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இலங்கையின் பிரதம அமைச்சர்  
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

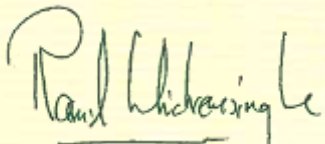
**MESSAGE FROM THE HON. PRIME MINISTER**

Thanksgiving to the sun god and expressing gratitude to the natural environment for the blessing of the harvest has been a religious practice of most of the farming communities.

Thai Pongal is one of the most cherished cultural festivities which involves feasting, visiting relatives and giving out gifts celebrated among all the Tamil communities in the world.

The celebration that reflects the deepening relationship between humans and the environment delivers the value of gratefulness to the world.

It is with immense pleasure I convey best wishes on our Tamil community for blissful celebrations recognizing the blessings of our multi-cultural society accredits shared respect and unity.

  
**Ranil Wickremesinghe**  
Prime Minister

14<sup>th</sup> January 2019