

Vibrant Holi marks new beginnings

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Holi marks the end of the bleak, harsh winter and the onset of colourful spring. It not only takes us from the gloom of winter to the cheer of spring, it also encourages us to open new chapters.

Although Holi is all about colours, for some the festival holds a spiritual significance. They take it as an opportunity to burn the unhappy memories of last year with Holika dehan and embark on a new journey. And what could be a better setting than spring to head for new beginnings.

For photographer Ganesh Saini, there is no greater joy than witnessing the sap rise in everything and dead twigs coming to life.

Just as Holi is our way of playing with colours, spring is nature's. The colours are symbolic of the abundant hues that nature has in store for us, says author Ruchita Misra and adds, "It's a very uplifting thought that fills me with joy and optimism. Holi is an opportunity to bury the worries and embrace the positivity of life. With the winter behind us, and bright sunny days ahead of us, it is time to be cheerful and optimistic about what life has in store. Now, sitting in grey London, it is with great fondness that I recall the festivities, the way people let their hair down, the manner in which all ill was forgotten, the cheerful yelps, the food, the bhang...How I wish I could be in India for Holi."

Corporate trainer Nitya Prakash remembers that Holi has played a pivotal role in the way his career has shaped up. "Holi is not just a festival. Holi makes us aware that there is more to life than just the flurry of colourful activities that keep our heads spinning and our souls stirring with joy. Fortunately, Holi has forever brought new opportunities for me. So the vibrant spring has always been significant in my life," adds Nitya.

Lawyer Sumant Batra takes a philosophical route when he explains the importance of Holi and says that the various colours of Holi are a reminder that life too comprises of many shades. "While we may not control where we are born or where we live, it is certainly for us to choose which colour to paint our life with. Holi as a festival reminds us that it is never too late to shun the grey aspect of your life and paint it with colours that are pure, playful, positive and vibrant," enlightens Sumant.