

NEWSLETTER



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.

About us

Don Bosco Anbu Illam 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 care for street and working children and family-based care for 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 home is registered under JJ act 2015.

Don Bosco Anbu Illam operates multiple 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 in underserved areas. Through these initiatives, we aim to create a positive impact and foster a safe environment for children in need.

Homelink DIGI Training Program

The training on Homelink DIGI was organized by INM Homelink in collaboration with Don Bosco National YaR Forum from 12th to 13th November 2025 at the Provincial House for the all the INM YaR centers. The training aimed to enhance data management in all the nodes. The Vice Provincial Fr. John Alexander, SDB honored the valedictory ceremony with his presence and distributed the certificates to all the participants.



A Remarkable Day Filled with Celebration and Blessings

On 14th November 2025, we experienced a truly remarkable day as we welcomed the INM Provincial, Rev. Fr. L Don Bosco, SDB for his Official Visitation. The day began with the blessing of our newly renovated chapel at the Boys' Home, followed by a meaningful Holy Mass that filled our community with spiritual joy. The Provincial also met with our staff to understand the ongoing projects and shared warm words of encouragement for their dedication to the mission. Our past pupils also had the opportunity to meet the Provincial during this visit.

The day was made even more memorable as he graciously presided over the Scout Investiture Ceremony. As the visit coincided with Children's Day, the celebrations concluded with a vibrant and joyful Children's Day program, bringing smiles and energy to our young ones. The Provincial Visitation brought a series of meaningful and joyful events to DBAI. From spiritual moments to vibrant celebrations, the entire day was filled with grace, inspiration and happiness for our community. We are deeply grateful for his presence, guidance and blessings.



Birthday Blast of Fr. Rector

The Birthday of DBAI Rector Fr. Andrews Stephen Raj, SDB, was joyfully celebrated on 20th November 2025, together with the Salesians, SMA sisters, Volunteers, Staff, Past pupils and Children. A special Mass was offered in thanksgiving for his fruitful religious and social life, praying for his continued strength, wisdom and dedicated service to the young ones.

The celebration was enriched by lively performances from the children, who expressed their love and respect through graceful dances and melodious songs.

The staff took the opportunity to share and appreciate the many admirable qualities of Fr. Andrews. They spoke warmly of his leadership, compassion and unwavering commitment to the mission. The event was an memorable and meaningful celebration for everyone



Staff Christmas Celebration

Christmas was joyfully celebrated on 23rd December 2025 with DBAI staff through fun games, gift sharing, Holy Mass and festive meal. Fr. Alex, SDB presided over the mass with other confreres and delivered the Christmas message to the staff.



Renovation of Toilet & Chapel

The renovation of the Toilet Block at Bosco Illam was recently completed, marking an important step toward improving hygiene and the overall well-being of our boys. The newly renovated facility was jointly blessed by Fr. Thamathiruthuvam, Rector of Don Bosco school Ayanavaram and Fr. Johnson Bashyam, Former Rector of DBAI on 09th December, 2025.

Followed by toilet block blessing, the beautifully renovated chapel at Saranalayam was also blessed by the Priests along with Fr. Joseph Leo, Rector of Don Bosco Perambur and Community Confreres. The Holy Mass was celebrated with the children, creating a joyful and grace-filled atmosphere. It was a meaningful moment for the entire community, reminding everyone of the importance of gratitude, togetherness and spiritual nourishment.



Grand Christmas Celebration at Bosco Illam

Christmas was happily celebrated with Bosco Illam and Saranalyam children on 23rd December, 2025. Fr. Charles presided over the Holy Mass. The children presented various cultural performances, adding joy and enthusiasm to the celebration. Gifts were distributed to all the children, making the occasion memorable and happy for everyone.



Bosco Illam & Saranalayam

ICP Training

On 12th November 2025, Staff members from Child Care Institutions participated in the "Individual Care Plan" Training conducted by District Child Protection Unit in association with Miracle Foundation. The training highlighted the revisions introduced in the newly adopted ICP and provided guidance on completing the form with special attention to the individual needs of each child. It helped them to gain broader understanding of the purpose of the Individual Care Plan.



