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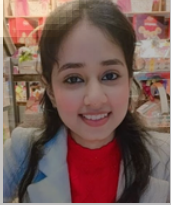
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Department of Journalism and Mass Communication

News Letter January 2025



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas



Mansi Kapoor
3rd sem

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), celebrated annually on January 9, is a significant day dedicated to honoring the contributions of the Indian diaspora worldwide. This day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa in 1915, a pivotal moment in the country's history that symbolized the beginning of India's freedom movement. Organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas serves as a platform to connect India with its global diaspora, which is among the largest in the world, comprising over 32 million Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs). The event highlights the immense contributions of overseas Indians in fostering cultural, economic, and technological ties between India and other nations.

The biennial PBD Convention features interactive sessions, cultural programs, and discussions on critical global issues, providing a platform for the diaspora to collaborate with policymakers and industry leaders in India. A key highlight is the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards, which recognize the outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations within the diaspora. These efforts underscore the importance of their role in India's socio-economic development, with remittances from NRIs contributing significantly to the nation's economy and their influence enhancing India's global standing. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a celebration of the shared heritage, aspirations, and vision of India and its global community, strengthening ties and building a bridge toward collective progress.

National Youth Day



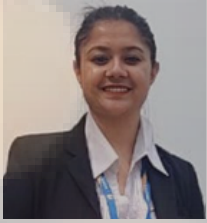
Akash Bhardwaj
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National Youth Day, observed on January 12 each year, is a tribute to the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, one of India's most revered spiritual leaders and youth icons. Declared by the Government of India in 1984, this day celebrates Vivekananda's teachings, ideals, and belief in youth's power as the driving force for nation-building. Known for his profound wisdom and inspirational speeches, Vivekananda emphasized the importance of self-confidence, character-building, and service to society. His address at the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893 showcased India's rich spiritual heritage and continues to inspire millions worldwide.

On National Youth Day, schools, colleges, and organizations across India host various programs, including debates, seminars, essay competitions, and cultural activities, to engage young minds and promote Vivekananda's discipline, determination, and social responsibility values.

The day is a reminder of the immense potential of youth in shaping a progressive and inclusive future for the nation. It encourages young people to harness their energy, strive for excellence, and contribute positively to society. Celebrating National Youth Day is a call to action to empower young generations to follow Vivekananda's teachings and become agents of change, innovation, and development in India and beyond.

Lohri



Riya
6th Sem

Lohri, celebrated on January 13 every year, is a vibrant and joyous festival marking the end of winter and the beginning of the harvest season in North India, particularly in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. This festival holds immense cultural and agricultural significance as it coincides with the harvest of rabi crops like sugarcane and wheat, symbolizing prosperity and abundance. Lohri is traditionally associated with the Punjabi farming community but is now celebrated by people across India and abroad with equal enthusiasm. The festival also marks the sun's transition towards the northern hemisphere, symbolizing longer days and the warmth of new beginnings.

The highlight of Lohri celebrations is the evening bonfire, where families and communities gather to sing traditional folk songs, perform the energetic Bhangra and Gidda dances, and offer prayers for a prosperous year ahead. Offerings such as sesame seeds, jaggery, peanuts, and popcorn are thrown into the fire as a gesture of gratitude to the Sun God and for nature's bounty. Lohri is also a time for celebrating familial bonds and the arrival of new members in the family, such as newborns and newlyweds, who are given special blessings and gifts during the festival.

Food plays a central role in Lohri celebrations, with traditional Punjabi dishes like sarson da saag, makki di roti, til laddoo, gajak, and jaggery sweets enjoyed by all. The festival expresses joy, unity, and the shared hope for happiness and success in the coming year. Lohri beautifully encapsulates the essence of Punjabi culture, blending spirituality, gratitude, and communal harmony, making it a cherished celebration for all who partake in its warmth and festivities.

Makar Sankranti



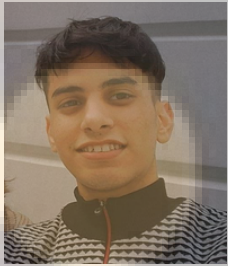
Chandra Shekhar
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This festival is celebrated with immense fervor and diverse traditions across India, reflecting the country's rich cultural heritage. In Tamil Nadu, the festival is known as Pongal, a four-day-long harvest celebration where people prepare a special dish called Pongal using freshly harvested rice, milk, and jaggery. Homes are decorated with kolam (rangoli designs), and sacred cattle are worshipped. In Punjab, the day is preceded by Lohri, a vibrant celebration featuring bonfires, traditional folk songs, and dance as farmers rejoice over the harvest of sugarcane and other crops. In Assam, the festival is called MaghBihu or BhogaliBihu, characterized by feasts, bonfires, and traditional games. In Gujarat and Rajasthan, Makar Sankranti is synonymous with Uttarayan, the famous kite-flying festival that fills the skies with colorful kites, symbolizing the spirit of freedom and joy.

Apart from these regional variations, certain customs and rituals are observed universally during Makar Sankranti. One of the most prominent traditions is taking a holy dip in sacred rivers such as the Ganges, Yamuna, or Godavari. This act is believed to cleanse the soul of sins and bring spiritual merit. Devotees also offer prayers to the Sun God, expressing gratitude for life's blessings and seeking prosperity. Charity, or daan, is another integral aspect of the festival, with people donating food, clothes, and other essentials to people in need, embodying the spirit of selflessness and community welfare.

Makar Sankranti is also a time for feasting and merriment. Traditional sweets and dishes made with sesame seeds and jaggery, such as til laddoos, chikkis, and Puran Poli, are prepared and shared with loved ones. The combination of sesame and jaggery symbolizes harmony and warmth, and sharing these treats strengthens bonds among people.

Pongal

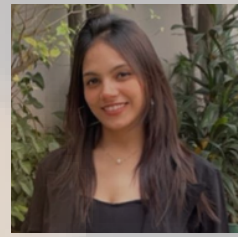


Vishwas Puri
3rd Sem

Three-day Hindu festival held throughout South India. It is celebrated on the winter solstice, when, according to the traditional Hindu reckoning system, the Sun, having reached its southernmost point, turns to the north again and reenters the sign of makara (Capricorn), usually on January 14.

The month preceding Pongal is considered to be made up entirely of inauspicious days, and the month following Pongal of auspicious days. The festival's name comes from the Tamil word meaning "to boil"; rice is boiled in milk and offered to the gods, the cows, and then to family members. During the exchange of visits that mark all Hindu festivals, the anticipated greeting, "Has the rice boiled?" is answered, "It has boiled." Cows are especially venerated during Pongal: their horns are painted, garlanded with flowers and fruit, taken in procession, and allowed to graze freely.

Voters' Day



Arya Dubey
6th Sem

Voters' Day, observed on January 25 each year, is dedicated to celebrating the significance of voting in a democracy and encouraging citizens to participate actively in the electoral process. This day marks the founding of the Election Commission of India in 1950, which is tasked with overseeing free, fair, and transparent elections in the country. Voters' Day aims to raise awareness about the importance of voting as a fundamental right and civic duty, empowering individuals to shape the nation's future through their votes.

The observance of Voters' Day focuses on educating citizens about their electoral rights, the significance of informed voting, and the role they play in strengthening democracy. It encourages eligible voters to exercise their right to vote, emphasizing that every vote matters in determining the leadership and direction of the country. The day also highlights the importance of inclusive voting, ensuring that marginalized groups, such as women, people with disabilities, and those from remote areas, are encouraged and enabled to participate in elections.

Voters' Day also celebrates the achievements of the Election Commission in ensuring that India's elections are conducted efficiently, with transparency and accountability. The Election Commission's efforts in increasing voter registration, implementing digital initiatives, and educating voters have contributed to a more informed electorate and improved voter turnout.

Republic Day



Viabhav Mudgal
6th Sem

Republic Day, celebrated annually on January 26, is a historic date etched in the heart of every Indian. This significant day commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of India, a transition that transformed the nation from a constitutional monarchy to a sovereign republic. The choice of the Republic Day date, January 26, is not arbitrary; instead, it carries profound significance, tracing back to the historic PurnaSwaraj Declaration announced by the Indian National Congress on the same date in 1930.

When was the first Republic Day of India celebrated? The first Republic Day of India was celebrated on January 26, 1950, and was a momentous occasion that unfolded with great pomp and pride. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, taking the oath as the first President of India, added an indelible chapter to the significance of the Republic Day date. The events of that day not only marked the birth of the Republic of India but also solidified the nation's commitment to democratic principles and values.

As we reflect on why January 26 is celebrated as Republic Day, this date encapsulates the spirit of India's journey towards self-governance. The significance of the republic date lies in its association with the foundational document that outlines every citizen's rights, duties, and aspirations. When someone asks, "What is Republic Day?" we can say it stands as a testament to the unity and diversity of the country, echoed in the grand parades down the Rajpath in New Delhi and the Republic Day celebration across the nation. It celebrates liberty, equality, and fraternity – the pillars on which the Republic of India proudly stands.

As we celebrate and exchange Republic Day wishes, the joyous occasion becomes a collective expression of pride and patriotism. "Happy Republic Day" is a greeting and a celebration of the shared values that bind us as a nation.

Here are some Republic Day wishes you can share with your near and dear ones on this day – May the spirit of freedom and unity guide us on this Republic Day. Happy Day!

Freedom in our hearts, tricolour in our spirit, Happy Republic Day!

On Republic Day, let's honour the sacrifices of the past and build a brighter future for all. Jai Hind!



The celebrations on this symbolic Republic Day date have evolved, incorporating various elements that showcase the country's progress and cultural richness. The ceremonial parade, showcasing India's military prowess, cultural heritage, and technological advancements, highlights the nation's unity.

So, when we come together on January 26 each year, it's not just a celebration of a historical event but a reaffirmation of the democratic principles and values that bind the nation.

The Republic Day date, January 26, reminds us of India's commitment to liberty, equality, and fraternity, echoing the dreams and aspirations of its people.

Activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01.01.25	02.01.25	03.01.25	04.01.25
06.01.25	07.01.25	08.01.25	09.01.25 (Pravasi Bhaatiya Divas)	10.01.25 (Vishwa Hindi Diwas)	11.01.25
13.01.25 (Lohri)	14.01.25 (Makar Sankranti) (Pongal)	15.01.25	16.01.25 (Department Orientation)	17.01.25 (Bridge Classes)	18.01.25
20.01.25 (Bridge Classes)	21.01.25 (Bridge Classes)	22.01.25	23.01.25	24.01.25 (Department Republic Day)	25.01.25 (Voter Day)
27.01.25	28.01.25 (Newspaper Making Competition)	29.01.25 (C.V Writing)	30.01.25 (NSS Activity)	31.01.25 (E-sports competition)	

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