

Design Resource

## Lost Indian Festivals

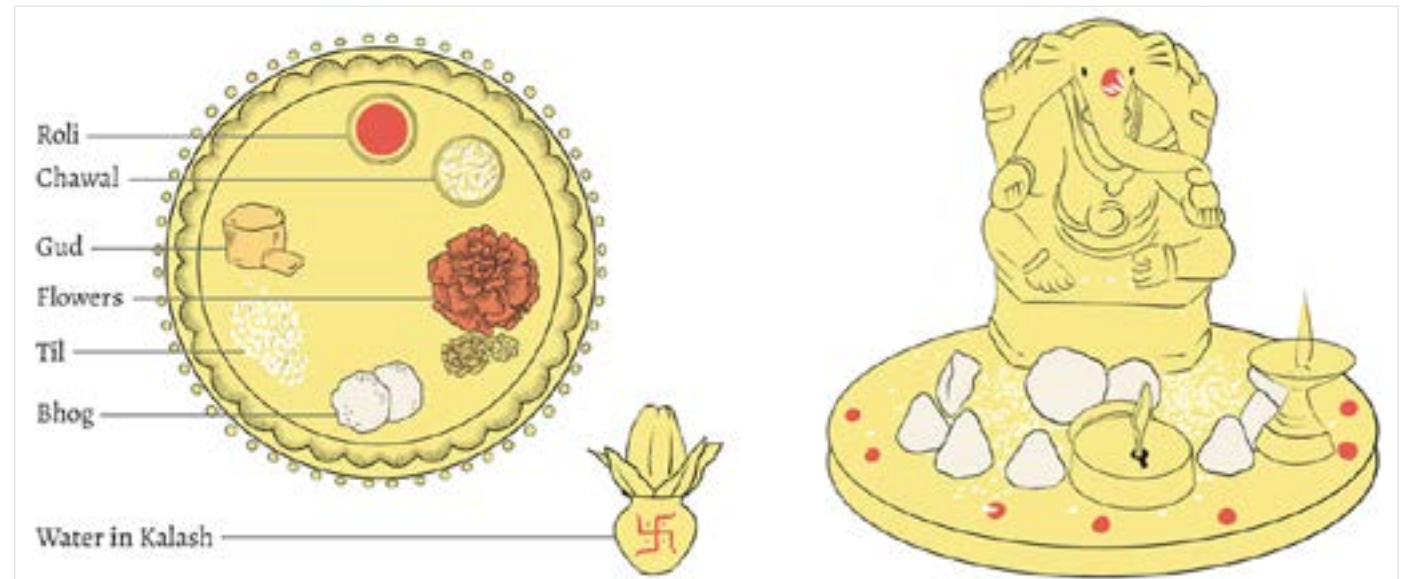
Information Visualisation of Festivals celebrated  
by Women in India

by

Richa Agarwal and Prof. Ravi Poovaiah  
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:

<https://www.dsource.in/resource/lost-indian-festivals>



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<https://www.dsource.in/resource/lost-indian-festivals/introduction>

## Introduction

India is a land of festivals. A wide variety and range of festivals are celebrated in India by different religions, states and castes (Arora, 1986). The larger festivals that are elaborately celebrated are documented and popularised by the media. However, a number of smaller festivals celebrated are being forgotten. Through this project, these lesser-known Indian festivals are documented.

Books have mentioned that multiple Indian festivals were celebrated every week leading to over hundreds of festivals (Bajaj, 2021). Traditionally different festivals were celebrated by the four different castes. Festivals were also celebrated differently in different states. Given the vast diversity and number of festivals, I decided to pick festivals celebrated by the Vaishya caste (from Uttar Pradesh). As I belong to this community, I was able to refer books and learn knowledge of these festivals through family.

Thirty-three festivals were identified (see Fig 1) along with their significance. For the scope of this project, possible approaches to narrow down the number of festivals were considered, such as -

Four Historically significant,

Most popular,

Lost (least known),

Season based,

Celebrated by women

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Sr. No.	Festival	4 Caste Based	Most Popular	Lost Festivals	Season Based	Married Ladies	Community
1	Makar Sankranti		█		█		█
2	Sakat chauth			█		█	
3	Basant panchami				█		
4	Maha shivratri		█				█
5	Holi Pooja						█
6	Holi khelane vali	█					█
7	Gudi padwa		█				█
8	Chitra Navratri			█			█
9	Gan Gaur Pooja					█	
10	Navratri ashtami Pooja						█
11	Ram navami						█
12	Hanuman Jayanti						█
13	Badh mavas			█	█		█
14	Haritalika teej			█	█	█	
15	Raksha Bandhan	█	█				█
16	Boodhi teej			█		█	
17	Jamashtami		█				█
18	Sati ki amavasya			█		█	
19	Ganesh chaturthi		█				█
20	Shradha						█
21	Sharad Navratri				█		█
22	Dashhra	█	█				█
23	Sharad poornima			█	█		█
24	Karwa chauth					█	
25	Ahoi ashtami					█	
26	Deepawali - Dhanteras						█
27	Deepawali - Narak chaudas						█
28	Deepawali - Main Deepawali	█	█				█
29	Deepawali - Govardhan poona						█
30	Deepawali - bhai dooj						█
31	Dev uthan ekadashi			█			█
32	Kartik poornima			█	█		█
33	Margshirsh guruwara						█
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>33</b>

Fig 1. Possible approaches to select festivals

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### Selection of Festivals

Finally, five lesser-known festivals celebrated by only women were selected for the information visualisation. The festivals selected were - Sakat Chauth, Gan Gaur Pooja, Sati ki Amavasya, Karwa Chauth and Ahoi Ashtami.

The context for this project was to visualise the information of the selected five festivals such that they can be easily understood and practised by the upcoming generation of young Indians.

The practical information required to practise these festivals in today's context would be communicated.

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Source:

<https://www.dsource.in/resource/lost-indian-festivals/background-reading>

## Background Reading

I looked at examples of cultural mapping and information mapping to understand ways of data organisation for the visualisation.

- Cultural Mapping

Cultural Mapping is a systematic approach to identifying, recording, classifying and analyzing a community's cultural resources.

The cultural map of St. Thomas (2015) (see Fig 2) serves as a gateway for organisations, businesses, community groups and the public to easily identify and explore the city's asset



Fig 2. St. Thomas Cultural Map (2015)

The cultural map may consist of layers, keyword search, information window, annotation and drawing tools.

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### • Information Mapping

Information Mapping is writing without paragraphs. Instead, there's a set format to guide the writer and reader along the easiest pathway to communication (Horn et al., 1974).

It involves identifying, categorizing, interrelating and sequencing, and presenting graphical information for learning and reference.

It increases reading efficiency as it can be simple, modular, an expandable classification system and consistent by using information blocks, information map, unit and course (see Fig 3).

It is used for conceptual, procedural, process, classification, structural and decision information.

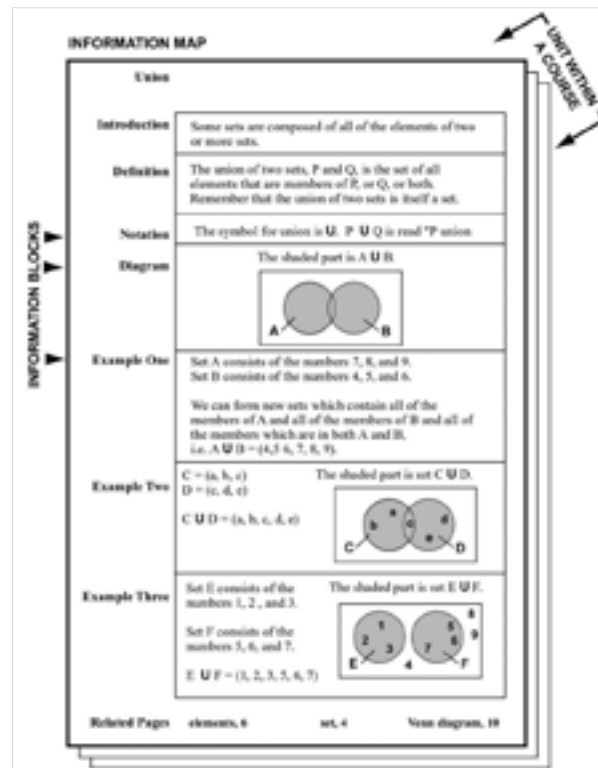


Fig 3. Information Block, Information Map, Unit, Course (Horn et al., 1974)

The principles of data organisation used by these methods were used in data analysis for the final visualisation.

