

November – December 2011

BENGALI - It is an eastern Indo-Aryan language with around 211 million speakers in Bangladesh, the Indian state of West Bengal and also in Malawi, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Singapore, the UAE, UK and USA.

अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ	ॠ	ए	ऐ	ओ	औ
a	ā	i	ī	u	ū	ṛ	ṝ	e	ai	o	au
[ɔ, ɒ]	[ɑ:]	[i, e]	[i]	[u, ɔ]	[u]	[r]	[e, æ]	[o]	[o]	[ow]	
क	का	कि	की	कु	कू	क्	के	कै	को	कौ	
ka	kā	ki	kī	ku	kū	ḱ	ke	kai	ko	kau	
ख	का	ख	का	ग	गा	घ	घा	ङ	ङा	ण	णा
ka	kā	kh	kha	ga	gā	gh	gha	ṅ	ṅa	ṇ	ṇa
च	चा	छ	छा	ज	जा	झ	झा	ञ	ञा	ण	णा
ca	chā	ch	cha	ja	jā	jh	jha	ña	ñā	ṇ	ṇa
ट	टा	ठ	ठा	ड	डा	ढ	ढा	ण	णा	ण	णा
ṭ	ṭa	ṭh	ṭhā	ḍ	ḍa	ḍh	ḍhā	ṇ	ṇa	ṇ	ṇa
त	ता	थ	था	द	दा	ध	धा	न	ना	ण	णा
ta	tā	th	thā	da	dā	dh	dha	na	nā	ṇ	ṇa
प	पा	फ	फा	ब	बा	भ	भा	म	मा	ण	णा
pa	pā	ph	phā	ba	bā	bh	bha	ma	mā	ṇ	ṇa
य	या	र	रा	ल	ला	व	वा	श	शा	ष	षा
ya	yā	ra	rā	la	lā	va	vā	śa	śā	ṣa	ṣā
श	शा	ष	षा	स	सा	ह	हा	य	या	र	रा
śa	śā	ṣa	ṣā	sa	sā	ha	hā	ya	yā	ra	rā
य	या	र	रा	ल	ला	व	वा	श	शा	ष	षा
ya	yā	ra	rā	la	lā	va	vā	śa	śā	ṣa	ṣā

वाशिंगटन में बसा एक भारतीय युवा नेट के माध्यम से सैकड़ों विदेशियों को हिन्दी सीखा रहा है

उच्च शिक्षा पाने के बाद जो युवा हिन्दी बोलना पसंद नहीं करते उन्हें अमेरिका की राजधानी वाशिंगटन में रहने वाले युवा सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियर आशुतोष अग्रवाल से मिलवाना चाहिए. हिन्दी भाषी युवाओं के लिए वो एक मिसाल है. सात समुन्दर पार रहकर आशुतोष इंटरनेट के माध्यम से सैकड़ों विदेशियों को और अनिवासी भारतीयों की अगली पीढ़ी को हिन्दी सीखा रहे हैं और वो भी बिना किसी अपेक्षा के. आम तौर पर हिन्दी भाषी लोग सूचना तकनीक से दूर भागते हैं और जो हिन्दी भाषी सूचना तकनीक के विशेषज्ञ हो जाते हैं वो हिन्दी से दूर भागते हैं मगर आशुतोष ने इन दोनों बातों को झुठला दिया है. वो सूचना तकनीक को हिन्दी से जोड़कर उसका उपयोग हिन्दी को बढ़ावा देने में कर रहे हैं. ये प्रतिभाशाली युवा वाशिंगटन में रहकर इंटरनेट के माध्यम से सैकड़ों अहिन्दी भाषी और हिन्दी भाषियों को हिन्दी सीखा रहा है. आशुतोष की हिन्दी की क्लास इंटरनेट पर लगती है. उन्होंने हिन्दी सीखाने के लिए चालीस से भी ज्यादा वीडियो बनाकर यू-ट्यूब पर डाल दिए हैं. हिन्दी यूनिवर्सिटी नाम के उनके इस यू-ट्यूब चैनल पर फिलहाल पूरे विश्व से आठ सौ से भी ज्यादा लोग हिन्दी सीख रहे हैं. वे हिन्दी प्रेमियों के आग्रह पर पूर्व निर्धारित समय पर हिन्दी सीखाने के लिए निःशुल्क वेबिनार भी आयोजित करते हैं. हिन्दी के प्रति भारत सरकार की अरुचि, हिन्दी के नाम पर चल रही संस्थाओं और संस्थानों की निष्क्रियता और अदूरदर्शिता तथा हिन्दी भाषियों की उदासीनता के बाद भी यदि हिन्दी आगे बढ़ रही है तो उसका श्रेय आशुतोष जैसे हिन्दी सेवियों को है जो बिना किसी अपेक्षा के, बिना प्रचार किए हिन्दी को बढ़ावा देने में जुटे हुए हैं. इसलिए आशुतोष अग्रवाल को सलाम करने का मन है. यदि आपके मन में भी यही भाव जगो तो कृपया उनके इस यू-ट्यूब चैनल पर जाकर उनका हौसला बढ़ाइये ताकि वो और अधिक ऊर्जा के साथ हिन्दी के विस्तार को एक नई दिशा दे सकें. (डॉ.) कविता वाचकनवी

