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Quarterly Newsletter of Bala Mandir

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STORIES OF HOPE.

A collective journey of growth, resilience and change.

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From the

EDITOR'S DESK

The second quarter of the year, July - September sustained the momentum and enthusiasm that marked the beginning of the academic year. Significant occasions on the calendar, including Kamaraj Day, Independence Day and Annual Day, were commemorated with patriotic fervour and joyful celebrations. The founders of MNC were also remembered with deep affection and gratitude.

Across the various units, a vibrant array of activities ensured that children of all ages remained actively engaged and involved. These included Sports Days across schools, Teacher's Day celebrations, Drug Awareness Camps, Aeromodelling sessions and much more. The Kindergarten children delighted in celebrating Colours Day, while the children of BMMNC enjoyed an exciting outing to MGM Theme Park. BM Kinship Care hosted its Annual Meet in Erode, while BMRRC initiated its community engagement programme on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) in the Chithamur Block of Chengalpattu District.

At the heart of every initiative and endeavour of the BMKT institution lies its unwavering commitment to 'Children First'. Each programme and activity reflects this enduring philosophy and reaffirms its guiding belief that Every Child Matters.

Till next time...
Rukmini Amirapu
minnie@balamandir.org

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Education Day: *Honouring Karmaveerar Kamarajar's Legacy*



Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust (BMKT) celebrated Education Day on 15 July 2026, commemorating the birth anniversary of Karmaveerar K Kamarajar and his enduring contribution to making education accessible to children across Tamil Nadu. Students of Bala Mandir Vidyalaya Primary School presented a Villupattu performance, Karmaveerar Kamarajar, while students of Bala Mandir Satyamurthi High School presented *Kalvi Valluvan Kamarajar,* highlighting his vision, values and educational reforms. The performances brought his legacy to life through music, storytelling and reflection. Chief Guest Ms Vaishnavi Srinivasan, Executive Director of BHUMI, encouraged students to face challenges with perseverance, believe in themselves and draw strength from their community. The occasion also recognised the dedicated service of Bala Mandir's helpers and support staff, whose contributions play an important role in nurturing children and sustaining the Trust's mission.

At the BM Nagercoil Home, children and staff celebrated Kamaraj Day in the presence of Chief Guest Prof. Raja Ram, who spoke about the life and contributions of Perunthalaivar K Kamaraj. Children presented cultural programmes, participating enthusiastically in the celebration.

The BM Satyamurthi School organised quizzes, oratorical, writing and art competitions to celebrate his legacy, alongside a Class 9 student's moving portrayal of freedom fighter Thiyagi Satyamurthi and talks honouring Kamarajar's contributions











As BMKT honours Kamarajar's legacy, the celebration serves as a reminder that education is more than the imparting of knowledge; it is about opening doors, nurturing potential and ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has the opportunity to shape their own future



Second Memorial Oration: *Advancing Disability Inclusion and Early Intervention*

Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust hosted the Second Memorial Oration at the Bala Mandir Cultural Centre, Chennai, honouring the vision of Air Vice-Marshal (Retd.) V Krishnaswamy VSM and Ms Jaya Krishnaswamy. Delivering the keynote address, From Care to Confidence: Empowering Parents, Enabling Children, Ms Poonam Natarajan, Founder and Chairperson of Vidya Sagar, highlighted the importance of early intervention, inclusive education and recognising parents as experts in their children's lives. Ms V R P Sheilaja Rao, former Head of Special Education at NIEPID, paid tribute to Ms Jaya Krishnaswamy's pioneering contributions, including the Upanayan Assessment Scale and the Bala Mandir MNC Upanayan Model of Early Intervention, now foundational to District Early Intervention Centres across Tamil Nadu.









Bringing family experiences to the forefront, the programme featured a panel discussion where parents of children with special needs shared their journeys, challenges and achievements, followed by a parental empowerment workshop offering practical strategies to support children's growth and independence. Ms Maya Gaitonde, Honorary General Secretary of BMKT, outlined BMMNC's plans to strengthen its support network by bringing together parents, teachers, professionals and associations, while reaching families within their communities. The oration reinforced a shared vision: building an inclusive society requires more than caring for children with disabilities; it calls for empowering families, recognising every child's strengths and creating opportunities for every child to grow with confidence and independence.

