

Chairman's Message



**Shekhar Mehta**

## Serving the common man

Dear Friends of Humanity,

Making India Totally Literate is one of the greatest dreams—and perhaps one of the most difficult challenges—one can aspire to. At India Humanity Foundation, we remain fully committed to this vision, and I'm proud to say that we are making slow but steady progress.

This issue of Humanity Times showcases a range of impactful initiatives we have undertaken—whether in Palghar, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, or other regions across India. Each project is transforming lives—bringing people from the darkness of illiteracy into the light of knowledge.

One of the most moving moments is seeing a woman over 60 reject the use of a thumb impression at the bank and confidently sign her name—thanks to her time at a Vidya Centre for Adult Literacy by India Humanity Foundation. Equally inspiring is the success of our programs inside correctional homes in West Bengal, where inmates are gaining literacy and hope for a better future.

Our Diksha program continues to gain momentum, with thousands of young boys and girls under the Each One Teach One initiative teaching their parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and others.

Meanwhile, our Hunger Alleviation efforts are reaching thousands of children across India, ensuring they receive nutritious meals and a better start to life. Our Saving Little Hearts program is also touching lives—bringing hope and joy to families as their children receive life-saving heart surgeries. These moments of transformation are not just emotional—they are proof of the power of humanity and collective action.

We recently watched an inspiring film on our Trustee, Shri Vivek Tankha, which reflects his values and deep commitment to our mission. I encourage you to watch it.

As always, I invite you to join us in this journey. Let us come together to serve humanity—and help build a more literate, healthy, and compassionate India.

Regards,

*Shekhar Mehta*

**Shekhar Mehta**  
Chairman  
India Humanity Foundation



Sanjay Majumder (name changed), a 2 year old child underwent VSD Device Closure surgery at RN Tagore Hospital, Kolkata

## Saving little hearts:

### IHF to facilitate life- saving pediatric surgeries in West Bengal

India Humanity Foundation (IHF), in collaboration with Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence and Yogita Kichlu Welfare Trust, is providing life-saving pediatric heart surgeries for children from economically weaker sections in West Bengal.

Under this program, 15–20 surgeries will be conducted over the next few months at two leading hospitals: RN Tagore Hospital in Mukundapur and Narayana Superspeciality Hospital in Howrah. Both hospitals are renowned for their expertise in pediatric cardiac care.

A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed to operationalise this joint effort. The program aims to address congenital heart defects among children who otherwise lack access to timely medical intervention.

This initiative reflects IHF's unwavering commitment to child health and underscores the power of collaboration in delivering meaningful, life-changing impact.



From Left : Yogita Kichlu, Founder, Yogita Kichlu Welfare Trust; Shekhar Mehta, Chairman, IHF & Aparna Bijani, CEO, IHF

# A glimpse into true leadership:

## Screening of “The Renaissance Man : Life and Times of Vivek Tankha”

6th July 2025 was one of those rare moments when an event wasn't just attended—it was truly felt. Jointly hosted by Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar and India Humanity Foundation, the evening began with the screening of Renaissance Man, a biopic on Mr. Vivek Tankha, Senior Advocate, Former Additional Solicitor General of India, and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha).



Screening of Biopic "The Renaissance Man"

The film beautifully captured Mr. Tankha's inspiring journey from law to public service, highlighting how positions of power can be used to uplift others. A particularly memorable moment was the heartfelt conversation between Mr. Tankha and Past Rotary International President, Mr. Shekhar Mehta. More than a dialogue, it was an exchange filled with purpose, service, and deep reflections on justice, compassion, and the responsibility of giving back.



Mr. Shekhar Mehta in conversation with Mr. Vivek Tankha



Mr. Tankha was pinned as honorary member of Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar

Mr. Tankha's unwavering commitment to healthcare, education, and legal aid in underserved regions reminded everyone present that true leadership is built on empathy, courage, and the determination to challenge what is not right. As one line from the evening resonated deeply: "True leadership lies in dedication, courage, and the will to challenge what's not right."



Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar members with Mr. Vivek Tankha

You can experience the inspiring journey yourself—watch the biopic “**The Renaissance Man : Life and Times of Vivek Tankha**” here: <https://youtu.be/rxlArvfZLaI> and witness how one man's purpose can shape countless lives.

### CEO's Message



Aparna Biyani

## Serving Humanity

Dear Friends,

At India Humanity Foundation (IHF), each month brings us one step closer to our shared mission—restoring dignity and hope across our core missions of service. I'm heartened to share that we're making meaningful progress on each front.

