

What is Holi

- Holi is a Indian festival
- Holi is known as “The festival of colors”. It is a Indian festival that is celebrated for the arrival of spring “the season of joy and happiness” and a festival to put color on your loved ones.



Why is Holi Celebrated?

- There are few stories associated with the celebration of Holi.
- The demon king Hiranayakashipu performed penances for a long time and got a boon from Lord Brahma that he should not be killed in following conditions:
 - in the day or night,
 - inside or outside of the house,
 - by man or an animal,
 - in the sky or on the earth.
 - not by any weapon



Story of Bhakt Prahalad

- Hiranyakashipu's son Prahalad was a strong devotee of Lord Vishnu.
- Prahalad was always absorbed in devotion to Lord Vishnu and he always spoke about God.
- Hiranyakashipu was not happy with his behavior.
- He enrolled him in school for demoniac kids where they were taught Hiranyakashipu is God, but Prahalad started preaching about Lord Vishnu to his classmates.
- This angered his father and he decided to kill praahalad.



Plots to kill Prahalad

- He was given poison but it turned out to be nectar for him.
- He was left alone in a closed room with many poisonous snakes, but they did not harm him.
- He was thrown from a high cliff, but he landed safely.
- Finally, Hirankashipu's sister Holika's help was taken.



Holika

- Holika had a boon, whereby she could not be burnt by fire.
- She took Prahalad in her lap and sat on a bonfire.
- Prahalad kept chanting the name of Lord Vishnu and remained unharmed, while Holika got burnt.
- Thus Holi derives its name from Holika and remind us the protection God grants to His devotee.





Narsingh Bhagvan: An incarnation of Lord Vishnu

- Later Lord Vishnu incarnated in Narsigh (Nar=Human+Singh=Lion) form to end the Demon king Hirankashipu.
- One day Hirankashipu angrily asked Prahalad where is your God? Prahalad calmly answered "Father, He is everywhere. He is in me, in you and in all living and non-living things."
- Hirankashipu got up from his throne and hit the pillar with his club saying "Is He in this pillar?"



Appearance of Narsingh Bhagvan

- As soon as club struck the pillar, a creature with face of Lion and body of human came out.
- He dragged the Hiranayakashipu to the doorstep (which was not inside or outside) and laid him on his lap (not on earth or in sky) before tearing apart his belly with the nails (not any weapon). It was the dusk time (not day or night).

• Thus fulfilling all the condition of boon, Lord Vishnu in the form of half lion, half human (not animal or human) - **Narsingh Bhagvan** ended the life of demon king Hiranayakashipu.

Why is Holi Celebrated?

- Holi is also associated with the divine pastimes of Shree Krishna. As a child Krishna was very playful and mischievous.
- He complained to His mother about the difference in the dark color of His skin and fair complexion of Radha. To appease Shree Krishna, Mother Yashoda asked Him to apply dark color on Radha's face.
- This festival is celebrated remembering this incident, and divine love between Radha and Krishna.
- Shree Krishna popularized the festival in Braj by His playful pranks, where he applied color on Radha and the gopis using water guns (pichkari).
- This pastime is wonderfully brought alive each year all over the India





Holi Celebration

- On the day of Holi, people enjoy throwing colors on each other. One can hear people shouting Holi hai! Holi hai! With great excitement and throwing color powder or colored water with water guns.
- People gather in parks or streets to throw colors or apply colors, even on strangers who pass by.
- Differences of any sort are drowned in the colored water of Holi, and enemies forgive each other and hug each other on this day.





Holi Celebration

- In Vrindavan and Mathura, where shree Krishna grew up, the festival is celebrated for sixteen days. Each major temple organizes a holi celebration on different day.
- To further enhance the festive spirit of Holi, people dance in the rhythm beats of dholak and sing traditional Holi songs.
- After an eventful day, evenings are spent visiting friends, relatives homes. People exchange sweets and hug each other conveying warm good wishes for Holi.







<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGA6ltqSsXw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7folvMamzg>