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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of FMR India

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This October, the light of festival and friendship illuminated FMR India. Across our communities, we celebrated the joy of Diwali, Ayudha Pooja, and Gandhi Jayanti, while honoring deep bonds through memorials and family reunions. From creative stalls and exhibitions to the warmth of our National Leader visits and welcoming new friends, our members showcased their talents with pride. United in celebration, we rejoiced in the spirit of inclusion and dignity that connects us all.

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Subin Varghese

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
FMR INDIA



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As we journeyed through October, we paused to remember the heart of our mission at Asha Niketan: honouring the unique identity of every person in our community.

At FMR India, our strength lies in our diversity. When we value each person's gifts and perspectives, we create communities where everyone feels seen, supported, and celebrated.

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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 through the month of October, we are called to reflect on the core mission that binds all our Asha Niketan communities together: affirming each other's unique identity.

Our strength at FMR India comes from the rich diversity of our members—the core members, assistants, caregivers, and staff across Asansol, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Nandi Bazar. We celebrate diversity and recognize the inherent worth and unique gifts of every individual

.Our community thrives when we embrace a multitude of perspectives and talents, fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

Our core members inspire us with their gifts and resilience, the dedicated assistants and caregivers who offer accompaniment and support, and the essential staff whose professional expertise ensures the smooth functioning of our homes.

Our collective strength is a direct function of this rich human tapestry, where differences in ability, background, and experience are not barriers, but rather invaluable contributions that enrich the fabric of the whole community.

Let us continue to warp the fabric of humaneness across communities and outwards across societies.

Warm regards



Dr Premanand M E
National President
FMR India.



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October was a celebration of light, love, and togetherness at Asha Niketan Asansol. The festive spirit of Diwali and Bhai Phota illuminated our hearts, made special by the presence of our National Leader, Ms. Bharathi. From successful pre-Diwali stalls showcasing our members' talents to welcoming new friends like the Jesuit novices and RED FM, the month was a testament to the joy of inclusion and the warmth of our shared community life.

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Sibhasish Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN ASANSOL





Diwali Celebration at Asha Niketan Asansol

This year, Asha Niketan Asansol celebrated Diwali with great joy, light, and togetherness. Our home was beautifully decorated with diyas, candles, and colourful lights that brightened every corner of the community. The celebration was filled with laughter, music, dance, and the sparkle of happiness.

We were especially blessed to have our National Leader, Bharathi Akka, with us this year. Her presence, along with some of our dear friends, made the festival even more meaningful. Everyone joined hands to decorate the community, light diyas, and share sweets.

The evening began with a special prayer, where everyone came together to thank God for the light of friendship and love that fills our community. After the prayer, we celebrated with crackers and fireworks, lighting up the night sky and filling the air with excitement and joy. The core members enjoyed watching the colourful lights and sounds, their faces glowing with wonder and delight.

The celebration reminded us once again that the true spirit of Diwali lies in spreading light, love, and friendship — values that shine brightly in our Asha Niketan family.



Pre-Diwali Stall 2025

As part of our ongoing effort to uncover the unique gifts and talents of our members, Asha Niketan Asansol organized a series of Pre-Diwali stalls in various schools and institutions. Through our workshops, our members lovingly created a wide range of handcrafted products — candles, Pen stand, Doormat, pot hanger, and other handicrafts — which were displayed and sold during these stalls.

The Pre-Diwali stalls were held at Shrihari Global School, DAV Public School, AG Church School, St. Vincent's School, St. Patrick's School, Happy Feet School, Gainwell Company, Asansol Engineering College, and Salanpur . These events not only offered an opportunity to share the creativity and hard work of our members but also allowed them to experience joy, dignity, and pride in their work.

We sincerely thank the Principals, Managers, and authorities of all the institutions for their kind permission and generous support in allowing us to set up the stalls within their premises. Their encouragement and cooperation helped make this initiative a success, spreading the true light and spirit of Diwali — inclusion, love, and shared joy.



