

MAKKAR SANKRANTI CELEBRATION IN INDIA

REPORT

MONTH- JANUARY

India is a vast country with rich culture and a variety of festivals celebrated throughout the year. Every month of the year comes with new festivals from different cultures. Similarly, the month of January brought joyous festivals like Lohri and Makara Sankranti with it. Maghe Sankranti, or the first day of the tenth month of the Bikram Sambat calendar which heralds the onset of warmer weather is a major secular festival of the Nepalese. Known as Makker Sakranti in other parts of India, the festival is observed for three days, usually in mid January. It falls on the fourteenth of January every year. A bathing festival called Makkar is observed, when people take a dip at the confluence of the Tista and Rangit.

On this day huge Fairs and melas are held in many places along the river banks and confluence of rivers. The biggest and most awaited is the Jorethang Maghe Mela, held in Jorethang in south Sikkim. It has now become a major event, attracting hordes of locals and tourists. The mela is said to have evolved from the agricultural fair that was held in Jorethang for the first time in 1955. Hundreds of stalls selling and exhibiting various products are put up for the huge number of people who visit the fair.

To keep the students aware of their cultural roots, Banarsidas Chandiwala Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology celebrated the occasion of Lohri and Makara Sankranti on 13 and 14 December. On the day of Lohri a bonfire was built on the premises where students and the faculty came together and lit the bonfire and took rounds around it, everyone enjoyed the occasion by dancing and singing Punjabi folk songs around the bonfire. And the next day on Makara Sankranti Chef Prem Ram along with a few students prepared a lunch of Khichdi for everyone in the college and a Kite Flying competition was organised for students. All in all both days went as we got to know about our roots and the richness of our culture and that all these festivals that we are celebrating have a lot of history behind them which is to be cherished.