

# MULTICULTURAL & DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

## MONTHLY OBSERVANCES

- Black History Month (UK)
- Disability Employment Awareness Month (USA)
- Latin American Heritage Month (Canada)
- Women's History Month (Canada)

October 2024

## Gandhi's Birthday (India)



Oct 2

Mohandas Gandhi is known as Father of the Nation in India. He employed nonviolent resistance in his campaign for civil rights and India's independence from Britain. Gandhi's birthday is commemorated in India as Gandhi Jayanti and worldwide as International Day of Nonviolence.

## Mehregan (Iran)

Oct 2

Mehregan is a Zoroastrian and Iranian festival to honour the Yazata Mithra which is responsible for friendship, affection, and love.



## Navratri (Hindu)

Oct 3

An annual Hindu festival observed in honor of the goddess Durga who had nine incarnations and has the power of good to destroy demons.

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## Han-Gul Day (Korea)

Oct 9

This day commemorates the creation of the Korean alphabet of 29 phonetic symbols.



## Chung Yeung Festival (China, Hong Kong, Taiwan)

Oct 11

On this day, families visit the graves of their ancestors.

## Dia de la Raza (Argentina, Mexico)

Oct 12

Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity in many South American countries. It celebrates the Hispanic influence and Latino heritage in the Americas.

## Yom Kippur (Jewish)

Oct 12

The Day of Atonement is the holiest day of the Jewish year. Jews traditionally fast on Yom Kippur, refraining from food and drink, and ask for forgiveness for their wrongdoings from God and fellow human beings.



### Other Observances

- Oct 1 - National Day (China)
- Oct 1 - Independence Day (Nigeria)
- Oct 9 - Independence Day (Uganda)
- Oct 11 - Chulalongkorn Day (Thailand)

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## Dussehra (Nepal, Hindu)

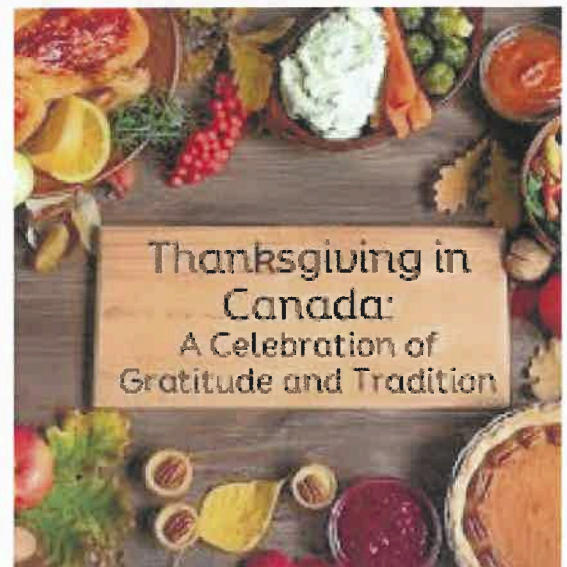
**Oct 12**

Dussehra (aka Vijayadashami) celebrates the triumph of Lord Ram over the demon Ravan who stole his wife Sita. A big effigy of Ravan is burnt accompanied by fireworks. It is a major holiday in Nepal, where it is called Dashain.

## Thanksgiving Day (Canada)

**Oct 14**

Thanksgiving Day is an annual Canadian holiday held on the second Monday in October. It was instituted as a Day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed. Celebrations include spending time with family, feasting, religious practices, and football.



## Halloween (Canada, USA)

**Oct 31**

Halloween has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (Lord of the Dead). It is a celebration of the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the dark, cold winter. It is a time to remember the dead and to protect oneself from evil spirits.



## Other Observances

- Oct 12 - Nossa Senhora de Aparecida (Brazil)
- Oct 14 - Taliku no hi (Japan)
- Oct 22 - Abu Simbel Festival (Egypt)
- Oct 24 - Independence Day (Zambia)

Reference

Khanna, A., Mody P., Powers, S., Raza, R. (2024) Multicultural Calendar 2024  
Toronto, ON.