

ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMIL NADU AT UTTUKATTU AMMAN TEMPLE, SADURANGAPATTINAM,  
KUPAM (SOUTH) IN KANCHIPURAM DISTRICT ON 15.01.2019 AT 11.00 AM

## **Anaivarukkum Vanakkam**

Distinguished invitees, ladies and gentlemen.

On this joyous occasion of Pongal and Sankranti I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all of you.

Pongal is the most important festival of Tamil Nadu. The festival of Pongal has a scientific, economic & cultural basis. Scientifically speaking it is on the day of Pongal that the effects of the Sun's rays are felt to be moving closer to India. The Sun brings with it life and prosperity. And the North East monsoon which brings in rain to the State of Tamil Nadu creates the right conditions for agriculture thus

making Pongal coincide with the beginning of the harvest season. No wonder Sankranti and Pongal are a double blessing for the people of Tamil Nadu. Tamil culture, great and ancient in character, has shown us the way to celebrate the festival with joy and exuberance.

Today the first grain harvested from the fields is cooked at home, offered in prayer and consumed with all the members of the family. Music, floral decorations and a variety of dishes for the palate fill the day with enjoyment and merriment. I have great pleasure in sharing the merriment and joy with all of you.

Following Pongal, Maatu Pongal and Kaanum Pongal are also celebrated with enthusiasm. We are also observing GoMatha Pooja today as a starting point for Maatu Pongal, which marks the thanksgiving offered to the oxen and cows that assist us in our daily lives.

Cows provide the milk and the bulls help us to plough the land. Giving these animals a place of pride on the occasion is a special feature of the Pongal celebrations.

The people of Sadurangapatnam and more particularly the organizers of today's function deserve appreciation and praise for organizing the Pongal celebrations on such a grand scale. I wish

them all success. I extend my best wishes and greetings to all of you on the happy occasion of Pongal. May this village be blessed with more and more prosperity in the coming years.

Wish you all a Happy Pongal.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....