Writing

As the program reaches its final sessions, the impact is visible in the everyday lives of the learners. Across the centres:

- **Dignity & Agency:** Learners who once struggled to recognize basic letters can now write their names and addresses independently.
- **Financial Literacy:** The inclusion of simple arithmetic has empowered participants to manage small financial transactions and handle market visits without assistance.
- **Confidence:** Personal stories, like that of Geeta Devi from Hurnali village, highlight a newfound ability to support children in their studies and participate actively in social life.

A Lasting Legacy

The success of the Odisha and Jharkhand initiative reinforces IHF's belief that learning can begin at any age. Through regular monitoring and the dedication of our Akshar Sathis, the program has built a solid foundation for lifelong learning in these underserved regions.

As we celebrate the graduation of this cohort, we extend our deepest gratitude to Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd. for their steadfast support in helping adult learners open doors to new beginnings.

From Deprivation to Empowerment:

The Story of Surubali Tudu



Puncha area in Purulia, West Bengal

Education is a fundamental human right, yet social and economic barriers often push this right out of reach for many. The story of Surubali Tudu (45), from the Puncha region of Purulia, is a powerful testament to the fact that it is never too late to reclaim one's dignity through literacy.



A Childhood Lost to Poverty

Growing up in a world of extreme financial hardship, Surubali's education was never a priority. Poverty, early household responsibilities, and traditional social biases against girls' schooling in rural areas forced her to drop out before completing even primary education. For decades, the world of words and numbers remained a closed door.



A New Beginning at 45

The turning point came when Surubali enrolled in the Adult Literacy (Vidya) Program implemented by India Humanity Foundation (IHF) in collaboration with the Government of West Bengal. This 60-session journey has rekindled her curiosity and restored her self-confidence.

Transformative Results

Today, Surubali is no longer dependent on others for basic tasks. The impact on her life has been profound:

- **Literacy & Identity:** She can now independently read and write her name and address.
- **Financial Independence:** She manages daily household accounts and market transactions on her own.
- **Social Agency:** She has emerged as a confident individual who understands the value of education.
- **The Mother's Promise:** Most importantly, she now actively encourages her children to study, ensuring that the cycle of illiteracy ends with her generation.

Persistence Amidst Challenges

Surubali's journey has not been without hurdles. Balancing rigorous household chores with the demands of learning is difficult, and at 45, the pace of learning is naturally slower. However, her unwavering spirit proves that age is merely a number when the goal is empowerment.



Conclusion: A Beacon of Hope

Surubali Tudu's journey is an inspiration to her entire community. It highlights the critical need for improving infrastructure at adult literacy centers and increasing awareness to support more women like her. At IHF, we believe her success is a victory for humanity.

"Surubali's journey proves that with the right opportunity, anyone can walk from darkness toward the light of knowledge."

- Barnali Paramanik
Field Officer

Literacy Initiative Successfully Completed in Multiple Correctional Homes



Barrackpore Correction Home

India Humanity Foundation successfully completed the current phase of its Adult Literacy Initiative across 20 Correctional Homes in West Bengal in collaboration with correctional authorities and institutional stakeholders.

The initiative focused on promoting functional literacy, educational engagement, and constructive rehabilitation among inmate learners through structured learning sessions and peer-supported educational activities. The program continued to encourage positive participation and confidence-building among inmates through community-based literacy interventions.

Adult Literacy Program Continuing Across Correctional Institutions

The Adult Literacy Program of India Humanity Foundation is currently ongoing in 13 Correctional Homes across West Bengal with active participation from inmate learners and institutional authorities.

The ongoing interventions are focused on strengthening basic literacy and numeracy skills, promoting peer learning, and encouraging productive educational engagement within correctional settings. Regular coordination and monitoring activities are being undertaken to support smooth implementation of the program.



Purulia Correction Home



Srirampur Correctional Home



Tehatta Correctional home



Malda District Correctional Home

Expansion Process Initiated for New Correctional Home Interventions

India Humanity Foundation has initiated preparatory activities for expansion of its Adult Literacy Initiative in additional Correctional Homes across West Bengal.

Orientation meetings, coordination discussions, and preliminary implementation planning have already been undertaken in multiple institutions, while further expansion processes are currently under discussion in several other correctional facilities.

The initiative aims to further strengthen access to literacy and educational opportunities among inmates through collaborative and structured learning interventions.



Bring books to school to Donate



Donate books to create libraries



**Last date to donate books
15th August 2026**



1 Library for every 500 books



**Prizes for top book donating
51 schools across India**



**AWARD CEREMONY
ON INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY DAY
8TH SEPTEMBER 2026**



Name of the Winning School
Padho Bharat 2026
All India Inter School
Book Collection - Winner

Inviting all schools to participate

Padho Bharat 2026

All India Inter School

Book Collection Competition

**A campaign to collect lacs of books
& create thousands of libraries**

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



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Padho Bharat 2026

All India Inter School Book Collection Competition

This year, our book collection initiative takes a giant leap forward — evolving into a nationwide, inter school competition.

Schools across India can register and encourage their students to collect pre loved books, uploading their totals through a dedicated portal.

Competing across 5 categories based on student strength, schools stand a chance to win one of 10 prizes per category, while the top performer nationally takes home the prestigious Rolling Trophy. Every participating school receives a certificate, and those donating 500+ books will have a library built and named in their honour at an underprivileged school, orphanage, or old-age home. Top student contributors will also be recognised with participation certificates.

The competition will run live, ensuring complete transparency for all.

Join us in turning every donated book into a doorway of opportunity for someone who needs it most.

Beyond the Pages

Operating under a “**Go Green**” philosophy, the campaign encourages the reuse and redistribution of books, thereby promoting both educational accessibility and environmental stewardship amongst young learners.

