

FEBRUARY 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of FMR India

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February resonated with vibrant community spirit across Asha Niketan. From Asansol's unity to Nandibazar's outreach, each location celebrated connection and talent. Bangalore reflected on shared memories, Chennai marked its Jubilee, and Kolkata championed inclusion. FMR India also contributed to Enable India's NeuRise Mission, advocating for neurodiversity in employment, highlighting our collective commitment to fostering belonging and empowerment.

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Subin Varghese

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
FMR INDIA



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As we step into February, FMR India celebrates the rich tapestry of diversity within our Asha Niketan communities. Our strength lies in the unique backgrounds and abilities of each individual. Like Meena, whose art transcends speech, we recognize every person's inherent value. This month, let us reaffirm our commitment to an inclusive society, honoring the dignity and rights of all, as our Charter proclaims. In unity and compassion, we embrace our shared humanity.

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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

As we move into February, let us celebrate the rich diversity that strengthens FMR India. Our Asha Niketan communities are a tapestry woven from different backgrounds, abilities, and perspectives, and it is this diversity that makes us vibrant and whole.

At FMR India, the value of every individual is recognized. Each person, regardless of their challenges, has gifts to share and an important role to play. This month, let us reflect on the words of our Charter: "Whatever their gifts or their limitations, people are all bound together in a common humanity. Everyone is of unique and sacred value, and everyone has the same dignity and the same rights."

I am reminded of Meena, a young woman who has a speech impairment. Though she finds it difficult to express herself verbally, she communicates through her art. Her paintings are full of life and color, conveying a depth of emotion that words cannot capture. Meena's art has touched the hearts of many and reminds us that everyone has a voice, even if it is expressed in different ways.

This month, let us commit to creating an even more inclusive society, one that values and celebrates the diversity of its members.

In the spirit of unity and compassion,

Warm regards



Dr Premanand M E
National President
FMR India.

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FMR India proudly joined Enable India's NeuRise Mission launch, advocating for inclusive employment. We highlighted the vital role of parental support and tackled workplace challenges. Discussions focused on fostering career readiness and bridging employment gaps for neurodivergent individuals, emphasizing collaboration and awareness.

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Bharathi Gopalakrishnan

NATIONAL LEADER,
FMR INDIA



FMR India was honored to participate in the launch of the NeuRise Mission, organized by Enable India on 21st February 2025. This transformative initiative aims to create inclusive employment opportunities for individuals with neurodevelopmental and psychosocial disabilities.

Our representatives, Bharathi Gopalakrishnan and Shakeeb, actively engaged in discussions, shedding light on both challenges and opportunities in workforce inclusion. A key focus was on the crucial role parents play in preparing neurodivergent individuals for the workplace—fostering career readiness, building confidence, and advocating for workplace accommodations.

The event also addressed critical challenges such as limited awareness, lack of workplace accommodations, and employment gaps while exploring solutions through corporate training programs, mentorship initiatives, and cross-sector collaborations.



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February at Asha Niketan Asansol blossomed with unity and joy. Saraswati Puja bound us in shared celebration, while the 'Karigari Mela' showcased our members' talents, fostering inclusion. Picnics, dances, and community events, including welcoming new day scholars, Rituraj and Avik Roy, strengthened our bonds. We celebrated birthdays and friendships, making every moment a testament to our community spirit.

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Sibhasish Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN ASANSOL





Saraswati Puja at Asha Niketan Asansol was more than a festival — it was a celebration of unity, love, and shared joy. From decorating the puja space to cooking and serving the festive meal, everyone played a part. Together, we prayed, sang, cooked, and laughed — turning simple moments into beautiful memories. The day reminded us that true wisdom lies not just in learning, but in belonging, caring, and celebrating life as one family.

We welcomed two core members, Rituraj and Avik Roy, as day scholar core members.



Our community proudly participated in the 6th edition of 'Karigari Mela' from 7th to 10th February, showcasing our handmade products crafted with love and creativity. More than just a sale, it became a meaningful platform to highlight the unique abilities of our members. Visitors not only appreciated the products but also deeply respected the effort, skill, and dedication behind each creation. It was a beautiful opportunity to promote inclusion, break barriers, and celebrate the talents that make our community so special.





We had a wonderful community picnic at Panchet Dam with all our members. It was a day filled with joy, laughter, and togetherness as we enjoyed the beautiful natural surroundings. Everyone participated in fun activities, shared delicious food, and created cherished memories, strengthening our bond as a community.

We participated in RaceFor7 at Sentrum Mall, Shristinagar, Asansol. A heartfelt thanks to Malvika Ma'am for inviting us and giving us this wonderful opportunity.



We performed a dance at Asansol "Chitra Mela", and we are deeply grateful to the Chitra Mela committee for inviting us and admiring the beautiful gift of dance that our core members shared with joy.

Lisa Lucas, Foundation Administrator of SO HUM FOUNDATION, visited our community. SO HUM FOUNDATION not only supports us financially but is also a true friend to our community. During her visit, Lisa spent quality time with us, especially with one of our core members, Rahul Francis, making the day even more special.