ASA DI VAR - Asa Di Var is a collection of 24 pauris or stanzas written by Guru Nanak Dev ji (Sri Guru Granth Sahib, page 462-475). Some people argue that the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev ji wrote the first 9 together on one occasion and later wrote 15 more stanzas on a different occasion but Professor Sahib Singh and some of the foremost Sikh scholars believe that the whole Var was written at the same place as the Var itself proceeds in a definite uniformity. The whole Var was compiled by the 5th Guru, Guru Arjan Dev ji in 1604 AD. When Guru Arjan Dev ji was compiling the Holy Granth, he added a few Sloks of Guru Nanak and in some cases Guru Angad Dev ji, the second Guru of the Sikhs.

These Sloks are tied together in a way that they relate to the same theme as highlighted in the pauri. In its present form, the Asa Di Var contains a few more shabads recited by Guru Ram Das ji, the fourth Sikh Guru. The Asa Di Var kirtan is recited in the early morning hours in a very melodious way and style as mentioned by Guru Arjan Dev Ji.



DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD (December 3 1884- February 28 1963)



The first President of independent India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was also the President of the Constituent Assembly that drafted India's Constitution. He had participated actively in India's freedom movement. Born on December 3, 1884 in the remote hamlet of Ziradei in Bihar's Siwan district, his father was a renowned scholar of Persian and Sanskrit. He moved to Kolkata for his education. A brilliant student all throughout, he earned a Masters degree in Law, going on to complete a doctorate in law. He plunged headlong into the Swadeshi movement and was influenced tremendously by Mahatma Gandhi. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was arrested in 1930 for participating in the Salt Satyagraha. In January 1934, a devastating earthquake struck Bihar. Rajendra Prasad was in jail during this time, but was soon released. Upon his release, he devoted himself to the task of raising funds and providing succour to the people. He collected a large sum of money to provide relief to the affected people. He set up relief committees during the Quetta earthquake of 1935 too. He became the President of the Indian National Congress during the Bombay session in October 1934. He became the President once again when Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose resigned in 1939. He served as a Cabinet Minister for a brief period in the first government of independent India, before serving as the President of India for a period of 12 years from 1950 to 1962. The Bharat Ratna the highest civilian award was conferred on Dr Prasad in 1962 by the Government of India.

Sonia Gandhi An Extraordinary Life

Sonia Gandhi an Extraordinary Life, An Indian Destiny”, by Rani Singh, a London-based broadcast journalist who has worked with BBC television and radio for many years and published by Palgrave Macmillan, was launched at London. Rani Singh’s biography of Sonia Gandhi is an intimate, insightful and carefully researched portrait of an extraordinary woman. The book is foreworded by Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Former President of the Soviet Union. Sanskriti UK was represented by Dr. Arun Trivedi, Secretary & Trustee, in a well attended glittering function held on 3rd November, 2011 at Karma Yoga House, London.



KASAULI

Kasauli is a cantonment and small town with a moderate climate, located in Solan district in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. The cantonment was established by the British Raj in 1842 as a Colonial hill station, and lies at a height of 1,800 metres (5,900 ft).

The Central Research Institute (CRI), originally the Pasteur Institute of India, was established at Kasauli in 1904 under its first director Sir David Semple, as an institute working in the fields of immunology and virological research. The CRI works as a World Health Organization ‘Collaborating Centre’, and as an immuno-biological laboratory producing vaccines for measles and polio, and the DTP group of vaccines. It also provides a Master of Science programme in Microbiology.

The Kasauli Brewery and distillery, founded in the 1820s before the establishment of the Kasauli cantonment, is said to be the oldest extant distillery for 'scotch whisky' in Asia. The Kasauli brewery is also known as Mohan Meakins. Amongst the educational institutions in or near Kasauli the Lawrence School Sanawar is an acknowledged name, The notables include Ruskin Bond; Anglo-Indian author, Andy Mulligan; Irish rugby international, were born at Kasauli



Nikah (Muslim Marriage Ceremony) Traditions & Culture :

ENGAGEMENT or Mangni does not qualify the future spouses to go out together, even if the parents consent. Man and woman become permissible for each other only after the performance of Nikah.

DOWRY

The unislamic system of demanding and accepting dowry must be avoided at all costs. Shariah does not make any expense incumbent on the bride/bride's parents. Even the marriage expenses, it is recommended are to be borne by the bridegroom. However, the bride can bring whatever she wants of her free will, and it will always belong to her.

HARAAM ACTS

Some of the rituals in marriage ceremonies are absolutely haraam like the playing of music. It is also haram for ladies to go for mixed gatherings without proper hijab. Such things invite divine wrath and take away the blessings of this auspicious occasion. In the Islamic Law, marriage is an 'aqd, a contract. The components of this contract are as follows:

OTHER UNISLAMIC CUSTOMS

Many other unislamic customs have crept into the marriage ceremony of some Muslims. These customs are either borrowed from non-Muslim cultures or continue because they are established in past generations. One must avoid them if they are against the Shariah, even if some people are displeased. Other customs like the breaking of coconut etc. also do not feature among the Islamic rituals. All actions, customs etc. which show disrespect to Islam or weaken the importance of Islam have to be avoided.

a. PROPOSAL

In Islam the process of proposal by a man to a woman for her hand in marriage, or for that matter, to her family, is encouraged. Islam considers this natural, and recommends it as an act of respectability and dignity for women.

b. MAHR

And the intending husband is asked to offer a Mahr to the bride. The Quran says, And give women their Mahr as a free gift, but if they of themselves be pleased to give up to you a portion of it, then eat it with enjoyment and with wholesome result.

The following points are worthy of consideration:

- Mahr must be agreed upon by the marrying partners themselves, not by parents.
- Mahr is her right, to which her husband remains indebted.
- It is a free gift and not her price.

The Mahr may be cash, kind or non-material (like training or teaching something). It can be paid up front or can be in form of promise to pay upon demands decided prior to the solemnization of marriage.3 Moajjal (immediate), Muwajjal and Indat-talab (on demand).

However, it is much recommended to pay it before or at the time of Nikah itself.

c. THE NIKAH CEREMONY

According to Shariah, the wife-to-be says, 'An Kah'tu nafsaka a'lal mah'ril ma'loom'
"I have given away myself in Nikah to you, on the agreed Mahr."

Immediately, the man (bridegroom) says, 'Qabiltun Nikaha'.

"I have accepted the Nikah."

With these pronouncements, they become husband and wife.

If the marrying partners are not able to recite the formula in Arabic, one or two persons or priests are appointed and authorized to officiate. One who represents the bride would first seek her explicit consent to officiate on her behalf, and so would the other who acts on behalf of the groom. Naturally, there would be a slight variation in the pronouncements, because the persons reciting them are appointees. A person who represents the bride would initiate by saying, "Ankah'tu muwakkilati muwakkilaka a'lal mah'ril ma'loom."

"I give away in Nikah the woman who has thus appointed and authorized me, to the man who has authorized you, on an agreed Mahr."

The groom's representative would respond, "Qabiltunnikaaha limuwakkili a'lal mah'ril ma'loom."

"I accept the Nikah on behalf of the one who has appointed me, on the agreed Mahr."

It is mustahab to recite a brief discourse or Khutba before the Nikah formula is enunciated. In this Khutba, Allah is praised for His Wisdom in regulating the lawful process of procreation, and then the traditions from the Prophet (s.a.) are also recited.

d. TIME OF MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Though basically marriage is allowed at all times, there are some days on which marriage is not recommended; some of these are based on ahadith and some on cultural, historical reasons. Generally, we can categorize these days into three: (a) There are some ahadith which say that it is makruh (not recommended) to have a marriage ceremony on the days when the moon is in the constellation of Scorpio (this is known as al-qamar fil aqrab or qamar dar aqrab), during the last two or three days of the lunar months, and on Wednesdays. (b) There are certain days of the Islamic calendar which have become associated with the early events of the Islamic history; for example, the 10th of Muharram is the day of mourning for the massacre at Karbala or the day of the Prophet's death in Safar, etc. Since such days are commemorated by the Muslims as days of mourning, it is socially and, to some extent, religiously not recommended to have a marriage ceremony on such days.

The Shia Ithna Ashari (Twelver Shias), especially in India and Pakistan, rarely perform marriage ceremony between the 1st of Muharram and the 8th of Rabi al-Awwal as this period includes the mourning days of Muharram culminating in the martyrdom of Imam Askari (a.s.). The 9th Rabi al-Awwal is celebrated as Eid-e-Zahra. If there is a need, however, Nikah, can be performed at any time.

e. PERMISSION OF THE BRIDE-TO-BE/FATHER

The girl's consent is necessary and has to be taken by her representative, directly. In case of a virgin/spinster the father's or the grandfather's permission is also necessary. However if the permission is unreasonably withheld under some conditions or the girl has no father/paternal grandfather it is not necessary. However, a woman who is not a virgin, does not require any permission in case of remarriage.

f. VALIMA (DINNER)

Valima is highly recommended on the groom. The relatives, neighbours and friends must be invited for Valima. However, lavish spending is not advisable especially when the same money can be used effectively by the couple.





श्रीगुरु चरन सरोज रज निज मनु मुकुरु सुधारि ।
बरनऊँ रघुवर विमल जसु जो दायकु फल चारि ॥
बुद्धिहीन तनु जानिके सुमिरौँ पवनकुमार ।
बल बुद्धि विद्या देहु मोहिं हरहु कलेस विकार ॥

जय हनुमान ज्ञान गुन सागर । जय कपीस तिहुँ लोक उजागर ॥
राम दूत अतुलित बल धामा । अंजनिपुत्र पवनसुत नामा ॥
महावीर विक्रम बजरंगी । कुमति निवार सुमति के संगी ॥
कंचन बरन विराज सुबेसा । कानन कुंडल कुंचित केसा ॥
हाथ बज्र औ ध्वजा विराजै । काँधे मूँज जनेऊ साजै ॥
संकर सुवन केसरीनंदन । तेज प्रताप महा जग बंदन ॥
विद्यावान गुनी अति चातुर । राम काज करिवे को आतुर ॥
प्रभु चरित्र सुनिबे को रसिया । राम लखन सीता मन बसिया ॥
सूक्ष्म रूप धरि सियहिं दिखावा । बिकट रूप धरि लंक जरावा ॥
भीम रूप धरि असुर संहारे । रामचंद्र के काज सँवारे ॥
लाय सजीवन लखन जियाये । श्रीरघुवीर हरषि उर लाये ॥
रघुपति कीन्ही बहुत बड़ाई । तुम मम प्रिय भरतहि सम भाई ॥
सहस बदन तुम्हरो जस गावैं । अस कहि श्रीपति कंठ लगावैं ॥
सनकादिक ब्रह्मादि मुनीसा । नारद सारद सहित अहीसा ॥
जम कुबेर दिगपाल जहाँ ते । कवि कोविद कहि सके कहाँ ते ॥
तुम उपकार सुग्रीवहिं कीन्हा । राम मिलाय राज पद दीन्हा ॥



जय हनुमान ज्ञान गुन सागर । जय कपीस तिहुँ लोक उजागर ॥
राम दूत अतुलित बल धामा । अंजनिपुत्र पवनसुत नामा ॥
महावीर विक्रम बजरंगी । कुमति निवार सुमति के संगी ॥
कंचन बरन विराज सुबेसा । कानन कुंडल कुंचित केसा ॥
हाथ बज्र औ ध्वजा विराजै । काँधे मूँज जनेऊ साजै ॥
संकर सुवन केसरीनंदन । तेज प्रताप महा जग बंदन ॥
विद्यावान गुनी अति चातुर । राम काज करिवे को आतुर ॥
प्रभु चरित्र सुनिबे को रसिया । राम लखन सीता मन बसिया ॥
सूक्ष्म रूप धरि सियहिं दिखावा । बिकट रूप धरि लंक जरावा ॥
भीम रूप धरि असुर संहारे । रामचंद्र के काज सँवारे ॥
लाय सजीवन लखन जियाये । श्रीरघुवीर हरषि उर लाये ॥
रघुपति कीन्ही बहुत बड़ाई । तुम मम प्रिय भरतहि सम भाई ॥
सहस बदन तुम्हरो जस गावैं । अस कहि श्रीपति कंठ लगावैं ॥
सनकादिक ब्रह्मादि मुनीसा । नारद सारद सहित अहीसा ॥
जम कुबेर दिगपाल जहाँ ते । कवि कोविद कहि सके कहाँ ते ॥
तुम उपकार सुग्रीवहिं कीन्हा । राम मिलाय राज पद दीन्हा ॥

दोहा

पवनतनय संकट हरन मंगल मूरति रूप ।
राम लखन सीता सहित हृदय बसहु सुर भूप ॥

आरती

मंगल मूरती मारुत नंदन सकल अमंगल मूल निकंदन
पवनतनय संतन हितकारी हृदय विराजत अवध बिहारी
मातु पिता गुरु गणपति सारद शिव समेठ शंभू शुक नारद
चरन कमल विन्धौ सब काहु देहु रामपद नेहु निबाहु
जै जै जै हनुमान गोसाई कृपा करहु गुरु देव की नाई
बंधन राम लखन वैदेही यह तुलसी के परम सनेही ॥