

# Thaipongal Carnival '15



District Event  
Organized by  
Rotary Club of Jaffna.



“Fostering Peaceful Communities”  
( 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015 )

Venue : Jaffna Hindu College Ground,  
College Road, Jaffna.



# உதயன்

## Tamil News Daily

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## Thaipongal Carnival '15

The Tamil festival of Thai Pongal is a thanks giving ceremony in which the farmers celebrate the event to thank the spirits of nature spirit, the Sun and the farm animals for their assistance in providing a successful harvest. The rest of the people celebrate the festival to pay their thanks to the farmers for the production of food.

Jaffna Rotary club organizes this festival event to encourage social cohesiveness and unite people by bringing them together in a common function. According to our slogan, join hands with us on this day to LIGHT UP Peace, co-existence, equity and prosperity among our society.

Jaffna Rotary Club organizes this occasion with a series of our traditional programs and games. This Thai Pongal event is significant because these kinds of traditional events has become rare in the North now. We can rise as a better nation only when we protect our culture. Thus Jaffna Rotary Club arranges the cultural celebration to cultivate our culture and traditions across the island.

"The dawn of the Month of Thai, will light up a new path"

We wish you all a very happy Thai Pongal



### Message from Governor Gowri Rajan (2014-15 RID 3220)

Rotary Club of Jaffna organizes " The Pongal Carnival " - the district event in Jaffna, under the theme of " Fostering Peaceful Communities " . I request all the Rotarians to participate in this event.



### Message from President S Anuraj (Rotary Club of Jaffna)

We are proud to organize a district event for the first time in Jaffna. I express my sincere thanks to District Governor Rtn. Gowri Rajan and District team for giving this opportunity for our Club.



## Outline of the Day

1. Welcome with our traditional percussion instruments
2. Pongal
  - Cooking of Pongal
  - Pongal Cook off challenge
3. Cultural programs
  - Karakadam
  - Mayiladam
  - Ojiladam
  - Poikal kuthirai
  - Kavady
  - Silampadam
4. Cultural games
  - Pillow fight
  - Tug of war
  - Uriyadithal
  - Olai pinnuthal
5. Jaffna traditional dinner at Charty Beach





## Pongal - The Harvest Festival

After the Christmas and New Year festivities, the focus is now on the Pongal harvest festival, celebrated by Tamil people at the end of the harvest season. Thai Pongal is primarily celebrated to convey appreciation and thankfulness to the Sun as the primary energy source of agriculture and good harvests. It is same as Thanks giving Day. In an agriculture based civilization, harvest plays an important role. The farmer cultivating the land depends on his cattle, timely rain and the Sun. Once a year, he expresses his gratitude to everything which symbolizes the harvest celebration. With the end of the wet month of Margazhi (mid December to mid January) the new Tamil month of Thai heralds a series of festivals. The first day of this month is a festival day known as "Pongal Day". Pongal means the "boiling over" of milk and rice during the month of Thai. In Sri Lanka, the festival is celebrated in the North, the East, the Central Hill Country and other areas where Hindus live.





## Harbinger of Good Luck

As one stand on the threshold of the harvest season, everyone exchange Pongal wishes, hoping that it brings the harbinger of good luck, good fortune and good cheer. People wish each other good times, happiness, peace and prosperity. They also greet each other saying "Pongalo Pongal" and "Pongum Mangalam Engum Thanguga" in Tamil.

## Pongal Dish

Pongal is freshly harvested rice with moong dhal boiled to a consistency of porridge. It is made both salty and sweet. When it's made salty/savory - salt, mild spices and ghee are added (known as venpongal – ven means white). Sweet pongal, known as chakkara pongal, is boiled with jaggery (raw brown sugar), cardamom, green gram, and cashew-nuts, raisins, and milk with rice. Cooking is traditionally done in sunlight, usually in a porch or courtyard, because the dish is dedicated to the sun God Surya. The dish is prepared in a clay pot which is decorated with colored patterns called kolam. The prepared dish is served on banana leaves.

Rotary club gathered to celebrate, with more cooking of pongal in the traditional manner. There is "Pongal Cook Off" challenges for participating in cook the delicious Pongal dish.



