

Raksha Bandhan

Raksha Bandhan, or simply **Rakhi** is a <u>Hindu</u> festival, celebrated in many parts of the <u>Indian subcontinent</u>, notably <u>India</u> and <u>Nepal</u>.^IRaksha bandhan means "bond of protection". It is observed on the full moon day of the Hindu luni-solar calendar month of <u>Shravana</u>, which typically falls in Gregorian calendar month of August.

The festival celebrates the love and duty between brothers and sisters. It is also popularly used to celebrate any brother-sister type of relationship between men and women who may or may not be biologically related. On Raksha Bandhan, a sister ties a *rakhi* (sacred thread) on her brother's wrist with a prayer for his prosperity and happiness. This symbolizes the sister's love. The brother gives her a token gift and a promise to protect her.

Raksha Bandhan is primarily observed on the <u>Indian subcontinent</u>. It is also celebrated by some Jains and Sikhs, and by Hindu communities in other parts of the world. The festival is also observed by <u>Jains</u> as a religious festival, wherein Jain priests give threads to devotees. Raksha Bandhan has been an important tradition in the history of <u>Sikhism</u> as well, sometimes referred to as *Rakhardi* or *Rakhari*.

Description :

Raksha Bandhan as a religious festival focuses on performing the <u>aarti</u> and saying prayers prior to tying the rakhi. The prayers draw inspiration from the Hindu scriptures.

Significance :

Raksha Bandhan in <u>Sanskrit</u> literally means "the tie or knot of protection". The word Raksha means protection, while Bandhan is the verb to tie. It is an ancient Hindu festival that ritually celebrates the love and duty between brothers and their sisters. The sister performs a rakhi ceremony, then prays to express her love and her wish for the well being of her brother; in return, the brother ritually pledges to protect and take care of his sister under all circumstances. It is one of the several occasions in which family ties are affirmed in India.

The festival is also an occasion to celebrate brother-sister like family ties between cousins or distant family members, sometimes between biologically unrelated men and women. To many, the festival transcends biological family, brings together men and women across religions, diverse ethnic groups and ritually emphasizes harmony and love. It is observed in the Hindu calendar month of <u>Śrāvaṇa</u>, and typically falls in August every year.

Practices :

The festival is marked by the several rituals, which vary regionally within India. Typical rituals include:

Prepare for Raksha Bandhan':

Days or weeks before Raksha Bandhan, women shop for rakhi, the ceremonial thread to tie around her brother's (or brother-like friend's) wrist. Some women make their own rakhi. A rakhi may be a simple thread, woven and colorful, or may be intricate with amulets and decorations. Sometimes, a rakhi may be a fancy watch or men's wrist accessory in the form of bracelet or jewelry. Rakhi in the form of a colorful woven thread is most common. Typically the brother also shops rakhi gifts for his sister, ahead of Raksha Bandhan. The gift from the brother can be a simple thoughtful token of love, and may be more elaborate.

Rakhi ritual :

On the morning of Raksha Bandhan the brothers and sisters get together, often in nice dress in the presence of surviving parents, grandparents and other family members. If the sister and brother are geographically separated, the sister may mail the rakhi ahead of the Raksha Bandhan day, along with a greeting card or letter wishing her brother well. The ritual typically begins in front of a lighted lamp (*diya*) or candle, which signifies fire deity. The sister and brother face each other. The sister ties the rakhi on her brother's wrist.

Prayer, aarti, promise and food :

Once the rakhi has been tied, the sister says a prayer for the well being of her brother – good health, prosperity and happiness. This ritual sometimes involves an aarti, where a tray with lighted lamp or candle is ritually rotated around the brother's face, along with the prayer and well wishes.

The rituals of Raksha Bandhan (from top left): 1. Tie the rakhi, 2. *tilak* (prayer and promise), 3. She feeds him with her hands, 4. Hugs and gifts.

