



the *India* Chapter

Room to Read India's Quarterly Newsletter | Apr- Jun 2026



From the Leadership

Dear Readers,

I hope this finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to share something we're genuinely proud of this quarter and to say thank you, because none of it happens without collaboration and teamwork.

One of our most significant results comes from Jharkhand, a three-year project backed by the Prevail Fund. We set out to test what it really takes to move the needle on foundational literacy in **Hazaribagh** and **Giridih** the results are very encouraging. In Hazaribagh share of students reading above **35 cwpm** rose by **22.7 percentage points**. Children unable to read a single Hindi word dropped sharply from **78.3%** to **38.2%**, a decline of **40.2 percentage points**. Literacy Composite Score improved by 30.9 percentage points (1.26 SD). In the coming years, these findings will directly support the foundational literacy outcomes of over **23,00,000 students** in Jharkhand.

There's more to celebrate too. In Maharashtra, we helped put quality books into **every single government primary school in the state**, a proud milestone for all of us. And in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, we're opening new doors for thousands more girls to stay in school and build life skills for their futures.

As we look ahead, our commitment to foundational literacy and Girls' Education continues to grow and so does our sense of purpose. Every new partnership and project we take on brings us closer to the children and communities we serve, deepening our resolve and reach.

None of this is possible without you. Thank you for standing with us, and for believing that every child deserves the chance to read, learn and thrive.

Happy Reading!



Saktibrata Sen
Senior Director of Programs



Spotlight

Showcasing Our Work in Maharashtra

Room to Read India showcased our Literacy Program outcomes in Pune Zilla at a stall marking Mahatma Jyotiba Phule's 200th birth anniversary and the inauguration of Jyoti-Savitri Zilla Parishad School, Khanwadi. Hon'ble **Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis**, Deputy CM Smt. Sunetra Pawar, MP Smt. Supriya Sule, and the Zilla Parishad CEO and President visited our stall, engaging with our library model and its impact on children's literacy in the district.

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Designing Inclusive Reading Materials for Neurodiverse Learners

On May 22, 2026, we held a consultation workshop exploring how **children's reading materials** can be made more **inclusive for learners with neurodiversity and learning disabilities**. Disability experts, including Dr. Aloka Guha and Sonali Saini from Sol's Arc, joined other experts to discuss gaps between policy and practice. A guidance document will be developed outlining how existing and future books can be designed or adapted to make them more accessible and inclusive.

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India Coalition for Education for Gender Equality

Room to Read contributed to the coalition's Resource Planning Workshop from April 28–30, 2026. The team provided technical input to the Curriculum & Pedagogy and Teachers, Community and Systems working groups. The workshop finalized implementation of priorities and resource plans to support the coalition's funding proposal and next phase of work.

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Programs

Scaling Foundational Literacy to 100% of Maharashtra's Primary Schools

Room to Read supported **SCERT Maharashtra** in adopting, printing, and distributing **52 unique books, and 9 reading cards**, statewide. Mapped across English, Hindi, and Marathi for Grades 1–3, 4–5, and 6–8, these materials now have reached **100 percent of government primary schools in Maharashtra**. We continue to embed quality reading materials and strengthen teacher and institutional capacity on foundational literacy.

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Expanding Girls' Education in Rajasthan

We're proud to expand our commitment to girls' education in Rajasthan. Building on our ongoing collaboration with the Rajasthan Government, we're launching the Girls' Education Program Delivery Demonstration in Kota district for the 2026–2027 academic year, bringing quality learning opportunities to **500 adolescent girls** in Grades 6–8.

Teacher Capacity Training Across Four States

Room to Read India conducted teacher capacity-building training across four states in June for gender-responsive life skills education. **Madhya Pradesh** held master trainer sessions; **Uttar Pradesh** trained teachers and wardens in Amethi with WhatsApp mentorship follow-up; **Uttarakhand** ran a State Resource Group workshop using the Satrangi Comic Kit; **Telangana** trained 147 teachers, integrating life skills with Gender Socialization videos and local tribal case studies.



Summer Camps: Learning Continues

Across Bihar, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh to prevent the "summer slide," Room to Read India rolled out localized, high-engagement summer camps blending play-based pedagogy, print resources and digital platforms like Literacy Cloud to keep reading joyful and community-rooted.

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Let's Learn

Findings from the Foundational Literacy Project in Jharkhand

Room to Read completed a three-year Strengthening Foundational Literacy Project (2023–2026) in **Hazaribagh and Giridih**, Jharkhand, supported by the **Prevail Fund**, reaching over **4,500+** government primary schools and **120,000+** Grade 1–2 children annually. Here are some of the key results from **Hazaribagh**.

Hazaribagh

- **Fluent Readers (>35 cwpm) increased by ~4x:** Overall share of students reading above **35 cwpm** rose by **22.7 percentage points**.
- **Non-Readers nearly halved:** Overall share of non-readers at ORF declined sharply by **40.2 percentage points**, decreasing from **78.3%** at baseline to **38.2%** at endline
- **Literacy Composite Score improved by 30.9 percentage points (1.26 SD):** Scores increased from **16.5%** to **47.4%**



Development of the Balvatika Assessment Tool

Room to Read India developed our first-ever Balvatika Assessment Tool to evaluate school readiness among children aged 5 to 6 years attending Anganwadi Centers. The tool measures three key developmental domains emergent literacy, pre-numeracy and socio-emotional learning and will be deployed for the upcoming baseline assessment in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.



Baseline Evaluation of the Life Skills Equality Project:

Room to Read finalized the baseline study for the Life Skills for Equality Program (LSEP) pilot in Telangana and Chhattisgarh, using a mixed-methods approach to assess boys' life skills, gender attitudes, and teacher preparedness via the ALSA-M assessment and a teacher knowledge tool. Findings confirmed balanced student and teacher groups at baseline, validated ALSA-M's engagement value, and flagged collaboration, decision-making, and teachers' gender attitudes as key areas to strengthen going forward.

Partner of Choice

Partnership for Project Saksham in Chhattisgarh

Room to Read entered a partnership with the Department of Tribal and Scheduled Caste Development, Government of Chhattisgarh to implement **Project Saksham** across **129 tribal girls' hostels** in **six districts** of the Sarguja division. The three-year project will provide life skills education to **6,592 girls** from indigenous communities in Grades 6–10.



Scaling Teacher Professional Development in Jharkhand

Following the development of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) modules, a five-day state-level training in April prepared **72 master trainers** and district academic coordinators across 12 districts. Education Secretary Shri Uma Shankar Singh then launched 30 hours of online CPD content on the J-Guruji app on April 21, 2026. By June 21, **13,052 teachers** had completed the course and **36,323** were actively progressing, scaling digital teacher learning statewide.

The Second Edition of the IMC Art Contest

We facilitated the second edition of the IMC Art Contest, a flagship initiative under our four-year partnership with IMC India Securities in support of the Literacy and Girls' Education Programs. Centered on the theme **"If I Lived Inside a Book,"** the 2026 contest inspired over **700 children** (ages 6–12) from **15 schools** across Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana to imagine themselves as characters from stories they read in Room to Read libraries.



Employer of Choice

Annual Awards 2026

Room to Read India team from across 12 states gathered for the Annual Awards 2026 to celebrate collective achievements and reflect on challenges and the way forward. Revisiting our values, mission, and vision, alongside engaging team-building activities, created space to connect, learn, and build relationships that strengthen collaboration, respect, and shared purpose.



Great Place to Work Certification

Room to Read India has once again been certified by **Great Place to Work** for 2026–2027. This marks our 15th recognition, celebrating a workplace culture where dignity, respect, community and collaboration remain at the heart of operations.

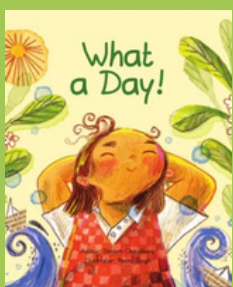


Announcements

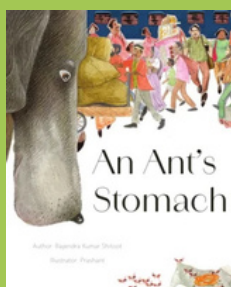
Digital Libraries and Mother-Tongue Storytelling

As of June 29, 2026, the **Literacy Cloud** platform hosts more than **1,100 titles** across six Indian languages: **Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Kannada, Telugu and Urdu**. By providing high-quality, diverse books in multiple languages, our platform ensures more children can access the magic of storytelling in their mother tongue.

Literacy Cloud: Newly uploaded titles available on include



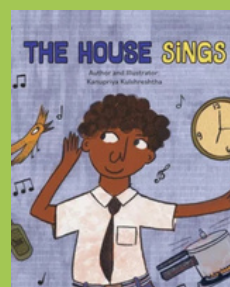
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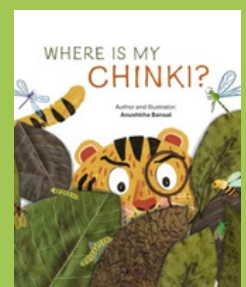
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Room to Read India is a global nonprofit currently operating in 12 states - Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Through education, Room to Read is transforming the lives of millions of children to create a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. We are working with the government, local communities and partner organizations to build a world where all children have room to read, learn and grow and can use their skills to accelerate positive change. We support children in communities experiencing deep educational, gender and economic inequities.



www.roomtoreadindia.org