

# Humanity TIMES

*-serving humanity*

February, 2026

[www.ihf.org.in](http://www.ihf.org.in)



## A leap in tribal welfare & development

*Making literate 1,150 tribal women in Purulia (West Bengal)*

India Humanity Foundation (IHF) has received a **work order to implement an Adult Literacy Program** for 1,150 tribal women in **Purulia District**, in collaboration with the **Mass Education Extension Department, Government of West Bengal**, and the **Tribal Development Department, Purulia**.

Designed as an initiative, the program aims to strengthen functional literacy and confidence among tribal women, creating pathways for greater participation in social and economic life. Subject to successful outcomes, the model holds strong potential for scaling across multiple districts of West Bengal.

The project will be delivered through a structured training framework supported by **50 master trainers**, ensuring quality instruction, close mentoring, and consistent learning outcomes.



Women at literacy centre



Tribal women at our previous adult literacy centre

The program has commenced on **1 February 2026** and will run until **31 May 2026**, spanning a total duration of **four months**.

IHF expresses its **sincere gratitude** to the **Government of West Bengal** for the trust placed in the organization and looks forward to contributing **meaningfully** to **adult education**, **women's empowerment**, and **inclusive development at scale**.

 Empowering **1,150 tribal women** in **Purulia District**.

 In collaboration with the **Mass Education Extension Department, Government of West Bengal**, and the **Tribal Development Department, Purulia**.

## Chairman's Message

# Changing lives



Dear friends of humanity,

India Humanity Foundation is truly spreading its wings with a sharp focus on literacy. The adult literacy program that we are so committed to do is going on in different dimensions.

The Diksha program is ensuring that thousands of children early in their lives are learning to repay the society under the program "Each One Teach one". They are teaching their mothers, fathers, grand parents and others who unfortunately did not get the chance to become literate. Our observation is that young children have learnt to spend time with their elders – such an important social change.

Another very heart touching program is the Vidya program for inmates of correctional homes. IHF has the mandate to make literate the inmates of all the 61 correctional homes in West Bengal. Literacy classes have already started in more than half of them while it is so nice to see inmates becoming teachers. It is great to see the interest of the inmates in learning to read and write and the impact it is having on them.

I am so happy to see that so many libraries are coming up at a regular interval because of the success of the Padho Bharat program.

Regards,

*Shekhar Mehta*

Shekhar Mehta  
Chairman, India Humanity Foundation

## Adult literacy program: Ongoing progress update

The Adult Literacy Program supported by **Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd.** continues to make steady progress across **Odisha and Jharkhand**. Implemented by India Humanity Foundation (IHF) with partners **Arj Foundation** and **PARDA**, the initiative is currently engaging **1,680 adult learners** through **42 active literacy centres**.



In the tribal areas of **Chatra district, Jharkhand**, **21 centres** are supporting **840 learners**, with an average of **15 classes completed** so far. In **Nuapada district, Odisha**, another **21 centres** are reaching **840 learners**, where learning has advanced further with an average of **35 sessions per centre**. Each centre works closely with around **40 non-literate adults**, supported by regular monitoring and follow-ups.

As the program moves toward completion by **February end**, it continues to reaffirm that learning can begin at any age—and progress is built one lesson at a time.

# Know our Members

As **India Humanity Foundation** continues to **expand its impact**, we believe it is just as important to **recognize the people who stand behind the mission**. This newsletter marks the beginning of a special section **introducing members of the IHF family**—individuals who share a deep commitment to service and social change. **Each member brings not only support but also values, experience, and belief in the cause, strengthening our collective efforts across Literacy, Health, Disaster Management, Water & Environment, Hunger Alleviation and Empowering girls**. By getting to know the people who walk this journey with us, we hope to build a deeper sense of connection and shared purpose within the IHF community.



**Mr. Paritosh Rungta** is a **business leader** and **Rotarian** driven by **purpose, integrity, and impact**. Professionally engaged in financial services and insurance, he is passionate about building transparent, customer-centric platforms.