Bhai Phota Celebration at Asha Niketan Asansol

The festival of Bhai Phota was celebrated with love and joy at Asha Niketan Asansol. This special day, which honours the bond between brothers and sisters, brought a sense of closeness and happiness to our community.

Our sisters lovingly applied phota (the sacred mark) on their brothers' foreheads, praying for their long life, happiness, and well-being. The day continued with songs, blessings, and moments of togetherness as everyone shared sweets and joyful smiles.

At Asha Niketan, Bhai Phota was not just a traditional festival but a celebration of unity, care, and belonging — a reminder that we are all part of one loving family.



We were delighted to welcome two brothers, Jackson Durai Vicent and Sathya D, from Dhyana Ashram Jesuit Novitiate, Kolkata, West Bengal – 743503, to Asha Niketan Asansol for a period of one month



Visit of Our National Leader – Ms. Bharathi G.

We were delighted to welcome our National Leader, Ms. Bharathi G., for her community visit to Asha Niketan Asansol. Her visit was a time of joy, encouragement, and shared learning for everyone.

During her stay, she met with our community members and Board members, as she usually does, offering her guidance and support. However, this visit was even more special — she spent time working alongside our assistants and core members in the workshop, helping to make candles and taking part in our Pre-Diwali stalls.

Ms. Bharathi also celebrated Diwali with us, sharing in the prayers, lights, and happiness of the festival. Her presence brought warmth and inspiration to all, reminding us once again of the beauty of community life — living, working, and celebrating together as one family.



Before Diwali, RJ Suva and RJ Soniya from RED FM visited Asha Niketan Asansol and filmed a promotional video featuring our core members making candles. Their visit beautifully showcased the creativity and talent of our members, encouraging people to buy our candles and support their work.

The video was also shared on social media, helping spread awareness and inclusion in the wider community.

We are grateful to RED FM and RJs Suva and Soniya for their support, encouragement, and for celebrating the light of Diwali with us.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/15MHyzXvfvz/>



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This October, our home was filled with the warmth of family and friendship. A blissful Diwali brought us together with parents and siblings, lighting up our community with joy and delicious biryani. We also observed Gandhi Jayanti and celebrated Shreyas Bharanidharan's birthday, expressing our deep gratitude for his family's generosity. It was a memorable month where the light of togetherness shone brighter than the diyas we lit.

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Lilly Rose

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN BANGALORE



The Asha Niketan community joyfully celebrated Diwali with family, friends, and well-wishers. The day was filled with light, laughter, and togetherness. Core members, assistants, and guests decorated the home with colorful diyas and rangolis, exchanged sweets, and shared warm greetings.



Anje's mother shared heartfelt words of gratitude, expressing her happiness for being part of the celebration. For the first time, Aramuda's siblings joined him to celebrate Diwali, which made the day even more special and encouraging for everyone. The room was filled with people, and some even stood outside to join in the joyful atmosphere. Together, we lit candles in and around our building, filling the evening with warmth and light. Mr. Muniappan kindly sponsored delicious biryani for dinner, and we all enjoyed the meal together. It was truly a blissful and memorable evening for our community.



We celebrated Gandhi Jayanti in remembrance of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. His values of peace, truth, and non-violence continue to inspire us to live with compassion and integrity.



Our Governing Council Member Mr. Jeyachandran's grandson, Mr. Shreyas Bharanidharan, celebrated his birthday on 27th October 2025. Wishing you a very Happy Birthday, Shreyas! 🎉 We sincerely thank you and your family for your generous financial support.

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October brought a wave of gratitude and activity to Asha Niketan Chennai. We honored our work during Ayudha Pooja and prioritized well-being with a community medical camp. The spirit of inclusion shone brightly as we participated in the Capgemini NGO Mela and Rotofest. We are especially thankful to our generous donors for the gifts that brought us comfort and cheer. Despite the rains, our home remained a warm hub of creativity and shared joy.

