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AMIT KUMAR JHA

SUB EDITOR
CHANDRUTPAL DAS BORO

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
YOGESH SHARMA

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For correspondence and advertising:
Z-33, IInd Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi, 110016
Mobile : 9953701567, 9625846296
Email : publications@gillindia.com

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Image Courtesy: Radisson Hotel Group

RADISSON'S MASTERPIECE MOMENTS

Every couple has a story. Radisson helps tell it beautifully.

TT BUREAU

Indian weddings have long celebrated heritage, culture, and emotion in vibrant, elaborate ways. Today, they are evolving into deeply personal expressions of love, legacy, and individuality. In response to this transformation, Radisson Hotel Group (RHG) unveils its latest offering, 'The Art of Weddings by Radisson Hotels' — a thoughtfully designed concept that blends tradition with modern sensibilities, offering couples a seamless and soulful experience on their special day.

The initiative was unveiled at an exclusive event in Goa, attended by RHG's leadership, industry stalwarts, and hospitality trendsetters. The launch set the tone for a reimagined wedding journey — one where heartfelt storytelling meets hospitality excellence.

CRAFTED WITH CARE, CURATED WITH HEART

Rooted in four guiding pillars — Seamless Celebrations, Heartfelt Hosting, Timeless Traditions, and Elevated Experiences — The Art of Weddings reflects RHG's commitment to creating meaningful weddings. From serene resort ceremonies to glamorous city celebrations, the brand's extensive hotel network offers a venue for every kind of vision.

Intuitive digital tools make planning effortless, while personalised experiences cater to cultural and regional nuances. Custom welcome kits, immersive rituals, and exclusive collaborations with planners, artisans, and chefs ensure every wedding feels deeply individual and culturally rich.

A WORD FROM THE VISIONARIES

"At Radisson Hotel Group, we understand that weddings are more than ceremonies — they're once-in-a-lifetime journeys of love, family, and celebration," says Nikhil Sharma, Managing Director & COO, South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group. "With The Art of Weddings, we bring together modern elegance and cultural heritage in a way that resonates with today's discerning couples. Our promise — 'Every Moment Matters' — drives us to craft events that feel both grand and intimate, with lasting impact."

The flexible structure of this initiative allows each celebration to be fully localised and tailored to reflect the couple's values, aesthetics, and stories. Every detail, from décor to dining, is designed with precision and purpose.

Image Courtesy: Radisson Hotel Group

A HOSPITALITY LEGACY REIMAGINES WEDDINGS

Radisson Hotel Group holds a prominent place in India's hospitality sector, operating a wide array of brands across metro cities and emerging destinations. Over half of RHG's Indian portfolio is located in tier-2 and tier-3 markets, combining comfort with widespread accessibility.

The introduction of The Art of Weddings marks a bold step forward, reinforcing the Group's dedication to the wedding space. With a foundation in global hospitality excellence and a deep understanding of India's diverse traditions, Radisson is setting a new benchmark for bespoke celebrations that feel rooted and refined.

Radisson Hotel Group offers couples a diverse spectrum of venues across regions, including unique locations like Khopoli and Saputara, transforming each wedding into a meaningful journey that celebrates their unique bond with style, substance, and soul. With over 50% of RHG's portfolio located in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, the brand brings special wedding experiences closer to couples across India. Its presence remains strongest in metros like Delhi NCR, where Radisson continues to lead as one of the country's largest international hotel operators.

Through its diverse brands like Radisson Blu, Radisson Collection, Radisson RED, Park Inn by Radisson, and more, RHG caters to every wedding vision, spanning traditional ceremonies to sleek, contemporary affairs. This expansive network ensures access to both grandeur and intimacy, tailored to suit every cultural nuance and couple's preference. With The Art of Weddings, Radisson positions itself not merely as a venue provider but as a dedicated partner in crafting moments that are heartfelt, bespoke, and truly unforgettable.

Image Courtesy: Radisson Hotel Group

Image Courtesy: Radisson Hotel Group

SACRED VOWS, SOUTHERN SHORES

The Taj Kerala Wedding Collection is a celebration of love, tradition, and elegance.

TT BUREAU

There are weddings, and then there are celebrations so immersive, intimate, and breathtaking, they become timeless tales passed down through generations.

Taj Weddings in Kerala captures the essence of soulful South Indian traditions paired with the legendary warmth of Taj hospitality. In this enchanting collection, coastlines embrace sacred vows, age-old customs are reimagined with elegance, and every moment is infused with meaning. Cochin's storied harbours, Bekal's tranquil lagoons, and Kovalam's soaring cliffs create backdrops where love stories unfold with poetic grace.

Each of the four Taj destinations in Kerala transforms celebrations into curated experiences filled with emotion, heritage, and grandeur.

TAJ MALABAR RESORT & SPA, COCHIN

Standing proudly on Willingdon Island, Taj Malabar brings together colonial charm and panoramic sea views. Housed in a beautifully restored 1935 mansion, this property evokes timeless romance. Historic architecture, vintage accents, and elegant design lend character to every corner.

Pheras beside the infinity pool, golden-hour ceremonies, and harbour-lit evenings create a setting that feels both cinematic and deeply personal.

Signature Touch: Sea-facing vows, vintage elegance, and nautical nostalgia woven into every celebration.

This is heritage storytelling with a horizon view.

TAJ COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Located minutes from Cochin International Airport, this venue welcomes guests into a cocoon of calm and contemporary comfort. Designed for couples with international guest lists and multi-day festivities, Taj Cochin International Airport ensures the journey begins with seamless style.

Ideal for pre-wedding brunches, welcome dinners, or intimate events, it offers elegance and efficiency in equal measure.

Signature Touch: Indoor venues are tailored for effortless gatherings, impeccable service, and thoughtful hospitality that never misses a beat.

Weddings here begin with ease and elevate with detail.

TAJ BEKAL RESORT & SPA, KERALA

Hidden along Kerala's quieter northern shoreline, Taj Bekal is a soulful setting for destination weddings. Inspired by the region's traditional kettuvallams, the resort blends serene lagoons, swaying coconut palms, and natural beauty.

