



DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE
BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI-620 024

REPORT ON
PONGAL CELEBRATION

9th January 2025

Introduction

“ சுழன்றும்ஏர்ப் பின்னது உலகம் அதனால்
உழந்தும் உழவே தலை.”

குறள்:1031

As this kural emphasizes, the farmers and harvest festival celebration in Tamil Nadu, called Pongal, is a time of joy, gratitude, and cultural festivities. Colleges across the region enthusiastically partake in the celebrations, creating an atmosphere of traditional fervor combined with youthful exuberance. The faculty, research scholars, and students of the Biomedical Science Department at Bharathidasan University, organized a vibrant Pongal celebration on 9th January showcasing unity and enthusiasm and came together to honor this festival with various activities that highlighted the cultural heritage and significance of Pongal. This report provides an

overview of the event, its objectives, and the memorable moments of the day that made the celebration a grand success.

Decorations and Campus Ambience

The Pongal celebration at Biomedical Science Department transformed the campus into a vibrant and festive space that radiated cultural charm. The event venue was adorned with traditional decorations (rangoli) at the entrance symbolizing prosperity and joy. Sugarcane, earthen pots, and colourful flowers added authenticity to the pongal theme, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere.

The campus ambience was filled with festive energy, as the sounds of traditional tamil music was added to the excitement. Students and staff dressed in **traditional attire** enhanced the festive atmosphere. The campus became a living, breathing tribute to the harvest festival enriched to understand the significance of pongal.

Traditional Wears

Among these, traditional attire plays a significant role, symbolizing the festival's essence and Tamil heritage. Men wear the primary garment called the veshti, typically made of cotton or silk. It is often white or off-white, symbolizing simplicity and purity. Women traditionally wear sarees, which are vibrant and favored for their elegance and cultural significance.

Wearing traditional attire during Pongal signifies respect for Tamil culture and heritage. It unites communities by showcasing shared traditions and fosters a sense of pride and identity. Traditional attire not only enhances the festive spirit but also keeps the cultural legacy alive, making Pongal celebrations a vibrant and colourful affair.

Traditional Rituals and Pooja

The celebration is marked by various rituals, including the preparation of pongal and pooja ceremonies by staff and students, which highlight the festival's spiritual and cultural significance. A central ritual involved the preparation of pongal using rice, fresh milk, and jaggery. The pongal was cooked by the students, outdoors of the biomedical science department in traditional earthen pots, symbolizing a connection to the earth and nature.

A key moment of the ritual was when the pot of pongal boiled over, symbolizing abundance and prosperity. Students chanted “**pongalo pongal**” in unison, adding to the festive spirit. After that the Pooja began with the lighting of camphor and the sounds of holy bell symbolizing the removal of darkness and ignorance. Offerings include the freshly cooked pongal, fruits, sugarcane, betel leaves were placed before the deities to seek blessings for prosperity and happiness to the department.

The rituals saw active participation from the staff, faculty, research scholars and students as well as the members of the local community .Everyone joined hands to prepare the

offering, decorate the area and take part in the prayers, fostering a sense of unity and collective gratitude.

The traditional rituals and pooja conducted during celebrations served as a beautiful reminder of the festival's deep cultural and spiritual roots. So the event was a harmonious blend of tradition, devotion and celebration making it a meaningful experience for all participants.

Traditional dance

As a part of this vibrant pongal celebrations, the students of Biomedical Science Department showcased their cultural pride through a captivating traditional dance called “**kummi**” an age-old tamil folk dance that embodies unity and joy. The students meticulously planned the kummi in a circular formation under the guidance of faculty and cultural coordinators. The dancers began by clapping rhythmically and chanting traditional Tamil folk songs that narrated the significance of Pongal. As the music intensified, the dance moves grew intricate, showcasing the agility, grace, and synchronization of the students.

Cultural competitions

The pongal celebrations were marked by a series of cultural competitions and fun filled games showcasing the creativity, talent and enthusiasm of students. The games include **Ball passing, Lucky corner, Fill the bottle, Tug of war** and **pot-breaking game (Uriyadi)** were conducted.

These fun-filled games aimed to celebrate the traditions and essence of the festival while fostering a spirit of **healthy competition** and **camaraderie** among participants. At last the festivities concluded with the grand prize distribution ceremony by the Head of the Department, **Dr. G. Mathan**, to honor the winners and recognize their efforts. It added immense value to the celebration with cherished memories of a meaningful celebration of tradition and talent.

Conclusion

The Pongal celebration conducted by the biomedical science family of Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, was made the day by a resounding success, reflecting the vibrancy of Indian culture and unity among the students. The overall event served as an excellent platform for students to network, bond, create everlasting memories, and continue incorporating educational elements that relate to the academic disciplines of the biomedical science student community.

GALLERY













