

#INSIGHT

Holiya Me Ude Re Gulal

What are Holi colours, and what gives them such vibrant hues?



The festival of Holi is a popularly referred to as the 'Rangon Ka Tyohar' in India. The Indian subcontinent gets cloaked in the beauty of various hues during the festival of Holi making every person losing oneself in its exhilarating celebration. Every nook and cranny of the country gets flooded with people drenched in water and colours grooving to the beats of the Holi songs. But have you ever thought how colourful gull become such a rage during this time of the year making Holi festival to be known as the 'Festival of Colours'?

India is a land of rich culture and traditions. People from all over the world make destination during the time of festivals. Whether it is about the experience the multilingual and rich diversity of culture and rituals of the Indian people. Colours have always held immense importance in Indian festivals. Whether it is about the beautiful and colourful Rangoli made on the floor of the houses on Diwali or the splashing of colours on each other at the time of Holi, these



vibrant hues have always given and are still giving people moments of full enjoyment and merriment with their near and dear ones.

The skin-friendly and bright powdered colours witness a sudden elevated demand in the market at the time of Holi festival as Holi girls. There are some mythological legends that throw light on the gull consumption during Holi festival. They hold a traditional place in the Hindu traditions and rituals and are considered most significant in the Holi celebrations. These colours inculcate happiness, cheer, merriment and vibrancy in this festival as people smear the faces of their loved ones with gull while wishing each other 'Happy Holi'!

Every colour of Gull has a hidden meaning to it. This time, before picking up Gull from the shop, let us know the meaning of each and every colour of gull:

Red Gull
The red coloured powder is often associated with sindoor that married women wear on their foreheads as a symbol of



their holy matrimony. But, this powder also holds immense popularity in terms of Holi colours or gull as it stands for love, passion, opulence, and a lot more emotions that we have in our hearts for our dear ones.

Green Gull
One of the most popular gull during the festival of Holi is the green one. This colour symbolizes happiness, cheer, fresh beginnings, and harvest, bringing a lot of enthusiasm and joy in the Holi celebrations.

Blue Gull
The colour blue is often associated with Lord Krishna in Indian mythology as the God was blue in complexion. As Holi is a popular festival celebrated with enthusiasm and true spirits in the city of Vrindavan and Mathura, both of them being homes to Lord Krishna, the blue Gull is a famous pick on the festival of colours. It has positive connotations and adds a lot of vibrancy to the celebrations.

Yellow Gull
The yellow colour stands for brightness and sunshine in Indian traditions. Yellow is considered as a synonym to turmeric, a popular ingredient in Hindu rituals and bestowed with miraculous healing powers. This coloured Gull adds brightness in the Holi celebrations and fills people heart with joy and fun.

Pink Gull
Though this colour sounds feminine, it is actually not! Pink colour gull has become a trend and more loved than the red one. It is subtle, bright and gives an attractive Holi look to everyone. Pick this beautiful coloured gull and smear it on the faces of your dear ones and have a good time rejoicing in the Holi celebrations.

Orange Gull
Orange is another colour that we absolutely love. This colour is super special and can energize your life instantly. It is also considered to be the colour of the sun and hence linked with spreading light and a new day.

This colour reminds us of how strong we are and how we should leave the past behind us and move forward. This colour is also known to symbolize forgiveness to start fresh again.

Purple Gull
Purple is the colour of magic and mystery. It is the colour that symbolizes the horizons of new possibilities. It is calming and soothing. It tells us to relax and not to rush. It is also one of the most widely used colours that you can make with red cabbage pigment at home too.



(LoR) Safir, Jyotika, Manish, Mukul, Viji and Sanjoy Roy

The JLF That Wasn't...

The much loved and awaited Jaipur Literature Festival happened amidst the heat of March and a lot of sweat. It was indeed a comeback of sorts but it seemed to lack the zing of the original gala that had captured the literary world by storm for the last one and a half decade. This time there weren't a bevy of tourists or fans vying for the attention of their favourite celebrity. It was JLF alright, but a JLF which had just recovered from COVID.



