

# FESTIVAL INFO

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## MAKAR SANKRANTI

### About this event

Makar Sankranti 2021: It is also known as Uttarayan and has its own historical and religious significance in India. Let us read more about Makar Sankranti, how is it celebrated, history behind the festival, etc. **Makar Sankranti 2021:** It is celebrated in January every year and marks the termination of the Winter season and the beginning of a new harvest season. This year it will be celebrated on 14 January.

It is dedicated to Lord Sun. It also refers to a specific solar day in the Hindu calendar. On this auspicious day, the sun enters the zodiac sign of Capricorn or Makar which

marks the end of winter months and the beginning of longer days. This is the beginning of the month of Magh. To recompense for the distinction that happens due to the revolution around the sun, every 80 years the day of Sankranti is deferred by one day. From the day of Makar Sankranti, the sun begins its northward journey or Uttarayan journey. Therefore, this festival is also known as Uttarayan.

## HISTORY

Sankranti is deemed a Deity. As per the legend, Sankranti killed a devil named Sankarasur. The day next to Makar Sankranti is called Karidin or Kinkrant. On this day, Devi slew the devil

Kinkarasur. The information of Makar Sankranti is available in Panchang. The Panchang is the Hindu Almanac that provides information on the age, form,

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clothing, direction, and movement of Sankranti.

According to the DrikPanchaang, "The time between Makar Sankranti and 40 Ghatas (roughly 16 hours for Indian locations if we consider 1 Ghati duration as 24 minutes) from the time of Makar Sankranti is considered

good for auspicious work. This duration of forty Ghatas is known as Punya Kaal. Sankranti activities, like taking bath, offering Naivedhya (food offered to deity) to Lord Surya, offering charity or Dakshina, performing Shraddha rituals, and breaking fast or Parana,

should be done during Punya Kaal. If Makar Sankranti happens after Sunset then all Punya Kaal activities are postponed till the next Sunrise. Therefore, all Punya Kaal activities should be done in the day time."

## IMPORTANCE OF MAKAR SANKRANTI

Makar Sankranti is the date from which the northward movement of the sun begins. The period from Karka Sankranti to Makar Sankranti is known as the Dakshinayan.

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