

# TAMIL PUTHANDU

Tamil's New Year Day or popularly known as "Tamil Puthandu" is celebrated on April 13 or 14 every year. People greet each other "Puthandu Vazthukal" meaning Happy New Year. As per the Hindu mythical legends, Lord Brahma started creation of the universe, on this day.

Our Tamil new year day is based on the solar calendar. This New Year day is also celebrated in a number of Indian States like Assam, Bengal, Kerala, Nepal, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab etc. Even in neighbouring countries like Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Thailand, the traditional new year falls on April 13 or 14. Some states in India like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra follow Lunar Calendar and their traditional new year begins on the new moon preceding April 14, which is celebrated as "Ugadi".

We follow a 60 year cycle with each Tamil Year having different names. Even China follows this 60 year cycles. After the completion of sixty years cycle, the Tamil year starts, anew with the first name "Prabhava". The names of 60 Tamil Years cycle are given below:-

01. பிரபவ	<i>Prabhava</i>	31. ஹேவிளம்பி	<i>Hevilambi</i>
02. விபவ	<i>Vibhava</i>	32. விளம்பி	<i>Vilambi</i>
03. சுகல்	<i>Sukla</i>	33. விகாரி	<i>Vikari</i>
04. பிரமோதூத	<i>Pramodhoodha</i>	34. சார்வரி	<i>Sarvari</i>
05. பிரசோற்பத்தி	<i>Prachorpaththi</i>	35. பிலவ	<i>Plava</i>
06. ஆங்கீரச	<i>Aangirasa</i>	36. சுபகிருது	<i>Subakrith</i>
07. ஸ்ரீமுக	<i>Srimukha</i>	37. சோபகிருது	<i>Sobakrith</i>
08. பவ	<i>Bhava</i>	38. குரோதி	<i>Krodhi</i>
09. யுவ	<i>Yuva</i>	39. விசுவாசுவ	<i>Visuvaasuva</i>
10. தாது	<i>Thaadhu</i>	40. பரபாவ	<i>Parabhaava</i>

11. ஈஸ்வர	<i>Eesvara</i>	41. பிலவங்க	<i>Plavanga</i>
12. வெகுதானிய	<i>Vehudhanya</i>	42. கீலக	<i>Keelaka</i>
13. பிரமதி	<i>Pramathi</i>	43. செளமிய	<i>Saumya</i>
14. விக்கிரம	<i>Vikrama</i>	44. சாதாரண	<i>Sadharana</i>
15. விஷு	<i>Vishu</i>	45. விரோதகிருது	<i>Virodhikrithu</i>
16. சித்திரபானு	<i>Chitrabaanu</i>	46. பரிதாபி	<i>Paridhaabi</i>
17. சுபானு	<i>Subaanu</i>	47. பிரமாதீச	<i>Pramaadhisa</i>
18. தாரண	<i>Thaarana</i>	48. ஆனந்த	<i>Aanandha</i>
19. பார்த்திப	<i>Paarthiba</i>	49. ராட்சச	<i>Rakshasa</i>
20. விய	<i>Viya</i>	50. நள	<i>Nala</i>
21. சர்வசித்து	<i>Sarvasithu</i>	51. பிங்கள	<i>Pingala</i>
22. சர்வதாரி	<i>Sarvadhari</i>	52. காளயுக்தி	<i>Kalayukthi</i>
23. விரோதி	<i>Virodhi</i>	53. சித்தார்த்தி	<i>Siddharthi</i>
24. விக்ருதி	<i>Vikruthi</i>	54. ரௌத்திரி	<i>Raudhri</i>
25. கர	<i>Kara</i>	55. துன்மதி	<i>Thunmathi</i>
26. நந்தன	<i>Nandhana</i>	56. துந்துபி	<i>Dhundubhi</i>
27. விஜய	<i>Vijaya</i>	57. ருத்ரோத்காரி	<i>Rudhrodhgaari</i>
28. ஜய	<i>Jaya</i>	58. ரக்தாட்சி	<i>Raktakshi</i>
29. மன்மத	<i>Manmatha</i>	59. குரோதன	<i>Krodhana</i>
30. துன்முகி	<i>Dhunmuki</i>	60. அட்சய	<i>Akshaya</i>

Tamil New Year is celebrated with religious fervor and devotion , in our families. We decorate the floor with kolams using rice flour. "Maa-ilai (Mango-leaf)/veppilai (neem Leaf) Thoranams" and "flowers thoranams" are made and tied to the Main Doors of the house, Pooja-Rooms etc.

Most of our families prepare the following dishes and offer to Gods, duly served on Plantain Leaves in front of the Deities in the tastefully decorated Pooja Room.

1. RICE PAYASAM / ADAI PRADHAMAN.

2. MASALA/MEDHU VADAI.

3. MAANGAI-VEPPAMPOO PACHADI.

4. AVIAL.

5 VEGETABLE KOOTU/PORIAL.

(Detailed, easy to follow, step-by-step, Preparation methods (Recipes) of these dishes are given, in “Our Community Favourite Dishes Recipe” section of Thondai-mandala Mudaliars, web site’s home page.).

'Maangai/Veppampoo Pachadi' is a must for this festival. It is a dish made of raw mangoes, jaggery, neem flowers which make Pachadi to taste sweet, salt, sour and bitter. This symbolizes different colours of life. It teaches us that life has to face everything from success to defeat, gracefully.

Some families have a tradition to view “Kanni” at dawn with a hope to bring good luck, well-being and prosperity to their families. Some families also start the day by viewing some auspicious items like gold and silver jewelry, betel-leaves, nuts, fruits and vegetables, flowers, raw rice and coconuts etc., which are tastefully displayed in the Pooja Room.

With above offering to the Gods, New-year festival pooja is conducted by lighting Kuthuvizhakku and worshipping the Gods. Bhajans, devotional songs are sung by all the family members, jointly. (Devotional songs by great Tamil poets are available for ready reference and for reciting in our “Thuthi Padaalgal” section of our web-site’s Home-Page).

After this, New Year’s Panchangam (almanac) is read, in the presence of all family members.