As we step into this phase, we invite schools and citizens to participate and join this revolution. Together we can ensure that no child in India is left waiting for their very first book,

You can participate too !

- ✓ Become a City Leader Yourself
- ✓ Guide Schools and make them Register for Competition
- ✓ Motivate School Students to donate more books
- ✓ Any type of books can be donated like; Story books, Text books, Novels, dictionary in any languages.
- ✓ Visit - www.ihf.org.in/padho-bharat.php to view details of collection points in your city.



Books received in 2026 from ILead Foundation, Kolkata

Success of 2025

Conceived as a flagship literacy initiative of India Humanity Foundation in 2025, Padho Bharat received an extraordinary response across the country.

- Collected over 3,00,000+ books,
- Established more than 1,000+ libraries
- Redistributed upwards of 1,50,000 books

A Milestone of Collaboration

This remarkable achievement was made possible through strong partnerships with esteemed organizations, including **Ilead Foundation, Goonj, Round Table India, Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust**, and various **Rotary & Rotaract Clubs** nationwide. Their collective support proved that when society unites for education, true miracles happen.

In a moving felicitation ceremony, IHF honored the “torch bearers of change”- the City Leaders who worked selflessly to mobilize their communities. A special mention goes to the 100+ dedicated City Leaders, whose passion serves as an inspiration for the entire nation.



Children of Haji Yunus Ali Academy, Sonakhali reading books from a new library that was set up.

“Turning pages into possibilities for a stronger, more confident India.”



Sustaining Health, Nourishing Futures

Essential Ration and Nutritional Support Reaches 1,000+ Students

The Annapurna Food Project, a flagship initiative of the India Humanity Foundation (IHF), continues its mission to combat food insecurity and malnutrition among vulnerable school children across West Bengal. In the reporting period of March and April 2026, the project successfully delivered critical nutritional support to over 1,000 students through a combination of essential raw rations and ready-to-eat food packets.

Quick Food Support:

The foundation distributed 336 packets of Tangy Tomato Twist Maggi to provide quick, accessible nourishment to students in:

1. **Arinban Pathbhawan** : benefiting 192 students.
2. **Howrah Deshbandhu Balika Vidyalaya** : reaching 288 students.
3. **Kurli Chayani Jana Priya High School** : benefiting 370 students



Desh Bandhu Balika Vidyalay, Howrah

“Every meal provided is a reminder of what collective care and commitment can achieve.”



Kurli Choyani Jana Priya High School, South 24 Parganas

Critical Nutrition: The Ration Kit Drive

On 21 March 2026, IHF collaborated with the India Food Banking Network (IFBN) to facilitate a large-scale distribution. A total of 200 ration kits, each weighing approximately 8.1 kg, were provided to students in need.

To ensure a balanced diet for the beneficiaries, each kit include: Rice: 5 kg, Atta: 2 kg, Dal: 1 kg

Essential Staples: Salt (1 kg), Oil (1 kg), and Turmeric (100 gm).

These kits provided essential nutritional stability to 600 students, allowing them to remain focused on their education without the immediate worry of food scarcity at home.

A Growing Impact

The Annapurna Project remains a vital pillar of IHF's commitment to serving humanity. By partnering with organizations like IFBN and local schools, IHF ensures that nourishment is not a privilege, but a basic right for every child.

As Chairman Shekhar Mehta often notes, providing food support brings both nourishment and joy to children who have long been left behind. This recent milestone is another step toward a healthier, stronger, and more resilient India.

Saving Little Hearts

*When compassion meets care,
children get a second chance at life.*



A Journey Across Borders for a Healthy Heart



*From Left : Mr Rajendra Rai with
Master Musehah Mifta and his father*

For little Master Musehah Mifta, just 6 years old from Ethiopia, a serious heart condition meant that ordinary childhood activities came with extraordinary risk. Every day brought fatigue, breathlessness, and a quiet fear his family carried—the fear of losing him to a condition they had no means to treat.

That changed when Mifta's case was taken up under the Saving Little Hearts initiative, a joint effort by India Humanity Foundation and the expert cardiac team at Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bengaluru.

He underwent a major open-heart procedure — LV Myectomy combined with AV Repair. The days that followed were spent under close medical observation, after a week he was strong enough to be discharged in stable condition.

For Mifta's family, this was more than a successful surgery—it was the return of a future they feared they might lose. Today, a young boy from Ethiopia carries with him not just a healthier heart, but proof that distance and circumstance are no match for compassion backed by the right care.

Giving Little Awol a Second Chance at Life



From Left : Mr Rajendra Rai with Mohammed Awol

For five-year-old Mohammed Awol, childhood was supposed to be about laughter and play—but instead, it was marked by breathlessness, fatigue, and a heart that struggled with every beat. Born in Ethiopia with a serious congenital heart defect, he grew weaker with time, while his parents watched helplessly, unable to afford the surgery that could save him.

Then came a turning point. Through the Saving Little Hearts program of India Humanity Foundation, Mohammed's case reached the skilled hands of doctors at Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bengaluru—a place that would become the start of his second life.

Mohammed underwent an open-heart surgery involving LV Myectomy and AV Repair. After days of careful monitoring and recovery, he was discharged, stable and on the path to healing.

For a family that once feared the worst, this was nothing short of a miracle. Mohammed now carries forward not just a stronger heart, but a future once thought impossible—proof that when compassion meets care, even the smallest hearts can be given the biggest second chances.

"We wish to acknowledge the extra ordinary support by Mr. Rajendra Rai and 'Needy Heart Foundation' in making these surgeries happen. From receiving these patients personally at the Bangalore Airport to visit them in hospitals to waving them goodbye, you have lit a light of hope in serving humanity."