Inter Club Kabaddi Match

On 1st November 2025, Bosco Illam came alive with energy and enthusiasm as children themselves organised an Inter Club Kabaddi Match under the guidance of the Sports Club. Demonstrating remarkable initiative, the young participants took charge of team formation, ground marking and match coordination. The event not only promoted physical fitness and discipline but also nurtured leadership qualities, teamwork and mutual respect among the children. The spirited evening concluded on a joyful note, leaving everyone inspired by the children's sense of responsibility and sportsmanship.



Walking Picnic to Saranalayam

On 2nd November 2025, Children of Bosco Illam enjoyed a meaningful walking picnic to Saranalayam, providing them a refreshing break from routine. The outing blended reflection and recreation, beginning with a respectful visit to the cemetery, followed by lively party games and a friendly football match. Surrounded by nature, the children experienced relaxation, strengthened friendships and expressed heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to enjoy a peaceful and memorable day together.

Children's Day Celebration

The spirit of joy and gratitude filled Bosco Illam on 9th November, 2025 as we celebrated the anticipated Children's Day with great enthusiasm. The day began with the Holy Eucharist, where special prayers were offered for all our boys and girls.

Fr. Arulanandam SDB presided over the celebration and shared an inspiring message, reminding the children of their unique gifts and the importance of growing with love and discipline.

Following the Eucharist, a lively cultural programme unfolded. Our children confidently showcased their talents through dance, music and creative performances, filling the hall with energy and applause. Their participation reflected both their enthusiasm and the encouragement they receive from the staff. Volunteers organized various games to make the event even more enjoyable.

The celebration concluded with a festive lunch, shared joyfully by everyone, leaving the children with a sense of belonging and happiness as they returned to their daily routine.



Friendly Match

On 16th November 2025, Friendly football and volleyball matches were held between the children of Bosco Illam and Don Bosco, Perambur, fostering healthy interaction and camaraderie. The matches encouraged teamwork, discipline and fair play while strengthening bonds of friendship between the institutions. The children thoroughly enjoyed the sporting exchange, which highlighted the importance of physical activity and positive social engagement.



Group Session on Circle of Trust

On 16th November 2025, the Circle of Trust activity was conducted at Saranalayam by Ms. Kawya, Counselor, to promote emotional expression, trust and group connection among students. The session created a safe and welcoming environment through clear ground rules and structured turn-taking using a soft ball. Students actively participated by sharing their feelings at their comfort level, showing empathy and respect for one another. The activity concluded with reflections, leaving students feeling supported, connected and more confident in listening and expressing emotions.



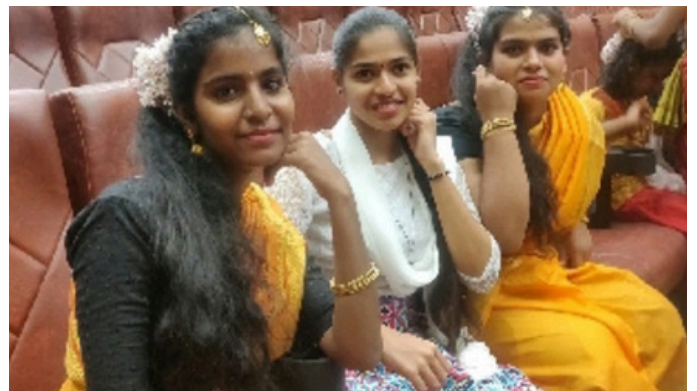
Session on Acupunture

On 17th November 2025, a session on Acupunture and its Essentials was facilitated by Ms. Kouselya D.A.Sc from Acupunture Home, enabling the children to develop an understanding of this new concept.



A day of Talent

On 22nd November 2025, the children participated in group dance, singing and drawing competitions organized by the Rotary Club of Madras. All the children received participation certificates and they won the first prize in the drawing competition. The children performed very well and enjoyed the entire day.



Group Session on Building Healthy Relationship.

On 23rd November 2025, a session on 'Building Healthy Relationships' was conducted at Saranalayam by Ms. Kawya, Counselor. The session helped students understand trust, respect and positive communication through interactive activities and discussions. Students learned key qualities of healthy and unhealthy relationships, along with basic communication skills, encouraging them to build respectful and supportive relationships.

Guiding to Right Paths

Career Guidance Program was organized by Don Bosco Vazhikatti for both Boys and Girls on 27th and 28th of November 2025 respectively. The session highlighted effective study and memory techniques. It provided detailed information on various career opportunities, especially professional courses and government jobs available after the 12th standard and emphasized the importance of proper study planning and time management. An interactive discussion session allowed students to ask questions and clarify their doubts. Overall, the session helped students gain clarity about career options and motivated them to plan their future effectively.



