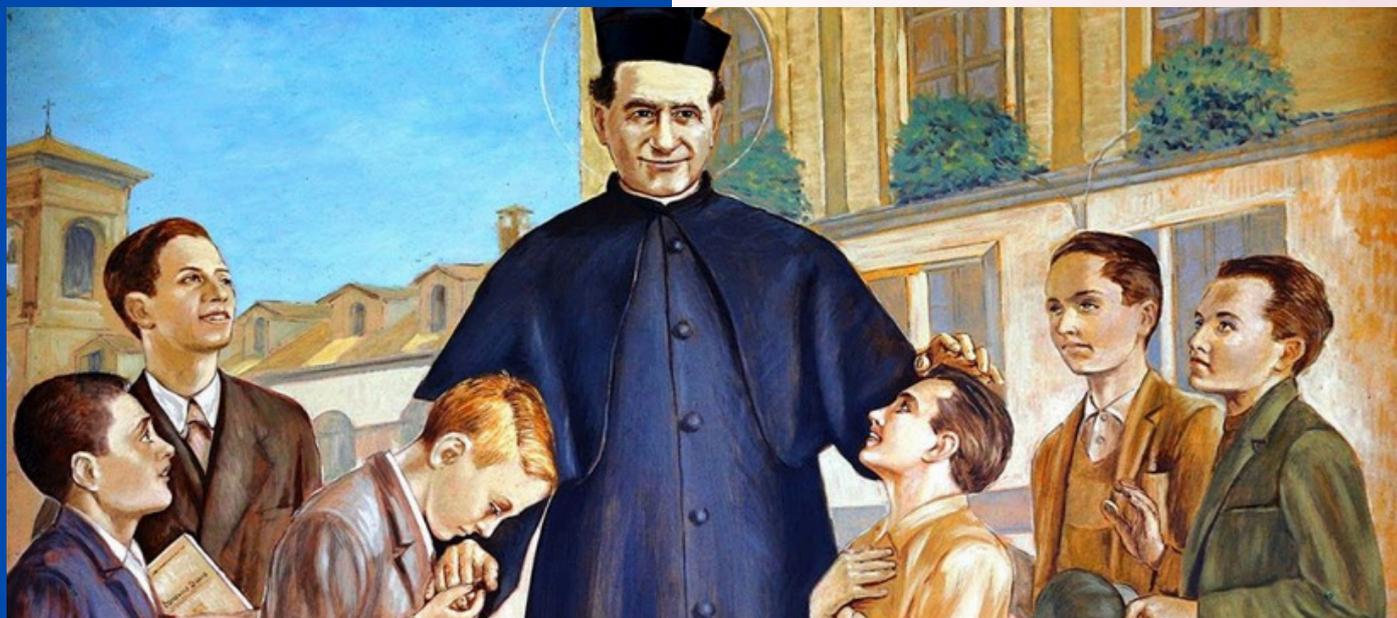


DON BOSCO ANBU ILLAM

News Letter



About us

Don Bosco Anbu Illam (DBAI) Chennai is a Child Rights organization Started by Salesians of Don Bosco in 1985 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, South India. It's a globally well-networked organization which serves the young at risk, drawing Inspiration from Don Bosco, a Catholic priest from Italy. It offers Residential and family-based care for street, working and vulnerable children in the slums and pavements. It is Registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration act 27 of 1975 S. No. 34/1986. Income tax exemption is available under 80G. The homes are registered under JJ Act 2015.

Don Bosco Anbu Illam has 2 shelter homes dedicated to providing care and protection for children. Our organization extends its reach through various community centers, offering support and intervention to children, women and youth in unprivileged areas. Through these initiatives, we aim to create a positive impact and foster a safe environment for children in need.

Welcome to the latest edition of "Voices of Hope" the official newsletter of Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Chennai. This publication serves as your comprehensive source for the latest updates, initiatives and progress at Don Bosco Anbu Illam. Our mission is to empower communities through impactful programs that promote well-being, education and sustainable development, making a meaningful difference in the lives we touch.