Our Adult Literacy Program, generously supported by Coal India, has successfully concluded its cycle, enabling thousands to read and write for the first time. It's a quiet revolution—one that brings deep satisfaction.

In Correctional Homes across West Bengal, our literacy efforts are gaining momentum. The spark of learning is lighting up lives even in the darkest places, proving that transformation is always possible.

In our 'Save Little Hearts' initiative, we've secured support for life-saving surgeries—giving lesser privileged children a second chance at life. Three children from West Bengal and one child from Tripura went home after successful surgeries. With every tiny heart healed, we see smiles of relief on the faces of the parents, and it strengthens our belief to continue to “serve humanity”.

As always, IHF remains committed to being not just a service provider, but a catalyst of change, forging partnerships and compassion-driven action that ripple across communities.

I also extend heartfelt thanks to our Trustees, whose vision, commitment, and dynamism steer IHF in the right direction.

Together, we continue to build a more humane world.

Warm regards,



**Aparna Biyani**

CEO

India Humanity Foundation

# Spreading joy, one packet at a time:

*Annapurna initiative touches  
thousands*



Packaged food distributed in Unsani Girls' High School in Howrah, West Bengal



Packaged food distributed in Jharkhall, Sundarban, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

**This June, IHF's Annapurna project delivered treats – and happiness—to over 25,000 children.**

This summer, India Humanity Foundation (IHF) turned compassion into action once again through its Annapurna Initiative, reaching out to children in schools, orphanages, and under-resourced communities across the region.

Each packet was more than a bundle of treats—it was a gesture of care, joy, and nourishment, curated with young hearts in mind.

## From darkness to light: Literacy brings change to 56 villages in Uttar Pradesh

**A powerful grassroots effort empowers 4,440 adult learners in Uttar Pradesh.**

In the rural heartland of Uttar Pradesh, a quiet revolution unfolded over the past few months—bringing literacy, confidence, and empowerment to thousands. Through a dynamic partnership between NGO Partners and India Humanity Foundation (IHF), an ambitious Adult Literacy Program was implemented across 56 Gram Panchayats in the Tulshipur Block of Balrampur District.



Literacy classes at Bakaulirajpur Vidya centre at Tulshipur

### What was inside?

This month's treats included a delightful assortment of comfort foods:

- OREO (packet + loose)
- Cadbury Gems
- Cadbury Dairy Milk Bites (Hazelnut)
- Perk Home Treats

Each item was thoughtfully selected to bring energy and smiles to those who need it most.

"We're not just feeding bodies—we're nurturing hope," said an IHF volunteer who helped distribute packets.

### Program highlights

In June, the Annapurna program reached over 25,000 children across 21 schools and NGOs in West Bengal. From large institutions like Deyan Gung High School and Sarberiya J. H. S. School to grassroots NGOs such as Vidya, TEARS, and Nishchaya Care, the initiative delivered curated food packets that brought nutrition and joy to underserved communities.

By the end of the program in April 2025, 111 literacy centers had been established, reaching 4,440 adult learners—each one guided by a dedicated Akshar Sathi, the local community teacher trained and supported by IHF.

### A model of structured implementation.

The program's success stemmed from a well-planned, community-based approach. Non-literate adults were identified through home visits and enrolled in regular classes. Fifty-six trained Akshar Sathis led 60 structured sessions using specialized literacy toolkits, with progress evaluations at key milestones. The journey concluded with certification ceremonies, celebrating each learner's achievement and empowerment.

### A step toward sustainable change:

Beyond literacy, the program instilled self-reliance, dignity, and confidence in thousands of first-time learners—especially women and the elderly. For many, simply learning to read, write, and sign their name was life-changing. As one Akshar Sathi shared, "They discovered their own strength and self-worth." The initiative stands as a powerful example of community-led transformation through education.

# The path to literacy for 50,000 adults

## A landmark partnership brings education to the doorsteps of rural India



Adult Learners in a center situated in Nuapada district of Odisha

In a groundbreaking initiative to combat adult illiteracy, **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)**, has successfully empowered over **50,000 non-literate adults** across **West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha** with the gift of education.

This year-long project, supported by **40 grassroots partner NGOs**, set up **1,253 adult literacy centers** in remote and underserved areas. Each center became a beacon of hope for learners who had never before held a pencil or read a sentence.



Adult learners at Dainghiti, Vidya Centre, in Jamtara, Jharkhand

### Powered by people: Akshar Sathis at the heart of the mission

At the core of the initiative were trained **community educators called “Akshar Sathis”** - local champions who not only conducted engaging literacy classes but also made regular **home visits** to ensure motivation and continuity. Using **innovative teaching tools**, they brought learning to life and helped learners stay committed to their goals.