The prayer is a self composed note, or one of many published Rakhi poems and prose. One of the earliest examples of a Rakhi prayer is found in Book V, Chapter V of <u>Vishnu Purana</u>; it is the prayer that *Yasoda* says while tying a*Raksha Bandhan* amulet on Krishna's wrist. An abridged form of this prayer is:

May the lord of all beings protect you, May the one who creates, preserves and dissolves life protect thee,

May Govinda guard thy head; Kesava, thy neck; Vishnu, thy belly; the eternal Narayana, thy face, thine arms, thy mind, and faculties of sense;

May all negativity and fears, spirits malignant and unfriendly, flee thee; May Rishikesa keep you safe in the sky; and Mahidhara, upon earth.

After the prayer, the sister applies a <u>tilak</u> (tikka), a colorful mark on the forehead of the brother. After the <u>tilak</u>, the brother pledges to protect her and take care of his sister under all circumstances.

The sister then feeds the brother, with her hands, one or more bites of <u>sweets</u> (desserts), dry fruits and other seasonal delicacies.

Gifts and hugs :

The brother gives his sister(s) gifts such as cards, clothes, money or something thoughtful. The brother may also feed his sister, with his hands, one or more bites of sweets, dry fruits and other seasonal delicacies. They hug, and the larger family ritually congratulate the festive celebration of brother-sister love and protection.

The brothers wear the rakhi for the entire day, at school or work, as a reminder of their sisters and to mark the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

किसी के साथ रिश्ता बनाना हो तो उसके लिये समय निकालना पड़ता है, उस से प्यार करना पड़ता है तब जा कर कहीं एकरिश्ता बनता है

फिर हमने कैसे सोच लिया कि मंदिर गये घण्टी बजायी और प्रसाद लिया चलो भगवान से रिशता बन गया..

नहीं

उस से रिश्ता बनाना है तो उस परमात्मा के लिये समय निकालना पडेगा उसे याद करना पडेगा उस से प्यार करना पडेगा,तब जा के वो मिलेगा !!! Dinesh acharya

Krishna Janmashtami

Krishna Janmashtami (<u>Devanagari</u> कृष्ण जन्माष्टमी, <u>IAST</u>: Kṛṣṇa Janmāṣṭamī), also known simply as Janmashtami, is an annual <u>Hindu</u> festival that celebrates the birth of <u>Krishna</u>, the eighth <u>avatar</u> of <u>Vishnu</u>. It is observed according to Hindu luni-solar calendar, on the eighth day (<u>Ashtami</u>) of the <u>Krishna Paksha</u>(dark fortnight) in the month of <u>Bhadrapada</u>, which overlaps with August and September of the Gregorian calendar.

It is an important festival particularly to the <u>Vaishnavism</u> tradition of Hinduism. Dance-drama enactments of the life of Krishna according to the <u>Bhagavata Purana</u> (such as <u>Rasa lila</u> or Krishna Lila), devotional singing through the midnight when Krishna is believed to have been born, fasting (*upavasa*), a night vigil (*jagarana*), and a festival (mahotsava) on the following day are a part of the Janmashtami celebrations. It is celebrated particularly in <u>Mathura</u> and<u>Brindavan</u>, along with major Vaishnava communities found in Manipur, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and other regions.

Krishna Janmashtami is followed by the festival <u>Nandotsav</u>, which celebrates the occasion when <u>Nanda Baba</u> distributed gifts to the community in honour of the birth.

Significance :

<u>Krishna</u> was the son of <u>Devaki</u> and<u>Vasudeva</u> and his birthday is celebrated by Hindus as Janmashtami, particularly those of the <u>Vaishnavism</u> tradition as he is considered the eighth <u>avatar</u> of<u>Vishnu</u>. Janmashtami is celebrated when Krishna is believed to have been born according to Hindu tradition, which is in <u>Mathura</u>, at midnight on the eighth day of<u>Bhadrapada</u> month (overlaps with August and September in the Gregorian calendar).

Krishna was born in an era of chaos, persecution was rampant, freedoms were denied, evil was everywhere, and when there was a threat to his life by his uncle King Kansa. Immediately following the birth, his father <u>Vasudeva</u> took Krishna across Yamuna, to foster parents in <u>Gokul</u>, named <u>Nanda</u> and <u>Yashoda</u>. This legend is celebrated on Janmashtami by people keeping fast, singing devotional songs of love for Krishna, and keeping a vigil into the night. After Krishna's midnight hour birth, statues of baby Krishna are washed and clothed, then placed in a cradle. The devotees then break their fast, by sharing food and sweets. Women draw tiny foot prints outside their house doors and kitchen, walking towards their house, a symbolism for Krishna's journey into their homes.

