



DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION FOR
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Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Chennai and Pondicherry University jointly Celebrate Bengali and Tamil New Year

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Chennai and Pondicherry University jointly celebrated Bengali and Tamil New Year on 16 April 2024 with due fervor and festivity. The celebration included a mesmerizing cultural program participated by the teachers and students at Pondicherry University at the UMISARC Auditorium. It was followed by a lively and colorful 'Mangal Shobhajatra' waving replicas of birds, animals, boats, and masks.

The Vice Chancellor in Charge of Pondicherry University, Professor Tharanikkarasu was the Guest of Honour of the program. Professor Venkata Rao, Dean, Tourism Department and Ms. Lise Talbot Barre, Consul General of France in Pondicherry among others graced the occasion.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Tharanikkarasu welcomed Mr. Shelley Salehin, Deputy High Commissioner and thanked for choosing Pondicherry University for celebrating Bangla and Tamil New Year. He recalled the contribution of great poet Rabindranath Tagore who penned the national anthems for both India and Bangladesh. He concluded with the hope to work together in the fields of education and culture in the future.

Mr. Salehin, in his remarks, said that "Pohela Baishakh" is a festival that reflects thousands of years of heritage of Bengali culture. He also mentioned about the inclusion of "Mongol Shobhajatra" in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2016. The celebration is deep-rooted in our cultural identity, which is based on secular values representing solidarity and shared value for promoting diversity, uniting people irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, gender, or age he added.

Mr. Salehin felicitated the performers, and the celebration ended with refreshments.

