

Darshna
weds
Sachin



1st November 2013



The Hindu Wedding Ceremony



The Hindu wedding ceremony is based on traditions and rituals originating in the “Vedas” (large body of texts originating in ancient India).

This sacred Vedic ceremony unites two people so firmly that after marriage they become one. The wedding takes place in a Mandap (four-pillared alter). The four-pillared structure is said to represent the four Vedas as well as the four goals of a fulfilled Hindu life (Dharma, Artha, Karma, Moksha).

The symbolism of the mandap goes further with each pillar being understood to represent each parent of the couple.

Ponkhwanu

The marriage celebration commences with the arrival of Sachin with his family and friends, in a procession called the Baraat. Darshna's mother will welcome Sachin, and gives him her blessings. Sachin is then escorted under the mandap.

Darshna's parents perform a brief welcoming ceremony which includes spiritual purification of the body.

Kanya Aagman

Darshna will then be escorted to the mandap by her father and brother. She is seated behind a white curtain, a symbol of traditional barriers. Darshna's parents give blessings to God and the curtain is removed. Darshna & Sachin will then exchange Haars (garlands), signifying the union.

Ganesh Puja

The wedding ceremony begins with the worship of Lord Ganesha, the remover of all obstacles.

Kanya Daan

The ceremony proceeds with the kanyadaan; the giving away of the bride by her parents.

Ganthibandhan: The priest ties the wedding knot as a symbol of the permanent union between Darshna & Sachin

Varmala: An auspicious cotton cord (the varmala) is placed around the couple's shoulders. This symbolises their spiritual bond.

Hasta Melap

Darshna's right hand is placed on top of Sachin's, while sacred verses are recited. This signifies giving the bride's hand in marriage to the groom. Darshna's parents give their blessings.



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Agni Sthaapa

The sacred fire (representing Agni, the God of fire) is lit to symbolise purity and acts as a divine witness to the union. Darshna & Sachin jointly offer clarified butter, rice and sandalwood to the fire, to signify the spirit of sacrifice and partnership.

Mangal Phera

Darshna & Sachin will circle the fire four times. The four 'pheras' symbolise the goals of married life: Dharma (Righteousness), Artha (Honest living), Karma (Fulfilling the ethos of life) & Moksha (the road to heaven).

Sapta Padi

Sachin holds Darshna's hand as she touches seven betel nuts with her right toe. Each of the seven steps is a unique symbol and promise to one another:

- ♥ May we acquire energy to share in the responsibilities of married life
- ♥ May we will fill our hearts with strength and courage to accomplish all the needs of our life
- ♥ May we prosper and share our worldly goods and work for the prosperity of our family
- ♥ May we cherish each other in sickness and in health; in happiness and in sorrow
- ♥ May we be blessed with strong and virtuous children
- ♥ May we fill our hearts with great joy, peace, happiness, and spiritual values
- ♥ May we be together as one, loyal and the best of friends

Kansaar

Darshna & Sachin feed each other four times with something sweet. This is to symbolise their first meal together as a married couple.

Sindoor Daan & Mangalsutra

Sachin offers a sacred necklace made of black beads (mangal sutra) to Darshna and places Sindoor (a red powder) on her forehead. Both signify the mark of a married woman and symbolises his love, integrity and devotion towards her.

Akhand Subhagyavati

The mothers of the Bride and Groom and close female relatives will whisper blessings to Darshna and sprinkle grains of rice over the couple, as a blessing.

Aashirwaad

The wedding rituals are now complete and Darshna & Sachin seek blessings from the Priest Hemandrabhai Purohit, after which they depart from the mandap as husband and wife.



**We would like to thank our family and
friends from near and far, for joining us in
celebrating our special day.**

**We thank you from the bottom of our hearts,
for your presence, support and blessings
today and through out our lives.**

**Lots of Love,
Darshna & Sachin**



परस्परपार्हो जीवानाम्