Celebrations :

Hindus celebrate Janmashtami by fasting, singing, praying together, preparing and sharing special food, night vigils and visiting Krishna or Vishnu temples. Major Krishna temples organize recitation of *Bhagavata Purana* and *Bhagavad Gita*. Many communities organize dance-drama events called <u>Rasa Lila</u> or Krishna Lila. The tradition of Rasa Lila is particularly popular in Mathura region, in northeastern states of India such as Manipur and Assam, and in parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat. It is acted out by numerous teams of amateur artists, cheered on by their local communities, and these drama-dance plays begin a few days before each Janmashtami.

Thought for the day - Discovering Spirituality

Faith in spirituality enables us to trust ourselves. With trust we can let go of the past and have the courage to dare. To dare with courage gives us the confidence to know that we can achieve what we set out to achieve. If we begin with doubt then we have sown the seed of possible failure. Faith in spirituality always allows us to win. Every step of faith opens another chapter in our lives.

One night Sri Adi Shankaracharya,

the great Advaita master, was desperately searching for something on the street outside his small hut. When his pupil returned from his errand, he saw this and curiously asked the Master, "Aacharya, what are you looking for here on the street at this hour?"

Shankaracharya replied, "I lost my needle, I am looking for it."

The pupil joined him in the search, but after searching for a while, he asked, "Can you try and recollect where you might have dropped it?"

Shankaracharya said, "Of course, I remember. I dropped it near the bed in the hut."

The pupil, utterly astonished at the strange answer, said, acharya, you say you lost it inside the house, then why are we looking for it outside?"

Shankaracharya innocently replied, "There is no oil left in the lamp, so it is pitch dark inside the house. Hence I thought of searching for it outside, since there is enough street light here."

While holding back his laugh, the pupil said, "If you lost your needle inside the house, how could you even expect to find it outside?"

Shankaracharya simply smiled back at the pupil and the pupil got the message behind the acharya's puzzling act.

Isn't that what we do? We run to far away temples and walk up mountains to search for what we have lost inside ourselves. We are all seeking outside what we have lost inside us. Why? Just because it is pitch dark Inside.

Silly, aren't we?!

Light the lamp inside you and find your lost treasure right therein...reat Advaita master, was desperately searching for something on the street outside his small hut. When his pupil returned from his errand, he saw this and curiously asked the Master, "Aacharya, what are you looking for here on the street at this hour?"

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Light the lamp inside you and find your lost treasure right therein...



Poetry of the Month

Poetries: Cultural

Goodness in People Make Country Heavenly Abode

Jan. 1969

Sweet people make sweet land, Sweet work does sweet man, Sweet song sweet people sang, Sweet flowers make sweet garland.

Handsome he, who does handsome work, Handsome man from duty nev'r shrik, Handsome man contemplates sweet thought, Handsome man brings peace to all.

Sweet people make administration sweet, People in their administration nev'r weep, Sweet administration is therefore relief, From all worries distress, however, deep.

Good girls make sweet home, Flowery bees make honey comb, Good boys bring sweet family reputation, Good Society make sweet Nation.

Sweet author brings out sweet edition, Sweet man's life is sweet creation. Sweet heart is free from all his honest deed, It is free from guile, vanity and greed.

Good poetry gets passive acceptance, Good reference needs no nescience (ignorance) Good wine needs no bush, Good trait needs no push. Sweet lawyer uses sweet for his patient With selfless heart he deals sweet and efficient, He never allows patient to despair, From his due attention and due care.

Sweet man is not prejudice, His heart is husk free rice, His existence is free from pride, His sweet thinking is his sweet guide.

These sweet people are noble souls, They are single but equal to four, Goodness is their ethic code, Such people make country heavenly abode.





