

# IMAGINE

## JANUARY 2022

January is the first month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and the first of seven months to have a length of 31 days. The first day of the month is known as New Year's Day.

### BRaille IN EDUCATION

World Braille Day on January 4 is celebrated to honour the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people. The day commemorates the birthday of Braille's inventor, Louis Braille. Louis Braille became blind after a childhood accident.

At 15-years old, he developed a reading and writing system that can be deciphered by touching. Braille is a system of tactile symbols, consisting of raised dots to represent each letter and number, musical, mathematical and scientific symbols. Braille is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font. There are Braille codes in 133 languages.

Many more aids and Apps have opened up a world of accessibility. World Braille Day is a reminder of the importance of accessibility and independence for people who are blind or visually impaired. Blind people are just like sighted people in most ways, but they may see the world differently. The specific and detailed description - 'it is on the table to your left' (instead of 'it's over there'), listening to sounds and even the trivia, keeping things back properly in their respective places...not only makes it less hassle for them but also instils certain values in the sighted people also.

If you meet someone who has low vision or total blindness, respect them, interact with them like sighted people and ask them how you can best help them, and honour their choices. The cane is the key to their independence, ability to get around confidently and independently.

⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	1	2	3	4	5			
⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	
H	I	J	K	L	M	N	6	7	8	9	0			
⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	.	,	?	!	'			
⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	
V	W	X	Y	Z			;	:	<<	>>	-			

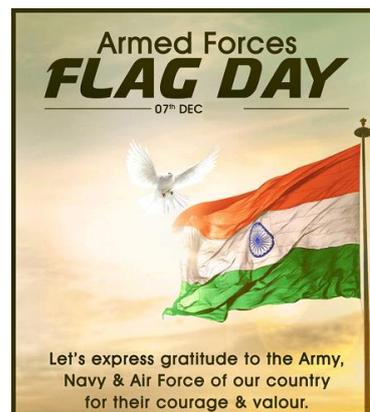
### KNOW OUR ARMED FORCE

The Indian Army is the land-based branch of the Indian Armed Forces. It is the world's second-largest standing army and the largest army. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of



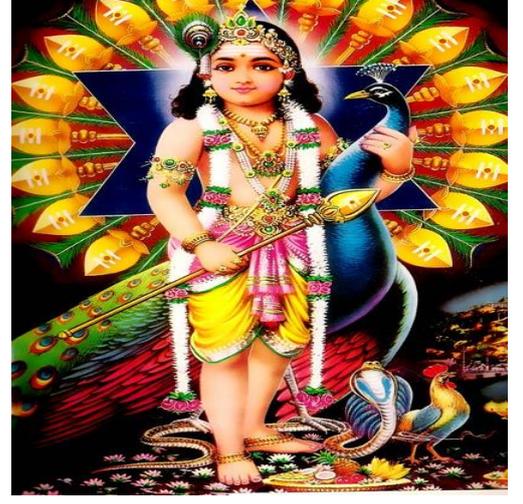
the Indian Army, and it is commanded by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), who is a four-star general. They are the guardians of our nation, the protectors of our motherland. They stake their lives so that our country and the all of us are safe. It is because of the armed forces (the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force supported by the Indian Coast Guard and paramilitary organisations) that we are able to sleep peacefully every night.

The Border Security Force (BSF), a border guarding force of India, established on December 1, 1965, is charged with guarding India's land border during peace time and preventing transnational crime. The BSF, the first line of defence, like other forces, has always shown bravery and courage and fulfilled its duties in safeguarding our nation from the enemies.



*We are blessed and so proud of our armed forces. The forces stand tall and protect us while we sleep peacefully. It's the sheer will and power of the armed forces that keeps our country strong.*

தைப்பூசம் தமிழர்களின் பாரம்பரியத் திருவிழா. முருகப்பெருமான் அன்னையிடம் வேல் வாங்கி முதன் முதலாக திருக்கையில் வேல் ஏந்திய தினம் தைப்பூசமாக கொண்டாடப் படுகின்றது. வேல் என்பது தமிழ்த் தொன்மத்தின் தனித்த அடையாளம்!! வேல் என்று பெயர் வரக்காரணம்: 'வேல்' என்ற வினைச்சொல்லே நீண்டு 'வேல்' என்ற பெயர்ச்சொல் ஆகிறது! வேல் என்றால் வெற்றி! என்று பொருள். மேலும் இத்தினத்தில் பழனிப் பாதயாத்திரை, மலை முழுதும் பாய்ந்தோடும் காவடி ஆறு! வடலூரிலே வள்ளலார் சோதி தரிசனம், திருவரங்கத்திலே தமிழ்த் திருநாளாம் தைத்திருநாள்!! ...இப்படி பல விழாக்கள்!