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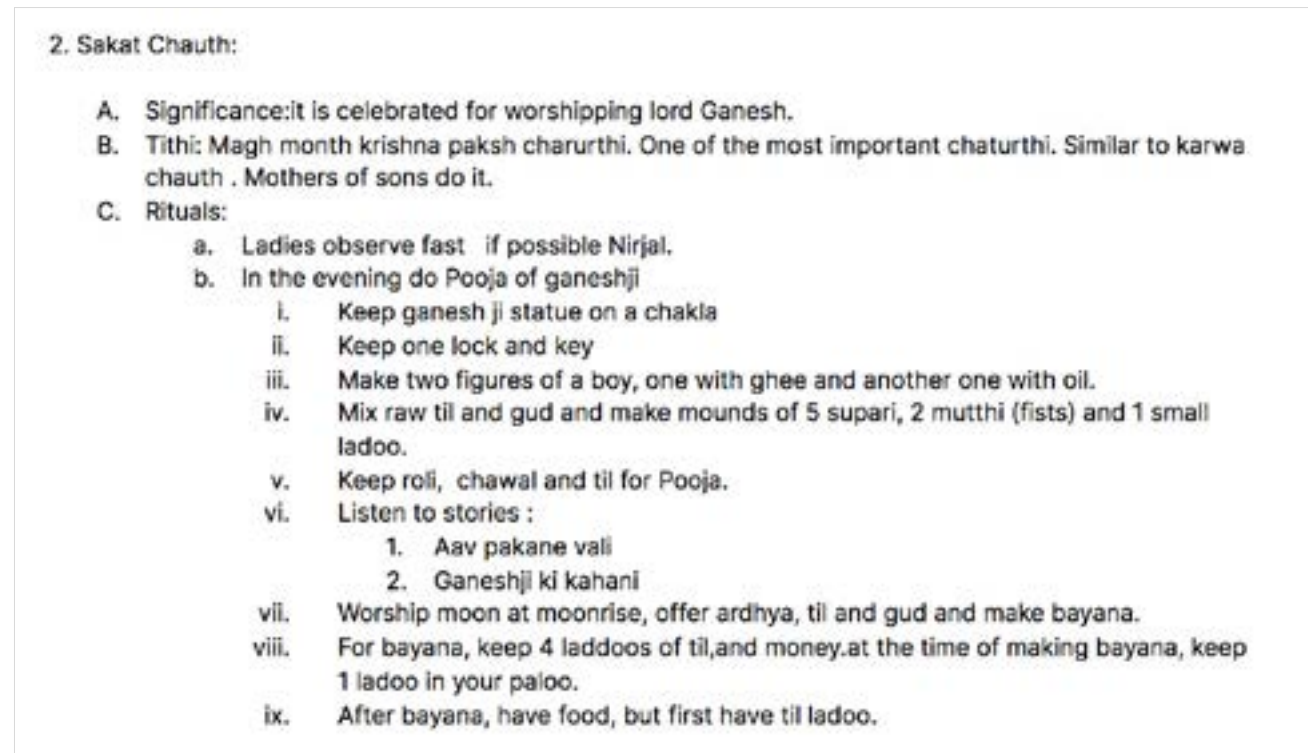
<https://www.dsource.in/resource/lost-indian-festivals/data-collection>

## Data Collection

Data was collected for each of the five selected festivals from books and information through family. Data was collected on their:

- Significance
- Date (Tithi)
- Rituals (Practical information needed for practice)

Fig 4 shows the initial data collected for one of the festivals - Sakat Chauth.



2. Sakat Chauth:

- A. Significance: it is celebrated for worshipping lord Ganesh.
- B. Tithi: Magh month krishna paksh charurthi. One of the most important chaturthi. Similar to karwa chauth . Mothers of sons do it.
- C. Rituals:
  - a. Ladies observe fast if possible Nirjal.
  - b. In the evening do Pooja of ganeshji
    - i. Keep ganesh ji statue on a chakla
    - ii. Keep one lock and key
    - iii. Make two figures of a boy, one with ghee and another one with oil.
    - iv. Mix raw til and gud and make mounds of 5 supari, 2 mutthi (fists) and 1 small ladoo.
    - v. Keep roli, chawal and til for Pooja.
    - vi. Listen to stories :
      1. Aav pakane vali
      2. Ganeshji ki kahani
    - vii. Worship moon at moonrise, offer ardhya, til and gud and make bayana.
    - viii. For bayana, keep 4 laddoos of til, and money. at the time of making bayana, keep 1 ladoo in your paloo.
    - ix. After bayana, have food, but first have til ladoo.

Fig 4. Data collection - Sakat Chauth

The entire data collection document can be viewed [here](#).

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## Secondary Research

I also looked at existing documentations of Indian festivals. These were mapped onto the English calendar by Drik Panchang (2021) (see Fig 5).



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<https://www.dsource.in/resource/lost-indian-festivals/data-analysis>

## Data Analysis

The data collected was analysed to map to on a timeline, identify themes, categories of objects included and sensory experiences.

The themes identified helped answer questions related to the activities in the festivals - which God was worshipped, whether fasting was involved, when was pooja practised etc. The rituals were mapped based on the time of the day which helped understand when most of the festival activities happened. Categories of objects involved in the festival were identified. Sensory experiences such as creating visuals, smell arising from cooking activities and sounds from singing/storytelling were also identified.

Fig 6 shows the data analysis for the five festivals.

Through this analysis, a holistic picture of the festivals was created. The timeline and themes could serve as a structure for data organisation while the categories and sensory experiences could be visualised in different ways to capture the essence of the festivals.

Similar and different themes, categories and sensory experiences could also be observed across different festivals.

### Cross-Analysis

Through a cross-analysis, common topics with different information were identified and organised to create the final visualisation.

### Common topics included -

- Tithi
- Objective
- Ishta Dev
- Bhog
- Pooja Thali

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- Ardhya
- Bayana
- Pooja Rituals

Representing the festivals under a structure created by these common topics would enable comparing the different festivals visually.

The final data organisation for all the five festivals used in the final visualisation can be viewed [here](#).

Source:

<https://www.dsource.in/resource/lost-indian-festivals/data-analysis>

Timeline	Content - Sakat Chauth	Themes	Categories	Sensory
Significance (Why?) (for Whom?)	It is celebrated for worshipping Ganeshji. Mothers of sons do it. One of the most important Chaturthi. Similar to Karwa Chauth.	God	Ganesha	
Tithi (When?)	Magh month. Krishna Paksh Charurthi.	Lunar Calendar		
Rituals (How+What+When?)				
All day	Ladies observe fast, if possible nirjal.	Fast	Without food, without water	
Evening	In the evening do pooja of Ganeshji.	Pooja	Ganesha	
Preparations	Keep Ganeshji statue on a chakla. Keep one lock and key. Make two figures of a boy, one with ghee and another one with oil. Mix raw til and gud and make mounds of 5 supari, 2 mutthi (flats) and 1 small laddoo.		Objects Objects Drawings Food	Visual (Drawing) Smell (Cooking)
Proceedings	Keep roli, chawal and til for Pooja. Listen to stories : Aav pakane vali, Ganeshji ki kahani.	Storytelling	Pooja articles	Sound (Storytelling)
Night				
Proceedings	Worship moon at moonrise, offer ardhya, til and gud and make bayana.	Pooja		
Preparations	For bayana, keep 4 laddoos of til and money. At the time of making bayana, keep 1 laddoo in your paloo.		Bayana	
Post proceedings	After bayana, have food, but first have til laddoo.			

