

Kishalay

READ India Newsletter

Editor's Note

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." – Joseph Addison

We are pleased to share the events and programmes at READ India Gyan Kendras in our latest Newsletter - KISHALAY.

Feel free to share your thoughts to:
japneet@read-india.in

Happy Reading!

Major highlights

- "Let's Learn and Grow", READ India's new CLRC, supported by Advatix
- READ India Lakhimpur Centre Highlights Grassroots Work at Environmental Awareness Event
- Promoting Safer Livelihoods on Labour Day: Supporting Women in Jhajjar
- Celebrating the Heart of Every Home: Mother's Day at READ India Library
- READ India Expands Reach in Bisnoli, Noida with the support of HT Parekh Foundation
- Capacity Building Workshop Equips Gram Mitrs and Pragati Mitrs for Grassroots Impact
- READ India Showcases Grassroots Innovations at National Expo on World Environment Day
- "Tastes Like Joy" Event at READ India Community Centre, Pandur
- Inauguration of READ India Centre with the support of International Flavors and Fragrances & Launch of "One Child - 100 Books" Campaign
- Finding Balance Through Yoga

Upcoming Event

We're proud to lead the way as an NGO Partner at the 13th OSH India Expo, taking place from 16th-18th September 2025 at Hall 6, Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, wherein 9000+ safety professionals, government officials, industry leaders and global brands, spotlight the latest advancements in workplace safety and health.

As part of the prestigious OSH Gurukul Conference, READ India will host a panel discussion that brings the voices of communities to this platform. The session will open with Dr. Geeta Malhotra, CEO, READ India, setting the context, followed by a short film on community safety initiatives.

Our panel will highlight key themes including:

- Empowering youth with safety knowledge at their doorsteps
- Strengthening grassroots safety through practical demonstrations
- Designing inclusive safety frameworks for workplaces
- Bridging gaps between human interventions and technology in the future of safety

As champions of community safety and youth empowerment, READ India brings a grassroots perspective, ensuring that inclusive, people-first practices remain at the heart of the conversation.

"Let's Learn and Grow", READ India's new CLRC, supported by Advatix



Inauguration of the CLRC at Wazirabad

On 5th April 2025, READ India inaugurated its Community Library and Resource Centre (CLRC) at the Wazirabad Centre under the banner Let's Learn and Grow. Designed for youth aged 15 and above, the CLRC provides access to over 1,000 books, a digital learning room with computers and laptops, and self-guided resources in advanced Excel and soft skills development. The centre aims to support students preparing for competitive exams, pursuing education, or building skills

for employability. The inauguration was attended by key partners from Advatix, including Mr. Manish Kapoor, Founder & CEO of Growth Catalyst Group, and Mr. Ashish Chadha, Global CIO and APAC CEO. Both emphasised the role of education and technology in empowering youth and creating lasting impact.

Dr. Geeta Malhotra, CEO, shared READ India's vision of making education accessible to underserved communities and Ms. Smita Anand Rai, Director – Partnerships, encouraged the

community to make full use of the Centre's facilities. A brief media interaction highlighted Advatix's commitment to long-term youth development. The CLRC stands as a significant step toward creating inclusive, community-driven spaces for learning, growth, and opportunity



Community members along with ADVATIX Team, READ India Team and other dignitaries

READ India Lakhimpur Centre Highlights Grassroots Work at Environmental Awareness Event

On 29th April 2025, READ India's Lakhimpur Centre participated in an environmental awareness event organized by the Environmental Warriors Foundation, focused on promoting sustainability in regions adjoining reserve forests. The event featured quiz and drawing competitions on environmental themes, with participation from 12 schools, sparking awareness and creativity among students.

READ India set up an engaging stall showcasing its work in rural development, skill training and community empowerment, which received a positive response from visitors. The team also had the opportunity to present an overview of the organization's mission and initiatives to the chief guests. As part of the interaction, READ India's brochure was formally handed over to the dignitaries, offering them deeper insight into its ongoing efforts in the region.

The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including Mrs. Durga Shakti Nagpal (District Magistrate, Lakhimpur Kheri), Mr. Rajeshwar Singh (MLA, Sarojini Nagar), Mr. T. Raju (Field Director, Dudhwa National Park), along with prominent doctors and Supreme Court lawyers. Their appreciation further validated the importance of READ India's grassroots initiatives.



Audience at the event supporting environmental awareness and community initiatives



Guests appreciating the dari, handicrafts, and bags at the READ India stall.

Promoting Safer Livelihoods on Labour Day: Supporting Women in Jhajjar

On the occasion of Labour Day, READ India with OSH India and with generous support from MN Rubber extended a meaningful gesture toward improving the occupational health and safety of women in Jhajjar, Haryana. As part of the initiative, rubber gloves were distributed to women engaged in the preparation of cow dung cakes which is a traditional livelihood practice that often exposes them to foodborne illnesses, skin infections, and hygiene-related risks due to direct contact with raw materials. By providing protective gear, we aim to promote safer and healthier working conditions for these women, reinforcing our collective commitment to dignity, safety and well-being in rural livelihoods.



Gloves Distribution Drive

READ India will continue to strengthen grassroots awareness on occupational safety in the coming months. Community education sessions are scheduled for:

- 5th August 2025 – Chainnsa, Hathin Block, Palwal District
- 12th August 2025 – Jamalpur, Manesar, Haryana

These events will focus on educating communities about preventive measures, workplace safety practices and creating a culture of safety at the grassroots. Gloves and reflector jackets will also be distributed to reinforce safe work practices and promote dignity, health and protection.



OSH India and READ India Team

Celebrating the Heart of Every Home: Mother's Day at READ India Library

Mother's Day is a heartfelt occasion celebrated around the world to honour the incredible women who nurture, support, and shape our lives often without expecting anything in return. It's a day to pause and express gratitude for their love, care, and the many unseen sacrifices they make every day.

On 15th May, READ India's Community Library in Lucknow, celebrated Mother's Day with warmth and enthusiasm. Primary and secondary school teachers were invited to the library, where they encouraged students to express their feelings by making handmade cards and writing poems for their mothers. The celebration provided a joyful platform for children to reflect on the role their mothers play and to honour them through creativity and emotion. It was a beautiful reminder of the unconditional love and quiet strength that mothers embody every day.



Building stronger bonds through stories

READ India Expands Reach in Bisnoli, Noida with the support of HT Parekh Foundation



Inauguration of Community Library and Resource Centre at Bisnoli

The Bisnoli Community Library and Resource Centre, supported by HT Parekh Foundation, was formally inaugurated on 27th May 2025. The ceremony was led by Mr. Vijay, brother of the village Pradhan, along with Dr. Geeta Malhotra, CEO, READ India, Ms. Smita Anand Rai, Director – Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, Ms. Vandana Dhingra, Senior DIOS member and former Pradhan Mr. Dharmendra.

The Centre aims to promote literacy among children aged 5 to 15 years through a vibrant library space giving them the joy of reading, while the computer section specifically engages

children aged 12 to 15 years in basic digital literacy. The inauguration saw active participation from the community as children enthusiastically took part in the activities and community members expressed their happiness and appreciation for the initiative.

Capacity Building Workshop Equips Gram Mitrs and Pragati Mitrs for Grassroots Impact

On 6th June 2025, READ India conducted a Capacity Building Workshop in Gurugram under the Integrated Community Engagement Programme, themed "Empowering Gram/Pragati Mitr for Grassroots Transformation." The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacities of Gram and Pragati Mitrs to drive change in their communities. It began with a project orientation on goals, thematic areas and reporting processes.

Mr. Ashis Sanyal, Trustee at READ India and a key contributor to the CSC model, spoke on CSCs as a business model.

Dr. Nidhi Gulati conducted a Training of Trainers session on menstrual hygiene and nutrition, followed by an informative session on social security schemes by Mr. Sachin.

Dr. Geeta Malhotra, CEO of READ India, led a session on leadership, while Ms. Smita Rai, Director – Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation, facilitated a session on soft skills. Mr. Rahul Singh conducted a session on effective data reporting techniques. The workshop concluded with the distribution of IEC materials and informative pamphlets on food and nutrition security and menstrual hygiene to support ongoing community engagement.



Mr. Ashis Sanyal addressing the Gram Mitrs and Pragati Mitrs



Gram Mitrs and Pragati Mitrs with READ India Team

READ India Showcases Grassroots Innovations at National Expo on World Environment Day



READ products receive appreciation

On the occasion of World Environment Day, celebrated on 5th June 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change hosted a National Expo on “Eco Alternatives to Banned Single Use Plastics and Plastic Waste Management” at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The event brought together organisations and innovators from across the country committed to promoting sustainable alternatives and effective waste management practices. READ India actively participated in the expo, showcasing a range of eco-friendly products developed under the organisation’s 3R Project (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). These handmade items, crafted using recycled materials, not only highlighted the creativity and skill of community members but also offered sustainable alternatives to plastic-based products. The stall attracted considerable attention and support from attendees, with several products being sold during the event, reflecting growing consumer interest in environmentally conscious alternatives.

The expo was graced by several dignitaries, including Ms. Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Delhi, who visited the READ India stall and appreciated the organisation’s efforts in promoting grassroots innovation and environmental sustainability. Her words of encouragement served as a strong motivation for the team and reinforced the importance of community-led initiatives in addressing the plastic waste crisis. Participation in this national-level platform offered valuable exposure to the artisans and provided an opportunity to amplify the impact of the 3R initiative. READ India remains committed to promoting sustainable livelihoods while contributing to the larger goal of environmental conservation.



From local hands to national platforms

“Tastes Like Joy” Event at READ India Community Centre, Pandur

On June 13, 2025, the READ India Community Centre in Pandur hosted the vibrant “Tastes Like Joy” event with the support of the IFF team. Designed to promote community bonding, joyful learning, and nutritional awareness, the event was a lively celebration of connection and care.

Children took part in fun activities like games, storytelling, and interactive sessions, followed by the distribution of nutritious snacks.

The IFF team engaged warmly and enthusiastically interacted with the children, encouraging joyful learning and the importance of healthy eating. The event left a lasting impression on the children, community members, and facilitators alike proving that sometimes, joy really does taste like good food, shared stories, and simple moments of togetherness.



Children and community members proudly celebrate the “Tastes Like Joy” event



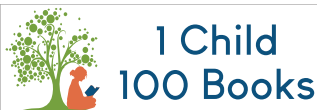
Gift distribution during the “Tastes Like Joy” event at READ India Centre.

Inauguration of READ India Centre with the support of International Flavors and Fragrances & Launch of “One Child – 100 Books” Campaign

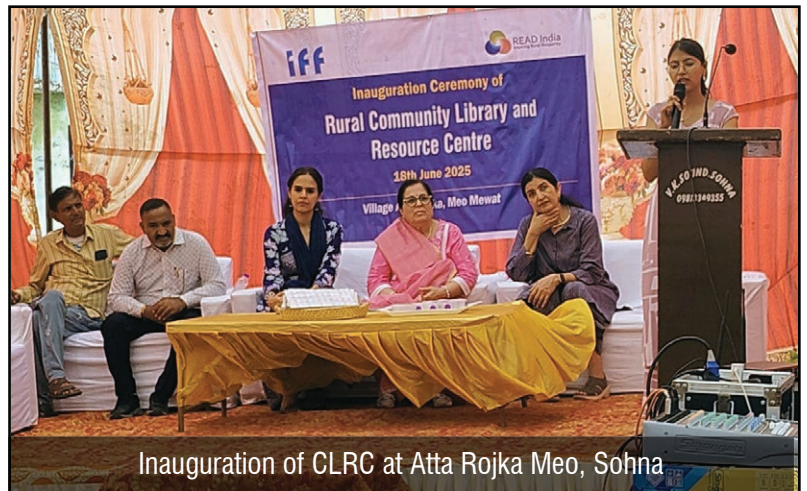
On 18th June 2025, the village of Atta Rojka Meo, Sohna witnessed a moment of pride and possibility as READ India inaugurated a new CLRC with the support of IFF marking a powerful step forward in its mission to empower rural communities through knowledge and opportunity. The event was celebrated with great enthusiasm and warmth, drawing a crowd of nearly 300 villagers, all eager to be part of this transformative journey. The inauguration was graced by distinguished guests including Mr. Venkatesan, Plant Manager at IFF Mewat; Dr. Geeta Malhotra, CEO, READ India; the READ India team; Sarpanch Mr. Kartar Singh; and members of the Gram Panchayat. Their presence signaled strong community partnerships and a shared vision for sustainable grassroots development.



‘1 Child, 100 Books’ - Campaign Launch



To celebrate this milestone, READ India also launched an inspiring reading campaign - “One Child – 100 Books” which is designed to ignite a lifelong love of learning among children. The campaign encourages young readers to read 100 books and maintain a reading log, with awards and recognition for those who complete the challenge. Brochures introducing the campaign were shared during the event, creating excitement and curiosity among children and parents alike.



Inauguration of CLRC at Atta Rojka Meo, Sohna

Finding Balance Through Yoga

On 21st June 2025, the staff and beneficiaries at READ India CLRC Jewar gathered to celebrate International Yoga Day. With the theme “Yoga for Balance in Life,” the event opened with a soulful Maa Saraswati Vandana and chanting, setting a calm and reflective tone. Community members across all ages joined together for a group yoga session, sharing a moment of mindfulness and unity.

Renowned yoga instructor Mr. Kaushal Malik was warmly felicitated and led the group through a series of asanas including Padmasana, Vajrasana, Dhanurasana, and Trikonasana. His gentle guidance made it easy for even first-timers to participate and feel confident. Motivational talks throughout the session reminded everyone of the value of slowing down, breathing deeply, and finding balance amidst life’s daily chaos. It wasn’t just a day about yoga, it was a reminder of the joy in coming together, caring for one’s body and mind and building a stronger, more grounded community.

