

'Sunāma' by Nityānanda Miśra

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Are you looking for a beautiful, meaningful, and/or unique Sanskrit name for your child, house, brand, or business? Want to know more about a name from a Sanskrit perspective? Sunāma by onomastician Nityānanda Miśra offers personal and business consultation for such needs. With a curated collection of more than 2,00,000 names from around 150 Sanskrit texts and experience of more than 2,400 name consultations five four years, Sunāma combines academic scholarship and professional service.

Consultation options

The options below and their charges are effective from 29 April 2024. Due to the unexpectedly large number of consultation requests, I have reduced the number of consultation options from the past. If your desired consultation option is not in the below options, please let me know.

1) Quick Name validation by Email

Choose this option if you have three or more names and would like me to quickly validate them from a Sanskrit perspective. The charges are ₹ 901 for three names (minimum) and ₹ 300 per extra name (₹ 1,201 for four names, ₹ 1,501 for five names, etc.) + 18% GST. The comments will be in English or Hindi and will include the validation of the word in Sanskrit, confirmation of gender (masculine, feminine or neuter), major meanings and whether the word is the name of a person or deity. Four sample quick name validations are shown below.

Saanvi (सान्वी, सान्वी): Not a valid Sanskrit word to the best of my information. Not listed in any major traditional or modern Sanskrit dictionary. Not a name of Lakṣmī in any of the 150+ Sanskrit texts in my collection of names. Avoid the name.

Nitara (नितरा): A valid feminine Sanskrit word. It means "deeply fixed, standing firm". Not a personal or deity name to the best of my information. Still, the name can be used for a girl as the meaning is positive.

Kiaan (कियान्): A valid masculine Sanskrit word, but is an interrogative word which means "how much"? The word does not mean "grace of God", "royal", "king" or "Lord Krishna" in Sanskrit as many name websites claim. Avoid the name.

Adhrit (अधृत): Valid masculine Sanskrit word and name. Means "unrestrained", "not held" and "a name of Viṣṇu" as per dictionaries. Found in a Viṣṇu-sahasranāma of the Mahābhārata (13.149.103) and some other sahasranāmas. Recommended.

2) Detailed Name Validation and Commentary by Email

Choose this option if you have two or more names and would like me to comment in detail on the name from a Sanskrit perspective. The charges are ₹ 1,001 for one name and ₹ 1,000 per additional name + 18% GST. The commentary will be in English or Hindi (your choice) and will include the validation of one or more spellings, etymology/etymologies (if a valid Sanskrit word), meaning/meanings (if meanings exist), and scriptural citations (if found). Two sample name commentaries for the names Ritvi (for a girl) and Adhrit (for a boy) follow below.

(1) Ritvi

There are six options—'ritvi' (रित्वि), 'ritvī' (रित्वी), 'rītvī' (रीत्वि), 'rītvī' (रीत्वी), 'ṛtvī' (ऋत्वि) and 'ṛtvī' (ऋत्वी). None of these four words is listed any major traditional or modern Sanskrit dictionary, including Amarakosha, Shabda sagara, Capeller, Yates, Wilson, Apte, Monier Williams, Macdonnel, Benfey, Shabdakalpadruma, Vachaspatyam, Grassman, Burnouf, Böhtlingk and Roth, and Stchoupak dictionary. I am not aware of any Sanskrit work which has any of the above six words. None of these six words is present in any of the sahasranāmas in my collection. The conclusion is that Ritvi is not a Sanskrit name and has no meaning in Sanskrit.

Many name websites claim that Ritvi is a Sanskrit name meaning "female priest, scholar, etc." Such claims are bogus and not backed by any authentic Sanskrit dictionary.

There is a name Ritvik, which corresponds to the Sanskrit word 'ṛtvik' (ऋत्विक्), which is the nominative singular form of the word 'ṛtvij' (ऋत्विज्). This word does mean "priest". However, there is no known feminine form of this word. The word is listed in almost all major traditional or modern Sanskrit dictionaries (see the list above), but none of the dictionaries lists a feminine form of the word.

Recommendation: Do not use the name, not a valid word in Sanskrit.

