

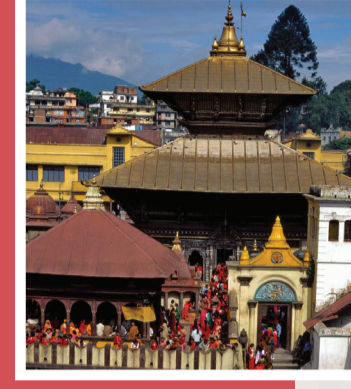
## January

- 15** **Agnisal Mela**  
The fire temple of Agnisal is flocked with devotees who believe the visit will help them to avoid current and anticipated misfortunes because of the stars.  
*Place: Agnisal, Lalitpur, Ward no: 19*
- 15** **Gyo Chaku Sanlhu or Maghe Sankranti**  
The day is celebrated as a day when the Sun begins its transit to Capricorn (Makar) by eating a meal with Ghee (Clarified butter), Chaku (Sugarcane molasses), sesame balls and Yam and taking oil head massage blessing from the elders.
- 29** **Shree Panchami**  
It is a celebration of Goddess Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom, skills and performance. Shree Panchami is also regarded as an auspicious day for performing traditional marriage rituals or other life rituals.



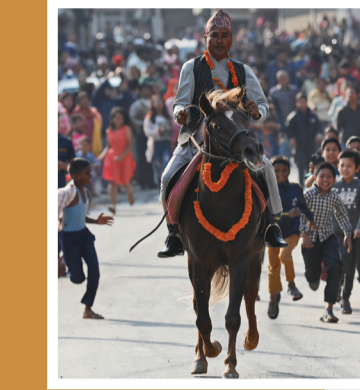
## February

- 21** **Mahashivaratri**  
It is a Hindu festival celebrated before the arrival of spring that marks the Great Night of Shiva, a Hindu deity. Don't be surprised if you are stopped by kids in the alleys who are busy collecting alms for their bonfire on the Shivaratri night.
- 26-27** **Samyak Mahadan**  
It is a night and day carnival where Dipankara Buddha of the Golden Temple in Patan invites all the other Dipankars and Avalokiteshwaras from all the Buddhist monasteries and temples of the Kathmandu Valley and Kavre to offer Mahadan.  
*It is celebrated at Nagbahal, Lalitpur, Ward no: 18*



## March

- 09** **Falgu Purnima**  
It is a Hindu festival of colours celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Falgun. People celebrate by painting each other's face with vermilion and other colours, and eating delicious food.
- 24** **Paan Chare**  
Paan chare is the Newar festival when they invite their daughters and their families to share meals as the holy offerings after a puja to "Luku Madhya". On this day, people worship Lord Shiva who is believed to be hiding underground as a "Luku madhyo".
- 24** **Ghode Jatra**  
Ghode Jatra means horse parade, which is a fitting title given the day's events. A horse rider brings a horse all the way from Balkumari Gulpat Damaar to Patan Durbar Square after a ritual to mark the day.
- 27** **Beginning of Bunga Dyo Jatra**  
Bunga Dyo Jatra is the biggest and longest chariot festival of Nepal, celebrated both by Hindus and Buddhists, which is organised in Lalitpur for a period of a month. The day marks the official beginning of the chariot festival after a month-long preparation of building the chariot by locals.  
*Place: Pulchowk (ward 3) to Gabahal (ward 16)*



## April

- 8** **Paykhaa Jatra**  
It marks the first day of 3 days long litter Jatra of idols of Lord Ganesh, Kumar, Balkumari, and Bhringareshwar Mahadev (Shiva) celebrated in Sunakothi, a former village situated south of Patan.  
*Ward no: 28 and 27 of LMC*
- 23** **Mayagu Khwa Swayegu Din (Mother's Day)**  
Families rejoice when people bring gifts of delicious food and clothes to their mothers on this day. The day is more special for married women who share special bonding with their family. In the morning, people whose mothers have passed away flock to nearby temples or Mata tirtha near Kirtipur, to offer alms in their mothers' memorial.



## May

- 06** **Buddha Jayanti**  
The celebration of the birthday of Lord Buddha is organised by various neighbourhoods in Patan, Bungamati or Sunakothi. It is celebrated with great enthusiasm in Patan as 40% of the population is Buddhist.
- 28** **Sithi Nakha**  
This festival marks the end of yearly offerings to lineage deity given by all the Newa families by welcoming Kumar (elder son of Lord Shiva) and cleaning the nearby water sources like wells, ponds and stone spouts. Waa or lentil pancake is a delicacy cooked in every household.



## June

- 09** **Bhoto Jatra**  
This is the final event of the month long Chariot Festival of Bungdya. On this day, before the chariot is dismantled and Bughdya idol is carried to Bungamati village, an event to display a lost and found vest, which is believed to be found by a farmer in his field in ancient times.  
*Jawalakhel Ground, Ward no: 4*

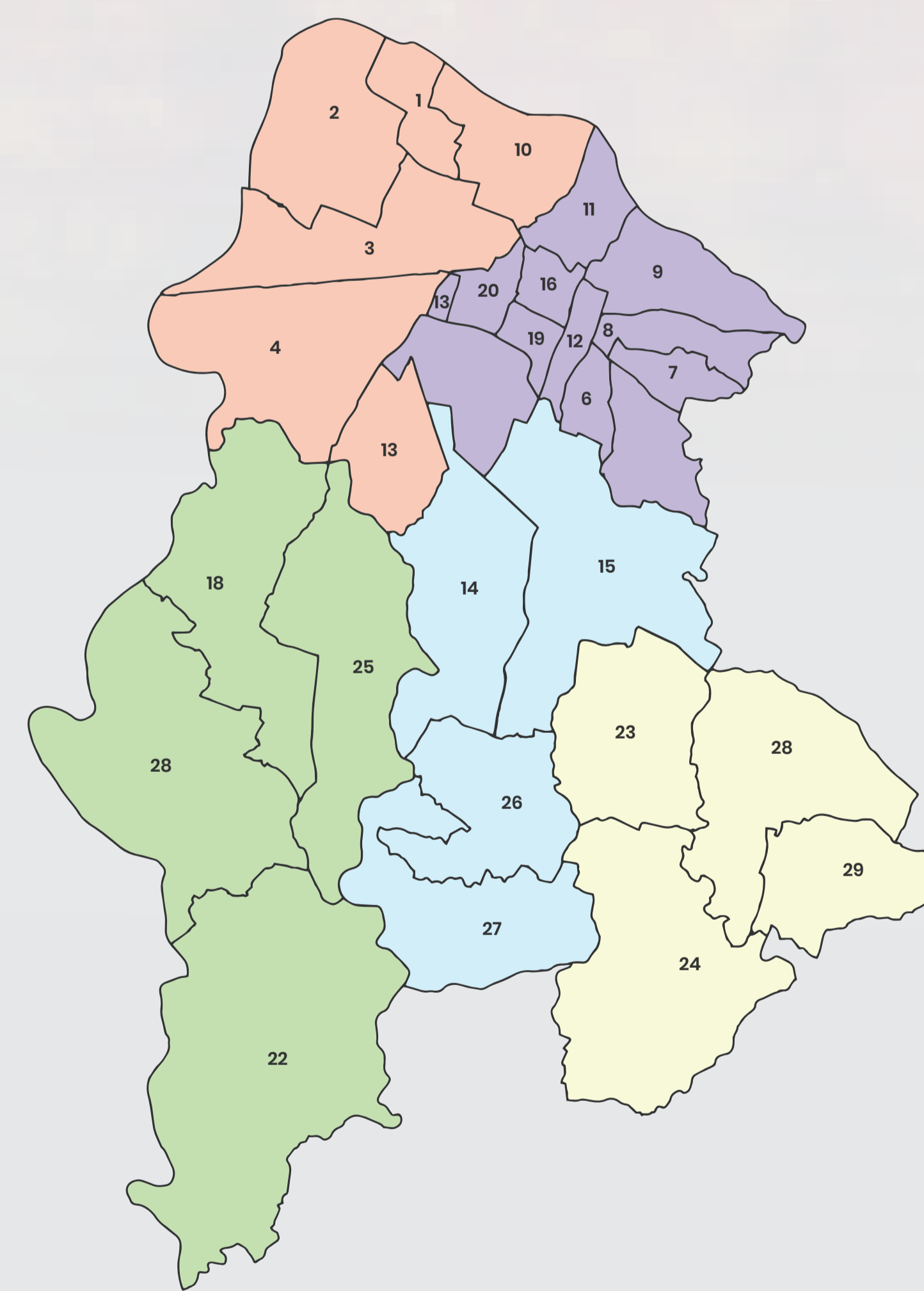
## October

- 17** **Sikali Jatra/Khokana Jatra**  
Sikali Jatra or Khokana Jatra is celebrated during the first five days of the Mohani Festival (Dashain festival) in Khokana.  
*Khokana, Lalitpur, Ward no: 21*
- 17** **Nalawanegu Din or Ghatastha-pana**  
It marks the beginning of Mohani (or Dashain in Nepal), the biggest festival of Nepa, celebrated by Hindus and Buddhists. People initiate a kalash, (holy water vessel) symbolizing Goddess Durga and plant Nalawo (or Jamara) in the prayer (poopa) room.
- 23** **Phoolpati**  
Fifth day of Mohani is celebrated in Phoolpati by bringing a vessel with flowers all the way from Gorkha to Kathmandu Valley.
- 8,24** **Ashtami**  
The eighth day of Vijayadashami is called Maha Ashtami. Durga Bhawani and Kali Mata (different names and incarnations) are worshipped with very high dedication. People sacrifice animals to Goddesses.
- 9,25** **Mahanavami**  
Ninety day of mohani is marked by worshipping Durga or Taleju Bhawani. At Patan Durbar Square, Taleju Temple, sacrificial rituals of 21 buffaloes are offered at the early morning of Mahanavami. At Subahal, there is a special early morning ritual where people believe that human sacrifices used to be made in ancient times on Mahanavami.
- 25** **Aju/Aji Manakamana Jatra**  
Bungamati is also the home abode of Goddess Manakamana. Bungamati observes Manakamana Jatra as the main festival of Bungamati during Navami, Dashami and Ekadashami of Dashain festival.  
*Bungamati, Lalitpur, Ward no: 22*
- 25** **Payaa Piha Woigu (Khadga Jatra)**  
It is celebrated by the Newari Community. The Paya is regarded as a victory procession, celebrating the triumph of good over evil following the legend of the victory of Goddess Durga over Mahishasura, the demon.
- 26** **Vijaya Dashami**  
It marks the 10th day of Mohani festival, where the elder of the family offers the jamara, which grows to decent size along with tika (rice grains mixed with crimson powder) is offered to his/her descendents and the relatives.



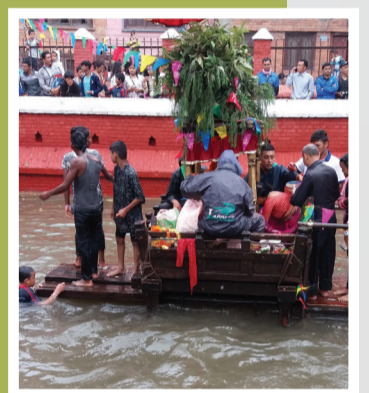
## July

- 19** **Gathamuga Cahre (also Ghanta Karna)**  
This celebration commemorates the expulsion of a legendary evil spirit, Gathamuga or Ghantakarna (Bell-eared) who, as per myth, threatened the Kathmandu valley inhabitants. Crossroads will be seen with burning hay man who resembles Gathamuga.  
*Celebrated throughout the valley.*
- 25** **Naag Panchami**  
It is a festival to mark respect to serpents as the water guardians, and to ensure regular rainfall in the Kathmandu Valley.
- 25** **Nagdaha Mela (Nagpanchami)**  
A huge mela is organized at Nagdaha, believed to be the dwelling of Champak Naag, situated in Dhapakhel of Lalitpur. People worship serpent god by offering dubo (Bermuda grass), milk, paste of rice grains and red vermilion powder.  
*Ward no: 23*
- 28** **Pancha Daan**  
Pancha Daan is the festival of offering five types of alms, to remember and practise Buddha's dana shila two of the 6 moralities taught by Buddha. The Buddhists of Patan observe Pancha Daan by offering alms using the resources of family trust maintained for offering daana, to monks. Usually a Dipankara or Avalokiteshvara idol is preserved by Buddhist families as a symbol of this trust, which is displayed at the courtyards on this day.



