

# BOSCONET

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DON BOSCO - TRICHY

**Bringing relief to  
cyclone-struck  
Tamil Nadu**



**Green Alliance:  
Working together  
for the planet**

BoscoNet

*A Friend to Anyone in Need*

**DON BOSCO INDIA**

Resource Mobilisation Unit of South Asia





# EMPOWER LIFE! LIVE THE JOY OF TRUE GIVING

## Message from Director

***Dear friends,***

A brand new year welcomes us - and with it, comes the opportunity to right past wrongs, make new resolutions to do better and encourage ourselves to take action!

In this issue of the Bosconet India newsletter, we focus on the action that people and organisations have been taking to make the world a better place to live in - whether for their families, or strangers sharing the same planet. Read about the determination of Tanveer Reza in turning his training into a wonderful job, of the children of Don Bosco school in cleaning up the plastic waste on Gorai Beach, and the resolve of Don Bosco volunteers and relief workers in helping set cyclone-struck Tamil Nadu back on its feet. We also share with you the success of the setting up of a new mechanical maintenance training centre, with the help of our partners, Motul - this will help young mechanics in training to experience the trade first hand! We have to thank you for partnering with us in these initiatives, through your constant support.

Your support is important to us, but it is more important to the planet and yourself! Our feature story in this issue focuses on Don Bosco's Green Alliance programme, an initiative by the Salesians in India to bring 26 and more countries of the world to work together to protect the planet! You will see how turning our attention to the environment will benefit not the Earth, but every living thing on it. In 2019, I ask you to begin small - join the movement by taking up the least of actions - carry a reusable bag with you instead of accepting a plastic bag - and see how far it takes you. For inspiration, I encourage you to read our feature story in this issue.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support and wish you a happy and fulfilling New Year 2019!

Thank you

**Fr. Noel Maddhichetty SDB**  
***Director, Bosconet***

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# Green Alliance: Working together for the planet

***What can 7 billion people - different races, religions, nationalities and ages - have in common?***

There may be a world of difference, but we all share the same Earth. And it's never too early or too late to begin to play your role in making the Earth a better, cleaner place to live in. The Don Bosco Green Alliance, an initiative launched in November 2017 by the Don Bosco Salesians of India, is an example of such teamwork across the globe! The Green Alliance is an international collective of young people from Don Bosco institutions and organisations across the world, working towards environmental thought, policy and action. The objective behind such a movement is to collectively raise awareness and inspire simultaneous action by appealing to thought leaders, organisations and people.

The Green Alliance currently focuses on three priority areas: combatting pollution, reducing global warming and eliminating disposable plastic. In each of these areas, we partner with ongoing global campaigns promoted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) or other international

organizations, or promote our own targeted campaigns for awareness and action, through clean-up drives, awareness promotion rallies and campaigns, exhibitions and competitions, exposure visits, environmental education programmes, eco clubs and lots more!

The need for such a global alliance is absolutely necessary due to the enormous scale of the problems that we are all facing. Air pollution is the single biggest environmental health risk, causing roughly 7 million deaths annually. 4,000 children die every day from diseases caused by polluted water and inadequate sanitation. Climate change is a reality that affecting all countries of the world in some way or another - changing weather patterns, rising sea levels, and more extreme weather events. Not to mention that all our oceans are choking with single use plastic items like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging. According to current statistics, we are now globally producing nearly 300 million tons of plastic every year, half of which is single use. There is an urgent need for large scale, collective action!





At its very heart, the Green Alliance is, in fact, a network - with currently almost 80 members across 26 countries! All members of the Alliance are first and foremost invited to stand as exemplar to others and be Green Campuses with the following ten benchmarks:

- Green Campus Committee comprising management, staff and students
- Zero Litter
- Waste Management
- Energy Efficiency
- Water Conservation
- Sustainable Travel
- Avoids Plastic Pollution
- Healthy Food
- Enriched Bio diversity
- Green Procurement



**The Green Campus programme is being implemented across 345 Don Bosco institutions across India alone, and in many more around the globe.** This participation not only ensures that we practice what we preach, but also encourage all our students/staff/members to inculcate this greener lifestyle and in turn take it to their families and homes!

Through the Green Alliance movement, Don Bosco institutions are partnering with global campaigns like the United Nations **#BeatPollution**, **#BeatPlasticPollution** and **#CleanSeas** to help reduce air and plastic pollution in their areas. We are also aligned with the global Climate Action programme towards maximising the use of renewable energy and eliminating food waste in member organizations, as well as planting a million trees over the next five years and motivating families to reduce their carbon footprint!

In India, the pilot project **Greenline** being run by the province of Mumbai was taken up as the model on which future programs for urban and rural areas will be designed and adopted. The programme has grown from participation in its annual campaign by 12 schools in 2010 to 50 schools in 2018 hoping to make a difference and the public in general, with participation encouraged in campaigns, workshops, cleanup drives, forums and more!

**Don Bosco Eco Concerns**, is an initiative by Don Bosco Tiruchy, India to promote a greener life-style in Don Bosco campuses with a specific 10 point Green Programme, including increasing green cover, reduction

in the use of non-degradable materials, increasing the usage of renewable sources of energy, zero wastage in the campus, promotion of organic farming, home vegetable and herbal gardens, preserving and conserve water, maintaining a clean and green

environment, promoting healthy organic food habits, usage of eco friendly products and environment education for all.

In the **Greener People, Greener World programme**, a 5 acre garden around the Pope John's Garden Centre, Chennai is being cultivated to help HIV+ and leprosy patients in the centre fare better, while in Tamil Nadu, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand, 3000 women are being trained in creating organic kitchen gardens to promote organic farming that will help combat soil and water pollution!

We, at Bosconet, are proud to have initiated the Green Alliance movement and are grateful to all the members across the world, along with our supporters, who continue to make a vision of a greener future a possibility.





## With An Iron Will

In his smart, red uniform, his face hidden behind an iron mask, and sparks seeming to emerge from his hands, Tanveer Reza could feel like Iron Man. Unlike the Marvel superhero, however, Tanveer didn't come from a privileged background - his father was a fabricator with a small private firm and his mother, a housewife with five children to care for. How then did Tanveer rise to become an instructor with Lorch, a top German welding equipment manufacturer?

"My life was quite aimless till I completed school," says Tanveer, when asked. "It was only after I joined Don Bosco Tech, Park Circus, Kolkata that I slowly woke up to the realities of life. I decided that I had to do something on my own instead of depending on my parents forever".

Tanveer joined the welding and fabrication course at Don Bosco Tech, successfully completing the advanced training in specialised courses as well. At the institute, the boy stood out among his peers in commitment, passion and hard work, and he was quickly inducted into the faculty as a trainee. He continued to work as a member of the faculty with Don Bosco, while pursuing his diploma in a mechanical trade from Jadavpur University, and in 2008, Tanveer was recruited by Lorch, the market leader in welding equipment manufacturing. In less than a year, through sheer hard work and dedication, Tanveer had proved himself 'among the best employees' in the company and was sent to Germany for higher training on the company's latest machines!

Today Tanveer earns well and tells the story of his meteoric rise to success, with pride and gratitude.



## GROWING UP in India's Greenest School!



Amit, Avanti and Riya have been making ecobricks together - and learning patience, teamwork and to care for the environment. Eco-bricking is the practice of making eco-friendly blocks or building material by packing used clean and dry plastic into plastic bottles that have been thrown away. These bricks use discarded plastic in a way that keeps it out of the natural environment and also allows access to cheap building material to those who cannot afford it.

The students of Don Bosco, Matunga, as part of the Don Bosco Greenline project, have been working towards the cause of the environment through initiatives like ecobricking (making over 1700 ecobricks to help build sanitation facilities in slums), Versova beach cleanup with Afroz Shah and his team, anti-litter bag squads to promote cleanliness, awareness campaigns and lots more. Apart from these activities, the school assemblies, sports programs, camps and other outdoor activities also nurture concern for the environment.

**And in October this year, Don Bosco, Matunga was ranked first amongst India's Top 5 Green schools in India in the Education World Grand Jury Awards 2018!** The Grand Jury, comprising of well informed educationists and educators, rated and ranked over 800 nominated schools in 11 categories to felicitate schools making extraordinary efforts to introduce innovative 21st century practices in primary-secondary education. We are grateful and hope other schools are inspired to action - not for recognition, but to inculcate a green gene in all students!