## தைப்பூசம்

தமிழகம் முழுவதும் வேளாண் குடிகள் நிறைந்த பூமி. தை மாதம் அறுவடைக்காலம். மக்கள் தங்கள் வயல்களில் விளைந்த விளைபொருள்களை முருகனுக்குச் சமர்ப்பிக்கும் பொருட்டுக் காவடி எடுத்துக்கொண்டு வந்து முருகனை வழிபடுவர். காவடியின் தத்துவப் பொருள் சிவகிரி என்பது ஞான வாழ்க்கை, சக்திகிரி என்பது மனம் சார்ந்த உலக வாழ்க்கை. ஜீவாத்மாக்கள் இரண்டையும் சம அளவில் கொண்டு சுமக்க வேண்டும். தனிப்பட்ட அகவாழ்வுக்குக் கொடுக்கும் முக்கியத்துவத்தை இறை வழிபாட்டுக்கும் வழங்க வேண்டும் என்பதாகும்.

தைப்பூச வழிபாடு கோலாகலமாய் மக்கள் திரண்டு வழிபடும் ஒரு காட்சியை ஞான சம்பந்தர் பாடலில் சுட்டிக் காட்டுக்கிறார்.

**"மைப்பூச மொண்கண் மடநல்லார் மாமயிலைக்  
கைப்பூச நீற்றான் கபாலீச் சரம மர்ந்தான்  
நெய்ப்பூச மொன்புழுக்க னேரிழையார் கொண்டாடும்  
தைப்பூசங் காணாதே போதியோ பும்பாவாய்"**

**निज भाषा उन्नति अहै, सब भाषा को मूल, बिनु निज भाषा  
ज्ञान के, मिटै न हिय को श्ल।**

भाषा का सम्मान करने के लिए 10 जनवरी को विश्व हिंदी दिवस मनाया जाता है। इस दिन का विषय हिंदी को जनमत का हिस्सा बनाना है, हालांकि इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि किसी को अपनी मातृभाषा छोड़नी होगी।

**जैसे रंगो के मिलने से खिलता है बसंत,**

**वैसे भाषाओ की मिश्री से भोली है हिंदी।**

पहला विश्व हिंदी दिवस सम्मेलन 10 जनवरी, 1975 को महाराष्ट्र राज्य के एक शहर नागपुर में आयोजित किया गया था। सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन तत्कालीन प्रधान मंत्री इंदिरा गांधी ने किया था। यह दिन भारत में वर्ष 2003 से मनाया जाता है।

2006 में, पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री डॉ मनमोहन सिंह ने घोषणा की कि हर साल 10 जनवरी को विश्व हिंदी दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाएगा। विदेश मंत्रालय ने दुनिया भर में इस भाषा को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से 2006 में अन्य देशों में विश्व हिंदी दिवस मनाने की परंपरा शुरू की।

'மயிலாப்பூரில் உள்ள கபாலீஸ்வரர் ஆலயம். இந்த ஆலயத்தைச் சுற்றிவாழ்கின்ற அழகான பெண்கள் அந்த கபாலீஸ்வரரை வணங்க வருகின்றனர். அதுவும் மை பூசி தங்களை அழகு செய்துகொண்டு வருகின்றனர். ஊரே விழாக்கோலம் பூணுகிறது. பெண்கள் நெய் ஊற்றிப் பொங்கல் செய்து கபாலிக்குப் படைத்து அதை அனைவருக்கும் பிரசாதமாக வழங்குகிறார்கள். காண்பதற்கு இத்தனை அழகிய அனுபவமாக விளங்கும் இந்தத் தைப்பூசத் திருவிழாவைக் காணாமல் போகிறாயா' என்று பாம்பு தீண்டி இறந்துபோன பும்பாவாயை உயிர் எழுப்பப் பாடிய பதிகத்தில் தைப்பூசத்தைக் கொண்டாடும் சிறப்புகள் அந்தக் காலத்தில் இருந்ததை வெளிப்படுத்துகிறது. ஞானசம்பந்தர் பும்பாவையை உயிரோடு எழுப்பிய அற்புதமும் தைப்பூச நன்னாளில்தான் நடந்தது.

