



HARVEST FESTIVALS  
ARE FUN  
Read More...



# MACVISTA

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January-March 2019 | [gk.macmillaneducation.in](http://gk.macmillaneducation.in)

THINK THROUGH IT...

*Life is a festival only to the wise.*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Harvest Festivals

The word harvest comes from the Old English 'haerfest', meaning autumn.

About 70 % of population in India lives in villages and depends on agriculture. It is therefore not surprising that most Indian events of fairs and festivals revolve around festivals.

According to a survey, celebrated all over the country, Makar Sankranti is the oldest and the most colourful harvest festival of India. It signifies the beginning of the Sun's journey from the Dakshinayan (southern hemisphere) to the Uttaryan (northern hemisphere), when it enters the sign of Makar (Capricorn).

It is also the most celebrated harvest festival of North India. In many states of India people celebrate the harvest of new crops with bonfire, songs, dances, kite flying, and melas (carnivals).





*Festivals are fun for everyone—kids, teenagers, young and old alike. It means meeting friends and dear ones, enjoying music, good food and wearing new clothes.*

So, it is that time of year again when we celebrate the bountiful harvest or, you can say, nature. The harvest festivals, in a way, are celebrated to thank the Mother Earth for its generosity and bountiful harvest.

Since time immemorial people planted seeds and celebrated their success with a harvest festival. These festivals consisted of non-stop feasting and sporting events. These practices are passed on from one generation to the other. With the passage of time people also added their own experiences and substituted some other which were no longer relevant. We too have learnt many things from our ancestors. As time passes, we continue to add new thoughts, new ideas to these celebrations.

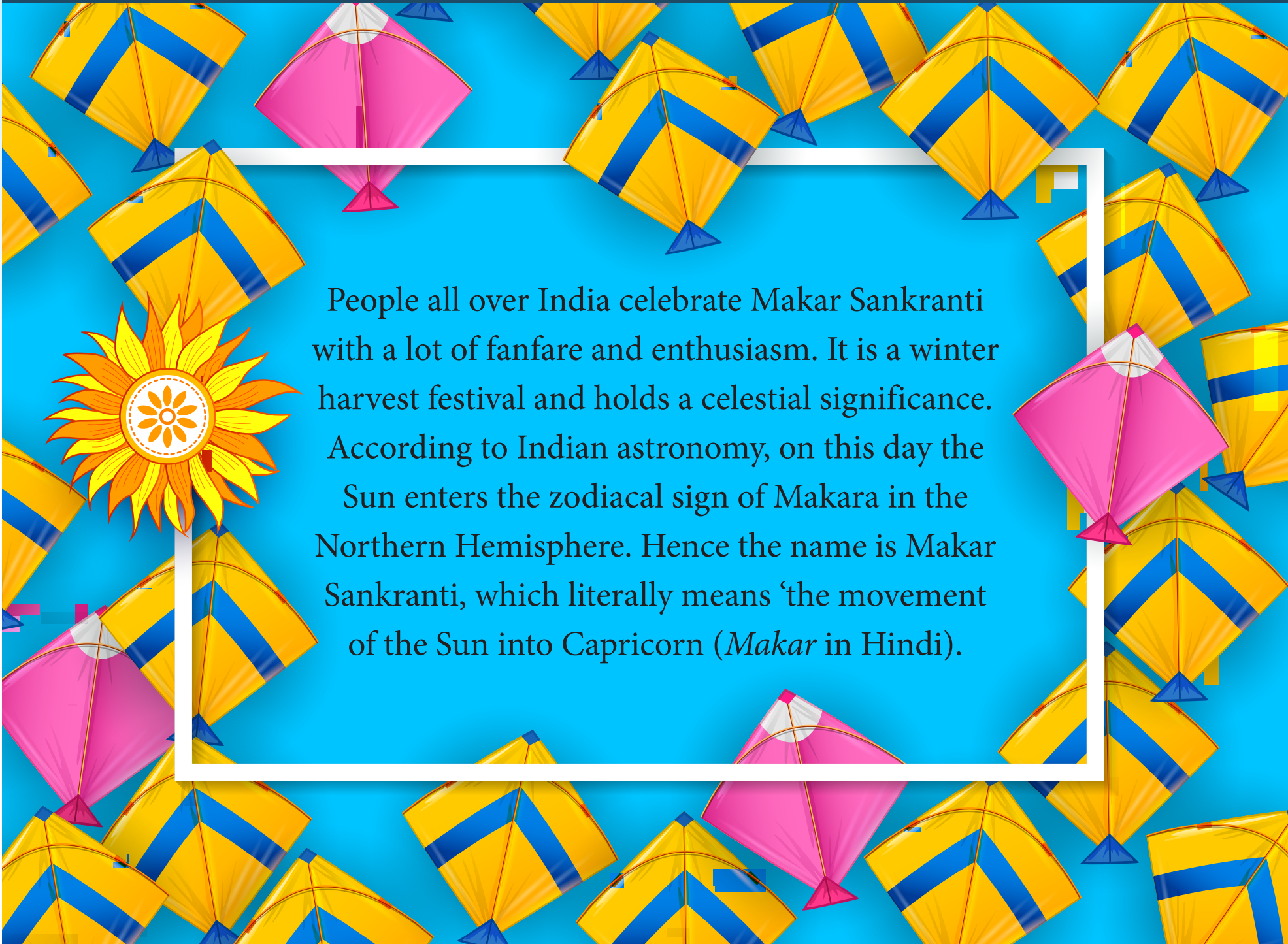
This is how culture is transmitted and carried forward from generation to next generation.

The culture we inherit from our predecessors is called our cultural heritage. We have inherited a rich culture of harvest celebrations. Be it Pongal in Tamil Nadu or Lohri in Punjab and Haryana, seasonal harvest festivals also highlight the diversity of India.





