

# **N.S.S. TRAINING COLLEGE CHANGANACHERRY**

## **HIMACHALI WEDDING: RITUALS AND CUSTOMS**

The Indian land is filled with customs and rituals for life. The most beautiful rituals and customs are observed in marriages. Especially, the Himachali marriage is filled with fun and cultural rituals which will make everybody curious. The marriage ceremony in Himachal is followed with some interesting and unique rites. There are different ceremonies to complete the marriage which makes it even more interesting and joyous.

The image shows a bride and groom in traditional Indian wedding attire. The groom is wearing a special headgear called 'Sehra' and is surrounded by family members. The bride is wearing a red dupatta and is also surrounded by family members. The background is slightly blurred, focusing on the couple and their immediate surroundings.

The initial step or ritual for a Himachali wedding is matchmaking. Haldi ceremony plays an important role in Indian weddings. The Haldi ceremony is held at both the bride and groom's respective houses. The relative apply "Haldi" to the bride and groom. In "Mama Swagat" ceremony, the mama and his family are welcomed to the groom's house with music, blessings and sweets. The groom wears a special headgear called "Sehra" for the wedding. At the point when the husband is dressed and prepared for the wedding, the spouses of the uncles tie the sehra to the uncles. For the "Saptapadi" ritual, red dupatta is tied to both the bride and groom's dresses into a knot. This knot symbolizes the lifetime marital bond of the bride and groom. The couple then makes seven rounds, known as 'Saat Pheras', around the holy fire. In the "Kanyadaan" ceremony the father of the bride officially gives his daughter away to the groom. "Vidaai" is the ceremony when the bride after her marriage leaves with her husband to start a new life together.