

photo features

Goodwill and joy

Come April, the bounteous gifts of nature call for celebrations...

According to the ancient sages, as Sivanandani Duraiswamy describes in *'Remembering Hindu Traditions'*, the dawn of the new year ushering in the debut of spring in the month of April is marked by the transition of the Sun from the last house of the Zodiac (Pisces) to the first house (Aries), which takes place every year at a precise moment. From time immemorial the transition has been considered as an auspicious event and a time when all the members of a family get back to their ancestral milieu with a sense of nostalgia.

Even though the pastoral surroundings are no more, proving that, not only those who are living close to nature can enjoy the new year which is bound up with nature and the cycle of life, many of us living in the cities manage to observe the wealth of traditions, rituals and customs, enchanting and mythical as they are, during this festive season.

Here are pictures which captured the goodwill and happiness that filled the air and the hearts of every one regardless of cast or creed, in the days leading up to the New Year, enlivening the nation and fostering national consciousness.

Pix by Saman Sri Wedage and Chaminda Hittatiyage



Observing enchanting traditions



Getting even with past woes



Survival of the fittest



Misty delights?



Aiming for the core of coconuts