



SHREEYA CHAUHAN

and

TARUN PATEL

19.10.2024

Tewin Bury Farm Hotel

*Thank you so much
for being here*

Welcome to the Hindu Wedding Ceremony of

Shreeya Chauhan to Tarun Patel

The marriage ceremony is consecrated in accordance with the Vedas, the sacred scriptures of the Hindus. Throughout the ceremony, the priest will recite Vedic verses in Sanskrit, the ancient Indian language. The marriage by Hindu culture is not just a union between the bride and groom, but a union between two families.

Var Aagamana (Welcoming the Groom)

Tarun arrives at the entrance of the wedding canopy (mandap), accompanied by family members and friends. Auspicious materials are carried along for good luck. His prospective mother-in-law performs a welcoming ceremony and will playfully try to grab his nose. This tradition reminds the groom that he has come rubbing his nose at their door, asking for their daughter's hand in marriage. The ceremony signifies an attempt to drive away evil spirits. Tarun then approaches the marriage altar.

Ganesh Puja (Prayer to Lord Ganesh)

All auspicious ceremonies begin with a prayer to Lord Ganesh, requesting him to remove any obstacles which may arise during the ceremony.

Kalash Puja and Punyaha Vachan (Prayer to Lord Varuna)

Kalash Puja is performed to Varuna, Lord of the Water, to purify the premises. The Kalash is a symbol of respect to Gods witnessing the wedding ceremony.

Var Puja (Paying Respect to the Groom)

With the priest presiding, Shreeya's parents pay respect to Tarun by washing his feet with milk and honey. At this time, Shreeya's family will try to steal Tarun's shoes. Traditionally the groom must leave the wedding with the same pair of shoes that he entered with. If his shoes are stolen, he must offer Shreeya's family money in order to get them back.

Mangalashtak (Request of Blessings)

The priest requests all the planets, Gods, and Goddesses to bless the couple with a happy and healthy married life.

Kanya Aagaman (Arrival of the Bride)

Shreeya is led by her brother and maternal uncle to the marriage altar. At this time an antarpata, or white cloth curtain, separates Shreeya and Tarun. The antarpata will be lowered and Tarun will see Shreeya for the first time.

Mala Arpan (Exchange of Garlands)

Shreeya and Tarun exchange flower garlands. This gesture symbolises the unification of their hearts.

Varmala (Garland)

A loop of white cotton wound 24 times, symbolising different characteristics and virtues of human life, is placed around the shoulders of Shreeya and Tarun. The threads bind the two together to fulfil their roles fully and sincerely.

Hasta Melap (Joining of Hands)

The priest joins the hands of both together while blessing upon them all good wishes for a happy and healthy married life; they are now married. The priest ties Shreeya's scarf to Tarun's scarf. This signifies that they have been tied to each other in body, mind, and soul for the rest of their lives.

Kanya Daan (Giving the Bride away)

Shreeya's father requests Tarun's family to accept his daughter into their family. The bond is tied between the two families for seven generations.

Laja Homa (Offerings to the Fire)

Shreeya's brothers give the couple rice, oats, and leaves to offer the fire. This signifies that the couple is willing to sacrifice all of their worldly possessions because there is not anything greater and more rewarding than receiving God's blessing.

Mangal Phera (Holy Steps around the Sacred Fire)

Shreeya and Tarun circle the sacred fire four times, signifying the four basic human goals of Dharma (virtue), Artha (wealth), Kama (family), and Moksha (enlightenment). The priest bestows blessings for a long, happy, and healthy marriage. As a fun tradition, at the end of the rounds Shreeya and Tarun will run to sit down. It is said that the one who takes a seat first will have the upper hand in the household.

Sapta Padi (Seven Vows)

Tarun helps Shreeya touch seven betel nuts on rice with her right toe while they recite each of the seven vows

1. We will respect each other.
2. We will care for each other.
3. We will be patient with each other.
4. We will be honest and faithful to each other.
5. We will be together in sorrow and happiness.
6. We will travel this journey of life with love and harmony.
7. We will keep our family happy, healthy, and strong.

Kansar Bhojan (First Meal Together)

The ceremony is culminated by the couple sharing their first meal together when each offers kansar (a sweet made from crushed wheat) to the other.

Sindoor and Mangalsutra (Sacred Necklace)

Tarun promises lifelong protection by offering a mangalsutra (sacred necklace) to Shreeya, and placing kumkum (red coloured powder) on the crown of her head. These two offerings signify the mark of a married women and serve as a symbol of Tarun's love, integrity, and devotion.

Aashirvaad (Blessings from the Elders)

Finally, before the newlywed couple leaves the marriage altar, the priest blesses the couple on behalf of the Gods and Goddesses with everlasting happiness. At this time the couple also receives blessings from family members and friends.

Vidai (Final Send off)

The day concludes with Shreeya leaving her family and joining Tarun as they begin a new life together. This departure is a very emotional moment for the bride and her family as it represents the bride's transition into a new family. A prayer to God culminates the ceremonial process, asking for love and happiness for the couple on what is The First Day of the Rest of Their Lives.