## Our Cultural Programs

Cultural programs like Karakattam, Mayilattam, Oyilattam, Poikkal Kuthirai Aattam, Kavadi Attam and Silambattam will be held while the Pongal preparation is going on. This program will be conducted by the local artistes from Jaffna.



### Karakattam

கரகட்டம் or Karakam (water pot dance) is an ancient folk dance of Jaffna performed in praise of the rain goddess Mariamman. The performers balance the water pot on their head very beautifully. Traditionally, this dance is performed in two types - Aatta Karakam is danced with decorated pots on the head and symbolizes joy and happiness and is mainly danced for entertainment, while the Sakthi Karakam is performed only in temples as a spiritual offering.



## Mayilattam

மயிலாட்டம் or Mayilattam is an artistic and religious form of dance performed in the Hindu temples of Jaffna in reverence to Lord Subrahmanya.

Mayilattam performer wears costumes from head to toe like peacock with beak, that can be opened and closed using a thread and performs specific dances. The performer dances not on his bare feet but on a tall piece of wood attached at the end of his feet.



## Oyilattam

ஓயிலாட்டம் or Oyilattam is a folk dance with origins in the Madurai region of Tamil Nadu. It was traditionally a dance where a few men would stand in a row and perform rhythmic steps to the musical accompaniment, with the number of dancers increasing; over the past ten years women have also started performing this dance. Typically, the musical accompaniment is the Thavil and the performers have coloured handkerchiefs tied to their fingers and wear ankle bells.



## Poikkal Kuthirai Attam or Legged Horse Dance

This is the Poikkal Kuthirai Attam (Dummy Horse Dance) where the dancer bears the dummi figure of a horse's body on his/her hips. This is made of light-weighted materials and the cloth at the sides swings to and fro covering the legs of the dancer. The dancer dons wooden legs which sound like the hooves of the horse. The dancer brandishes either a sword or a whip. This folk dance needs much training and skill. This dance is accompanied by Naiyandi melam or Band music or Folk music. This folk dance is performed to the worship of Amman Temple Festivals, Ayyanar, Abineth prevails Thanjavur



## Kavadi Attam

காவடி சூட்டம் or Kavadi Attam is a dance performed by the devotees during the ceremonial worship of Lord Murugan. The kavadi itself is a physical burden through which the devotees implore for help from Lord Murugan.





## Silambattam

Silambattam is a different type of folk dance in Jaffna. Silambattam is a very old folk dance of this state. It became famous during the period of Tamil royal kings. This folk dance is a beautiful art which shows

battle performances of warriors. During this dance performance dancers move with weapons like swords and hand sticks.

After the pongal, sports events will commence at the ground of Jaffna Hindu College at about 2 p.m. The following events will take place during that time.

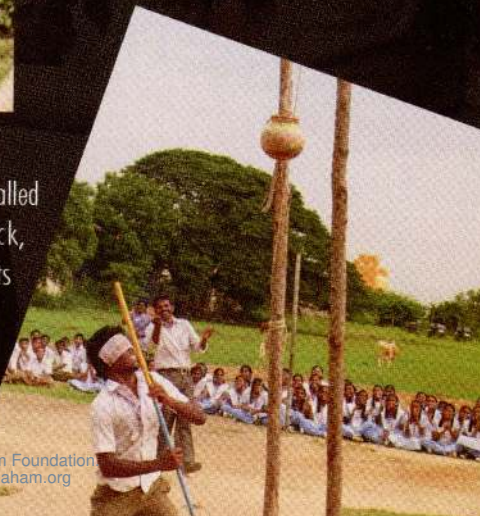


## Pillow Fight

A pillow fight is a common game mostly played by young children (but also by teens and adults) in which they engage in mock physical conflict, using pillows as weapons.