Similar names: There are two similar-sounding names for girls which you can use. Both of these are Sanskrit names and you may use any of them.

(1a) Rijvi/Rujvi (rjvī, ऋज्वी)

There is a word 'rju' in Sanskrit which comes from the root √'rj' = "to go" and the suffix '[k]u'. The word has the following meanings as per the Apte dictionary: (1) straight (figurative also)", (2) "upright, honest, straight-forward" (3) "simple-minded, plain" (4) "favourable, beneficial, good". The masculine form of the word is 'rju' and the feminine form is either 'rju' (the same) or 'rjvī' (ऋज्वी). This is confirmed by the Apte dictionary which says "ऋजु or ऋज्वी feminine". Thus, the word 'rjvī' (ऋज्वी) means "she who is straight, right, honest, favourable".

The name 'rjvī' is a name of Gāyatrī. It comes in the Gāyatrī-sahasranāma of the Devībhāgavata-Purāṇa (name #98, verse 12.6.25: "ṛgvedanilayā rjvī luptadharmapravartinī" or ऋग्वेदनिलया ऋज्वी लुप्तधर्मप्रवर्तिनी). Commenting on this name, the Gita Press Hindi translation of the Devībhāgavata-Purāṇa explains the name as "सरल स्वभाववाली" (i.e., "she who has a simple or down-to-earth nature"). You can see the translation [here](#).

(1b) Kṛtvī (Kṛtvī, कृत्वी)

This feminine word and name comes from the root √'kr' which means "to do". The word literally means "she who does or performs or causes [welfare]".

The name 'kṛtvī' is found in Purāṇic works. As per the Śrīmadbhāgavata Purāṇa verse 9.21.25, Kṛtvī was the name of a queen who was the daughter of Śuka and the wife of King Nīpa. Kṛtvī gave birth to a son named Brahmadaṭṭa. As per the Matsya-Purāṇa verse 15.8 to 15.10, Kṛtvī was a 'yoginī'. She was the daughter of sage Śuka (son of Vyāsa) and Pīvarī. She married a king of Pāñcāla (who is not named here) and gave birth to a son named Brahmadaṭṭa. Once again, as per the Matsya-Purāṇa verse 49.57, Kṛtvī was the wife of King Aṇuha and the mother of Brahmadaṭṭa.

(2) Adhṛta (adhṛta, अधृत)

This is a valid masculine Sanskrit word and name. It comes from the negative prefix 'a' (अ) and the word 'dhṛta' (धृत), which in turn comes from the root √'dhr' which means "to hold, to keep, to maintain, to control". The word 'dhṛta' means "held, kept, controlled". The word 'adhṛta' means the opposite, i.e., "unheld, uncontrolled, etc.". As per various Sanskrit dictionaries (Shabda-Sagara, Yates, Wilson, Apte, Monier-Williams, and Goldstucker), the word 'adhṛta' has the following meanings (1) "unheld, undetained, unrestrained" (2) "not held or controlled, uncontrolled" (3) "unquiet, restless" (4) "a name of Viṣṇu". The third meaning ("unquiet, restless") is negative, but all the others are positive. There are many words which have both positive and negative meanings, but if such a word is used as names in a sahasranāma, then we can ignore the negative meanings and focus only on the positive meanings. Fortunately, 'adhṛta' is a name in a sahasranāma.

The name 'adhṛta' is the 842nd name of Viṣṇu in the Viṣṇu-sahasranāma found in the Mahābhārata's Anuśāsana-parvan (verse 13.149.103: "adhṛtaḥ svadhṛtaḥ svāsyah prāgvamśo vaṃśavardhanaḥ", अधृतः स्वधृतः स्वास्यः प्राग्वंशो वंशवर्धनः). Various commentaries on the Viṣṇu-sahasranāma throw light on this name of Viṣṇu. Following are interpretations of the name as per five different Sanskrit commentaries. Commenting on the name, Ādi Śaṅkara says that Viṣṇu is 'adhṛta'