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Sagayamary

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN CHENNAI



Ayudha Pooja Celebration

Our community joyfully celebrated Ayudha Pooja with great devotion and happiness. This special festival is dedicated to expressing gratitude towards the tools, instruments, and materials we use in our daily lives.

On this day, we worshipped and decorated our work tools, vehicles, books, and household items as a mark of respect. We also prayed to Goddess Saraswathi, seeking her blessings for knowledge, wisdom, and success in all our endeavors.

The celebration brought everyone together in a spirit of thankfulness and unity. It reminded us to value our work, respect our possessions, and always strive for learning and growth.



Birthday Celebration of Our Core Member – Srinivasa Prasad
We were delighted to join our core member, Srinivasa Prasad, in celebrating his birthday. The event was filled with joy, laughter, and togetherness. Everyone enjoyed the celebration, which brought happiness on both sides and strengthened our bond as a team. It was truly a memorable and heartwarming occasion!



A medical checkup camp was organized in collaboration with Chettinad Hospital for our community members. During the camp, doctors conducted blood pressure checks for everyone and blood sugar tests for some of our core members. The session was very helpful in promoting health awareness among the team. Additionally, we received some medicines from the hospital as part of their support. The initiative was greatly appreciated by all participants.



Capgemini – NGO Mela

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Capgemini for inviting us to participate in the NGO Mela. We were delighted to set up our stall at the event, which provided a wonderful opportunity to raise funds and connect with other NGOs. The event was both inspiring and meaningful, helping us build new relationships and share our work with a wider community.



We were delighted to be invited to Rotofest 2025, where our members actively participated in various events and activities. The organizers graciously arranged transportation and lunch for all participants. Our core members showcased their talents, took part in fun games, and even won gifts. The event was filled with energy and joy — sang, danced, and enjoyed the celebration. It was also a wonderful opportunity to build new friendships and strengthen connections with others.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the organizers for their warm hospitality and support.



Diwali Celebration

This diwali witnessed happy bondings as core members parents also joined the celebration sharing gifts and smiling faces.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Vijay for generously sponsoring dresses for Diwali. His thoughtful contribution brought smiles and festive cheer to everyone. The new dresses added extra joy to our celebrations and made the festival even more special.



Rainy Season Activities

During the rainy season, our members stayed indoors and spent their time creatively. The core members engaged in painting and coloring activities, expressing their talents and enjoying the cozy atmosphere. It was a joyful and relaxing time for everyone, filled with laughter, colors, and togetherness.

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Asha Niketan Kolkata blossomed this October with the light of festivals and the warmth of friendship. From the joyous celebrations of Diwali, Kali Puja, and Bhai Phota to the reflective observance of Gandhi Jayanti, our community spirit soared. We were strengthened by the guidance of our National Leader and the service of visiting Jesuit brothers. Amidst successful exhibitions and solemn prayers, we reaffirmed our commitment to creativity, dignity, and love.

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Smritikana Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN KOLKATA





October also marked the solemn celebration of Gandhi Jayanti, a day to honor the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi — the Father of our Nation. At Asha Niketan Kolkata, we recalled his timeless message of truth, non-violence, and compassion, values that continue to inspire our community life. Through reflection and group sharing, our members paid tribute to his vision of equality and dignity for all. Gandhi's ideals deeply resonate with our mission of fostering inclusion, peace, and love among persons with and without disabilities, reminding us that true freedom lies in serving one another with respect and humility.



The Festival of Lights — Diwali — was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm at Asha Niketan Kolkata. The entire community came alive with the warm glow of diyas, colorful decorations, and radiant smiles that reflected the spirit of togetherness and hope. Our members and caregivers joined hands to light up every corner of our homes and hearts, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness and love over despair. Alongside Diwali, Kali Puja was also observed with reverence and devotion, as the community offered prayers seeking strength, protection, and peace. The celebration was marked by prayers, music, sweets, and shared laughter, making it a truly memorable occasion. The festivals reminded us once again that the real light shines through acts of kindness, inclusion, and joy shared within our community.