Shailaza Singh
Published author, poet and a YouTuber

They came. They looked. And then there were the Books, and some Talks!

The moment someone talks about the Jaipur Literature Festival, it conjures up the images of authors addressing vast crowds, gaily decorated tents and venues, food stalls and deep discussions and turmeric, a popular ingredient in Hindu rituals and bestowed with miraculous healing powers. This coloured Gull adds brightness in the Holi celebrations and fills people heart with joy and fun.

The Jaipur Literature Festival enjoys the reputation of being the one place where people like you and me could happily bump into some exalted names like Gulzar. JLF as it is fondly known as, is also about Rajasthan's favourite time of the year - the winters; the season where a warm sun smiles down on the sweaters, shawls and suits huddled over cups of chai and perhaps a bit of tête-à-tête. It is also the time where people seek the outdoors, and not mind walking around to catch sessions without a drop of sweat to spoil the finery of their silks or suits.

The Book Escape
Till 2020, JLF was all this and much more - a haven where you could forget the world and just for once meet the books and their makers. A place where you could be a part of hot debate between two celebrities or a common man or a celebrated author, and speak your heart out. In the words of Marvel Comics Sorcerer Supreme; Doctor Strange, the Jaipur Literature Festival was a Sanctum Sanctorum for the tribe of book lovers, opinion makers and those who wished to be heard.

The Heat Is On!
Perhaps the organizers were struck by a sense of déjà vu as they made desperate attempts to transplant the aura of Diggi Palace Hotel into the Clarks Amer and tried to recreate the old venues like 'The Front Lawn', 'The Mughal Tent' and 'Baithak' in the lawns of Clarks Amer. The only problem



was that it was March - the wrong time of the year where the sun is no longer warm but hot.

As I entered, the Front Lawn, I saw some people and many empty chairs listening to the Shantanu Ray Chaudhari talking about the legendary actor Soumitra Chatterjee, to Suman Ghosh, who has penned a book titled 'A Film Maker Remembers' on the legend's life.

But more than the film maker's life, I was worried about my life as I went on a frantic search for water for my parched throat. I finally found some water and a place in 'Baithak' one of the few 'cool' venues inside a room, where I suspected that people weren't just sitting for talks but also for the much needed shade and solace from the heat.

The festival which has always been known for its crowd appeared like the ghost of its heydays. The frenzy of running from one session to the other seemed missing as people were more interested to find a shade for resting. "It seems better this way," I heard a woman say in the women's restroom. "In the earlier versions, the Bollywood people really pulled in the crowd and it became a lot of nonsense after that." "Yes," agreed her friend. "This time it is quieter and better. But the heat is killing!"



Shashi Tharoor

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In Person

Few years back, when the well-known author Jeffery Archer had come to JLF and regaled his readers with his anecdotes, I heard a teenage boy whisper to his friend, "Jeffery Archer said 'Hi' to me today in the morning! Just imagine!" The other friend replied, "So what? I will also go and greet him personally after this session is over!" To my mind, that conversation summed up JLF.

However, all the sessions of JLF didn't lack lustre. There was Shashi Tharoor, with his brand style questions, English and politically correct answers of the questions about the congress family that the crowd was more interested

in than his books.

Manoj Bajpayee also entered like a hero and all the people at the Clarks Amer were attracted to him like bees while his buzzing make up man touched up his make up to ensure that his well-coiffure hair and carefully made up face remain in place amidst the questions that were rapidly fired at him. Kyun ki Saaz: Shi Bahu Thi! proclaimed actor turned politician turned author Smriti Irani also made her presence felt with a lot of motivational words which seemed to have melted amidst the rapidly fanning newspapers and magazines.

Interestingly the actor, Neena Gupta was more candid about her life than her book. Talk about girls scoring over boys. Festival director and author William Dalrymple was his usual self, regaling people with talks about British Raj with a different country - Afghanistan.

