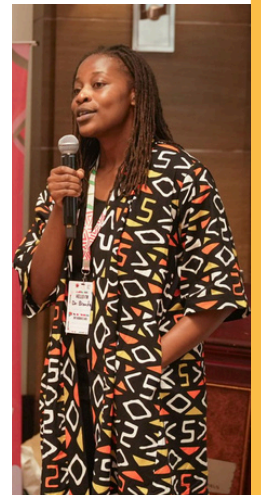




the *India* Chapter

Room to Read India's Quarterly Newsletter | October - December 2025



From the Leadership

Dear Readers,

As we close the year and step into a new one, we do so with a strong sense of responsibility and confidence in the systems we are building along with our government partners and private sector supporters. It is my privilege to bring to you the final edition of *the India Chapter* quarterly newsletter for this year.

This quarter reflects disciplined growth — where strategic investments, robust partnerships, and effective program design have translated into measurable progress across our literacy and gender equality portfolios.

From rolling out the sixth edition of our Girls' Education Program campaign, to being recognised for a record-setting Read-a-thon, our work continues to demonstrate the power of collaboration between governments, communities and committed educators. These efforts are reinforced by innovative tools, strong public systems and a shared focus on equity and inclusion.



None of this would be possible without the trust of our partners, the dedication of educators, the curiosity and courage of young learners, and the commitment of our teams across states. As we move forward, we remain committed to prudent financial management, disciplined growth, and clear accountability to our partners, donors and communities.

With renewed purpose, we step into the year ahead — committed to creating lasting change and expanding opportunity for every child. We hope this newsletter keeps you informed and inspired by the progress we're making together.

Thank you, as always, for being a vital part of our journey.

Happy reading!

Jitender Bansal

Jitender Bansal
Sr. Director - Accounting & Finance
Room to Read India



Spotlight

Strengthening Foundational Literacy Through State Partnerships

This quarter, we advanced foundational literacy through key partnerships with state governments in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In **Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh**, alongside the Government of UP, we launched a District Project Management Unit (DPMU), setting up 1,523 reading corners across 12 blocks, and a Model Library, strengthening teacher capacity and creating literacy-rich learning environments for early readers. [Read more.](#)



In **Bihar**, we signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC), Department of School Education, in the presence of the Hon'ble Education Minister, Shri Sunil Kumar, and senior officials. Together, these milestones reinforce a shared commitment to building strong, child-centered literacy systems—ensuring every child has access to quality reading materials and the foundations to thrive.

[Read more.](#)

Financial Literacy and Gender Equality

On November 11, 2025, we hosted a national event in New Delhi to launch our sixth edition of the Girls' Education Program Campaign — #HarKadamBetiKeSang themed on Financial Literacy.

Inaugurated by our Country Director, Poornima Garg; we had the opportunity to host the Keynote Address by Mr. Alok Chandra Jena, CEO, National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE), and a Special Address by Ms. Vankata Narsamma, Joint Director, Samagra Shiksha Telangana, at the event.

The event also brought together experts, educators, policymakers, adolescents, and alumnae to examine gender and finance, featuring panel discussions on Breaking Gender Barriers – Whose Space is Finance? and Adolescent Voices – My Financial Story.

AGAS India Domain Workshop

Room to Read India co-hosted the AGAS – Girls' Agency Lab Workshop in New Delhi, bringing together partners to shape a contextual understanding of adolescent girls' agency and inform evidence-driven priorities for gender-transformative action. The convening strengthened collective commitment to keeping girls' voices and lived experiences at the centre of policy and programming.

[Read More.](#)



Glimpses from the Event



Program Snapshots

We Made It to the Parag Honour List!

We are pleased to share that four of our titles – पाथरूट का लक्ष्या: कौन हैं लक्ष्मण गायकवाड़?, बुलबुल-ए-परिस्तान: फ़ातिमा बेगम कौन थीं?, *Sea, Listen to Me* and *Teacher Amma: Who Was Sugathakumari?* – have been featured in the sixth edition of the *Parag Honour List*, recognised for outstanding children’s and young adult literature in English and Hindi. [Read more.](#)



Satrangi Comics: Driving Change in Schools



We convened a two-day State Resource Group workshop in Uttarakhand with 45 participants from 13 districts, showcasing how Satrangi Comics can transform classroom learning. By integrating life skills, gender awareness, and menstrual health education, the workshop demonstrated Room to Read’s innovative approach to empowering both teachers and students.

With 1,870 schools already receiving the comics, participants left equipped with practical strategies and a deeper understanding of using comics as tools to challenge gender stereotypes, promote menstrual health, and create inclusive, life-skills-rich learning environments.

#HarKadamBetiKeSang 6.0

The 6th edition of the campaign, themed “**Financial Literacy: Ki Aur Badhe Hum,**” powerfully rooted in the life skills approach, emphasized financial literacy as a means to build critical thinking, confidence, and negotiation skills, while challenging gender stereotypes that limit adolescents’ participation in financial matters. Anchored in the belief that ‘My Financial Journey Begins with Me’ the campaign promoted equality and shared responsibility to create an environment where both girls and boys can actively engage in conversations on financial decisions.



