

A. Significance of Ganpati Choth/Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi is a ten-day Hindu festival celebrated to honour the elephant-headed God Ganesha's birthday. He is the younger son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

Ganesh Chaturthi (IAST: Gaṇeśa Chaturthī), also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi (Vināyaka Chaturthī) or Vinayaka Chavithi (Vināyaka Chavithī) is a Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Ganesha. It falls in the months of August or September of the Gregorian calendar. The festival is marked with the installation of Ganesha clay idols privately in homes, or publicly on elaborate pandals (temporary stages).

Observations include chanting of Vedic hymns and Hindu texts such as, prayers and vrata (fasting). Offerings and prasadam from the daily prayers, that is distributed from the pandal to the community, include sweets such as modaka as it is believed to be a favorite of Lord Ganesh. The festival ends on the tenth day after start, when the idol is carried in a public procession with music and group chanting, then immersed in a nearby body of water such as a river or sea.

In Mumbai alone, around 150,000 statues are immersed annually, 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 as well as the god of wisdom and intelligence and is observed throughout India,

Ganesha is known by 108 different names and is the Lord of arts and sciences and the deva of wisdom. He is honoured at the start of rituals and ceremonies as he's considered the God of beginnings. He's widely and dearly referred to as Ganapati or Vinayaka.

There are two different versions about Ganesha's birth. One has it that Goddess Parvati created Ganesha out of dirt off her body while having a bath and set him to guard her door while she finishes her bath. Shiva who has gone out, returned at that time, but as Ganesha didn't know of him, stopped him from entering. An angry Shiva severed the head of Ganesha after a combat between the two. Parvati was enraged and Shiva promised Ganesha will live again. The devas who went in search of a head facing north of a dead person could manage only the head of an elephant. Shiva fixed the elephant's head on the child and brought him back to life.

The other legend has it that Ganesha was created by Shiva and Parvati on request of the Devas, to be a vighnakartaa (obstacle-creator) in the path of rakshasas (demonic beings), and a vighnahartaa (obstacle-avorter) to help the Devas.

B. Ganesh Chaturthi Day (this year on September 2, 2019)

" Ganesha Chaturthi " The entire day on 2nd September is very auspicious to do prayer. However ,if you are at home, at your work place or and at your business place then the most auspicious time to worship is between 10:48 am to 1:04 pm.

As Lord Ganesha was born at midday. The traditional annual worship of lord Ganesha, as the remover of all obstacles, is known as Ganesha Chaturthi (the birthday of lord Ganesha).

It is the day on which we offer special adoration to the Remover of obstacles. This year it falls on 2nd September. Lord Ganesha, son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, is worshiped in Hindu Religion as the god of beginnings, knowledge, wisdom, intellect and remover of obstacles. One always starts any prayer, ritual or occasion by worshiping the Lord Ganesha first. His blessings are also sought before starting any new venture. Lord Ganesha is also referred to as Ganapati, Gajanana, Vinayaka, Vighneshwar and Pillaiyar.

According to Vastu science, every Hindu home and all communities who follow Hinduism anywhere in the world should have a small statue of Lord Ganesha above the entrance of the main door to their house. A special shelf or small stand should be especially made for this deity above the door. This is the only deity that one can keep above the middle of the outside door frame of the main entrance. In simple words, before you open your front door to enter your house you should face the Lord Ganesh situated above the door.

This will protect you by preventing evil forces and obstacles from entering your home. It will also deflect negative energy and bring prosperity to your home. It also removes the Vastu defects caused by an incorrectly positioned entrance door .It is believed that Lord Ganesha is always accompanied by his two wives, Riddhi (prosperity) and Siddhi (knowledge) so it is good to write Riddhi on the right side of Ganesha and Siddhi on the left.

Points to remember :

1. Do not look at the moon on Ganesh Chaturthi as this is considered inauspicious. Sighting the moon on Ganesh Chaturthi creates " Mithya Kalank " which means false accusation of stealing something.
2. Do not keep three Ganeshas at you home, any other number is fine.
3. Lord Ganesha should not be kept on the main driveway gate.
4. Most importantly, be sure that Ganesha is not made of broken pieces of wood, leaves, either in idol or in a painting.
5. Avoid abstract paintings of Ganesha as they are not recommended as per Vastu.

6. .One should take care that Ganesha is in full figurine and not just the trunk or upper half as you get nowadays.
7. Do not install Ganesha with the trunk to His right.(as it requires strict rules & regulations for worshipping).
8. It is believed that Lord Ganesha was born during mid day, so it is best to worship during this time. However, the entire day is auspicious.

The following are the most important points

1. Every Ganesh Chaturthi, after performing your prayer inside your home, you should also conduct a prayer where Lord Ganesha resides above the door.
2. Now a day it is good to have Ganesha statue above the door lit up with a small light bulb that can be switched on after sunset everyday.
3. Lord Ganesh is easily pleased & showers his bless chanting's on those who offer him twenty one "Durva" grass.
4. Astrologically, if your ruling planet is mercury or it is very weak in one's chart then praying to Lord Ganesh helps.
5. All the writings alongside Ganesha should be done in red or orange.
6. Astrologically students, professionals like doctors, engineers, chartered accountants, lawyers should chant "Ganesha Chaturthi " The entire day on 2nd September is very auspicious to do prayer.
7. Astrologically students, professionals like doctors, engineers, chartered accountants, ,lawyers, teachers ,consultant etc. must pray to Lord Ganesha everyday by chanting his mantra, It will help them very much in their knowledge, education and in their careers.
8. On Diwali day,it is considered very auspicious to worship lord Ganesha along with mother Lakshmi .Astrologically it will bring good fortune and improve your finances. You can place the idols in such a way that Goddess Lakshmi is on the right of Lord Ganesha. This means that when you see from your perspective, Lakshmi ma should be on your left and lord Ganesha on your right.
9. "Ganesha Chaturthi " is considered one of the most auspicious days of the year on which one can invest in properties, buying houses, start a new business or job, move into a new home, buy a new vehicle, expensive electronic items, jewellery and can make major decisions because it will add to your prosperity.
10. Special Note ; Here's one of the most auspicious Lord Ganesha Success mantra.....

"Vakratunda Mahakaya Surya Koti Samaprabha Nirvighnam Kurumedeva Shubha Karyeshu Sarvada " It means O Lord, with large body, curved trunk and the radiance of a million suns. Please make all my good work free of obstacles, always. One may always use this powerful mantra before beginning a journey, a new course in school, new career or job, or before entering into

any new contract or business so that impediments are removed and your endeavor may be crowned with success.

For Children's good education you can make your children recite this mantra..... "Om Shree Ganeshaya Namah" This mantra is usually taught to children for their good education. It increases their memory power, and they become successful in their examinations. Of course, people of any age may use this mantra when taking courses in a school or university, and for success in attaining their degree. May the Lord of Auspiciousness reside in your home and remove obstacles from your path on this Ganesh Chaturthi day.