

## Reader's Speak

# An appeal for eco-friendly Holi

**H**oli is celebrated on Phalgun Purnima, which falls either at the end of February or early March. It has ancient origin and celebrates the triumph of good over evil. This colourful festival bridges social gap. But over the years, this joyous festival has become terribly commercialised and yet another source of environmental degradation.

In the current situation, when most cities of India are facing acute shortage of water, the wasteful use of water during Holi is a matter of serious concern. It is estimated that the water demand during Holi festival increases 10 times more than the normal demand and there is already a shortage of about 50 per cent between the demand and the supply of water for the 16 lakh population of Faridabad. There seems no reason to waste water when the city is already in the grip of a water crisis.

The confederation is advocating one symbolic community fire for 'Holika Dahan' instead of burning of fuel wood on every street corner across the city to avoid environmental degradation. The confederation also appeals to all the residents of Faridabad to celebrate Holi with natural dry colours to avoid wastage of water during Holi.

—AS GULATI,  
Secretary General,  
Confederation of RWAs, Faridabad

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# RWAs ask residents to be safe on Holi, not waste water



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Realising the importance of a safe Holi, the festival of colours, the Confederation of Residents Welfare Associations (CRWA) of Faridabad has appealed to the denizens to celebrate an eco-friendly Holi.

CRWA office bearers say that over the years, the festival has become terribly commercialised and yet another source of environmental degradation.

The use of toxic chemical colours and the wasteful use of water are hazardous to health and environment, they say.

In the current situation, when most cities of India are facing acute water shortage, wasting water during Holi is a matter of serious concern.

It is estimated that the water demand goes up 10 times during Holi. There is already a shortfall of about 50 per cent between the demand and the supply of water in the city.

The confederation is also advocating one symbolic community fire for 'Holika Dahan' instead of burning of fuel wood on every street corner across the city to avoid environmental degradation.

"The confederation appeals to all the citizen groups to come forward and join hands with us to create awareness among the residents of Faridabad to celebrate Holi with natural dry colours and avoid wastage of water," said A. S. Gulati, secretary general, Confederation of RWAs.

The Residents Welfare

Colours in red and pink hues are safer.

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