

# Thai Pongal Festival at Temple Trees



President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa being garlanded and received in traditional manner at the Thai Pongal ceremony.

A ceremony on the occasion of the Thai Pongal Festival was held at Temple Trees on Monday under the patronage of President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa. Indian External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna also participated in the ceremony. Prime Minister D.M. Jayaratne, External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs Deputy Minister M.K.D.S. Gunawardena and Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Ashok K. Kantha were also present. Here are pictures of the event.



President Rajapaksa at the celebrations



The President putting a handful of new rice in to the pot



The First Lady putting a handful of new rice in to the pot



President Mahinda Rajapaksa, External Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris and Indian External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna participating in Thai Pongal observances



President Mahinda Rajapaksa participating in the Ko Matha Pooja and offering food to a farm animal



The milk boiling ceremony



Watching the cultural show



Cultural dances being performed



The President, PM and others participating in the pooja



Decorations at Temple Trees



Religious dignitaries and distinguished guests enjoying the cultural show