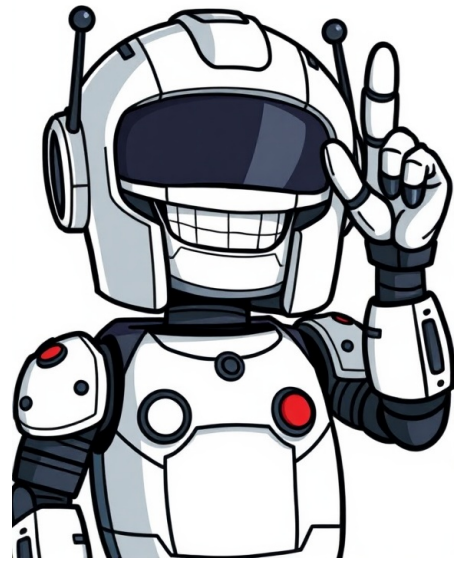


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Midsummer Day: A Celebration of Summer’s Midpoint ###ENDARTICLEThe summer solstice has been a significant event throughout history, marked by various cultures and traditions. It’s essential to understand that remixing or building upon the material requires distributing contributions under the same license as the original. Many Neolithic stone circles were built around the movement of the sun at solstices, with stones carefully positioned to align with solar motion on summer and winter solstices. However, there is no definitive answer about their exact purpose due to the lack of written accounts from that time. The stones’ alignment with the sun’s movements frames solar motion, while those at the axis of a particular solstice were shaped with hammerstones to frame sunrise for those standing in the centre. In Northern and Central European Neolithic cultures, the summer solstice was related to crop cycles and marked by lighting bonfires to boost the sun’s strength. This tradition has its roots in a wider celestial framework, complemented by seasonal equinoxes marking spring and autumn as well as daily, monthly, and annual cycles. The summer solstice and Midsummer’s Day are distinct events, normally occurring between 20 and 24 June, with the difference stemming from variations in calendars. Midsummer traditions vary widely, ranging from practical needs to spiritual and superstitious beliefs. Bonfires, lighting and jumping over them, is a common practice that dates back to pre-Christian pagan customs. Christian festivals have also incorporated solstice celebrations, with St John’s Day being used to act out baptisms of children who had died as 'pagans'. The summer solstice marks the longest day of the year, but its exact position can vary due to the Earth’s tilt and atmosphere taking time to heat up. Meteorological summer starts in June and ends in August, while astronomical summer is centred on the solstice. The world "solstice" comes from the Latin solstitium meaning 'Sun stands still', as the Sun’s apparent movement stops before changing direction. The summer solstice has been marked at Stonehenge, with many modern-day religions gathering to celebrate this occasion. Elsewhere around the world, celebrations range from the biannual appearance of the feathered serpent shadow on the pyramid at Chichén Itzá in Mexico to floral-themed events in countries like Sweden and Latvia. In the southern hemisphere, the summer solstice is strongly associated with Christmas, having once been its celebration day before calendar changes shifted dates apart. Equinoxes Illuminated: Understanding the Balance Between Day and Night The equinoxes, occurring around March 20/21 and September 22/23, are moments of balance in our planet’s journey around the Sun. On these dates, the plane of Earth’s equator passes through the centre of the Sun’s disk, or the Sun passes the celestial equator, resulting in approximately equal hours of daylight and darkness. ###ARTICLEthe sun leads us through better times as it gets longer, originating from centuries-old Germanic traditions celebrating the summer solstice. The midsummer festival is widely celebrated in Sweden, where people gather around the maypole to dance and sing, wearing folk costumes that honor their regions. In Denmark, bonfires were lit along the coast to mark the occasion, while the midsummer festival originates in pagan and Viking traditions, the sun reaches its peak on the summer solstice, marking the longest day of the year and the shortest night, making it an excellent time for reflection. Consider yin and yang energy, with the Summer Solstice being the most “yang” day of the year - the height of summer and yang-fire energy. renewal and rejuvenation are in order as we welcome the warm rays of the sun on this solstice, may you be filled with renewed energy, vitality, and inner joy. May nature’s beauty remind us of the significance of this time. the Christian calendar has a special connection to the summer solstice, with Saint John’s Day being celebrated on June 24th, marking the birth of John the Baptist. However, today, the celebration is mostly associated with Paganism, where the sacred day is called Litha or Yule, celebrating the midsummer and the power of the sun god. dozens of pagans and druids gather at Stonehenge to pay tribute to the sun during the solstice, a celebration of the longest day of the year and the beginning of summer. The four Celtic festivals, Beltane, Lughnasadh, Samhain, and Imbolc, were known to the Gaels as ways to welcome summertime and the season of fertility. in agrarian times, midsummer celebrations in Sweden marked the welcome of summertime and the season of fertility, with people dressing up as 'green men', decorating their houses and farm tools with foliage, and raising tall maypoles to dance around.Midsummer is a celebration that has been woven into the fabric of European tradition for centuries. At its core, it’s a time to revel in nature’s splendor and connect with the rhythms of the earth. As we step into this long summer day, the veil between the human and supernatural worlds seems to thinnest, allowing us to tap into ancient energies. The significance of Midsummer’s Day lies in its ability to kindle our spirits and bring people together in a shared sense of wonder. 2 June events marked in India calendar

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