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Timeline	Content - Ahol Ashtami	Themes	Categories	Sensory
Significance (Why?) (for Whom?)	This is celebrated for wellness of children.			
Tithi (When?)	Ashtami.	Lunar Calendar		
Rituals (How+What+When?)				
All day	Ladies with sons observe this fast.	Fast	Without food	
	For pooja,	Pooja	Ganesha	
Preparations	Put poster of ahol ashtami on the wall.		Pooja articles	
	Keep two kalash filled with water on wheat grains or rice grains.		Objects, food	
	Keep raw vegetables on the cover of one kakash like potatoes, arbi, carrot, capsicum etc.		Objects, food	
	Keep 2 poori and 2 poha on the second one.		Food	Smell (Food)
	Make aate ka halwa.		Food	Smell (Food)
	Keep sugarcane for pooja.		Food	
Proceedings	Say story.	Storytelling		Sound (Storytelling)
	Use halwa to stick kakawa on the poster.			
	Do pooja of raja, rani, syahoo, 7 sons and 7 daughters in law.	Pooja		
	Offer ardhya to sun.		Ardhya	
Post proceedings	Make bayana of 8 poods and 9 poods and give to someone elder.		Bayana	
Notes	In some houses, ardhya is offered to star rising in the evening. Till that time, ladies observe fast.		Fast, Night	

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Timeline	Content - Gan Gaur Pooja	Themes	Categories	Sensory
Significance (Why?) (for Whom?)	We do Pooja of Shiv Parvati for Akhand Saubhagya.	God	Shiv Parvati	
Tithi (When?)	3rd Day of Chaitra Navratri.	Lunar Calendar		
Rituals (How+What+When?)				
Morning?	All ladies and girls do Pooja of Shiv & Parvati.	Pooja	Shiv Parvati	
Preparations?	We make gunas. Married ladies offer 16 gunas, keep 16 gunas in godi. Girls offer 8 gunas, keep 8 guns in godi.		Gunas	
Proceedings?	Offer durva and gunas to Shiv Parvati. Sing songs for Gan Gaur. Listen to stories. Married ladies make bayana for 16 gunas and money. While doing offering of water, ring is put in the Kakashi of water.		Durva, gunas Singing songs Storytelling	Sound (Singing) Sound (Storytelling)
Evening	In the evening, again water is offered and ring is taken out.		Objects	Sound (Metal in water)
Timeline	Content - Sati ki Amavasya	Themes	Categories	Sensory
Significance (Why?) (for Whom?)	To remember Sati and her sacrifices.	God?	Sati	
Tithi (When?)	Bhadrapad ki Amavasya.	Lunar Calendar		
Rituals (How+What+When?)				
Morning?				
Preparations	Make chila and chilari (with design of kangoora). Call for new roli, mehndi. Divide in two places. Make swastik. Light diya.		Food, drawings Objects Swastik Diya	Smell (Food), Visual (Design)
Proceedings	Do Pooja and put dots of roli and mehndi 9x9. Cover diya by chalani.	Pooja	Drawings Objects	Visual (Light)
Notes	Take 7 rounds of it.			
Post proceedings	This Pooja should not be seen by unmarried girls. One set is for sati and another set is given to behan	Storytelling		Sound (Storytelling)

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Timeline	Content - Karwa Chauth	Themes	Categories	Sensory
Significance (Why?) (for Whom?)	This upwas is done for husband's good health and longevity.			
Tithi (When?)	Chaturthi.	Lunar Calendar		
Rituals (How+What+When?)				
All day	Married ladies observe nirjal vrat for whole day and offer ardhta to moon and then only they eat food.	Fast	Without food, without water	
Sunset	At the time of sunset, pooja is done, each one keeps one karwa filled with water.	Pooja		
Proceedings	Make a Swastik on the ground.		Swastik Objects	
	Keep karwa filled with water.			
	On top of karwa, keep wheat grains and gud on the cover of karwa.		Objects, food	Smell (Food)
	Say story of seven brothers and one sister.	Storytelling		
	Exchange karwa for 14 times with you co-sister(devranis or nanad).			
	If no one is there for exchange, exchange can be done with another karwa.			
Moonrise	At the time of moon rise, offer ardhya, offer bhoga, make bayana and then drink water to break the vrat.	Pooja	Ardhya	

Fig 6. Data Analysis - Sakat Chauth, Ahoi Ashtami, Gan Gaur Pooja, Sati ki Amavasya and Karwa Chauth.

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## Ideation

Ideas were brainstormed to visualise the content.

### Pooja Thali

Pooja Thali was a common element present in all festivals and could be used to visualise the pooja articles required for a festival. Fig 7 shows how the pooja thali could be represented across the different festivals. This would allow one to compare the similar and different articles required for the different festivals.

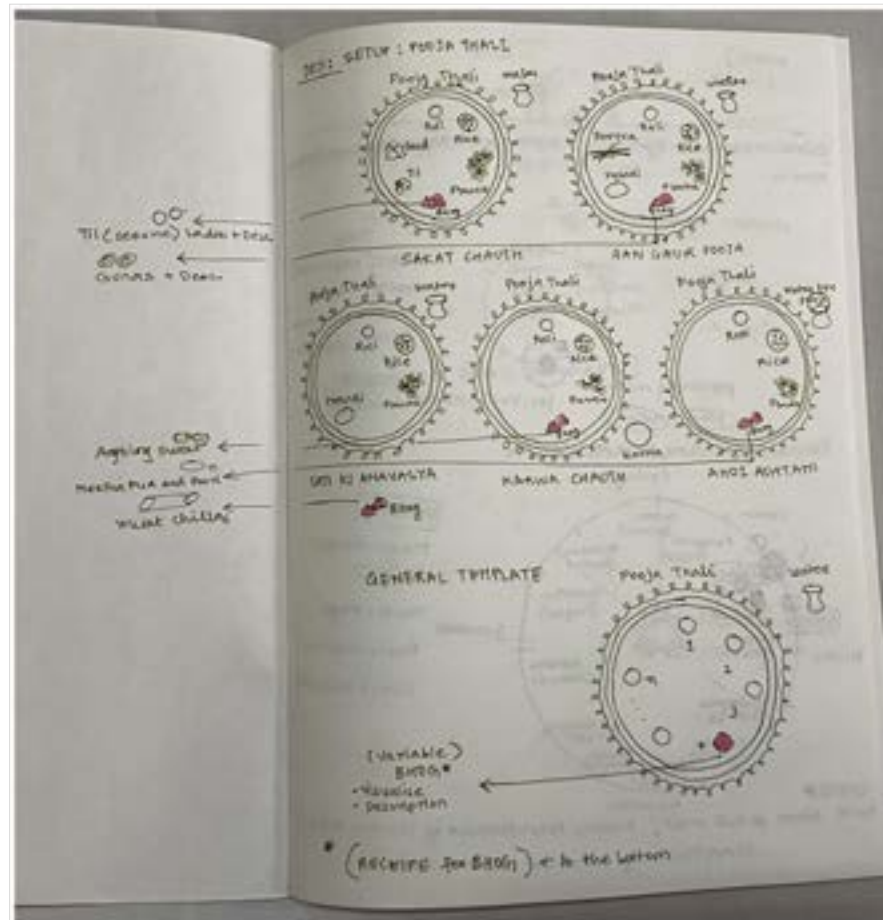


Fig 7. Pooja Thali

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## Pooja Rituals

### Tithi

The dates for celebrating the festivals are derived from the lunar calendar from Drik Panchang (2021). Tithi (or when the festival is celebrated) could be represented by visualising the position of the sun, Earth and the moon. This visualization could be linear or circular (representative) as shown in Fig 8.

