

NORTH INDIAN HINDU

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NOTES

The bulk of these names are ones you might hear walking around in Mumbai in the modern day; they come from a variety of northern languages, such as Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, and Marathi. The folkloric ones are less common, and more clearly Sanskrit-derived; older people are more likely to have such names. European and south Indian names are not unheard of either.

Naming practices vary immensely by language and region. In the vicinity of Mumbai, people often follow the English practice of taking a first name and a family name, inherited down the male line; this family name is frequently a caste term. Middle names are frequently the father or husband's first name. Another common practice is to take the father's name as a family name; for instance, Vikranth Sumanjit (abbreviated S. Vikranth) is the son of D. Sumanjit, and so on.

The list has a Hindu bias. Muslims use these names as well, although they also use Arabic names and surnames. Some of the family names, all in SURNAMES 1, are Hindu religious names; Muslims are unlikely to have these. The folkloric lists are also filled with religious names.

FEMALE 1

1. Apoorva
2. Malini
3. Nisha
4. Megha
5. Ila
6. Rasika
7. Mona
8. Anupama
9. Radhika
10. Anjana
11. Sheena
12. Sima
13. Lalitha
14. Vasanthi
15. Priyanka
16. Savitri
17. Sejal
18. Hema
19. Sapna
20. Kanchana

MALE 1

1. Sahil
2. Vasant
3. Indraneel
4. Pankaj
5. Ankit
6. Ram
7. Sunil
8. Mayur
9. Ashwin
10. Rajan
11. Rakesh
12. Venkat
13. Viren
14. Romit
15. Rajesh
16. Nishant
17. Salman
18. Pronob
19. Rahul
20. Vikranth

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FEMALE 2

1. Naina
2. Gayatri
3. Priya
4. Jyoti
5. Barkha
6. Renu
7. Kateki
8. Ishita
9. Lavanya
10. Radha
11. Sharanya
12. Anuradha
13. Amulya
14. Krutika
15. Neena
16. Neethi
17. Deepti
18. Divya
19. Swati
20. Amrita

MALE 2

1. Hemal
2. Ravi
3. Gehaan
4. Aniruddha
5. Pankaj
6. Abhirup
7. Raja
8. Varun
9. Ashish
10. Prem
11. Vishwanath
12. Anand
13. Shekhar
14. Vinod
15. Chintan
16. Nikhil
17. Abhijit
18. Anupam
19. Yash
20. Gopal

FEMALE 3

1. Farah
2. Vandna
3. Rina
4. Supriya
5. Mohini
6. Shilpa
7. Kavita
8. Prerna
9. Kamala
10. Archana
11. Girija
12. Amita
13. Manya
14. Susheela
15. Lahari
16. Geetha
17. Namita
18. Sharadha
19. Shefali
20. Gomati

MALE 3

1. Vibhav
2. Sachin
3. Sandeep
4. Bharat
5. Srikar
6. Krishna
7. Jayaram
8. Vivek
9. Anup
10. Shridhar
11. Bala
12. Adarsh
13. Rohit
14. Mahendra
15. Manoj
16. Deepak
17. Dilip
18. Ajay
19. Virendra
20. Santosh

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FEMALE 4

1. Rohini
2. Yamuna
3. Uma
4. Anjali
5. Kaveri
6. Arati
7. Aditi
8. Sadhana
9. Teju
10. Payal
11. Jahnvi
12. Nirali
13. Monisha
14. Shruthi
15. Shweta
16. Shivika
17. Himali
18. Anita
19. Sandhya
20. Sowmya

MALE 4

1. Chetan
2. Sridhar
3. Dhuliji
4. Palani
5. Satish
6. Ratan
7. Gautam
8. Jayant
9. Rupesh
10. Manoj
11. Vasudev
12. Amal
13. Nilamani
14. Jagdish
15. Shanmugan
16. Ranjit
17. Prabhakar
18. Hidhan
19. Ajeet
20. Bhargav

FEMALE 5

1. Rehnuma
2. Ajeet
3. Dipali
4. Sabala
5. Jaylaram
6. Suhasini
7. Maya Devi
8. Lakshmi
9. Narabala
10. Nayantha
11. Mridula
12. Tarulata
13. Sudha Vijay
14. Santha
15. Indrani
16. Pramila
17. Taradevi
18. Kamala
19. Pragya
20. Ravathi