## Uri Adithal

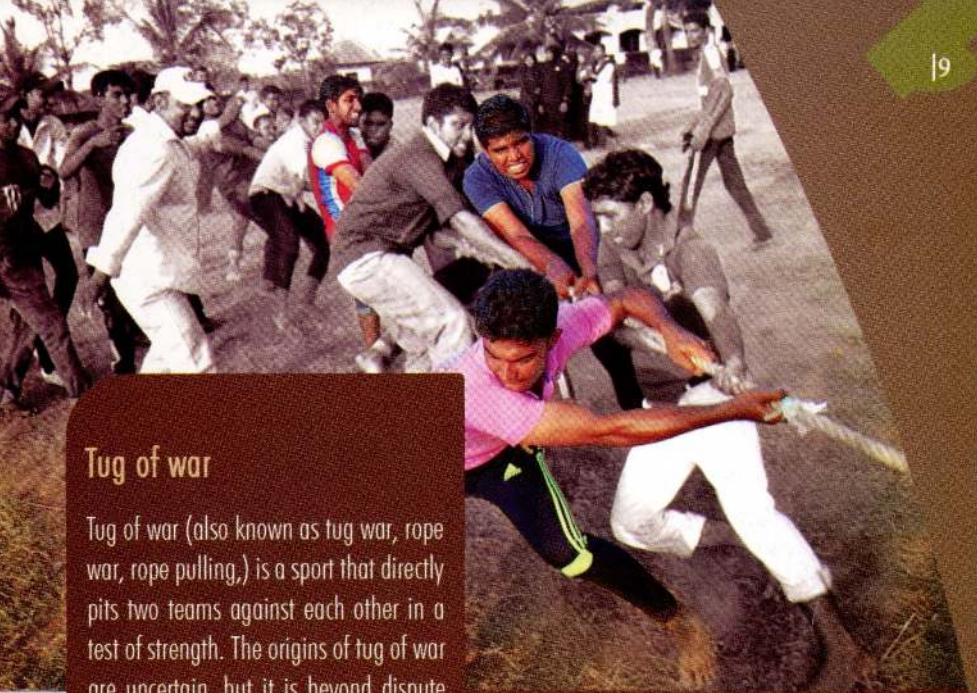
Young and old revel in a traditional game called Uri Adithal, where, with the help of a stick, blind-folded participants had to break clay pots hung up high above their heads, accompanied with laughter and cheers by the surrounding crowd.





## Tug of war

Tug of war (also known as tug war, rope war, rope pulling,) is a sport that directly pits two teams against each other in a test of strength. The origins of tug of war are uncertain, but it is beyond dispute that this once royal sport was practiced in ancient Egypt, Greece and China, where it was held in legend that the Sun and Moon played Tug of War over the light and darkness



## Olai Pinnuthal

The People Jaffna wave Palmyrah leaves and coconut leaves for thatching the roofs and putting up fences in the past. It is very rare now. There will be a competition for weaving leaves. Attractive prizes awaiting the winners.





## Jaffna Traditional Dinner at Charty

Charty is one of the spectacular beaches of Jaffna. This beach is not that famous, however it draws some tourists and they too love to bask in sunlight in this wonderful sandy beach. Our traditional meal will stun all guests when they gather around the table. Enjoy the tasty and healthy traditional dinner with all of the classics!

### Jaffna Fiesta - Fellowship & Dinner 6.30pm onwards - a Ticketed Event -

Early bird (till 12th January 2015)	-	Rs. 3,900.00
13th January to 16th January	-	Rs. 4,500.00
Spot Registration	-	Rs. 5,000.00

For Registrations

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Rtn.Nimalshan	-	0718697697 / 0778475072
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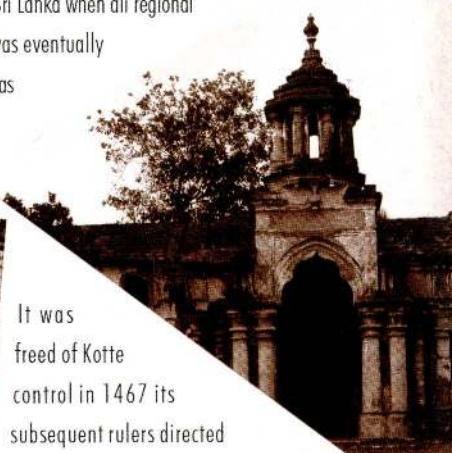


