



No. 8, G.N.Chetty Road, T.Nagar, Chennai 600 007 ; Phone: +91 44 4867 9207
Email: main@balamandir.org ; W: www.balamandir.org ; www.balamandirusa.org

Bala Mandir inaugurates School Expansion & Modernisation Project at Satyamurthi School



Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust's Satyamurthi School Expansion & Modernisation Project marks an important milestone in the institution's efforts to provide quality and holistic education.

The inauguration was held in the presence of Guests of Honour Ms Shalini Grover, CFO, Boeing India, Ms Praveena Yagnambhat, Chief of Staff and CSR Head, Boeing India, and Mr K G Venkataraman, Chief Financial Officer, Saint-Gobain India Private Limited (SGIPL).

This has been made possible with generous support from Braade Stiftung (Denmark), Saint-Gobain India Pvt Ltd, Boeing India Pvt Ltd and Aptus Value Housing Finance Limited, along with other well-wishers of Bala Mandir.



A New Year of Purpose and Action

The January-March quarter heralds the arrival of the new calendar year 2026, and we look ahead with renewed purpose and committed 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 sustained engagement.

Each unit has progressed with dedication, upholding the core belief of Bala Mandir that *Every Child Matters*, and this quarter is replete with child-centric activities. January was infused with the spirit of the festival of Pongal and Republic Day celebrations. The Home Children of BM and Nagercoil enjoyed picnics, field trips, wall painting activities and puppet shows. Across our schools, Sports Days and Annual Days were celebrated with enthusiasm, alongside health awareness programmes, technology exposure visits, and a memorable opportunity for students to watch a cricket match at Chepauk Stadium. BMMNC marked its Annual Moving Ahead Day, Sports Day, and hosted its vibrant food festival, *Nutrifest*. Kinship Care organised a Donor Meet, a KC Annual Meet for the beneficiary families, and stress management and career guidance sessions for Class 10 and Class 8 students respectively. BMRRC arranged for the field staff to visit all the units in BMKT and hosted a One-day Awareness programme, while a Father's Day event was held at Pannapakkam village.

BMKT had the pleasure of welcoming members of the Braade-Stiftung Trust Board during their annual visit in February. The month of March achieved a significant milestone - the inauguration of BMKT's Satyamurthi School Expansion & Modernisation Project, marking its commitment to providing holistic education to disadvantaged communities.

Till next time!

Rukmini Amirapu

Email - minnie@balamandir.org

BM Anniversary Celebrations

3

Pongal and Republic Day @ BM

6

News from the BM Homes - Chennai and Nagercoil

8

Enriching Activities @ BM Schools

12

News from BM MNC and BM KC

16

News from BMRRC & HR Desk

19

Do visit our Social Media sites for updates at regular intervals



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



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/bala-mandir>



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



https://www.instagram.com/balamandir_schools

Editor: Rukmini Amirapu

Copy Editors : Maya Gaitonde, Leela Natarajan, Nikhil Raghavan

Contributors: Sangeetha Mani, Vijayanthi D, Janani, Mala Shankar Uma Lakshmi

Design & Layout : Sushmitha C



The BM Cultural Centre was packed with excited children, teachers, staff and members, on the joyous occasion of the 77th Anniversary programme.



BM Vidyalaya Primary School students presented a group dance inspired by the song *Puthiyathor Ulagam Seivom* by Kavignar Bharathidasan, showcasing peace and brotherhood.



BM Home children performed a dance sequence portraying five qualities that are innate human qualities - Satyam (Truth), Dharmam (Righteousness), Shanthi (Peace), Premai (Love), and Ahimsai (Non-violence).



BM MNC children enacted The Blue Jackal, a story from the Panchatantra, and effectively conveyed many important lessons essential for human life.



BM Satyamurthi School students depicted the misuse of mobile phones and their impact on lives through mime reminding us to find a healthy balance with technology.

When Children Tell Stories



A collection of short stories, titled ***When Children Tell Stories***, was released by the Chief Guest of the day, Ms Padma Venkataraman, President, Women's Indian Association. The stories were written by the students from BM Schools, with the help of volunteers from Deloitte, who conducted the Impact Day. The book was designed and published by Six Red Marbles.

The Braade-Stiftung Board Members Visit Bala Mandir



The Braade-Stiftung Trust Board members - Mr Lars Odd Pettersen, Chairman, with his wife Ms Marianne and granddaughter Ms Sara and Mr Ole Korva - Vice- Chairman, with his wife Ms Eva Gole, recently visited Bala Mandir.

