

## Who Will Become Ganpati?: A Youthful Plea for the Planet

Pune, Maharashtra | 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2025



As part of the Roots and Shoots Programme, S.B. Patil Public School organised a Marathi street play titled *Who Will Become Ganpati?* on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. Coordinated by Ms. Trupti Zarkar, the performance featured fifteen students from Grade VIII under the guidance of Ms. Manjusha Nathe and Ms. Rucha Dandwate.

The play aimed to raise awareness about the environmental impact of Ganpati festival celebrations, drawing attention to issues such as excessive use of gulal and loud DJ music, improper immersion of idols, dumping of plastic waste into water bodies, the widespread use of plaster of Paris idols, and the damage caused to idols during visarjan. Through these depictions, the students highlighted the irresponsible practices that often accompany the festival, urging the community to adopt more eco-friendly and respectful approaches.



The participating students included Dhwanee Charate, Mokshada Sawant, Ayushi Brahmanekar, Avani Futane, Anvee Hulle, Arya Khumawat, Aradhy Bajad, Aarush Wankhede, Iresh Joshi, Rishaan Aroea, Sai Singhade, Nahush, Prachit Khairnar, Shreyas Nelkar, and Samyak Borkar.

The story unfolds with Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati searching for their son, Ganesha, who has descended to Earth for the final day of Visarjan. As the narrative progresses, various forms of Ganpati appear, each voicing the struggles and disrespect they endure during immersion rituals. Saddened by the environmental damage and mistreatment, they express reluctance to return to Earth in the future.



The play culminates with the arrival of Mahaganpati, who reminds everyone that while humans may err, they are equally capable of learning and changing. He calls for compassion, responsibility, and mindful celebration, urging people to uphold tradition without harming nature.

Performed entirely in Marathi, the play skillfully balanced cultural reverence with a powerful environmental message. By reimagining the Ganpati festival through the lens of sustainability, the students encouraged the community to celebrate with greater awareness and respect for the natural world, ensuring that traditions endure without compromising the planet.