Founder's Day 2026: *Celebrating a Legacy That Lives On*



Bala Mandir celebrated Founder's Day 2026, honouring the vision and legacy of its Founder, Smt. S Manjubhashini. The afternoon brought together children, staff, management and well-wishers in a celebration of the values that continue to shape the institution and its work. The children of Bala Mandir Home set the tone with a lively Villuppattu performance, followed by the presentation of Long Service Awards, recognising the dedication and commitment of those who have been part of Bala Mandir's journey.

The celebration also featured an address by the Chief Guest, Ms. N. Latha, Director of School Education (FAC) & SCERT Director, and a musical performance by young adults of Samagratha Foundation, an inclusive music crew, committed to promoting inclusion and creative expression, using the power of music to bring people together. As the gathering came together to sing the Bala Mandir Anthem, the celebration became a reflection of a shared legacy – one carried forward through the children, the people who serve them and the wider community that stands with Bala Mandir.













National Days Celebrated Across BM









Independence Day Celebrations

The Children's Home celebrated Independence Day with flag hoisting, patriotic songs, the Bala Mandir pledge and prize distribution for children's sporting achievements. The institution also received a Certificate of Appreciation from District Collector Tmt Malathi Helen in recognition of its contribution to child care and welfare. The BM Nagercoil Home celebrated Independence Day with Dr Krishnan hoisting the National Flag and addressing the children on its significance. Cultural performances and competitions added to the celebrations, with prizes presented to the winners. Patriotism and reflections on freedom filled the High School playground on 15 August as students delivered speeches in Tamil and English on true freedom and honoured the nation's freedom fighters, with retired Headmistress Ms Manimekalai as Chief Guest. BMMNC and the Centre of Excellence featured flag hoisting, patriotic songs and cultural performances, encouraging confidence, participation and togetherness.







Teachers' Day Celebrations - Celebrating the people who shape young minds, Teachers' Day was marked on 5 September with games, a quiz and awards recognising teachers across categories like commitment, coordination and student-friendly approach, presented by Members Mr Natarajan and Ms Leela Natarajan. Children at BMMNC expressed their gratitude to their Teachers through songs, dances, handmade cards and performances, honouring the teachers who nurture their growth and confidence

Festivals Celebrated with Fervour Across all Units of BM





Varalakshmi Vratham was celebrated at the BM Home with a special pooja and bhajans, while Ms Dhanalakshmi narrated the story of the five devis namely Draupathi, Savithri, Anusuya Devi, Sita Devi and Sati Devi, and she also explained the festival's cultural and spiritual significance







Vinayagar Chathurthi Celebrations **-** At the BM Nagercoil Home, the Children prepared a Vinayagar idol using clay as part of the celebrations, followed by special prayers and poojas, fostering cultural awareness and participation, while the children of BM Home performed pooja, sang bhajans, and visited a nearby *Vinayagar* temple as part of the festivities.





KG AND PRIMARY **-** Devotion and creativity came together on 11 September as KG children arrived in traditional attire, learnt about Lord Vinayagar and created grain-art pictures, while Primary students crafted Vinayagar idols and umbrellas using chart paper

Onam Celebrations









At the BM Home, ***Onam*** was celebrated by all the children and staff, by creating colourful floral pookolams and participating in dance and festive activities, sharing moments of joy and togetherness. Similar celebrations were held at the BM Nagercoil Home, where special food added to the spirit of the celebration. Traditional attire, Pookolam-making and festive activities brought Onam alive for KG students on 24 August, introducing them to Kerala's rich cultural traditions in a joyful celebration of togetherness

Krishna Jayanthi Celebrations







Krishna Jayanthi celebrations were marked by decorating the idol of Lord Krishna, performing Ashtothram and singing bhajans, concluding the celebration with aarthi. Children decorated the BM Homes with traditional footprints of Lord Krishna using rice flour, marking the occasion with creativity and devotion. Little Krishnas and Radhas of KG Section added festive charm to the KG classrooms on 3 September, as children learnt about Krishna Jayanthi and took part in a colouring activity

Bala Mandir Children's Home - Chennai





Bandham and Sadhbhavana Programmes

Bandham – Building Bonds and Nurturing Lives - The Bandham Programme continued to nurture meaningful relationships between children and volunteers, creating a safe space for children to share their thoughts and feelings. During an interaction, mentors shared positive feedback on their experiences and the rewarding bonds they have developed with the children.