## August

- 03** **Janai Purnima**  
Newars of Kathmandu Valley call this festival Gunhi Purni which means 9th full moon of the year. On this day, Brahmin priests tie yellow sacred threads around the wrists of the faithful or around the torso for a person coming from Brahmin or Chetri lineage. A soup made out of 9 different legumes is the delicacy prepared at every household.
- 04** **Gai Jatra**  
The festival of cows is one of the most popular festivals in Nepal. People with deceased family members parade cows in the memorial of the lost family member during the year. It is also common to see young boys decorated as cows taking part in the parade.
- 05** **Matya Jatra**  
Matya Jatra, literally the Festival of Light, is a typical Newar festival of Lalitpur. There is a custom that families with deceased members participate in a walk through every Buddhist stupas and other Hindu temples as a memorial. Light offered by many participants usually dressed in traditional dresses makes it spectacular and makes everyone realise that death is the ultimate truth.
- 11** **Krishna Janmastami**  
Krishna Janmastami marks the birth of Krishna. Thousands of devotees gather at the Shikara Style Krishna Mandir, believed to be made out of single boulder, in Patan Durbar Square on this day. Visits by the former royal family and head of the state to the Krishna Mandir makes this day special for Patan.
- 13** **Bhimsen Chariot Jatra**  
Nepalese Devotees carry a chariot of Lord Bhimsen during the Bhimsen jatra festival celebrated in Lalitpur. Deity Bhimsen is worshipped in belief of prosperity to business and wealth.  
*Mangalbazar, Lalitpur, Ward no: 18*
- 19** **Baayagu Khwa Swayegu Din (Father's Day)**  
Families rejoice when people bring gifts of delicious food and clothes to their fathers on this day. The day is more special for married women who share special bonding with their family. In the morning, people whose fathers have passed away flock to nearby temples or to offer alms in their mothers' memorial.
- 20** **Gunla**  
Gunla starts fifteen days before the full moon. During these auspicious thirty days the Buddhists devote themselves with great enthusiasm. It is Celebrated in the Newar community.
- 21** **Teej**  
Teej is the biggest festival for Hindu women in Nepal. Teej is traditionally dedicated to the Goddess Parvati, remembering her union with Lord Shiva. Hindu women keep a rigid fasting in for their husbands which is believed to give them long and healthy lives.
- 22** **Chatha**  
In Nepal, it is mostly celebrated by Newars. This festival is also known as Ganesh Chaturthi (celebrated in different ways in India). People worship the waxing moon on the 4th day after no moon.  
*Sunakothi, Lalitpur, Ward no: 26, 27*
- 23** **Rishi Panchami**  
Rishi Panchami, the last day of Teej festival celebrated by Hindu women is being marked across the country. On this day, women keep a fast after performing a body and soul cleansing ritual at a nearby river in the morning.



## September

- 01** **Indra Jatra**  
Indra Jatra is the celebration of God Indra, the god of rain and good harvest. It is celebrated for five days, but Samaya bajri is offered at specific places on specific days; starting from Ekachhen on 1st day to Purnachandi on 5th day.
- 05** **Purnachandi Bhuja Jatra**  
This festival is marked for a spectacular display of 12 heaps of decorated rice, as an offering to the Purnachandi temple near Gabahal. The heap is decorated with 84 traditional Newa dishes. The offering is believed to protect Patan from lightning.  
*Ward no: 20*

## November

- 13** **Ko Puja (Kaag Tihar)**  
It marks the first day of Sunti (Tihar or Festival of Light). People worship crows by offering them sweets and other alms for they believe crows are the messengers of death.
- 14** **Khicha Puja (Kukur Tihar)**  
It marks the second day of Tihar. People worship dogs by offering them good food and other alms for they believe that dogs show their way to heaven upon their deaths.
- 14** **Laxmi Puja**  
It is celebrated on the third day of Sunti and one of the most important days of Sunti. On this day, people worship Laxmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity. In the morning cows are offered special alms as people resemble cows as Goddess Laxmi herself.
- 15** **Mha Puja**  
Fourth day of Sunti (or Tihar) or Mha Puja is also celebrated as a new year for Nepal Sambat or Newar Calendar. On this day, people worship their own body in a family ritual, after cleansing their body, where they offer themselves a puja and treat themselves with Newar feast.  
*It is celebrated throughout the country.*
- 16** **Kija Puja**  
Last day of Sunti. It is the day where sisters meet their brothers and offer a ritual to wish long and good lives to their brothers. Brothers offer gifts to their sisters in return to show their affection.  
*It is celebrated throughout the country.*



## December

- 30** **Yomari Punhi**  
Yomari Punhi is a Newari festival marking the end of the rice harvest. People of the Kathmandu Valley worship Annapurna, the Goddess of Grains, for the rice harvest on this full moon day. A delicacy it is celebrated as a jatra at Harisiddhi, Lalitpur, Ward no: 28 and 29.  
*It is celebrated as a jatra at Harisiddhi, Lalitpur, Ward no: 28 and 29.*