The Jaffna kingdom, also known as Kingdom of Aryacakravarti, of modern northern Sri Lanka was a historic monarchy that came into existence around the town of Jaffna on the Jaffna peninsula after the invasion of Magha, who is identified as the founder of the Jaffna kingdom and is said to have been from Kalinga, in India. Established as a powerful force in the north, north east and west of the island, it eventually became a tribute paying feudatory of the Pandyan Empire in modern South India in 1258, gaining independence in 1323 with the fragmentation of the Pandyan control when the last Pandyan ruler of Madurai was defeated and expelled in 1323 by

Malik Kafur, the army general of the Muslim empire Delhi Sultanate. For a brief period, in the early to mid-14th century, it was an ascendant power in the island of Sri Lanka when all regional kingdoms accepted subordination. However, the kingdom was eventually overpowered by the rival Kotte Kingdom, around 1450 when it was invaded by a Tamil named Chempaha Perumal under the Kotte Kingdoms directive.



The arrival of the Portuguese colonial power to the island of Sri Lanka in 1505, and its strategic location in the Palk Strait connecting all interior Sinhalese kingdoms to South India, created political problems. Many of its kings confronted and ultimately made peace with the Portuguese colonials. In 1617, Cankili II, an usurper to the throne, confronted the Portuguese but was defeated, thus bringing the kingdom's independent existence to an end in 1619. Although rebels like Migapulle Arachchi with help of Thanjavur Nayak kingdom tried to recover the kingdom, they were eventually defeated. Nallur, a suburb of Jaffna town, served as its capital.



It was freed of Kotte control in 1467 its subsequent rulers directed their energies towards consolidating its economic potential by maximising revenue from pearls and elephant exports and land revenue. It was less feudal than most of the other regional kingdoms on the island of Sri Lanka of the same period. During this period, important local Tamil literature was produced and Hindu temples were built including an academy for language advancement.

## Attractions of Jaffna - Jaffna Tourist Spots

### Jaffna Public Libraray

Jaffna Public Library is the famous library in Sri Lanka by historical and Sri Lankan civil war. The library was built in 1933 and burnt down in 1981. The statue of goddess saraswati at the entrance of the Jaffna library is an evidence to say how much the people of Jaffna revered the library, it's a temple for them.



### Jaffna Fort

Situated on the south side of the Jaffna peninsula at the water's edge of the lagoon, the ancient Jaffna Fort is the second largest existing fort in the Island. Originally built by the Portuguese in 1619 and re-built and expanded by the Dutch during the second half of the 17th and the 18th centuries to facilitate trading activities of Sri Lanka's Northern region indicate not only of Jaffna's strategic importance to Europeans but its significance throughout Sri Lanka's history.



### Casuarina beach

One of the best beaches in the Jaffna peninsula, the shallow waters and the very gentle waves making it an ideal for safe sea bathing. You can go swim a long way toward the sea in the clear blue water and a great place to visit to have a break during your travels. There are houses for rent if you want to stay in this area, and it's around 15 Km away from Jaffna Town

