

WEDDING - A BTBG REFORMED PROCEDURE

WHY MARRIAGE

Marriage, a legally and socially sanctioned union between men and women, has been around for over 4,350 years. It originated in Mesopotamia and quickly became popular among ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans. People get married for various reasons, from sentimental reasons such as companionship and family building to practical considerations such as tax breaks, increased financial stability, and medical insurance.

RIPPLES TURNING INTO WAVES

It is time to acknowledge that while marriage remains a fundamental pillar of human relations, wedding activities and rituals need to change. The focus should be on the quality of the relationship and the values it represents rather than adhering to outdated traditions or indulging in extravagant ceremonies. The demands on finances, time, and reasoning during the week-long and endless rituals before and after the wedding day are unacceptable. These rituals, including mantras and hymns that are hardly understood, are being followed without any appreciation of their meaning and significance. It is time to recognise that these dead rituals are no longer relevant and must be left behind.

A ROADMAP FOR AN ALTERNATE JOURNEY

A wedding Protocol that is both straightforward and significant has been devised, adhering to the integrated philosophy of four eminent philosophers and social reformers: Lord Buddha, Gurudev Tagore, Netaji Bose, and Mahatma Gandhi (BTBG). The BTBG Protocol is impartial to the age, religion, sect, and financial status of the individuals involved in the union.

According to this Protocol, an ideal wedding under the BTBG scheme could be completed in less than 36 hours and may consist of the following sequence of steps:

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. It is advisable to consider cost-saving measures and avoid ostentatious displays of wealth when organising a wedding. To achieve this, it is recommended that a wedding venue be chosen from a range of commonplace locations such as hotels, convention centres, guesthouses, or private resorts that are mutually convenient for both parties. Additionally, it is suggested that the wedding cost be shared equally between the bride and groom parties to ensure fairness.
2. When choosing a location, it is essential to consider the availability of at least 50 rooms in the vicinity or within the venue, depending on the number of relatives and close friends attending. For instance, if the wedding is expected to have 20 close relatives and friends from each party in attendance, 80

people will require accommodation. In such a scenario, it is recommended that 40-45 rooms be reserved in the hotel to accommodate them for two nights.

DAY ONE:

- (a) Noon: Relatives and Friends should arrive at the venue and check in to their respective rooms by 2 PM.
- (b) 4 PM: MEHNDI CEREMONY. The mingling of Family members and close friends will be especially encouraged
- (c) The photo and video shoot of the engaged couple will take place separately.
- (d) 7 PM: Ice-breaker evening party for all relatives and close friends. The WBMC will also be present, and all relatives will be introduced to them through an information slide, family photographs and family trees.
- (e) The evening party Ice-breaker aims to encourage mingling between relatives from both sides of the family and to help everyone get to know each other. This will help bring the two families together as one strong family.
- (f) After the introduction, live ghazals and semi-classical dance will be presented.
- (g) The evening programme will conclude with a dinner for about 100 relatives and friends.
- (h) The Bride and Groom will spend the night with their families, not together.

DAY TWO:

- (a) 11 AM: HALDI CEREMONY: The Bride and groom are to be brought to a commonplace for the Haldi ceremony in the presence of their relatives.
- (b) 01 PM: Lunch
- (c) 4.30 PM: The other Invitees and dignitaries to start coming (Total say 300)
- (d) 06 PM: Actual Wedding (*See below for details*)
- (e) 7.30 PM: Reception-Dinner for Relatives (80) + Other Invitees (300)
- (f) 10 PM: All invitees except the Core relatives and close friends to leave the venue.
- (g) 11 PM: The FIRST Wedding night for the newly married couple starts.

DAY THREE:

- (a) 8 AM: Breakfast for relatives served
- (b) 10 AM: All the Relatives leave the Venue.

