

A CEREMONY COMPANION / ENGLISH EDITION

Gujarati Hindu wedding ceremony

Understand the moments.
Share their meaning.



This guide introduces selected rites in a priest-led Gujarati Hindu wedding. Your family's customs, wording and sequence may differ. Your program should follow the ceremony agreed with your officiant.

Use this companion to understand the ceremony, then choose and adapt the guest-program blocks. Complete the short guest handout with confirmed details for your own event.

This is a research and design prototype, not a ritual script or a product ready for sale. It contains original English explanations, not literal translations of mantras. Research references lead to the accompanying claim register.

01 / ARRIVING & BEGINNING

A welcome, then a shared focus.

The mandap is the ceremonial canopy or setting for the wedding rites. [R03]

Arrival and welcome

The groom's arrival and welcome bring the families together.

Confirm for your ceremony: The arrival customs, their names and any invitation for guests to join.

Research reference R05

Ganesh Puja

Prayers seek Ganesha's blessings for an auspicious beginning.

Confirm for your ceremony: The opening prayers, their order and participants.

Research reference R04

Kanya Aagman & Antarpat

The bride enters. An antarpat is a cloth that briefly separates the couple before it is lowered.

Confirm for your ceremony: The escort and whether the cloth is used. Do not call this the couple's first-ever sight of each other.

Research reference R06-R07

Jaimala / Flower garlands

The couple exchange flower garlands.

Confirm for your ceremony: Use your officiant's term. Similar names can refer to different objects: do not confuse floral garlands with a ceremonial cord.

Research reference R08

02 / JOINING & COMMITMENT

Related moments. Distinct meanings.

Kanyadaan

Kanyadaan is traditionally described as the bride's parents giving her in marriage. Its gendered framing deserves an honest explanation rather than being silently renamed as generic family blessings.

Confirm for your ceremony: Does your ceremony include it? What meaning and wording will your officiant use? Discuss any adaptation with the couple and officiant.

Research reference R10

Hasta Melap / Joining hands

The couple's hands are joined.

Confirm for your ceremony: Confirm the spelling, actions and explanation your officiant uses. This label should not automatically stand in for Kanyadaan or the tying of garments.

Research reference R09

Tying the garments

The couple's garments are tied together as a sign of their union.

Confirm for your ceremony: Confirm the name used locally, the person who ties the knot and its place in the ceremony.

Research reference R11

A useful program explains the actual action

Let the title and one clear sentence do the work. Put private decisions and unresolved questions in the host review sheet, then share only the final, confirmed version with guests.

Sample program wording is editable. Removing a section from the file is not an assertion that the religious rite may be omitted.

03 / FIRE, CIRCUITS & STEPS

Four rounds. Seven steps.

Havan / Sacred fire

Offerings are made into the sacred fire. In the religious explanation used here, the fire bears witness to the marriage commitments.

Confirm for your ceremony: The rite's name and meaning with the officiant; fire arrangements separately with the venue. This guide gives no setup or flame instructions.

Research reference R12-R13

Mangal Phera / Four circuits

In this example, the couple circle the sacred fire four times. One interpretation associates the rounds with dharma, artha, kama and moksha: duty, prosperity, love and desire, and spiritual liberation. These are brief explanatory glosses.

Confirm for your ceremony: The number and order of circuits, who leads, and whether this four-goals explanation matches your ceremony.

Research reference R14-R15

Saptapadi / Seven steps

Seven steps are accompanied by prayers or commitments for married life. This is distinct from the four circuits in the example here.

Confirm for your ceremony: The actual actions, objects, recitation and wording. Use a qualified translation if reproducing the vows; do not label modern promises as literal translations.

Research reference R16-R19

Why this page does not number the rites

BAPS's account places the seven steps before the circuits. The temple-hosted Gujarati couple's program puts the circuits first. Neither source decides your family's order. Keep these blocks separate and confirm the sequence. [R17-R18]

04 / OTHER RITES & GUEST QUESTIONS

Include what your guests will see.

The following are possible additional program entries, not requirements or an exhaustive inventory. Confirm each name, explanation and position before including it.

Laja Homa

Grain is offered into the sacred fire. Participants and placement in the sequence need confirmation. [R20]

Ashma Arohan

Stepping on a stone expresses firmness in facing life's difficulties. Confirm who performs it and the explanation used. [R21]

Sindoor & mangalsutra

These may appear as visible signs of marriage. Confirm whether either is included rather than assuming both. [R22]

Kansar

A sweet dish is shared as part of the celebration. Food and participants follow the family's custom. [R23]

Blessings & farewell

The couple receive blessings from family and elders. If a farewell (Vidaai) is included, describe what actually happens without assuming the couple's living arrangements. [R24-R26]

For guests

You are welcome to watch and listen. Follow the officiant's cue if invited to participate. Ask the hosts about this event's timing, clothing, footwear, seating, access, food and photography arrangements. There is no universal instruction sheet for these details. [R28-R29]

05 / MAKE THE GUIDE YOURS

A short confirmation before you share.

With your officiant

Confirm the selected rites and their order; spellings; participants; the circuit count and leadership; the distinction between steps and circuits; the explanations of Kanyadaan and marital symbols; and any wording presented as a translation.

With your hosts and venue

Confirm arrival and expected finish, location, travel, seating, step-free access, quiet space, footwear, photographs, food, dietary contact and a named person guests can approach.

In the editable program

Change the names and event details. Edit the descriptions, move blocks and untick unused ones. Save the edits file before closing the page. Preview the printout and check that the final order matches your officiant's version.

With an unfamiliar reader

Ask them to find arrival information, describe the difference between circuits and steps, and identify when participation is invited. Revise anything they cannot find or understand.

A compact glossary

Mandap: ceremonial canopy or setting. **Ganesh Puja:** prayers for an auspicious beginning.

Havan: a rite with offerings into the sacred fire. **Mangal Phera:** the circuits in this example.

Saptapadi: seven steps. These are orientation notes, not full religious definitions. [R03-R04, R12, R14, R16]

Read alongside this draft

The claim register documents 30 propositions, primary sources, applicability and unresolved issues. The independent accuracy challenge records conflicts and public reviewer candidates. Both are in the research folder beside this companion.

[BAPS: Hindu Rites & Rituals](#) · [Siddhivinaayak: Gujarati wedding program](#) · [Indian Priest: ceremony handout](#) · [NJ Bhagat Samaj: Bhakta Traditions](#) · [The Hindu Sacrament of Marriage](#). Checked 26 September 2026.

Scope excludes Gujarati Jain and other religious ceremonies, a full wedding planner, civil-law guidance and a Gujarati translation. Human officiant/cultural review and real customer trials remain pending.