BM Connect spoke to the two ladies on their observations while at Bala Mandir. Marianne had last visited BM about 6 years ago, while Eva was here two years ago.

Says Marianne, *"There has been so much change since then. So many new buildings have come up. Everything is so neat and clean and I have noticed a very positive change at BM."*

Says Eva, *"The new and modern facilities as well as the interesting programmes are so necessary to reach out to more children. Everyone around seems so passionate about their work."*

The Harvest Festival @ BM

Pongal, was celebrated across all the units with traditional fervour and gaiety. Cooking the fragrant sweet pongal along with swaying palms of sugarcane, children dressed in colourful outfits, with the reverberation of *Pongalo Pongal*, brought in a sense of happiness and cheer. Similarly, Republic Day was also observed across units.



In the Chennai and Nagercoil Homes, sweet pongal along with sugarcane and vegetables prepared in a clay pot, was offered to the Sun God by the children, dressed in new clothes.



BMRRRC celebrated Pongal by involving people from the community and Self Help Group from the ECCD Ellapuram Project comprising 134 villages.

At BMMNC mothers and staff donned their best silk saris and children came dressed in traditional dhotis and skirts.



At BM Satyamurthi, *Thamizh Parambariya Kalaivizha* which was held on January 10, featured performances including a Bharathiyar song, dance, roleplay, and silambam display. Dr. Kanaga Lakshmi, an inspiring teacher was the Chief Guest.



At BM Vidyalaya's KG Section, teachers explained the importance of each day of Pongal to children. At the special assembly for Primary classes, students of Class 2 presented a song on Pongal.

Republic Day Celebrations @ BM



The BM Home Chennai children attended an event by the Madras MBS Choir which performed multi-lingual songs on values, at Jeeva Park. The children thoroughly enjoyed the music and had a wonderful time.

At the BM Vidyalaya playground, students of Vidyalaya and Satyamurthi Schools celebrated Republic Day. Mr Sriram, a member of the Tamil Nadu Brahmins Association, was the Chief Guest.

News from BM Homes

It has been a very busy period at both the Chennai and Nagercoil Homes. Here is a round-up of the various activities.

CHENNAI: As part of the *Swachh Seva and Clean India, Green India initiative*, children participated in a wall painting activity. Volunteers from the Women's Club, fondly called *Grannies*, conducted an engaging session for Classes 3 to 5. Children showcased their talents at the School Sports Day at Vidyalaya School, winning medals, certificates, and overall championships.

NAGERCOIL: The New Year 2026 was celebrated with joy with a visit to a nearby Sivan Temple and a special meal for the children. Students from The Indian Agriculture College conducted a motivational session for senior girls. A one-day picnic to Vattakottai, Mukkadal Dam, and Pechiparai Dam provided a refreshing outing. Representatives from Miracle Foundation visited to review programmes. Seven girls passed the Balvikas Group II exam, and international visitors interacted with the children.

BM Home - Chennai



A wall painting activity - *Clean India, Green India* - was a part of *Swachh Seva and Clean India Green India* initiative.



The Women's Club session included a variety of enjoyable activities such as songs, craftwork, a puppet show, and a rangoli display.



At the Sports Day held at Vidyalaya School.



An internal exposure programme was organized at BM for 42 parents from Chengalpattu belonging to the tribal community and 17 parents from Ellapuram.



The High School children visited M A Chidambaram Stadium (Chepauk Stadium) to watch the USA vs Namibia match.



A Parents' Meet was organised by the dedicated teamwork of the social workers and the committed involvement of MSW interns.



The Thiruppavai Competition prize distribution was organised by Sri Gokula Baktha Sabha under the leadership of Mr Venmeni Kumar.



Maha Shivaratri pooja was celebrated with the children singing bhajans and performing *arathi*, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.





Ms. Yamuna, State Head, and Mr. Abilash Kumar, Program Manager, from Miracle Foundation visited the BM Home and discussed the existing activities associated with their mission of Family Strengthening and Family-Based Alternative Care.



A one-day picnic was arranged for 44 children, accompanied by 11 staff members, to Vattakottai, Mukkadal Dam, and Pechiparai Dam.



Six students from the Indian Agriculture College, Tirunelveli District, visited the home to conduct a motivational session for Class 11 and 12 girls.



The New Year 2026 was celebrated with great enthusiasm with the children visiting the Sivan Temple located nearby and enjoying special meals there.



Seven girls from the Home passed the Balvikas Group II exam and received their certificates.



