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A Season of Festivities, Celebrations and Events in Bala Mandir



More vibrant pages to follow...

From the Editor's Desk

A New Year of Purpose and Action !

New Year 2026 is upon us and we look forward to a year of purpose and action. We reflect back on the past year with deep gratitude for the collective efforts that made meaningful change possible. Community service can be wrought only through compassion, collaboration and continuous engagement.

The quarter comprising October-December had a full calendar of events, along with the usual routines of the units. In October, the festivals of Navarathri and Deepavali were celebrated at the Home, in the Schools and in Nagercoil. The attractive golu displays showcased the artistic talents of the staff and students. Children's Day in November had many treats for children and was also carried out in a grand manner in the Ellapuram project. BMRRC held a unique event where the fathers/men were brought together to emphasise their crucial role in parenting. December brought Christmas cheer and the tiny tots of the creche were dressed in their best. MNC had its Annual Day, and the mothers and students presented small skits from the Panchatantra. Kinship Care held many meets across the districts where their programmes are being implemented, and were well-attended by families and children.

As always child centric activities remain the core of Bala Mandir and we continue the work with renewed hope, strengthened resolve, and a shared commitment to serving the communities around us with empathy, be it in-house or outreach.

Till next time!

Rukmini Amirapu

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Bala Mandir Celebrations

Special days, auspicious occasions and memorial events were celebrated and observed by all Bala Mandir units, in Chennai and Nagercoil, with equal enthusiasm, devotion and fervour.

Deepavali



A special assembly was held in **BM Vidyalaya** for the KG children with a narration of a Deepavali story by Ms Santhi, Primary Teacher. Children, dressed in colourful attire, were shown a demo about precautions to be taken while bursting crackers. They made clay diyas and decorated them.



At **BM Home Nagercoil** children celebrated Deepavali with great enthusiasm and burst firecrackers. Sweets, new clothes, and special delicacies were prepared and distributed to all children and staff.

Children from **BM Home Chennai** celebrated Deepavali by wishing each other and the members as well. They visited the nearby temple under the supervision of Ms Sujatha, MIC.

Children's Day



B M Satyamurthi School celebrated Children's Day with various competitions for children and the screening of documentaries made by students of Classes 10 to 12, including '*Breaking Barriers*', '*Life in Giriappa Road*', and '*My Hero - My Inspiration*'. Class 11 students took the lead in organising and hosting the event. Ms Radha Vasudevan, Correspondent of Vidyaniketan School, Ashok Nagar, was the Guest of Honour.



BM Vidyalaya organised an interschool competition for Classes LKG to 5. Children exhibited their talents in drawing & colouring, handwriting and Tirukkural recitation. Children of Classes 1 and 2 excelled in coining words from the given alphabets. Spell Bee and Picture Quiz were challenging to students of Classes 3 to 5. The team from Anjuman Primary School (T.Nagar) bagged the Overall Winners Trophy.



BM Home Chennai children from the I & T Block participated in a variety of activities to celebrate Children's Day, supported by teachers and staff.



BM Home Nagercoil celebrated Children's Day with special meals and sweets arranged for the girls at dinner.



At **BMMNC**, the Inner Wheel Club of Madras celebrated Children's Day, attended by the President of the Club, Ms. Ruchita Saraogi, along with all the members. The club sponsored a puppet show and a storytelling session for the children. The children had to identify various animals and birds mimicked during the performance.



BMRRC celebrated Children's Day across 134 Anganwadi Centres with active participation from staff, children, parents, and community members. In some Centres, children dressed up as national leaders such as Swami Vivekananda and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The CDPO was the Chief Guest for the programme at J.J. Nagar village.

Ayudha Pooja and Vijayadasami



At **BM Home Chennai** children sang bhajans, performed aarti for the BM vehicles. Akshara Abhyasam was performed for the toddlers. Golu was arranged at the renovated I & T Block. On Remembrance Day of Sri Kamarajar, the children visited Kamarajar Illam.



BM Home Nagercoil celebrated Saraswathi Pooja with children putting up a lovely Golu display. Special prayers and poojas were conducted over a span of nine days. Gandhi Jayanthi and Vijayadasami were also celebrated.

Christmas



Children of the KG section of **B M Vidyalaya**, filled the air with a festive mood, dressed as angels and Mother Mary. The story of the birth of Jesus Christ was told to the kids and carols were sung. Students of the Primary section were shown a video on the story of Jesus Christ.