Tune in to hear our campaign song for 2025:
[#HarKadamBetiKeSang 6.0](#)

Let's Learn

Discover the life-changing power of lifeskills through inspiring stories

Flight through Lifeskills

#WatchNow: Meet Fatima, a Grade 7 student from Maharashtra, who is building confidence and clarity about her future through life skills and financial literacy.



Overcoming Obstacles

#WatchNow: Meet Ashwini, a Grade 10 student from Maharashtra, who is building confidence and clarity about her future through life skills.



Scaling-up Early Reading Intervention

The Scaling-up Early Reading Intervention project aimed to improve Foundational Literacy in India. Under SERI, Room to Read India trained teachers, aligned with government policies and goals on Foundational Literacy, making implementation cost-effective. SERI's two core objectives were to:

- Demonstrate an effective, scalable model for improving reading outcomes (Grades 1 and 2)
- Create new ways for non-profits and the government to work together for sustainable positive influence on society

#WatchNow: The 18 Stories of Change



Ever wondered why children's literature must be central to conversations on education and inclusion?

Our colleague, **Deepali Agarwal**, *National Program Coordinator, Quality Reading Material*, in her blog offers interesting insights on how children's literature can shape inclusion, identity and belonging in education. **Read more.**

Partner of Choice

IMC Visits Our Programs in Jharkhand and Uttarakhand

From November 5–9, 2025, the IMC team visited Jharkhand and Uttarakhand to witness how our programs are transforming classrooms, building teacher capacity, and empowering children.

They observed our instruction model and vibrant libraries reaching 1.41 lakh children in Jharkhand, and gender, life skills, and financial literacy programs in Uttarakhand encouraging adolescent leadership and agency. The visits showcased how strategic partnerships and co-created resources are creating inclusive, high-quality learning environments for all.



Room to Read Switzerland Board Members Visits New Delhi

On November 13, 2025, Ms. Catherine Kurz, Room to Read Switzerland Board Member, along with her husband, Mr. Andrea Rubio visited our programs in New Delhi and witnessed our direct influence on young learners.



They observed a Read Aloud session, explored the library ecosystem and engaged with early-grade readers discovering the joy of books. They toured the Gender Resource Centre, interacted with young adolescents, and saw how the Girls' Education Program builds communication, problem-solving and goal-setting skills among them. The visit highlighted the transformative power of sustained mentoring and strong community partnerships in empowering children and adolescents

JSW Room to Read Project Recognized at Rotary India National CSR Awards

This quarter, the JSW Room to Read Project was honoured as the Best Education Project (South Zone) at the Rotary India National CSR Awards 2025, celebrating our influential collaboration with JSW Foundation to strengthen government school systems and advance quality education.

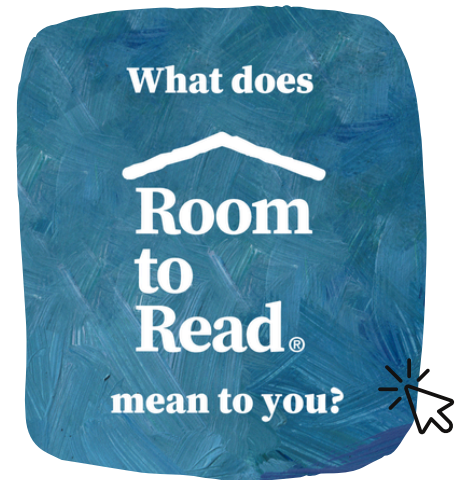


Through this partnership, 1,464 schools have been reached and over 2.3 lakh children benefited across Karnataka, nurturing strong reading foundations and a lifelong love for learning—underscoring the power of aligned vision and shared commitment to ensure every child learns, grows, and thrives. [Read more.](#)

Employer of Choice

At Room to Read India, our culture is more than a workplace — it's a shared purpose. Every day, we come together with a deep commitment to education and equity, creating an environment where change, collaboration and joy thrive. This dedication has helped us build a workplace where people feel valued, supported and inspired to contribute their best.

#Watch the video to know *what Room to Readers feel about the workplace.*



Announcements



Record-Breaking Milestone for our India Gets Reading 2025!

We are delighted to share that we have created a Read-a-thon record for 39,20,248 students across India during the #IndiaGetsReading campaign to read together simultaneously. The **India Book of Records** and the **Asia Book of Records** recognized this effort. [Read more.](#)

Empowering Educators: 21st Century Life Skills Course Launched in Uttarakhand

In October, the Additional Director, SCERT Uttarakhand, launched the 21st Century Life Skills Course, which equips teachers with skills for modern classrooms. The six interactive modules cover NEP 2020, critical and creative thinking, collaboration, media literacy, self-awareness and gender-responsive pedagogy.

The initiative has seen a strong uptake, with 12,266 teachers already enrolled and actively engaged.

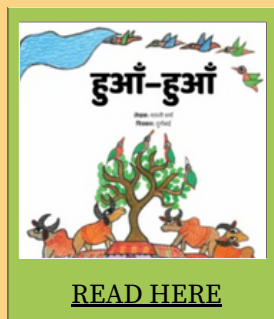


[Access the course](#)



Literacy Cloud

Our top four picks for you!





Room to Read India is a 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