No Option

With days, crowd increased despite the entry fee which was perhaps levied to maintain the area or keep out the riffraff. Was it the lure of this festival or the fact that the people of Jaipur had no place else to go? The children were definitely missing; busy cramming up their subjects and attending classes amidst their examination schedules. How would they have the time for the literature festival? Probably they would have loved interacting with the likes of well-known historians and authors like Manu Pillai

Ice Volcanoes



Ice Volcanoes

W e're used to thinking of volcanoes as spewing hot molten lava, since that's mostly the way they function on our home planet. But in space, a volcano can spew water, methane, or ammonia, and those materials freeze as they erupt and turn into frozen vapour and volcanic snow. Called Cryovolcanoes, these phenomena are pretty common. They exist on Pluto, Saturn's moon Titan, and Jupiter's moons Europa and Io - the latter of which is extremely active, with hundreds of vents.

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(LoR) Piyush, Shashi, Anant, Roy.



(LoR) Manu, Shashi, Ira.



Lal Salazar: Smriti Irani.

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and Ira Mukhoty (who confessed that though she did not like to study science during her school days but doing so made her a better researcher).

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writetoarbit@rashtradoot.com

Photos by Zakir Hussain.

#EVENT



Piyush Mishra

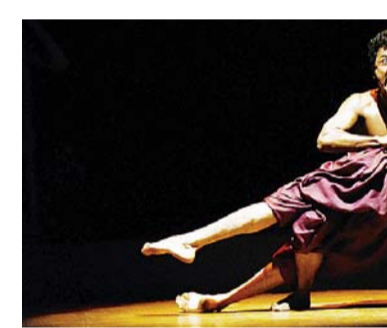
Rang-Mastaaney Sanstha in collaboration with Rajasthan Department of Art, Culture and Archaeology is organizing an 8-day theatre festival 'Rang Rajasthan' at Jawahar Kala Kendra. There will be over 15 plays, more than 7 folk art performances, various dialogues and discussions as well as storytelling sessions.

Rang Rajasthan

To promote Rajasthan language theatre on a national as well as international level and to preserve the state's cultural roots and folk arts, an 8-day 'Rang-Rajasthan' theatre festival is being organized at Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK) by Rang-Mastaaney Sanstha in collaboration with the Department of Art, Culture and Archaeology, Government of Rajasthan from 20th to 27th of March. The seventh edition of Rang Rajasthan will see the participation of over 300 theatre artists from across the country who will strive to connect the audiences with various forms of art. The festival will witness enriching activities relating to acting, theatre, theatre management, folk arts, folk theatre, music, heritage as well as culture under one roof. Discussions and storytelling sessions with the stalwarts of the art will also take place.

Theatre Performances
Telling more about the event, Abhishek Mudgal shared that theatre teams from Mumbai, Jabalpur, Manipur, Bhopal, New Delhi, Kota, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Bikaner will give their theatrical performances in Jaipur. Folk dramas, folk songs and dances of

Rajasthan will also be presented at the festival. For the smooth operation of the program, an organizing committee has been formed, in which senior and young artistes of Jaipur have been included. President of Rang-Mastaaney Sanstha, Hanuman Sahai Sharma said, "Jaipur has a proud tradition of theatre, literature as well as art and culture. 'Rang-Rajasthan Theatre and Art Festival' is an effort to make this



tradition more energized. The festival will be an event in which committed and dedicated artistes associated with the field will gather to offer their expertise. Through this festival, many talented artistes will get a chance to perform after the difficult times of the pandemic. This festival is also significant as it will acquaint young theatre artistes and audi-

ences with different styles of the art, art and culture".

Multitude of Events

On the opening day of the festival (20th of March), there will be musical performances by Sawai Bhatt of the Indian Idol fame as well as by the band, Raag Dhani. From 21st to 27th of March, plays will be staged daily in the Krishnavari and Rangavan auditoriums of the JKK. Talk shows with theatre artistes will also be organized daily.