In keeping with the spirit of giving, a 'Kindness Vault' donation box was placed in the **B M Satyamurthi School** lobby, as part of the Christmas celebrations, inviting students to contribute gifts, snacks or small tokens to be presented to migrant workers in the neighbourhood.



In **BM Home Chennai, Creche and I & T Block**, Christmas celebrations began with a special prayer, followed by a role play depicting the birth of Jesus Christ, which beautifully brought the Christmas story to life. This was followed by a delightful Christmas dance performance by the girls.



On Christmas Day, children of **BM Home Nagercoil** created a *kudil* using dried grass, to depict the manger. Special prayers and carol singing were held and cultural programmes were presented by the children.

Neediyin Vazhiyil - நீதியின் வழியில்

Eight stories from the Panchatantra, performed by the children and their mothers were the highlight of BM MNC's Annual Day celebrations on December 12, 2025. Showcased under the theme - *Neediyin Vazhiyil - நீதியின் வழியில்* (Moral Path), the stories, adapted to suit the abilities of the special children, were presented through skits, songs and dances.

The eight stories were: *The Fox and the Crow*, *The Cap Seller and the Monkeys*, *The Fox and the Grapes*, *The Two Cats and the Monkey*, *The Lion and the Magic Ball*, *The Blue Jackal*, *The Five Fingers*, and *The Pigeons and the Hunter*.

The Chief Guest of the day, Dr Rema Chandramohan, Deputy Executive Officer, and retired Head of the Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, Egmore, is a distinguished paediatrician and neonatologist, and a close associate of BM MNC.



Appointment of Child Protection Officer for Bala Mandir

Dr R Bindu, Director, BM RRC has been appointed as the Child Protection Officer (CPO) for Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust, as a mandatory requirement for NGOs focused on child welfare. In this capacity, she will be responsible for discharging the roles and responsibilities as listed in the organisation's Child Protection Policy.

Beneficial Activities and Events at the Bala Mandir Homes

In the BM Homes at Chennai and Nagercoil, several important activities took place. Girls of Class 12 were taken on an **Industrial Visit**, keeping fit through **zumba** was introduced and a **Staff Excursion** was held to foster a camaraderie between everyone. A new monthly initiative to celebrate the birthdays of children was begun. To mark the 100th Birthday of Sathya Sai Baba, the **Sarvadharm Festival** was celebrated on November 23, with great devotion and enthusiasm. The pooja began with the Ashtothram chanting followed by the Dance of the Five Values - Satya, Dharma, Shanthi, Prema, and Ahimsa—the five pillars of His philosophy.

Chennai



Industrial Exposure Visit - The Superintendent Ms Veena accompanied the Class 12 girls to Saint-Gobain India, Sriperumbudur, for an industrial exposure visit. Ms Jayasree from their HR department explained the 'Learn While You Earn' (LWE) programme, which offers a 4-year Diploma in Manufacturing Technology.



Probation Officers' Visit - As part of a training programme, newly appointed Probation Officers from the Tamil Nadu Prisons and Correctional Services Department from various districts visited Bala Mandir. A brief orientation about Bala Mandir and its activities carried out for the children, were explained to them.



Zumba Sessions - A twice-a-week zumba dance session was started by Member, Ms Preethi Krishnan for the children from LKG to Class 12. Both staff and children participated enthusiastically and thoroughly enjoyed the activity.



Gardening Activities - During the holidays, Primary School boys and girls—actively engaged in gardening work, contributing to the upkeep and beautification of the garden areas and sharing the produce with the BM kitchen.



Engagement of Ms Gowri - On November 23, the engagement ceremony of BM girl, Ms Gowri, was held. While at BM, she completed her B.A. in Sociology at M.O.P. Vaishnav College and her M.S.W. at Mar Gregorios College, and now works as a Residential Social Worker in the Girls' Section.



BM Staff Excursion - In continuation of our unit-wise staff excursions, a one-day outing was organised for the Children's Home staff. The trip included visits to Boat House, Mudaliyar Kuppam near Mahabalipuram, Matsya Narayana Temple and Lady of Mount Carmel Church.



Life Skills Training Programme - A Life Skills Training Programme was commenced for students of Classes 8 to 12, conducted by Ms Adilakshmi, a resource person from the NGO, Arunodhaya.



Monthly Birthday Celebrations - The birthdays of all children in November, from I&T Block, Girls Block and Boys Section, were celebrated on the last Saturday of the month.