Learners are engrossed in participatory learning during the ongoing literacy classes at Vidya centres in Birbhum, West Bengal



Birbhum, West Bengal, India  
West Bengal 731219, India, Birbhum, West Bengal 731219, India  
Lat 24.44691° Long 87.622718°  
09/03/2025 06:56 AM GMT +05:30

Each learner's progress was tracked systematically after **30 and 60 sessions**, culminating in a **certificate of completion** - a tangible recognition of their hard-earned literacy.

*The Vidya centre-based model is not just teaching adults to read—it's helping them reclaim their confidence.*

### Digital tracking, real-time impact

To ensure accountability and transparency, a dedicated online portal was developed, allowing for real-time monitoring of every learner's journey. This tech-enabled system allowed partner NGOs and IHF to oversee implementation, identify challenges, and maintain consistent quality across all centers.

“It's more than just literacy—it's transformation. Each new reader now reads not only letters but the world around them differently,” said an IHF program coordinator.



Adult learners at the Asonboni -2 Vidya centre, Purulia, West Bengal

### A model for future collaborations

This initiative marks a milestone not just in numbers, but in its **impact on families and communities**, demonstrating the power in advancing national literacy goals. The success of this campaign positions it as a **model for future public-private collaborations** in the education sector.

### IHF IS HAPPY TO RECOGNISE THE OUTSTANDING NGO PARTNERS

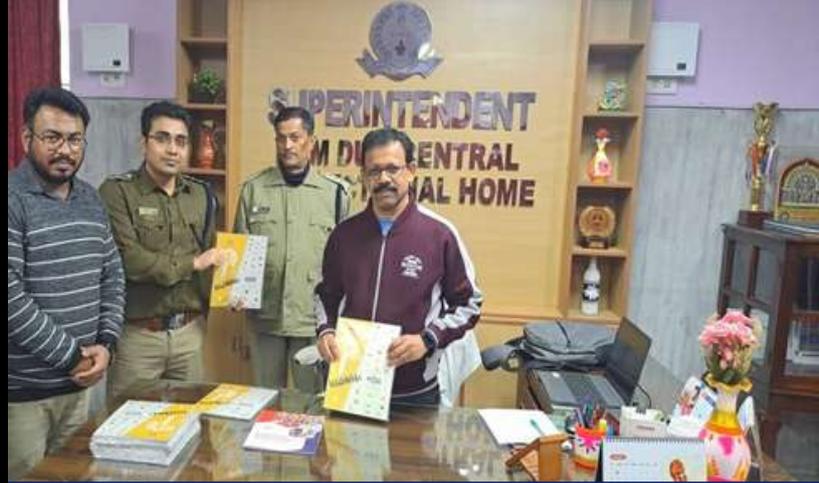
**Dantan Manav Kalyan Kendra**, West Bengal  
Mr. Subhashis Maikap

**Mimansha Foundation**, Jharkhand  
Mr. Piyush Kumar

**Gangotree Social Organization**, Odisha  
Mr. Rabi Naryan Sahoo

# From Bars to Books:

## IHF expands literacy to 61 correctional homes



Orientation and Toolkit distribution in Dumdum Central Correctional Home, WB



Ongoing adult literacy classes in Medinipur Central Correctional Home



Inmate learners getting oriented in Presidency Correctional Home

### A powerful step toward rehabilitation and dignity through education

In a heartening milestone for inclusive education and prison reform, **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)** has successfully expanded its **Adult Literacy Program** to **61 correctional homes across West Bengal**.

What began as a modest initiative in just **8 correctional homes** has now grown into one of the largest correctional education efforts in the country. The success of the pilot phase, driven by the enthusiasm of **inmate teachers, inmate learners, and supportive welfare staff**, led to two successive approvals from the Directorate of Correctional Services, West Bengal - first for **18 more homes**, and then a third approval for **an additional 35 homes**.

### Literacy as rehabilitation

The program has enrolled **over 2,000 inmate learners**, and already **800+ have graduated** with basic literacy skills. This transformation isn't just about reading and writing - it's about **hope, confidence, and the dignity of learning**.

Inmate teachers are trained under IHF's model to conduct peer-led sessions, turning prisoners into educators, and giving them a renewed sense of purpose. Welfare officers and correctional staff have played an instrumental role in ensuring consistent implementation inside the homes.