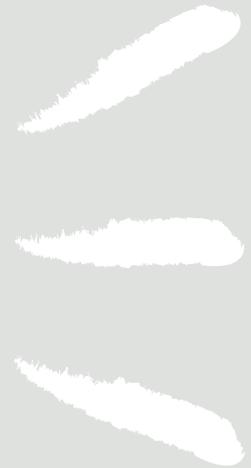
The festival of Bhaiphota was celebrated with affection and joy at Asha Niketan Kolkata. Our members came together to honor the beautiful bond of love and protection between brothers and sisters. The occasion was marked by the traditional tilak ceremony, prayers, sweets, and shared laughter, creating moments of warmth and togetherness. It was a touching reminder of the deep sense of family and mutual care that thrives within our community.



Our National Leader's visit to Asha Niketan Kolkata was truly enriching and inspiring for our community. Together, we visited the Durga Pujo Pandal and shared joyful moments of celebration and togetherness. She also participated in various meetings and programs related to ANK, where we reflected on our strengths, acknowledged our challenges, and identified areas that need more focus and growth. Her guidance and insights have encouraged us to move forward with renewed clarity and commitment.



We were honored to welcome Brother Emmanuel and Brother Rakesh from Dhyana Ashram for a month-long stay at Asha Niketan Kolkata. Their presence added great value to our community life through their spirit of service, commitment, and meaningful engagement with our members. During their time with us, they actively participated in daily activities, reflection sessions, and community gatherings, fostering a sense of harmony and collaboration. We express our sincere appreciation to both brothers for their dedicated involvement and the positive influence they brought to our shared journey of inclusion and growth.



As the festival of lights approached, our Asha Niketan Kolkata family joyfully organized a Pre-Diwali Exhibition to share the creative spirit of our members. Beautiful handmade crafts, candles, diyas, and festive decorations made by our community were showcased and sold at different schools and IT offices. It was heartwarming to see so many people appreciating the efforts and talents of our members. The smiles, encouragement, and support from visitors filled our hearts with light and joy — making this celebration of togetherness even more meaningful.





A special prayer service was held at Asha Niketan Kolkata in loving memory of Brother Christuraj, S.J., whose life and service left an incredible mark on our community. We came together to remember his deep compassion, commitment, and the joyful spirit with which he touched so many lives. His legacy of love, faith, and dedication continues to inspire us all. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



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From the solemn prayers of memorials to the laughter of birthday celebrations, October was truly meaningful at Asha Niketan Nandibazar. We honored Gandhi Jayanti and Pooja with devotion and showcased our talents at the IBS Academy exhibition. We were blessed by the visits of local students and the joy of Smt. Heera Nettur's 70th birthday. Through every event, the bonds of our community grew stronger in love and service.

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Jyothy Susan Joseph

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN NANDIBAZAR



The rituals for the Pooja began on September 29th, with each house and program participating in the preparations. The grand celebration took place on October 2nd, with active participation from the core members and staff. The main rituals of the day were performed by Mr. Kunjiraman, accompanied by core members Mr. Murali and Mr. Jithesh.



The community celebrated Gandhi Jayanti on October 2nd with great enthusiasm. To commemorate the occasion, core members dressed up as Mahatma Gandhi and Bharat Mata, symbolizing peace, truth, and patriotism. The event served as a reminder of Gandhiji's timeless values and his contribution to the nation.





The community organized a first-year memorial prayer for Adv. T. K. G. Nambiar, former Chairman and GC member of the community. Staff and core members gathered to offer their prayers and pay tribute to his memory. Representatives of the core members and staff also attended the memorial function held at his residence, honoring his contributions and service to the community.



The community organized an exhibition at IBS Academy, Koyilandy on 16th October, which was successfully conducted by four core members and four staff. The exhibition featured a range of newly made products, including invisible chains and bracelets, which received great appreciation and positive response from the visitors.



My Journey with Asha Niketan

I came to know about Asha Niketan through my neighbour, Mr. Sebastian. Every Saturday, he used to visit the community and often helped in taking core members to the beach. He now serves as a priest in Agra.