Sadhbhavana Programme - The Sadhbhavana Programme supports children below six years of age through age-appropriate activities and interactions that encourage emotional expression and strengthen their social and emotional skills



RBSK Medical Camp and Awareness Session - A Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) medical camp provided children with health screenings and medical assessments. An awareness session on climate change and human health highlighted its effects on well-being and the importance of healthy, environmentally responsible practices.

Documentation Camp - A documentation camp organised by DCPO, Chennai South, facilitated Aadhaar enrolment, Community Certificate processing, bank account opening and Birth Certificate applications, helping children access essential documentation

Health Inspector Inspection - The Health Inspector and DBC staff reviewed the home's cleanliness, sanitation, food preparation and storage, and health-related facilities, providing guidance to maintain proper hygiene and a healthy environment for children.







Regular Social Workers' Meetings - Regular social workers' meetings provide a platform to review children's progress, discuss individual needs and plan appropriate interventions, strengthening team coordination and ensuring continued care and support for each child.

A Pledge for Drug-Free Tamil Nadu - Staff members took the Drug-Free Tamil Nadu pledge under the leadership of Mr Sivakumar, DCPO, South, and Mr Sathish Kumar, Central RDO, reaffirming their commitment to a safe, healthy and drug-free society.











Activities for Toddlers and Kindergarten Children - Toddler and kindergarten children explored fruits, flowers and vegetables through engaging art and craft activities guided by creche teachers, encouraging creativity, curiosity, sensory exploration and fine motor development.

Holiday Activities for Primary Children - Primary School children engaged in creative and educational activities, including seed combinations, action-word trees, shape exploration, monument studies, leaf collection and Save the Earth posters. They also explored the flags, significance and interesting facts of Japan, Australia, France and Brazil, broadening their knowledge and environmental awareness.

Bala Mandir Children's Home - Nagercoil





Dental Hygiene and Orientation - Dr Ram Saranya Vinoth conducted a dental hygiene check-up and orientation session, educating children on the importance of maintaining proper oral health and hygiene



Civil Supplies Inspection - The Personal Assistant to the District Supply Officer conducted an inspection to verify stock registers, consumption records and available supplies, supporting accountability in the home's supply management



DLIC Inspection - The District Level Inspection Committee reviewed the home's functioning, facilities, records, cleanliness, safety measures and welfare arrangements, supporting the continued maintenance of standards in child care



DSWO Inspection - The District Social Welfare Officer inspected the home, reviewing its overall functioning, maintenance, records and facilities to ensure the well-being of the children.



DCPO Inspection - The District Child Protection Officer reviewed the home's functioning, child-care arrangements, records, safety measures and facilities, providing guidance to strengthen child welfare and protection



Bala Mandir Schools Annual Day 2026 - Celebrating Learning and Achievement

Bala Mandir Schools celebrated Annual Day 2026 at Bengal Association Hall, T. Nagar, bringing together students, teachers, management and well-wishers to mark a year of learning and achievement. The Annual Report 2025–26 highlighted the schools' progress and the range of academic, co-curricular and extracurricular activities offered to students. The cultural programme featured lively dance and play performances by students across classes, showcasing their creativity, confidence and teamwork, alongside the dedication of their teachers. Students were also recognised for their achievements during the academic year. Chief Guest Mr Balaji Sampath, Founder of AID INDIA and AhaGuru, praised the students' performances and the teachers' efforts. He credited this progress to the commitment of the teachers and management. The celebration was a reminder that education extends beyond the classroom, creating opportunities for children to discover their talents, express themselves and grow in confidence.





Bala Mandir Schools

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY - Sportsmanship and school spirit came alive on 25 July when the BM Schools celebrated the Annual Sports Day at the Vidyalaya playground. The day featured RSP cadets presenting a Guard of Honour, the four houses led the March Past, colourful fan and Maypole dances, flag and bamboo drills and sports competitions. All students from LKG to Class 12 showcased their talents, culminating in medals, trophies and the ceremonial folding of the sports flag.













