



JANUARY 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of FMR India

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This January was a whirlwind of activity across FMR India communities! We celebrated New Year's with beach gatherings and joyous picnics. Pongal festivals brought gratitude for the harvest. Communities welcomed visits from National Leaders and Fundraisers for guidance and support. The Kolkata and Asansol community hosted Inclusion Formation, and Chennai inaugurated its new ladies' building. Dental camps promoted health, and community stalls fostered connection. It was a month of progress, celebration, and a commitment to inclusion!

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Subin Varghese

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
FMR INDIA



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2024 brings renewed focus on accessibility and equality for differently-abled individuals. L'Arche International and FMR India are leading the charge, celebrating diversity and empowering voices. We seek a new International Leader, and our Indian communities demonstrate the beautiful relationship between carers and core members. Your support makes this work possible. Let's build an inclusive India together!

”

Dr Premanand M E

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
FMR INDIA



From the desk of the President, FMR INDIA

BY DR PREMANAND M E

The dawn of this year, 2024 holds significant promise for differently-abled individuals, as organizations like L'Arche International and FMR India take on the responsibility of shaping a future that prioritizes accessibility, equality, and empowerment.

In the spirit of the new year, L'Arche International and FMR India is committed to celebrate diversity, promote inclusivity, and amplify the voices of differently-abled individuals. Through innovative programs and partnerships, FMR India aims to break down societal barriers, championing an India where everyone, regardless of ability, can thrive.

The Nomination Committee is working to find a new International Leader. In the coming months, we will soon see a candidate who will be presented to the Extended Federation Assembly.

Many programs are going on in the five communities across India. As you read this magazine, it will give you a sense of understanding of how the symbiosis works between carers and core members. Please feel free to reach out and contribute in whatever way you can.

Happy reading.

Warm regards



Dr Premanand M E
National President
FMR India.



Happy
NEW
Year

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As we embarked on the journey into 2024, we carry with us a multitude of dreams, anticipations, and hopes. I extend my sincere appreciation to the myriad experiences of 2023, for the uplifting moments that spurred me on and for the trials that served as invaluable lessons in leadership. Despite facing challenges, FMR experienced growth throughout the year. We welcomed numerous new members across various positions, while bidding farewell to others. As we eagerly await the unfolding of the new year, I am excited to see what it holds for FMR India, as we reiterate our commitment to working collaboratively towards our mission.

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Bharathi Gopalakrishnan

NATIONAL LEADER,
FMR INDIA



Inclusion Formation: Inclusion holds significant importance and is a central focus for our communities. To enhance caregivers' comprehension of its significance, training sessions were conducted at both community and national levels, including during the National Assembly. Ms. Sutapa Paul and Mr. Ashutosh Dutta facilitated these sessions, drawing from their experience in an inclusion initiative held in the Philippines. The sessions provided valuable insights into integrating individuals with disabilities into decision-making processes and other matters pertaining to them.



Visit of the National fundraiser- Shakeeb, had the privilege of witnessing the remarkable work being done in both communities, and he is deeply impressed by the dedication and compassion evident in every aspect of their initiatives. What struck him the most in both communities was the immense care and support provided for the integration of individuals with intellectual disabilities into the mainstream. Whether through vocational training, therapy, or community outreach, it is evident that Asha Niketan Kolkata and Asansol are making a tangible difference in the lives of those they serve. The visit spurred discussions with the board chairs of both communities to explore potential locations and opportunities for fundraising.

Governing Body meeting and National Assembly – The governing body meeting and National assembly was held on 27th January. Discussions included the revision of HR policies, presentations on fundraising, communications, and formation reports. Asha Niketan Chennai, our gracious host community, warmly greeted all attendees and generously offered a tour of Mamallapuram following the meeting. At the meeting – the second mandate for the National Leader was confirmed and approved.



As I enter into my second mandate, I commit to further strengthening community engagement and fostering collaboration among members. I aim to implement initiatives that promote inclusivity, transparency, and innovation. Additionally, I pledge to actively seek feedback and adapt strategies to better serve their evolving needs. Together, let us continue to work towards building a thriving and resilient community for all. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone for their prayers and support throughout my first term in office.

- Bharathi Gopalakrishnan.

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This January, the Asansol Community was buzzing with activity! We welcomed our National Leader Ms. Bharathi, our National Fundraiser Mr. Shakeeb Ahmed Khan, and friends from the Kolkata community. Core members Emmanuel and Sanju proudly represented us at the National Assembly and Inclusion Formation. A highlight was our community picnic at Maithon Dam. We also hosted an important Inclusion Formation led by Mrs. Sutapa Paul and Mr. Ashutosh Dutta.

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Sibhasish Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN ASANSOL





We extend our sincere appreciation to our respected National Leader, Ms. Bharathi Di, for gracing, instructing, and leading the Asansol Community during her stay from January 15th to January 22nd.



We welcome our national fundraiser, Mr. Shakeeb Ahmed Khan, and Mrs. Sutapa Paul, Assistant from the Kolkata community.