Nagercoil



Annual Day - On the 35th Annual Day celebrations held on October 18, Dr Srinivasa Kannan, Proprietor of Vivek Laboratories, was the Chief Guest. An entertainment programme featuring songs, dances, dramas, and mime performances was presented.



Karthikai Deepam - The entire Nagercoil Home was lit up with earthen lamps on the occasion of Karthikai Deepam, when special prayers were offered. This gave a festive look to the building.

Boeing Visit & POCSO Awareness

Ms Yashoda Bidhuri, Project Coordinator for BGE programmes in India, visited B M Vidyalaya and Satyamurthi Schools as part of the Boeing-Bala Mandir partnership. Orientation on POCSO and its safety measures were held for Class 3 students and LKG parents.



Yashodha Bidhuri toured the facilities, including the Boeing Sukanya STEM Lab, and inspected the ongoing construction of the new high school building.

Ms Amudavalli, Sub-Inspector and Ms Nandhini, Police Constable of All Women Police station, Teynampet addressed the students of Classes 4 and 5 on POCSO awareness, along with a video screening.

Bala Mandir Vidyalaya

An **Eye Camp** was organised by Mylapore Round Table 3 and Madras Mylapore Ladies Circle 4 for students of Classes 1 to 5. For the second consecutive year, BM Vidyalaya celebrated '**Joy of Giving**' week from December 15 - 22..



Trained eye specialists conducted detailed vision screening for the students and provided guidance on eye health, early detection of vision issues, and the importance of regular check-up.

The main objective of 'Joy of Giving' initiative is to instill the value of kindness, sharing and empathy in children. Grocery, stationery and toys collected by the students were handed over to Ms Lovena, ex-KaRe staff.

Bala Mandir Satyamurthi School

The **Dream Learners Workshop** was conducted at the Boeing Sukanya STEM Lab, in an engaging session on aviation and flight technology. The Boeing Volunteers Session was conducted in interactive Science sessions led by 5 Boeing volunteers.

Students took part in **Silambam and Throwball** matches and six students were selected for the Final Round of the State-Level ATL (Atal Tinkering Lab) Innovation Challenge—InnovaTN'25.

The **Hope Torch** programme, a life-skill initiative, was introduced to students of Class 9. The Scouts and Guides participated in the Rajyapuraskar Test Camp 2025 conducted by Bharat Scouts and Guides, South Chennai District.

Mr Suresh Kumar, Aided - District Education Officer and Mr Guhan, Deputy Inspector visited BM Satyamurthi School and inspected the classrooms, library, noon meal centre, and STEM lab. **Deloitte's Impact Day** culminated in a full-day creative storywriting workshop.



Dream Learners Workshop: Forty students from Classes 6, 7 & 8 participated in interactive activities such as an 'Arrival Gate' timeline, an Airplane Parts Puzzle Game, and designing their own paper plane models, applying concepts of lift, control, and stability.



Boeing Volunteers Session: Class 6 students explored telescopes and lenses, observing terrestrial objects and sparking curiosity about optics and space. Students of Classes 7 and 8 learned about 'Chemistry in Daily Life', relating scientific concepts to real-world examples, enhancing their analytical thinking.



Career Guidance: A career guidance workshop was conducted for Classes 9 to 12, introducing students to available courses and sensitising them on choosing groups in higher secondary classes and diploma programmes.



Deloitte Impact Day - Mr Karthik Kumar, Executive Director and head of Technology Operations & Quality for South Asia at Deloitte, joined online. Ms Deepa Senthilrajan, Educationist, served as the School's Impact Day coordinator.



Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) Innovation Challenge—InnovaTN'25 : Two of the three teams that took part, PiezoPath (Pravin, Suman, and Magesh) and Smart Stretcher (Padmashri, Thanshika, and Tamil Selvi), made it to the finals.



Empowerment Programme: As a part of the curriculum, this Programme aims to strengthen the confidence, voice, and leadership of young girls and boys. It focuses on creating awareness about self-worth, gender equality, safety, and personal growth.



Hope Torch: Through interactive sessions, students explored self-awareness, authenticity, and the connection between thoughts, emotions, and behaviour, fostering resilience and optimism.



Road safety: The Traffic Police from Teynampet station organised an awareness programme on road safety rules and regulations, to educate young minds on the importance of safe driving practices and traffic rules.

Special Awards to Educators

Deserving Special Educators were awarded with certificates. A dental camp was also held for the benefit of all BMMNC children.



