



Go Green

# Hindu Temple and Cultural Center

(A Non-Profit Organization Registered in the State of Washington)

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## Makara Sankranti/Pongal, Sunday 14th January, 2018



As per Vedic Hindu philosophy, Lord Sun is the king of all the planets. And Makara in Sanskrit literally means Capricorn whereas, Sankranti denotes transition. Hence, Lord Sun's transition from Sagittarius to Capricorn sign in the northern hemisphere, during winter is called 'The Makara Sankranti'.

Makara Sankranti is celebrated in Kerala at Sabarimala where the Makara Jyothi is visible followed by the Makara Vilakku celebrations. Devout Hindus believe that the *jyothi* is a celestial phenomenon and its sighting is auspicious.

### Pooja Schedules

- ❖ 12:30 PM - Archana & Ārati
- ❖ 06:30 PM - Ayyappa Padi Pooja (*Sankranti event ritual*)
- ❖ 08:00 PM - Archana & Ārati

### Sponsorship Opportunity

- ❖ Archana (\$10.0)
- ❖ Pushpa Mala Alankaram (contact office for scheduling)
- ❖ Annadanam (\$151.0, Food Sponsorship)

### Makara Sankranti celebrations

Makara Sankranti festival is celebrated for innumerable reasons and in innumerable ways depending on cultural background and location in various states of India. Apart from geographical significance this festival also has historical and religious significance. Uttarayana marks the beginning of the days of Devas and it is it was on this day that lord Vishnu ended the terror of asuras or demons and burried their heads under mandar parvat.

The festival is celebrated with distinct names and varied customs in India. In Tamilnadu the festival is called Pongal, in Punjab it is known as Lohri, in Gujarat and Rajasthan it is known as Uttarayan and in Assam it is known as Bhogali bihu. In rest of the Indian states including Maharashtra, it is known as Makar Sankranti or Makara Sankranti. In Gujarat the kite flying is very famous during this festival day.

In Karnataka on this auspicious day, women folks (kids & teenagers) wear new clothes to visit near and dear ones with a Sankranti offering in a plate, and exchange the same with other families. This ritual is called "Ellu Birodhu". Here the plate would normally contain "Ellu" (white sesame seeds) mixed with fried groundnuts, neatly cut dry coconut & fine cut bella. There is a saying in Kannada "Ellu bella thindu olle maathadi" which translates to 'Eat the mixture of sesame seeds and jaggery and speak only good.'

Padi Puja to Lord Ayyappa is performed at the Temple in the evening. This year on Sankranti/Pongal day, come and visit the temple with your family and friends and take blessings of Lord, as well as greet your fellow brothers and sisters.