# Akhil & Smiti

June 4th, 2022

## A Guide to the Ceremony

## 1. SWAGATAM

The Bride's father welcomes the Groom's father and family.



## 2. DWARCHAR

Bride's mother welcomes the Groom and takes him to the mandap.



## 3. GANESH PUJA

Prayer to Lord Ganesh
The ceremony begins with a prayer to Lord Ganesh
to remove all obstacles and ensure everything
proceeds smoothly for the Bride and Groom.

## 4. KANYA AGAMAN

Bride enters the mandap.



#### 5. JAI-MAALA

Bride and Groom exchange floral garlands signifying acceptance of each other as life long partners.



## 6. KANYA-DAAN

Bride's parents give their daughter to the groom. Groom accepts the Bride.



### 7. PANI GRAHAN/ HAST MILAP

Groom holds the Bride's right hand and accepts her as his wife.

## 8. HAVAN

God is worshiped through the recitation of Vedic versus while the scared fire is ablazed.



## 9. MANGAL PHERA

The couple walks 7 times around the fire symbolizing their path through life together.



## 10. SAPTAPADI

Seven Vows

The Bride and Groom take seven steps together. With each step, they make a vow to each other – for prosperity and nourishment, for strength, for wealth, for happiness and harmony, for children, for longevity and for companionship.





## 11. SINDOOR DAAN, MANGALSUTRA, & RING EXCHANGE

The Groom gives the Bride a necklace and places sindoor in her hair, as a symbol of his love, commitment and respect.



## 12. SURYA DARSHAN

The Bride and Groom look to the sun or polar stars, they get inspiration to stick to their values even in difficult times.





## 13. BLESSINGS

The priest declares the Bride and Groom as husband and wife and blesses the newlyweds with a happy and prosperous life together. The couple then seeks blessings from family and friends as the ceremony concludes.