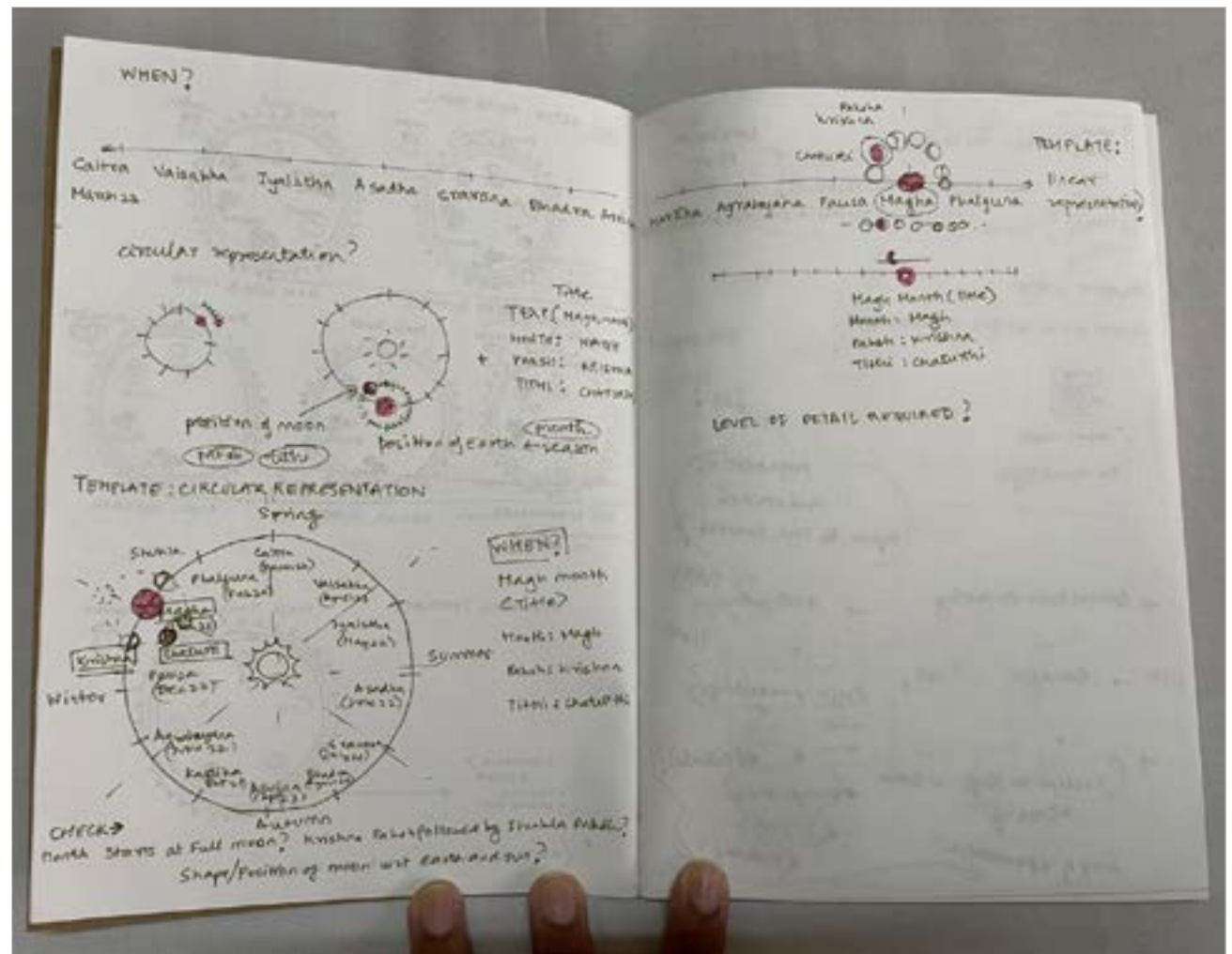


Fig 8. Tithi

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### Pooja Rituals

The Pooja Rituals could be visualised as a step-by-step process.

Icons could be used to visualise the sensory experiences and images could be used to visualise the actual objects involved.

### Overall visualisation

The overall visualisation of each festival could be created using a similar layout which could help compare the different aspects such as preparation, duration, sensory experience, etc.

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## Design

### Information Architecture

Based on the final data organisation an information architecture was created for the visualisation (see Fig 9).

Two major chunks of pooja preparations and pooja rituals were identified. The 4 W and 1 H questions were answered to curate the content in the form of a synopsis.

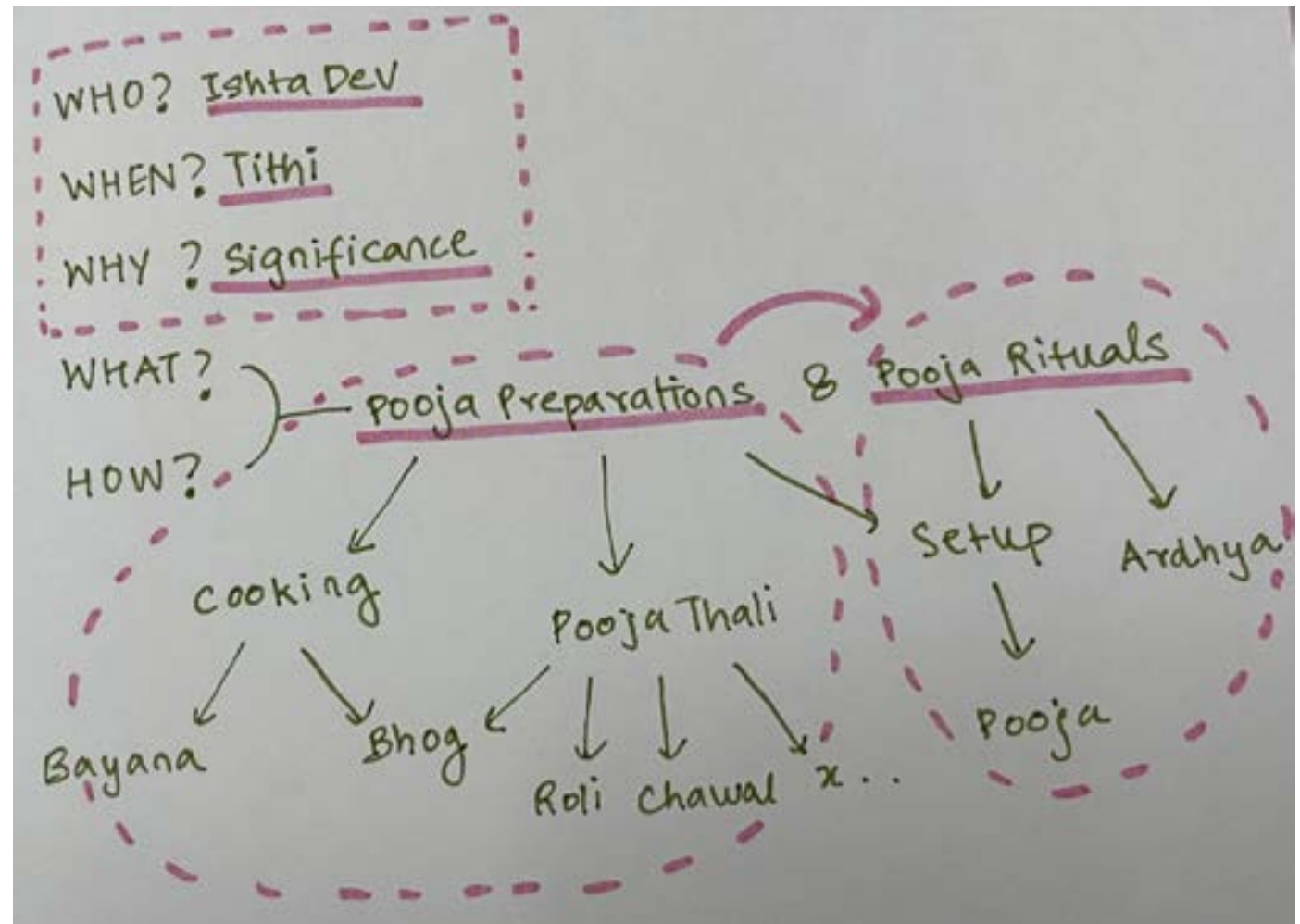


Fig 9. Information Architecture

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### Medium

Web visualisation was finalised as the medium for the visualisation. This medium would ensure greater reach of the visualisation. It would enable interactivity and possibility to build further on the same visualisation.

Web visualisation would also be easily accessible to the upcoming tech savvy generation for whom this visualization is primarily intended.

### Moodboard

A moodboard was created by compiling relevant images to help ideate a visual style (see Fig 10).



Fig 10. Moodboard

### Visual Style

A visual style was finalised for the visualization.

### Colours

The colours yellow and red were primarily used as they are considered religiously auspicious. A colour palette was created to represent the essential pooja articles (see Fig 11).

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Fig 11. Colour Palette

### Illustrations

Illustrations were used instead of images to maintain consistency and bring out the aesthetic of Indian festivals.