The star attraction of the event will be the performance of renowned theatre and cinema artist, Piyush Mishra along with

his band, 'Ballimaaraan'. This will take place in the evening of March 24, at Madhyavarti in Jawahar Kala Kendra. Equally active in theatre, literature, music and cinema, Piyush Mishra is well-known among the youth for his performances and songs in films like Gangs of Wasseypur, Gulaab, Shaakun, Happy Bhag Jayegi, Dil Se, among others.

#FESTIVITIES

Your go-to Dance Playlist

Holi is around the corner and celebration cannot be completed without good music and food. Here, we bring to you some of the most popular Bollywood tracks that are perfect song-dance numbers for Holi parties. Take a look.

Holi Ke Din
Holi Khelo Ranghuveera
Rangi sari gulabi chunariya
Holi hain
Are Ja Re Hat Natkhak
Holiya Mein Ude Re Gulal
Rang Rang Mere Rang Rang Main
Holi Aayi Re
Do Me A Favour Let's Play Holi
Rang Barse
Hori Khelo Ranghuveera
Aaj Na Chodenge Bas Humjoli
Khelenge Hum Holi
Badnath Ki Dulhania Title Song
Gali Gali
Mind Na Kariyo Holi Hai
Gori Tu Latth Maar

If you are planning to throw a Holi party this year, then your playlist must have some super hit tracks. Therefore, we decided to treat you with some Holi Songs that you can play this year.

Hindi Holi songs
Balam Pichkari
Do Me A Favour Let's Play Holi
Holi Aayi Re
Rang Barse
Hori Khelo Ranghuveera
Aaj Na Chodenge Bas Humjoli
Khelenge Hum Holi
Badnath Ki Dulhania Title Song
Gali Gali
Mind Na Kariyo Holi Hai
Gori Tu Latth Maar

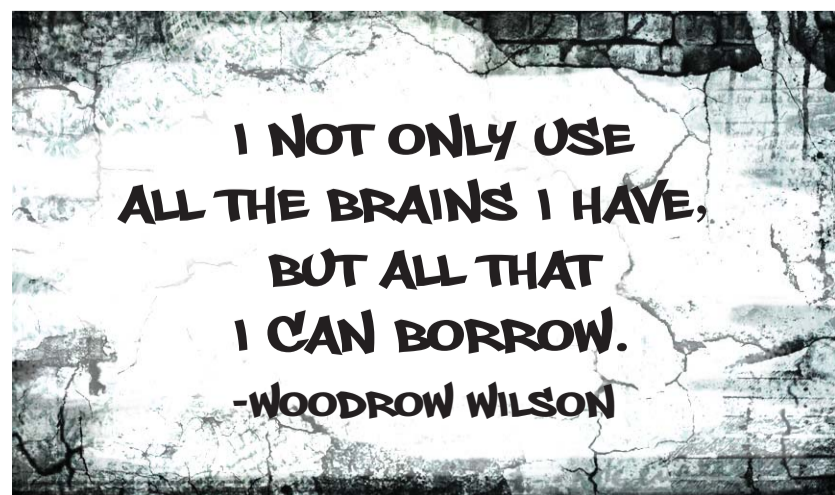


Holi has remained an integral part of Bollywood culture, be it real-life Holi parties where the who's who of the fraternity shed their inhibitions for unfiltered fun, or the reel-life where the festival is a springboard to introduce a delicious twist.

The frolic of Holi has been well captured on the celluloid for decades. From Rajesh Khanna's crooning "Aaj Na Chhodenge" to Amitabh Bachchan - Rekha romancing in "Rang Barse", from Shah Rukh Khan's "Soni Soni" to Ranbir Kapoor - Deepika Padukone's vibrant "Balam Pichkari", Holi sequences have brought with them ample of emotions and story graphs.

We wish you all a safe and colourful Happy Holi!

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman