

## A Symphony of Gratitude: Celebrating the vicennial Zenith of Don Bosco Nerul



This detailed report chronicles the 19th Annual Thanksgiving Day at Don Bosco Senior Secondary School, Nerul, a landmark event celebrated on January 23, 2026, as the institution gracefully transitions into its Vicennial Year. Imbued with the spirit of the Salesian Strenna 2026, “Do whatever He tells you – Believers, free to serve,” the evening served as a profound testament to academic excellence and the transformative power of holistic education.

### **The Distinguished Assembly and Ceremonial Welcome**

The evening commenced with a dignified protocol, welcoming an assembly of eminent leaders and visionaries.

Chief Guests: The school was honoured by the presence of Dr. K. M. Vasudevan Pillai, Chairman and CEO of Mahatma Education Society’s Pillai Group, and Dr. Daphne Pillai, Secretary and Co-founder of the Pillai Group.

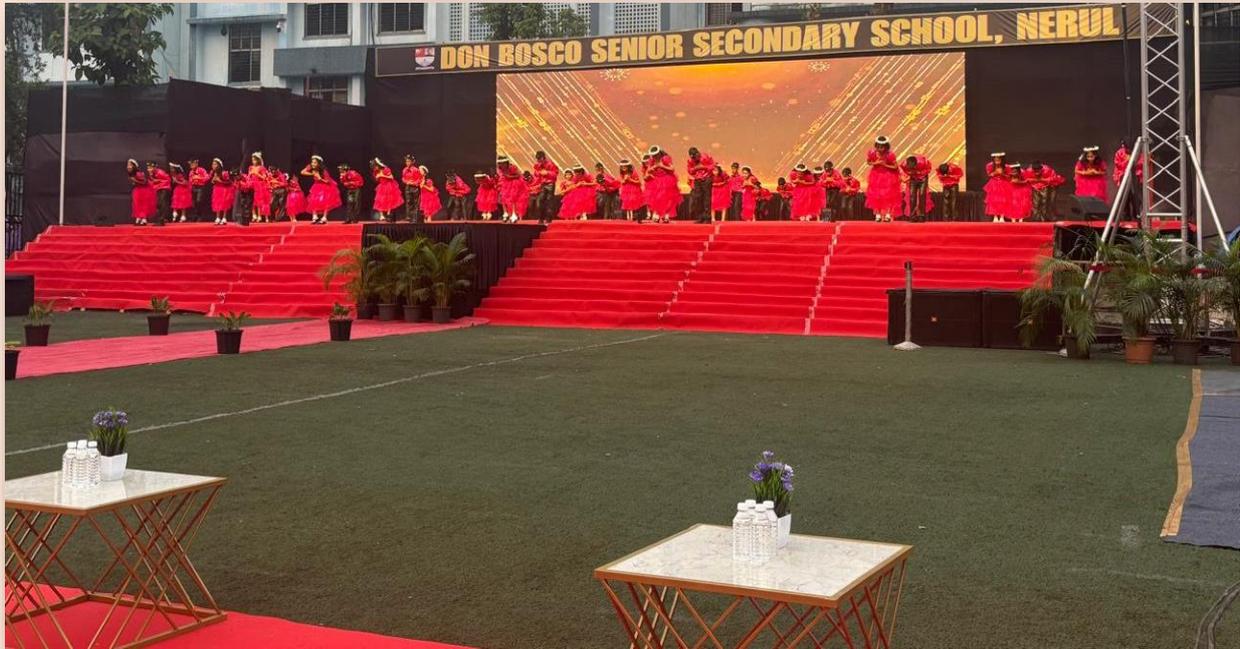
Institutional Leadership: The proceedings were guided by Rev. Fr. Dr. Barnabe D'souza (Rector), Mrs. Kalyani Chaudhuri (Principal), and Rev. Fr. Shekar Mariadas (Vice Principal and Administrator).



Symbolic Gestures: In a tradition of environmental stewardship and respect, the dignitaries were felicitated with saplings nurtured in the school garden.



The Prelude: The atmosphere was set by a melodious welcome song, “We’re Thankful,” performed by Foundation-1 students, followed by a reverent Prayer Dance that invoked divine blessings through grace and movement.



## **The Keynote Address: A Vision for Student-Centred Education**

A pivotal moment of the evening was the inspiring address delivered by Dr. K. M. Vasudevan Pillai. His words resonated deeply with the audience, advocating for a paradigm shift in how we perceive success.

**Individual Potential:** Dr. Pillai championed the cause of student-centred education, emphasizing that institutions must honour the unique abilities and interests inherent in every child.

**A Call to Parents:** He urged the parent body to act as pillars of support for their children's idiosyncratic talents, cautioning against the detrimental effects of pressuring them toward standardized success.

**Institutional Praise:** He concluded his address by commending Don Bosco Nerul's unwavering commitment to fostering holistic growth and extending his wishes for the school's continued expansion.

## **Celebrating Academic and Multi-Faceted Excellence**

The Prize Distribution Ceremony stood as a testament to the "never-ending passion" of the Boscoites.

**Board Examination Achievers:** Exceptional students from the Classes X and XII Board Examinations (2024–25) were publicly lauded for their exemplary academic discipline.

**Diverse Talents:** Recognition was not limited to the classroom; the school celebrated "outstanding achievers" in sports, arts, and culture, highlighting the multifaceted development of the student body.

**The Annual Report:** Principal Mrs. Kalyani Chaudhuri presented a comprehensive overview of the year's milestones, recounting the major achievements that have defined the school's journey since 2006.



### **The Cultural Extravaganza: "Once Upon a Time – A Story of Hope"**

The second half of the program transformed the stage into a vibrant canvas for the musical drama "Once Upon a Time—A Story of Hope," a contemporary reimagining of the Biblical "Prodigal Son".

#### **The Narrative Arc**

The story focused on the contrasting paths of Regina and Becky, daughters of the renowned cardiac surgeon Dr. Ryan Jacob. While Regina followed the traditional path, Becky was lured by the "glittering yet misleading world of social media" and fled to Bangalore to pursue modelling. Her journey through false friendships and harsh realities eventually led her home—broken yet transformed—to be met not with judgment, but with the open arms of familial love.

## **A Production of Massive Scale**

The musical was a marvel of inclusion and collective effort, featuring:

**Mass Participation:** A staggering 1,100 students contributed to the production, promoting equity across all learning stages.

**Musical Brilliance:** A choir of 265 students provided the harmonic backdrop for the drama.

**Choreographic Splendour:** A total of 699 dancers energized the stage with a series of thematically rich performances, including "Lollipop," "Sea Cruise," "Story of My Life," and the final, powerful performance of "Roar," symbolizing youthful resilience.

## **Conclusion: Toward the Vicennial Milestone**

The evening concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by Mrs. Jyotsna D'souza and Mrs. Lisa Dominic, followed by a stirring rendition of the School Anthem. As the Don Bosco family looks toward its 20th year, the 19th Annual Thanksgiving Day remains a triumph of spirit, reminding all present that love and second chances will always light the way home.

