THAI – JANUARY
PONGAL – BOILING OVER MILK AND RICE.
It Falls on January 13th or 14th or 15th

By: Mr. K. Vicknarajah
Thaipongal

- Hindu Festival
- Harvest Festival
- Sun Festival (Suriya Pongal)
- Thanks giving Festival
- First day of the Auspicious month
Greetings
Who Celebrate in Sri Lanka

- Hindus
- Specially Hindus whose profession are cultivation

Which part of Sri Lankan celebrates Thaipongal?
- Northern
- Eastern
- Upcountry
How many days, it is celebrated in Sri Lanka?
Two Days

ie First Day : Thaipongal
Second Day : Mattu (Cattle) Pongal

Why it is celebrated?
To thank nature on Thaipongal Day
To thank cows and bulls on the Mattu pongal day.
Calendar – Solar System

• An year is divided into two halves following the apparent movement of sun.
  – Northwards (Uttarayananam)
  – Southwards (Dakshinayananam)

On the first day of “Thai” the SUN leaves the Zodiac sign of *Sagittarius* and Enters that of *Capricorn*.
The event is celebrated as “*Pongal***"
Tribute to the God

• Hindus tribute to the God of Sun, since Sun is the becone of hope and light.
• Sun is the harbinger of a plentiful harvest
• Farmers, after seeing the first years of corn in his fields, celebrate thanksgiving ceremony in honour of Sun God.
HARVEST FESTIVAL

• In an agriculture based civilization harvest is an important part.

• A farmer cultivates his land depends on
  – Cattle
  – Timely rain
  – Sun

  Once in a year farmers give their **gratitude** to these during the harvest festival.

  Hence harvest festival becomes a **thanks giving** festival.
“Pongal” (Thai piranthal Vali Pirakum)

- 04 day celebrations – in India
- Marks a period of **plenty, peace and happiness**
- Believe that with the dawn of the month of “Thai”, there will be **peace, happiness, prosperity, brightness and harmony** in the life of every one. Believe knotty family problems will be solved.
- It is held to honour the Sun for a bountiful harvest.
- Families gather to rejoice and share their joy and their harvests with others.
Pongal Preparation

- Houses are cleaned, painted and decorated
- Cast away pots and pans and get new ones.
- Buying new clothes
- Prepare sweat meats
- Placing Kolam
- Buying new earth pot
- Buying other items such as turmeric plant, sugar cane, beetle leaves, beetle nuts, plantain and other fruits, coconuts etc.
Kolam

- It is a form of decoration for the Hindu homes
- Decorative pattern is made with rice flour and is drawn on the floor outside the door.
- It welcomes the guests to the entrance of house.
Kolams
What is done on a Pongal Day

• Getup early morning
• Clean inner and outer homes
• Spray turmeric water inside the home and outside the home with cow-dung water.
• Select an open space in front of the main entrance of home and decorate the required space with cow dung and apply Kolam on that.
• Keep all the required items for pongal on that decorated place and prepare pongal.
• Get ready with the pongal to offer to God SUN when he rises.
• Do pajan (devotional songs) at home when offering to od Sun.
• Go to temple and worship
• Come back home and enjoy pongal with family members, friends, relatives etc.
• Afterwards visit and exchange pongal with neighbours and relatives.
• Meet at common places and perform / enjoy cultural programmes.
Full Pot for Prosperity
Thorana (A type of Decoration)
Home with decoration
Home Entrance
Important Events
Important Events
Important Events
04 Days Pongal (In India)

- 01\textsuperscript{st} Day – Bhogi Pongal
- 02\textsuperscript{nd} Day – Suriya (Sun) Pongal
- 03\textsuperscript{rd} Day – Mattu Pongal (Patti Pongal)
- 04\textsuperscript{th} Day – Kanum Pongal
Thaipongal – in India

- The second day of Pongal is known as 'Surya Pongal' and is dedicated to the Sun God.
- It is the day on which the celebration actually begins and is also the first day of the Tamil month Thai.
- The rice is cooked and prepared as a dish called Pongal, which is rice with dhal. This Pongal variety is called venpongal, ven meaning white.
- Another variety is also prepared with dhal and jaggery (sweet), called chakra pongal, chakrai meaning sweet. This chakra pongal is cooked in pots until they over flow. It is this overflowing which means Pongal.
- This overflowing of rice is a joyous occasion, and the children and adults as well will shout out 'Pongal-o-Pongal!'. In the villages, people gather in the courtyard and prepare the Pongal in the open. The pot in which the Pongal is cooked is decorated with flowers, sugarcane pieces, turmeric plant etc. The first offering is made to the Sun.
Bhogi Pongal

• This day is meant for domestic activities.
• Bhogi is celebrated in honour of Lord Indra the supreme ruler of clouds that give rains.
• Old household articles and agricultural waste are thrown into fire.
• Fresh harvest of rice, sugar cane and turmeric is brought from the field for the next day pongal.
Mattu Pongal

- On this day Bulls and Cows get a holiday
- People offer prayers to bulls, cows and other farm animals.
- The farmers honour their cattle friends by celebrating it as a day of thanks-giving to them.
- Multi-coloured beads, tinkling bells, sheaves of corn and flower garlands are tied around the neck of the cattle and then are worshiped.
- They are fed with Pongal and taken to the village centers.
- The resounding of their bells attract the villagers as the young men race each other's cattle.
- The entire atmosphere becomes festive and full of fun and revelry. Arati is performed on them, so as to ward off the evil eye.
- A festival called Jallikattu is held in Madurai, Tiruchirapalli and Tanjavur on this day. Bundles of money are tied to the horns of ferocious bulls which the villagers try to retrieve.
Important Events
Important Events
Important Events
Kannum Pongal

- The Fourth day is known as Knau or Kannum Pongal day. On this day, a turmeric leaf is washed and is then placed on the ground. On this leaf are placed, the left overs of sweet Pongal and Venn Pongal, ordinary rice as well as rice colored red and yellow, betel leaves, betel nuts, two pieces of sugarcane, turmeric leaves, and plantains. In Tamil Nadu women perform this ritual before bathing in the morning. All the women, young and old, of the house assemble in the courtyard. The rice is placed in the centre of the leaf, while the women ask that the house and family of their brothers should prosper. Arati is performed for the brothers with turmeric water, limestone and rice, and this water is sprinkled on the kolam in front of the house.