

*Dr. Kiran Bedi*  
*Lieutenant Governor*



*Raj Nivas*

*Puducherry-605 001*

*Phone : 0413-2334050*

*Fax : 0413-2334025*

*E-mail : lg.pon@nic.in*

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### **GREETING MESSAGE**

**Pongal**, four-day Tamil festival is celebrated at the beginning of the Tamil month of '**Thai**'. The festival is celebrated to express gratitude to the Sun God, the Nature and the Cattle, reflecting our culture and tradition observed by the Tamil Diaspora worldwide.

The first day, on Bhogi Pongal, people discard old articles and welcome new ones. The message behind this day is to embrace the new and not to be resistant to change.

Being a social festival, the Pongal festival is distinct from other festivals. The festival is marked by ritual cooking of Pongal along with community sports including the famous 'Jallikattu'.

I extend my hearty wishes to the people of Puducherry on the auspicious occasion of Pongal falling in Makar Sankranti celebrated across India.

May the new beginning of "Thai" month usher in safety and prosperity in the lives of all and early return of the world to normalcy.

*Dr. Kiran Bedi*  
**(Dr. KIRAN BEDI)**

