



Ganesh Chaturthi Around The World

An Editorial Initiative

UNITED KINGDOM

Hounslow Ganesh Mandal – Hounslow:

Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated by the residents of Hounslow, London for two days

where they use idols

made of eco-friendly material.

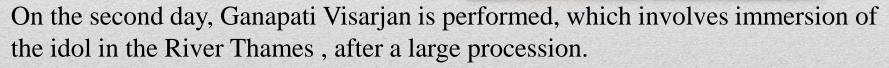
On the first day they perform the

traditional puja ceremony, which is

followed by events like rangoli

competition and fancy dress parade.

In the evening they conduct DJ parties.



Maharashtra Mandal celebrations – Dollis Hill, London:

Over 10,000 people participate in the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi festival held at Dolis Hill in London. Traditional puja is performed in the morning, followed by cultural programmes in the evening. The idol is then taken to Liverpool for immersion.

Slough Mitra Mandal – Slough:

The celebration of Ganesh Chaturhi festival at Slough Mitra Mandala lasts for 11 days. A number of events for

kids are organised at Slough, with several attractive activities like 3D Ganesh competition. Delicacies are served to the devotees every day as Mahaprasad and the immersion of idol is done on the 11th day. Other than these



places, Ganesh Chaturthi festival is celebrated in many other areas of UK such as Manchester, Leicester and Birmingham Cardiff.

MAURITIUS

- Ganesh Chaturthi, festival going upscale every year in Mauritius.

 Initially, it was celebrated only at houses especially at Marathi families then it went to temples, organizing big community prayers, and traditional music and dance and the big on-feet processions to Flic-en-Flacq beach, which witness thousands of Ganesh idol immersion on this festival.
- With the Hindu community itself forming about 52% of its population, the Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated in a grand way. The well known Bhiwajee family in Mauritius is credited with the first observance of Ganesh Chaturthi in Cascades Valley in Henrietta, a tradition



that they have still kept alive. On the eve of the celebrations, Lord Ganesha Statues are blessed in various temples and households and taken for immersion in the sea. Mauritius being an island with sea on all sides, devotees from different villages and towns take part in the "Shova Yatra" and proceed to the beaches for the immersion of the idols.

CANADA

• Toronto, the capital of Canada, where Indians reside in reasonable

numbers, Indians get Ganesha Idol from their respective home in India. Besides being millions miles away from India, they are still intact with their culture and continue to follow conventional rituals of Ganesh Chaturthi. With limited resources available, the celebrations in Canada are prearranged by



numerous Marathi associations existin Toronto and Vancouver. They make this event grand by arranging get together, installing Ganesha Idol, singing Aarti, distributing Prasad and by organizing cultural and religious programs. The Indian traders living in Canada who are palnning to start business, will tryand start them during this period as they believe that the Lord Ganesha will bless them with good fortune and benefits in business this year.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Festivals are an integral part of life of Indians, which reminds them
 - of their culture and traditions while staying away from their homeland. Ganesh Chaturthi festival is an important celebration for Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil and Telugu communities in India.
- In USA, the Hindu Swayamsevak
- Sangh (HSS) community arranges the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in all the major cities. The largest celebration is held at Philadelphia, which is arranged by the Marathi community. The celebration includes singing devotional songs, cultural programmes and a huge colourful procession on the day of immersion of the idol.

Three organizations jointly arrange the celebration of the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in the Bay area of USA at the Fremont Hindu Temple. The celebration lasts for 10 days and the idol is immersed in the Pacific Ocean near Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.



FRANCE

• Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated in a grand way for 10 days in the western and south western region of France. Generally people celebrate the festival at their place of residence in a traditional manner. A big celebration takes place in Paris in the Shri Manikar Vinayakar Alayam temple.

The grand celebration lasts for 10 days. On the last day, the idol is placed in a beautiful chariot, decorated with flowers and garlands and the chariot is driven through the streets of Paris. Many people participate in the procession for pulling the chariot with hands.



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