Mr Lars Odd Pettersen and Mr Ole Korva, Braade-Stiftung Trust, Denmark, visited the Home. The children interacted with them and entertained them with a dance performance.



Cultural Event during the visit of Braade-Stiftung Trust, Denmark

Tamil Nadu State Girl Child Protection Day was observed and the children were greeted with sweets.



Special prayers were conducted in remembrance of Sarala Amma, the Founder-Member of the BM Nagercoil Home.

During this academic year, seven girls successfully completed their +2 education and were discharged from the Home.

The academic year at Bala Mandir Vidyalaya was filled with enriching experiences that promoted holistic development among students. The Annual Sports Day, inaugurated by national squash player Ms. Aparajitha Balamurukan, highlighted physical fitness and teamwork through a variety of drills and sports activities. Educational field trips to Egmore Museum and Guindy National Park enhanced experiential learning. A Science Fair project showcased innovative thinking, while health awareness sessions emphasised well-being. The year concluded with Graduation Day celebrations, marking key milestones and reflecting the confidence and growth of the students.

The year at Bala Mandir Satyamurthi School was marked by diverse and enriching experiences that promoted innovation, awareness, and holistic development among students. The celebration of National Girl Child Day through the ESP32 Car Development Challenge at the Boeing Sukanya STEM Lab encouraged hands-on STEM learning and teamwork among girls. Exposure visits, including the Wellness Mela and academic conclaves, broadened their perspectives, while science fairs and projects nurtured critical thinking and innovation.

Bala Mandir Vidyalaya



Ramakrishna Mission organised an Inter-School Competition for students of Classes 1 to 5. Around 16 students from Vidyalaya participated, and Master Arshavardhan of Class 2-B secured the Third Prize in the Drawing Competition.



Alveo 4P Charitable Trust conducted a Health Awareness Programme - *Her 02*, for all women staff of Bala Mandir Schools and a few girl students from the Higher Secondary level.



12 students from Vidyalaya participated in Colouring, Drawing, Spell Bee, and Craft competitions in the LIBAZAAR organised by Loyola Institute of Business Administration



Students of Class 3 to 5 went on a field trip to the Egmore Museum. They were excited to see the Bronze gallery, a display of numismatic items, stone sculptures and palm leaves with inscriptions.



Students of Class 1 & 2 who visited Guindy National park, learnt about the different types of snakes, crocodiles, birds, turtles and monkeys.



Three students of Class 5 participated in the Science Fair organised by BM Satyamurthi School on the topic *Hydra*.



Students of UKG and Class 5 had their Graduation day on 28th March, 2026. Ms Padma Yogendra, Psychological Counsellor was the Chief Guest of the day. Children of UKG presented a song and recited *Tirukkural*.



Bala Mandir Satyamurthi School



At the National Girl Child Day, the students were divided into three teams and given a hands-on challenge to design, build, and test an ESP32-based robotic car.



Two representatives from the School attended the Academic Counsellors Conclave at Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Porur, and gained insights into allied medical and paramedical courses.



The students visited Pathashaala School for the vibrant *Wellness Mela*, creatively organised by the Class 10 students, focusing on understanding stress and discovering healthy ways to cope with it.



A farewell ceremony was held for the students of Class 10 and 12, featuring a special puja and *homam* conducted by the Arya Samaj.



BM Satyamurthi School celebrated National Science Day by hosting a Science Fair - *Hydro Explorations*. This event focused on this year's theme, *Water*, and students showcased a wide range of innovative projects and science concepts.



The organisation *Third Generation* conducted a State-level drawing and handwriting competition. Students from Classes 6 to 11 participated this helped them to identify their hidden talents and think in an innovative manner.



Students of the Boeing Sukanya Lab participated in the SECMINDSPARK. Four Class 9 students represented the school and presented a project titled *Vision Care for Kids*. It focused on early detection and awareness of vision-related issues among children.





ATB awareness programme was conducted by YRG CARE Foundation for High School and Higher Secondary students. Doctors discussed causes, symptoms, and aftercare requirements of TB, including latent TB.



Students from BM Satyamurthi School had a thrilling experience at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, held at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium. Over two days, the students interacted with the New Zealand cricketers.



A Boeing Volunteer Session was held at the Boeing Sukanya Lab, as part of Boeing E-week. 45 students participated, supported by 8 Boeing employee volunteers.



A presentation on Shri Satyamurthi's life and his role in India's Independence was done for High School students on 28th March, commemorating his Remembrance Day.