This is a place where silence speaks, and celebrations carry the rhythm of nature. With multiple indoor and outdoor venues,

Taj Malabar

Taj Bekal

Taj Bekal

every ritual—from haldi to reception—unfolds with effortless charm.

Signature Touch: Private plunge pool villas, beachside vows, and moonlit dinners set to the music of backwaters and breeze.

Here, love finds space to breathe.

TAJ GREEN COVE RESORT & SPA, KOVALAM

Positioned above the Arabian Sea, Taj Green Cove brings together panoramic landscapes and architectural grace. Balinese-style cottages, tropical gardens, and wide ocean vistas create an atmosphere that elevates every ritual into a celebration of scale and soul.

Mehndi ceremonies on breezy terraces and pheras by the waterfront makes this destination a vision of romance in full bloom.

Signature Touch: Sweeping sea views, starlit gatherings, and mandaps perched where the sky kisses the sea.

Every moment here rises to meet the magic.

ONE LOVE, FOUR BACKDROPS

A wedding crafted by Taj isn't limited to venue or vision. It's a seamless expression of emotion, care, and culture. Each of the four destinations offers a distinct narrative, yet every celebration shares the same heart that is rooted in hospitality that feels both intuitive and iconic.

Select a colonial mansion rich in heritage. Choose a chic retreat near the gateway to your celebration. Escape into a backwater sanctuary that whispers calm. Or let your vows rise with the ocean breeze atop a coastal cliff.

Taj Weddings in Kerala - Crafted with care. Celebrated with soul. Cherished for a lifetime.

- **Taj Malabar Resort & Spa, Cochin:**
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- **Taj Cochin International Airport, Kerala:**
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- **Taj Green Cove Resort & Spa, Kovalam:**
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Taj Cochin Airport

Taj Kovalam

Taj Malabar

FLAWLESS & FABULOUS

Crafting unforgettable weddings with vision, creativity, elegance, and heart.

TT BUREAU

Aarti Mattoo is a powerhouse in the wedding and events industry, known for her unrelenting drive and creative vision. As the Founder of Momentum Experiences and Events LLP, she has spent over 20 years transforming dreams into extraordinary events, earning more than 32 prestigious awards.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO WEDDING CLIENTS

Excellence matters . For us excellence isn't about select events—it's ingrained in the team's DNA. At Momentum, excellence shows up in trying situations, demanding clients, tight timelines, and even unexpected disruptions.

Sometimes, it's about being honest with clients, even when the truth is tough. At other times, it means pushing a family's vision through to hundreds of service providers and crew, ensuring every detail is right.

We are known for our straightforward approach—choosing honesty and responsibility over flattery. That's why HNI families across the country trust Momentum with every celebration.

There are other touch points to maintain excellence. We ensure our team is paid well because they deliver well—clients in turn know they'll get full-hearted commitment and responsible vendor management in return.

Momentum's legacy is not just about planning weddings—it's about being trusted partners to families, creating memories that linger long after the last guest has left.

UNFORGETABLE DESTINATIONS WEDDINGS

Momentum is known for unforgettable weddings in iconic venues. From royal palaces like Umaid Bhawan, Mehrangarh Fort, and Suryagarh in Jaisalmer, to City Palace and Udai Vilas

Image Courtesy: Momentum Experiences and Events LLP

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SCAN TO VISIT

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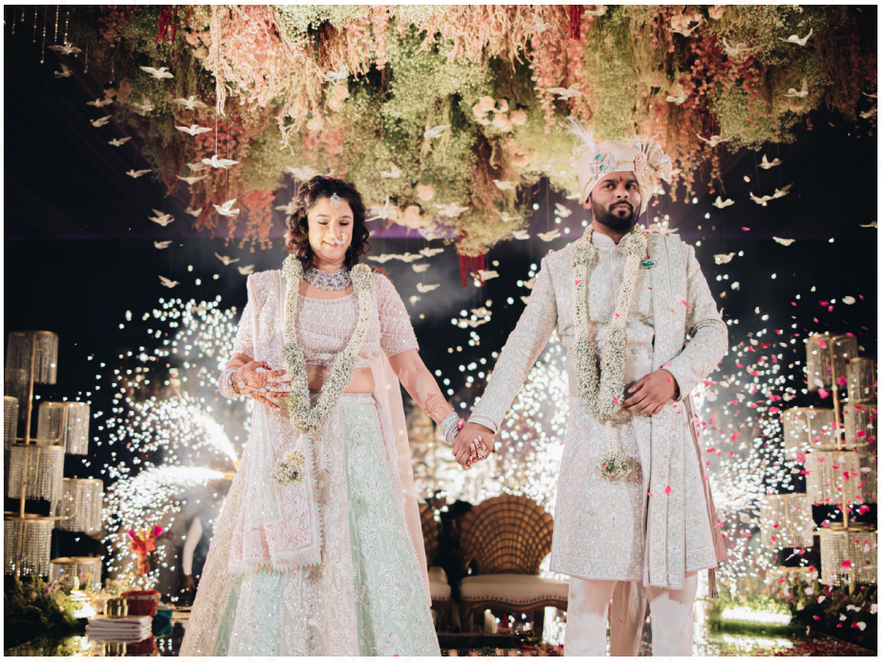

Image Courtesy: Momentum Experiences and Events LLP

in Udaipur, and Jaigarh Fort, Leela Palace, and Fairmont in Jaipur, we always blend tradition with luxury.

Our team had also worked globally—Shangri-La Muscat, Anantara in Sri Lanka, Sofitel in Bali, Sunway Lagoon in Malaysia, and weddings in Dubai, Thailand, and Bahrain.

Metro city venues include Jio Convention Centre, NSCI Dome, and Race Course in Mumbai, JW Marriott in Bangalore, and Taj Convention and ITC Chola in Chennai.

From venue selection and décor conceptualization to hospitality and hotel deals, our team handles every aspect, making planning seamless. Whether intimate or grand, every wedding we curate is unforgettable.

GETTING A MOOD BOARD RIGHT

Our mood boards go beyond visuals. Every aspect of the event is crafted into the central theme. Each guest experience is part of the storytelling—reflecting the couple's cultural legacy. The team is structured with each department head owning the guest journey and innovation.

Being seasoned professionals, the team understands the balance between application and creativity. There's no place for creativity without purpose.

