

Om Sadguru Vedanta Deshika Charanaaravindaabhyaam Namaha
Mahalakshmi Padmavati Sameta Sri Venkateshwaraya Mangalam

SEEMANTAM

Seemantam is a Vedic Hindu ritual (samskaram) done for a pregnant wife by her husband. It means combing (or parting) and dressing her hair. Seemantam is usually performed in the latter part of the third trimester of the pregnancy. According to the Vedas, during this time, the unborn child will experience the vision of God and the sound vibrations of OM. Seemantam is intended to bring about prosperity to the mother and long life to the unborn child. Comparing her to full moon, combing and dressing her hair are meant to keep the wife in good cheer.

In Seemantam, the husband will touch the sacred grass (darbha), an area from the wife's stomach to the top of the head at the hair-parting zone, praying that the mother and the baby be protected and blessed. In addition to Vedic Chants, instrumental music of veena is played. The veena represents the spinal cord of the body. The chants and the music will have a soothing and beneficial effect on the minds of the mother and the baby. Finally, several married ladies bless the mother and the unborn child and, turmeric (manjal), kumkum, new bangles and sarees will be gifted.

(This narrative is based on the notes prepared by Dr. M. G. Prasad)