Teachers from the High School attended the Enlightening Education Workshop on *Designing Experience for Social Responsibility Among Students* by Shri V S Subash Deshpande, Agarwal Vidyalaya, who spoke on designing experiences for social responsibility among students.



Dr. Bindu from BMRRC conducted *The Architect of You* workshop for middle and high school students. The session emphasised school as a *Character Lab* simulating real-world challenges, and exploring *Ikigai* - finding a balance in life.

The year was marked by a series of meaningful initiatives and milestones at Bala Mandir Madhuram Narayanan Centre, reflecting its continued commitment to holistic development and inclusion. The annual graduation event, *Moving Ahead*, and programmes such as the *IGNOU CESEIID* orientation strengthened academic engagement, while sustained support from partners like the Rotary Club of Besant Nagar ensured access to essential assistive devices for children with disabilities. Community and staff contributions were also acknowledged, including the heartfelt farewell of a long-serving team member. Events like the Annual Sports Day and *Nutrifest* provided vibrant platforms for children and parents to participate, celebrate abilities, and promote healthy living. Together, these initiatives highlight a nurturing environment that empowers every child to move forward with confidence and dignity.



At the annual graduation event, *Moving Ahead*, 11 children from the Upanayan Early Intervention Programme transitioned to special schools or the Jivikam Skill Training Unit, while 4 students from Jivikam moved on to further vocational training.



The event featured lively performances, including the action song *Vidukathai* by Early Intervention children and a dance by the parents - *Nathavindhu*.



The Chief Guest, Dr. S Thenmozhi, emphasized nurturing confidence and self-esteem in every child, while Guest of Honour, Mr T M N Deepak Nathan, spoke about future opportunities for the children.



IGNOU certificate programme (CESEIID) - the orientation workshop for the practical project was inaugurated by Dr. Zarina for the second batch of the IGNOU programme.



Rotary Club of Besant Nagar has been helping the disability sector, particularly the children of BM MNC. They provide, from time to time, Gaiters, Ankle Foot Orthosis (AFO), Tube Splints, Corner chairs and Cerebral Palsy chairs.



Ms Vaijayanthi Desikan who served for over 13 years with MNC retired effective 31.01.2026. A warm send-off was given to her and everyone recalled her dedication and commitment to parents and staff.



BM MNC for Exceptional Children celebrated its 22nd Annual Sports Day on 9th February, 2026. The Chief Guest for the Day was Brig. S. Suresh Kumar VSM (Retd.).



As a part of the Annapoorna Nutrition Project, BM MNC conducts a food festival annually. The 19th Nutrifest had the theme *Healthy, Convenient, Home-Prepared Ready to Cook Meals*. The mothers who prepared snacks with healthy ingredients with innovative ideas received the rolling trophy.



A Donor Meet was organised to express heartfelt gratitude to supporters whose generosity has transformed the lives of vulnerable children. An Anxiety Management & Exam Readiness session was conducted for Class 10 students. Adolescent discussion sessions across multiple districts engaged children from Class 8 and above. *Step into Success – Ready! Set! 10th!* guided Class 9 students in planning their academic journey with clarity and purpose. The KC Annual Meet, held at Ambur, brought together Kinship Care families to strengthen relationships and reflect on programme impact.



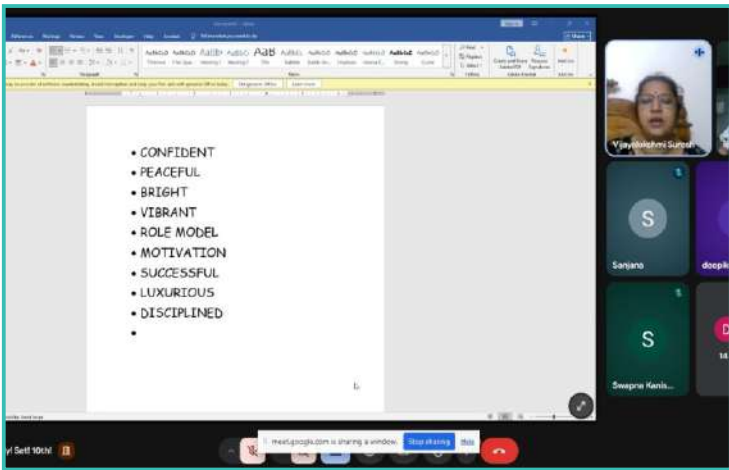
The Donor Meet event reaffirmed the strong partnership between Bala Mandir and its donors, united by a shared commitment to nurturing hope, dignity and a sense belonging, for every child.