because he holds/maintains even those who hold/maintain the earth, etc. and so he is not held/maintained by anybody [else] (पृथिव्यादीनां धारकाणामपि धारकत्वान्न केनचिद्ध्रयत इति अधृतः). Parāśara Bhaṭṭa is his commentary says that he who cannot be bound or restrained by anybody is called 'adhṛta' (यश्चानियाम्यः केनापि ह्यधृतः स तु कीर्तितः). Satyasandha Yatirāja says in his commentary that 'adhṛta' is one who is not held or borne by anybody (अधृतः केनापि धृतो न भवतीति तथा). Baladeva Vidyābhūṣaṇa says in his commentary that it is not possible for anybody to hold or restrain him, hence Viṣṇu is 'adhṛta' and then cites the second half of verse 9.4 of the Bhagavad Gītā in which Lord Kṛṣṇa says "all beings are situated/held in me, but I am not situated/held in them" (केनापि धर्तुमशक्यत्वादधृतः, 'मत्स्थानि सर्वभूतानि न चाहं तेष्ववस्थितः' इति स्मरणात्). Satyadeva Vāsiṣṭha says in his commentary that he is the upholder of everything but is not upheld by anybody hence he is 'adhṛta'.

In addition, 'adhṛta' is also a name of Śiva in the second Śiva-sahasranāma in the Liṅga-purāṇa (verse 1.98.145: "adhṛtaḥ svadhṛtaḥ sādhyah pūrva-mūrti-ryaśodharaḥ"). Commenting on this name, the Śivatoṣiṇī Sanskrit commentary says that Śiva is known as 'adhṛta' since he is the one and only foundation or support [for everybody and everything] and is not held or maintained [by anybody else] (न धृतोऽधृतः, अनन्याधार इत्यर्थः).

The word 'adhṛta' is used in many Sanskrit works in several meanings. It is used in the Rāmāyaṇa, verse 3. 62.16: "adṛṣṭaguṇadoṣāṇām adhṛtānām ca karmaṇām" in the sense of "not held". It is used in the epic Kirātārjunīya, verse 6.24: "dhṛtahetir-apy-adhṛta-jihma-matiś-caritair-munīn-adharayañśucibhiḥ".

Popularity: Uncommon/rare, with only 159 results for a first name search on 'Adhrit' on LinkedIn, out of which 115 are in India. These numbers are out more than 100 crore LinkedIn users globally and more than 12 crore LinkedIn users in India as of April 2024.

3) Brief Consultation over Video-chat

Choose this option if you have a set of unstructured questions about Sanskrit names. This consultation involves a fifteen-minute interactive video chat to answer all your questions. You can ask any questions on one or more names and I will answer them to the best of my ability and information. You can join the video call with your friends and/or family. Usually, around 10-15 questions can be covered in a 15-minute session. No advance questions or name preferences are taken for this consultation option and no email consultation is available. The fee for this consultation option is ₹ 3,001 + 18% GST.

Note: If you want detailed commentary on one or more names after this consultation, you will need to avail option (2) for the same.

4) Consultation for Baby/House Name over Video-chat

Choose this option if you would like to select a name interactively with me. An interactive format gives best results for name consultation as I get instant feedback while suggesting names. We go through various options and try to find a good name together. There is no fixed structure for this consultation, it is all as per your preferences. There is no limit to the number of names suggested and the questions answered, time (one hour) is the only limit.

You start by answering the eleven name preference questions that follow below. We fix a time for a one-hour phone call or video chat in which I suggest names as per your preferences and/or answer your questions on names. You can join the call with your friends and/or family. I usually cover 250–300 names in a one-hour session. A short follow-up session (five minutes) can be arranged if needed. At the end of the call (or two calls), you may choose any one name for a detailed commentary, as for the name Adhrit in option (2). The fee for this consultation option is ₹ 10,001 + 18% GST.