## Makar Sankranti: Many Names, Varied Forms

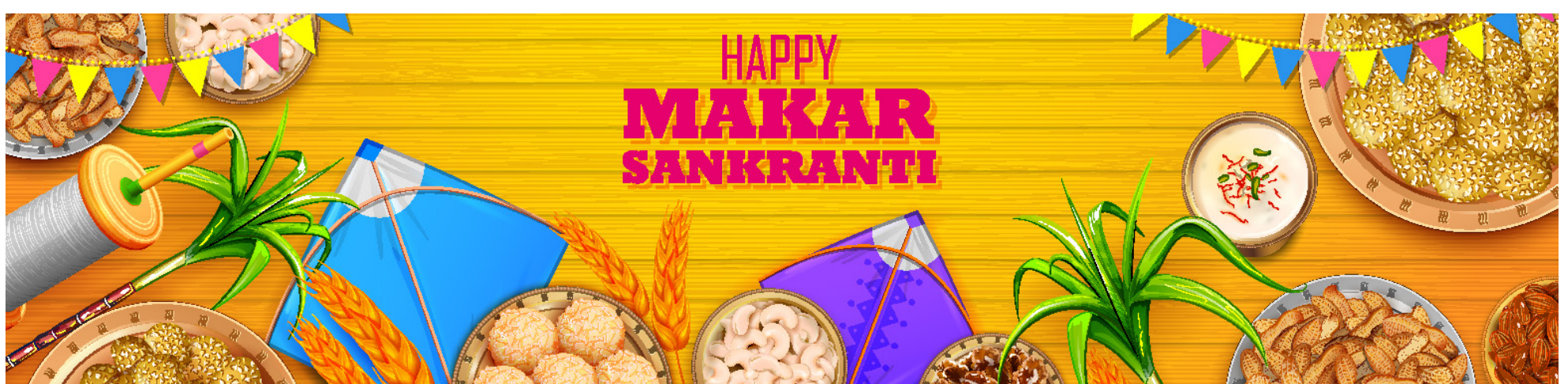


People all over India celebrate Makar Sankranti with a lot of fanfare and enthusiasm. It is a winter harvest festival and holds a celestial significance. According to Indian astronomy, on this day the Sun enters the zodiacal sign of Makara in the Northern Hemisphere. Hence the name is Makar Sankranti, which literally means 'the movement of the Sun into Capricorn (*Makar* in Hindi).

As per Hindu mythology, this festival marks the end of an unfavourable phase and the beginning of a bountiful phase.

The festival of Makar Sankranti is celebrated differently in different regions— each with a **unique tradition, story, and food**. It is also called by different names in different parts of the country.

As the Sun's entry into the zodiac sign Capricorn is considered as the beginning of its six-month journey in the northern hemisphere, which is known as Uttarayan, the festival is also called by this name, Uttarayan, in Gujarat. The event coincides with the end of the Hindu month of *Pousha* and the beginning of *Magha*.





## Makar Sankranti: Many Names, Varied Forms

Makar Sankranti is celebrated in Bengal as Pousha Sankranti, in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab as Maghi. In Assam, it is celebrated as **Magh Bihu**.

No festival is complete without special food prepared only for these occasions. In Gujarat, **undhiyu puri** is an iconic dish that is cooked on this day. It is made with green beans, new baby potatoes, sweet potatoes, yam and eggplant, and fried fenugreek dumplings are added to this mixture. **Undhiyu** is cooked in a clay oven or an earthen pot. It is a treat to watch the entire cooking procedure, and eating it is a celebration in itself.



In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Makar Sankranti is known as Til Sankranti. To mark the occasion, people eat sweetmeats made of sesame seeds (*til* in Hindi) and jaggery.

They also make khichri, and offer it to the Sun god. The aroma of black lentil khichri from the houses in these states fill the streets on this day. People wear new clothes and sing folk songs to celebrate the day. They also donate black lentils and rice, along with sesame and jaggery, to the needy.



*Makar Sankranti*



## Makar Sankranti: Many Names, Varied Forms

The festival is marked by people taking a dip in the sacred river Ganga, or any other river they consider sacred and auspicious. In West Bengal, on this day every year, pilgrims gather at the Gangasagar fair at Sagardwip, an island in the Sundarbans, to take bath in the Ganga.

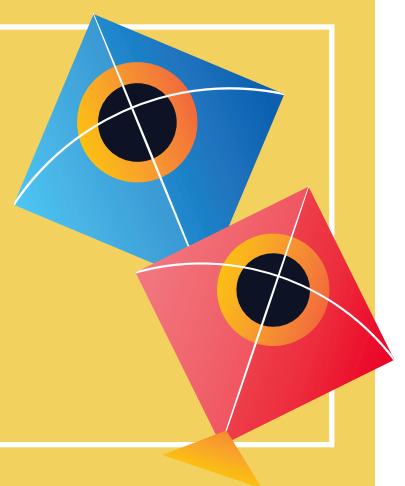
Makar Sankranti also marks the beginning of warm, sunny days after a long winter.

People begin to go out in the open and enjoy outdoor sports and games. Gujarat hosts the annual International Kite Festival, where kite makers and flyers from all over the world come together to showcase their unique creations and kite flying skills.



*In Kerala, the pilgrimage of Sabarimala concludes on Makara Sankranti with an annual festival, Makaravilakku, held at the hill shrine. Pilgrims worship the 'makara jyothi', meaning 'the light of Capricorn'.*

*Makar Sankranti basically marks the beginning of the harvest season and the arrival of spring.*

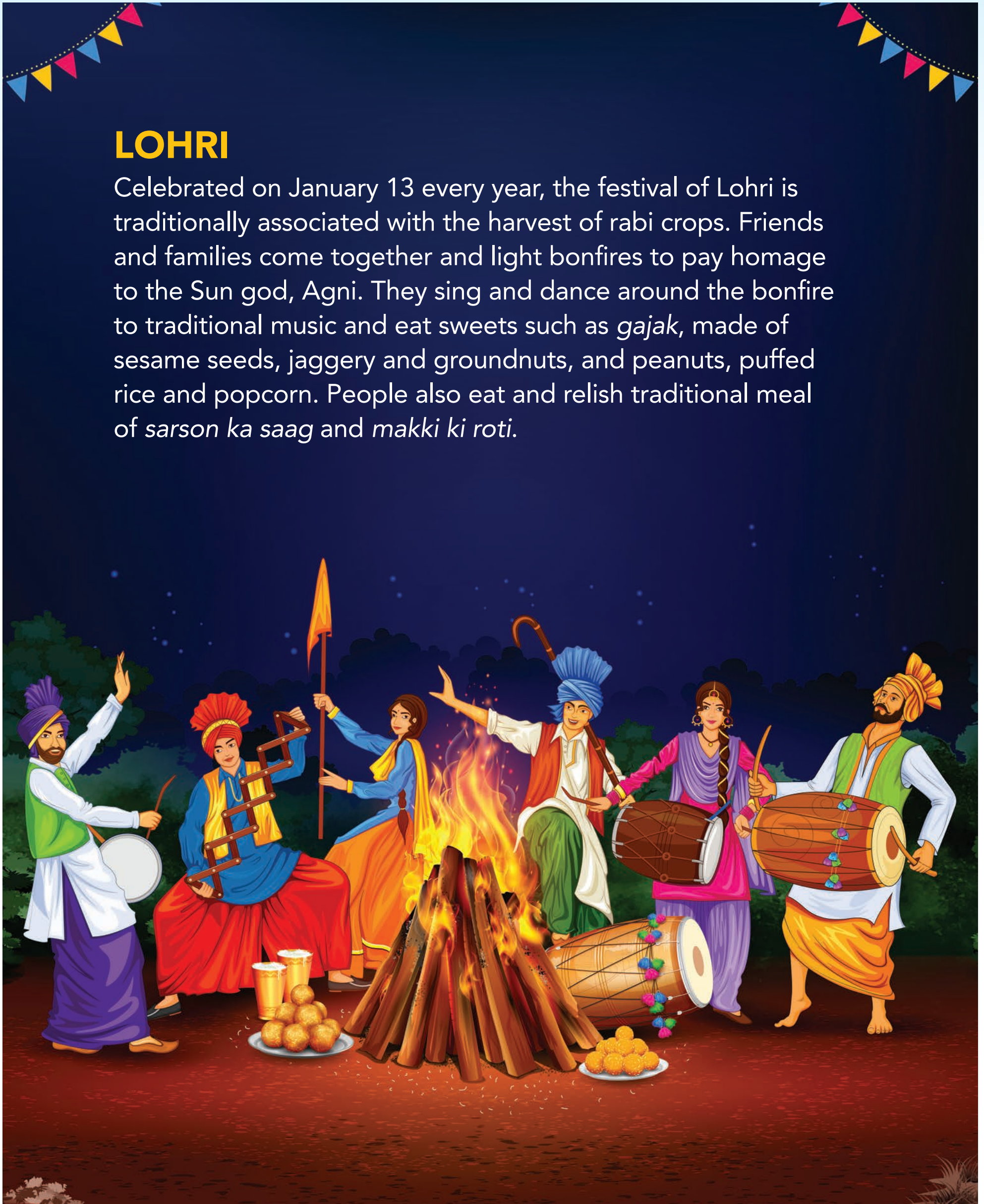




Every state in India celebrates and welcomes the harvest season in its own unique and indigenous way. The cultural significance of these festivals varies geographically as we move from one state to another.

## LOHRI

Celebrated on January 13 every year, the festival of Lohri is traditionally associated with the harvest of rabi crops. Friends and families come together and light bonfires to pay homage to the Sun god, Agni. They sing and dance around the bonfire to traditional music and eat sweets such as *gajak*, made of sesame seeds, jaggery and groundnuts, and peanuts, puffed rice and popcorn. People also eat and relish traditional meal of *sarson ka saag* and *makki ki roti*.





## PONGAL

A four-day harvest festival called Pongal is celebrated in Tamil Nadu. The tradition of this festival dates back to the Chola period, almost 1000 years ago. Pongal also marks the transition of the Sun northwards for a period of six months.

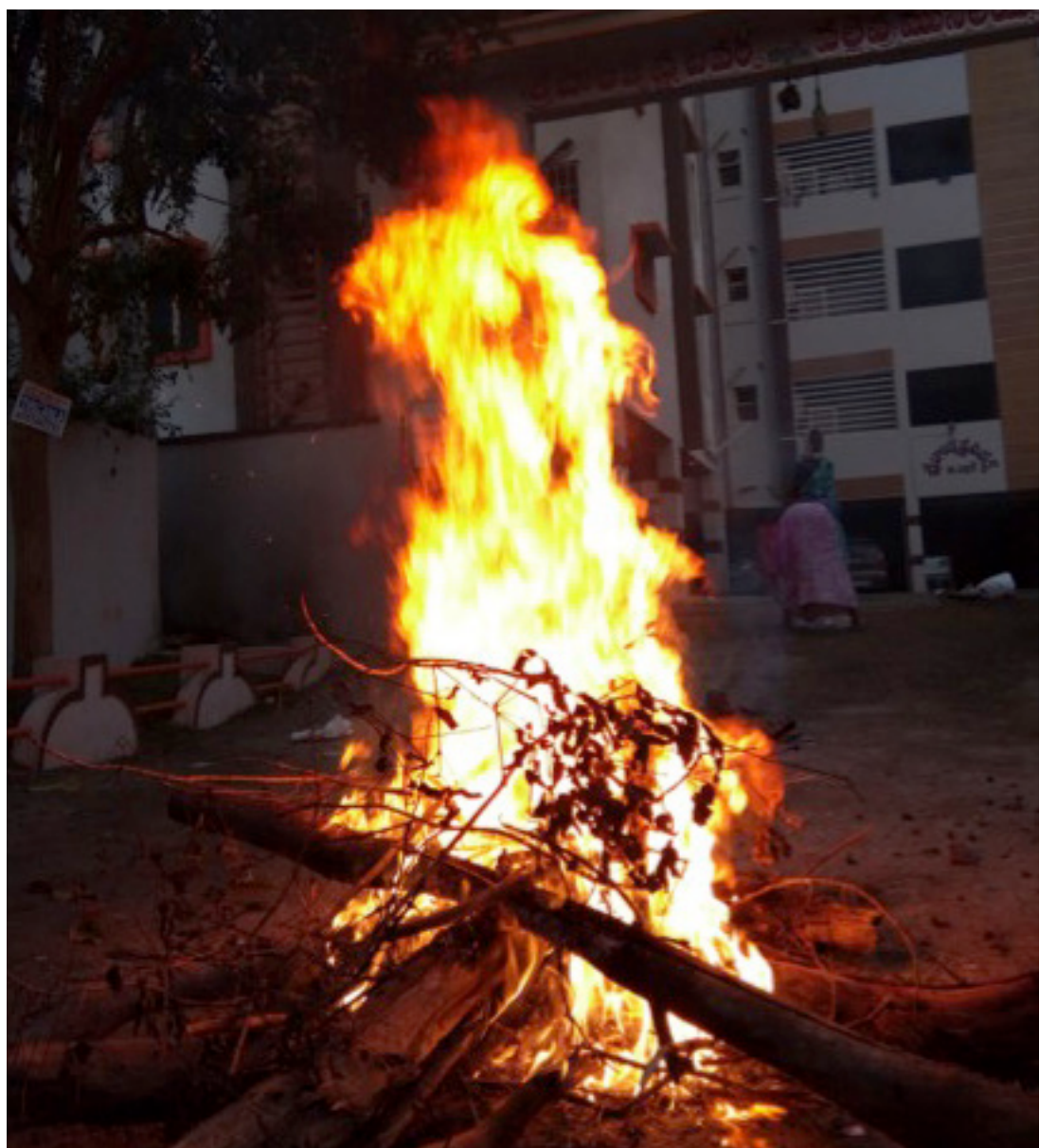
Derived from a Tamil word, 'Pongal' literally means 'to boil', signifying an overflow of the harvested crops. Hence, this festival is marked with the cooking of rice boiled in milk, which is offered first to the Sun and then to the cows, and later to the family and friends.



## BHOGI

In Andhra Pradesh, the harvest festival or Makar Sankranti is celebrated for three days. All houses are decorated and interestingly, people dress themselves up in colourful clothes resembling the characters from mythology. People invite family and friends and give them sweets. On the first day, that is Bhogi Panduga, people burn all old articles.

The second day, Pedda Panduga is the Sankranti day when the big festival is held. People are dressed in new clothes and pray to God and enjoy feasts with family and friends. They also worship livestock on the last day.





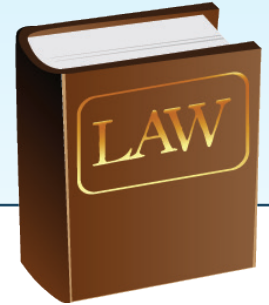
## BIHU

Assam also celebrates the harvest festival, where it is called Magh Bihu, where it is also called Bhogali Bihu. Community feasts and merry making mark the celebrations. On the eve of Bihu people of the whole community sit around a big bonfire and eat various kinds of rice fritters, also called pitha — til pitha, narikel pitha, ghila pitha — made with sesame, coconut, jaggery, and rice flour.



This is followed by a lavish feast of lentils, fish, duck, and other varieties of meat. The most interesting part of the food, however, is the 108 varieties of saag (green leafy vegetables). The varieties of saag, cooked in different ways, are eaten with boiled rice and ghee.

Dance and music is also an important part of the celebrations. People visit the homes of their friends and relatives to exchange pleasantries on the occasion of Bihu.



On 28 September 2018, the Supreme Court of India put an end to a centuries-old tradition barring women of menstruating age from entering the Sabarimala temple in Kerala. The Constitution bench of the Supreme Court held that any exception placed on women because of biological differences violates the Constitution. It said that the ban violates the Right to Equality under Article 14, and Right to Freedom of Religion under Article 25.

## TechNews



The Chennai traffic Police will soon have a robot named ROADEO to ease their work. The robot will make the pedestrians, especially children, feel safe while crossing the roads.

These robots can be integrated with the traffic signals, as well as can be operated manually, through a Bluetooth app. The robot has two hands to interact with the people and show traffic signs. It has highly expressive eyes to create a feel of a neighbourhood helper and also a display to show important messages.

The robot has been developed by schoolchildren of a private robotics lab in Chennai.



# HARVEST SEASONS AROUND THE WORLD

People around the world also rejoice in the harvest and celebrate on these special days. Each culture has its unique way of giving thanks to the nature for its bounty.

## Thanksgiving—America

People in America celebrate Thanksgiving, when they families and friends gather together and give thanks for the blessings of the harvest. They share food and give thanks to the nature for the blessings of the past year. In their homes, people across the country prepare traditional foods of the season, such as turkey, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

Thanksgiving is held on the fourth Thursday of November. Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.

Thanksgiving is also celebrated in Canada, Grenada, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Liberia and the Netherlands.

This American holiday has been celebrated since the early days of the Pilgrims (the pioneers of British colonisation of North America). The Pilgrims set aside a time of festive thanksgiving in response to a plentiful harvest.



## Sukkot—Israel

Sukkot is the Jewish festival that celebrates bountiful harvests. This festival has historical and agricultural significance. It is the time when people recall how in bad days the Israelites had wandered the desert living in temporary shelters. Families build makeshift huts, or sukkah, with roofs open to the sky. Sukkot is often described as Israel's 'most holy and important feast'.





## HARVEST SEASONS AROUND THE WORLD

### Kwanzaa—Africa

People in Africa celebrate a harvest festival called Kwanzaa, which means “First Fruits,”. It is based on ancient African harvest festivals and celebrates ideals such as family life and unity. It is celebrated from December 26 to January 1, when people dress in special clothes, decorate their homes with fruits and vegetables, and light a candleholder called a *kinara*.



### Chuseok—Korea

Chuseok is Korea's most important harvest festival. On festival eve, women gather and sing traditional songs while men engage in wrestling matches. In the morning of Chuseok, family members hold memorial services in honour of their ancestors. Freshly harvested rice and rice cakes are prepared as an offering to the family's ancestors.



Traditional Chuseok day food, Korea



# HARVEST SEASONS AROUND THE WORLD



## Rice Festival—Bali

Rice is the staple crop of Bali, where people celebrate the Rice Harvest Festival that is dedicated to Dewi Sri - the rice goddess. Bamboo temples are built in corners of paddy fields, flags are hoisted in villages and towns and ceremonies are held to vanquish evil spirits from the land. The most interesting part of the festival is the Negara Bull Races held in Perancak, where water buffaloes are decorated and are taken for races in the streets.



Share of agriculture in India's economy has declined to less than 15% due to the high growth rates of the industrial and services sectors. However, the agricultural sector is still very important in India. Nearly three-quarters of India's families depend on rural incomes and the majority of India's poor (some 770 million people or about 70 %) are found in rural areas. Therefore, India's food security depends on producing cereal crops, as well as increasing its production of fruits, vegetables and milk to meet the demands of a growing population with rising incomes.



# Lighten Up

Q. I start with P and end at E. But I have thousands of letters. Who am I?  
A. Post office.

Q. I am the biggest alphabet as I contain the most water in the world. Who am I?  
A. Alphabet C.

Q. I have 28n days in a month. Which month am I?  
A. All the months in a year have 28 days, and many have more than 28 days.

Q. Everyone in the world break me every time they speak. Who am I?  
A. silence.

Q. Everyone in the world needs it. They generously give it but never take it. Then what is it?  
A. advice.

## JOKES

Teacher: Ramu, get up. How can you sleep in my class?  
Ramu: I can teacher, if you keep your voice down.

Teacher: Define brain.  
Student: Brain is like the Bermuda Triangle.  
Information goes in and it is never found again!

Teacher: Sam, what is the outside of a tree called?  
Sam: I don't know, teacher.  
Teacher: Bark, Sam, bark!!  
Sam: Bow, wow, wow!!!

Student: Teacher!  
Teacher: Yes?  
Student: Would you punish me for something I didn't do?  
Teacher: Of course not!  
Student: I didn't do my homework.

Teacher: Where is the English Channel?  
Student: I don't know, Ma'am. My TV does not pick it up.

Teacher: Define energy.  
Student: Sir, I only remember the last few lines of the definition.  
Teacher: OK, tell me whatever you know.  
Student: ...and this is called energy.

Announcement in a school:  
STUDENTS WHO HAVE PARKED THEIR CYCLES IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL GATE, PLEASE MOVE THEIR CYCLES TO THE PARKING AREA.  
After 30 minutes, another announcement:  
THE 400 STUDENTS WHO WENT TO MOVE 10 CYCLES, PLEASE COME BACK TO THEIR CLASSES!

Teacher: What is anaesthesia?  
Student: 2 Amrisari chole-kulche with cold lassi!!!

## RIDDLES

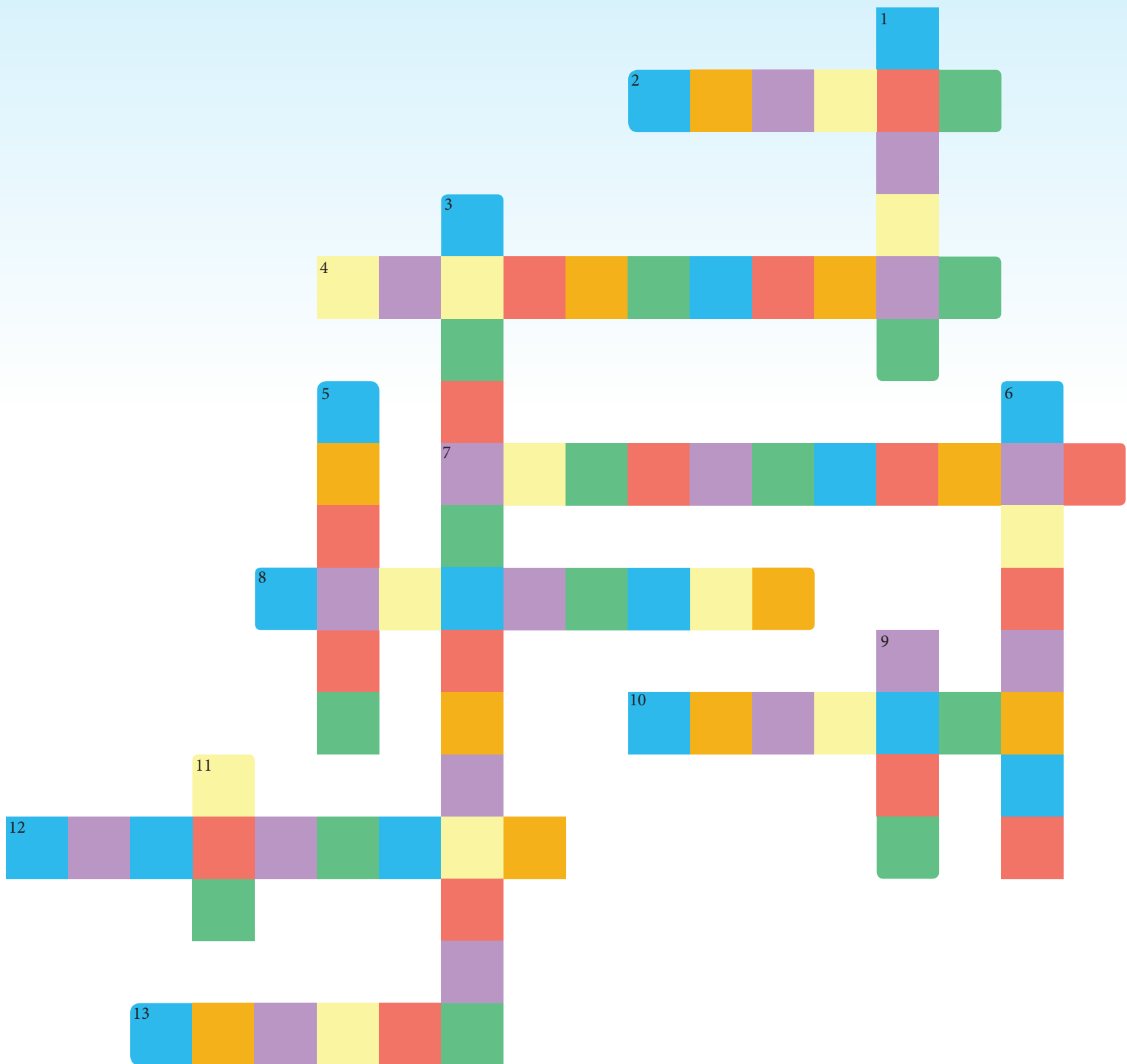
- Why can't a bicycle stand up by itself?
- What do you call a sleeping bull?
- What has hands but cannot clap?
- It has been around for millions of years, but it is still no more than a month old. What is it?

Read the  
ANSWERS  
on page X





# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



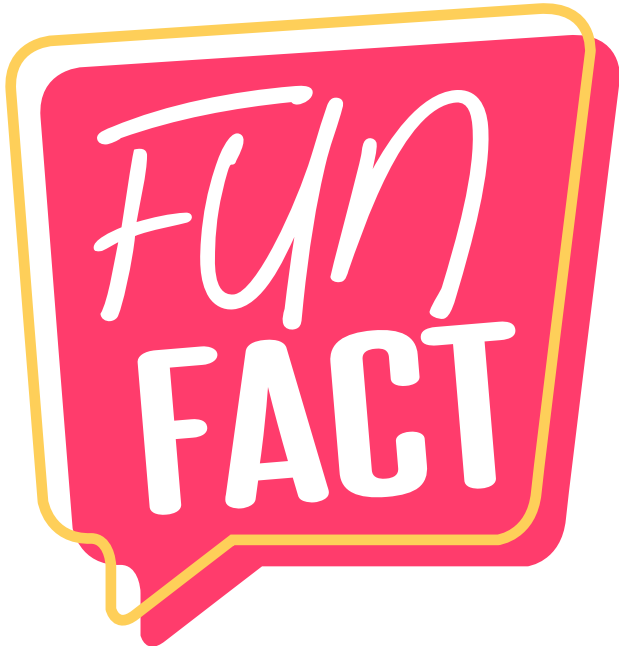
## Across

2. On this festival, families in Israel build makeshift huts, with roofs open to the sky.
4. Birthday of Dr S Radhakrishnan is celebrated as.
7. The Constitution of our country came into force on this day.
8. Gujarat hosts the annual International Kite Festival on this day.
10. Designs made by colourful powdery substance.
12. Celebrates the Birth of Jesus Christ.
13. The festival of lights.

## Down

1. A four-day harvest festival celebrated in Tamil Nadu.
3. In Kerala, the pilgrimage of Sabarimala concludes on the day of this festival.
5. Commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
6. Assam celebrates this harvest festival.
9. The festival of colours.
11. The Muslim festival marking the end of the fast of Ramadan.





## ANIMAL MOVEMENTS

Aren't you excited and amused when you see an animal move? Do you know that there are special words in English to describe the movement of animals?

Read on to learn about this.

Chicken —	Strut	Duck —	Waddle
Camel —	Pace	Elephant —	Stomp
Bear —	Stamp	Hawk —	Soar
Bee —	Flit	Horse —	Trot
Cat —	Pounce		

- The only planet that rotates on its side like a barrel is Uranus.
- The only planet that spins backwards relative to the others is Venus.
- Snakes cannot slither on glass.
- A bat can eat 3000 insects in one night!
- There are over 40,000 different types of plants and over 2,000 different kinds of butterflies living in the Amazon Rainforests.
- The slightest difference in colour or design can help an animal or plant live, survive and reproduce better in the wild. This is known as natural selection.