Loud moments are balanced with subtle touches. From F&B and entertainment to hospitality, our strength lies in creating large-scale décor productions from scratch.

The design process begins with understanding the client's vision. It then moves through conversations, sketches, and mood boards aligned with the venue and emotional tone. Whether it's a palace or a beach resort, the design language is consistently thoughtful and tailored.

Despite the industry's fast pace and ever-evolving trends, our commitment remains strong: to deliver weddings that exceed expectations.

FAMILY FIRST

Indian weddings are about families coming together, with differing ideas and desires. We at Momentum understand this complexity and help balance the family's vision with the couple's dreams—seamlessly weaving both into one coherent experience.

MASTERING CHALLENGES IN EXECUTING A DREAM

Planning the perfect wedding often starts with a dream and a location yet to be discovered. Momentum thrives in this uncertainty. Our team works across unknown venues, vendors, and circumstances, maintaining harmony among all stakeholders—from families and artists to logistics and suppliers.

Over time, our team has mastered the art of flexibility. The goal remains unchanged: to deliver excellence, no matter the challenge.

A CREATIVE SOUL

What sets Momentum apart is our creative soul. Our team's passion for design and storytelling pushes us to go beyond the expected. Creativity at Momentum isn't just aesthetics—it's about meaningful, immersive experiences. Every space, every corner, every element reflects the client's story in a cohesive, beautiful way.

MAGIC, MEANING, AND MEMORIES

We at Momentum don't just plan weddings. We aim to create visual and emotional storyboards where every moment—from grand gestures to the tiniest details—contributes to a deeply personal narrative. As the industry evolves, our promise remains the same: to deliver magic, meaning, and memories that last forever.

Aarti Mattoo, Founder, Momentum Experiences & Events LLP

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Image Courtesy: Swaaha Weddings & Experiences

EPIC WEDDINGS SNEAK PEEK: 2025 EDITION

2025 is the year of Unconventional, Unforgettable Celebrations

TT BUREAU

Mareesha Parikh is a force in luxury events, fusing creativity with precision. As Director of Swaaha Weddings & Experiences and CEO of Nautanki Company, she crafts breathtaking weddings and immersive celebrations with unrivalled energy. From grand destination weddings to unforgettable experiential entertainment, her signature touch ensures every event is spectacular. With a keen eye for detail and a flair for storytelling, Mareesha turns dreams into extraordinary realities, setting new standards in the industry.

MOOD BOARDS TO TREND

As I understand, there will be a wave of unique artistic mandaps that will be the flavour. This will vary from light structure to heave structures, heavy floral dominated, unconventional colours as well. There will still be many who will prefer traditional mandaps but with a touch of modern approaches.

GEN Z WEDDINGS AND NEW VIBES

Gen Z Indian weddings are all about personalization, sustainability, eco-friendly, and intimate experiences; having said that there is a set of families who will believe in going all out in making it larger than life on all fronts, though the number of such events will be much lesser than the way it used to be in the last decade.

Couples now are blending traditions with modern aesthetics, opting for eco-friendly décor, digital invites, and meaningful gatherings. Fusion fashion, immersive entertainment, and interactive elements to create unique celebrations, and thus, the focus is on experiences over extravagance, making weddings more conscious, engaging, and memorable as individual experiences.

CULINARY STYLES IN 2025

In 2025, Pocket Experiences will redefine Indian wedding dining—bringing interactive, immersive, and globally inspired flavours to the table. Expect bold fusions, health-conscious menus featuring millets, vegan, and gluten-free options, and customizable "Make Your Own Bowl" concepts.

With guests counting calories, low-calorie fusion dishes will

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rise, ensuring indulgence without guilt. Traditional buffets will take a backseat, making way for vibrant live stations and pass-around delicacies—crafted fresh and served in real time, turning dining into a performance!

COUNTRIES YOU SEE BEING TOP CHOICES IN 2025

The Middle East and Southeast Asia remain top wedding destinations for their proximity and easy visas. But the real shift? The Middle East is expanding beyond Dubai and Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar are emerging with stunning venues and irresistible deals.

For summer weddings, couples are looking beyond India's heat to Baku, Georgia, Turkey, Prague, Budapest, and Mauritius offering history, culture, and breathtaking scenery. The real thrill lies in unexplored gems, hidden treasures in Oman, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Eastern Europe, bringing fresh, unforgettable wedding experiences!

KIND OF LOCATIONS WILL COUPLES PREFER

Mountains and beaches have long been wedding staples, but 2025 is all about thinking beyond the usual. Couples are embracing historic cityscapes, romantic vineyards, majestic deserts, charming farms, and even iconic monuments as their dream backdrops.

Picture saying "I do" in a centuries-old palace, under the Tuscan sun, amidst golden dunes, or within the grandeur of a historic monument. These rare, untouched venues offer exclusivity, magic, and a story to tell. 2025 is the year of breaking tradition and redefining destination weddings!

COLOURS, LIGHTING, FLOWERS - BEST AMBIENCES

Indian weddings are a riot of colours, creativity, and personality—and that's not changing anytime soon! With six or more events in a typical wedding, each one brings a fresh vibe, unique colour palette, and distinct lighting.

Image Courtesy: Swaaha Weddings & Experiences

Mareesha Parikh, Director, Swaaha Weddings & Experiences

Every bride today has a vision, pushing boundaries to create events that feel personal and one-of-a-kind. From romantic pastels to bold jewel tones, dreamy candle-lit settings to vibrant LED experiences, lush floral cascades to minimalistic greens, the mood changes with every function.

It's all about customisation, mood-driven décor, and making every event feel different.

WEDDING JEWELLERY? BRIDE AND GROOM WEAR

This is one area where I, as a wedding planner, don't step into and will not like to do so as well, hence, I will refrain from commenting here. There are many accomplished stylists who we work with on projects who then guide our brides, grooms, and their families on the trends and new fashion presented in the current season.

WEDDING VOWS, GRAND ARRIVALS THAT COULD GO BIG

In 2025, wedding trends are getting bigger, bolder, and more creative!

As a wedding professional, I've seen the rising demand for highly personalised, never-seen-before experiences. That's why Nautanki Company collaborates with HNI clients and top planners to craft jaw-dropping couple entries, immersive sangeet themes, and grand varmala moments—turning celebrations into cinematic spectacles.

What's next? Mythological themes infused with modern theatrics, music, and lighting are set to take centre stage. Yet, personal storytelling remains timeless—couples love weaving their journeys into every moment.

At the core, the question is always: "What's new?" And that's exactly what we deliver—unique, magical, and unforgettable experiences!

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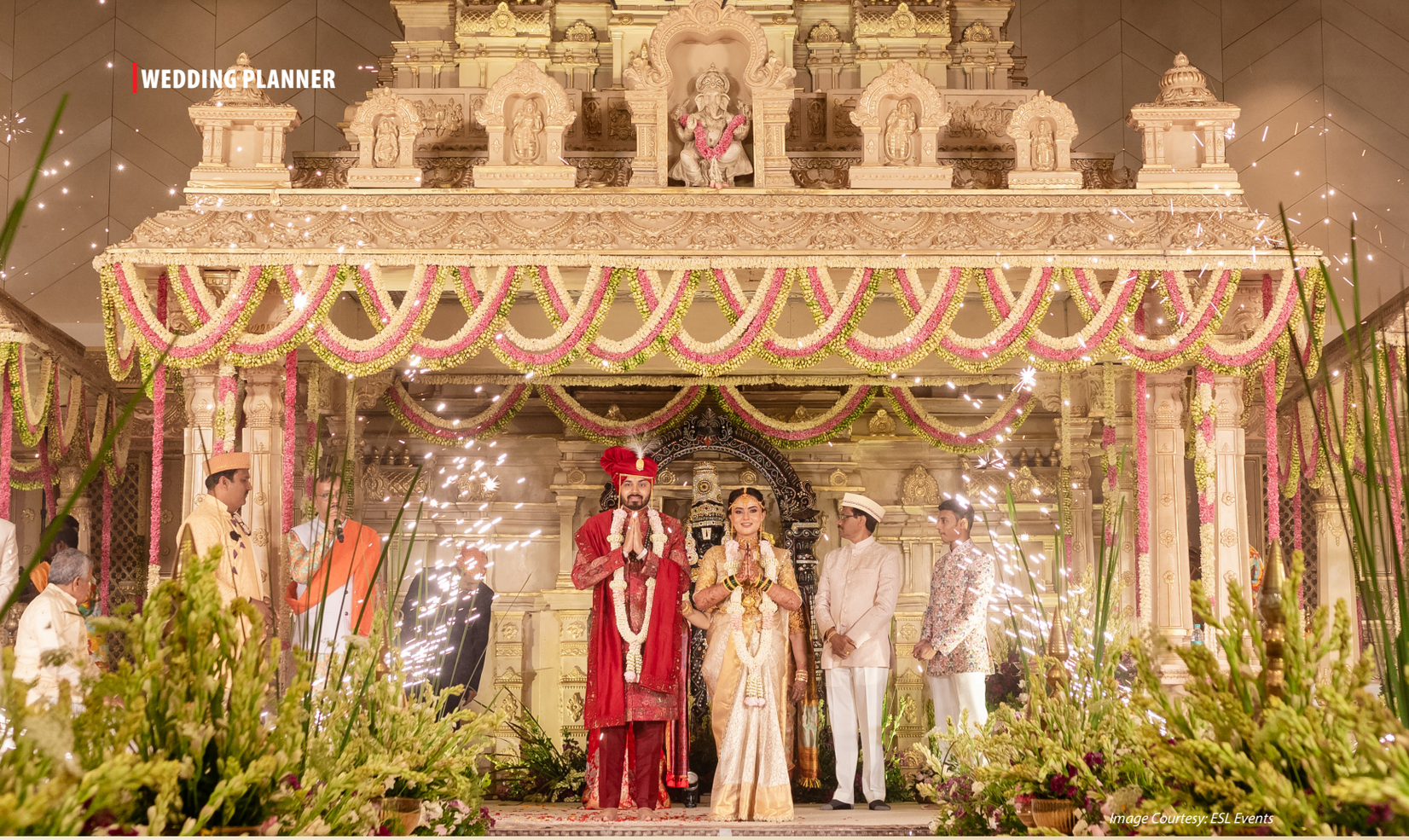

Image Courtesy: ESL Events

VOWS, VENUES & VIBES – CRAFTING LOVE STORIES

Origami decor, Litti Chokha menus and pastel palettes: weddings in 2025 break rules with stylish flair

TT BUREAU

Founded by Ekta Saigal Lulla, ESL Events is redefining luxury weddings. With 18 years in hospitality and 8 years in event design, Ekta has built a reputation for delivering beyond expectations.

As 2025 weddings embrace personalisation and sustainability, ESL Events leads the way, curating moments with elegance. Ekta and her team transform dreams into reality, making the impossible possible. She shares insights on 2025 wedding trends.

WHAT MOOD BOARDS WILL TREND

Weddings in 2025 are all about personalisation, with couples infusing their unique love stories into every detail. The industry is shifting towards immersive, customised mood boards reflecting couples' journeys rather than generic aesthetics.

For instance, we've worked with clients passionate about board games, recreating a full-fledged board game-themed event. Another client's love for Tomorrowland inspired us to curate an immersive experience transporting guests to the heart of the music festival. It's no longer about drawing inspiration, it's about transforming a couple's vision into a wedding distinctly theirs.

TRENDING THEME WEDDINGS

Sustainability continues driving wedding trends, with eco-conscious celebrations becoming more than just a choice. Across the industry, we see a rise in non-floral décor, plastic-free setups, and innovative solutions like intricate origami installations.

We actively integrate sustainable design principles, ensuring beauty

and responsibility go hand in hand. Simultaneously, there's growing interest in traditional Indian and contemporary Western themes. The beauty lies in diverse preferences, allowing couples to tailor weddings to their specific tastes.

FOOD STYLES TO TREND IN 2025

Wedding dining is becoming an experience itself, moving beyond buffets to interactive, customised culinary journeys. At our weddings, we champion a return to authentic regional cuisines.