A Blessed Visit: Rector Major Among Us

On 13th February 2026, Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard, Rector Major and global superior of the Salesians of Don Bosco, visited the Don Bosco Anbu Illam which was a significant and inspiring occasion for the community. He was accompanied by the INM Provincial Fr. Don Bosco, Vice Provincial Fr. John Alexander and their council members.

During the visit, the Rector Major was welcomed warmly by the children, staff and Salesian community. Rector Major's visit encouraged them to continue the mission of caring for and educating young people, especially the poor and marginalized. He appreciated the services of Anbu Illam and offered his blessings, guidance and words of motivation, strengthening the spirit of Don Bosco's charism among everyone present.



Rejoicing in the Spirit of St. John Bosco

The month culminated in the grand celebration of our patron, St. John Bosco. The feast day 31st January 2026 witnessed the participation of children, staff, benefactors, past beneficiaries, parents and officials. The event was a vibrant tapestry of gratitude, cultural performances and shared meals, profoundly strengthening the unity and enduring spirit of Don Bosco's mission among everyone present.



Joyous Pongal Celebration

The DBAI community celebrated Pongal on 15th January 2026 with great enthusiasm and joy! The day began with the celebration of the Holy Mass, bringing everyone together in gratitude and togetherness. This was followed by a series of traditional games where children and staff participated with excitement and joy. The vibrant celebrations truly brought everyone together, creating memories to cherish. The highlight of the day was the delicious Pongal meal, lovingly prepared and shared among all, symbolizing unity, gratitude and togetherness. It was an beautiful celebration enjoyed to the core!



Past Pupils Meet – A Homecoming

Bosco Illam was filled with nostalgia and inspiration during the annual Past Pupil Meet held on 25th January 2026. Alumni from various walks of life returned to their childhood home, sharing their journeys and achievements. Their interactions with the children provided them a powerful, real-life role models, demonstrating that with perseverance and the foundation received here, bright futures is possible. The meet reinforced the everlasting bond of the Bosco Illam family.



A Visit of Kindness from Ms. Ann

We were honoured by a warm visit from Ms. Ann, a benefactor from the Netherlands on 09th January 2026. Her genuine interest and heartfelt interactions with the children left a lasting impression. The visit was made even more special by her kind gesture of distributing new school bags to all the boys and girls. The children's joyful expressions and heartfelt gratitude were a testament to the happiness that such thoughtful support brings, empowering them for the academic year ahead.



An Engaging Visit

The Founder of Invisible Girl Project, Ms. Jill McElya, visited Saranalayam on 28th February 2026 along with the esteemed sponsors. During their visit, they spent meaningful time with the girls, engaging in heartfelt conversations about their future goals, dreams and hobbies. It was a truly inspiring and impactful session that strengthened connections and encouraged the girls to aspire confidently toward their ambitions.



BOSCO ILLAM & SARANALAYAM

Adventure at Tada Waterfalls

An exhilarating day out to Tada Falls for boys of Anbu Illam and the girls of Saranalayam were held on 04th and 11th of January, 2026, respectively provided a perfect blend of adventure and tranquillity for our children. Amidst the stunning natural beauty, they explored, played and refreshed themselves. The trip was more than just a break; it was an opportunity for the children to bond with each other outside their regular environment, fostering teamwork and creating shared memories. The joy on their faces as they connected with nature was a truly rewarding sight.