As a Rotarian, he is inspired by **service above self** and actively contributes to community development and leadership initiatives.

He enjoys **strategic thinking, mentoring young professionals**, and exploring spiritual and cultural journeys that foster personal growth and balance.

**Dr. Sailen Bhowmick** is a **seasoned water management expert** and industry leader with over **25 years of experience** in planning and implementing sustainable water solutions across multiple cities.

As the **Chief Executive Officer** of the **Anir Group of Companies**, he is committed to **innovation, efficiency, and long-term environmental impact**. With a strong academic foundation and numerous national and international awards to his credit, Dr. Bhowmick is widely respected for advancing best practices in water resource management and sustainable development.



**Mrs. Jayashree Mohanty** is the **Co-Founder** and **President of Luminous Infoways**, a Brand of Odisha and Pride of India, and the **Founding Chairperson of CII-Indian Women Network (IWN), Odisha**.

A **compassionate** and **visionary leader**, she is driven by her passion for **empowering women**, nurturing startups, and building inclusive communities.

In the industry, she is recognised as a changemaker. Inspired by **service** and **spirituality**, she mentors young leaders and entrepreneurs. Her interests include reading, writing, mentoring, and nurturing talent.

**Mr. Khuzem Sakarwala** is an **entrepreneur** and **Rotarian** with over **two decades of experience** in **building purpose-driven businesses** and **service initiatives**.

As **Co-Founder** of **Innerspace Modular Concepts**, he works across **residential, commercial, and institutional modular design solutions**. A committed Rotarian for **21 years**, he has held **key club and district leadership roles** and **actively supports membership growth** and **community-focused projects**.

He is **passionate about service, leadership development, and creating platforms** that **combine enterprise with social good**.



**Mr. Runit Shah** is an **entrepreneur, angel investor, and Rotarian** committed to **building scalable businesses** with **meaningful impact**.

With a background in **industrial engineering, global management, and financial advisory**, he brings strategic clarity to ventures across **manufacturing, technology, and real estate**.

As **Chair of the Adult Literacy for Women initiative** at the **Rotary Club of Bombay**, he has helped empower over **95,000 women** through education. He enjoys investing in ideas with **purpose, promoting inclusive growth**, and staying active through **running, swimming, and mindful cooking**.

# From dream to dignity:

## Renuka Bera's journey with literacy

At 56, **Renuka Bera** from **Sautia village** carried a quiet, lifelong dream—to read and write. Like many women of her generation, schooling was never an option. The dream remained, waiting.

That changed when an **Akshar Saathi** introduced her to an adult literacy program in the village. Renuka enrolled without hesitation and began attending classes with enthusiasm and discipline. What followed was a steady transformation—letters forming words, numbers finding meaning, confidence taking root.

Within a short time, Renuka learned to read, write, and manage basic calculations. Today, she maintains her household expense records on her own and makes financial decisions with independence and clarity—something she once thought was beyond reach.

*“Learning to read and write has given me a voice and confidence I never knew I had—today, I stand independent, proud, and capable of shaping my own life.”*

– Renuka Bera (adult learner)

Renuka's story is a reminder that **it is never too late to learn**. Literacy, for her, is more than a skill—it is dignity, agency, and the fulfillment of a long-held aspiration. Through community-led adult education, lives like Renuka's continue to change—quietly, steadily, and for good.



Renuka Bera calculating after buying grocery

## CEO's Message Together We Learn



Dear Friends,

One of the most meaningful privileges of our work is seeing hope take shape in the lives of those who were once left behind. It is truly heartening to see **students stepping into the role of teachers**, guiding adults in their own communities and proving that education is most powerful when it is shared.

I am happy to see **“Classroom Libraries”** taking shape with the books donated by each one of you. When a child picks up a book and starts reading - it nurtures curiosity and opens a world of lifelong learning. These are small beginnings with lasting impact.

