



## Makar Sankranti and Amrit Snan (Shahi Snan)

### Why in News?

The [Mahakumbh Mela 2025](#), currently underway in **Prayagraj**, witnessed its first **amrit snan or shahi snan** on 14<sup>th</sup> January, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of [Makar Sankranti](#).

- This ritual bath marked the beginning of a series of sacred dips in the confluence of the [Ganga, Yamuna](#), and the mythical **Saraswati** rivers.

### Key Points

- **Significance of Makar Sankranti:**
  - Celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> January, the festival marks the **Sun's transition into Makar raashi (Capricorn)**. This transition, known as **Sankranti**, is particularly special as it signals the **Sun's northward journey**, known as **Uttarayan**.
    - This movement heralds the **end of the harsh winter months** and the **onset of warmer, longer days**.
  - In Hindu mythology, **Uttarayan** is regarded as the **gods' daytime**, signifying an auspicious period for celebrations and spiritual endeavors.
    - **Bhishma Pitamah** of the **Mahabharata** chose to pass away during Uttarayan to attain spiritual liberation.
  - The festival is also significant as it **ends the karmas, a month-long period during which auspicious events are avoided**.
  - The Sun's entry into Capricorn, the house ruled by Shani (Saturn), who is considered the Sun's son, is celebrated as a familial reunion, a key theme in Hindu traditions.
- 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 Hindu and other South Indian Hindus.

//

# RAS Mains Course

3T Hindi Medium

En English Medium

700+ Hours of Classes

RAS Mains Series

20 Mains Test Series

Admissions Open

87501 87501

▪ **Other Significant Dates for Ritual Bathing Include:**

- **Mauni Amavasya (29 January):** A day of silence and introspection, considered highly auspicious for spiritual purification.
- **Vasant Panchami (3 February):** Celebrated as a festival of learning and wisdom, marking the arrival of spring.
- **Maha Shivratri (February 26):** The concluding day of the Kumbh Mela, dedicated to Lord Shiva, symbolizing the union of divine energy.