We see increasing demand for comfort foods and forgotten traditional recipes, both in India and at destination weddings worldwide. Who would have imagined Litti Chokha finding its way into luxury wedding menus? Today, love for local flavours is back, and we embrace this movement wholeheartedly, curating menus deeply rooted in cultural authenticity while delivering gourmet experiences.

TOP DESTINATIONS IN 2025

Couples are seeking breathtaking locales blending luxury with cultural richness. Vietnam, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, and select European destinations are emerging favourites.

India remains a top choice, its majestic palaces and diverse landscapes drawing couples worldwide.

LOCATIONS PICKS IN 2025

While heritage destinations like Udaipur and Jaisalmer remain timeless, boutique hill-station venues and offbeat locations are gaining popularity. Demand for intimate venues with distinct characters is increasing. At ESL, we respond by scouting hidden gems like vineyards, heritage forts, and cliffside resorts, providing experiences beyond conventional city hotels and banquet halls.

AMBIENCES THAT WILL TREND

Muted, warm, earthy palettes take centre stage, with neutral tones and soft pastels dominating wedding aesthetics. Sustainable practices influence floral choices, with couples opting for artificial flowers and eco-friendly arrangements. The focus is on creating an ambience both elegant and environmentally conscious.

WEDDING JEWELLERY

There is a growing preference for wedding jewellery blending tradition with contemporary wearability. Uncut diamonds and jadau remain popular, but we notice a shift towards minimalist, versatile pieces worn beyond the wedding day.

Image Courtesy: ESL Events

Ekta Saigal Lulla, Founder, ESL Events

For NRI clients, we curate jewellery balancing cultural richness with modern aesthetics, pieces holding emotional significance while integrating seamlessly into global lifestyles. Rose gold, emeralds, sapphires, and modular jewellery shape 2025 bridal adornments.

BRIDE AND GROOM WEAR IN 2025

We witness a delightful shift towards softer, romantic colour palettes for brides and grooms. Pastel hues like blush pink, lavender, and mint green dominate bridal scenes. For grooms, the focus is contemporary silhouettes and luxurious fabrics. Bandgalas crafted in opulent silk and velvet gain popularity. We also see fusion wear rise, where traditional Indian elements blend with Western aesthetics, creating unique, stylish ensembles.

WEDDING VOWS, GRAND ARRIVALS THAT COULD GO BIG IN 2025

Grand entrances will always hold charm, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 cities where baraats remain significant traditions. However, we observe a beautiful shift towards intimate, meaningful ceremonies, couples exchanging personalised vows in serene, unconventional settings, sometimes even at their own homes.

Image Courtesy: Reet Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

ROOTS, ROMANCE, REVOLUTIONS

Discover 2025's bold Indian weddings, shaped by Jatin Oberoi's vision.

TT BUREAU

Indian weddings in 2025 are bigger, bolder, and more personalised than ever. Leading wedding planner Jatin Oberoi of Reet Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. has crafted over 300 weddings since 2005, leading a dynamic team that brings fresh ideas, impeccable execution, and meaningful events. Their professionalism and passion consistently deliver bespoke experiences, from moodboards to mega entries, for the wedding and entertainment world.

TRENDING WEDDING MOODBOARDS

Wedding moodboards set the tone for couples seeking meaningful aesthetics. Three key themes lead 2025: Tree of Life symbolises deep roots, family heritage, and growth in nature's embrace, with earthy hues, wooden accents, and hanging vines. Lilac Love offers a fairytale twist of soft lilacs, dreamy pastels, pastel florals, fairy lights, and lace gowns, plus floral invitations. The Derby Theme merges Southern charm and equestrian elegance, featuring vintage horse motifs, champagne bars, stylish hats, and bow ties for added flair.

GEN Z WEDDINGS

Gen Z is reimagining weddings as immersive digital events, blending pop culture references with viral content and real-time interaction. Many couples are embracing Netflix-inspired ceremonies, staging weddings that echo the grandeur of Bridgerton, the neon edge of Euphoria, or the gothic chic of Wednesday Addams. Dramatic entrances mimic epic on-screen moments, and playlists draw heavily on trending soundtracks from popular shows.

Reel-making has become a central focus, with pre-wedding shoots resembling short films and on-the-day highlights captured in slow-motion dances or drone shots. The entire celebration is posted in real time, supported by personalised hashtags and live streaming on platforms like Instagram or YouTube. Guests engage through interactive elements such as 360° photo booths, while teaser announcements and animated save-the-dates build momentum before the big day. Post-wedding, couples continue to fuel digital buzz with professionally edited recap films and thank-you Reels.

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FOOD STYLES TO TREND

Dining at Indian weddings in 2025 will be an immersive experience, with interactive counters. Expect chaat bars, sushi stations, nitrogen ice cream stalls, and gourmet twists on favourites. Hyper-local cuisines spotlight authentic flavours, while fusion options—like butter chicken bao—reflect a modern palate. Sustainability is at the forefront, with farm-to-table menus and plant-based alternatives. Desserts will be experimental and visually striking.

TOP DESTINATION WEDDING CHOICES

Three destinations stand out for couples seeking luxury, culture, and memorable settings. Muscat, Oman captivates with Arabian charm, pristine beaches, and majestic mountains, with venues such as Al Bustan Palace. In Manama, Bahrain, modern luxury meets Arabian heritage, waterfront locations, and hotels The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain. Finally, Cappadocia, Turkey promises fairytale romance, with otherworldly landscapes, cave hotels, and hot air balloons.

LOCATIONS COUPLES WILL PREFER

Indian couples in 2025 are also opting for scenic local destinations. Islands—like the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and parts of South Goa—serve as tropical havens, complete with turquoise waters, sunset beach vows, and intimate seaside receptions. This setting suits those wanting laid-back luxury and boho-inspired aesthetics.

For couples dreaming of regal backdrops and cooler climates, hilltop locations deliver dramatic vistas and a sense of grandeur. Udaipur, Mussoorie, Shimla, Coorg, and Mount Abu boast heritage palaces, mountain resorts, and lush valleys perfect for royal or vintage-style weddings. Whether it's the grandeur of a historic fort or the romance of a forested hillside, hilltop venues offer stunning panoramic views.

