

Welcome to our

TELUGU-GUJARATI WEDDING



PRE-WEDDING

Preparing the Couple



Gujarati Ritual

Randal Mataji Ceremony

Inviting the Mother Goddess

The ceremony is performed to give blessings to the home and bring happiness upon the bride. The ritual involves preparing the Mataji's Mudh (Altar) and performing a Pooja to invite Randal Mataji. The ceremony also includes washing the feet of married women (Goyni) who represent the Goddess.



Gujarati Ritual

Lagna Lakhvanu

The Formal Announcement

This is an essential part of traditional Gujarati weddings, symbolizing the formal announcement of the marriage with grandeur. A written inscription by the pandit and senior family members – the lagan lekhan, is created to represent the cultural richness and heritage of the wedding. The first wedding invite is offered to God, and one invite is personally delivered to the groom's family by the bride's brothers.



Telugu Ritual

PELLI KODUKU & MEHANDI

A Traditional Glow-Up

The Pelli Koduku and Mehendi ceremony prepares the groom with a ritual of cleansing and radiance. Relatives apply **Nalugu**, a paste of turmeric, flour, and oils, followed by a **Mangala Snanam** (holy shower). This leaves his skin glowing and symbolizes spiritual purification before the sacred union.



Gujarati Ritual

Pithi & Mehndi

Glow, Love, and Prosperity

The Pithi is a delightful event where a paste of turmeric, sandalwood, and rosewater is applied to the bride's skin to enhance her beauty and bless her with a glow. This is followed by the Mehndi ceremony, where intricate henna designs are applied to the bride, symbolizing love and prosperity.



Naisargi Vaghela

Telugu Ritual

SNĀTAKAM & KASHI YATRA

The Groom's Commencement

The **Snātakam** ritual marks the groom's readiness for marriage, signifying the completion of his education.

The **Kashi Yatra** is a lighthearted tradition where the groom playfully pretends to renounce worldly life. The bride's brother then stops him and persuades him to accept the responsibility of family life.



Gujarati Ritual

Mandap Mahurat and Ganesh Puja

Building the Sacred Space

This ceremony is held at the wedding venue to mark the auspicious moment when the wedding mandap (canopy), where the vows will be exchanged, is constructed. A Ganesh Puja is performed to seek Lord Ganesha's blessings, as he is the remover of obstacles.



Gujarati Ritual

Mameru

The Maternal Blessing

This ritual involves the bride's maternal uncle (mama) and his family presenting her with gifts. This is a significant gesture of love and support from the maternal side of the family.



Telugu Ritual

EDURU

SANNAHAM

A Warm Welcome

The groom is officially greeted and invited to the wedding by the bride's parents with the mangala aarati to ward off the evil eye. The groom and his family are offered refreshments as he is escorted and welcomed at the marriage mandapam.



THE MAIN CEREMONY

The Grand Union



Gujarati Ritual

Varghodo (Baraat)

The Groom's Procession

The Varghodo is the groom's grand and festive procession to the wedding venue. Traditionally, the groom rides a beautifully decorated horse or elephant, accompanied by his family and friends, known as the Baraat. The procession is marked by loud music, drumming, and dancing, showcasing the groom's joyous journey to marry the bride.



Gujarati Ritual

Var Bedu

The Sister's Welcome

The bride's sister welcomes the groom upon his arrival while carrying a kalash and coconut combo. It is playfully said the groom places money in the Kalash (pot) before he is allowed to enter.



Gujarati Ritual

Pokhvanu

The Fun Icebreaker

A popular ritual where the bride's mother welcomes the groom. After an initial aarti, she playfully pulls his nose. This creates a fun icebreaker as the groomsmen try to protect the groom's nose.



Gujarati Ritual

Bridal Entry

The Floral Canopy

The Phoolon ki Chadar (Floral Canopy) is a beautiful tradition for the bridal entry. The bride enters the wedding venue underneath a decorative canopy made of flowers, typically held by her brothers, maternal uncles, or other close male relatives, symbolizing the family's protection and blessings as she steps into her new life.



Photo Courtesy: Cam

Gujarati Ritual

Varmala

The Garland Exchange

The Varmala is the highly anticipated ceremony where the bride and groom exchange flower garlands. This symbolizes their mutual acceptance of each other as husband and wife. Often, this is a playful, joyful moment with family and friends teasing the couple before they finally exchange the garlands.



Telugu Ritual

GAURI POOJA

The Bride's Blessings

The bride performs Gowri Pooja, and in parallel, the Pravara ritual changes the bride's gotram (clan) from her paternal clan to that of the groom. Elderly couples from both families must attend and witness this process.



Telugu Ritual

BRIDE'S ENTRY

The Grand Procession

The bride is escorted to the mandap by her maternal uncle and aunt, either in a Pallaku or walking with a canopy. They sit across from each other with a partition, the Terasala (curtain), placed between them to prevent them from looking at one another.



Telugu Ritual

TERASALA & KANYĀDĀNAM

The Sacred Handover

Kanyādānam is the noble act where the bride's parents formally hand over their daughter's responsibility to the groom. The parents wash the groom's feet, as he is revered as a personification of Lord Vishnu come to marry their daughter, Devi Lakshmi.



Telugu Ritual

MUHURTHAM: JĪLAKARRA-BELLAMU

The Unbreakable Union

At the official Muhūrtam, the dividing curtain is removed. The couple performs Jīlakarta-Bellamu by placing a paste of cumin seeds and jaggery on each other's head. This custom symbolizes that their married relationship is unbreakable and inseparable.



Telugu Ritual

MADHUPARAKAM & SUMANGALI

Purity and Strength

For the Madhuparakam ritual, the couple changes into new attire: the bride in a white sari with a red border, and the groom in a white dhoti with a red border. White symbolizes purity, and red represents strength. Ten married women (Sumangali) accompany the bride upon her second entry.



Telugu Ritual

MANGALSUTRA

DHARANA

A Three-Fold Promise

Mangalsutra Dharana signifies the complete union of the couple—physically, mentally, and spiritually. The groom ties the sacred Mangalasūtram (holy thread) around the bride's neck with three knots. These knots represent his acceptance of her in Thoughts, Speech, and Actions.



Telugu Ritual

TALAMBRALU

A Shower of Blessings

Talambralu is a joyous ritual where the bride and groom shower each other with sacred rice (a mixture of rice and turmeric). This symbolizes happiness, prosperity, and blessings for their new life.



Telugu Ritual

ARUNDHATI NAKSHTRAM

The Guiding Star

The couple is taken outside to be shown the stars Arundhati and Vasistha (Alcor and Mizar). These stars represent the perfect complementing couple. This ritual reminds the couple to be true, loyal, and lifelong companions to each other.



Telugu Ritual

SAPTAPADI (PHERE)

Seven Eternal Vows

Saptapadi is the culmination of the marriage. The couple takes seven steps together around the sacred fire (Homam) while taking vows to nourish each other, grow in strength, share joys and sorrows, care for their families, and remain lifelong friends.



POST-WEDDING

New Beginnings



Telugu Ritual

GRUHAPRAVESHAM

Welcoming Prosperity

Gruhapravesham is the bride's formal welcome into the groom's house by his family. She is asked to gently push a vessel of rice with her right leg as she steps in, with the scattered rice symbolizing the prosperity and abundance she brings with her.



SEE YOU THERE!

We look forward to celebrating with you

