



# Holi

## The Festival of Colors

A Very Popular Indian Spring Festival



# When is it Celebrated

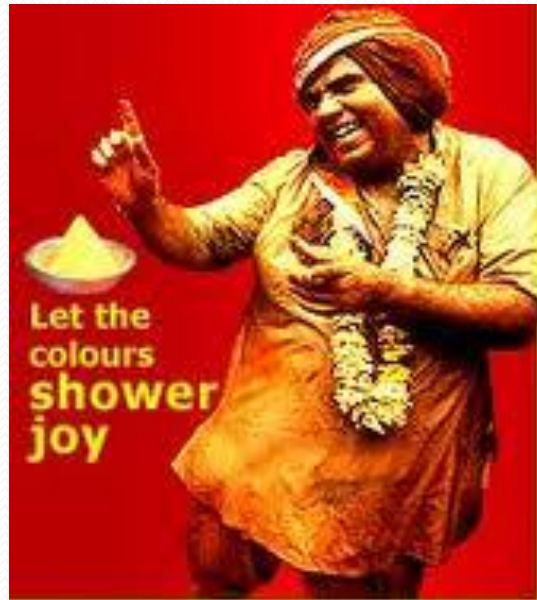
**Celebrated on the Purnima of Hindu Lunar Calendar  
Month of Phalgun**

Purnmashi = Purnima = Punam = Full Moon Day

Later part of February or early March

# Name of Holi

- Name of Holi comes from a famous character Holika from a famous story from Hindu Mythology





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# Story of Holika

**Hiranyakashipu** - A tyrant the demon king

**Penance** - Hiranyakashipu had a very long and severe penance

**Boon by Brahma** - Made him almost impossible to be killed. He was not be killed

- During day time or night
- Inside a house or outside a house
- Not on earth or in sky
- Neither by a man nor by an animal
- Neither with an *astra*(long range weapons) nor with a *shastra*(short range weapons)

**Prahalad** - Hiranyakashipu's son was a great devotee of **Lord Vishnu**.

**Holika** – A wicked sister of Hiranyakashipu had boon not to be burnt in fire.

Holika sat with Prahalad in fire. Prahalad came out unhurt and Holika turned into ashes.

**Bonfire** - Is lit at night to signify burning of Holika, a symbol of evil.  
Celebration of victory of good over evil.



# Significance of Holika

- Holika - A symbol of evil.
- Collection of trash from houses collected during fall season of for several days till full moon day
- Going round the pyre of woods/trash with water to contain evil qualities within limits.
- Burning the Neem leaves – Burning the bitterness of life and taking up the sweetened medicinal value of Neem.
- Welcoming the Spring season with the bonfire.

# Holika Dahan – Bonfire

Burning of Effigy of Holika



**Symbol of burning Evil**



# Colored Powders





# CELEBRATIONS

- People throw color on each other - WET AS WELL AS DRY
- This is also a day of visiting friends & color each other
- People throw colors on strangers too in good sense with chanting Holi Hai
- Festival starts in the morning & ends by afternoon
- Evening are for get –together



# Medical Significance

- The festival occurs at the onset of Spring.
- Weather change,
- Prone to cause viral fever and cold.
- Gulal (Colored Powder) - Made of medicinal plants like
  - Neem – Azadirachta Indica
  - Kumkum – Colored Turmeric
  - Haldi - Turmeric
  - Bilva – Fruit bearing medicinal tree

# Economic Significance

- A Festival to Celebrate Good Harvest and Fertility of Land
- New Seasonal Crop comes home during spring.
- A Festival of Farmers
- India was a land of farmers/villagers
- Importance for business community as new purchases are made on this occasion.

# Social Significance

- Gathering of people from different sections of society irrespective of their social and economic status
- Coming together of males and females to sprinkle colors on each other
- Enacting divine love of Radha-Krishna
- Forgiving enmities and shed differences
- Teenagers spend the day celebrating in the streets
- Adults extend the hand of peace and friendship
- People enjoy sprinkling abir, gulal and colored water on each other
- Distribution of sweets and having feast together.
- Family Get-Together

# Other Regional Celebrations

Tribesmen in central India celebrate in old traditional ways.

In the towns of Rajasthan - Especially Jaisalmer - the music's great, and clouds of pink, green, and turquoise powder fill the air.

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