

WELCOME TO THE WEDDING CEREMONY OF

PANKHUDY & AMAL

November 14th, 2021

Rancho Bernardo Inn

BARAAT

Groom's
Parade

Amal makes a grand entrance to the wedding. Accompanied by family and friends, his parade arrives singing and dancing to dhols (drums) and music. Watch for Amal's dance moves!

MILNI

Welcoming
the Groom

Pankhudy's family welcomes Amal's parade. Pankhudy's mother and sister-in-law perform rituals. Pankhudy's parents escort Amal to the mandap (wedding pavilion).

JOOTA CHORI

Shoe games!

As soon as the groom takes off his shoes to enter the Mandap, the bride's family begins scheming to steal them. If they are successful, it's going to cost the groom money to get them back.

GANESH PUJA

Prayer

We invoke Lord Ganesh, the God of peace, truth, family and happiness, to bless us with His protection and remove all obstacles.

KANYA AAGAMAN

Bride's
arrival

Pankhudy is escorted to the mandap by her brother and father.

JAI MALA

Garland
Exchange

Amal & Pankhudy exchange flower garlands to signify the unification of their hearts and a lifetime of commitment to each other.

#iyerwonthejainpot

**HAST MILAP
& GATH
BANDHAN**
Tying of Knot

Pankhudy's parents place her hand in Amal's hand, signifying their approval. The corners of Pankhudy and Amal's scarves are tied together to symbolize the union of two souls in matrimony.

AGNI PUJA
Calling Lord
Agni as
Witness

Agni, the sacred fire is lit symbolizing the illumination of mind, knowledge & happiness. The fire signifies the presence of the Creator & is considered the eternal 'witness of marriage'. The fire dispels darkness and ignorance from the couple's lives, leading them into a world of everlasting light and knowledge.

**MANGAL
PHERA**
Circling the
sacred fire

Amal and Pankhudy walk around the holy fire seven times. Each circle signifies their promise to attain the seven goals of life.

1. **Dharma** – Righteousness
2. **Artha** – Wealth and prosperity
3. **Kama** – Fulfillment of worldly desires and moral duties
4. **Moksha** – Spiritual Salvation
5. **Bhakti** – Devotion
6. **Gyan** – Knowledge
7. **Prem** – Mutual understanding & love

Amal leads the first four circles around the fire, Pankhudy leads the rest. At the end of each circle, the couple places their toe on a rock to symbolize that they will be strong and endure any hardship during their life together.

SAPTAPADI
Seven Steps

The couple takes seven steps together. Each step is a vow and promise they are making to each other.

**MANGAL
SUTRA,
SINDHOOR &
RING
EXCHANGE**

Symbols of
marriage

Amal places the Mangal Sutra (sacred necklace of marriage) around Pankhudy's neck, as a symbol of his love and commitment. Amal places Sindhoor along the parting line of Pankhudy's hair. The sindhoor and mangal sutra are traditional signs of a married woman.

The rituals conclude with an exchange of rings to symbolize their love, integrity & devotion to each other.

AASHIRWAD
Blessings

The priest prays for the blessings from the supreme lord for the well-being of the newlyweds and of those assembled.

Afterwards the couple seeks blessings from God, parents and elder relatives by touching their feet.

**PROUNCE-
MENT**

Pankhudy and Amal are legally and spiritually declared as one.

KANGNA

A fun game is played by the newlyweds to signify love and playfulness.

Stick around to find out who wins!