- Down
- 1. Pongal
  - 3. Makar Sankranti
  - 5. Easter
  - 6. Magh Bihu
  - 9. Holi
  - 11. Eid
- Across
- 2. Sukkot
  - 4. Teacher's Day
  - 7. Republic Day
  - 8. Uttarayan
  - 10. Rangoli
  - 12. Christmas
  - 13. Diwali

Answer  
Crossword Puzzle



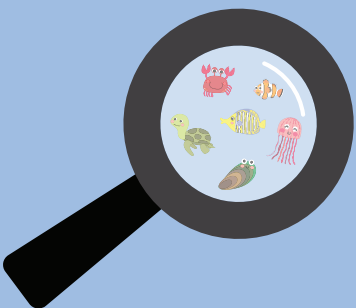
### ANSWERS FOR RIDDLES

- Because it is two-tired
- A bulldozer
- A clock
- The Moon



# ACTIVITY SHEET

## Activity 1



# How Many ?

Count the similar animals and write the number























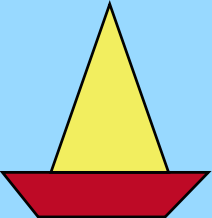
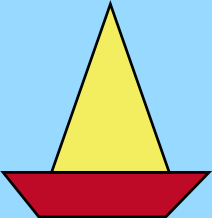
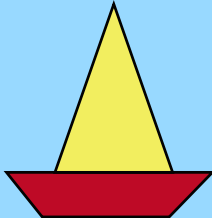


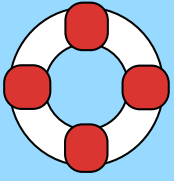
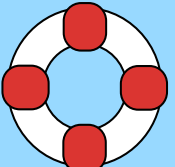





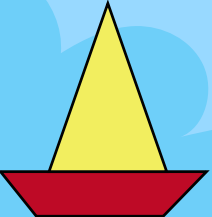
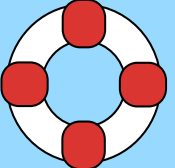


## Activity 2



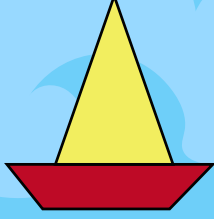

Can You solve this?

 +  +  = 18

 +  +  = 14

 +  +  = 8

 +  +  = 

 +  -  = 

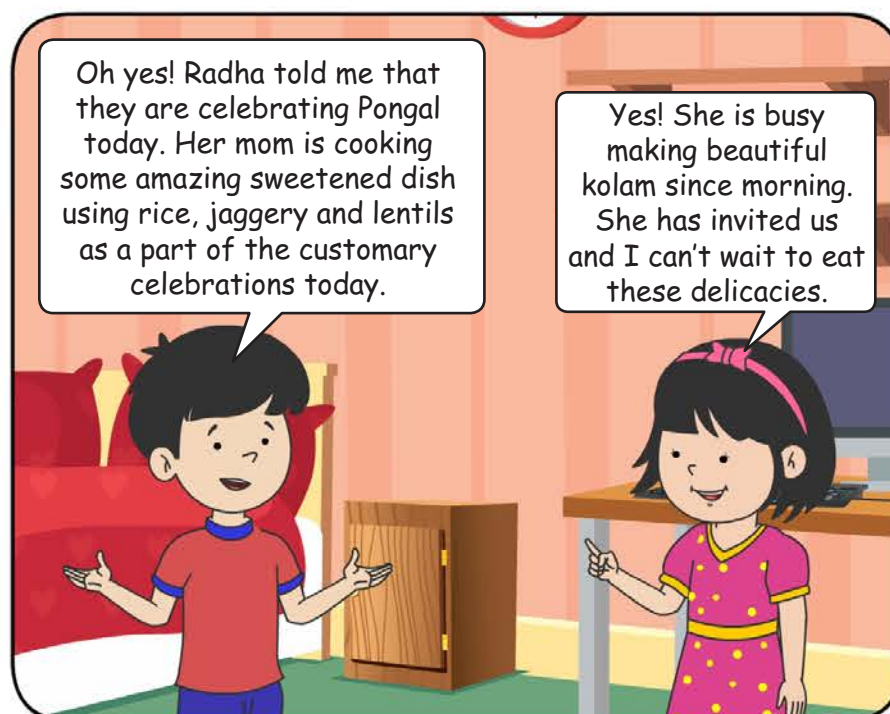
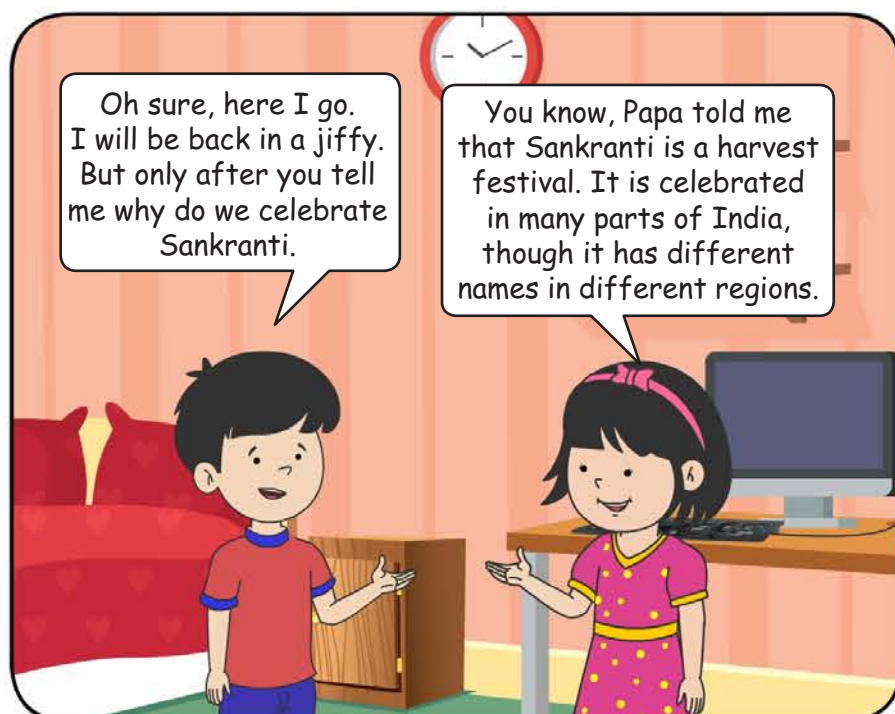




# Comic Strip



## BAIRA AND BELA





# CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

## January 1

T.B. Radhakrishnan takes charge as the first Chief Justice of Telangana High Court.

A visionary in the field of Solar Energy and the chairman of National Solar Energy Federation, Shri Pranav R Mehta, takes over as the president of Global Solar Council (GSC). He becomes the First Indian to Head the GSC, Headquartered in Washington DC, USA.

## January 2

The government approves the merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with the Bank of Baroda (BoB) to make it a globally competitive lender. With the merger, BoB will become the third largest bank after State Bank of India and ICICI Bank.

## January 3

China names its lunar rover as ‘Yutu-2’, deployed to carry out a string of experiments on the far side of the Moon.

Indian captain Virat Kohli breaks yet another Sachin Tendulkar record as he becomes the fastest batsman to reach 19,000 international runs. He achieved this in his 399th innings during the fourth and final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

## January 4

Arunima Sinha, the Indian mountaineer who became the world’s first woman amputee to climb Mount Everest in 2013, becomes the first woman amputee to climb Mount Vinson (highest peak of Antarctica).

## January 5

Absconding liquor baron Vijay Mallya becomes the first person to be declared a fugitive economic offender by the special court hearing cases under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA).

## January 6

Bohemian Rhapsody is adjudged the best motion picture, drama at the 76th Golden Globes Awards.

## January 7

India registers a historic first-ever cricket Test series win in Australia with a 2-1 victory.

## January 8

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K Palaniswami, announces the creation of the 33rd district of the state called Kallakurichi, to be carved out by bifurcating Villupuram, one of the largest in the southern state.

## January 9

Parliament clears the Constitutional Amendment Bill guaranteeing 10 % quota in education and employment to economically weaker sections in the general category, following an approval by the Rajya Sabha.

## January 10

The Centre launches a five-year action plan, the National Clean Air Programme, to tackle air pollution in a time-bound manner across the country. The programme is aimed at reducing the concentration levels of PM 2.5 (fine particulate matter in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres) and PM 10 by 20 % to 30 % by 2024 with 2017 as the base year.

The Cabinet approves a proposal for establishing three new AIIMS - two in Jammu and Kashmir and one in Gujarat - under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) scheme at a cost of Rs 4,684 crore.

The 36-year-old Mary Kom is ranked number one by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) in the Light Fly 45-48 kilogramme category.

## January 11

Gurugram’s 8-year-old Kartik Singh wins the under-8 category at the Kids’ Golf World Championship organised by US kids Golf in Malaysia, which makes him the youngest Indian to win the title.

## January 14

The Chennai Traffic Police inducts a road safety robot for traffic management. The robot named ROADEO can be integrated with the traffic signals, as well as can be opened manually using a Bluetooth app. I will also make the pedestrians, especially children, feel safe while crossing the road.

## January 15

D Gukesh of Tamil Nadu becomes the second youngest Grand Master in the world and the youngest Indian to achieve the feat at 12 years, seven months and 17 days. He defeated Dinesh Sharma in the ninth round of the Delhi International Open GMs chess tournament.

## January 18

Justice Asif Saeed Khosa takes oath as the 26th Chief Justice of Pakistan.

Prime Minister Stefan Lofven of Sweden is elected to a second four-year term ending more than four months of political deadlock.

The second World Orange Festival begins in Nagpur.

## January 20

In the Khelo India Youth Games, the host Maharashtra tops the medals table with a whopping 85 gold, 62 silver and 81 bronze medals. Maharashtra also topped the silver and bronze tallies. Maharashtra won a total of 228 medals, while Haryana and Delhi followed with 178 and 136 respectively.

Ankita Raina beats the top seed and World No. 122, Arantxa Rus of the Netherlands, in the final of the \$25,000 ITF women’s tennis tournament at Singapore.



## CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

### January 21

The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) announces new regulations prohibiting all food businesses in India from using 'unsafe' materials such as newspapers and recycled plastics to wrap food products.

India's first-ever all-women political party – the National Women's Party (NWP) – is launched in Mumbai and it will contest half of the Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 elections. The party has been founded by a medico and social activist, (Dr) Shwetha Shetty.

### January 22

Indian captain Virat Kohli creates history as he becomes the first player in history to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year, the ICC Men's Test Player of the Year and the ICC ODI Player of the Year awards following an extraordinary 2018.

Rishabh Pant is named the International Cricket Council's Emerging Player of the Year at the world body's annual awards.

### January 23

In a major breakthrough, India is ranked 54th in Bloomberg's 2019 list of most innovative countries in the world—2019 Bloomberg Innovation Index—for the first time ever.

### January 24

India successfully launches the 46th mission of its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Sriharikota spaceport, near Chennai, carrying Microsat-R and Kalamsat to Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit. PSLV-C44 is the first mission of PSLV-DL and is a new variant of the PSLV.

### January 25

President Ramnath Kovind confers the Bharat Ratna, the nation's highest civilian honour, on former President Pranab Mukherjee, social activist Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumous), and Assamese musician Bhupen Hazarika (posthumous).

India and South Africa agree on a three-year strategic partnership to further boost cooperation in number of key areas after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. The strategic programme will cover cooperation in a range of areas including defence.

### January 26

Naomi Osaka defeated Czech eighth seed Petra Kvitova to become the first Japanese player to win the Australian Open, and become the new world number one.

### January 27

The Union Minister Piyush Goyal announces that India's first indigenously built engineless semi-high speed train, Train 18, has been named Vande Bharat Express.

### January 28

Tableaux of Tripura, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) win the first prize for the Republic Day Parade at the Rajpath.

Dubai International Airport retains its position as the world's busiest international airport for the fifth consecutive year in 2018, recording a rise in passenger numbers even amid a slowing global economy.

### January 29

Former defence minister George Fernandes (88) passes away.

The United Nations announces 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT) of the Chemical Elements to mark 150 years of the formation of the periodic table by Russian scientist Dmitri Mendeleev.

### January 30

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, dedicates to the nation the National Salt Satyagraha Memorial and Museum at Dandi in Gujarat On Mahatma Gandhi's 71st death anniversary.

### January 31

The Srikrishna committee that was entrusted the responsibility to probe the quid-pro-quo transactions in ICICI Bank indicts Chanda Kochhar, the former CEO and MD of ICICI Bank, and finds her in violation of the bank's code of conduct.

### Feb 1

The declaration of the Indus river dolphin as the state aquatic animal by Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh is hailed by environment and wildlife activists. The Indus river dolphins are considered one of the rarest aquatic mammals found only in India and Pakistan. These have made Beas river their home in Punjab.

Govt. announces that individual taxpayers with annual income up to ₹5 lakh will not have to pay any Income Tax.