Mastering the Minds

On 30th November 2025, the boys of Bosco Illam MKB Nagar, attended an inspiring animation session on 'Goal Setting,' 'Behavioral Management' and 'Emotional Balance.' The session received excellent feedback from the boys and proved truly enriching. We, the Anbu Illam community, extend our heartfelt thanks to Niraivagam for this wonderful program.



Healthy Today, Better Tomorrow

The comprehensive health camp focusing on Eye, Dental and General health assessments was conducted at Bosco Illam and Saranalayam respectively on 7th & 14th December 2025.



Care for Every Beat

Child Heart Foundation conducted Medical camp at Saranalayam on 21st December 2025. The goal is early detection of heart problems, prevention and improving public awareness about cardiovascular health.



Exploring the arts

On 07th December 2025, Miss. Ana Maria conducted a Christmas-themed painting activity with children, encouraging creativity and festive expression. She provided each child with an “Empathy White Bag” along with colours and brushes to support the activity. The session was engaging and interactive, allowing students to explore their artistic skills while enjoying the Christmas spirit.



Celebration of Festivities

On 07th December 2025, St. Theresa Church, Sembiam Pangu Parish, celebrated their Youth Annual Day along with Christmas festivities with our Children. The program included joyful singing, with one member performing on the guitar while the group presented melodious songs. A mono-act performance added creativity and entertainment to the event. Children also participated in interactive activities, making the celebration lively and engaging. The event fostered unity, enthusiasm and festive spirit among all participants.



Pre-Christmas Celebration with SUN Foundation

On 13th December 2025, Bosco Illam was filled with cheer and excitement during the pre-Christmas celebration organised in collaboration with the SUN Foundation. A vibrant team from the foundation visited the campus and animated the children with a variety of engaging activities. The programme featured lively party games, energetic dance sessions, colourful party decorations and instant photographs that captured precious moments of joy. The children enthusiastically participated and thoroughly enjoyed the celebration, experiencing the warmth and generosity that embody the true spirit of Christmas.



Gifts by Dear Santa

As part of Christmas celebration, Chennai Volunteers team shared the gifts to Bosco Illam and Saranalayam children through "Dear Santa" event on 20th December 2025. We acknowledge their efforts and thank them.



Little Gifts, Big Joy

Ruva Foundation distributed the Christmas gifts to children at Bosco Illam on 20th December 2025.

Vocational Training Centre

Christmas was joyfully celebrated by the VTC Women at Mannady on 19th December 2025. The event was presided over by Fr. Andrews Stephen Raj, Rector and Fr. Regan Jude, Administrator. As part of the celebration, the crib was blessed by Fr. Andrews. The women enthusiastically performed dances and sang Christmas songs, filling the occasion with joy and togetherness. At the end of the event, gifts were distributed and a cake was shared among everyone.



Community Intervention Program Christmas Celebration



Integrated Child Protection Scheme

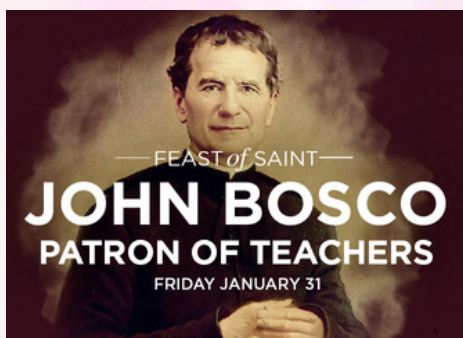
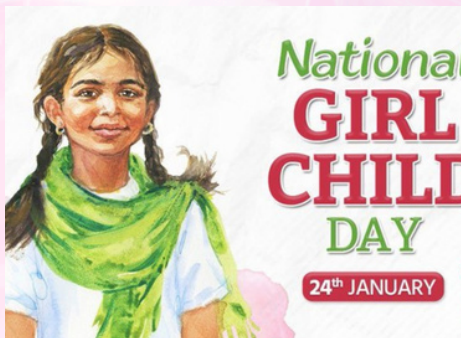
Christmas Celebration





A child is an uncut diamond

CELEBRATION & COMMEMORATION



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