We are especially excited and grateful for the collaboration with the **Mass Education Department of Govt of West Bengal and the Tribal Welfare Department of Purulia**, whose partnership strengthens our collective effort to make literacy accessible and meaningful.

I thank every donor, every volunteer and every partner for supporting us in our journey in serving humanity.

With gratitude,

Aparna Biyani  
CEO, India Humanity Foundation

# Spreading literacy, restoring dignity

India Humanity Foundation's statewide impact in Correctional Homes



Adult literacy orientation in a correctional home of West Bengal

**India Humanity Foundation** has made a significant contribution to inclusive education by taking adult literacy to **all 61 correctional homes across West Bengal in collaboration** with **Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar**. The initiative reflects IHF's belief that time spent in correctional homes can become a period of learning, self-improvement, and dignity.

The program enables inmates to acquire basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills—helping them utilise their time meaningfully while preparing for reintegration into society.

A key strength of the initiative is its **peer-led learning model**, where educated inmates are trained as inmate teachers and lead structured sessions for fellow inmates. To date, **239 inmate teachers** have supported **3,616 inmate learners**.

The impact of the program was evident at the **Malda District Correctional Home**, where an **Adult Literacy Orientation Program** saw enthusiastic participation from **83 inmates**, including **12 inmate teachers**, in the presence of **Controller Shri Bhupendra Nath Biswas**, who appreciated India Humanity Foundation's efforts.

By spreading literacy across every correctional home in the state, India Humanity Foundation has demonstrated how education can *restore dignity, instil hope, and transform lives—even behind prison walls.*



Serampur Correctional Home



Tamluk Correctional Home



Krishnanagar Correctional Home



Barrackpore Correctional Home



## DIKSHA

*Everyone needs and deserves a literate life*

India may have achieved near-universal school enrolment, but literacy tells a different story. With nearly **20 crore adults still non-literate**, education gaps persist far beyond classrooms. To address this, **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)** launched its Adult Literacy Program - aligned with the Government of India's Education for All vision and Nav Bharat Shiksha Karyakram - with one clear goal: **Making India Totally Literate.**



*A student's lesson, an adult's lifelong dream in progress*

Since its inception, the program has enrolled **over 3.5 lakh adult learners** and is now active across **22 Indian states**, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. In West Bengal alone, **around 20,000 students from more than 50 government schools across Howrah, South 24 Parganas, and surrounding districts** are already part of this growing literacy mission.

To deliver literacy at scale while keeping it personal, IHF designed two intervention models—Vidya and Diksha. At the heart of Diksha lies a transformative idea: **Each One, Teach One.**



*This is what "Each One, Teach One" looks like in real life*



*A quiet moment where knowledge passes across generations*



*Two generations, one shared goal—to learn*

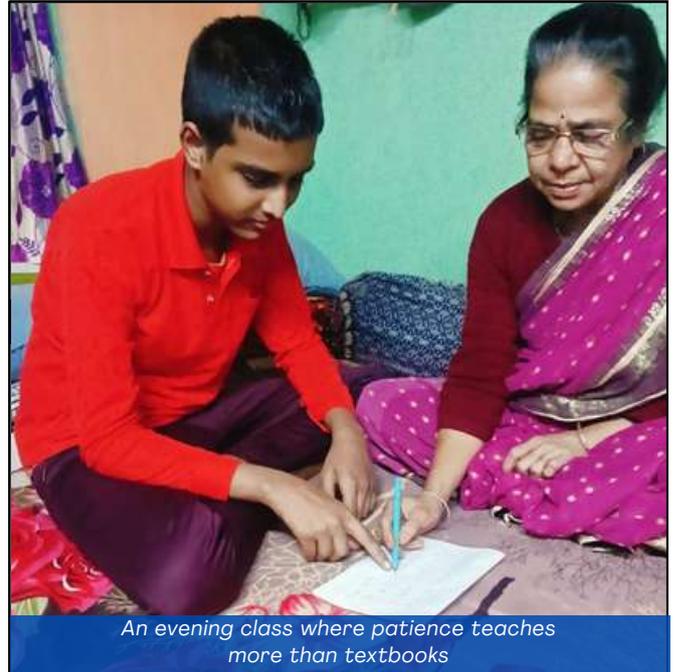
Under the **Diksha Model**, a **school student** becomes a **teacher**. Students from **Class 6 onwards** commit to teaching one adult learner in their own community for **60 sessions** over **60 days**, using structured primers developed by IHF. Learning happens at home, at a pace that respects the adult learner's life and responsibilities –making education accessible, respectful, and effective.