Illustration styles used in existing religious books were looked at (see Fig 12). Line drawing was used to represent different Gods as well as processes.

A similar line drawing style was derived to illustrate the Gods, pooja thali and pooja (see Fig 13) in the final visualisation. A base colour of yellow was used and only the essential pooja articles were highlighted using different colours.

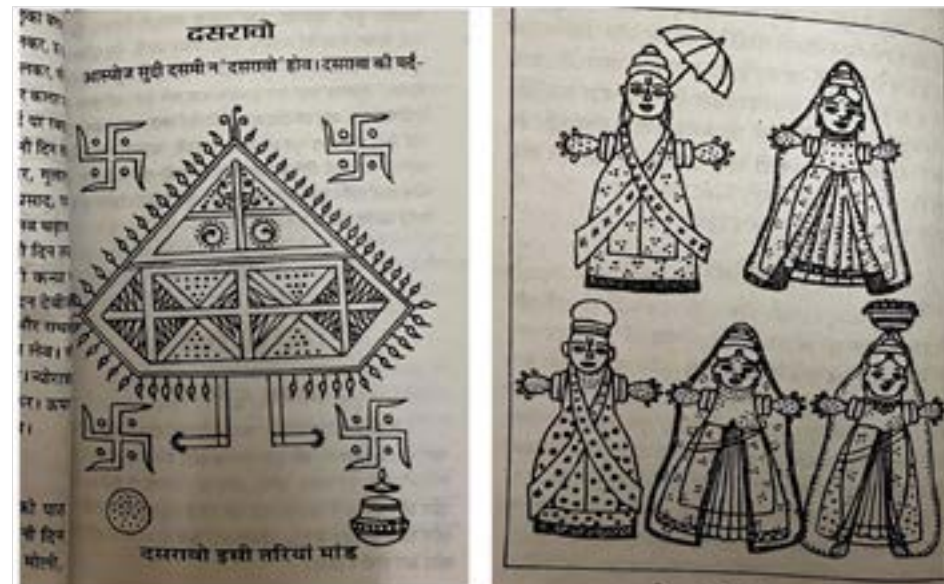


Fig 12. Illustrations in religious books

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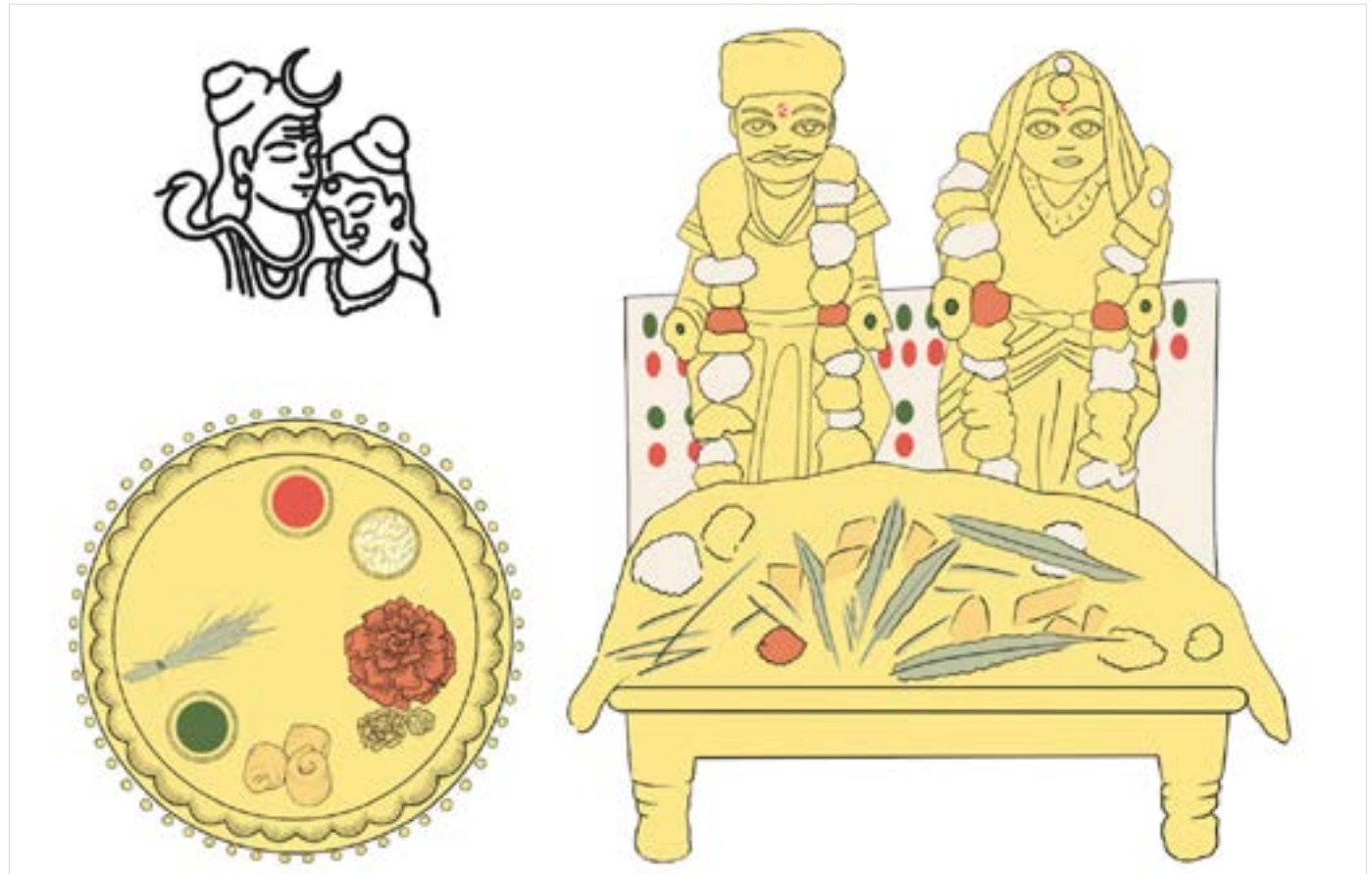


Fig 13. Some illustrations of Gods, pooja thali and pooja

### Typography

The typeface Alegreya was used for the visualisation. Alegreya regular 14 pt - Body Text  
Alegreya bold 18 pt - Heading 2 Alegreya regular 12 pt - Captions Alegreya bold 56 pt - Heading 1

### Icons

Outlined icons were used as they were coherent with the illustration style (see Fig 14).



Fig 14. Outlined Icons

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### Explorations

Different ways of information organisation were experimented with.

A six column layout which would work both as a web visualisation and a printed book was created. The top highlighted the primary information. The left-hand side consisted of the pooja preparations and the right, the pooja rituals. A vertical timeline was used for the pooja rituals. Colour was used to visualise the cooking and storytelling activities (see Fig 15 a). A reverse colour version was also experimented with (see Fig 15 b).

