# Attukal Pongala

***Prelims:*** *Current events of national and international importance | Art & Culture*

## Why in News?

*Recently, the Union Home Minister extended greetings on the occasion of Attukal Pongala.*

- **Deity –** Dedicated to Attukal Amma, an *incarnation of Goddess Bhadrakali.*
- **Held in –** It is an annual Hindu festival held at the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple, in Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum).
- Considered the ***world's largest congregation of women*** for a religious festival (over 3 million participants).
- **Ritual Duration –** A 10-day festival commencing on the *Karthigai star* in the Malayalam month of Makaram or Kumbham.
- The *main ritual, Attukal Pongala Mahotsavam*, is held on the *9th day.*
- The festival concludes with the ritual sacrifice known as Kuruthitharpanam at night.
- **Belief –** The presiding deity, Attukal Bhagavathy, is believed to be an incarnation of ***Kannaki, the central character of the Tamil epic Silappathikaaram.***
- It is believed that after burning Madurai, Kannaki (Kannagi) travelled to Kerala and passed through the Attukal area on her way to Kodungallur.
- **Significance –** Recognised globally for its massive women's participation.
- Popularly known as the ***"Sabarimala of Women."***

### Reference

PIB | Attukal Pongala

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