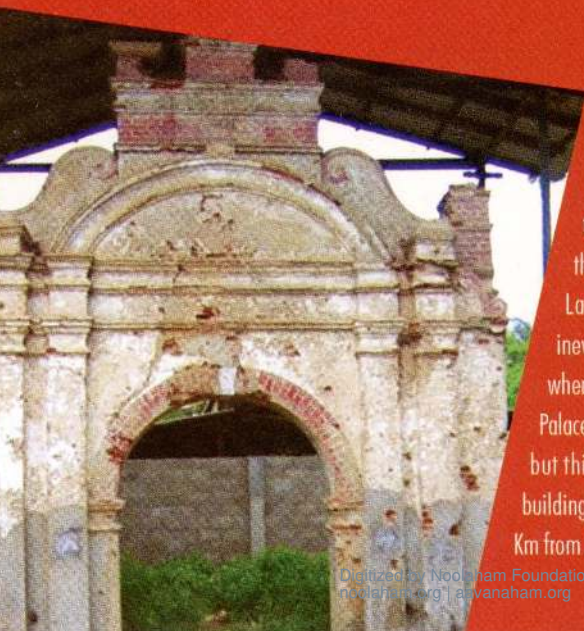






## Nallur Kandasamy Kovil

Nallur Kandasamy Kovil is Jaffna's premier place of Hindu worship. Nallur Kandasamy Kovil characterised by a golden arch and elaborate gopuram attracts hundreds of pilgrims and worshippers. The present building of the kovil goes back to the eighteenth century. The original temple said to go back to the times of the Tamil kings was destroyed by the Portuguese in 1620 and stood on the site presently occupied by St. James Church about a quarter mile from the present temple. This temple is a place of the most important religious festival on Jaffna Peninsula. The Nallur kovil is about 1Km from the Jaffna town.



## Sangilean Thoopu

During the existence of Nallur Rajadhani, last king of the kingdom of the people in the northern part of the country was Sankiliyan. But with the arrival of the Portuguese rule in Sri Lanka the fall of the kingdom was inevitable. This arch is found in the land where the earlier Tamil King Sangiliyan's Palace stood. Now there is an entrance-arch, but this is said to be part of a later Dutch building. The Sangilean Thoopu is about 2.7 Km from Jaffna bus stand.



## Charty Beach

This clean prestige beach is situated in Allaippiddy. This is located some 23 Km North of Jaffna Town.



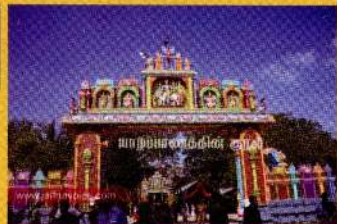
## Old Park



Old Park or பழைய பூங்கா is a 27 acre urban park in the city of Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka. It was originally built in the 19th century as the gardens and grounds of the residency of the British Government Agent for the Northern Province.

## Keerimalai Naguleswaram temple

Keerimalai Naguleswaram temple, historically known also as the Thirutambaleswaram Kovil of Keerimalai, is a famous Hindu temple in Keerimalai, located north of Jaffna, Northern Province, Sri Lanka near the ancient port of Kankesanthurai. One of the oldest shrines of the region, it is the northernmost shrine on the island among the five ancient Iswarams of Lord Siva, venerated by Hindus across the world from classical antiquity. Its adjacent water tank, the Keerimalai Springs, is believed to have curative properties.





## Keerimalai Spring

Keerimalai is renowned for its natural water spring where illnesses and sicknesses are cured miraculously after bathing in it. Only a stone wall separate the pool from the sea but the water is fresh water coming from a spring.

## Dambakola Patuna

An ancient port in Sri Lanka, this is where Sangamiththa Theraniya landed while bringing the Bo saplings used at Sri Maha Bodiya. There is a temple and a statue of Sangamiththa Theraniya. The Tamil name of this place called Mathagal and situated around 20 Km from Jaffna Town.

## Kandarodai / Kadurugoda Temple

There is an ancient historical place called 'Kandarodai / Kadurugoda Temple' situated in the midst of Palmyra trees near Chunnakam and it is 8 Km away from Jaffna Town. There are small dagobas numbering 61 scattered over about 1/2 acre land. Those small structures are constructed with ash-coloured stone. Some dagobas have only the foundation. A Buddha statue, Bodhisaththa statue, a stone scripture and some coins believed to be in the 1st and 2nd centuries were found in this area. They are preserved at Jaffna museum.



## Naga Pooshani Ambal Kovil

It's situated in an island called, 'Nainathivu'. The Island is bit far from Jaffna and it will take around 2-3 hours to get there, depending on the availability of the boats. Original temple was built by a rich foreign trader who received blessing from Goddess Ambal Devi when passing by in the sea, was demolished in the sixteen century by Portuguese. However Ambal statue was hidden by locals and temple was rebuilt in 18<sup>th</sup> century. The actual gopuram was added in 1933. Many parents bring their new-born babies to this temple seeking the blessing of Goddess Meenkashi (wife of Shiva) to whom this temple is now dedicated.



