

A dowry-free group wedding organized by Lok Samiti

May 2012

Lok Samiti again organized a dowry-free group wedding of 30 couples this year on the 10th of May at the Hanuman temple in Birbhanpur, Varanasi. Thousands of people attended the event and blessed the couples. The atmosphere was amazing. People danced, enjoyed each other's company, and were so happy. The satisfaction of having daughters married in a dowry free setting was plainly visible on the parents' faces. Popular Bhojpuri singer Anita Raj Ji entertained people by her singing and motivated them to raise their voice against the system of dowry and female feticide. Hundreds of village committee's president from nearby villages and people from other social organizations played the role of parents of the couples. The custom of Kanyadaan was played by Mr. Surendra Singh Patel (Sate Minister for Public Works and Irrigation, Uttar Pradesh Government) and Mrs. Prabha Singh Patel. Making a commitment to live with each other for an endless period the couples started their newly joint lives with simplicity and gentleness without excesses of modern weddings. After watching this noble event, a lot of participants decided to get their children married without dowry in future. A few foreign guests also participated in the wedding program.



The program of group wedding started when couples adorned each other with flower garlands and promised to live together for endless time. Then they went to the Hanuman temple to perform the rituals and got blessed from the God. Shri Surendra Patel, Sate Minister for Public Works and Irrigation, Uttar Pradesh Government, gifted a bicycle to each groom and his wife Smt. Prabha Devi gifted Beds, two Banarasi sarees, dishes and jewelries to all the brides. Mr. Munna Maurya from Sankat Mochan gifted a fan to each couple. Mr. Rakesh Tondon and Mr. Mukul Tondo from Art of Living Foundation gifted a Banarasi saree to all the brides. Mr. Mahendra Patel, Block President of Arazi Lines, gifted watches and Mr. Keshav Bhai Patel gifted clothes to all the grooms. Union Bank, Rajatabla Branch, gifted dishes to all of the coples. Food for almost 5000 people was arranged by Mr. Ashutosh Rai, Principal Shri Kastoora Gandhi School and Mr. Tej Bahadur Singh from Aadi Shakti Gramya Vikas Seva Samiti.



Mr. Nandlal Master, organizer of the program, said that workers of Lok Samiti had started preparing

for the event about a month before it took place by collecting donations. They had collected contributions worth Rs. 5,31,561.00 (Rs. Five hundred thirty one thousand and sixty one only) which included cash and other things like gifts etc... A donation of 400 Kgs of grains was also collected. All the participants appreciated the idea of group wedding and said that this kind of work for the poor people is very necessary. Mr. Surendra Singh Patel, Member of State Assembly, said that such program not only helps couples in need, but instills the ideas of dowry free weddings in the minds of others. More and more people should participate in the programs like this.



The couples were blessed by Block President Mr. Mahendra Singh Patel, Mr. G.K. Niyog, Mr. Munna Munna Murya, Mr. Sadanand, Mr. Yogesh Singh, Mr. Tejnath Patel, Mr. Santosh Giri, Dr. Omkar Patel, Dr. Satish, Mr. Keshav Bhai Patel, Mr. Ramprakash Master, Mr. Kanahiya Rajbhar, Mr. Kamla Yadav, Mr. Rajesh Pradhan, Mr. Narayan, Mr. Nagendra Kumar, Mr. Rajendra Patel, Mr. Gopal Yadav, Mr. Nandan Upadhyay, Mr. Abdul Hafiz Ansari, Miss Urmila, Mr. Rajesh, Mr. Shyamsundar, Mr. Suresh Rathore, Mr. Mahendra, Miss Asha, Miss Mamta, Miss Nazma, Miss Puja, Miss Chandrakala, Miss Mehrunisha, Miss Tanuja, Mrs Ranju Singh, Miss Poonam, Mr. Sashi, Mr. Ajay Singh, Mr. Sunil Rambachan, Miss Vidya, Mr. Ballabh Pandey, Mr. Amit, Mr. Panchmukhi, Mr. Vijay, Mr. Prakash, Mr. Doodhnath Pradhan, Mr. Sacchalal and all the village committee presidents and intellectuals of the society.

The program was managed by Mr. Nandlal Master and Mr. Arvind Patel. The guests were welcomed by Mr. Mukesh Patel, President of Nagepur village committee, and Mr. Mahendra Singh Patel.

Mr. Nandlal Master, President of Lok Samiti, thanks all the people who helped in organizing the event.

