

RAJ BHAVAN
PRESS RELEASE

The Pongal festival was celebrated at Raj Bhavan, Chennai with gaiety and joy on 14th January 2018. For the first time in the history of Raj Bhavan Pongal Peru Vizha was celebrated and the programme included a variety of cultural performances by leading artists and delicious South Indian fare for the palate. The invitees included a variety of dignitaries and eminent personalities such as Ministers in the Tamil Nadu Government, High Court Judges, former Governors, senior IAS/IPS/IFS officers, the Prince of Arcot, officers of the Central Government, Padma awardees, etc.

The Pongal Peru Vizha commenced at 4.00 p.m. with the Tamil Thai Vazhthu followed by a message of greetings from the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru Banwarilal Purohit. In his message, the Governor spoke about the double blessing available to the State of Tamil Nadu through the northward movement of the sun's rays and the rains received from the North-East monsoon, making harvest possible in the month of January, for which the festival of Pongal is celebrated. The great traditions of Tamil culture were highlighted by the Hon'ble Governor who told the audience that the Tamil traditions had a scientific basis and a logical approach. He offered his greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu and dignitaries present and expressed his happiness in having the opportunity to share the merriments and joy of Pongal day with all of them

The cultural programmes that followed included performances by notable personalities such as leading playback singer Tmt. Vani Jayaram, Padma

ShriKadriGopalnath, Dr.Veena E. Gayathri, Padma BhushanVinayakaram and a dance performance by Tmt. UrmilaSathyanarayana. The cultural programme was received with rapt attention by the distinguished and discerning audience who appreciated the range of cultural offerings that the artists provided. The cultural programme was compered by the Additional Chief Secretary to Governor Thiru. R. Rajagopal.

The high tea which followed had at traditional South Indian fare including payasam, vadai, murukku, etc. The Hon'ble Governor Thiru Banwarilal Purohit also enjoyed the South Indian delicacies along with the guests.

The highlight of the Pongal Peru Vizha at Raj Bhavan was the artistic 'PongalPaanai' (pongal pot) which was displayed at the centre of the lawn and the special floral decorations that made the festival at Raj Bhavan shine forth with colour and splendour. The intension behind the Pongal PeruVizha celebrated at Raj Bhavan, Chennai was to honour the great traditions that are held aloft by Tamil people for several generations. This beginning made in 2018 is a trendsetter which is going to shape many such events at the raj Bhavan in the coming months and years.

Raj Bhavan, Chennai
15.01.2018

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Additional Chief Secretary to Governor