हिन्दी भाषा को इसका नाम फारसी शब्द 'हिंद' से मिला है जिसका अर्थ है सिंधु की भूमि। यह भाषा भारत, त्रिनिदाद, नेपाल, गुयाना, मॉरीशस और अन्य देशों में बोली जाती है।

अंग्रेजी, स्पेनिश और मंदारिन के बाद हिंदी विश्व स्तर पर चौथी सबसे अधिक बोली जाने वाली भाषा है। भारत में, यह अंग्रेजी के साथ दो आधिकारिक भाषाओं में से एक है।



# PONGAL CELEBRATION

The word 'Pongal' in Tamilnadu reveals "to boil", therefore this auspicious day is dedicated to giving thanks to nature for her productivity. Pongal is solemnized in the season when crops like sugarcane, rice, turmeric, etc.. are reaped in the farmlands. They also worship the God of light Sun for rich agricultural crops. People believe that Pongal brings good wishes, wealth, peace and prosperity.

The first day of the four-day festivity is Bhogi Pongal. It marks the last day of Marghazi. The second day is Surya Pongal. The third day marks Mattu Pongal and the last day is Kanum Pongal.

Bhogi Pongal is dedicated to Lord of the rain Indra for the prosperity of their agricultural land. Since, Lord Indra who is the supreme divinity is the God of clouds and rains.



On the same day, some set of rituals of Bhogi Mantalu are also conducted in some rural areas. People provide their gratitude to Lord Indra by dancing and singing songs in praise of the Lord around the bonfire. The importance of bonfire is that it is made of agricultural wastage and useless household woods.

Surya Pongal or Perum Pongal is the second and main Pongal festive day. This day is dedicated to Lord Surya. It is a belief that the main Pongal event is performed on this day. Thai Pongal is also called Surya Pongal. The ceremonial worship is started with kolam, a traditionally, handmade auspicious design at the entrance of the house by white lime powder. This should be performed early morning and after bath by the females of the house. All people wear traditional dress, jewellery and put tikka on their forehead.



The major event on this day is performed where rice is boiled along with milk in a pottery pot tied with a turmeric plant on clay stoves outside of the house. This mixture is prepared by the females of

the house for offering it to the God Sun in the morning time. In many places, women gather at a specific location to perform this traditional ritual. After the rice is cooked, it is offered to Lord Sun along with sticks of sugarcane, coconuts and bananas.

Mattu Pongal is dedicated to the worship of cows. On this special day, the farmers makeover their cows with multicoloured beads, tinkling bells, sheaves of corn and flower garlands. Then they are taken to the village centers, where all the villagers gathered to watch each other's cows and their makeovers. Then they worshiped and an Arti is performed to venerate those embellished cows. The resounding of bells and beautifully makeup cows make the entire atmosphere festive and full of fun.



The fourth day or last day of Pongal is known as Kaanum or Knau Pongal. The Pongal ritual performed on this day is that; the leftovers of sweet Pongal, colored rice (red and yellow), betel leaves, plantains, betel nuts, two pieces of sugarcane, and other dishes are placed in the courtyard and placed on the washed turmeric leaves. The main item- rice is put merely in the center of the turmeric leaf. All the women of the house assemble in the courtyard and pray for their brothers and family's prosperity, followed by Aarti with turmeric water, rice, vermilion, limestone, and this holy water is sprinkled everywhere, even outside the house.

## The Difference of Flag Ceremony on 15th August & 26th January!

On 15th August, on India's Independence Day, the tricolour, our national flag is "hoisted", whereas on the 26th January, that is, on our Republic Day, it is "unfurled".

### What is the difference between hoisting the flag and unfurling the same?

Well, on 15th August, the flag is kept folded, down at the middle of the flag pole, and is pulled up at the tip of the pole before it is spread out. This is hoisting of a flag. It signifies the country was freed after a span of colonial domination. On the other hand, on 26th January (since 1950) the tricolour is unfurled, that is, the flag stays high up at the tip of the flag pole, (not at the middle or lower height of the pole) folded, and is spread out with the pull of the rope. This is unfurling of the tricolour. It signifies that as a flag of an already free country, it cannot stay hung at a lower height, but is held high above.

This is a small but very significant aspect of how our tricolour is honoured with the country's history. Let us remember its glory and realize our true duty as an Indian: it's not of narrow nationalism, but inclusion and unity in diversity.

# BALSAM IN JANUARY

## Pongal at Balsam:

We celebrated Pongal at Balsam on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022. All the Non-Teaching Staff made all the arrangements and games were conducted. Story of pongal was narrated by the teacher followed by the UKG children made the clay models of pongal pot, sugarcane, bull, few vegetable models and turmeric plait using the play dough. They enjoyed the activity. Children learnt a pongal song and sang beautifully.