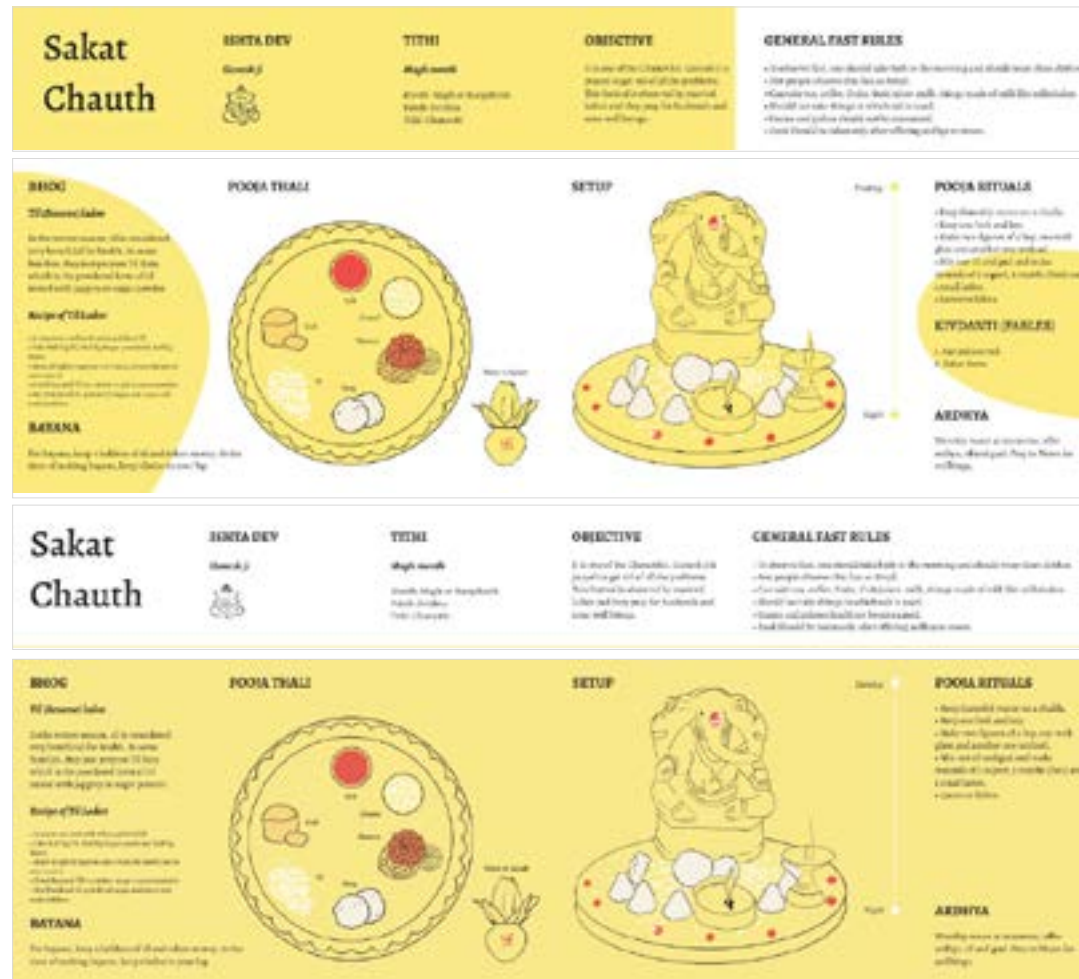


Fig 15. a. 6 column exploration (T) b. Reverse colours (B)

Design Resource

## Lost Indian Festivals

Information Visualisation of Festivals celebrated by Women in India  
by  
Richa Agarwal and Prof. Ravi Poovaiah  
IDC, IIT Bombay


Source:  
<https://www.dsource.in/resource/lost-indian-festivals/design>

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A three column layout which was more appropriate for web visualisation was then created. The primary information was highlighted in the 1st column, the preparations were visualised in the 2nd column and the rituals in the 3rd. Different ways to organise the content were explored (see Fig 16).

### Sakat Chauth

**ISHTA DEV**



Ganesh ji

**TITHI**

Month: **Magh** or Margshresh  
Fakuh: **Erisikna**  
Tithi: **Chaturthi**

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Sakat Chauth is one of the Chaturthi. We pray to Ganesh ji to get rid of all our problems. Married ladies pray for the well being of their husbands and sons.

**Preparations**

**BHOG**

**Til (Sesame) Ladoo**

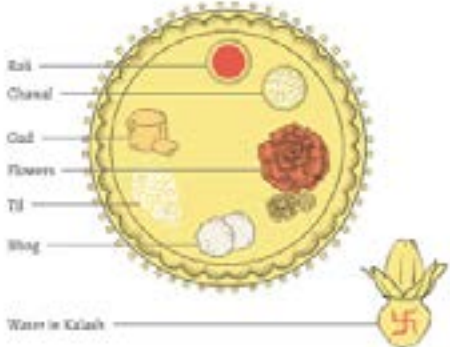
In the winter season, til is very beneficial for health. Some families prepare til laddu which is the powdered form of til mixed with jaggery or sugar powder.

**Recipe**


**BAYANA**

At the time of making bayana, keep 1 laddoo in your lap. For bayana keep a laddoo of til and toke money.

**POOJA THALI**



**Rituals**



**All Day Fast**

**Evening** 🌙 **POOJA**

- Keep the Ganeshji statue on a thali.
- Keep one lock and key.
- Make two figures of a boy, one with ghee and another one with oil.
- Mix rice and ghee and make records of 1 aspari, 2 monthi (fete) and 1 small laddoo.
- Listen to bhajan.

**Aar pakuse wali**

**Sakat deets**

**Night** 🌙 **ARDHYA**

Worship moon at moonrise, offer ardhya, til and ghee. Pray to Moon for well being.

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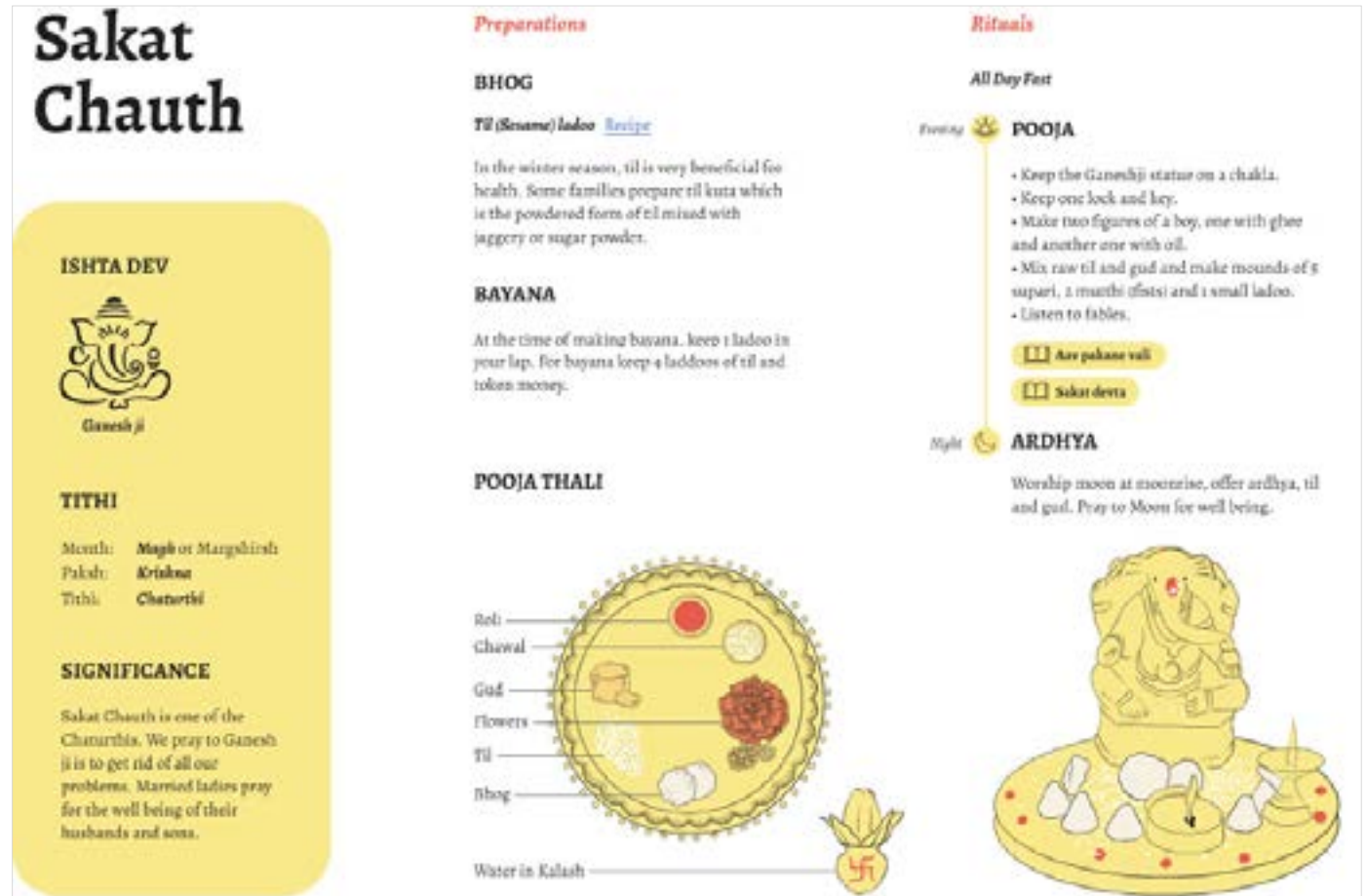


Fig 16. 3 column exploration

### Feedback

Feedback from my guide as well as peer feedback was incorporated to improve the information organisation and visual aesthetic of the information visualisation.

