

Ganesh Chaturthi in Mumbai

- Lord Ganesha's Birthday



वक्रतुंड महाकाय कोटिसूर्यसमप्रभ ।
निर्विघ्नं कुरु मे देव सर्वकार्येषु सर्वदा ॥

Ganesh Chaturthi

- Ganesh Chaturthi is a Hindu festival celebrated in honor of Lord Ganesha.
- It is celebrated on the occasion of birthday of Lord Ganesha.
- It is also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi or Vinayaka Chavithi .
- It is a ten day festival that starts on the fourth day of Hindu luni-solar calendar month Bhadrapada (August to September).
- It is well celebrated in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Telangana, Gujarat, Orissa and Chhattisgarh. It is also privately celebrated at home in states such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.



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Fact about Lord Ganesha

- Ganesha is the god of wisdom and the remover of obstacles.



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Celebrations in Mumbai

- It is an important festival in Maharashtra and is celebrated for seven to ten days.
- The entire state is decorated with lights.
- The festival was initially started by the Maratha ruler Sivaji Maharaj in his days; however, it was the freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak who provided the momentum to make this public event.
- He used this festival as a platform to unite all social classes. It served as a meeting place for common people of all castes and communities. It was a time when all social and political gatherings were forbidden by the British Empire for fear of conspiracies to be hatched against them.
- Lord Ganesha is considered as the saint of Maharashtra and over 1,50,000 Ganesh Visarjan happens each year.



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- There are five famous Ganesh Pandals that witness more than a million devotees each year.
- The five Pandals are :
 1. Lalbaugcha Raja
 2. Ganesh Galli Mumbaicha Raja
 3. Khetwadi Ganraj
 4. GSB Seva Ganesh Mandal
 5. Andhericha Raja



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Rituals of Celebrations in Mumbai

- On the first day of celebration, an idol of Lord Ganesha is brought home or to the elaborately decorated community pandals (tents). With soaring chants and traditional drum beats, the deity arrives at the place which would be his abode for the next 11 days.



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Welcoming Lord Ganesha



Traditional drum beats



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- Next *pranasthapana* is done to invoke life into the idols. This is done by chanting mantras.
- Then sweets, coconut, flowers and fruits are offered to the deity.
- For the eleven days, the statue is offered with sweets, coconut, flowers and fruits. Special group prayers, dance and music performances and rituals take place during these eleven days.



Offerings to Lord Ganesha



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Dance performances



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Ganesh Visarjan

- The eleven day festival comes to an end with “Ganesh Visarjan” where the idols are immersed in water.
- It is believed that god returns to his heavenly abode after ten days of Ganesh Chaturthi.
- The farewell procession is witnessed with great vigour and enthusiasm. The idol is carried by the devotees.
- The procession is accompanied by singers, dancers, priests and various audiences.
- Sweets, coconuts, flowers and Aarti are offered to God before immersion in the Arabian Sea.
- Procession flock the street with the chanting “Ganapathi Bappa Morya”(slogan praising lord Ganesha).



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- The well known immersion takes place on Chopatti Beach, located 1Km from Marine drive.
- These processions start in the morning and continue till mid night.



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Thank You!!!



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