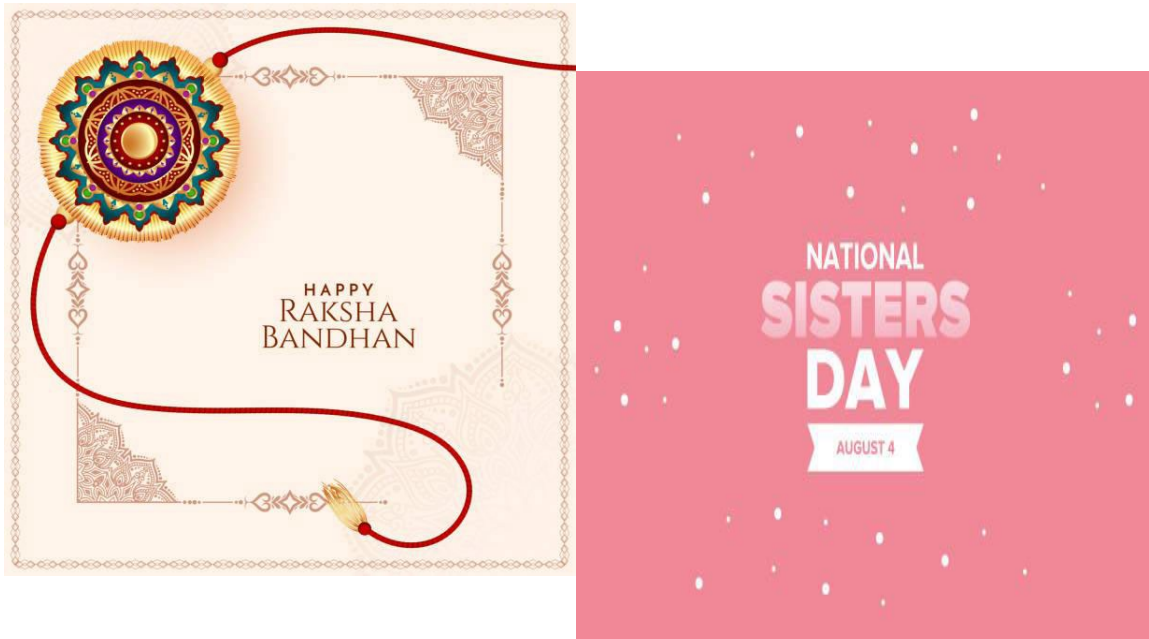


Raksha Bandhan & National Sisters' Day



By Navya Menon, Workforce Engagement Unit Intern

Raksha Bandhan is one of India's most popular festivals and is celebrated globally by Hindus from all walks of life. The celebration centers around the bond between a brother and sister, though it can also be observed between friends or other family members who share a similar bond. During the ceremony, a sister ties a bracelet called a Rakhi around her brother's wrist, symbolizing their bond and mutual support.. Before tying the Rakhi on her brother, the sister ties one on a Tulasi Plant and another on a Peepal tree, seeking nature's protection. After the Rakhi is tied, the brother offers a gift to his sister and vows to look after her. The term "Raksha Bandhan" means "bond of protection" in Sanskrit, reflecting the essence of the ceremony. Raksha Bandhan is observed on the full moon in the Hindu lunar month Shravana, which typically falls between mid-July and late August. This year, Raksha Bandhan will be celebrated on August 9, exactly a week after National Sister's Day.

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National Sister's Day, celebrated on the first Sunday of August, honors the bond between sisters and the closeness they share. Although it is not formally associated with Raksha Bandhan, both days highlight the enduring significance of sibling bonds, reminding us to honor and cherish these meaningful relationships.