*"It's heartwarming to see inmates eager to learn, with every new word they write, they reclaim a sense of dignity, hope, and purpose."*

**-Mr. Suman Chakraborty, Controller & OC Community Service, DCS, WB**

### Education behind bars, hope beyond them

This initiative underlines IHF's vision of **"Literacy for All,"** and proves that **rehabilitation is possible when education becomes a right, not a privilege**. With each new correctional home joining the movement, IHF brings India closer to its goal of **Total literacy with total dignity**.

# From silence to sentences:

## Empowering Odisha's tribal learners

From April 16-25, 2025, India Humanity Foundation conducted a field visit across Odisha's tribal districts—Koraput, Boipariguda, and Rayagada—as part of ongoing monitoring of the Vidya Adult Literacy Program, implemented with 12 local NGOs.

The program aims to empower 15,000 non-literate adults in Odisha, contributing to a broader goal of reaching 50,000 learners across West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha.

Key visit highlights included:

- In Koraput, 8 vibrant centres run by SOVA showed high participation.
- In Boipariguda, 5 forest-based centres with Gopabandhu Seva Parishad supported first-generation learners.
- In Rayagada, members of the Dongria Kondh tribe demonstrated visible progress through CWS-led sessions.



Adult Learners in a center situated in Koraput district of Odisha

Each centre serves - 40 learners, mainly women, now able to read, write, and perform basic math. Learners expressed newfound confidence and joy, with many reading for the first time. Dedicated Akshar Sathis and strong digital monitoring ensure quality and accountability.

Despite challenging terrain, the program's success affirms that with grassroots leadership and structured support, literacy can thrive—even in the most remote regions.

# Breaking the cycle of illiteracy in Rajasthan's heartland

From Jhunjhunu to Udaipur, thousands of first-generation learners find their voice through the Vidya model.

In the arid stretches of Rajasthan, where opportunity has long been unevenly distributed, the **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)** is rewriting the story of adult education—one learner, one centre, one village at a time.

Using the powerful “**Each One, Teach Many**” approach under the **Vidya Adult Literacy Model**, IHF—in collaboration with committed grassroots NGOs and the generous support of **Rotary Clubs**—has transformed the lives of over **5,990 adult learners** across the districts of **Jhunjhunu and Udaipur**.



Adult learners interacting during classes at Jodha Ka Bas Vidya centre, Udaipur

## Jhunjhunu district: literacy with local leadership

In partnership with **Urmul Rural Health Research and Development Trust**, IHF launched a wide-reaching literacy initiative in **Jhunjhunu**, establishing **122 adult literacy centres**. The program enrolled and empowered **4,590 learners**, most of whom had never set foot in a school before.

This ambitious initiative, **completed in March 2025**, was fully supported by the **Rotary Club of Mumbai Royales**, who stood beside the project at every step—from inception to successful completion.



Sultana Vidya Centre at Jhunjhunu



Adult Learners are happy to receive toolkit at Kharwa, Udaipur

## Udaipur district: learning in the hills

Meanwhile, in the tribal and hilly regions of **Udaipur**, IHF joined hands with two dedicated local partners— —to set up **35 literacy centres**, reaching over **1,400 adult learners**.

To date, more than **1,200 participants** have completed their sessions and passed their final assessments. The remaining learners are well on their way to crossing the finish line, thanks to the continued backing of the **Rotary Club of Bombay**.

“This program has changed the way I look at the world. I can now read bus signs, write my name, and even help my grandchildren with their schoolwork,” shared one proud learner from Jhunjhunu.

## A growing movement, a lasting legacy

Both projects stand as shining examples of how **community involvement** and **trusted local NGOs** can bridge educational gaps and unlock human potential in the most overlooked corners of India.

The Vidya model continues to prove that with the right tools and mentorship, **literacy is possible at any age and any stage**—especially when driven by dignity and compassion.

*“I never knew how to read or write before. But ever since I joined the Adult Literacy centre by IHF, I confidently sign my name at the bank—no more thumb impressions. I'm truly grateful for this program which has given me the knowledge to read and the confidence to live with dignity.”*

*- Kamla Devi (adult learner)*

# Children teaching adults:

## DIKSHA ignites a literacy revolution



Bablu Halder (student volunteer) teaching an adult learner (Reshmi Bibi)

### Over 12,000 adults learn to read and write—thanks to student volunteers from West Bengal and beyond

In a rare and heartwarming twist, it's the children who are becoming the teachers.

Under the DIKSHA (Each One Teach One) Adult Literacy Program, the India Humanity Foundation (IHF) has empowered over 12,000 non-literate adults—not through traditional classrooms, but through the compassion and commitment of student volunteers from Grade 6 and above.