## Art Integration:

Students of Grade 7 explored about various Tribal arts of India m as Dhokra in West Bengal, Pattachitra from Orissa, Madhubani Painting of Bihar, Kalamkari Painting Andhra Pradesh, Block Printing in villages of Rajasthan and Gujarat, Rabari Embroidery of Gujarat, Zari work of Rajsthan, Masks of Majuli, Assam, Kushamandi Masks or Mukha of West Bengal, Sitalpati – Cool Mats of Bengal and Tripura, Madur Craft of Bengal, Sholapith- the Malakars of Bengal, Stone Artefacts of Mamallapuram , Tamil Nadu, Terracotta – The ancient Baked-Clay-Art.They have drawn Gond Art as art Integration.



## Virtual Skit:

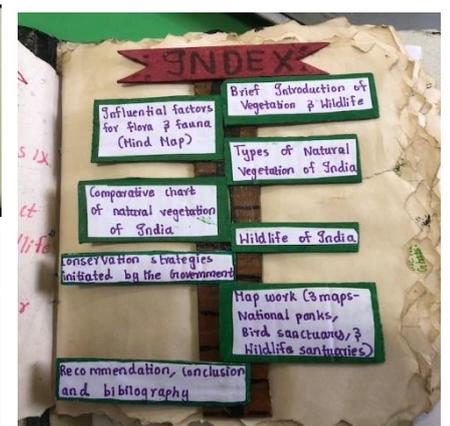
The skit is an indispensable tool to enhance students' cognitive, affective and motor development. This Competition does not only strengthen students' confidence to face the audience but also helps in developing awareness about our surroundings and the daily happenings.

The activity was organised virtually for Grade 9 students to enhance imagination skills, powers of creative expression, linguistic skills. The competition was greatly helpful and encouraging in boosting Moral Values. Grade 9 students skillfully prepared their skit on the story 'the beggar'. All the teams were at their creative best. The powerful performances of the budding actors transported the audience to the realm of cinema. The activity was thoroughly entertaining and inculcated the moral values in young buddies' minds.

## Project on Natural Vegetation and Wild Life

To encourage students to learn the topics by doing, project work on 'Natural Vegetation and Wild Life' was assigned to G9 students.

Students displayed their creativity, reasoning ability and critical thinking skills while doing the assigned work. Students used only natural items to complete the project. Students completed their projects by keeping all the rubrics in mind and it has enhanced their learning motivation and improved the learning outcomes.





*Balsam Academy a unit of Balaram Memorial Trust launches Stage 1 of "Waldorf Inspired Teacher Training". We invite Aspiring Parents, Graduates, Parents and Teachers to foster and understand the holistic development of our children.*

3-Month Training Starting From 14 February, 2022.

Register here: <https://rb.gy/h3xpie>

For more details Contact/WhatsApp 8778301844 or Mail @ [training@balsamacademy.org](mailto:training@balsamacademy.org)

**bt** Balsam Academy a unit of Balaram Memorial Trust Launches Stage 1 Of

## WALDORF INSPIRED TEACHER TRAINING

**STAGES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

- TEMPERAMENT TYPES
- ACTION RESEARCH
- EXPRESSIVE ART FORMS
- UNDERSTANDING LIFE
- KEY LEARNING

**HOW TO REGISTER**

VISIT THE LINK TO REGISTER: [WITT-Registration](#)

BEFORE REGISTRATION DO READ: [Candidates Handouts](#)

**WHO CAN ATTEND**

- Aspiring Parents
- Graduates
- Parents
- Teachers

3-MONTH TRAINING STARTING FROM 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2022

FOR MORE DETAILS: CALL/WHATSAPP: 8778301844 / MAIL: [Training@balsamacademy.org](mailto:Training@balsamacademy.org)

**Balsam has a Benchmark with students on SEWA project which is all set to grow by leaps. 23 students planted 48 saplings with the help of support staff today at Periyar Nagar Park, Ranipet.**

**The PTM has been conducted for the classes G3-8 on 08.01.22, G9 on 22.01.22, K-G2 and G10 on 29.01.22 at school premises.**

**The workshop on 'Education for Tomorrow' was conducted on 12.01.22 between 9:30 and 10:30am for K-G7 new admission parents. The developmental stages, parents concern about the children, Parenting role and Developing routine were presented to them.**

**On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the School Management Committee and on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022 met via Video Conference at 5:30 pm.**

Geometrical drawing focuses on the use of geometric shapes to create designs and patterns. Here, students have used squares, triangles, circles, and multi-sided mathematical shapes to build beautiful patterns. In a time bound event, students of grade 6 created and completed the activity which was evaluated on the basis of creativity, understanding and their presentation. This is a fun filled activity-based learning.

