

# Infant's eye damaged during Holi revelry

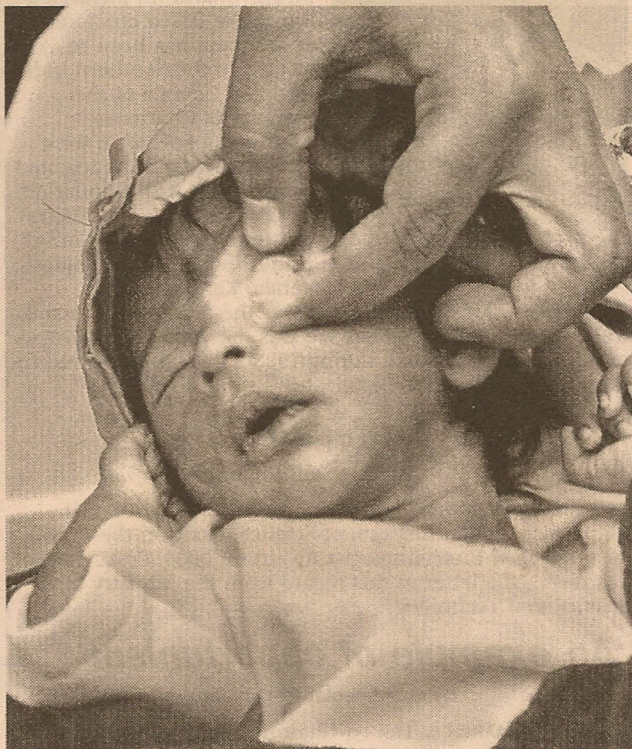
By Our Staff Reporter

**BANGALORE, MARCH 9.** A 45-day-old infant may have lost vision in one eye due to the carelessness of her family during their Holi celebrations on Sunday.

The infant was sleeping near the revellers who were smearing colours on one another. Colours fell on her left eyelid, and her mother panicked and tried to wash them off. However, they went into the little one's eye and she started crying. The family rushed her to Narayana Nethralaya.

Arun Samprathi, consultant in paediatric ophthalmology, said the infant had infection in the lids and conjunctiva, which led to pus formation. "When she was brought here, she was not able to open her left eye, which was swollen because of the infection. As there were some harmful chemicals in the colours, the cornea is burnt," he added.

Dr. Samprathi said that the infant was responding to treatment. Only after one week would it be known whether she had lost vision in her left eye. "We are keeping her under observation," he said. He said the colours used for Holi could be harmful to the eyes as they contained



**The infant being treated at Narayana Nethralaya in Bangalore on Tuesday. — Photo: K. Bhagya Prakash**

chemicals such as lead oxide, copper sulphate, chromium iodide, aluminium bromide, and mercury sulphite. These chemicals could cause burns in the cornea, which could

lead to permanent loss of vision. Precautions should be taken to ensure that the colours did not enter the eyes. Children, especially, should be kept away, he added.