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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of FMR India

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FMR India celebrates Asha Niketan Kolkata's 50th anniversary, highlighting unity's transformative power. Reflecting on October's joyous moments, the newsletter welcomes new FMR family members and shares the vibrant Durga Puja festivities in Asansol.

Embracing humility is advocated for personal growth, and Nandi community expresses gratitude for overcoming challenges. The newsletter also teases upcoming stories, including the 'With and Without Disability Campaign.'

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Subin Varghese

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
FMR INDIA



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Embracing inclusivity, FMR India commemorates the vibrant 50th anniversary of Asha Niketan, Kolkata. Led by community and national leader, Smritikana and Bharathi, the celebration showcased the transformative power of unity. Reflecting on our rich history, we honor the pioneers who laid the foundation.

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Dr Premanand M E

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
FMR INDIA



From the desk of the President, FMR INDIA

BY DR PREMANAND M E

FMR India is based on the principle that people with and without intellectual disabilities can live and work together for the greater good. These groups, in whatever shape or size they take, are mutually transformational; they affect how we see ourselves and how others in India and around the globe regard them.

The 50th anniversary of Asha Niketan in Kolkata started on a joyful note. The founding members, long-term assistants, assistants, core members, previous GC members and present GC, parents, and the community in and around Kolkata and Asansol took an active role to make it a grand success. The forces behind the scene were none other than Smritikana, the community leader, and Bharathi, the national leader.

Of course, we must also take time to reflect on our history as we remember the pioneers who laid the groundwork for what is known today as FMR India, Asha Niketan, Kolkata. All of the hard work and attention to detail that was put in over the years has paid off, and the 50th anniversary celebration was indeed, a riot of colour and a day of magnificent performances which included singing, dancing, and acting. Each core member and care-giver put in their best for a stellar performance. The celebration was a sight to behold, thanks also to the visitors from all the Asha Niketans in India. Personally, I too am glad to have attended it along with Sylvain Brabant and Fabien. Rajeevan, the International Director, was also present. I am grateful to the governing council, both long-term and short-term, for their efforts. I take this opportunity to thank all the chairmen and community leaders from the various Asha Niketans for gracing the occasion. Last but not least, the former members of the Governing Council and the assistants who worked at Asha Niketan Kolkata Your fruit of labour is now ripe and ready for action in the years to come!!!

Warm regards



Dr Premanand M E
National President
FMR India.



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This month has been brimming with joy, surprises, and vibrant celebrations. I'm thrilled to share with you the happiness and enchantment that this season has brought. We aspire for this newsletter to infuse the same level of excitement in your life as October did. We extend a warm welcome to the new members who joined our family at FMR during the month of October.

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Bharathi Gopalakrishnan

NATIONAL LEADER,
FMR INDIA



Golden Jubilee Celebration: Honoring Legacy, Building Future at Asha Niketan Kolkata

The golden jubilee celebration of Asha Niketan Kolkata Our golden jubilee celebration was nothing short of spectacular. The air was filled with laughter, nostalgia, and a profound sense of community spirit. One of the most poignant aspects of our jubilee celebration was the opportunity to honor all the members who set our community on its course 50 years ago. We paid tribute to their vision, dedication, and the foundation they laid for us to build upon. It was a touching reminder of the lasting impact we can have when we work together towards a common goal. We must continue to build on the foundation laid by our pioneers, nurturing our community's growth, and preserving the values that have sustained us for five decades.



Mr. Sylvain and Mr. Fabien's Inspiring Visits to Bangalore and Chennai Communities

Mr. Sylvain and Mr. Fabien continued their visits to Bangalore and Chennai community. Yet again they experienced the love and hospitality of the communities and were inspired by the life lived with such joy and togetherness.



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In October 2023, Asha Niketan Asansol celebrated Durga Puja, embodying the spirit of community through pandal hopping and cultural performances.

Mahalaya marked a vibrant prelude, with the community joyously invoking goddess Durga.

Generous support facilitated festive shopping for members. Fifteen MSW students actively interned, enriching our daily operations. Additionally, Christian brothers from Dhyan Ashram immersed themselves in our lifestyle for a memorable month.

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Sibhasish Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN ASANSOL





Durga Puja commemorates the triumph of the goddess Durga over the demon king Mahishasura. This yearly Hindu festival, also referred to as Durgotsava or Sharodotsav, is celebrated in our community. We observe Durga Puja and engage in pandal hopping, exploring different locations in Asansol with fellow members.

Mahalaya is a unique period occurring one week prior to Durga Puja, serving as a ritualistic invitation for the formidable goddess Durga to descend to Earth. Through chants and songs like "Jago Tumi Jago," people beckon her, viewing it as a welcoming gesture. In our community, we joyously observe this special occasion.



Participating in Durga Puja entails donning new attire and engaging in pandal hopping. Consequently, our members embarked on a shopping spree, selecting clothes to their liking. The financial support of benevolent individuals played a crucial role in making this Puja shopping endeavor possible.

During the Durga Puja festival at Kalyanpur K-Sector Housing, our members showcased a dance performance on Panchami evening.



At present, we have fifteen MSW students undertaking an internship with us, actively engaging in our daily operations at the Workshop and Daycare.



For a month, we hosted three Christian brothers—Elayaraja, Paulus, and Kulandi—who arrived from Dhyana Ashram to immerse themselves in our way of life.



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Asha Niketan Bangalore - October Highlights

Asha Niketan Bangalore marks its 53rd anniversary with inclusive celebrations, fostering community strength and lasting memories. Ayudha Pooja is joyously observed, honoring tools and fostering gratitude. Tata AIA's visit brings joy through cake cutting and activities, enhancing unity. Gratitude extends for their provisions, creating a harmonious atmosphere in the community.

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Charles

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN BANGALORE





Thrilled to celebrate Asha Niketan Bangalore's 53rd anniversary, uniting hearts and creating cherished memories. Inclusion, joy, and community strength echoed throughout. Cheers to many more!



"We joyously and ceremoniously celebrated Ayudha Pooja, a revered South Indian festival, by meticulously cleaning, adorning, and worshiping our tools, instruments, and vehicles, paying homage to their role in our lives and work, and coming together as a community to express our gratitude for the tools that empower us in our daily endeavors."



Tata AIA's visit brought joy to our community. Celebrated with cake cutting, joyful activities, and a dance. Grateful for Tata AIA's provisions. Unity in happiness!

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Humility is a unique attribute that can enhance our personal growth, foster healthier relationships, and cultivate a more balanced perspective on life. Striving to embody humility can be demanding, especially in the midst of individuals who are arrogant, insecure, obstinate, or engaged in constant competition for superiority. However, by embracing humility and putting forth our best efforts, we can achieve greater contentment in our lives. Therefore, let us embrace humility and cultivate happiness.

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Lozilo Kikon

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN CHENNAI





On November 6th, we extended a warm welcome to Mr. Sylvan, the recently appointed Chairman of the International Stewardship Board, and Mr. Fabian, the Financial Manager from the International Office, as they joined our community. National leader Miss Bharathi accompanied them, and the board members were present to offer their greetings. It was a delightful occasion, and we enjoyed our time together.



One of our former assistants, Mr. Linus, from Germany, came to visit on October 3rd and spent time with the core members of the community. Everyone was overjoyed to see him again, recollecting all of the loving moments.

Grateful to BDS Trust, Chennai, for inviting our core members to the Annual Digital Health Screening. In collaboration with IEEARCTECH, they enjoyed painting and diverse activities. Special moments shared.



Honoring Late Uma Shankar, we planted a coconut tree in his memory. Grateful for his family's presence, uniting in prayer and planting for a lasting tribute.

Jeppiaar Engineering College Rotaract Club Secretary visited on the 9th, spreading joy with engaging activities and generous birthday cake donations. Fun-filled moments and grateful smiles.



On the 11th, we welcomed Mr. Mahaingam from Manipur as a new assistant to our community. Excited for the fresh perspectives and contributions he brings.



This month brought three opportunities to showcase and sell our products at Kailash Hotel during Dussehra, Navratri Festival in Lions Club, and GSM Special School Sholinganallur. Grateful for the support.



Three months of joy! Celebrated birthdays with core members and assistants, witnessing smiles and special moments. Grateful for the cherished memories shared during this auspicious celebration.



On the 17th, a meaningful personal growth session uplifted our community. The assistant found it enjoyable, fostering growth and positivity among us.

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October Highlights at Asha Niketan Kolkata

In a jubilant 50th-anniversary celebration at Don Bosco Hall, joy and gratitude filled the air, with cultural performances earning acclaim from national and international delegates. L'Arche Family Day and Light Festival brought members together in love, fostering community spirit. Durga Puja Pandal Hopping promoted inclusiveness, and Annual Remembrance Day honored departed members in Hindu Bengali traditions. Puja Cloth Distribution evoked thanks for generous donor initiatives.

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Smritikana Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN KOLKATA





Celebrating 50 years at Don Bosco Hall on Oct 2, 2023, with joy, unity, and gratitude. Members' cultural program received appreciation from national and international delegates.



L'Arche Family Day & Light Festival: Members embraced joy, love, and togetherness in the spirit of L'Arche, fostering a sense of community and celebration.



Durga Puja Pandal Hopping: A unique, joyful experience fostering social awareness and inclusiveness! Celebrating the vibrant spirit of togetherness during this festive season."

Annual Remembrance Day: On Mahalaya, we honor and pray for peace for our departed members, following the sacred traditions of Hindu Bengali rituals. In loving memory.



Joyful hearts as our members receive new clothes through Puja Cloth Distribution. Gratitude to our donors for their thoughtful and generous initiatives. Thank you!

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Reflecting on the past year, it has been a journey filled with peaks and valleys. Despite the challenges, the Nandi community has made significant progress, conquering obstacles with resilience and achieving success, all with smiles on our faces. I express my gratitude to our dedicated GC team, staffs, and core members for their unwavering support. Special thanks to L'Arche for the assistance provided.

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Lilly Rose

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN NANDIBAZAR



Enthusiastic fans of Actor Dileep organized an eye camp, spreading awareness and extending care to promote eye health in the community. A commendable initiative.



Asha Niketan Nandi Bazar's lush garden, graced by coconut and banana trees, provides a bountiful harvest every two months. Coconuts enrich our kitchen, with surplus offered for sale.



All our core members attended the housewarming ceremony at Malathy's residence.



With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Mr. Rajeevan, a cherished core member since 1978. Known for his amiable nature and craft skills, he leaves behind a legacy of kindness. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

I, Vismaya, am 18 years old, became a member of Asha Niketan last month. Being part of this community brings me great joy, and I find pleasure in activities like drawing, making jewelry, and sharing enjoyable moments with others in the community.



Ms. Arya, daughter of our dedicated staff Lakshmi, joins our day program's vehicle assistance team from Oct 25, 2023. A responsible and affectionate individual with a background in fashion design.

Dr. M. E. Premanand, National President of FMR India, visited Mr. Lancy, fostering connections and collaboration. A meaningful exchange for a shared vision of community well-being.



Ayuda Pooja celebration unfolded from Oct 22 to Oct 24, '23. A time of spiritual significance, fostering unity and joy within the community.





Thank you!

Anticipate an array of exciting news and stories in the upcoming months, including updates about the 'With and Without Disability Campaign'



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