BRIDE AND GROOM WEAR

Brides and grooms in 2025 are experimenting with colour palettes like lilac, orange, and mint. These shades balance elegance and freshness, whether for vibrant lehengas or sherwanis. Outfits are also becoming more adventurous, with brides choosing structured lehenga gowns, draped concept sarees, or corset blouses, and grooms favouring layered bandhgalas, asymmetric kurtas, or Indo-Western tuxedos. Minimalistic jewellery is trending, with sleek chokers, floral earcuffs, and asymmetrical necklaces taking centre stage. Grooms are adding subtle touches like heritage-inspired brooches or layered chains.

Image Courtesy: Reet Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

WEDDING VOWS AND GRAND ARRIVALS

Personalised vows and spectacular entrances are set to light up 2025. Couples are mixing traditional pheras with bilingual or filmy dialogues, sometimes adding comedic roasts or crowd participation. Arrivals, meanwhile, are going bigger and bolder than ever. Elephants, vintage cars, and even helicopters or hot air balloons are all part of the show. Neon-lit baraats, fireworks, and choreographed flash mobs elevate the excitement, creating unforgettable moments crafted for both guests and social media.

Image Courtesy: Reet Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

Jatin Oberoi, Founder, Reet Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

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FLASH MOBS & FAIRY-TALES

Annika Talwar reveals what's hot in weddings - fresh ideas, quirky trends, and unforgettable moments!

Image Courtesy: The Wedding Network

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TT BUREAU

Annika Talwar is the founder of The Wedding Network, a Wedding Planning and Management Company. In a little over a decade, The Wedding Network has successfully conceptualised and managed multiple destination weddings across India and Thailand.

Annika shares insights in a Q&A, highlighting emerging wedding trends, and her passion for creating personalised celebrations

WHAT MOOD BOARDS WILL TREND

Couples today want out-of-the-box ideas and experiential events, minimalistic elements in decor yet leading to a grand display of creativity.

With Artificial Intelligence (AI) taking a significant role in bringing ideas to the forefront, mood boards and final output are set to be something out of a fairy-tale. Themes trending over the next seasons: Earthy colours inspired by nature, such as the colour of the year Mocha in all its scrumptious hues, the ever-popular red turning into deep Mahogany, Lavender is the new pink and Teal the new green!

GEN Z WEDDINGS AND NEW TRENDS

The new generation expects a lot more, and no longer wish to be confined by the traditional norms that have taken prevalence in Indian weddings for so many decades. It's all about the freshness and uniqueness of creativity.

FOOD STYLES TO TREND IN 2025

Never-ending spreads across buffet lines are out. Again, focus is more on quality rather than quantity. Specialty cuisines, Michelin-star quality Chefs displaying their culinary art over a couple of counters is key. International and regional cuisines are here to stay.

COUNTRIES BEING THE TOP CHOICES

Walled ballrooms and banquet halls no longer command the interest they once did. Today, the need of the hour is aesthetics in a natural setting. Destinations which hold beautiful and scenic landscapes as backdrops are on top of almost everyone's wish-list.

Thailand, Bahrain, the UAE and Turkey, are hot favourites because they combine this with an increase in travel experiences, showcases of destinations on social media and easy access to most countries around the world. Exotic landscapes, pristine beaches and palatial venues make these countries popular destinations for 2025.

Additionally, ease of arrival, support and incentives from Tourism Authorities make these countries attractive prospects to families and planners alike.

AMBIENCES THAT WILL TREND

Technology is taking the forefront in most events. There is a shift from floral heavy decor to events to impactful and dramatic lighting. Special effects and 'gimmicks' such as MI-bars, kinetic balls, and beat-coordinated light effects are taking centre stage. After-parties are more about replicating a nightclub out of Ibiza rather than the traditional lasers and strobes.

Image Courtesy: The Wedding Network

Flowers and floral arrangements as well, today are more design-driven, reflecting the theme of the event. Tulips, lilies, orchids, sunflowers, peonies, hydrangeas… the list is endless. The palette varies from whites, light and pastels to deep and dark.

WEDDING JEWELLERY

With an increase in destination or destination-format weddings, the outlook towards outfits and jewellery is changing. Gone are the days where the outfits of the bride weighed more than her! Today, designers worldwide have shifted their creations to elegant, experimenting with colours and textures.

Jewellery is about quality again, rather than big chunky pieces. Gemstones such as emeralds and rubies have taken the lead, leaving traditional polki as the runner-up.

WEDDING VOWS, GRAND ARRIVALS THAT COULD GO BIG

Wedding vows have become the new trend. Couples today want to express their emotions in their own words. This is "their" moment, a few minutes of just the two of them, where no one else exists. The focus is more on creating those reactions of awe and excitement. Entries are more about a surprise element, be it a solo walk-in or with friends choreographing a flash mob out of the blue or an entry one least expects.

Annika Talwar, Founder, The Wedding Network

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A fairy-tale retreat for the most cherished "I do."

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Step into a world where your wedding dreams unfold like a fairy tale. Whether it's an intimate destination celebration or a grand affair in the City of Pearls, Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre & HICC sets the stage for the most spectacular unions.

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Let your imagination run wild as our expert event planners and décor teams seamlessly craft breathtaking setups, transforming spaces into surreal wedding wonderlands. From lavish floral mandaps to elegant cocktail lounges, every detail is designed with effortless precision. With a distinct venue for every function, Indian families can experience the perfect blend of tradition and enchantment, making every moment of a residential wedding truly unforgettable.

A wedding isn't just about the ceremony, it's about the experience. Indulge in a pre-wedding pampering session with your bridal party at our spa or host a glamorous bachelorette poolside soirée before the big day. Our luxurious suites and honeymoon retreats make for the perfect romantic escape, ensuring the celebration continues long after the vows are exchanged.

Culinary excellence is at the heart of every great celebration. Embark on a gastronomic journey featuring authentic local flavors and global gourmet delights. Savor handcrafted cocktails and vintage Champagnes, indulge in experiential dining Under The Mango Tree with our signature delicacies, and celebrate with a bespoke wedding cake crafted by our Master Pastry Chef.

Image Courtesy: Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre

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SAYING 'I DO' HITS REFRESH

Image Courtesy: Foreign Wedding Planners

Modern weddings are evolving with AI-driven planning, eco-conscious décor, and unique destinations.