World Student Day - The Clarke School for the Deaf, Mylapore, celebrated the birthday of former President A P J Abdul Kalam by awarding deserving Special Educators with certificates of appreciation. The day also marked World Student Day. Rotary Club of Madras North, Rotary Club of Chennai Sagar and NGO SNEH awarded certificates to Ms Rajalakshmi Arvindkumar and Ms Dhavamani, Special Educators.

Aasan Virudhu - The Rotary International District 3233 presented the Aasan Virudhu - The Rotary Excellence Award for Teachers with minimum 10 years of experience, by the Hon'ble Minister for Education, Dr Govi Chezian. Ms Hemalatha, Principal, EIC of BMMNC received the award this year.



Paridharshak Course - In the Paridharshak Certificate Course on Caregiving for Children in Early Childhood, ten parents have enrolled for the 12-week programme, which includes weekly sessions of 2 hours each. It aims to empower parents and caregivers in supporting the growth and development of young children, especially those with developmental needs.

Dental Camp - The Inner Wheel Club of Madras sponsored the fourth dental camp for the children conducted by Dr Kameshwaran (BDS, MDS – Pedodontics), a paediatric dentist with over 10 years of experience. This is the 4th camp he has conducted at the Centre, and all the children at MNC have benefitted from these camps.

Encouraging Get-togethers

BM Kinship Care held several Meets across the districts where the core activities are being implemented. Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, Tiruvannamalai and Namakkal get-togethers saw very encouraging response from the families of Kinship Care beneficiaries. For the first time, a fundraising initiative was organised through school students. The Annual Fundraising initiative of Kinship Care was held during October/November and a special students' initiative involving three schools of the Sri Sankara Group was held during November/December. The first campaign involved 49 volunteers from India. In the student initiative, a total of 106 volunteers generated funds from 747 donors.



Annual Parents Meet at Chengalpattu - At the BM Kinship Care's Annual Parents Meeting held in October at Chengalpattu there was active participation from 48 families and 85 children, bringing together a total of 133 participants. Social Worker Mr Ponnusamy and Remote Social Worker, Saranya spoke about the objectives, upcoming activities and support mechanisms.

Second Annual Meet at Coimbatore - BM Kinship Care Programme's second Annual Meet saw 175 participants from 68 families, including families from Coimbatore and Tiruppur. The Chief Guest Mr Cheran Mu Tamizharasan, Protection Officer (Non-Institutional Care), DCPO Coimbatore, spoke on child safety, gentle parenting, responsible mobile usage, prevention of school dropouts, and child protection schemes.



BM Kinship Care Meet at Tiruvannamalai saw the participation of 70 Kinship families and over 200 participants, including social workers and Kinship Care members. Ms L Vijayakumari, Retired Community Health Nurse highlighted the importance of nutritious food for children. Sub-committee member and Happy Reading volunteer Mr Kumar encouraged mothers to identify and nurture their children's interests.

BM Kinship Care Meet at Thiruchengode brought together 163 participants from 53 families, providing a valuable platform for direct interaction between beneficiaries and the management. Chief guests from the District Child Protection Unit and District Mental Health Programme highlighted government welfare schemes

Importance of parenting

IEC implementation and importance of Parenting for the male members of the family were the highlights of activities at BMRRC, especially in Ellapuram.



At the **2nd IEC Implementation on Early Identifications & Stimulations**, the field staff explained how to identify the development delays and progress of the child, through street play. Government schemes for the disabled and the method of availing these schemes were shared with the community.

Role of Fathers in Parenting - BMRRC organised a unique event, for the first time, at Ellapuram in which 53 fathers (husbands, brothers and fathers of the field staff) participated. Mr Senthil from District Child Protection Unit, Thiruvallur, addressed the group and emphasised on crucial child protection issues such as child trafficking, child labour, child abuse, and child marriage. Mr Loganathan, Assistant Agricultural Officer, Uttukottai, shared information on various agricultural welfare schemes.



Child Protection Policy of Bala Mandir

At Bala Mandir, the well-being, dignity, and safety of every child is the highest responsibility. Children have the fundamental right to grow up in environments that are nurturing, protective, and free from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and discrimination. Child Protection refers to the policies, systems, and actions that prevent and respond to any harm, intentional or unintentional, that may affect a child's physical, emotional, psychological, or developmental well-being.

Bala Mandir works with children across residential care, schools, special education, early childhood services, and family-based programmes. Because of the scope of its work, BM has a special duty to ensure that every child it engages with, whether in its institutions, communities, or outreach programmes, is safe, respected, and heard. BM's Child Protection Policy outlines the standards of behaviour expected from all adults associated with it, safeguards built into its systems, and the clear procedures for reporting and responding to concerns.