- A three column grid was finalised - who, when and why were visualised in the first column with the highest priority, the second column consisted of pooja preparations and the third column consisted of pooja rituals (what, how).
- The pooja thali illustration was improved to serve as a diagram with clearer labels (see Fig 17).

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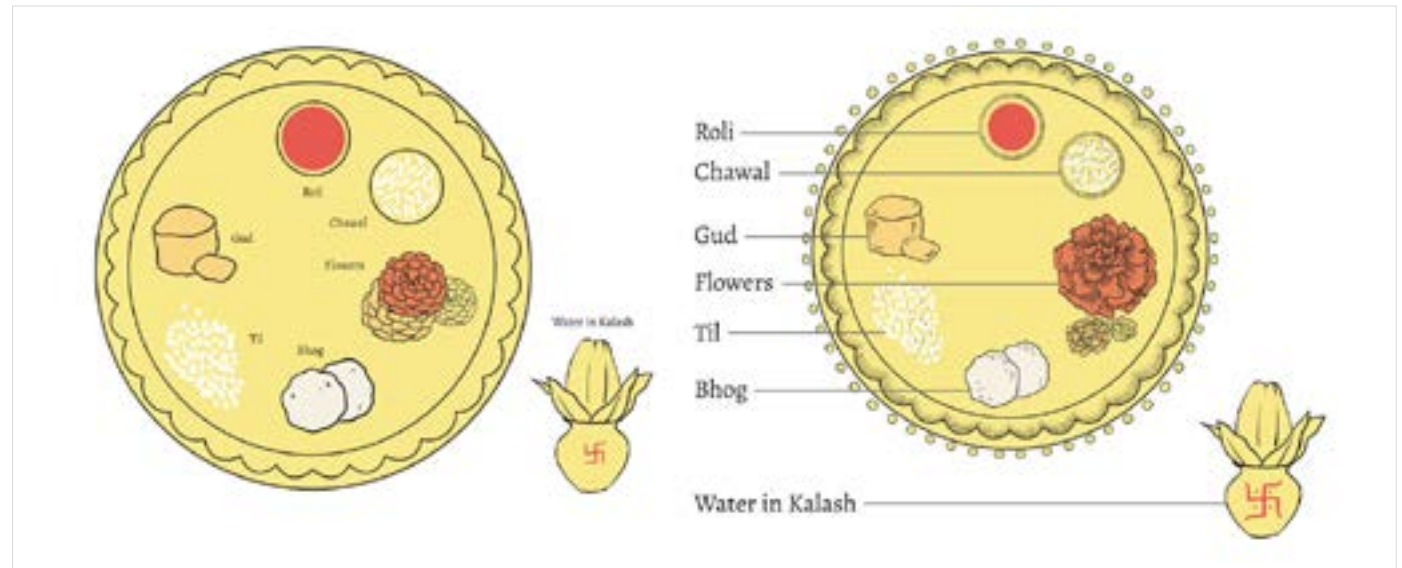


Fig 17. Pooja Thali (L), Pooja Thali based on feedback

- The recipe of the Bhog was hyperlinked instead of displaying the information in the synopsis. This way only the essential information was displayed in the visualisation and the additional information was linked.
- Visualisation of the tithi was also not included in the information visualisation as it would deviate attention from the topic and would be a whole different complex topic to understand.
- Stories and songs were highlighted as tags.
- Icons were included in the timeline.
- The static illustrations of the pooja were converted into gifs to visually represent the step-by-step process involved in the pooja rituals (see Fig 18).

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Fig 18. Making of the Sakat Chauth gif

- An introduction to the visualisation and glossary were also included.

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## Final Visualisation

Based on the feedback, a final visualisation was designed and prototyped on Figma.

### Interactive Prototype Link

View the interactive prototype (with links and gifs) [here](#).

### Static Visualisation

A static version of the final visualisation is shown below.

### Information Visualisation of Festivals Celebrated by Women in India

**Sakat Chauth**

**ISHTA DEV**  
Ganesh Ji

**TITHI**  
Month: Magh or Margshresh  
Pak: Krishna  
Tithi: Chaturthi

**SIGNIFICANCE**  
Sakat Chauth is one of the Chaturthis. We pray to Ganesh Ji to get rid of all our problems. Married ladies pray for the well being of their husbands and sons.

**Preparations**

**BHOG**  
Til (Sesame) laddoo [Recipe](#)  
In the winter season, til is very beneficial for health. Some families prepare til kuta which is the powdered form of til mixed with jaggery or sugar powder.

**BAYANA**  
At the time of making bayana, keep 1 laddoo in your lap. For bayana keep 4 laddoos of til and token money.

**POOJA THALI**

Labels: Koli, Chawal, Gud, Flowers, Til, Bhog, Water in Kalash

**Rituals**

**All Day Fast**

**POOJA**  
Dinning ☀️  
• Keep the Ganeshji statue on a chakla.  
• Keep one lock and key.  
• Make two figures of a boy, one with ghee and another one with oil.  
• Mix raw til and gud and make mounds of sapari, 2 muthi (fists) and 1 small laddoo.  
• Listen to fables.  
📖 **Aar pahanevalli**  
📖 **Saka devta**

**ARDHYA**  
Night 🌙  
Worship moon at moonrise, offer ardhya, til and gud. Pray to Moon for well being.

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### Gan Gaur Pooja

**ISHTA DEV**



Parvati & Shiv

**TITHI**

Month: Chaitra  
Paksh: Shukla  
Tithi: Dwitipe

**SIGNIFICANCE**

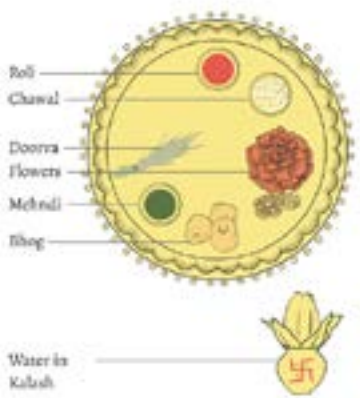
Gan Gaur Pooja is celebrated for getting a good husband. It is celebrated by all girls and ladies. Shiv and Parvi are known as an inseparable couple.

**Preparations**

**BHOG**  
Ganes [Recipe](#)  
Ganas are the savouries made with maida/wheat flour in a ring shape.

**BAYANA**  
Unmarried girls do not make bayana. Married ladies make bayana of 16 ganas and token money.

**POOJA THALI**



**Rituals**


**Morning ☀️ POOJA**

- On a chowki (stool), keep a photo of Parvati & Shiv.
- Keep one sheet of paper to put bindis.
- Do pooja of Parvati & Shiv.
- Married ladies put 16 bindis (dots) with Roll and then 16 bindis with Mehndi on the paper. Unmarried girls put 8 with both similarly.
- Do pooja of that paper too.
- Offer ganas to Parvati & Shiv photo. Married Ladies offer 16 ganas. Unmarried girls offer 8 ganas.
- While doing this pooja, keep ganas in your lap - 16 for married ladies and 8 for unmarried girls.
- Girls/ladies tangle their hands and with the help of doorra, they offer water to Shiv & Parvati. At the same time they sing songs.
- Songs are to say that girls are offering pooja and pray to get a good father, good brother and a good husband.
- When all the things are done, a ring is put in the water.

**🕒 Prayers & Songs**

**Evening 🌙 VISARJAN**

In the evening, water is offered to Parvati & Shiv again. Usually, it is done by a young girl. The ring is taken out.



