MEANING
• Sankranti translates to “transfer.”
• Makar translates to “crocodile,” which is the symbol of the Capricorn.
• Celebration of the transferring of the sun into the Makara Rashi (“Capricorn”) zodiac in the Hindu calendar.
• Dedicated to the Hindu sun god Surya.

GREETINGS
• “Happy Sankranti.”

WHEN
• The festival is usually observed on January 15, the only Hindu festival that is based on the solar calendar rather than the lunar.

COMMON PRACTICES
• Social festivities including decorating, children going house to house and asking for treats, dances, feasts, bonfires and kite flying.
• Dressing in transitional clothing including dhoti, gamosa and saadar mekhela.
• Singing traditional folk songs.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?
Email: inclusion@msu.edu

Makar Sankranti/ Pongal
Tamil
Maa·kaar San·kran·tee
/Paang·gaal

• Many Hindus will participate in avoiding non-vegetarian food, alcohol, tobacco, gutka and other intoxicants.
• Observers are encouraged not to turn away panhandlers, the impoverished or people in need.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
provost.msu.edu