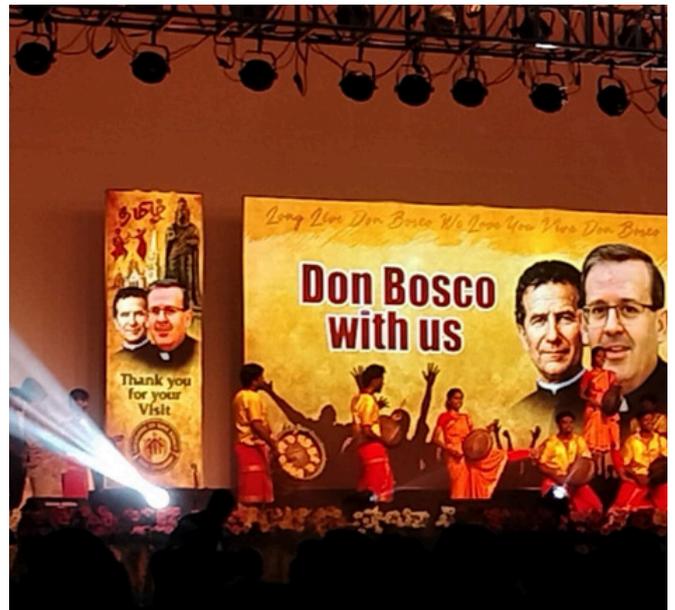
MGM – A Recreational Trip

On 1st February, the children went on an exciting trip to MGM Theme park. They enjoyed a variety of rides and participated enthusiastically in the fun activities. The outing filled the children with joy, laughter and excitement throughout the day. It provided a refreshing break from their daily routine and allowed them to relax and bond with one another. The trip turned out to be a memorable and joyful experience for all the children.



Rector Major Visit's to Don Bosco Perambur

On 14th February 2026, Fr. Fabio Attard, the current Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco and the worldwide head of the Catholic Salesian congregation, recently visited Don Bosco – affiliated institutions in Tamil Nadu and other parts of South India as part of his animation and pastoral visit to India in February 2026. The children from Bosco Illam and Saranalayam were also given the opportunity to participate in this special program, which was held at Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Perambur, Chennai.



DLIC Inspection by Officials

On 10th February 2026, the DLIC inspection was conducted at the Saranalayam. The inspection was carried out to review and ensure that the institution is functioning in accordance with the JJ Act and rules. A total of five members participated in the inspection, including representatives from DCPU, CWC and Medicine. They have verified ICP files, medical records of children, tasted food samples, also reviewed overall care, hygiene, safety arrangement of the institution.



Awareness Session on Mental Health and Substance Abuse

On 22nd February 2026, Fr. Joe Prabu SDB, Director of Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (YaR), Ms.Moumitha, National Program Coordinator and Mr.Mugilan, Hub Coordinator visited Bosco Illam and Saranalayam to conduct an interactive session on mental health and substance abuse for the children. The session focused on creating awareness, promoting emotional well – being and addressing issues related to addiction and Psychological health.



Visit from USA

We warmly welcomed Ms. Sarah and IGP team on 06th January, 2026 to Saranalayam. Their visit was a memorable and meaningful experience for everyone. They interacted closely with the children, taking time to understand their wishes, dreams and future aspirations. The children enthusiastically presented a small dance performance, which added joy and liveliness to the occasion. We are deeply grateful for the team's encouragement and continued support.



Inauguration of the Don Bosco Month

On 7th of January, 2026, the Don Bosco Month was solemnly inaugurated by Fr. Simolin Ferk, SDB under the theme 'Don Bosco – A Model for the Modern World'. Through talks and reflections, children were introduced to the timeless values of St. John Bosco - joy, kindness and dedication to the young. This month-long focus aims to inspire our children to incorporate these virtues into their own lives, providing them with a moral compass rooted in our patron's exemplary life.



Engaging Time with Children



On 10th January 2026, students from Rotaract club visited Saranalayam and spent quality time with children. Their visit began with an engaging ice breaking session that helped build rapport and created a cheerful atmosphere. They also generously sponsored essential items required for the children's daily needs. The visit was meaningful, supportive and brought happiness to the children, making it a memorable day for everyone.

Kick-off to Football Coaching

The grounds of Bosco Illam are now buzzing with energy as regular football coaching sessions have begun from 10th January 2026. These sessions are designed to teach more than just the sport; they are lessons in discipline, teamwork and true sportsmanship. As the children learn new skills, they also build physical fitness, confidence and the understanding that working together towards a common goal is a victory in itself. Moreover, it is a happy occasion where our own past pupil Mr. Ravi is skilling them up in football. This aspect brings fresh hopes for the children.



Educational Trip to Vandalur Zoo

On 16th January 2026, an educational outing to Vandalur Zoo offered our children a fantastic day of learning and a sense of wonder. They observed diverse wildlife, learned about biodiversity and understood the importance of conservation. The trip combined exposure to the natural world with pure, unadulterated fun. The children returned with widened horizons, new knowledge and cherished memories of a day spent in exploration and adventure.



Disagreeing Without Disconnecting

On 17th January 2026, Ms. Roopa Jasmin, Counsellor, conducted a group activity session on the theme “Friends and Fights.” The 30-minute session focused on promoting positive peer relationships, reducing aggressive behaviour, and encouraging peaceful ways of resolving conflicts among children. Through interactive activities and discussions, the children learned to identify the difference between friendly and fighting behaviours. They were introduced to the concept of “Stop, Think and Act” to help them practice self-control and make better decisions during conflicts. The session successfully encouraged empathy, respectful communication, and healthier friendships among the participants.



National Girl Child Day

On 25th January 2026, National Girl Child Day was celebrated with a special focus on Digital empowerment, Financial Literary, STEM education, safety and leadership. The program aimed to create awareness and inspire confidence among the girls. Various activities and discussions helped them understand the importance of education, Technology and Self Reliance. We had Ms. Bharathi as resource person for the program who is a social worker to give insights on the theme to our girls. The program encouraged the girls to dream big and empowered them to shape a confident and independent future.

Republic Day @ Bosco Illam

Patriotic spirit soared at Bosco Illam during our Republic Day celebration on 26th January 2026. The day began with a prayer service followed by the hoisting of the national flag. Fr. Yesu delivered an inspiring message, reminding everyone of the values enshrined in our Constitutional justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The ceremony instilled a sense of national pride and civic responsibility in the hearts of our children.



Republic Day @ Saranalayam



On 26th January 2026, Republic day was celebrated at Saranalayam with great Patriotic spirit and enthusiasm. The children actively participated in the celebrations, expressing their love for the Nation. The program highlighted the importance of National Unity and the values of freedom, equality and responsibility. The celebration fostered a sense of pride, discipline and commitment toward the country among the children.

Gift to young ones

On 28th January 2026, the children in the age group of 8 to 13 years attended an event organized by the Rotary club. As a gesture of support and encouragement, the Rotary club gifted essential stationery kits to the children. The event was engaging, meaningful and greatly appreciated by the children.



Session on Self Love

On 14th February 2026, Ms. Roopa the counselor conducted a session on self-love. As the day coincided with Valentine's Day, the session emphasized the importance of loving oneself first. Highlighting self-love as a vital aspect of personal well-being, the session was thoughtfully planned and conducted on valentine's day to reinforce this message



*Children's Imagination
is the Most Powerful Tool they possess.
It is the Key to Unlocking their
Dreams and Creativity.*



Session on “Healthy Habits and Positive Behaviour”

On 17th February 2026, Bosco Illam organized a meaningful Session on the topic “Healthy Habits and Positive Behaviour.” A total of 22 children, aged between 6 and 12 years, actively participated with great enthusiasm and interest. The session focused on nurturing essential skills that contribute to the overall well-being and character formation of the children. Emphasis was given to the importance of personal hygiene, healthy eating habits, regular physical exercise and maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings. The children were reminded that good health is the foundation for a happy and successful life.

In addition to physical well-being, the session also highlighted the significance of positive behaviour. The children were guided on practicing good manners, showing respect to elders and peers, sharing with others and developing a helping attitude. Through simple explanations, real-life examples, and interactive activities, the concepts were made easy to understand and apply in their daily lives. The interactive nature of the session encouraged the children to participate actively, ask questions and share their experiences. This engagement helped reinforce the message that small daily habits and positive actions can make a big difference in shaping their future. It was indeed a fruitful and enriching experience for all who participated.



Career Guidance Session on Paramedical and Montessori Courses

A Doctor named Suchitra, who runs an institution, visited and conducted an interactive session on 22nd February 2026, for the students of 10th and 12th standard regarding paramedical and Montessori courses available after completion of their studies. During the session, detailed information was provided about the course benefits, career opportunities, job vacancies, fee structure and the support services offered to students throughout the course duration. The session helped the students gain clarity about their higher education and career options.



Blessings Before Board Exams

On 24th February 2026, a special Mass was celebrated by Fr. Joe Anand, Director of Don Bosco Vazhikatti and other Salesians for the children who are appearing for their Board Examinations. The solemn service was organized to pray for their success, peace of mind and good health during this important phase of their academic journey. Students participated in the Mass with devotion and hope. The atmosphere was prayerful and uplifting, inspiring the students to approach their exams with faith and determination.



"My Body, My Safety"

On 26th February 2026, a General Awareness Education session on the topic "My Body, My Safety" was conducted for students from 4th to 9th Standard. The session focused on personal hygiene and creating awareness about good touch and bad touch, helping children understand the importance of protecting their bodies in today's world. The objectives of the session were to promote healthy hygiene practices, emphasize respect for one's body and educate students on identifying unsafe touch and responding appropriately. The session was interactive and child-friendly, with simple and age-appropriate explanations. Children were encouraged to ask questions and actively participate in discussions.



Power, Empathy and Responsibility

On 28th February 2026, the session began with a brief discussion on empathy and the responsible use of power, followed by a documentary screening on the Vachathi incident. The film highlighted how misuse of authority can harm vulnerable communities and reinforced that true power lies in protection, fairness, and integrity. The boys actively participated in the reflection, demonstrating a clear understanding of empathy and responsible leadership.



Don Bosco Month Celebrations



Drawing Competition

Creativity flourished during the special drawing competition held on 09th January, 2026 in honour of Don Bosco. Children of all ages participated actively, translating their understanding of Don Bosco's life and spirit into vibrant artwork. The competition was not about winning but about encouraging self-expression and reflecting on the values they learn. The event successfully provided a colourful and engaging platform for our children to showcase their unique talents and perspectives.



Poem & Essay Competition

The literary talents of our children were on full display during the Poem and Essay competition held on 19th January 2026 in honour of Don Bosco. Participants expressed their understanding of Salesian values like joy, kindness, and leadership through powerful words. The commendable enthusiasm and participation highlighted their reflective abilities and creative writing skills, deepening their connection to our guiding principles.



Creative Reels Competition

As part of the Don Bosco month celebration, a dynamic Reels competition sparked the children's digital creativity on 12th January 2026. They enthusiastically crafted short videos, showcasing their talents, daily joys, and festive spirit. This modern avenue of expression promoted technological literacy, storytelling, and confident self-presentation. The enthusiasm was palpable as they became creators, sharing their world through a new and exciting medium.



Integrated Child Protection Scheme

Pongal Celebration at Community

Thai Pongal was celebrated at Bojaraja Nagar and Otteri evening study centres on 16th and 18th January 2026 respectively.



Vocational Training Centers

VTC Trainees' Day of Fun & Sharing

On 24th January 2026, Trainees from the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) organized a delightful day program for the Pongal celebration. The event, filled with collaborative cooking, sharing of food and fun games, was a testament to the spirit of the wider Bosco family. It promoted joy, bonding and practical learning. The day ended with gratitude and joy.

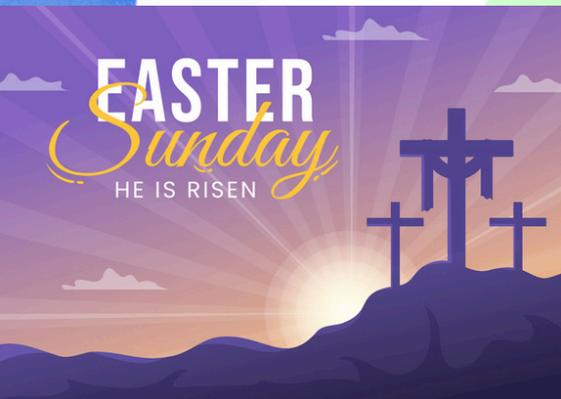




*Only Children
Believe they're Capable
of Everything*

-Paulo Coelho

CELEBRATIONS & COMMEMORATION



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