TT BUREAU

With 15+ years of curating dream weddings around the globe, Neha Mehrotra's Foreign Wedding Planners (FWP) knows exactly how to blend luxury with ease. From palace vows to sunset cruises, they've turned unforgettable moments into an art form. As we step into 2025, weddings are getting a major glow-up, with couples chasing personalisation, sustainability, and wow-worthy experiences. Here's what's trending now.

WHAT MOOD BOARDS WILL TREND

Romance is having a major moment but with a twist. 2025's moodboards serve modern nostalgia with pastel lilacs and blush peaches dancing alongside deep emerald, burgundy, and gold. It's ethereal meets opulence. And here's the game-changer: AI-generated inspiration boards. Couples can now play wedding stylist with digital mock-ups, swapping colour schemes, florals, and décor before signing off on the final look. It's wedding planning, but make it futuristic.

GEN Z WEDDINGS AND NEW VIBES

If Gen Z had a wedding mantra, it'd be "Make it real." This generation is ditching stiff formalities for heartfelt, hyper-personal celebrations. Backyard picnics, dreamy elopements, and unexpected venues are stealing the spotlight. Guests are being invited to unplug and be present, with less screen time and more real-time connection.

Eco-conscious choices are central, from thrifted decor and seasonal flowers to sustainable bridalwear. DIY is thriving too, as couples handcraft their vows, customise digital invites, and even serve up 3D-printed cakes for that extra dash of individuality.

FOOD STYLES TO LOOK OUT FOR

Traditional buffets? Snooze. 2025 is all about grazing tables that double as edible art. Charcuterie boards, loaded with global flavours and luxe nibbles, are taking centre stage. Experiential dining is on the rise, featuring live cooking stations, molecular gastronomy, and intimate chef's table setups.

Meanwhile, zero-waste menus, upcycled ingredients, and farm-to-table freshness are setting the sustainability bar high. Add in miniature indulgence—bite-sized desserts, tapas-style mains, and chic cocktail pairings, you've got a culinary lineup that's both light and lavish.

TOP WEDDING DESTINATIONS IN 2025

Looking for a swoon-worthy wedding backdrop? The top destinations of 2025 are pure wanderlust. Italy offers timeless romance through the rolling hills of Tuscany and the cliff-kissed Amalfi Coast. Japan brings a sense of poetic calm with cherry blossoms and minimalist Zen vibes.

Greece dazzles with its iconic sunsets and whitewashed architecture, while India remains unbeatable for regal palaces, vibrant rituals, and heritage-rich charm. And if barefoot luxury is your style, tropical hotspots like Bali and Thailand promise floral-drenched, beachfront magic.

LOCATIONS COUPLES WILL PREFER

Couples are ditching banquet halls for boutique, intimate venues with character. Hybrid spaces that merge indoor comfort with outdoor charm are in demand. Wildcard locations like art galleries, ruins, and private islands add a unique story.

And it's not just one day anymore as multi-day wedding weekends with spa sessions, welcome dinners, and brunches are taking over.

TOP AMBIENCE PICKS

Setting the mood is no longer just about flowers. Colour palettes for 2025 swing between dreamy sherbet pastels, earthy terracotta and olive, and bold jewel tones. Lighting is essential, think candlelit aisles, LED light tunnels, and ceilings dripping with fairy lights. Floral trends are moving towards asymmetry and drama, with cascading chandeliers and preserved blooms that are as eco-friendly as they are elegant.

WEDDING JEWELLERY

Jewellery, too, is having its moment. In 2025, expect clever, convertible pieces that go from ceremony to after-party in a snap. Minimalist designs with vintage flair are leading the way, alongside the return of pearls and colourful stones like emeralds and sapphires. Statement headpieces are back, be it a dainty tiara or a bold bejewelled hair chain, it's all about crowning the look with style.

Neha Mehrotra, Founder, Foreign Wedding Planners

Image Courtesy: Foreign Wedding Planners

BRIDE & GROOM GLOW-UPS

Bridal fashion is serving serious innovation. Corset bodices, detachable sleeves, and floral appliqué veils are stealing hearts. Brides are going personal too, with custom embroidery featuring initials or secret love notes stitched into their gowns. Grooms, meanwhile, are stepping up their style game with pastel suits, velvet tuxedos, asymmetrical kurtas, and standout accessories like brooches and layered chains.

WEDDING VOWS, GRAND ARRIVALS & BIG STATEMENTS

Weddings in 2025 go beyond vows into becoming theatrical experiences themselves. Couples are using AI to craft heartfelt promises, while entrances feature orchestras, drone-lit skies, and holograms.

The celebration continues with midnight ceremonies, post-wedding brunch festivals, and interactive photo booths, and you've got a celebration that becomes a moment itself instead of just marking one.

BOOK AN INTIMATE NAVARASA WEDDING AT STERLING

Navarasa by Sterling crafts intimate weddings, blending luxury, tradition, and personalised touches in stunning destinations.

TT BUREAU

Sterling Lake Palace, Alleppey

Weddings are no longer large-scale gatherings; they have become deeply personal celebrations of love and union. As the head of Marketing at Sterling Holiday Resorts, I'm excited to share why 'Navarasa – Intimate Weddings by Sterling' is your ideal choice for a wedding that not only reflects your style but also celebrates your bond.

Sterling Holiday Resorts, with its luxe yet intimate properties across 51 awe-inspiring destinations including Udaipur, Pushkar, Ranthambore, Gir, Alleppey, Godavari, and Darjeeling offers an unmatched blend of scenic beauty, world-class service, and bespoke experiences. Our locations cater to couples seeking tranquil, personal settings, rich in natural splendour and cultural heritage.

A NEW ERA OF WEDDINGS

In the past, weddings often emphasised grandeur with large guest lists and elaborate decor. Now, there's a distinct move towards smaller, more meaningful celebrations. Couples today prioritise quality time with loved ones, focusing on intimacy and authenticity over size. Navarasa by Sterling meets this demand head-on, tailoring each ceremony to a couple's desires and offering curated décor, handpicked menus, and personal touches at every turn. Dream of a romantic lakeside ceremony in Alleppey? Prefer a serene mountain backdrop in Darjeeling or Udaipur? Every element is crafted to make your wedding truly yours. For an even more exclusive experience, you can book the entire resort, ensuring ultimate privacy and personalisation.