Anxiety Management & Exam Readiness conducted by Ms Vijayalakshmi, supported children in managing exam-related stress while helping them prepare effectively for their upcoming Board exams.



An online discussion with adolescents from Vellore, Tirupathur, Tiruvallur, Chennai, Villupuram, Kanchipuram, Chengalpet, Thiruvannamalai, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem and Namakkal districts was conducted by Ms Vijayalakshmi.



Step into Success – Ready! Set! 10th! - a session conducted for Class 9 students from Vellore, Tiruvallur and Tirupathur, focused on helping them design their journey towards Class 10 with clarity and purpose.



The Annual KC Meet for the districts of Vellore, Tirupathur, and Ranipet was held at Seventh Day Adventist Matriculation School, Ambur, with a total of 194 participants attending the programme. The programme was meticulously organised by the field Social Workers, Mr Lokeshwar and Mr Vignesh, who ensured that every aspect of the event was smoothly coordinated.



Father's role in Parenting - On Father's Day (February 15), an event was conducted at Pannapakkam on the theme *Father's Role in Parenting* to create awareness among the fathers and help them gain knowledge and understanding on Early Child Care and Development. In total, 40 fathers participated in the programme.



40 field staff visited BM to observe how various units function and get an exposure to teaching methods and practices. Staff felt the exposure was beneficial and suggested adapting key learnings in the Ellapuram project to enhance children's learning environment.



A School Readiness programme was conducted in all 134 villages by involving AWC, non-AWC parents and community members. It showcased children's learning through Anganwadi activities and explain how these activities help prepare children for school.



A One-day Awareness programme was conducted for Bala Mandir field staff on Child Protection policies and child welfare related laws. This programme was organised by the District Child Protection Office, Thiruvallur.

Photo Gallery



BM Children @ Chepauk Stadium



@ the Sports Meet



Activities during the Sports Meet



@ the Tamizh Parambariya Kalai Vizha



Pongal Celebrations



During the Eye-camp @ Vidyalaya



Deloitte Best Impact Story



Children enjoying activities during KC Meet



Swachh Bharat activity @ BM

The following staff were recognised for their **long service** to the organisation

Ms Sakunthala S - 20 Years - BM Ch Prog; Ms Punitha D - 20 Years - BM Ch Prog

The following staff were felicitated with the **Employee of the Year Award**

- Ms Sujatha T - BM Vidyalaya
- Ms Ponni M - BM SMHS
- Ms Karpagalakshmi P - BM Children's Home
- Ms Ellammal V - BM Children's Home
- Ms Jeniffer Antonita I - BM Children's Home
- Ms Fermi A Priyadharshini - BM Kinship Care
- Ms Saranya D - BM Kinship Care
- Mr Benjamin Samuel Nessaiyan - BM Kinship Care
- Ms Rajalakshmi Aravindkumar - BM MNC
- Mr Subramani K - BMKT Main Office
- Ms Maheswari R - BMKT Main Office
- Mr Anand Prabakaran E - BM RRC

Links to Blogs featured in ChatBM during the Quarter

- Counselling as a Foundation for Children's Emotional Well-being - Blog on Education by Ms Livetha Gunapathi
- <https://blog.balamandir.org/online/2026/01/15/counselling-as-a-foundation-for-childrens-emotional-well-being/>
- My Journey with Multiple Disabled Children - Blog on Special Needs by Ms Dhavamani
- <https://blog.balamandir.org/online/2026/02/26/my-journey-working-with-children-with-multiple-disabilities-translation-of-tamil-article-posted-on-11-02-2026/>
- The Hand That Does It All - Blog on Parenting by Ms Fermie Priyadarshini
- <https://blog.balamandir.org/online/2026/02/13/the-hand-that-does-it-all/>

List of Abbreviations

- | | |
|---|--|
| • BMKT - Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust | • IEC - Information Education Communication |
| • BM SMHS - Bala Mandir Satyamurthi High School | • CDPO - Child Development Project Officer |
| • BM MNC - Bala Mandir Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children | • AWC - Anganwadi Centre |
| • EIC - Early Intervention Centre | • CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility |
| • BM KC - Bala Mandir Kinship Care | • TNSCPS - Tamilnadu State Child Protection Society |
| • KG - Kinder Garten | • DCPO I/C - District Child Protection Officer In-Charge |
| • BM RRC - Bala Mandir Research and Resource Centre | • DSO - District Safety Officer |
| • ECCD - Early Childhood Care and Development | • HR - Human Resources |