Name preference questions

- 1) **Information:** is the child already born or on the way? If born please provide date of birth, time of birth, and birthplace details.
- 2) **Information:** gender of child (boy/girl)?
- 3) **Requirement:** do you want a 'nakshatra' or 'rashi' based name or a name with a fixed starting letter or syllable? If so, please share the starting letter or syllable required: please confirm the syllable by typing it in your native script (Devanagari, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Gujarati, Bengali, Assamese, Odia, etc.) or in International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration (IAST).
- 4) **Preference:** middle or ending letters or syllables preferred (if any)? Please type in your native script or IAST. Please note that I treat this as a preference, not a hard requirement.
- 5) **Preference:** length of name or number of syllables desired (e.g. a short name only with 2-3 syllables or even a longer name is okay)?
- 6) **Preference:** any meanings preferred (e.g. name of Vishnu, Shiva, Surya, Ganesha, Rama, Krishna, Karttikeya, or Dattatreya for a boy; name of Parvati, Lakshmi, Sarasvati, Gayatri, or Lalita for a girl; or an adjective with positive meaning, etc)?
- 7) **Preference:** would you like simple pronunciation (without the 'difficult' conjunct syllables like 'vya', 'stra', etc.) or complex pronunciation is okay?
- 8) **Preference:** any names you would like the name to "go with" (e.g. sound similar to a sibling name or have a similar/associated meaning as name of parents)?
- 9) **Preference:** any names you have already liked and why (this will increase chances of me suggesting a name you like)?

- 10) **Preference:** any other preference around the name (e.g. a very rare name, old style or new style name)?
- 11) **Requirement:** language of consultation—English or Hindi?

5) Consultation for Twins/Triplets/Business Names over Video-chat

For suggestions of names for twins, triplets, etc., the charges are higher as name pairs, name triples, etc. are to be suggested and it requires more time to think of matching pairs, triples, etc. (matching in pronunciation or meaning) of good names than a single good name. Similarly, for names of companies, firms, and brands, the charges are higher as the name needs to reflect a business value or brand proposition. For a company or brand name we also need to check name and trademark availability on MCA website (for India only). The name preference questions and format and features of this consultation options—one-hour session, a five-minute follow up session (if needed), and name commentary on selected names(s)—are the same as those of option (3). The fee for this option is ₹ 11,001 + 18% GST. Detailed commentary will be provided on one chosen name for a brand/business, two chosen names for twins, three chosen names for triplets, etc.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- (1) Consultation fee is to be paid in advance.
- (2) While in most cases people are satisfied with the accuracy and quality of the consultation and like some of the names suggested, sometimes they may not be entirely satisfied and not like any of the names suggested. **The fee will be non-refundable** even if the client is not completely satisfied and/or does not like the suggestions, as I will have to spend time anyway. **Sunāma guarantees accuracy, but not satisfaction.** You may not like the suggestions, but you will not be misled.
- (3) The charges indicated are valid as of 30 August 2024 and may change in the future without any notice.
- (4) The turnaround time is 3-4 days to get back on options (1) and (2). For options (3) and (4), the turnaround time may be up to a week.
- (5) If for some reason, consultation (commentary on a requested name or a live consultation session) is not provided within two weeks of the payment, the fee will be entirely refunded.
- (6) The provision of consultation services shall be subject to the laws of India and the courts at Mumbai, Maharashtra, shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute arising between the onomastician (Nityānanda Miśra) and the client.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Read the Terms and Conditions before making any payment. If you are in India, you may pay using Google Pay/UPI/PhonePe (most preferred), NEFT/IMPS, or PayTM (least preferred). NEFT does not work on bank holidays and Sundays, but IMPS works and is instant (so I prefer IMPS over NEFT). If you are outside India, you may use wire transfer, Xoom, Instarem, or TransferWise. Or you may ask your friend/relative in India to pay using UPI, NEFT/IMPS, or PayTM. I do not accept PayPal or Western Union or Moneygram.

UPI ID (Google Pay India/PhonePe)

sunaama@icici

QR Code



sunaamaqr@icici

NEFT/IMPS details

Account Number: 697905600175

Account Type: Current

Beneficiary Name: Sunaama

Bank Name: ICICI Bank

Branch: Mumbai – Chandivali – Lok Milan

IFSC Code: ICIC0006979

SWIFT Code: ICICINBBCTS

MICR Code: 400229180

PayTM number

Available on request if UPI and NEFT/IMPS not possible

Address/phone (for Xoom transfer)

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