Details of ACTUAL WEDDING

Day 2, 5.55 PM	All dignitaries, invitees (300) and relatives (80) must take their identified seats in the large 500-seater Banquet Hall.
Dais Arrangement	On the dais, two transparent Pedestal-Podiums (fitted with stereo microphones) will be placed on either side of the dais. A little behind at the centre, between these two pedestals, will be a large rectangular Table with 6 chairs facing the audience. This table will later be used by the Bride, Groom and their parents to sign the Marriage Registration Forms
6 PM	The Bride, her parents and a small group of relatives will enter the hall and walk slowly and ceremoniously towards the left side of the elevated platform. The Bride and her parents will climb onto the platform while the relatives sit in the audience.
6.10 PM	The groom, his parents and a small group of relatives will enter the hall slowly and ceremoniously. They will move towards the right side of the elevated platform, where the groom and his parents will climb onto the platform. The rest of the relatives will be accommodated in the audience.
6.20 PM	The bride and groom will stand before the pedestal podiums, and their respective parents will stand by their side.
6.25 PM	The Groom will first read out the OATH OF MARRIAGE in front of guests.
6.35 PM	The Bride will read out the OATH OF MARRIAGE in front of guests.
6.45 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next part of the ceremony involves the Bride and the Groom exchanging garlands by placing them on each other's necks. Following this, the Bride and Groom will seek blessings from their respective parents and parents-in-law, standing behind them by touching their feet.
6.50 PM	The newly-wed couple and their parents will sit on chairs on one side of the oval-shaped table and sign the marriage registration papers amidst clapping by the audience. The four parents will also sign as witnesses.
7.00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the meantime, the two podiums will be quickly removed from the dais The couple will then stand at the center of the dais, ready to receive their guests. The top dignitaries, relatives, friends, and guests will approach the dais from one side to meet and congratulate the couple and exit from the other side. All invitees will then move towards the Dining Space. After receiving greetings from approximately 400 guests, the couple will descend from the dais and take the blessings of the senior family members from both sides. They will then leave for the dining hall.
All through 5:30 to 7:30 PM, the Shehnai of Bismillah Khan will play on the central audio system.	

Day 2, Wedding: Oath of Marriage

6.25 PM, The Groom takes the Oath

On this special day (date), I am thrilled to announce that I have officially accepted xxxxxx xxxxxx as my wife. This is a joyous day for both of us. Xxxxxx, who comes from (location and state), is an amazing person who has captured my heart with her unwavering love. We promise to nourish and be there for each other through thick and thin. This is the first step to start a journey together as partners for life.

Before I met my partner, I felt lonely and unfulfilled. But now that you are in my life, I feel complete and content. I no longer hesitate to fall asleep because I know you are here with me. We are committed to growing stronger together, physically, mentally, and spiritually. This is the second step we are taking together.

My love for my partner is like a river in full flood of passion and intensity. I have composed a beautiful necklace of songs in my heart, which I humbly offer you as a gift for wearing around your beautiful neck. We promise to preserve our wealth and prosperity and serve each other with happiness and harmony. This is the third and fourth step we are taking together.

Today, I am laying my love at your feet. Love is a universal force that brings joy, sorrow, and meaning to life. I vow to hold you tightly from this day forward, through any challenge that comes our way - for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and health. We promise to take care of each other and our future children. This is the fifth and sixth step we are taking together.

I will love and cherish my partner until death, without a doubt in my mind. We know that life's struggles are nothing compared to the strength of our bond, and any pain we face will subside with the power of our smiles. We promise to be true companions and friends for life. This is the seventh step we are taking together.

We seek blessings from our God, forefathers, senior family members, and all those present today for this beautiful union of our minds, bodies, and souls.

Location, Day/Month/Year

(Name & Signature of the Groom)

(Name & Signature of the Bride)

(N&S of M/Groom)

(N&S of F/Groom)

(N&S of M/Bride)

(N&S of F/Bride)

Seal and Signature of the Registering Authority

6.35 PM, The Bride Takes the Oath

On this special day (date), I am thrilled to announce that I have officially accepted xxxxxx xxxxxx, as my husband. This is a joyous day for both of us. Xxxxxx, who comes from (location and state), is an amazing person who has captured my heart with his unwavering love. We promise to nourish and be there for each other through thick and thin. This is the first step we take together to start a journey as partners for life.

Before I met my partner, I felt lonely and unfulfilled. But now that he is in my life, I feel complete and content. I no longer hesitate to fall asleep because I know he is here with me. We are committed to growing stronger together, physically, mentally, and spiritually. This is the second step we are taking together.

My love for my partner is like a river in the full flood of passion and intensity. I have composed a beautiful necklace of songs in my heart, which I humbly offer him as a gift to wear around his neck. We promise to preserve our wealth and prosperity and serve each other with happiness and harmony. This is the third and fourth step we are taking together.

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I will love and cherish my partner until death, without a doubt, in my mind. We know that life's struggles are nothing compared to the strength of our bond, and any pain we face will subside with the power of our smiles. We promise to be true companions and friends for life. This is the seventh step we are taking together.

We seek blessings from our God, forefathers, senior family members, and all those present today for this beautiful union of our minds, bodies, and souls.

Location, Day/Month/Year

(Name & Signature of the Groom)

(Name & Signature of the Bride)

(N&S of M/Groom) (N&S of F/Groom) (N&S of M/Bride) (N&S of F/Bride)

Seal and Signature of the Registering Authority