

#FESTIVITIES

Mangal Murti Morya!

Create a harmonious and aesthetically pleasing environment that complements the spiritual significance of the festival



It's time to bring Ganesh home with our hearts filled with love and jubilation. And what better than decorating our homes, a cherished tradition that goes beyond aesthetics? Transforming your space into a beautiful and sacred haven not only adds festive charm but also creates a serene atmosphere for prayer during this much-awaited auspicious occasion.

To help you decorate your abode for Ganesh Chaturthi, we reached have shared some valuable ideas.

For architecture
Entrance architecture: Consider adding temporary architectural elements like archways or decorative door frames at the entrance to your home. These can be adorned with flowers, leaves, or fabric.

Furniture layout: Rearrange or modify the furniture layout to create a focal point around the Ganpati idol. Arrange seating to face the idol for prayers and rituals.

Wall treatments: Use textured or patterned wallpaper or wall decals with traditional designs to enhance the festive atmosphere. Temporary wall art or murals featuring Lord Ganesha can be a striking addition.

Flooring: Lay out traditional rugs, dhurries, or carpets with intricate designs to cover the floor in the prayer area. Create a rangoli design on the floor using coloured rice or flower petals.

Furniture and décor: Decorate the room with cushions and throw pillows featuring traditional patterns and colours. Use decorative figurines, brass or metal decor items, and ornate mirrors with religious or cultural significance.

Window dressings: Use curtains or drapes with Indian motifs, or choose sheer fabrics to allow natural light to filter in.

Altar or puja space: Design a puja space with a beautiful altar using intricate carvings, wooden panels, or decorative tiles. Place the Ganpati idol on a decorative pedestal or platform.

But that's not all! Here are some interesting decor ideas that will add the necessary warmth and liveliness in the atmosphere.

- From golden elephant decor pieces to colourful elephant-shaped candle holders, elephant-shaped motifs will add aesthetic appeal and also resonate with Lord Ganesha.
- Utilising leaf-shaped platters and trays to serve the traditional offering of modak not only pays homage to the significance of Ganesh Chaturthi, but also adds an extra layer of elegance to your celebration.

In conclusion, mainb-tain a balance between festive decor and the serenity required for prayers and rituals during Ganesh Chaturthi.

Rimjhim Ke Tarane Leke...

O Sajna Barkha bahar aayi
Lata Mangeshkar
Parakh 1960

Barso re Megha barso
Shreya Ghoshal
Guru 2007

Rimjhim ke tarane le ke aayi barsaat
Rafi and Geeta Dutt
Kala Bazar 1957

Phirse aiyo badra bidesi
Asha Bhonsale
Namkeen 1982

Barkha rani jara jam ke barso
Mukesh
(Sabak 1973)

Rimjhim gire sawan
Kishore / Lata Manjil 1979

Ab ke bars bhejo Bhaiya ko babul
Asha Bhonsale
Bandini 1963

Pyaar Hua Kenar hua hai
Shree 420



International Square Dancing Month

quare dancing is a style of country dancing that typically includes four couples who face into the centre of a square, completing moves as they are announced by a caller. This type of dance has roots that can be traced back to 16th century England and 18th century France when collisions and quadrilles were all the rage. As Europeans settled in the colonies, this fun activity of square dancing took on its own flair. Sometimes they even take place in barns. Anyone is welcome to wear cowboy boots!

ओ सजना, बरखा बहार आई रस की फुहार लाई अखियों में प्यार लाई ओ सजना...

The filming of the song is so simple, there are only two actors in the song: Sadhna and the Rain! Sadhna looks refreshingly beautiful in a simple sari with a winsome smile. In the interlude of the song, she extends her hand to feel the pouring rain and you see her face suffused with happiness. Good visuals of the rain power the song: the rain pouring from the roof, dripping on plants and flowing on the path. The director has filmed it so lovingly and Sadhna's alluring appeal would have set many a heart aflutter in those times.



Dr. Pavan Shorey
Vitreo-retinal surgeon,
Surbur

Rains have again blessed us in Rajasthan after a breath-holding gap. Time to be grateful and show it. But most of all rejoice in it, one way or the other, some just gaze at it others are more artistic about it, and everyone has a list of his/her personal favourite rain songs, the list below is what I think are all time great rain songs of Hindi Cinema. Rain has been used to portray romance, as a prop for dances, for dramatic moments in a film or used as a backdrop for action scenes. Rain songs are an integral part of Hindi and Regional cinema. A list of seven favourite songs are presented, highlighting the lyrics, music and the singer with the backdrop of the film in which they are sung.