ANTI-DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAMME - Promoting the message *Drug-Free Today, Healthy Tomorrow*, the TN Domestic Workers Welfare Trust conducted an awareness programme on 4 July featuring expert talks, a dance drama and a street play on the dangers of substance abuse.

ZONAL THROWBALL TOURNAMENT - A strong performance by Satyamurthi School's girls brought sporting success on 13 July 2026, with the Under-14 team emerging as champions and the Under-19 team securing the runners-up position in the Zonal Throwball Tournament.



WASTE MANAGEMENT AWARENESS - Taking the lead in environmental responsibility, Class 11 students introduced a school-wide waste-reduction initiative, with daily waste measurements and a rolling trophy recognising the class that generates the least waste as the monthly *ECO-WARRIORS*.



STUDENT EDUCATIONAL TRIP - Exploring South India's rich cultural heritage, students from Classes 6–12 visited Dakshina Chitra Museum on 1 August 2026 to discover the region's diverse traditions, art forms, architecture and lifestyles.



A DREAM LEARNER – AEROMODELLING - Fifty-nine students explored the science of flight through paper airplanes and chopstick gliders, discovering concepts of lift, drag, thrust, balance and stability while building teamwork, confidence and interest in aviation and STEM careers.



MEDICAL CAMP - Prioritising the well-being of students and staff, YRG CARE Foundation partnered with the school on 24 August to conduct general health check-ups, BMI assessments, dental examinations and blood pressure screenings.



FIRE SAFETY DRILL - Preparedness took centre stage at Satyamurthi School on 3 July as students and staff practised using fire extinguishers, basic first aid and safe evacuation procedures under the guidance of a professional team.



TRITYA SOPAN TEST CAMP - Ten Scouts and Guides from the school attended the Tritya Sopan Test Camp on 25–26 July at Ashok Pillar Girls Higher Secondary School, gaining new scouting and guiding skills and sharing their experiences at the closing session.



SATURDAY BOEING VOLUNTEER SESSION - Thirty-six students explored the Plant and Animal Kingdom through interactive learning activities facilitated by six Boeing volunteers, making foundational biological concepts easier to understand and relate to everyday life



KIDNEY HEALTH AWARENESS - Making healthy choices a priority, a kidney health awareness session on 24 August highlighted the importance of hydration, the potential effects of junk food on kidney function and healthier dietary alternatives for students and staff.



VISIT BY STUDENTS FROM JHARKHAND - An inter-state exchange brought 20 students and four teachers from Jharkhand to the school on 7 August, creating opportunities to learn about Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry's cultures and traditions while sharing experiences of school life.





MAD CAREER CAMP - Helping students look towards their future, Make A Difference (MAD) volunteers conducted an introductory career guidance session for Classes 9 and 10 encouraging them to identify their interests, explore career options and consider how their choices could benefit society



USING AI FOR LESSON PLANNING - Bringing AI into classroom preparation, a session for high school teachers on 18 September introduced practical applications for lesson plans, worksheets, assessments and presentations, alongside responsible prompting, verification and student data privacy.



SOLAR OBSERVATION WORKSHOP Students from Classes 6–9 explored the Sun and astronomy on 12 September through safe solar observation using solar glasses and specially filtered telescopes, supported by an introductory session on light, light-years and stars.









STEM COMPETITION – INNOVA TN'26 - High school students showcased their problem-solving abilities at the online INNOVA TN'26 competition, with Class 6 presenting *Photon Page* and Class 9 presenting *Vision Care for Kids*; the source also describes a student-led Eco-Drop reverse-vending concept that rewards waste disposal, Students Oviya and Akshaya represented the school at Innova TN'26, an event organised by Sairam Institutions in Chennai, receiving participation certificates and gaining exposure to innovative ideas beyond the classroom

Bala Mandir Vidyalaya



INVESTITURE CEREMONY - Student leaders of Vidyalaya received their sashes and badges at the Investiture Ceremony on 13 July 2026, in the presence of Mr M Venkataraman, Secretary of Vidyalaya, and Ms Preethi, Member-in-Charge.



NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY - Promoting healthy childhoods, Primary teacher Ms Priyadarsini explained the importance of preventing intestinal worm infections, and deworming tablets supplied by the Tamil Nadu Government were distributed to students on 10 August



POCSO AWARENESS - Building awareness about child safety, Sub-Inspector Ms Latha and Police Constable Ms Selvi of the All-Women Police Station, Teynampet, conducted an interactive POCSO awareness session for Classes 3–5 on 9 September, supported by an educational video



MEDICAL CHECK-UP - A medical screening camp organised b the National Medicos Organisation, Tamil Nadu brough paediatricians, a dentist and medical students for eye, denta and general health checks, alongside health educatio sessions and awareness posters on hygiene and health habits.



KG HOME VISITS - Strengthening the home–school partnership, KG teachers visited students' homes from 16 to 24 September to understand their backgrounds and build closer parent–teacher coordination, following an orientation session for parents.



TERM I SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT - Primary students completed their Term I Summative Assessment from 16 to 25 September 2026, marking an important milestone in evaluating their learning and academic progress









KG COLOURS DAY - A burst of colour filled the KG classrooms as children explored colours through identification activities, colouring, rhymes and games, developing their creativity, communication and social skills





VEGETABLES DAY - KG children explored the colours, shapes and nutritional benefits of vegetables on 21 August, discovering healthy eating through an engaging okra-printing activity.

FRUIT DAY - From Show and Tell to preparing and sharing fruit salad, KG children celebrated Fruit Day on 21 August while learning about fruits, their benefits and the joy of sharing



Namma Kondattam: Celebrating Inclusion and Belonging

The Bala Mandir Madhuram Narayanan Centre for Exceptional Children (BMMNC) hosted *Namma Kondattam* at the Bala Mandir Vidyalaya playground in T. Nagar, bringing together children with developmental disabilities, their families and the wider community for a morning of games, creative activities, music, cultural performances and shared meals. Chief Guest Dr Darez Ahamed, Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, highlighted the Centre's pioneering work in early intervention and family-centred care, noting its commitment to supporting caregivers alongside children. Ms Meera Jagdish, President, Inner Wheel Club of Madras, joined the celebration as Guest of Honour.

More than a festive gathering, *Namma Kondattam* created a space where children and families could participate, connect and build lasting memories. Reflecting on BMMNC's approach, Dr Darez Ahamed emphasised how the Centre's understanding of children's needs and its support for caregivers offer valuable lessons for extending quality care across Tamil Nadu. The celebration reaffirmed BMMNC's belief that inclusion begins when every child is given the opportunity to participate, every family feels supported, and every individual is welcomed with dignity and a sense of belonging.









Punnagai 2.0 - Children from BMMNC enjoyed a memorable movie outing organised by Rotary Club of Chennai Radiance, celebrating inclusion, friendship and the joy of shared experiences

A Visit of Support - A visit by Mr Srinivasan, South Chennai District DDAWO, brought valuable guidance and support commitments for assistive devices and livelihood opportunities for parents





Project Annapoorna – Health Screening: A blood test camp helped assess children's health and nutritional status, supporting timely intervention and better care

Genetic Counselling Awareness - Nearly 100 parents participated in an awareness session led by Ms Priya Yadav of Metropolis Healthcare Laboratory, gaining insights into developmental disabilities, early diagnosis and genetic testing





SAMYAM – Together in Every Journey - BMMNC's annual gathering brought together children, alumni, families and professionals through cultural performances and shared experiences, strengthening community and mutual support



Building Brighter Futures Through Vocational Training - BMMNC welcomed officials from the National Skill Training Centre, Guindy, to explore opportunities to strengthen vocational learning and independence for children with special needs



Celebrating Every Child - Monthly birthday celebrations at BMMNC and the Centre of Excellence brought children, families and staff together, nurturing friendship, belonging and joyful memories



Tamil Nadu Autism Convention 2026 - Ms Sumitra Manoharan, Director, BMMNC, joined a panel discussion on schooling and autism, contributing to conversations on inclusive education and support for children with autism



National Conclave on Autism - Ms Sumitra Manoharan, participated in the National Conclave held in Tiruvananthapuram, exploring lifelong, inclusive and person-centred support for people with autism



Understanding Minds, Nurturing Well-being: Psychologist and mental health educator Mrs Kavitha Ravi interacted with children and staff, sharing insights on emotional awareness, self-understanding and mental well-being.