Som, one of our core member, and Rahul Kumar Paswan, one of our assistant, attended the wedding of Dipu's sister at Ghagar Buri Chandi Temple. Dipu, our day scholar member, was filled with joy to have his friends from the community join this special occasion.



HAPPY
Birthday



Our Chairperson, Gautam Chaudhari, celebrated his birthday with us, filling the day with joy and togetherness. We were very happy to share this special moment with him.

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February in AN Bangalore was a month of connection and reflection. We welcomed visitors from L'Arche Sydney and Habitat, sharing in community life. We honored Shyam and Gopal with heartfelt stories. We found a sense of peace and fulfillment in temple visits and to celebrate a donor's son's birthday. The formation on “commitment walk” highlighted lessons in responsibility and perseverance, strengthening our bonds.

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Lilly Rose

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN BANGALORE





ANB

Mr.Kumar Board chair of L'Arche sydney community and Mr.Tony consultant for Habitat, paid a visit to our community. They enjoyed spending time with core members. Mr. kumar has a plan to start a community in Srilanka for the specially abled.



Sharing stories and reflections during such a service can be a powerful way to celebrate the lives of those who have passed. It allows everyone to express their feelings, recall moments they shared with Shyam and Gopal, and remember the positive impact they had on the community. These shared memories help keep their spirits alive in the hearts of those who remain, offering comfort during such a difficult time.



As a community, we visited the temple with our core members, making it a meaningful occasion to come together and share in the joy and devotion. During Shivaratri, temples are often filled with vibrant energy, echoing with chanting, prayers, and rituals dedicated to Lord Shiva.



Our Donor Mr. Sandeep proudly celebrated his birthday along with his son, and it turned into such a fun and memorable event. Everyone came together to join in the festivities, enjoy delicious food, play games, and celebrate the special occasion. We all had a fantastic time, and it was a wonderful way to bring the community closer."

The commitment walk

The team has learned a great deal in the formation by the national leader during her visit. The key takeaways being the importance of taking responsibility, owning tasks and duties, maintaining consistency in our daily routines, and staying dedicated during challenging times.

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February in AN Chennai was filled with farewells, celebrations, and connections. We bid a fond farewell to Siam, and joyously began our 50th-anniversary celebrations with a reflective retreat and Jubilee gathering. Ms. Hazel's visit brought cherished memories, while a dental camp promoted healthy smiles. Intern Themso's heartfelt reflection highlighted the community's profound impact, underscoring our spirit of kindness and joy.

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Lozilo Kikon

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN CHENNAI





Farewell to Siam (live-in assistant)

A heartfelt goodbye as Siam, who leaves Asha Niketan Chennai. The community came together for a warm farewell, celebrating his time with us.

We embarked on our 50th-anniversary celebrations with a retreat on "Beyond the Dream: A Vision for Humanity" on February 16. Led by Br. Roberts and Ms. Hazel from London, it was a time of inspiration and joy for all.



On February 25, we gathered to mark our Golden Jubilee with gratitude, celebrating God's faithfulness and sharing this special moment with our loved ones.



Ms. Hazel's Visit – A joyful reunion as Ms. Hazel, a dedicated leader who served Asha Niketan Chennai for 16 years, visited the community. Her presence brought back cherished memories. Every body was so happy to meet her.





Sathyabama Dental Hospital conducted a dental camp for our core members, providing an insightful session with demonstrations on oral hygiene. They also generously distributed Colgate toothpaste to promote healthy smiles!

Intern from Loyola College - Mr . Themso

Working in Asha Niketan was a wonderful experience for me. I was part of the Asha Niketan Chennai family for around a month as an intern, and the time spent there was absolutely incredible. Everyone I met there were immensely delightful; the employees, caretakers, management, and most of all the Core Members.

Working and spending time alongside the Core Members is a refreshing experience that nourishes the soul that brings joy unlike no other. In my experience I have witnessed that everyone that visited the place always returned back home as a better person. The place radiates and infects people with kindness, joy, and a profound sense of humanitarian values.

I myself have had the opportunity to gain a whole new perspective on life for the better. The center became a second home to me, and I really appreciate what it has done for the benefit of society.

My best wishes and support are always with the Asha Niketan Chennai family!



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February in AN Kolkata was a month of outreach and celebration. Saraswati Puja brought blessings, while a visit from M/s Lisa reaffirmed support. Our daycare children joyfully participated in the Shishu Mela, promoting inclusivity. These events fostered unity, strengthened bonds, and highlighted our commitment to community and well-being.

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Smritikana Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN KOLKATA



Outreach Celebrations: It forms an integral & inseparable part of community life. Brings joy & happiness, instills a feeling of love togetherness & inclusion amongst members. Provides them with hope & zeal to move forward surmounting the difficulties.