- 1. O Sajna Barkha bahar aayi.** **Lata Mangeshkar** Parakh 1960
This song is arguably the queen of all rain songs of Hindi Cinema. Catchy lyrics by Shailendra are put to melodious music by the maestro, Salil Chaudhary. Lata, in her mellifluous voice, brings lot of emotion to it.
- 2. Barso re Megha barso** **Shreya Ghoshal** Guru 2007
In recent times, it is one of the best rain songs filmed on an actor. The rhythmic, Na re na re na nan na re to the beat of A R Rahman's music gives a modern twist to traditional rain songs. Gulzar's lyrics are simple to keep the emphasis on the melody. Aishwarya Rai in, one of the finest dances of her career, lets herself lose in the rains, dancing like a girl possessed. Aishwarya outclasses herself in her exuberant dance. She is enjoying herself and it shows: she dances in the ramparts of a temple, swims in the temple pond and boats in a river, all in the falling rain. The melody, the lyrics

A haunting melody by R D Burman, elegantly sung by Asha to the lyrics of Gulzar.

अब के बरस भेजो भाईयो को बाबुल सावन में लोको बुलाव रे...
अंबुजा तले फिर से झूले चढ़ेंगे
रिमझिम पहुँगे फुहारें
लौटेगी फिर तेरे आँगन में बाबुल
सावन की डंडी बहारें
छलके नयन अब तो कैसे रे जियरा
बचपन की जब याद आए रे

Shabana Azmi plays a mute in this film but she writes poetry. This is her poem and she is filmed walking on the hillside with low flying clouds and pine trees. It is sheer poetry; the lyrics, the music and Shabana's expressions.

5. Barkha rani jara jam ke barso: **Mukesh** Sabak 1973
A beautiful rain song in a forgettable film, sung by Mukesh to the tune of Usha Khanna and lyrics by Sawan Kumar.

बरखा रानी जरा जम कर बरसो मेरा दिलवार जा नो पाये,
भुम कर बरसो नो अभी लो आए है
वू बरस बरसो बरस ये उमर भर नो जाए रे

It starred Shatrugan Sinha and his wife Poonam. The filming of the song is very average. The song, itself, was an instant hit and is sung to this day.

#MONSOON

and Aishwarya make this song an unforgettable experience.

3. Rimjhim ke tarane le ke aayi barsaat: **Rafi and Geeta Dutt** Kala Bazar 1957
This is a song filmed in heavy rain in Mumbai. Waheeda Rehman and Devanand starred in this movie

रिमझिम गिरे सावन सुलग-सुलग जाए मन भीगी आज इस मौसम में लागी कैसे ये लगन
It is filmed on Amitabh Bachchan and Maushmi Chatterji as they explore Mumbai in rains. They travel to Marine Drive, Juhu beach, sit on a bench soaking the rain. The couple remembers the first kindling of love between them. The lyrics are by Yeghesh and the music by R D Burman.

7. Ab ke bars bhejo Bhaiya ko babul: **Asha Bhonsale** Bandini 1963
If melancholy can be associated with rain, it is in this song. It is infinitely sad, pulls at your heart strings and tears well up when you hear it. Such profund yet simple folk based lyrics by Shailendra, lyrics are put to music by S D Burman in such a manner that it evokes a yearning for Babul's house. Asha has put her soul into this song. It is a lament of a woman married away who pines to visit her father's place.

While many believe that Lord Ganesha's birthday, Ganesh Chaturthi was first celebrated when the Chalukya, Satavahana and Rashtrakuta dynasties ruled between 271 BC and 1190 AD. However, the first historical record of Ganesh Chaturthi celebration dates back to the era of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Lord Ganesha was considered to be their Kuladevata or family deity.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha empire celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with great fervour in Pune in the 1600s. Post this, the festival continued to be celebrated by the Peshwas.

Public Celebrations
Lord Ganesha was a popular deity worshipped across India. And Ganesh Chaturthi remained a homely affair. In the year 1898, freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak transformed the festival from a private celebration to a grand public event to unite India against the British. To curb mass gatherings, the British forbade Indians to meet in large groups unless it was for religious purposes.

So for Ganesh Chaturthi, Tilak put out huge hoardings

INSIGHT

Ganpati Bappa Morya!