Celebrating Inclusion Through Sport - BMMNC students participated in a special running race at Perambur Railway Stadium, experiencing the joy of sport, friendship and sportsmanship



A Day of Joy at MGM Theme Park- Children from BMMNC enjoyed an exciting day of rides, exploration and laughter, creating cherished memories with friends and caregivers



Recognising Excellence in Special Educa on - Ms Geethalakshmi, Ms Theodora, Ms Vijayalakshmi and Ms Thenmozhi received honours recognising their dedication and valuable contributions to special education





Fire Safety Awareness - BMMNC organised a fire safety session for parents led by Mr Bharanidharan of Ashok Nagar Main Fire Station, strengthening emergency preparedness and child safety





Promoting Healthy Smiles - A dental screening session conducted by Dr M Kameshwaran and Milky Smilez Dental Clinic introduced children to oral hygiene, proper brushing and healthy dental habits

Mazhalai Oli Special Olympics 2026: BMMNC students joined children from 10–15 special schools at Rajarathinam Stadium on 30 September, celebrating ability, inclusion, confidence and the spirit of sport





IGNOU Orientation Workshop - BMMNC hosted a three-day workshop for 37 CESEIID students from 9–11 September 2026, providing practical exposure to developmental assessment, intervention strategies and project documentation

Celebrating Fathers and Shared Parenting - Father's Day at BMMNC gave fathers an opportunity to experience their children's daily care routines, strengthening understanding, connection and shared parenting







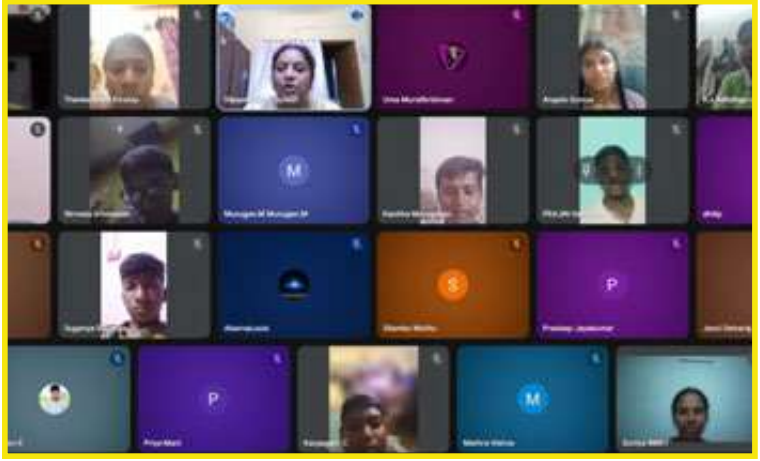






SUPPORTING ASPIRATIONS - Opening doors to professional careers, the Kinship Care Programme and AhaGuru provide advanced coaching for students in Classes 7–12 preparing for competitive examinations such as JEE and NEET, with 16 new children joining in July 2026 and 41 now receiving support.



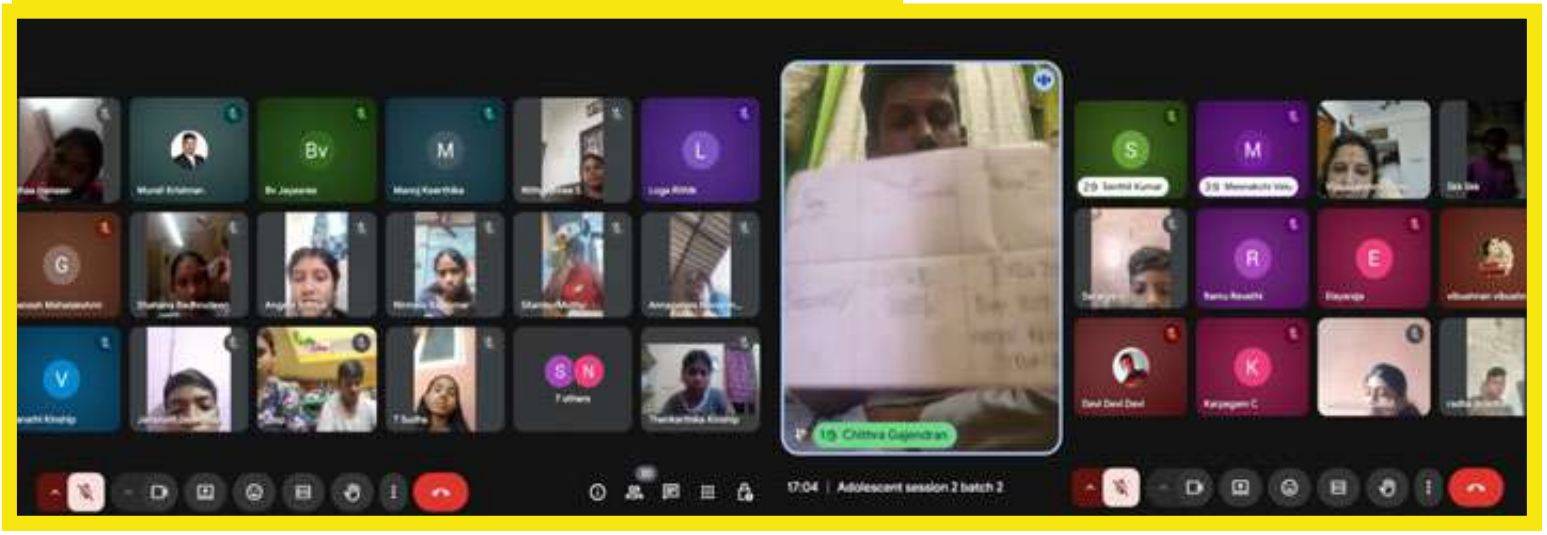


STRENGTHENING MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATIONS - Building confidence in Mathematics, AhaGuru's *Kai Mel Kalvi* Programme enrolled 50 Class 7 children from Kinship Care in July 2026, with tablets provided by the programme enabling regular access to learning resources through the Math Star app

DESIGN YOUR CLASS 10 JOURNEY - Helping Class 10 students plan with purpose, Ms Vijayalakshmi guided children from eight districts through the *Jar of Life* activity, encouraging them to visualise their future, prioritise goals and manage their time effectively for a more focussed approach to learning



ERODE ANNUAL KINSHIP CARE MEET - Celebrating progress and strengthening connections, the Erode and Tiruppur Annual Kinship Care Meet brought together 247 children and parents at Vellalar College of Engineering and Technology on 30 August 2026, featuring experience-sharing, career guidance, interactive activities, Block Connects and the distribution of tablets and laptops to eligible children.



ADOLESCENT CONNECT - Creating a safe space for reflection and conversation, Ms Vijayalakshmi facilitated the second Adolescent Connect session for children across ten districts, using inspiring stories and interactive activities to help them share concerns, understand their experiences and navigate adolescence with greater confidence.



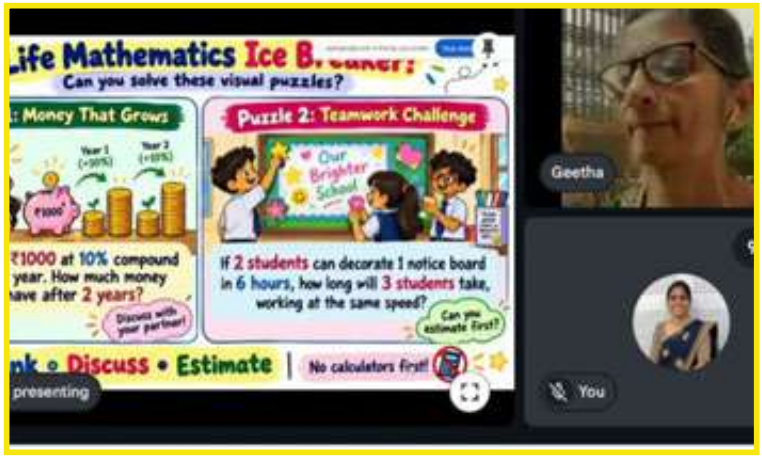
GROUP COUNSELLING - Providing space for healing and shared understanding, Ms Sujatha facilitated group counselling sessions for mothers from six districts, encouraging them to acknowledge their grief, share personal experiences and explore practical ways to move forward with renewed confidence and hope