### Feb 2

Smriti Mandhana attains number one ranking in the updated ICC ODI batting rankings.



# CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

**Feb 6**

India’s latest communication satellite, GSAT-31 is successfully launched from the Spaceport in French Guiana. The satellite will provide communication services to Indian mainland and islands.

**Feb 10**

Former US President Jimmy Carter wins his second Grammy Award for spoken word album for his biography *Faith - A Journey for All*.

Country music sensation Kacey Musgraves wins four Grammys, including Album of the Year for Golden Hour while Childish Gambino won both Best Song Of The Year and Best Album of the Year for the politically charged This Is America. Both Kacey Musgraves and Childish Gambino (also known as Donald Glover) win four Grammys each - highest for this edition of the Grammys.

England’s Jamie Chadwick scripts history in the MRF Challenge, becoming the first female driver to claim the championship in seven seasons.

**Feb 12**

Binish Chudgar, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd., is awarded the prestigious Ernst & Young ‘Entrepreneur of the Year 2018’ Award in the Life Sciences & Healthcare category.

**Feb 13**

NASA to launch a new space telescope in 2023 that could provide a glimpse of the first moments in the history of the universe.

**Feb 15**

Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal from Chandigarh scripts history by becoming the first woman flight engineer to be inducted by the Indian Air Force.

**Feb 16**

Saina Nehwal beats P V Sindhu to retain her women’s singles crown at the 83rd Yonex Sunrise Senior Badminton Nationals.

**Feb 18**

A drainage-cleaning robot is introduced for the first time in Tamil Nadu at the city corporation as part of efforts to get rid of manual scavenging.

**Feb 19**

Nikhath Zareen and Meena Kumari Devi become the first set of Indian women boxers to notch up gold medals at the Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

**Feb 21**

The world’s largest bee, Flying Bulldog, which is a giant insect roughly the size of a human thumb, has been rediscovered in a remote part of Indonesia.

Dr Divya Karnad wins the prestigious Global Future for Nature Award 2019 for her work on marine conservation. She is the first woman and the second Indian to win the award.

**Feb 22**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is conferred the prestigious Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.

Harmanpreet Singh is named the 2018 Player of the Year by the Asian Hockey Federation while women’s team striker Lalremsiami bags the Rising Player of the Year prize.

Sudan’s President Omar al-Bashir declares a year-long national state of emergency, dismissing the federal government and sacking all state governors.

**Feb 23**

Bihar becomes the first state in the country to have raised a special dog squad to detect liquor consignment.

**Feb 24**

Green Book wins the best picture award at the 91st Academy Awards. The film earns three Oscars, including best picture, best original screenplay and best actor in a supporting role.

Rami Malek is named the Best Actor in a Leading Role for Bohemian Rhapsody, while Olivia Colman wins the Best Actress Oscar for The Favourite at the 91st Academy Awards.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council slashes tax rates on under-construction housing properties to 5% from the existing 12%.

A film on menstruation, set in rural India, titled ‘Period. End of Sentence’ wins the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject category at the 91st Academy Awards.

**Feb 25**

Indian Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta lifts the Cannes International Open trophy for chess.

**Feb 26**

Railway’s ticket booking mobile application and the Chhattisgarh government’s ‘Khanij online’ among 14 such IT projects chosen for this year’s National e-Governance Awards.

President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind presents the Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018 at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. The awardees are Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari for the year 2015, Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International for the year 2016 (Jointly), Ekal Abhiyan Trust for the year 2017 and Sh Yohei Sasakawa for the year 2018.



## CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

### Feb 27

Government brings 42 non-scheduled cancer drugs under price control which would reduce their retail prices by up to 85 per cent.

The teenaged duo of Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker comfortably claim the gold medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event of the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.

PM Narendra Modi launched Sports Authority of India's (SAI) first-of-its-kind mobile application, 'Khelo India App'.

### Feb 28

The Centre approves an order for giving reservation benefits to economically weaker sections and for promotion in government jobs to SCs and STs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launches an anthem in seven languages as a part of a campaign to make India plastic-free by 2022, and stressed on strengthening plastic waste management and recycling ecosystem in the country.

### March 2

Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios beat Alexander Zverev in the final to win the Mexico Open title.

Roger Federer beats Stefanos Tsitsipas in Dubai Championships final to win 100th ATP title.

### March 4

PM Modi launches 'One Nation One Card', which can be used for paying for travel on any mode of transportation.

South African spinner Imran Tahir announces his retirement from One-day Internationals (ODIs) after the Cricket World Cup 2019.

India's veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami reclaims the world number one position in the ICC women's rankings for ODI bowlers.

### March 5

Malaysia becomes the 124th member of the International Criminal Court.

### March 9

A 116-year-old Japanese woman is honoured as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records.

Rio Olympics race walk champion Liu Hong breaks the 50 km world record and becomes the first woman to dip under the four-hour mark at an event in Haungshan, China.

### March 12

India's defence lab DRDO successfully test-fired the indigenously developed guided rocket system 'Pinaka' at Pokhran desert in Rajasthan.

Jharkhand becomes the first state to implement ban on e-cigarettes.

### March 15

India to host the U-17 Women's World Cup in 2020, International Football Federation (FIFA) President Gianni Infantino announces.

India secures second position in the medal tally in Asian Youth Athletics Championships in Hong Kong.

### March 14

India and Pakistan agree to work "expeditiously" to operationalise Kartarpur Sahib Corridor.

### March 15

International Football Federation (FIFA) President Gianni Infantino announces that India will host the U-17 Women's World Cup in 2020.

### March 18

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launches a new podcast app 'Shiksha Vani'.

### March 20

According to a UN report, India drops from 133 to 140 in the global happiness ranking; South Sudan least happy.

Finland tops the global happiness ranking for the second year in a row.

### March 24

The world's largest e-waste recycling facility opens in Dubai. Located at the Dubai Industrial Park, the 280,000 square feet plant will process Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), IT asset disposition (ITAD), refrigerant gas and specialised waste.

### March 25

The Indian Air Force (IAF) formally inducts the first unit of four heavy-lift Chinook helicopters in Chandigarh.

### March 27

The EU Parliament votes overwhelmingly for an EU-wide ban on single-use plastic products such as the straws, cutlery and cotton buds that are clogging the world's oceans.

According to IUCN report, the hump-backed mahseer, found in the waters of the Cauvery, added to the Red List as Critically Endangered.

India conducts its first anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test, successfully destroying a low earth orbit satellite in space by using a missile which covered a distance of 300 km to engage the target.

### March 28

The Home Ministry announces that the next census of India will be carried out in 2021 with March 1 of that year as the reference date.

### March 29

Australia's all-time top goal-scorer Tim Cahill announces his retirement, bringing an end to one of the country's greatest football careers.