Implementing this policy well reinforces BM's commitment to creating a child-safe organisation, strengthens public trust, and ensures that every child in its care is protected with vigilance, compassion, and accountability. By upholding this policy, Bala Mandir reaffirms its promise that safety is not optional. *It is essential.*

Write to us @ : pocso@balamandir.org

Revision of Internal Committee Members & POSH Awareness

BM had recently revised the Internal Committee (IC) members for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) policy. Posters with details of the IC members have been prepared and displayed in every unit to ensure visibility and easy access for all employees across all Bala Mandir units.

In India, POSH compliance is required under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. This law guarantees a safe, respectful, and inclusive work environment for all employees. It requires every organisation to form an internal committee, conduct an awareness session, and establish a transparent process for reporting and resolving complaints. By strengthening its POSH systems, Bala Mandir reinforces its commitment to protecting dignity at the workplace and promoting a culture of trust and safety for women.

Write to us @ : posh@balamandir.org

News from the HR Desk

The following staff were felicitated for their long service to the organisation

- | | |
|--|--|
| ➤ Ms Jayamala S / Ch Home / 15 yrs | ➤ Ms Nalini / Admin / 5 yrs |
| ➤ Mr Subramani K / Admin / 15 yrs | ➤ Ms Bhuvaneswari V / Edu / 5 yrs |
| ➤ Ms Jasmine Jeni J / Ch Home / 10 yrs | ➤ Mr Praveen Raj / Ch Home / 5 yrs |
| ➤ Ms Geethalakshmi K / MNC / 10 yrs | ➤ Ms Meenakshi A / Ch Home / 5 yrs |
| ➤ Ms Revathi K / MNC / 10 yrs | ➤ Ms Amudarani D / Ch Home / 5 yrs |
| ➤ Ms Ramya R / Ch Home / 5 yrs | ➤ Ms Seetha Gopalakrishnan / MNC / 5 yrs |
| ➤ Ms Sonia S / Ch Home / 5 yrs | |

Links to Blogs featured in ChatBM during the Quarter

- A Shout-out to Our School Donors - Blog on Donations by Ms Sangeetha
<https://blog.balamandir.org/online/2025/10/16/a-shout-out-to-our-school-donors/>
- How 'Every Child Matters' at BM Schools - Blog on Education by Ms Preethi Krishnan
<https://blog.balamandir.org/online/2025/10/21/how-every-child-matters-at-the-bala-mandir-schools/>
- Culture Tradition, Religion and Spirituality – establishing a value system at BM - Blog on Staff Matters by Mr Nikhil Raghavan
<https://blog.balamandir.org/online/2025/11/03/culture-and-tradition-religion-and-spirituality-establishing-a-value-system-at-bala-mandir/>
- Skyrocketing to the Stars - Blog on Kinship Care by Ms Fermie P
<https://blog.balamandir.org/online/2025/11/03/skyrocketing-to-the-stars/>
- In-Kind Donations - With a Twist - Blog on Donations by Mr P Natarajan
<https://blog.balamandir.org/online/2025/11/10/in-kind-donations-with-a-twist/>
- The Quiet Power of Empathy - Blog on Staff Matters by Mr P Natarajan
<https://blog.balamandir.org/online/2025/11/25/the-quiet-power-of-empathy/>

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<https://www.instagram.com/balamandirkamarajtrust>



https://www.instagram.com/balamandir_schools

List of Abbreviations

- | | |
|--|--|
| ⊙ BMKT - Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust | ⊙ BMRRC - Bala Mandir Research and Resources Centre |
| ⊙ BM SMHS - Bala Mandir Satyamurthi High School | ⊙ ECCD - Early Childhood Care and Development |
| ⊙ BMMNC - Bala Mandir Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children | ⊙ IEC - Information Education Communication |
| ⊙ EIC - Early Intervention Centre | ⊙ CDPO - Child Development Project Officer |
| ⊙ BMKC - Bala Mandir Kinship Care | ⊙ AWC - Anganwadi Centre |
| ⊙ KG - Kinder Garten | ⊙ CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility |
| ⊙ POCSO - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences -Act | ⊙ TNSCPS - Tamil Nadu State Child Protection Society |
| ⊙ POSH - Prevention of Sexual Harrassment | ⊙ DCPO I/C - District Child Protection Officer In-Charge |
| ⊙ HR - Human Resources | |