One of our old friends, Eleanor O'Driscoll, visited our community along with Gautam da, an assistant, and Neelchand da, a core member from the Kolkata community.





Emmanuel Kerketta, a core member, and Assistant Sanju Bagdi attended the National Assembly and the nationally organized Inclusion Formation.



We enjoyed a delightful community picnic at Maithon Dam on January 21st with Core members, Assistants, parents, friends, board members, and national leader.



The Inclusion Formation took place in our community on the 19th and 20th of January. The formation was led by Mrs. Sutapa Paul and Mr. Ashutosh Dutta.

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We had a wonderful New Year's celebration filled with delicious food, laughter, and candlelight. We're also excited for Pongal, the South Indian harvest festival! This celebration centers around a special dish, also called Pongal, made with rice, milk, and jaggery. It's a time to give thanks and celebrate with our community.

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Charles

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN BANGALORE



We had an amazing time celebrating the New Year; everyone was filled with joy. We shared a meal, laughed together, and each person lit a candle.



Pongal is a harvest festival celebrated in South India. The festival involves preparing a special dish called Pongal, made with newly harvested rice, milk, and jaggery. It's a time of joy, thanksgiving, and community celebrations.

India celebrates Republic Day on January 26th. This day commemorates the enactment of the Constitution of India in 1950, officially establishing the country as a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic.



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January was a month of celebration and progress! We enjoyed a vibrant Pongal festival, inaugurated our new ladies' building, and participated in a successful community stall at Casagrand Sereno. We're grateful for heartwarming visits and the impactful dental camp hosted by Sathyabama Dental College.

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Lozilo Kikon

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN CHENNAI



On January 12th, we held a vibrant Pongal celebration filled with games, dances, and prayers. The event was a delightful experience, thoroughly enjoyed by our members and attended by some of the governing members. It was indeed a memorable day for everyone involved.



We recently celebrated the inauguration of the ladies' building on 20th, an event eagerly anticipated by all of us. The occasion was a resounding success, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all sponsors and donors for their generous support and contributions. It was a remarkable display of dedication and teamwork."

On the 28th, we had a stall at Casagrand Sereno, Chennai. Ms. Tenzin, along with two core members, Pachammal and Venkatash, attended. We had an enjoyable time at the event.





Nishan and his friend warmed the hearts of our core members with their visit, fostering joyful connections. We're incredibly grateful for their time and the smiles they brought!



On February 22nd, Sathyabama Dental College hosted a successful dental camp, showcasing the dedication of its assistants and core members. They went beyond screenings, providing valuable health education materials & demonstrations on oral hygiene, even sponsoring Colgate supplies for the community. This impactful event served the community well.

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Our community enjoyed a joyous New Year's picnic with friends and donors, kicking off the year with unity. We celebrated Republic Day inclusively, honoring India's diversity. Fundraising is vital for our progress, and we welcomed our National Fundraiser's visit. The National Leader's visit also boosted our growth through formation and guidance.

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Smritikana Mondal

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN KOLKATA



The eagerly anticipated New Year's picnic was a joyful gathering organized by the community. Friends, Donors came together, creating a vibrant atmosphere filled with happiness and shared moments. The event marked the start of the year with unity & camaraderie.



In the spirit of inclusivity, our community commemorates Republic Day with adapted celebrations, fostering unity & empowerment through accessible events that honor the nation's diversity & principles of equality.



Funding is crucial for the continued progress of our community; without it, we cannot sustain our momentum. Our national fundraiser recently visited our community to support our financial needs.



National leader's community visit is significant for growth through formation, individual meetings, and community life improvement.

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We kicked off the New Year with a beach trip filled with hope and prayers! Pongal brought us together to celebrate the harvest with gratitude. Thanks to Sahani Hospital, our community received free health checkups. We're also cultivating fresh vegetables and celebrating the inauguration of our new home, Deepalayam!

”

Lilly Rose

COMMUNITY LEADER,
ASHA NIKETAN NANDIBAZAR



Asha Niketan Nandi Bazar extends warm wishes to all a Happy New Year. As a team, we welcomed the new year at the scenic beach near our residence. All our core members, staffs, and parents cherished this moment, expressing hope and offered prayers for the growth and blessings of the upcoming year.



Pongal is a festive occasion where we express gratitude to the Sun, Mother Nature, and the diverse farm animals that play a crucial role in ensuring a plentiful harvest on 15th Jan'24. As a community, we gather to prepare and enjoy Pongal, creating a joyful atmosphere of celebration.

The Sahani hospital organized a monthly free health checkup for our community. A dedicated team of doctors conducted comprehensive health examinations for all community members, including the parents of core members.



Lancy and Mithran underwent their health checkup and cooperated exceptionally well. A heartfelt appreciation to the Sahani Hospital team.



The garden team is presently in the process of preparing a mixture for planting vegetables in grow bags, and they have successfully readied 15 bags.

We have initiated a pilot project by planting Ragi seeds for the first time.



Our core members have a new home! We inaugurated the new "Deepalayam" on January 12, 2024.





Thank you!



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