*One hand guiding another toward words never written before*



*Student of BDMI teaching an adult at home*



*An evening class where patience teaches more than textbooks*



*Learning doesn't ask your age, only your willingness*



### PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

- Adult Learners Enrolled: **3,50,000+**
- Adult Literacy Centres: **5,100+**
- Akshar Saathi: **4,900+**
- Student Volunteers: **20,000+** (West Bengal)
- Govt. Schools Engaged: **50+**
- States Covered: **22**



### HOW DIKSHA WORKS

- Schools are identified and onboarded
- Students are oriented on roles and responsibilities
- Each student mentors one adult learner
- Mid-term and final assessments conducted
- Certificates, badges, and school recognition awarded

# Padho Bharat

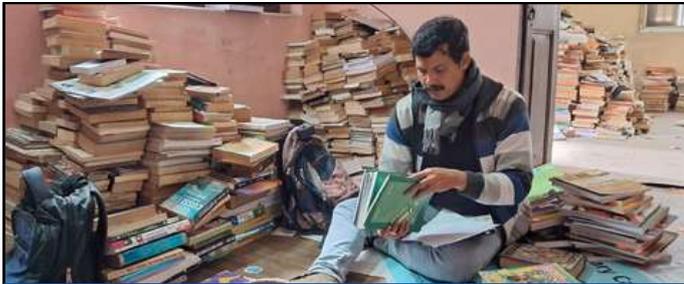
## Turning pages into possibilities

Access to books is often the first step toward meaningful learning. Under its **Padho Bharat** initiative, **India Humanity Foundation (IHF)** continues to strengthen school education by ensuring that students have the learning resources they need to grow, learn, and thrive.

As part of this ongoing effort, this year so far IHF has distributed **thousands** of school books. The distribution was thoughtfully aligned with student strength and the specific needs of each school, ensuring fairness and meaningful impact.



*Pictures from Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust*



*Books distributed to Satashi High School*



*Students with library books provided by Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust*

Over the years, IHF has built a strong foundation for reading access by establishing **thousands** of **libraries** across communities and schools.

The Padho Bharat initiative has also been strengthened by our valued partner, **Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust** led by **Mr. Rajiv Mehta**, which has contributed by setting up thousands of libraries under the initiative, reflecting our shared commitment to advancing literacy and education.

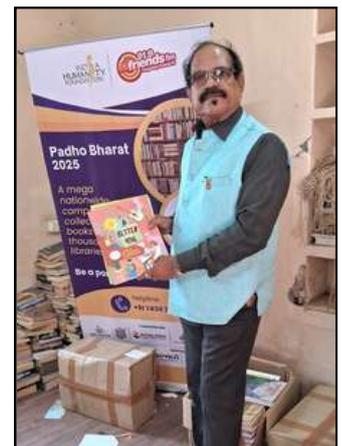
Through the Padho Bharat Initiative, IHF remains dedicated to nurturing a culture of reading and empowering young minds with opportunities to learn and succeed.



*Mrs Hilda Peacock (ex Principal La Martiniere for Girls) inaugurating a Classroom Library at Rotary Vivekananda School, Kultali*



*Happy faces of students after creation of library*



*Our member Dr. Sainen Bhowmick receiving books for Anirban Pathabhavan School*



Skyline House,  
145, Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 026

✉ info@ihf.org.in

☎ +91 74397 69372

🌐 www.ihf.org.in

To follow us on Instagram scan below