MALE 5

1. Vinayak
2. Shanmugan
3. Mohapatral
4. Ranga
5. Rajendra
6. Dinanath
7. Rajhakar
8. Narayanrao
9. Attippat
10. Sadanand
11. Asma
12. Boli
13. Govinda
14. Harkishanlal
15. Ashok
16. Pallathu
17. Ravinder
18. Gopi
19. Thambi
20. Munshi

FOLKLORIC FEMALE NAMES

1. Kankamanjari
2. Jagrati
3. Madhumati
4. Pushpa
5. Shalini
6. Kanakavalli
7. Iravati
8. Hrada
9. Radhika
10. Shakuntala
11. Gajagati
12. Dhiti
13. Jagatna
14. Kanta
15. Belur
16. Jhala
17. Aradhana
18. Devaki
19. Rekha
20. Ekabhakti

FOLKLORIC MALE NAMES

1. Lakshman
2. Birchandra
3. Thakur
4. Balram
5. Premchand
6. Ramnath
7. Ksitindra
8. Dasaketu
9. Bhagwat
10. Aditya
11. Candraprakash
12. Jvalka
13. Dhrstaka
14. Aksapada
15. Siddharth
16. Ardra
17. Brindaban
18. Sumanjit
19. Venkatesh
20. Kalankura

Story-Games Names Project

SURNAMES 1

1. Bhoot
2. Kumar
3. Jerath
4. Patrawala
5. Rudra
6. Ramadas
7. Kalra
8. Ghoshal
9. Singh
10. Patil
11. Sarkar
12. Roshan
13. Chatterjee
14. Shah
15. Khan
16. Trivedi
17. VEDI
18. Shiva
19. Motiwala
20. Ghosh

SURNAMES 2

1. Menon
2. Kansara
3. Khanna
4. Vakharia
5. Leuva
6. Sahni
7. Bijanki
8. Patel
9. Saini
10. Rao
11. Gupta
12. Jain
13. Pandya
14. ROI
15. Palani
16. Hassan
17. Parikh
18. Jasani
19. Komarneni
20. Malik

SURNAMES 3

1. Seth
2. Varadan
3. Sen
4. Mehta
5. Misra
6. Modi
7. Zamindar
8. Sikka
9. Prakash
10. Kothari
11. Nagda
12. Bandyopadhyay
13. Sharma
14. Kotwal
15. Kanani
16. Kapoor
17. Nayar
18. Chaudhry
19. Nigam
20. Sidhu

FOOD NOTES

On the subject of food, in north India, meals generally consist of a grain - rice or various sorts of flat breads - served alongside a dal - a dish made with legumes or some kind - and optionally, various meat or vegetable dishes and small condiments - pickled things and sauces. Sweets are served with the meal, rather than after it as a dessert. Much like the names, these come from a patchwork of sources.

GRAIN DISHES

1. Kachori, a wrap surrounding a stuffing of spiced dal or peas.
2. Matar pullao, white rice spiced with coriander and saffron and studded with green peas
3. Chapati, a flaky flatbread made with a mixture of white and whole flours
4. Yellow rice, coloured with turmeric
5. Batloo, millet flatbread, always marked with a decorative pattern of thumbprints
6. Khichadi, mild rice-and-dal porridge
7. Roti, large round wholewheat flatbread
8. Naan, a tender, thick white bread cooked against the wall of a tandoor oven
9. Phale, a round flaky bun with minced meat filling
10. White rice, made fluffy and separate-grained
11. Aloo paratha, stuffed with spiced potato
12. Gosht ka biryani, a festive dish of fluffy rice and lamb, scented with cardamom and cumin
13. Kulcha, naan stuffed with onions, garlic, mashed seasoned potatoes, or fenugreek leaves
14. Bhatara, a giant, puffy deep-fried bread with a texture like naan
15. Roomali roti, a very large, extremely thin roti
16. Dhokla, a delicate steamed cake made with rice and dals, served cut into diamonds
17. Puranpoli, a flatbread filled with sweet cardamom porridge
18. Bhopali pullao, a ginger and cumin-flavored rice with carrots and onions
19. Pooori, tiny, oily, saucer-shaped brown flatbreads, always served in large quantities
20. Shirmal, a sweet baked flatbread flavored with saffron milk