In Memory of Late Shri Parshotam Lal Bhagat Abbott & Late Smt Parvesh Bhagat Abbott

Community Special submission can be sent to the Mandir management by 25th of each month. We will endeavour to print in the newsletter FOC.

COMMUNITY SPECIAL

krishna Avanti Primary School, Croydon

Latest News

Reception Open Days

If your child is starting school in September 2017 in Reception class, please register your interest to attend our open event

http://www.avanti.org.uk/kapscroydon/index.php

Namaste All,

Kris

DSYM invites you to join for the August Monthly Meditation session which will take place at:

Vishwa Hindu Parishad Centre (VHP)

10 Thornton Row, Thornton Heath Surrey CR7 6JN on Sunday 6th August 2017

10.00am to 12.00pm

Look forward to seeing you all

Pushpa Bava (DSYM UK) http://www.dsym.co.uk/

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In Memory of Late	Shree Pa	arshotar	n Lal Bhac	gat Abbott & Late S	Smt Parve	∍sh Bhaợ	gat Abbott
	****					00000000	*****
			VIKRAMI SAM	VAT 2073/74			
PANCHAK BEGIN (12.59PM) PANCHAK END (10.15AM) EKADASHI PURNIMA VART PURNIMA LOHDI	पंषक आरंग पंषक समाप्त एसरदर्श पूर्विम मुख्धित	L.I: 01-01-2017 06-01-2017 08-01-2017 11-01-2017 12-01-2017 13-01-2017	ST OF FEST SUNDAY FRIDAY SUNDAY WEDNESDAY THURDAY FRIDAY	TIVALS - 2017 EKADASHI GURU PURNIMA PANCHAK BEGINS 5.33AM PANCHAK END 7.49PM SANKRANTI (SHARAWAN) EKADASHI	ক্ষেহাটা নুচ তুর্গিনা থবচ ভার্থন থবচ নাজনে নাজনি (খালা) ক্ষেহাটা	04-07-2017 08-07-2017 12-07-2017 16-07-2017 16-07-2017 19-07-2017	TUESDAY SATURDAY WEDNESDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY WEDNESDAY
SANKRANTI(MAGIIA) GANESH CHAUTH EKADASHI AMAVAS	संबद्धति (माथ) गणेवा चीप एबाद्धी अमावस	14-01-2017 15-01-2017 23-01-2017 27-01-2017	SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY FRIDAY	AMAVAS NAG PANCHAMI EKADASHI RAKSHA BANDHAN	अमात्रस न्हरा पाचम एसउद्दवी राष्ट्रार्थ्यन	23-07-2017 27-07-2017 03-08-2017 07-08-2017	SUNDAY THURSDAY THURSDAY MONDAY
PANCHAK BEGINS (5.24AM) TIL CHOUTH VASNT PANCHAMI	पंचह आरंग तील चीघ कात पंचर्म	29-01-2017 31-01-2017 01-02-2017	SUNDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY	PURNIMA CHANDRA GRAH 16.50 - 21.51 MOON GRAHAN PANCHAK BEGINS 11.45AM PANCHAK END 1.19AM	থুন্দিয়া থম্বচ প্রচলি থম্বচ বেয়ালে	07-08-2017 07-08-2017 07-08-1917 08-08-2017 13-08-2017	MONDAY MONDAY MONDAY TUESDAY SUNDAY
PANCHAK END 03.42 AM EKADASHI PURNIMA SANKRANTI (PHALGUN) EKADASHI	पंषक समाग्त एकाइसी पूर्विम संबाहि (फागून) एकाइसी	02-02-2017 07-02-2017 10-02-2017 12-02-2017 22-02-2017	THURSDAY TUESDAY FRIDAY SUNDAY WEDNESDAY	SHRI KRISHNA JANMASTMI SANKRANTI (BHADRAPAD) EKADASHI (Europe Only) AMAVAS KEVDA TEEJ	भी कृष्ण जन्माहमी संबर्धते (माइपर) एस्टर्ड्सी अधावस बेक्या तील		TUESDAY THURSDAY THURSDAY MONDAY THURSDAY
