



# MULTICULTURAL AND DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER



## NEW YEAR (INTERNATIONAL)

**Jan 1-** In the Gregorian calendar, **New Year's Day** is the first day of the year. It is often observed with fireworks during the midnight following New Year's Eve. People often celebrate this day by exchanging gifts and eating delicious food together.



## GANTAN-SAI (JAPAN, SHINTO)

**Jan 1-** This day is also referred to as **Shogatu**. It is the New Year holiday. The faithful visit shrines, often at midnight, praying for renewal of heart, health, and prosperity. During the seven-day holiday, people wear their best clothing and visit the homes of friends and family to express their wishes for the coming year.





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## GURU GOBIND SINGH JAYANTI (SIKH)

**Jan 5-** He was the 10th and last living Guru of the Sikh faith. He founded the 'Khalsa' brotherhood where the initiated adopted the five 'K's: Kangha(wooden comb), Kara(steel bracelets), Kirpan(sword), Kaccha(pair of shorts), and Kesh(long hair).

## SEIJIN NO HI (JAPAN)

**Jan 9-** This day celebrates Coming-of-Age of the youth of Japan who are twenty years old. They wear traditional clothes and visit the shrines where the family announce their adulthood to the spirits. This is a national holiday.





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## LOHRI(SIKH AND HINDU)

Jan 13- Bonfires are lit to mark the change from the decrease to the increase of the sun.



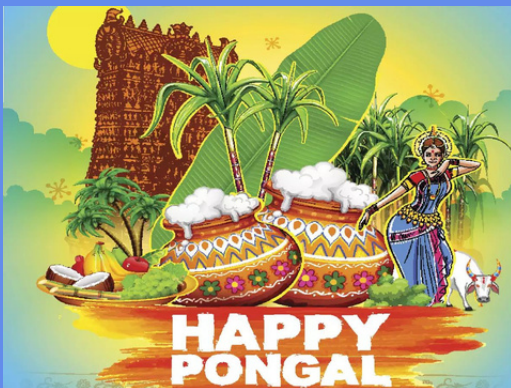
## MAKAR SANKRANTI (INDIA AND NEPAL)

Jan 14- The transition of the Sun from Sagittarius to Capricorn during the winter solstice in the northern hemisphere is known as Makar Sankranti. the days gradually lengthen in the northern hemisphere.



## PONGOL(INDIA)

Jan 15- A three-day rice harvest festival in South India is celebrated with a cultural evening song and dance.





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## **SEOLLAL (KOREA)**

**Jan 22- The Korean New Year lasts three days. During this time, many Koreans visit family, perform ancestral rites, eat traditional food, and play folk games. Additionally, children often receive money from their elders.**

## **BASANT PANCHAMI(HINDU)**

**Jan 26- Basant Panchami in Northern India heralds the approach of spring and yellow-coloured clothes are symbolically worn. Even the food is coloured yellow by using saffron. This festival honours Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning, wisdom, and the Creative arts.**



## **References**

**Electronic multicultural calendar 2023. (n.d.). Retrieved January 10, 2023, from <https://www.multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/main.php?lang=en&s=ste-DND&year=2023&id=1>**