JGi JAIN HERITAGE SCHOOL

Makar Sankranti

Binding India with faith and devotion The auspicious festival of Makar Sankranti is celebrated across the country with lots of gaiety and splendour. Offering prayers and worship to the Sun God, Makar Sankranti inspires to have peace and unity

Spiritual significance behind the festival

According to legends, on this special day, Lord Sun meets his son Sani for the first time. Another story says that on the day of Makar Sankranti Lord Krishna demolished the terror of Ashuras. Hence this period symbolizes the ending of evil power and the beginning of a peaceful new era. In different regions of India, this festival is known by different regional names and the festivities are performed with varied rituals amidst of fun and merriment.

Uttarayan in Gujarat

Makar Sankranti is observed as Uttarayan or International Kite Festival in Gujarat. The sky changes colours as millions of kite enthusiasts pitch themselves from rooftops and open fields. Waves of kites' overwhelm the otherwise deep blue sky. Many kites have social messages, awareness information marked on exclusive patterns and designs

Lohri in Punjab

On the day of Lohri, children go from door to door singing and demanding the Lohri 'loot' in the form of money and eatables like til (sesame) seeds, peanuts, jaggery, or sweets like gajak, rewri, etc. They sing in praise of Dulha Bhatti, a Punjabi avatar of Robin Hood who robbed the rich to help the poor and once helped a miserable village girl out of her misery by getting her married off like his own sister.

Bonfire Ritual

In the evening, with the setting of the sun, huge bonfires are lit in the harvested fields and in the front yards of houses and people gather around the rising flames, circle around (parikrama) the bonfire and throw puffed rice, popcorn and other munchies into the fire.

Bhogali OR Magha Bihu in Assam

This harvest festival in Assam is a feasting festival. As the name 'Bhogali' suggests 'feasting', Bihu is a celebration of food after a good harvest and a variety of sweets are prepared from rice, coconut and til. After the burning of 'Mejis' (made of bamboo, hay and dry leaves), people sit down to enjoy their fill of traditional Assamese food. Amidst the enchanting notes of flutes and buffalo horns, the youth sings the Bihu songs with lyrics of a good harvest.

Pongal in Tamil Nadu

Between 14th to 17th January is the festival of Pongal, as it is called in Tamil Nadu. There are different aspects of this festival, which falls in the month of Thai in Tamil calendar. There is Bhogi, during which houses are cleaned, decorated with mango leaves and the first cut of paddy, to enhance the vibrancy of the house. All the unnecessary things in one's home are disposed of

Khichdi Parv in Uttar Pradesh/Uttarakhand

Apart from taking a holy dip in river Ganga (Magha Snan) and flying kites on Makar Sankranti (14th January), the day is also celebrated by relishing a delicacy of khichdi (prepared from rice and dal) and is offered to the Sun god. After the pooja, it is distributed among the family members as Prasad. Magha Mela is also organised at Prayag (Allahabad) at the Triveni Sangam. Also, attend the grand Ganga Aarti at the Triveni Ghat.

Ellu Bella in Karnataka

Makar Sankranti marks the celebrations of Ellu Bella festival in Karnataka(14th January). Bulls and cows are decorated and use of freshly cut sugarcane, sesame seeds, jaggery and coconut are done to prepare regional delicacies on this day. But what makes this mix really special is, that it is never made handful or spoonful. Ellu Bella is always made in quantities that are large enough to be shared with at least ten households.

Ganga Sagar festival in West Bengal

In West Bengal, this day is celebrated with great pomp and show as Ganga Sagar Mela.It is celebrated every year on 14th January, pilgrims from across the country come together to take a holy dip at the confluence of the river Ganga and the Bay of Bengal.