Think Ganesh Chaturthi, and the beautiful Lord Ganesh idol comes to mind, the aroma of his favourite modak tickles our nostrils and excitement just fills the air.



Ganesh Chaturthi, one of the grandest festivals in India that reverberates divinity, celebrations and splendour.

Chaturthi, and the beautiful Lord Ganesh idol comes to mind, the aroma of his favourite modak tickles our nostrils and excitement just fills the air.

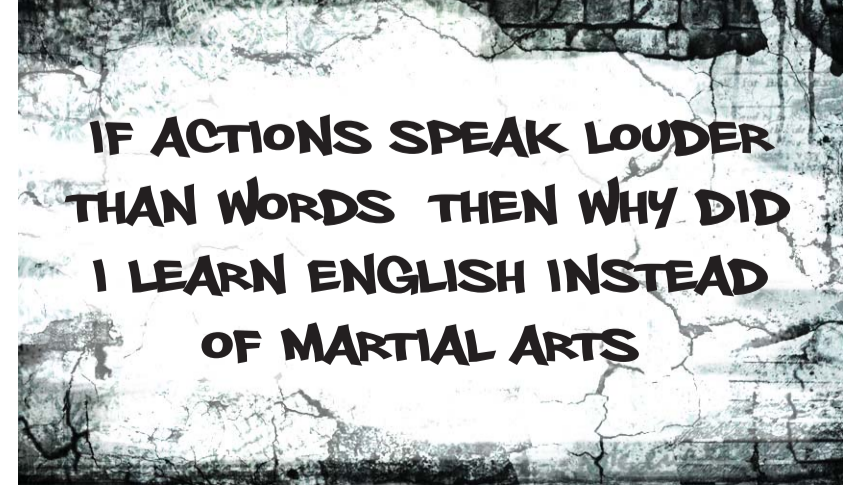
But we're here to tell you that Ganesh Chaturthi is not just a day of festivities in India. In fact, you can trace back its origin to India's fight for independence.

Lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles is also revered outside India. Confused? Well, read on to know some really interesting facts about Ganesh Chaturthi that shall leave you awestruck.

Across The World
Lord Ganesha's divinity isn't just spread across India. In fact his blessings travel all the way across the boundaries of India to countries like Thailand, Cambodia, Japan and even Afghanistan to name a few. But his depiction differ from one region to the other from the Indian avatar. The posture and weapons in his hand are quite different. China worships a deity called 'Kangai Ten'. They are two elephant-headed figures embracing each other. Lord Ganesha also makes an appearance in Indonesia's Rs. 20,000 currency note. Cambodia worships a God, called 'PrashKones', Cambodian Ganesha images of the pre-Khmer period depict the Lord with wide-fan like ears, no neck, no-head dress and no-pot belly.

Mumbai's Lalbaugcha Raja
Lalbaugcha Raja Mandala is one of the oldest mandals in India, set up in 1934 in the Peru Chawl locality. The chawl was shut in 1932. And the locals who were fishermen and vendors promised to get a Ganpati and set up in the place. The first-ever Lalbaugcha Raja was set up by fishermen. Kambli family in Mumbai design and create the Ganpati idols since 1935. Lalbaugcha Raja hosts the longest immersion or Visarjan procession in India. It starts all the way at 10 am in the morning and ends the next morning.

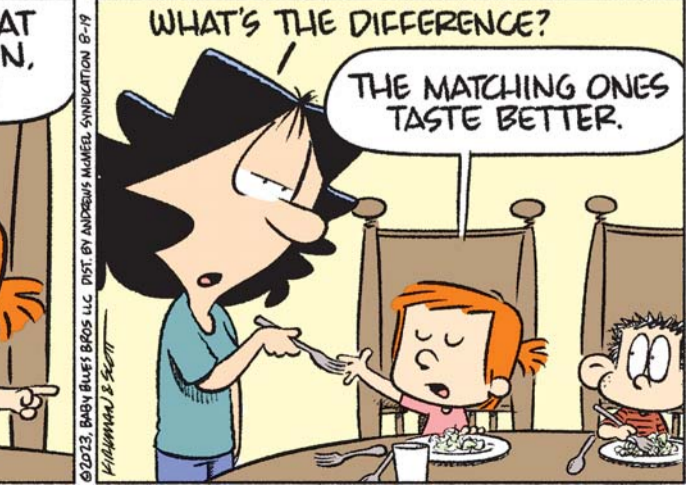
THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman