

Humanity

TIMES

INDIA
HUMANITY
FOUNDATION

serving humanity



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August-September

Words From Our Leadership



Chairman's Message - Shekhar Mehta

Dear Friends of Humanity,

Every time I read about the work being done through India Humanity Foundation, I am reminded that meaningful change begins with a simple act of caring –and grows when that act is multiplied by many.

This edition of Humanity Times beautifully captures that spirit.

Padho Bharat 2026 is becoming a nationwide movement for reading and learning. The response from schools, students, parents, publishers and volunteers has been inspiring. The commitment of Orient BlackSwan to provide 56,345 books and that of iLEAD College for 56,000 books are remarkable examples of how partnerships can multiply impact. Every book collected helps create a library, turning books lying unused into opportunities for children to discover, learn and dream.

Our adult literacy journey is equally heartening. In Purulia, tribal women who once struggled to read or write are now completing their lessons and appearing for examinations. Forty learners have already reached this milestone, while many more are preparing to follow. Their determination, supported by our Akshar Sathis and partners, reminds us that learning truly has no age.

Through Project Annapurna, food assistance has reached more than 15,000 people across vulnerable communities during these two months. At the same time, our new DIKSHA initiative in Salem carries the beautiful idea of “Each One Teach One” to 2,000 adults, showing once again how one person can become the beginning of change for another.

We are so happy to welcome our new Trustee Sri Narendra Kumar Surana.

I thank every volunteer, donor, partner, school, Akshar Sathi and well-wisher who continues to walk with us.

Special thanks to Sri Pradip Chopra, chairman of iLEAD College for the magnanimous gesture of constant donation of books.

Together, let us keep turning compassion into action and action into lasting impact.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Shekhar Mehta
Chairman
India Humanity Foundation

Padho Bharat 2026 : The Final Stretch

Padho Bharat 2026, our All India Inter School Book Collection Competition, enters its last month. Collections close on 31st October 2026, and every school, student and volunteer who has been part of this journey is now giving it a final push.

Schools in Padho Bharat - Competition Mode On!

121 schools have registered in the competition, and students, parents and teachers have been running collection drives with real enthusiasm resulting in more than 40,000 pre loved books reaching us. Six schools are leading in the competition: Shri Shikshayatan School, Durgamoyee Academy, LakshmiPat Singhania Academy,

Padho Bharat, an initiative of the India Humanity Foundation (IHF), is a nationwide literacy movement that collects books and creates libraries for underserved children and communities across India.

Indus Valley World School, Children's Academy Ashok Nagar (Mumbai) and Asian International School. We thank every participating school, and we invite those still collecting to make the most of the days that remain. Every book counts, and every school can still make a difference.

Schools Lead the Way

The heart of Padho Bharat has always been children giving to children. Students, parents and teachers ran collection drives with real enthusiasm, and six schools stood out:



School	Books Donated
Durgamoyee Academy, Hooghly	3,500
Lakshmi Pat Singhania Academy, Kolkata	2,592
Shri Shikshayatan School, Kolkata	2,200
Indus Valley World School, Kolkata	1,085
Children's Academy, Ashok Nagar, Mumbai	560
Asian International School, Kolkata	540

Landmark Contributions

Our biggest news is from Orient BlackSwan (a leading publishing house) who has donated 56,345 books. We also acknowledge the large contribution of 56,000 books by iLead. We are thankful for your support.

As of this writing, Padho Bharat 2026 has crossed a total collection of 1,34,000+ books. We are grateful to all those who have come forward to donate and participate in this mega drive.



Padho Bharat 2026



CEO's Message - Aparna Biyani

Dear Friends,

When I look back at these two months, what stays with me is how much of our work was done by others. The forty women in Purulia who sat for their final examination did so because their Akshar Sathis showed up, session after session, with patience and warmth. We are grateful to the Mass Education Extension & Library Services Department and the Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal, for standing with them.

Padho Bharat 2026 has taught us the same lesson. Students, parents and teachers have turned books lying unused at home into libraries for children who never had a shelf of their own. With nearly 70,000 books mobilised so far, we are especially thankful to Orient BlackSwan, iLEAD College and the schools that led the way.

Through Project Annapurna, our friends at the Indian Food Banking Network helped us reach more than 15,000 people with food, and we are grateful to the Rotary Clubs and all our volunteers who carried it to those who needed it.

We were also honoured by the recognition from Nexus of Good. We accept it humbly, knowing it belongs to our learners, our Akshar Sathis and our partners.

Thank you for walking with us. Stay tuned for something really exciting coming up soon!

With gratitude and warm regards,

Aparna Biyani

Aparna Biyani
CEO, India Humanity Foundation

The Libraries – We read, We learn!

Every book collected is a step towards a library. After sorting the books collected, we invite schools to send us requisitions for setting up libraries. Schools which truly are in need of libraries to be created or augmented are selected and books are given away to them. So far, 133 libraries have been set up (during Padho Bharat 2026), reaching schools in North and South 24 Parganas (West Bengal), Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai. They include primary and high schools, madrasahs, and community-run institutions. Classroom library jackets let children pick up a book right at their desks.

Our thanks also go to our Trustee **Sandip Agarwalla**, who is leading Padho Bharat across India, and to our City Leaders, Zonal Coordinators, teachers and volunteers who have carried it this far.



Know Our Trustee

Narendra Kumar Surana



Mr. Narendra Kumar Surana has a distinguished academic profile. He is M.Com from Calcutta University, qualified Chartered Accountant (CA), Cost Accountant (CMA), and Law Graduate from Kolkata University.

Based in Delhi, he brings over 40 years of rich and diverse experience across Audit, Taxation, Corporate Law and Compliance, Loan Syndication, and Financial Restructuring. He has deep expertise in governance and a strong understanding of financial management and corporate affairs.

He is a pioneer in the amusement & entertainment industry and a visionary leader with wide experience in strategy and planning for infrastructure and real estate projects, leading a group of companies engaged in real estate and infrastructure development across India.

He has been responsible for spearheading Terapanth Professional Forum, organizing and integrating professionals from accounting, engineering, legal and doctors fraternity from India and abroad. Under his guidance, this organization has been actively engaged in social services and creating awareness to promote education and advanced programs in these professional fields.

Project Annapurna

A Warm Meal, A Ready Mind

A hungry child cannot learn. A fed child can dream.

In association with the Indian Food Banking Network (IFBN), IHF's Project Annapurna brings food to children so that learning can begin on a full stomach.

In August, about 200 Ration Kits of rice, dal, salt, oil, turmeric and flour became hot lunches for around 600 children at Rotary Vivekananda School.

Over August and September, package food reached communities across Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, North and South 24 Parganas and Medinipur, including flood-affected families through the Rotary Club of Haldia. Alongside Maggi came treats like Five Star, Cadbury Celebrations and Munch, bringing smiles to children who rarely get them.

More than 15,000 people benefited from Project Annapurna. We thank IFBN, and our volunteers for making it possible.





A humble honour: IHF shares its literacy journey at Nexus of Good

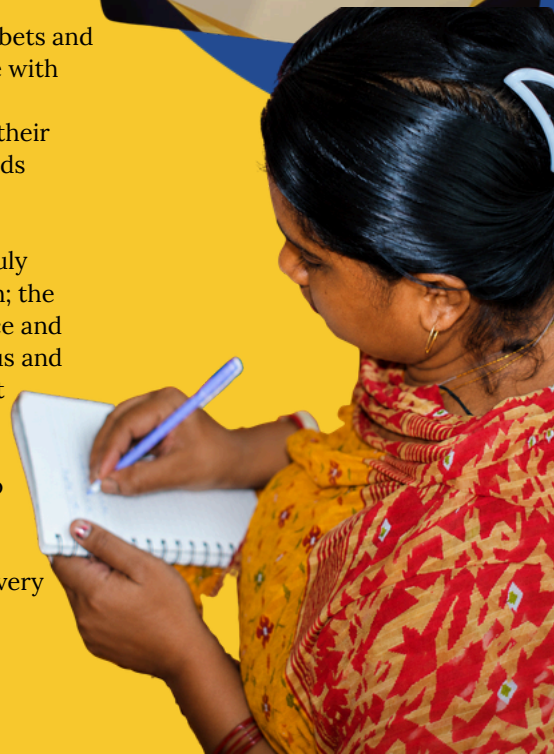
The India Humanity Foundation team was privileged to be invited to present its adult literacy work on the Nexus of Good platform, which brings inspiring work from across India to a wider audience.

The team shared how, through Akshar Jyoti and its two models, Vidya and DIKSHA, IHF has been working to help adults learn to read, write and count in their own language. Over the years, this work has reached learners who had previously been denied the opportunity to experience the confidence and independence that literacy can bring. Nexus of Good has kindly awarded IHF a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of this work.

For us, adult literacy is about much more than learning alphabets and numbers. It is about enabling people to navigate everyday life with greater confidence – reading a sign, signing their name, understanding a document, managing money, or supporting their children's education. Each new skill can become a step towards greater agency and participation in their communities.

We accept this recognition with gratitude, knowing that it truly belongs to the learners who found the courage to begin again; the Akshar Sathis and student volunteers who teach with patience and dedication; and the partners and donors who have stood by us and helped make this work possible. Their collective efforts are at the heart of every learner's journey.

This recognition from Nexus of Good is an encouragement to continue building pathways to literacy and learning for those who have been left behind. We remain committed to taking forward the belief that it is never too late to learn, and that every person deserves the opportunity to read, write, count and participate with confidence.



Adult Literacy Program with the Govt. of West Bengal

Another 155 learners have also completed all their classes and will sit for the examination soon. The remaining learners are close to finishing their sessions, and the centres are full of confidence as more women get ready for their tests.

Much of this success belongs to the Akshar Sathis. These dedicated facilitators from the local community have guided learners session by session with patience and warmth. Their commitment has kept attendance steady and motivation high across the centres.

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Akshar Saathis

These are more than lessons in reading and writing; they are steps towards greater confidence, independence and participation in everyday life. As each learner completes her examination, she carries with her not just a certificate of learning, but the courage to read, write, decide and engage more independently with the world around her. For Purulia's tribal women, every new word learned is opening the door to a new possibility.

Each One Teach One: Salem's students get ready to light up 2,000 lives

DIKSHA Adult Literacy Program, Salem, Tamil Nadu

India Humanity Foundation is taking its DIKSHA Adult Literacy Program to Salem in Tamil Nadu.

Built on the simple idea of "Each One Teach One", the program aims to help 2,000 adults learn to read, write and count.

The response from schools has been heartening. Five schools have already been approached, and all of them are keen to take part. Their students will each teach one adult, often a parent, grandparent or neighbour, turning every home into a small classroom.

To make learning easy and familiar, a vernacular toolkit has been prepared in Tamil. Adults will learn in their own mother tongue, step by step, across 60 sessions.

India Humanity Foundation is grateful to the Rotary Club of Bombay for its support in bringing the program to Salem. As young volunteers step into the role of teacher, Salem is set to show how one student and one adult, together, can open the door to a brighter future.



For many adults, it will be the first time they sign their own name, read a bus number or check a ration slip unaided. For the students, it is a lesson in giving back. Together, they are writing a new chapter of confidence, dignity and hope for Salem.

Perhaps the sweetest moment comes when a learner, who once pressed an inked thumb on every form, signs her own name for the first time. That small signature carries great pride: at the bank, the panchayat office or the ration shop, she no longer needs others to speak for her.