At that time, as a graduate, I was looking for a job to support my family of six daughters. My father worked in a tyre shop in Gujarat, and my younger sister had been affected by polio at the age of one and a half. Our family faced many financial challenges, and understanding my situation, Fr. Sebastian enquired whether I would be interested in serving at Asha Niketan. I readily agreed.

One day, my elder sister and I visited the community for the first time. Mr. Murali, a core member, was the first person to welcome me. He was on his way to buy tapioca for the community and, seeing us, stopped to greet and spoke with us warmly. His simple and kind gesture gave me my first glimpse of the spirit of Asha Niketan.

Later, the Community Leader, Mr. V Subbaiyan (Subbetta), officially welcomed me and gave me an introduction of the community—its history, values, and daily life. I stayed for fifteen days, before I officially joining as an assistant on 20th July 1993.



Those first fifteen days were truly eye-opening. I was deeply moved by the spiritual rhythm and sense of togetherness that define community life.

As a follower of the Hindu faith, my time at Asha Niketan taught me the beauty of interreligious living—understanding and respecting the rituals and beliefs of other faiths while sharing life together.



I learned that the essence of community lies in sharing, togetherness, and mutual respect.

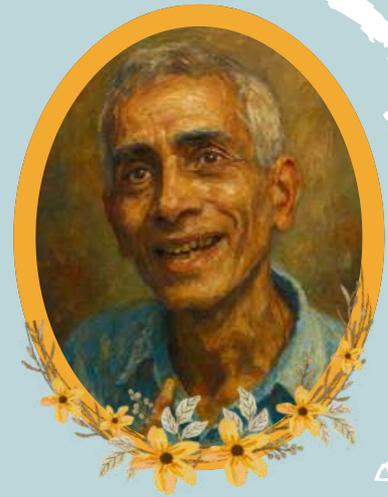
I was also blessed with opportunities to visit other Asha Niketan communities across India. Each visit was a great learning experience and a source of inspiration.

What makes Asha Niketan truly special is that it offers a way of life that cannot be found in any other place. The community has always understood and supported me through every stage of my life, especially during personal and family challenges. I constantly feel the divine presence here—in the love and care of the core members and assistants who surround me.

I am truly grateful for my 32 years at Asha Niketan—for the meaningful relationships I've formed here and for the person I've grown to be through this wonderful journey.



The community observed the first death anniversary memorial prayer of our beloved founding core member, Jayamithran, on 22nd October. Representatives from the GC and AGM, along with staff and core members, gathered together in prayer to fondly remember his life, love, and contributions to the community. It was a heartfelt moment of gratitude and remembrance for all that he meant to Asha Niketan.



The community joyfully celebrated the 70th birthday of our former GC member, Smt. Heera Nettur, whose love and continued support have always been a blessing to Asha Niketan. As a token of her affection and appreciation, Heera Ma'am gifted dresses to all core members and staff, filling the day with warmth and joy. As a gesture of love and gratitude, the GC members presented her with a beautiful Kathakali drawing, while the community gifted a memento in appreciation of her long-standing bond and support. Adding to the joy, her pre-degree friends also joined the celebration, making the occasion truly special with their presence and shared moments of togetherness.





On 23rd October, students from the Department of Business Management, St. Joseph's Devagiri College, visited the community. The students presented lively performances for the core members and later joined them in songs, dance, and friendly interactions, creating moments filled with joy and togetherness. As a token of their love and support, the students and teachers also made a donation to the community, making the visit even more meaningful and memorable for everyone.

On 29th October, students and teachers from the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of CKGM High School, Chingapuram, visited the community. During their visit, the students presented wonderful performances, and our core members also showcased their talents, creating a joyful and interactive atmosphere. The NSS team also donated groceries to the community as a gesture of care and support. It was a delightful and memorable time spent together, filled with laughter, connection, and mutual appreciation.



Thank you!



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