Serial No. The bride
The groom

1 Soni, D/o Mr. Mangru, Village- Seerkarahiya, BHU, Varanasi
Guddu, S/o Mr. Shyam Lal, Village Godhan, Mirzapur

2 Savitri, D/o Jhagdu Ram, Village- Mehdiganj, Varanasi
Dharmendra, S/o Shri Bhoguram Gajendra, Village-Babatpur, Varanasi

3 Soni, D/o Munnu, Village- Nagepur, Varanasi
Ramsevak, S/o Ramashankar, Village-Pahadia, Varanasi

4 Asha Kumari, D/o Shri Buddhu Ram, Village- Benipur, Varanasi
Vinod, S/o Shri Jamuna Village- Sakalpur, Varanasi

5 Dhanjira, D/o Bhonu, Village- Kallipur, Varanasi
Dharmendra, S/o Late Shri Beepat, Village- Varadeeh, Mirzapur

6 Rekha, D/o Shri Bhagelu, Village- Nagepur, Varanasi

Bablu, S/o Shri Baccche Lal, Village- Aktha, Sarnath, Varanasi

7 Chinta Devi, D/o Angnu, Village- Mehdiganj, Varanasi
Surendra, S/o Shri Bhola, Village- Firozpur, Mirzapur

8 Laxmina, D/o Shri Jaihind, Village- Kallipur, Varanasi
Manish, S/o Shri Mohan, Village- Chitko, Jaunpur

9 Geeta, D/o Shri Lalta Vanvasi, Village- Pachedada, Varanasi
Suraj, S/o Shri Raja, Village- Mehdiganj, Varanasi

10 Soni, D/o Shri Khanjhati, Village- Mehdiganj, Varanasi
Ramesh, S/o Shri Pardesi, Village- Anantpur, Varanasi

11 Manoj, D/o Shri Meethai, Village- Mehdiganj, Varanasi
Rajkumar, S/o Shri Nakhdu, Village- Akopur, Jaunpur

12 Suman, D/o Shri Muneeb Patel, Village- Kallipur, Varanasi
Munna Patel, S/o Shri Kanchan Patel, Village- Sarava, Kapsethi, Varanasi

13 Asha Devi, D/o Shri Daya Shankar, Village- Gaurdeeh, Mirzamurad, Varanasi
Dharmendra Kumar, S/o Chotel Lal, Village- Maheshpur, Varanasi

14 Kusum, D/o Shri Khanjhati, Village- Mirzamurad, Varanasi
Munna, S/o Shri Kali Charan, Village- Kamauli, Varanasi

15
Seekh Patel, D/o Shri Vanshraj, Village- Chitrasenpur, Varanasi
Ashok Kumar, S/o Shri Allar, Village- Maniyapur, Rohania, Varanasi

16 Savitri Devi, D/o Munnu Rajbhar, Village- Nagepur, Varanasi
Manoj, S/o Late Shri Jogi, Village- Sursi, Chunar, Mirzapur

17 Raksha Devi, D/o Late Shri Babu Lal, Village- Beerbhanpur, Varanasi
Bablu Patel, S/o Shri Ram Kishun, Village- Dalhipur, Varanasi

18 Sundari, D/o Shri Prabhu Narayan, Village- Benipur, Varanasi
Ashok Kumar, S/o Shri Shivanand, Village- Chaukhandi, Varanasi

19 Savita, D/o Shri Banarasi Yadav, Village- Khalispur, Mirzamurad, Varanasi
Vinod, S/o Late Shri Rajkumar, Village- Bhjaipur, Bhadohi

20 Vibha Devi, D/o Shri Subhash, Village- Mahamalpur, Majhva, Mirzapur
Sattami, S/o Shri Munnu, Village- Vijaypur, Vindhyachal, Mirzapur

21 Usha Devi, D/o Shri Shyam Ji, Village- Pathkauli, Aurai, Bhadohi
Govind, S/o Shri Shyam Lal, Village- Baharvani, Chaura, Chandauli

22 Sonam, D/o Shri Sita Ram, Village- Vadipur, Mirzamurad, Varanasi
Satish, S/o Shri Bechan, Village- Madhauli, Bechanpur, Varanasi

23 Meera Devi, D/o Shri Kallu, Village- Mehdiganj, Varanasi
Lala, S/o Shri Kailash, Village- Babu Sarai, Mohanganj, Varanasi

24 Anita Vishwakarma, D/o Shri Ram Ji, Village- Ghamhapur, Gangapur, Varanasi
Pradeep Vishwakarma, S/o Shri Shreepat, Village- Parsipur, Bhadohi

25 Photo, D/o Shri Buddul, Varanasi

26 Geeta Devi, D/o Shri Dashrath, Village- Sattanpur, Raisipur, Jaunpur
Munnev, S/o Late Shri Meva, Village- Mehdiganj, Varanasi

27 Lalita Devi, D/o Shri Govind, Village- Bela, Varanasi
Brijesh, S/o Late Shri Shyamlal, Village- Sarainandan, Khojwan, Varanasi

28 Suman Pal, D/o Shri Govind, Village- Bandepur, Khushiyari, Varanasi
Ramesh Pal, S/o Shri Bhagvanta Pal, Village- Gudia, Thathra, Varanasi

29 Sushma Devi, D/o Shri Bihari Yadav, Village- Ahmadpur, Varanasi
Acchelal, S/o Shri Pappu Yadav, Village- Nigatpur, Mirzapur

30 Reena, D/o Shri Bindulal, Village- Bacchav, Varanasi
Neeraj, S/o Shri Sathu, Village- Narayan, Chandauli