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## Sati Ki Amavasya

**ISHTA DEV**



Rani Sati

**TITHI**

Month: **Bhadrapad**  
Paksh: **Kriaksha**  
Tithi: **Amavasya**

**SIGNIFICANCE**

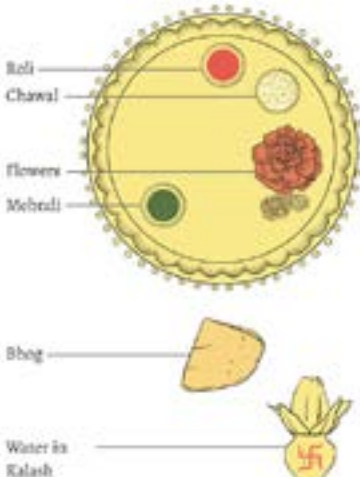
To remember Rani Sati (also known as dadi sati) and her sacrifices and seek their blessings for the family. Everyone except unmarried girls in the family do this pooja.

**Preparations**

**BHOG**  
Wheat Chilas [Recipe](#)

These are sweet dosas kind of thing made with wheat flour.


**POOJA THALI**



**Rituals**

Warning ☀️ **POOJA**

- Instead of any photo, a swastika is made on the floor. The floor should be clean.
- A diya is lit and kept on the swastika.
- It is surrounded by 3 bricks in such a way that one side is open.
- The bhog is kept in two plates on both sides of diya.
- Along with bhog, packed roli and chawal are also kept.
- Pooja is done for the diya.
- On the floor, bindia (dots) are put with roli and mehndi in such a way that there are 9 rows and 9 columns.
- Everyone should take seven rounds of the diya.
- This pooja should not be seen by girls.
- One set of bhog is meant for Sati, it can be sent to a temple or can be given to a brahman.
- The other set of bhog is given to married girls of the house. If no such person is there nearby, it can be given to any married lady.



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### Karwa Chauth

**ISHTA DEV**



Karwa Mata

**TITHI**

Moon: Kartik  
Pak: Krishna  
Tithi: Chaturthi

**SIGNIFICANCE**

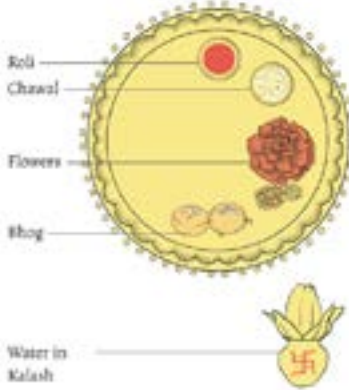
Karwa Chauth is observed by married ladies and they pray for husband's longevity and good health. It has been the most popular festival for married ladies.

**Preparations**

**BHOG**  
Anything sweet

**BAYANA**  
Token Money and anything which the mother-in-law likes.

**POOJA THALI**



**Rituals**

**All Day Fast (without water)**

**Evening ☺ POOJA**


- Make a Swastika on the ground.
- Keep karwa filled with water. Karwa is decorated with a swastika on it, also a kalawa is tied to the karwa.
- On top of karwa, keep wheat grains and gud on the cover of karwa.
- Listen to the story of seven brothers and one sister.
- Exchange karwa 14 times with you co-sister (devranis or namad). If no one is there for exchange, exchange can be done with another karwa.

**☑ Seven brothers and one sister**

- This is a very strict vrat, so after pooja in the evening, ladies take tea or coffee.

**Night ☺ ARDHYA**

Worship the moon at moonrise, offer ardhya, sweets. For ardhya, the water from the same karwa is taken which was used in the pooja. Pray to the moon for your husband's long life. In some communities, the moon is first seen through a sieve and then the face of the husband is seen with the same sieve.



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### Ahoi Ashtami

**ISHTA DEV**



Karwa Mata

**TITHI**

Month: **Karthik**  
Paksh: **Krishna**  
Tithi: **Ashtami**

**SIGNIFICANCE**

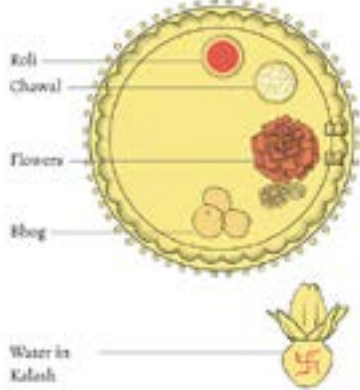
Ahoi Ashtami is celebrated for the wellness of children, especially sons.

**Preparations**

**BHOG**  
Month: Pua and Poori [Recipe](#)  
Puaa are sweet dumplings made with wheat flour and jaggery/sugar.

**BAYANA**  
8 Puaa and 9 Pooris.

**POOJA THALI**



**Rituals**


**All Day Fast**

Morning ☀️ **ARDHYA**  
Ardhya is offered to the sun. In some families, ardhya is offered to a star rising in the evening and pooja is also done in the evening.


**POOJA**

- Put poster of Ahoi Ashtami on the wall.
- Keep two kalash filled with water. Kalash should not be kept on the ground directly. Keep some wheat grains or rice grains below the kalash.
- Keep raw vegetables on the cover of one kalash like potatoes, arbi, carrot, capsicum etc.
- Keep 2 poori and 1 oaaa on the second one.
- Make aate ka halwa.
- Keep sugarcane for pooja.
- Use halwa to stick lakshmi on the poster.
- Do pooja of raja, rani, sushoo, 7 sons and 7 daughters in law.
- Listen to story.

Ahoi Mata



Seven sisters in law and one sister



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## Glossary

### Ardhya

It is the process of worshipping and offering water to the planets like sun or moon. In most of the festivals, where ladies observe fast for the full day, it is a practice to first worship moon and offer water and sweets to the moon and then only fast is broken. We wait for the time when the moon rises and then only the fast is considered as complete.

### Bayana

It has been a custom to offer gift to the elderly lady of the house (in most cases mother in law), this is called bayana. It consists of token money and something sweet. If mother in law is not there, it should be given to sister-in-law, elder brother's wife, father in law or anyone in the in laws side. If there are no relatives nearby, it can be given to a brahmin.

### Bhog

It has been a practice to make sweets at home for pooja, for offering to God and also to be consumed by everyone at home. Different sweets are made in different festivals. Nowadays, people are replacing these sweets with readymade sweets or chocolates.

### Chaturti

In Lunar calendar, the 4th day of every every month in krishna paksh is dedicated to lord Ganesh, it is is celebrated as 'Sankashti' which means to remove all problems (sankat). There are 12 such sankashti in full year. The 4th day of shukla paksh is celebrated as Vinayak chaturthi.

### General fast rules

- To observe fast, one should take bath in the morning and should wear clean clothes.
- Can take tea, coffee, fruits, milk, things made of milk like milkshakes.
- Should not take things in which salt is used.
- Grains and pulses should not be consumed.

### Ishta Dev

For each festival, we worship a specific God or Goddess.

### Kalash

In many poojas, a Kalash is kept, It is filled with water. It is a symbol of all gods and goddesses. It can be of silver, brass or earthen pot. A kalawa is tied to the kalash and swastik is made. On top of it five mango tree leaves are kept and on top of it a whole coconut is kept. A swastika is made on the coconut too. It is considered very auspicious. Few people cover it with red cloth.

### Kalawa

It is a cotton thread also known as mauli. It is considered a sacred thread and is used in pooja.

### Pooja Thali

Usually, pooja thali contains:

- Roll or kumkum - to offer tika to God and also to the person doing the pooja.
- Chawal or Akshat
- Flowers
- Bhog

### Significance

Festivals are meant to celebrate the joys with which we are blessed. Each festival is linked to praying God with a purpose of well being of the family. Husbands and sons were given more importance, so there are festivals dedicated to them. In modern times, women wish for the well being of all the members of family.

## Possibility of Future Work

More information on the festivals can be included when hovered over or as links.

Similar lesser known festivals can be documented in this manner which helps communicate a synopsis and practical information.

A larger project could include creating a library of festivals visualised in the same format which also helps one compare and observe trends across festivals.

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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Richa Agarwal at IDC, IIT Bombay during the Design Exploration Seminar as a design project.

You can get in touch with her at [16U130006\[at\]iitb.ac.in](mailto:16U130006[at]iitb.ac.in)

You can write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

### Helpdesk Details:

Co-ordinator  
Project e-kalpa  
Industrial Design Centre  
IIT Bombay  
Powai  
Mumbai 4000 076  
India

Phone: 091-22-25767820/ 7801/ 7802

Fax: 091-22-25767803

Email: [dsource.in\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

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