



Cultural Calendar

Newsletter Issue 66: 17th September – 7th October 2021

- **17th September – Vishwakarma Puja (Hindu):**



Vishwakarma Puja celebrates the birth anniversary of Lord Vishwakarma, who is considered as the designer of the world by Hindus. He created the holy city of Dwarka that was ruled by Krishna. Lord Vishwakarma also created several weapons for Gods.

- **20th – 27th September – Sukkot (Judaism):**



Sukkot commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, and celebrates the way in which God protected them under difficult desert conditions. The word sukkot means huts (some translations of the bible use the word booths), and building a hut is the most obvious way in which Jews celebrate the festival.

- **21st September – International Day of Peace:**



The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. The theme for 2021 is 'Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world'.

- **23rd September – Bi Visibility Day:**



First observed in 1999, Bi Visibility Day was created by three United States bisexual rights activists: Wendy Curry of Maine, Michael Page of Florida, and Gigi Raven Wilbur of Texas. People individually and collectively celebrate and mark the date in all sorts of ways: dinner parties, flag-flying, talks, film screenings, masked balls, balloon launches and more.

- **26th September – European Day of Languages:**



Throughout Europe, 800 million Europeans are represented in the Council of Europe's 47 member states and all are encouraged to discover more languages at any age, as part of or alongside their studies.

This stems from the Council of Europe's conviction that linguistic diversity is a tool for achieving greater intercultural understanding and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our continent.

- **27th – 28th September – Arba'een (Islam):**



Arba'een, Chehellom is a Shiite religious observance that occurs forty days after the Day of Ashura. It commemorates the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali, the grandson of Muhammad, and The third Imam of the Shiite who was martyred on the 10th day of the month of Muharram.

The city of Karbala in Iraq is the centre of the proceedings which many pilgrims travel miles on foot to reach. Between 17 million and 20 million pilgrims usually attend Arba'een there, including about three million foreigners, most of whom are Iranians.

- **27th September – 3rd October – National Inclusion Week:**



Inclusion Week is designed to celebrate everyday inclusion in all its forms. This is the 9th year Inclusive Employers has brought organisations together from across the globe to celebrate, share and inspire inclusion practices. The theme for 2021 it is about unity.

- **27th – 29th September – Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah (Judaism):**



Coming at the conclusion of Sukkot are the two holidays of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. In Israel and among liberal Jews they are combined into one holiday on the day after the conclusion of Sukkot. Among more traditional Jews outside of Israel, they are observed separately from one another on two consecutive days. Shemini Atzeret means the “Eighth Day of Assembly,” while Simchat Torah means “Rejoicing in Torah.”.

- **29th September – Michaelmas (Christian):**



Michaelmas, also known as the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels, is a Christian festival observed in some Western liturgical calendars on 29th September. In Christian angelology, the Archangel Michael is the greatest of all the angels and is honoured for defeating Lucifer in the war in heaven.

- **1st October – International Day of Older Persons:**



On 14th December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated 1st October the International Day of Older Persons.

Globally, there were 703 million persons aged 65 or over in 2019. The region of Eastern and South-Eastern Asia was home to the largest number of older persons (261 million), followed by Europe and Northern America (over 200 million).

Over the next three decades, the number of older persons worldwide is projected to more than double, reaching more than 1.5 billion persons in 2050.

- **2nd October – International Day of Non-Violence:**



The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on 2nd October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

The day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness". The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence".

- **6th October – Mahalaya Amavasya (Hindu):**



Mahalaya amavasya, also called Sarvapitri Amavasya, Pitra Moksha Amavasya or Pitru Amavasya is a Hindu tradition dedicated to the 'pitrs' or ancestors

This day is considered to be most auspicious as the shraddha ritual of any deceased person can be performed on this day, irrespective of the tithi.

Mahalaya amavasya tharpanam or tarpan and rituals are performed to invoke the blessings of the ancestors and seek their blessings for a peaceful and prosperous life.

- **7th – 15th October – Navaratri (Hindu):**



Navaratri (nine nights) is one of the greatest Hindu festivals. It symbolises the triumph of good over evil. Navratri takes place at the beginning of October around harvest time and, as the name implies, this festival is celebrated for nine days. Navratri is also known as Durga Puja.

During this period Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati are worshipped as three different manifestations of Shakti, or cosmic energy.