

Makar Sankranti

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About the Makar Sankranti

- It marks the Sun changing directions and shifting its trajectory towards the north, therefore, entering the Makara or Capricorn zodiac sign.
- The day is a marker for a change of season – warmer months are close and we are moving away from winter, which is seen as a period of inactivity in many ways.
- It is said that the northward journey of the sun (Uttarayan) begins on this day.
- Unlike most festivals that follow the lunar cycle, Makar Sankranti follows the solar cycle and thus, is celebrated almost on the same day every year.
- Astronomically, the Earth revolves around the Sun in an elliptical orbit that requires about 365 1/4 days to complete, as it continues to rotate on its own axis.

- The earth's spin axis is tilted with respect to its orbital plane. This, along with its distance from the Sun, determines the change in seasons for life on Earth.
 - For the Northern Hemisphere, the axis points most toward the sun in June (specifically around June 21), and away from the sun around December 21.
 - This corresponds to the Winter and Summer Solstice (solstice is Latin for "the sun stands"). For the Southern Hemisphere, this is reversed."
 - It is also called as –
 - Paush Parbon in Bengal
 - Pongal in Tamil Nadu,
 - Uttarayan in Gujarat,
 - Bhogali Bihu in Assam,
 - Lohri in Punjab and Jammu,
 - Makar Sankramana in Karnataka,
 - Saen-kraat in Kashmir.
 - Khichdi Parwa in parts of Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.
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Q1) What is a solstice?

A solstice is an event that occurs when the Sun reaches its most northerly or southerly excursion relative to the celestial equator on the celestial sphere.

Source: [Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Lohri and more: Significance of these festivals, celebrated across India](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/makar-sankranti/>

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