



THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
TO BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND THE EUROPEAN UNION
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Sri Lanka Embassy celebrates Thai Pongal festival

The Sri Lanka Embassy in Brussels on Sunday 17 January 2010 held a special pooja at the Embassy premises, to commemorate Thai Pongal festival, In keeping with the decision made by the Government to celebrate at the state level the main religious events of the four great religions in Sri Lanka.

The highlight of the ceremony was the performing of traditional Hindu religious rites by Pundit Harinath Sharma Kurakkal.

Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, making a brief comment on this occasion said this year's Thai Pongal celebration was of special significance, as it is being celebrated at a time when all the Tamil people in Sri Lanka are enjoying freedom after decades of LTTE terror. He said the Tamils in Sri Lanka are in the process of participating fully in Sri Lanka's development and hoped the year 2010 would be the 'year of reconciliation' in Sri Lanka and that all the communities would come together. He emphasized the need to ensure the same among Sri Lankan communities abroad in this year.

A representative gathering of the Sri Lanka community in Belgium, the Embassy staff, and the Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Belgium Ms. Monique De Decker-Deprez participated in this event.

Embassy of Sri Lanka
Belgium

17 January 2010