

OBSERVANCES

Lughnasadh: A festival in the Pagan and Wiccan religions that marks the beginning of harvest season.

Voting Rights Act: President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act on this date in 1965.

World Indigenous Peoples' Day: The International Day of the World's Indigenous People pays tribute to the indigenous communities of the world. According to *National Today*, the latest data reveals that there are about 370 to 500 million indigenous people living in 90 countries.

Obon: Also known as Bon festival, it is an annual Japanese holiday which commemorates and remembers deceased ancestors. It is believed that their spirits return at this time to visit their relatives. Paper lanterns are hung to guide the spirits and Obon dances are performed. Families have reunions and visit the graves of their relatives and make food offerings at altars and temples.

Raksha Bandhan Ullambana: Also known as Rakhi, it is a Hindu holiday. This age-old tradition celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters and is observed by securing a sacred thread. Traditionally, a sister ties the holy thread around her brother's right wrist. However, in today's times, siblings, irrespective of gender, bless each other with a Rakhi.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01 Lughnasadh	02	03
04	05	06 Voting Rights Act	07	08	09 World Indigenous Peoples' Day	10
11	12	13 Obon	14	15	16	17
18	19 Raksha Bandhan Ullambana	20	21 Senior Citizen's Day	22	23	24
25 Arba'in	26 Arba'in Women's Equality Day	27	28 I have a dream	29	30	31 Paryushana

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Senior Citizen's Day: In 1988, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed this holiday to raise awareness about issues that affect senior citizens and their quality of life. The day is an opportunity to say "thanks" to older Americans for what they have done to make our families and country better. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 78 million people aged 65 and older will reside in America by 2035.

I Have a Dream: On this date in 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King delivered this famous speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. This was a part of the March on Washington program for equality and freedom.

Arba'in: A day of observance for Muslims that concludes the 40-day mourning period after the Day of Ashura.

Paryushana: A Jain festival about forgiveness that is the faith's most important religious observance.

Women's Equality Day: The continuous struggle for women's participation and equality in all spheres of life and society is observed on this day. It commemorates the passage of women's suffrage in the U.S. and reminds us of the hurdles overcome by the heroic women who faced violence and discrimination to propel the women's movement forward.