



# Harvest Festivals

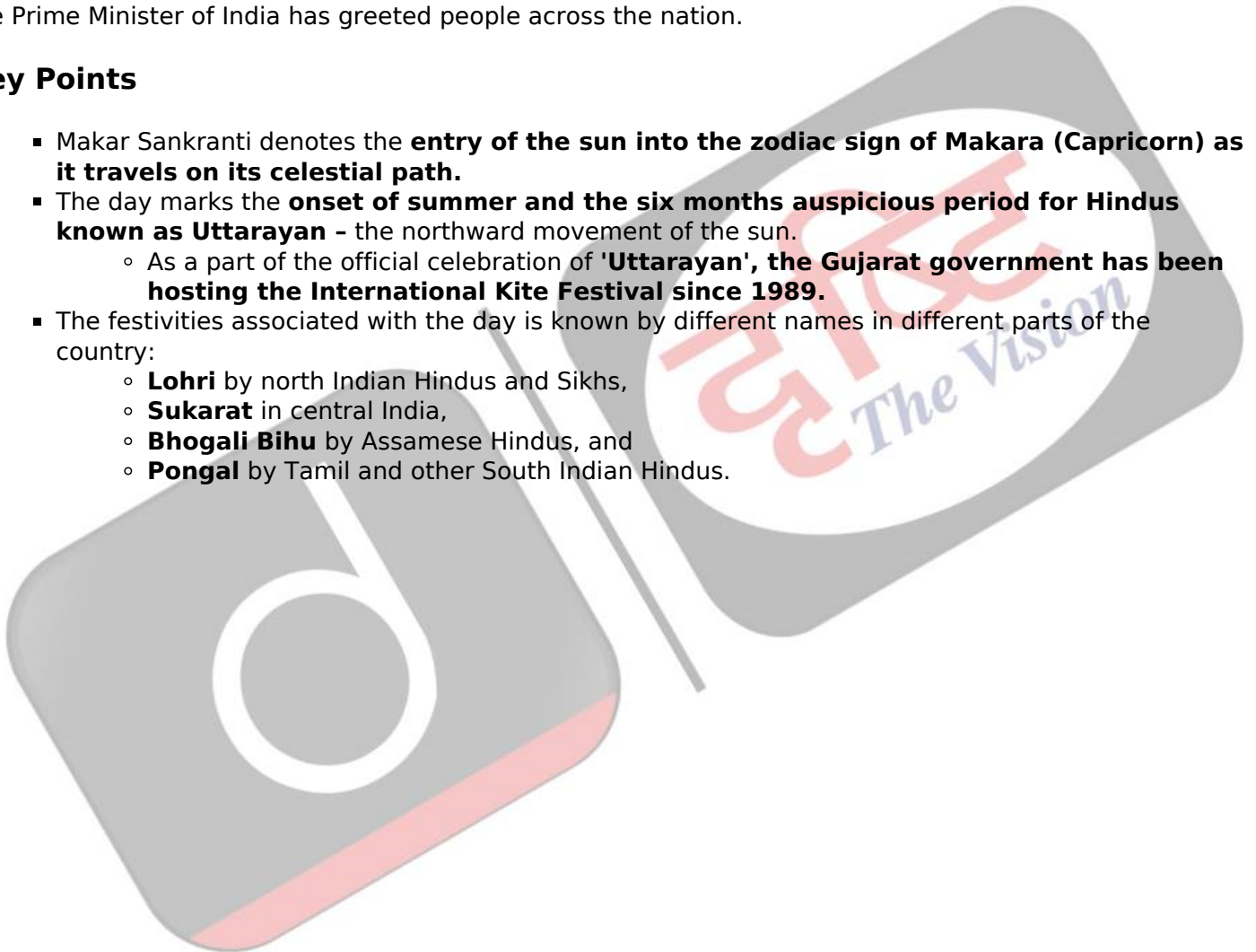
## Why in News?

On the occasion of Harvest Festivals **Makar Sankranti, Uttarayan, Bhogi, Magh Bihu and Pongal**, the Prime Minister of India has greeted people across the nation.

## Key Points

- Makar Sankranti denotes the **entry of the sun into the zodiac sign of Makara (Capricorn) as it travels on its celestial path.**
- The day marks the **onset of summer and the six months auspicious period for Hindus known as Uttarayan** - the northward movement of the sun.
  - As a part of the official celebration of 'Uttarayan', the Gujarat government has been **hosting the International Kite Festival since 1989.**
- The festivities associated with the day is known by different names in different parts of the country:
  - **Lohri** by north Indian Hindus and Sikhs,
  - **Sukarat** in central India,
  - **Bhogali Bihu** by Assamese Hindus, and
  - **Pongal** by Tamil and other South Indian Hindus.

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