



Happy
Sankranti!

Makar Sankranti / Pongal

Hinduism

[mah-car sahn-crahn-tee](#) 

Makar Sankranti celebrates the transfer of the sun into the Makara Rashi (Capricorn) zodiac in the Hindu calendar, which corresponds with January in the Gregorian calendar. Sankranti translates to “transfer.” It is a harvest festival and social celebration dedicated to the Hindu sun god Surya offering thanks for success and prosperity. There are multiday festivals with various customs that go by many regional names, including Pongal, Maghi, Sukarat, and Uttarayana.

Date

- Celebrated on January 14 most years and January 15 during leap years.
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

Greetings

Wishing a celebrant a “Happy Sankranti” is welcome.

Common Practices and Celebrations

- Kite flying
- Treats made with sweets and fruit
- Social gatherings at feasts and festivals
- Decorative artwork
- Gift giving

Common Dietary Restrictions

- Some Hindu practitioners adhere to a lacto-vegetarian diet which excludes meat, fish, and eggs.

Impact to U-M Community

- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts](#).

U-M Campus Resources

- [Maize Pages - Hindu](#), U-M
- [Association of Religious Counselors](#), U-M

Information Sources

- [Wikipedia](#), Makar Sankranti
- [Wikipedia](#), Pongal

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This collection of information sheets on major holidays and cultural events is a joint partnership of the School of Information staff, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Office of the Provost. Facts have been vetted by U-M’s Association of Religious Counselors (ARC), and other campus groups. Public feedback is welcome; please email DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu.

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