DALS AND ACCOMPANIMENTS

1. Chhundo, pickled sweet-and-sour mango
2. Mullagatanni, the dal that every cook has her own recipe for, usually tangy and peppery
3. Meethi chatni, literally "sweet chatni", a smooth sweet-and-sour tamarind sauce
4. Leela Mirch, pickled green peppercorns
5. Gujarati dal, stew with mixed dal and mixed vegetables
6. Gulab jamun, sweet fried balls of fresh curd cheese in rose-scented syrup
7. Kachumbar, a salad of raw cucumber, onion, and tomato, with a bit of lemon and salt
8. Dal-dhokla, a dal with diamond-shaped chickpea flour dumplings
9. Kaju katri, diamonds of cashew paste decorated with silver varq
10. Kesar kulfi, dense almond-and-saffron gelato
11. Raita, yogurt and cucumber sauce similar to tzatziki
12. Khatte channe, sour tamarind-flavoured chickpeas
13. Gajjak, sesame brittle
14. Papad, crunchy chickpea wafers served with relishes
15. Podina chatni, a green sauce made with mint and lime
16. Mungaude ki bhaji, moong dal dumplings in a green spinach-and-cilantro gravy
17. Gobhi moong, a chunky stew with cauliflower and yellow moong dal
18. Badaam barfi, a fudgey almond sweet
19. Kache piaz, onion and red chile relish
20. Karhi, a tangy white soup thickened with chickpea flour

MEATS AND VEGETABLES

1. Shahjehani raan, leg of lamb in a cream sauce with nuts and dried fruits
2. Baigan bhara, smoky mashed eggplant
3. Tali vekti, a native fish deep-fried in chickpea batter
4. Seekh kebab, minced lamb kebabs, served with crescents of grilled onion
5. Do piaza, any meat with 'double onion' gravy
6. Vindaloo, a very hot, sour gravy for chicken and potatoes
7. Jheenga masala, stirfried giant prawns with lots of paprika
8. Rogan josh, meat in a garlic and coriander gravy
9. Hakka aloo, an Indochinese dish, potatoes with a crispy crust of ginger and fresh chiles
10. Chapli kebab, fried lamb meatballs shaped like a sandal
11. Saag paneer, spinach and curd cheese
12. Pakoras, batter-fried vegetables served with dipping sauces
13. Moghlai dum, creamy slow-cooked chicken
14. Bhindi sabzi, stirfried okra
15. Safaid Kheema, lamb mince with a white cashew sauce
16. Dum aloo, slow-cooked potatoes in cream
17. Bona gosht, roasted minty lamb
18. Panchrangi korma, five-coloured vegetables in creamy yogurt gravy
19. Tandoori murg, chicken barbecued in the /tandoor/
20. Parsi ande, boiled whole eggs served in a golden coconut gravy

CLOTHING

1. Sari - A long, unstitched piece of cloth, wrapped around the body to form an ankle-length skirt, and then around the upper body and over the shoulder. In modern times, worn with a choli.
2. Lehenga - A pleated skirt worn with a choli.
3. Choli - A stitched and fitted short sleeved or sleeveless blouse.
4. Kameez - A long loose tunic top or dress. Worn with a dupatta.
5. Salwar - Straight cut trousers worn under a kameez.
6. Kurta - A long strait-cut loose shirt.
7. Churidar - Close-fitting, gathered trousers, worn with a kameez or kurta
8. Dupatta - large scarf worn with a lehenga choli, churidar kameez, or salwar kameez.
9. Dhoti - A large cloth, wrapped like a skirt and tied at the waist or drawn through the legs and tied at the waist.
10. Lungi - A large wrap skirt tied at the waist, worn with a mundu.
11. Mundu - A top cloth worn over the shoulder.
12. Topi - A colorful woolen cap with a woven or embroidered band.
13. Lachoo - A blanket used to cover the shoulders.
14. Chadder - A gentleman's shawl.
15. Pattoo - A whole body cover-all wrap worn over a dress, a pattoo is fastened with silver boomini broaches and a gachchi.
16. Gachichi - A cloth belt.
17. Dhatu / thipu - A square piece of cloth used to cover the head
18. Pullas - Hemp slippers woven with colored threads.
19. Sherwani - A formal, fitted, button-down, long coat with a high straight collar.
20. Phulkari - An ornately embroidered shawl.