## Nagadipa Purana Vihara

Nagadeepa Purana Viharaya is an ancient Buddhist temple situated in Jaffna district of Northern Province, Sri Lanka. It is among the country's sixteen or seventeen holiest Buddhist shrines (Solosmasthana). According to contemporary history, the Gautama Buddha visited the site after five years of attaining Enlightenment to settle the dispute between two warring Naga kings, Chulodara and Mahodara.



## Manalkadu Sand Dunes

Manalkadu is a mini version of a desert, right at the town of Point Pedro begins manalkadu sand dunes. The sparsely populated coastal stretch is punctured with isolated villages centered around its own village as well.





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### Places of Visit

Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil | Sangali Thoppu | Sangiliyan Statue | Hanuman Temple - Chunnakam | Kandarodai temple | Dutch house | Maviddapuram Kandaswamy Kovil | KKS Cement Factory | Keerimalai Pond | Keerimalai Naguleswaram Temple | Dambakola (Jambokula Pattinam) Patuna Sangamiththa Temple | Ponnalai Varadaraja Perumal Kovil | Casuarina Beach - Karainagar | Hammenhiel Fort



LKR 1300.00\*Per Head

East Wing (9 hrs)

Tue | Thu | Sun

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### Places of Visit

Nainativu Nagapoosani Amman Kovil | Nagodipa Purana Vihara | Charty Beach | Rio Ice cream shop | Naga Vihara - Jaffna | Jaffna Public Library | Jaffna Fort | Thuraiyappa Stadium | 'Selvanayagam's Statue and Memorial Tower | Clock Tower | Subramaniam Park - Jaffna



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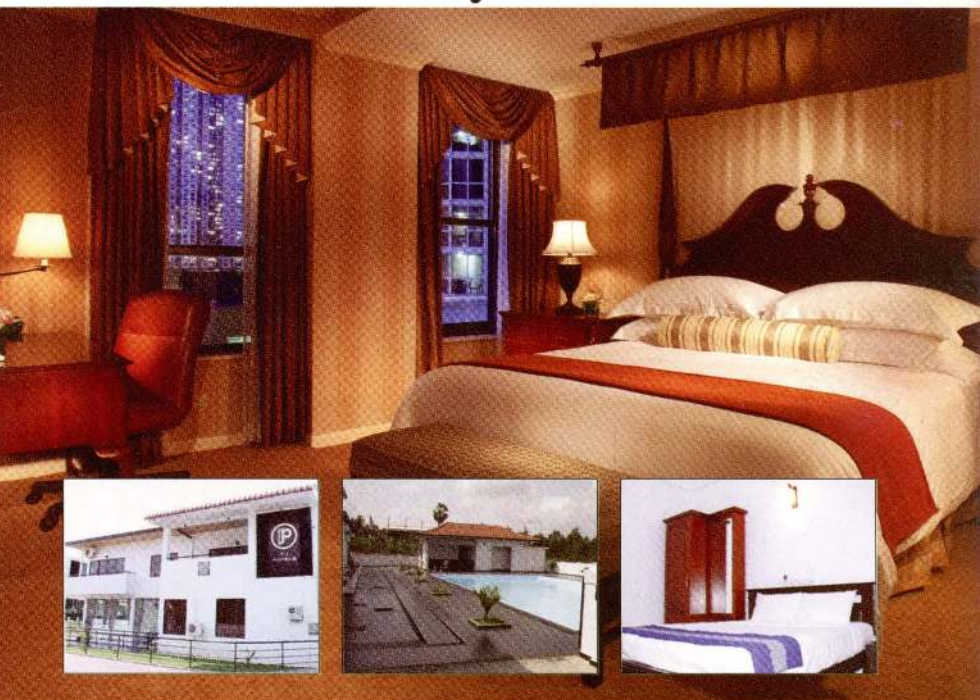
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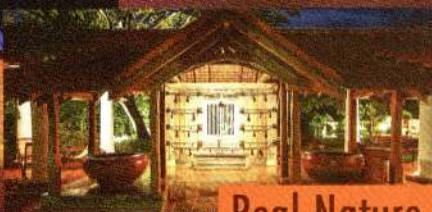
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