



Sankranti

Makara Sankranti (It is a sanskrit word) is the harvest festival of India. Sankranti means transmigration of Sun from one Rashi (zodiac in Indian astrology) to the other. Hence there are 12 such Sankrantis in all. But the transition of Sun from 'Dhanu' Rasi (Sagittarius) to 'Makara' Rasi (Capricorn) marks the starting of Uttarayana which means northern movement of

Sun. Since Uttarayana is considered as auspicious time, Makara Sankranti is celebrated as the beginning of that period. It is celebrated by many cultures in different manners.

Makar Sankranti is one of the most auspicious days for the Hindus and is celebrated in almost all parts of India in myriad cultural forms, with great devotion. Millions of people take a dip in places like Ganga Sagar (point where the river Ganga meets the Bay of Bengal) and Prayag and pray to the Sun God (Surya). and in Punjab as Lohri and Maghi.

In the western Indian state of Gujarat, the celebrations are even bigger. People offer thousands of their colorful oblations to the Sun in the form of beautiful kites. The act stands as a metaphor for reaching to their beloved God, the one who represents the best. Makar Sankranti also happens to be the day on which Bhishma, the grand sire of Pandavas and Kauravas from the epic Mahabharata voluntarily left his mortal coil. This day is also very special for women of southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Unmarried women here pray in hope of getting a good husband or for longevity of their husbands, in case of married women.

Gujaratis are the most prominent in celebrating Uttarayana, by flying kites all over Gujarat, Rajsthan and in Mumbai,

Uttarayana is the six month period between Makar Sankranti around (January 14) and Karka Sankranti around (July 14), when the Sun travels towards north on the celestial sphere. The period from July 14 to January 14 is known as Dakshinayana. The starting of Uttarayana is celebrated as Makara Sankranti throughout India, which is declared as National festival by Government of India.

Sankranti is the most important festival of Telugu people, like Deepavali is for Tamil people.

It is celebrated with pomp in southern parts of India as Pongal,

Friends have fun celebrating this makar sakranti 😊 but be careful and try to help needy and less fortunate on this festive day. As this is the day to give.