MAHA SHIVRATRI PANCHAK BEGINS 01.38 PM AMAVASH	म्म् दिवस्यवे पेषकः आर्थन अम्प्रका	24-02-2017 25-02-2017 26-02-2017	FRIDAY SATDAY SUNDAY	HARITALIKA TEEJ GANESH CHAUTH RISHI PANCHAMI	हरि तालिका तीज गलेहा चौध क्रमी पंथमी	24-08-2017 25-08-2017 26-08-2017	THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY
PANCHAK END 09.46 PM HOLASTAK BEGINS EKADASHI PURNIMA VRAT PURNIMA	पंषद समारत होतरदव आर्थन पृष्ठदेशी पूर्विमाजन पूर्विमा	01-03-2017 05-03-2017 08-03-2017 11-03-2017 12-03-2017	WEDNESDAY SUNDAY WEDNESDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY	EKADASHI (Europe Only) PANCHAK BEGINS 7.26PM PURNIMA VRAT PURNIMA SHARADHA PURNIMA SHARADHA BEGINS	एसअद्वती चेष्वरः आरम्भ पूर्णिमा बाहः पूर्णिमा बाहः आरम्भ	01-09-2017 04-09-2017 05-09-2017 06-09-2017 06-09-2017 06-09-2017	FRIDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY
HOLIKA DAHAN HOLI SANKRANTI (CHAITRA) EKADASHI PANCHAK BEGINS (11.27PM)	होतिका दहन होनी संबर्धते (चैव) एकाइसी पंचक आर्थन	12-03-2017 13-03-2017 14-03-2017 24-03-2017 24-03-2017	SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY FRIDAY FRIDAY	PANCHAK ENDS 7.12AM MAHA LAXMI VARAT EKADASHI SANKRANTI (AASIIVIN) SHARADHA ENDS	पंषद समाप्त महा त्वस्थी वत प्रध्राप्ती संवर्तात (आर्थान) बाह समाप्त	19-09-2017	SATURDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY SUNDAY TUEDAY
AMAWAS SAMIVAT BEGINS (2074) NAVRATRA BEGINS PANCHAK END (07.18AM)	अम्पावस समयत आर्टन नगराज आर्टन पंचक सम्प्राप्त	27-03-2017 28-03-2017 28-03-2017 29-03-2017	MONDAY TUESDAY TUESAY WEDNESDAY	AMAWAS (Europe Only) NAWRATRA BEGINS DURGARA ASHTMI NAVMI DASHAHARA	अमावस सवरावा अवर्थन दुधाहरा	19-09-2017 20-09-2017 28-09-2017 29-09-2017 30-09-2017	TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY
DURGA ASHTAMI SHRI RAM NAVMI EKADASHI ILANUMAN JAYANTI (EUROPE) PURNIMA SANKRANTI (VAISIIKHA) PANCHAK BEGINS 05.14 AM EKADASHI PANCHAK END 05.24 PM	दूर्ग अप्टमी भी एम नवनी प्रस्ट्सी स्ट्रामन जर्मती पूचिंग संबर्धित (वैद्याल) पंचड आरंग प्रबट्सी पंचड समाग्त	03-04-2017 04-04-2017 10-04-2017 10-04-2017 13-04-2017 21-04-2017 22-04-2017 25-04-2017	MONDAY TUESAY THURSDAY MONDAY MONDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY TUESDAY	EKADASHI PANCHAK BEGINS(4.21AM) SHARAD PURIMA PANCHAK ENDS (3.00PM) KARVACHAUTH AHOI ASHTMI EKADASHI SANKRANTI (KARTIK) DHANTRESH	प्सउदाडी पंचक अतमा शरद पूर्णमा पंचक सम्बाप्त बारवा स्वैभ अहोई अदामी प्सादडी संबाहि (बार्डिक) प्रमहोस्स	01-10-2017 02-10-2017 05-10-2017 06-10-2017 08-10-2017 12-10-2017 15-10-2017 17-10-2017 17-10-2017	SUNDAY MONDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SUNDAY THURSDAY TUESDAY TUESDAY TUESDAY
AMAWAS AKSHAY TRITIYA EKADASHI	अमाका अम्राय तृतीया एकादसी	26-04-2017 28-04-2017 06-05-2017	WEDNESDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY	DIWALI AMAWAS ANNKUT BHAI DHUJ PANCHAK BEGINS (12.28PM)	दिपालनी अमावस अझब्ह्र भाई दुज पंषड अर्जना	19-10-2017 19-10-2017 20-10-2017 21-10-2017 29-10-2017	THURSDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY
PURNIMA SANKRANTI (JYESTHA) PANCHAK BEGINS (5.41PM) EKADASHI PANCHAK END (03.53PM) AMAWAS	पूर्णिया संबद्धति (उचेपया) पंचवः आर्थभ एकाद्धी पंचकः सम्प्राप्त अम्पालस	10-05-2017 14-05-2017 18-05-2017 22-05-2017 23-05-2017 25-05-2017	WEDNESDAY SUNDAY THURSDAY MONDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY	EKADASHI PANCHAK END (11.58PM) PURNIMA (Europ Only) EKADASHI SANKRTIAN (MARGSHIRSH) AMAVAS PANCHAK BEGINS (08.31PM) GITA JAYANTI (Europe Only) EKADASHI (Europe Only)	प्रकारणी पंषद स्वयाप्त पूर्विक प्रज प्रकारणी संसति (प्रगांडरिए) अम्प्रक पंषद आर्थन पंषद आर्थन पंषद आर्थन	31-10-2017 02-11-2017 03-11-2017 14-11-2017 16-11-2017 18-11-2017 29-11-2017 29-11-2017 29-11-2017	TUESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY SATURDAY SATURDAY WEDNESDAY WEDNESDAY
EKADASHI (NIRJALA) VAT SAVITRI VARAT PURNIMA PANCHAK BEGINS 11.58 PM SANKRANTI (AASADH) PANCHAK END 12.55 PM EKADASHI AMAWAS	एसउद्दर्श भीजला चर स्वतिहे पूर्विमा पंचड आरंग संबर्धित (अल्बर) पंचड सामज एसउद्धी अम्पावस	04-06-2017 09-06-2017 14-06-2017 15-06-2017 19-06-2017 20-06-2017 23-06-2017	SUNDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY WEDNESIDAY THURSDAY MONDAY TUESDAY FRIDAY	PANCHAK END (10.42AM) PURNIMA VRAT PURNIMA EKADASHI SANKRANTI (PAUSH) AMAVAS PANCHAK BEGINS (2.58AM) PANCHAK END (8.06PM) EKADASHI	पेषस समाप्त पृषिंबायत पूर्णिया प्रकारमी संबदीन अवायस पेषस आर्थन पेषस समाप्त प्रकारमी	02-12-2017 03-12-2017 13-12-2017 13-12-2017 16-12-2017 18-12-2017 23-12-2017 29-12-2017	SATURDAY SUNDAY WEDNESDAY SATURDAY MONDAY SATURDAY WEDNESDAY FRIDAY

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In Memory of Late Shri Parshotam Lal Bhagat Abbott & Late Smt Parvesh Bhagat Abbott

SHREE VISHWA SANAATAN DHARMA VIVAH SERVICE (VSDMVS)

Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITAL letters and send it to the above address with

Please send SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED envelope.

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Applicant Details:

Title	: Mr / Miss / Mrs / Dr		Sex : Male Female
First Name			
i li st marrie			
Surname			
Marital Status			
Nationality			
Date of Birth			Height : ft in
Creation .	Vec Ne	Magatarían	Vec Ne
Smoker :	Yes No	Vegetarían	Yes No
Caste: (Optional)			
Qualifications			Occupation
Qualifications			Occupation

Declaration and Consent:

I understand and agree that the SHREE VISHWA SANAATAN DHARMA MANDIR VIVAH SERVICES and its Management will under no circumstances be held responsible legally or morally for the bonafide of either of the 'parties' concerned nor liable for any form of legal action.

I declare that the above particulars are correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed (applicant):	Date:		
Contact Name:	Tel No:		

Please inform us in writing as soon as your son/daughter is engaged / Married.

Raf No.

For Office Use Only:

Date	1	,
11270	/	1