These young changemakers, drawn from more than 50 schools, predominantly in West Bengal, are teaching literacy to adults right in their own neighborhoods—one learner, one session at a time.

### How it works

Each student identifies a non-literate adult in their locality and commits to teaching them over **90–100 days**, using a specially designed **adult literacy toolkit**.

The process is closely supported by **three dedicated Field Officers** who:

- Orient **headmasters, teachers, and students**
- Conduct regular school visits
- Provide guidance and troubleshooting through every phase of the program



Rotary Club of Delhi Janak Members with student volunteers

### Tech-powered accountability

To ensure transparency and progress tracking, IHF has built a **dedicated MIS portal**. This system is used to:

- Register schools, students, and learners
- Log progress after 30 and 60 learning sessions
- Upload final exam scores of adult learners

This digital backbone ensures **real-time monitoring** and continuous quality improvement.

### Recognition for all

To celebrate success and sustain motivation, the program ensures that:

- **Adult learners** receive **certificates** upon completion
- **Student volunteers** are awarded **medals and certificates of appreciation**
- **Schools** receive **mementoes** in recognition of their support

Additionally, Information & Communication (IC) materials are distributed and displayed in schools to raise awareness and foster a culture of literacy.



Md. Selim Gazi (student volunteer) teaching an adult learner (Rahim Molla)

*“Through DIKSHA, I didn’t just help someone read—I learned how to lead, to listen, and to believe in change,”*

*- Student volunteer.*

### More than literacy: a lesson in leadership

The DIKSHA program doesn't just end with a certificate—it begins a ripple of transformation.

By empowering students to become educators, DIKSHA cultivates **empathy, civic responsibility, and leadership**—turning every young participant into a literacy ambassador for their community.

### Meet Our DIKSHA heroes in West Bengal

Behind DIKSHA's success in West Bengal are three dedicated Field Officers whose relentless efforts (visiting schools, mentoring students, and ensuring smooth implementation) have turned the program into a strong movement of learning and empowerment. We are proud to introduce these pillars of our success:



Amanulla Molla



Subhendu Basu



Karima Gharami

Together, they embody the spirit of commitment and service that drives India Humanity Foundation's mission forward.

# Literacy lights up lives in Palghar: 30,000 adults graduate

- A report by Runit Shah,  
Chairman (Adult Literacy), Rotary Club of Bombay

The Rotary Club of Bombay held a graduation ceremony for its flagship Adult Literacy Program at SK Agro Hotel in Vikramgad on 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2025. In this batch, the Rotary Club of Bombay successfully trained and certified 30,000 beneficiaries over a period of 3 months ending February 2025.

At the graduation ceremony, the prerikas were felicitated with certificates from the Rotary Club of Bombay for empowering community members with functional literacy. Beneficiaries were also awarded graduation certificates for successfully completing the course and attaining functional literacy. Many of them came up on stage to share their experiences and the impact the program has had on their daily lives and livelihood.



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

The Adult Literacy program aims to make adults functionally literate using the centre – based model.

The Adult Literacy Program is intended to promote and strengthen education of non-literate adults with an aim to help learners achieve functional literacy over a period of 3 months. Among other things, Learners acquire a vocabulary of around 700 key words, enough for day-to-day needs such as reading destination signs on buses, filling in deposit and withdrawal slips in Banks, and newspaper headlines, besides being able to learn simple arithmetic adequate to maintain household and other accounts.



Ongoing class in a Vidya centre at Palghar, Maharashtra

**Apart from the numerous beneficiaries and prerikas, the attendees also included:**

- Shekhar Mehta - Past Rotary International President
- Sandip Agarwalla - Past District Governor and Founder of the Adult Literacy Campaign in Palghar
- Vineet Bhatnagar - Past President and Co-Founder of the Adult Literacy Campaign in Palghar
- Satyan Israni - President, Rotary Club of Bombay
- Runit Shah - Chairman, Adult Literacy - Rotary Club of Bombay



Adult learners confidently writing on their own.

In addition to basic reading, writing and arithmetic, the introduction to the advantages of the Government Schemes such as Aadhar, Pradhan Mantri Yojanas, etc are taught to them.

In a society plagued by poverty, casteism, gender inequality and poor education, Adult Literacy empowers a generation toward positive change within India.

Completion of the Adult Literacy Program results in confidence, employment, upliftment for family and society as a whole, improved political representation, smaller families, poverty reduction and so much more! Since the inception of this initiative at the Rotary club of Bombay, the club has successfully educated over 95,000 women.



Mr. Shekhar Mehta, Chairman, IHF interacting with  
adult learners at the graduation ceremony