Saraswati Puja : We took great pride in welcoming the goddess of education & knowledge. With her blessing we plan to move forward towards achieving our developmental & therapeutic goals for our members & illuminating our path ahead.



We had the opportunity to welcome their esteemed representative M/s Lisa who came on an scheduled community visit . She visited all our projects supported by the foundation. She was very pleased with our work & activities and pledged to retain future support.



Children from Asha Niketan Kolkata's Daycare participated in the annual Shishu Mela at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. Organized by the NSS unit, this vibrant fair provided underprivileged children with a day of fun, interactive activities, and inclusivity. The event also served as a platform to raise awareness and sensitize society to the needs and aspirations of children with disabilities.

Community Picnic: These occasions provide excellent opportunities to meet old friends, get together, build lasting cherishable bonds of love & cohesiveness & feel part of one fraternity. It also helps with their overall wellbeing.



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February in AN Nandibazar was a vibrant month of community engagement! We participated in state conferences, hosted exhibitions, and celebrated our members' talents at various Kalolsavams. We welcomed international visitors, enjoyed a scenic Wayanad tour, and bid farewell to a beloved volunteer. School visits and college interactions fostered connections, and our core members' performances brought joy and awareness to the wider community.

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Jyothy Susan Joseph

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN NANDIBAZAR





The State Conference of the Association of Orphanages and Charitable Institutions Kerala (AOCIK) was held at St. Paul's Convent Girls Higher Secondary School, Kuriachira, Thrissur, on February 1, 2025. Smt. R. Bindu, Minister for Higher Education and Social Justice was the chief guest. The conference brought together representatives from various orphanages and charitable institutions across Kerala to discuss key issues related to orphanages and charitable institutions. Mr. Santhosh T.P., Long Term Assistant and a member of AOCIK's Kozhikode chapter, represented the community in the meeting.



The community, in partnership with JCI Nursery Kalolsavam, hosted an exhibition at Poyilkav Higher Secondary School on February 2, 2025. The event served as a platform to showcase and sell our products while raising awareness about our community, our work, and fostering connections, particularly with potential meal sponsors. It was organized as part of the JCI Nursery Kalolsavam celebrations.

Bhavan School students visited us on February 5th, brought joy through cultural programs and interactions. Their charity donation, from a school coffer, will aid community initiatives, reflecting a spirit of giving.



On February 6th, 2025, the community hosted a lively interactive session and exhibition at RSM SNDP College, Koyilandy. During the session, Mr. Mukesh M. provided insights into our community and its operations. Additionally, our core members captivated the audience with their performances, making the event both informative and entertaining. The exhibition showcased the creative works and crafts made by core members, offering a glimpse into their talents and skills.



A team of 10 core members from the community actively took part in the Bhinnaseshi Kalolsavam, organized by the Panthalayani Block Panchayat on February 8th, 2025. They showcased their talents through various performances, including solo singing, solo dance, group dance, and fancy dress competitions, captivating the audience with their artistic expressions.

The community held an exhibition at St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Devagiri, on February 11, highlighting its initiatives and handcrafted products. The event served as a platform to raise awareness about the community's efforts while engaging with students and faculty members.

Notably, the college is home to Dr. M.E. Premanand, the National President, who is a faculty member in the Department of Business Management. His presence, along with his colleagues, added value to the event by fostering meaningful discussions on enhancing the quality and market appeal of our products.





The community actively took part in the Bhinnaseshi Kalolsavam, an arts festival for individuals with disabilities, organized by Moodadi Grama Panchayat on February 15th, 2025. The event saw enthusiastic engagement, with 90% of the core members competing in various categories such as solo singing, solo dance, drawing, group dance, group singing, fancy dress, and mimicry.



On February 18th, the community's exhibition at St. Xavier's College, during their Convocation and College Day, showcased handmade products and initiatives. Organized by Smt. Jayasree Kallat, it raised awareness and strengthened connections with students, faculty, and visitors.



The community organized a refreshing one-day tour to Wayanad on February 19th, visiting some of the region's most scenic and educational landmarks.

Ms. Juliette Maitrejean, a volunteer from September 2024 to February 2025, was warmly bid farewell. She taught dance, actively participated, and built strong bonds. Her dedication left a lasting impact, and she will be greatly missed by the community.





The community had the honor of welcoming Mr. Kumar, Board Chair of the Sydney Community, Australia, along with his friend Mr. Tony from Sri Lanka, accompanied by our international delegate, Mr. Rajeevan C.C on February 22, 2025.

During their visit, they engaged with core members and staff, gaining insights into the community's operations, programs, and impact.



We are delighted to share that our community was featured in the Mathrubhumi Newspaper – Koyilandy Edition on Sunday, 23rd February 2025. The article provided an in-depth look into our community, tracing its origins, core members, staff, and Governing Council, while highlighting the products we passionately create. This recognition is a proud moment for us, and we extend our gratitude to Mathrubhumi for showcasing our journey and contributions. Stay connected with us as we continue to grow and make an impact!

Thank you!



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