TRAVELLING WITH THE TEENS - Strengthening the bond between mothers and adolescents, Ms Vijayalakshmi facilitated a session for mothers from Vellore, Tiruvallur and Tirupathur, using reflective activities to build empathy, deepen understanding and support more meaningful connections with their children



PROFESSIONAL HELPING SKILLS - Equipping social workers to support children and mothers more effectively, psychologist Dr Malathi Karthiban led sessions on empathy, active listening, open-ended questions, non-verbal cues and art therapy, while highlighting the importance of self-awareness and self-care in managing vicarious trauma



NMMS TRAINING AND GUIDANCE - Giving back through education, alumni of Alagappa Model School, Karaikudi, are helping Kinship Care children prepare for the NMMS examination through daily interactive classes, weekly tests and volunteer-developed study materials, complemented by 5.30 am sessions featuring meditation and positive affirmations to begin each day on a positive note







Strengthening Early Childhood Development Through Community Engagement - BMRRC expanded its community-based Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) initiative to Chithamur block in Chengalpattu district, covering 15 villages, with awareness activities initially conducted in two villages. The initiative focuses on building awareness among families and communities about the importance of early childhood development and the role of a supportive environment in shaping a child's future.The awareness sessions focused on early brain development, the impact of excessive smartphone use and the importance of positive parenting. Encouragingly, the initiative also saw greater participation from fathers, reinforcing the importance of shared responsibility in nurturing children's growth and development.

BMRRC at National Autism Panel Discussion- BMRRC participated in a panel discussion organised by CDC in partnership with UNICEF in Thiruvananthapuram, focusing on community-level autism screening, early identification and the role of NGOs in supporting children and families.

Strengthening ECCDE Initiatives in Haridwar - BMRRC was invited to evaluate Samanta Foundation's ECCDE project in the tribal areas of Haridwar, providing implementation feedback and practical inputs for the proposed Master Trainer Programme for Anganwadi Workers and Supervisors

Training on the Ellapuram Model - BMRRC conducted a two-day training programme for IRCDS staff on the Ellapuram Model and its field implementation, covering key concepts of Early Childhood Care, Development and Education (ECCDE). The sessions were facilitated by Mr Anand, Project Coordinator

Links to Blogs featured in ChatBM during the Quarter

- The Auto Ride That Changed My Life - Staff Voices and Matters - Ms Vijayalakshmi Sureshkumar
- https://blog.balamandir.org/2026/07/17/the-auto-ride-that-changed-my-life
- What's In Your Cup? - Staff Voices and Matters - Ms Janani
- https://blog.balamandir.org/2026/09/15/whats-in-your-cup

News from the HR Desk



Staff Get-together 2026

Connect as One Team, for One Purpose - Bala Mandir staff came together for a memorable get-together centered on the theme ***Connect as One Team, for One Purpose***. A QR-code-based team allocation brought together colleagues from different units, grades and designations, creating opportunities for interaction and collaboration. The Vertical Spotlight offered each unit a platform to share its achievements, developments and initiatives, while the BMKC and BMRRC field teams presented an impactful street play showcasing their work on the ground. A special cultural programme featuring staff from Education, MNC and Children's Home showcased many hidden talents. Icebreakers, fun activities, and the Positive Stroke closing activity added to the spirit of togetherness. Building on last year's focus on fun and sports, this year's gathering celebrated connection, knowledge-sharing and collective strengths. The entire administrative team made this collaborative event possible

Employee Engagement - Service Awards - The Service Awards have proven to be a powerful tool for acknowledging and celebrating our employees' hard work and dedication. They play a pivotal role in fostering a culture of appreciation and motivation, contributing to both staff and organizational success.

5 years Service Awards

Mr Anand Prabhakaran - BMRRC
Ms Varalakshmi - BMRRC
Ms Mercy Selvakumari - Children's Home
Ms Kalpana - MNC
Ms Sutha - MNC
Ms Amala Pushpam - MNC
Ms Umalakshmi - BMKT Admin

10 years Service Awards

Ms Jenifer Antonita - Children's Home
Ms Veena - Children's Home
Ms Citrarasur - Education
Ms Subasri - Education
Ms Rajalakshmi - MNC
Ms Sangeetha - MNC

15 years Service Awards

Ms Subha - Children's Home



Honouring the Helpers
As it happens every year, on Education Day, our helpers across the units were honoured for their contributions.