

# Cultural, Heritage, & Religious Observances

## JANUARY 2026

Thoughtful acknowledgment of cultural, heritage, and religious observances fosters belonging, invites learning, and strengthens connections. Through this effort, the *Office of University Engagement and Enrichment (OEE)* serves as a connector and amplifier—curating resources, highlighting events, and creating space for awareness in collaboration with campus partners to recognize the richness of traditions represented across our institution.



### Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 19

This observance invites reflection on the life and legacy of Dr. King and the ongoing pursuit of justice, equity, and collective responsibility. It emphasizes nonviolence, civic participation, and the shared work of strengthening democracy through community engagement and moral courage.



### Indian Cultural Celebrations

**Jan 13** • Lohri  
**Jan 14-15** • Makar Sankranti / Jan  
**Jan 14-20** • Pongal Ramayan Mela  
**Jan 23** • Vasant Panchami  
**Jan 26** • Republic Day

These celebrations reflect India's rich regional, linguistic, and religious diversity. Observed across seasons and communities, they honor gratitude, renewal, learning, artistic expression, and civic life—highlighting how shared values are expressed in many forms within India and across its global diaspora.



### International Holocaust Remembrance

Jan 27

Grounded in remembrance, this day honors the millions of victims of the Holocaust while emphasizing the responsibility to remember, educate, and confront antisemitism, hatred, and genocide. It underscores the importance of historical truth, human dignity, and vigilance in safeguarding human rights.

#### Stay connected.

Visit the OEE website to explore additional calendar observances, learn more about upcoming events, and share observance-related programming with us.

[rochester.edu/oee](http://rochester.edu/oee)

[uofr\\_oee](http://uofr_oee)

Curated in collaboration with:

International Services Office, Office for Student Success, UR Hillel, Paul J. Burchett Intercultural Center, Religious & Spiritual Life, UR Medicine Employee Wellness