

GANESHOTSAV IN INDIA

**By Dr. Krishnachandra Jha &
Manoj Gupta**

Ganesh Chaturthi, also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi is the Hindu festival that reveres god Ganesha. According to the Hindu tradition he is known as the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. The word is derived from “Gan” which means group. The universe is a group of atoms and different energies. These groups of atoms and energies are governed by Lord Ganesha.

This festival starts on the fourth day of Lunar calendar month Bhadrapada. The festival is marked with installation of Ganesha clay idols privately in homes, or publicly on decorative Pandals. The festival ends on the tenth day after start, wherein the idol is carried in a public procession with music and group chanting, then immersed in nearby water body such as a river or ocean, thereafter the clay idol dissolves and Ganesha is believed to return to Mount Kailash to Parvati and Shiva.

The festival celebrates Lord Ganesha as the god of new beginnings and the remover of obstacles and is observed throughout India, especially in the states of Maharashtra, Goa. This god is also worshipped first of all by Hindus. Ganesh Chaturthi was also a means for organizing the meetings of common people in Maharashtra during the Independence period by the Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

There are many temples of lord Ganesh. Among them some famous temples are:

LALBAUGH CHA RAJA



Lalbugcha Raja's mandal in earlier times was known as ‘**Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Mandal**’, it was found in the 1928. located in Lalbaug, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. This was started because of a vow for building of the Lalbaug Market which is present today. **Lalbugcha Raja** is celebrated till date and people come from far away to fulfil their wishes.

SHRIMANT DAGDUSHETH HALWAI GANPATI MANDIR



The deity of Lord Ganesha was incepted by Shri Dagdusheth Halwai and his wife Lakshmbai way back, when they lost their only son to the plague epidemic. Every year the Ganapati festival was celebrated with deep faith and enthusiasm not only by Dagdusheth's family but the entire neighbourhood. In later years when Lokmanya Tilak made Ganapati festival a public celebration to bring people together for the freedom struggle, **Dagdusheth Ganapati** became the most respected and popular idol in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

GANESH MANDIR TITWALA



The Siddhivinayaka Mahaganapati Temple is a Hindu temple located in Titwala, a small town in the Kalyan taluka of Thane district – near Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. Titwala is believed to be the putative site of the hermitage of sage Kanva, foster parent of Shakuntala who was born here. The place is steeped in ancient legend and the temple is frequented by a very large number of devotees on account of the belief that separated married couples could be united and marriages of desired people could be fixed easily if the Ganesha image installed in the temple is worshipped with devotion.

SARASBAUG GANPATI TEMPLE



The "**Sarasbaug Ganapati**" temple is run under the auspices of Shree Devdeveshwar Sansthan, Parvati and Kothrud, Pune, Maharashtra, India. The Sarasbaug temple houses the idol of Shree Siddhivinayak (God who makes wishes true). A sacred ground of faith for millions of devotees in Pune and around the world, on an average the Sarasbaug temple receives ten thousand visitors a day and this figure goes up to eighty thousand devotees per day on Ganesha Chaturthi and other special occasions.

KASBAPETH GANESH UTSAV



In the year 1630 AD, the queen Jijabai Bhosale arrived in Pune with her son Shivaji. Young Shivaji, who was only aged 12, was disturbed by the pathetic plight of the mavals. Shivaji vowed to liberate the mavals from the Mughals. At the same time, an idol of Lord Ganesh was found near the house of Vinayak Thakar, who used to reside close to the residence of the queen, Jijabai Bhosle. Jijabai perceived this as an auspicious moment and promptly built a temple, which is today known as the famous **Shri Kasba Ganpati Mandir** which is situated in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

CHINTAMANI GANESH UTSAV



Chinchpoklia Chintamani Ganpati is organized by the mandal people of Chinchpokli Sarvajanic Utsav Mandal, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. Chinchpokli Sarvajanic Utsav Mandal was founded in 1920 and it is also Mumbai's one of the famous and oldest Ganesh Mandal.

Bio

Dr. K.C.Jha is an Asst. Professor in Department of Computer Science and Information Technology, Bharat College of Arts and Commerce . He can be contacted at drjha_74@yahoo.com

Manoj Gupta is a student of T.Y.B.M.S, Bharat College of Arts and Commerce, Badlapur.