# Bringing relief to cyclone-struck Tamil Nadu

November 30, Tamil Nadu: On 16 November 2018, the people of Tamil Nadu suffered an unexpected blow to both life and property, when Cyclone Gaja crossed the Tamil Nadu coast between Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam, claiming 63 lives and leaving behind a trail of destruction. The cyclone wreaked havoc on power and communication lines, rendering relief operations even more difficult. A total of four districts of Tamil Nadu were severely and another two partially affected by Gaja.

The staff and students of the two Don Bosco institutions, the Don Bosco Youth Village at Keeranur and the Don Bosco Alaihal media team, rushed to the villages affected nearby to assist and report on the situation. Among the damage recorded were over 1 lakh homes destroyed, lakhs of coconut trees uprooted, blocked roads, loss of cattle and agricultural land, and damage to transformers, electricity and telephone lines (347 electricity transformers were destroyed and 3,559 kms of electricity transmission wires snapped in the cyclone)

Volunteers from several Don Bosco institutions came forward in large numbers to help provide relief and aid in affected areas, clearing fallen trees and electric poles, blocked roads, and repairing water pipe lines and minor electric malfunctions.

Meals, food packets, safe drinking water, rice and groceries, milk, medicines, mosquito nets, solar-lights, bed-sheets, tarpaulin-sheets etc were provided to 400 households in 13 villages and one Sri Lankan refugee camp. Medical support extended for those suffering from infections. 200 differently-abled victims were identified from 25 villages around Keernaur, and were supported.

Life is still limping back to normal in these villages affected by Gaja - electricity is not fully restored and it will be another month before some villages receive electricity again. People have lost their sources of livelihood - coconut trees, cattle, crops - driving many farmers to suicide.

We will continue working to support relief and restoration efforts in the cyclone-affected areas till some normalcy is restored.





# Helping refugee women build secure futures



**December 30, Delhi:** Thirty displaced refugee women welcomed the opportunity to a new and secure life as they completed the three-month skill training and job placement project launched collaboratively by Polish Aid and Bosconet in Delhi this October.

After the refugee women were identified, they were inducted into the programme, where they attended interactive orientation and motivational sessions. Once they were prepared to make this step towards rebuilding their lives, the women registered for a course of their choice and were enrolled for a comprehensive skill training program at the best Don Bosco institutes. Part of this skill training included useful on-the-job training, where the women learnt the practical use and application of the skills they had learnt over the past months. The course ended with placement of 22 of the 30 women, who will begin their new jobs in the new year. The useful training that they have received will enable these women who were displaced and homeless to take further steps towards building a more secure future for themselves!



**A fresh start for refugee women**



**Skill development classes**

## Donors Speak



I love hearing about the work of Bosconet for children. I didn't know that so many children do not get to go to school as us and face many problems. The people from Bosconet tell us about these problems and I feel very sad for these children, but very happy that at least they are getting help through Bosconet. When I told my parents, they wanted to help and I am so happy that a girl like me is getting to school!

**Deepshikha, Class 4  
St. Peter's English Medium School,  
Bihar**



I love to go to school and I am happy that my Mummy Papa can send me to study here and make friends. But some children do not get to go to school because their Mummy Papa do not have enough money. Bosconet is helping these children to go to school so they can become smart when they grow up and have a better life. That's why Mummy Papa have given a small donation to Bosconet. I feel so happy that it will send a child to school!

**Prodip Das, Class KG,  
Don Bosco School, Liluah, Kolkata**

**We are happy to acknowledge  
the top donors of our last quarter**

**Donation Period  
(October - December 2018)**

1. Fr.Noel Maddhichetty	-	Rs. 100,000
2. Thankamma Thomas	-	Rs. 20,000
3. Dr.Biju Mathew	-	Rs. 12,000
4. Mr.Celestine Rozario	-	Rs. 12,000
5. M P Alexsunder	-	Rs. 10,000
6. Bhagwant Singh Sajwan	-	Rs. 10,000
7. Sanhita Ghosh	-	Rs. 6,000
8. Prodip Das	-	Rs. 6,000
9. Joseph AG	-	Rs. 6,000



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