



## Pongal Tamil Harvest Festivals

### MAKAR SANKRANTI

#### WHAT IS SANKRANTI?

Makar Sankranti marks the end of Malmass, an inauspicious month in the Hindu (Panchang) calendar, and the transition of the Sun to the Zodiacal sign of Makar (Capricorn) to herald a change in season. It is celebrated in the north as Lohri, in Assam as Bhogali Bihu and in the south as Pongal.

#### WHY THE SHIFT?

According to Pandit Diwakar Tripathi 'Poorvanchali', director of the Utthan Jyotish Sansthan that decides on the Hindu annual calendar, there is a change in the planetary configuration of the Sun, on the basis of which the calendar is decided.

#### UNCHANGED

Lohri, Pongal and Bihu will continue to be celebrated on January 13 and 14 because they are held according to date, and not as per the transition of change in the Hindu calendar