TRADITIONAL MEETS MODERN

Indian weddings are steeped in cultural tradition, but modern couples often choose to fuse these rituals with contemporary details. This shift is visible in wedding attire, where brides and grooms mix classic elements with minimalist cuts or unconventional designs. Navarasa by Sterling seamlessly integrates heritage with modern flair. Our décor merges local cultural influences with chic aesthetics, while our culinary offerings reflect a blend of traditional Indian flavours and global gastronomy. Imagine hosting your haldi or mehndi by the pool, followed by cocktail soirées on our lush lawns, all with a distinct cultural imprint framed by stylish details.

EMBRACING DIGITAL INNOVATIONS

As technology advances, many couples are finding innovative ways to enhance their weddings. Sterling uses such advancements to streamline planning and deliver a stress-free experience. From AI tools that help you design your big day, to virtual reality venue tours, we ensure you stay in control, even from afar. Live-streaming facilities let absent friends and family join in real time, capturing every emotional moment for those unable to attend in person.

THE APPEAL OF DESTINATION WEDDINGS

Global connectivity has fuelled a rise in destination weddings. Couples seek locations that mirror their personalities, offering unique experiences for all. Domestic destinations are especially appealing, blending cultural familiarity with convenience. Sterling's range of Indian

resorts perfectly suits these trends. Our Udaipur property, with views of the Aravalli mountains, creates a fairy-tale ambiance. Pushkar immerses you in a spiritual desert landscape, while Ranthambore brings you closer to nature and wildlife. Gir, famous for its Asiatic lions, turns your wedding into an intimate safari-like adventure. Alleppey's placid backwaters form a tranquil setting, while Godavari's lush surroundings infuse your day with a gentle, spiritual aura. Darjeeling's stunning vistas of Kanchenjunga promise an ethereal mountain retreat.

A DYNAMIC MARKET

The Indian wedding industry is poised for extraordinary growth, propelled by rising disposable incomes, digitalisation, and initiatives like "Wed in India." Leading experts predict the market could reach USD 228.69 billion by 2030, with a compound annual growth rate of over 14%. Luxury spending and the shift towards personalised, digitised weddings continue to reshape the industry. Sterling remains at the forefront of this evolution, combining premium standards and innovative solutions with a proven knack for crafting unforgettable experiences.

Navarasa by Sterling is more than a mere event; it's a curated journey that captures your story. Each resort can be adapted to your vision, no matter if it's a small gathering on a resort lawn or a cultural extravaganza with added personal elements. Our teams are devoted to ensuring every detail resonates with your tastes, from the décor and entertainment to the cuisine and digital aspects.

Your wedding day ought to reflect the journey you've shared with your partner, deserving a celebration as unique as your love story. By choosing Navarasa by Sterling, you opt for a partner that invests in your vision, translating your dreams into reality. Picture a quiet, lotus-filled pond ceremony in Godavari or a regal lakeside celebration in Udaipur. Whichever locale you select, you're guaranteed a blend of luxury, intimacy, and magic. Navarasa by Sterling invites you to craft cherished memories in destinations steeped in natural beauty and local heritage. Let us be the architects of a day you and your guests will treasure forever.

Choose Navarasa by Sterling and embrace a wedding experience designed for you—a personal, awe-inspiring celebration that stands as a testament to your love, your dreams, and the next chapter of your life together.

Harinath M, Sr Vice President-Marketing, Sterling Holiday Resorts Ltd

Sterling Aravalli, Udaipur

Bride & Groom

VOWS, VIEWS & VIRALITY: 2025 WEDDING SHIFT

Divya Vithika Wedding Planners on personalisation, sustainability, and technology transforming weddings

TT BUREAU

Image Courtesy: Divya Vithika Wedding Planners

For over 16 years, Divya Chauhan and Vithika Agarwal, former Miss India titleholders, have led luxury wedding planning in India. Their company, Divya Vithika Wedding Planners, blends sophistication, creativity, and cultural authenticity to craft elegant, deeply personal celebrations. Recognised among the top 100 global wedding planners by DWP Congress, they design weddings across India's cultural landscape and for international families returning to their roots.

Vithika reveal the wedding trends shaping luxury celebrations.

MOOD BOARDS TO TREND

Indian weddings will embrace a revival of cultural heritage, with couples drawing deeper inspiration from their roots. Hand-painted motifs, block prints, intricate carvings, and embroidery will feature alongside earthy tones and natural textures like linen, wood, and clay. Sustainability will be key, with biodegradable floral arrangements and locally sourced décor making weddings both visually stunning and eco-friendly.

GEN Z WEDDINGS

Gen Z is redefining weddings through technology, personalisation, and sustainability. AI-powered planning, AR photo booths, and drone photography will enhance guest experiences, while interactive digital invitations and immersive storytelling will become wedding staples. Wedding content creators, and custom hashtags will shape highly curated celebrations.

A major trend will be documentary-style wedding photography and 'first look' moments, replacing posed portraits with spontaneous storytelling. One couple, childhood sweethearts, hosted their wedding at their old school, weaving sports day games, and nostalgic photoshoots into their celebration.

The "branded wedding" trend is rising, with custom crests, monograms, and cohesive colour palettes creating a signature

Image Courtesy: Divya Vithika Wedding Planners

identity across save-the-date cards, invitations, and thank-you notes.

FOOD STYLES TO TREND IN 2025

Grazing boards will remain a cocktail hour favourite for their visual appeal and customisation. Comfort foods such as Parle-G with chai or late-night Maggi at after-parties will add a nostalgic touch.

Menus will go beyond taste, focusing on experience and emotion. Fusion desserts like matcha laddoos, cheesecake-infused mithais, and truffle-inspired sweets will be in demand.

TOP WEDDING DESTINATION PICKS

Morocco, Dubai, and Italy will remain top international destinations, offering luxury, history, and charm. Lake Como and Tuscany will continue to attract those seeking romantic elegance, while Santorini's coastal scenery will be a popular choice.

In India, Rajasthan, Goa, and Kerala will stay iconic, blending heritage, natural beauty, and grandeur. Emerging hotspots such as Rishikesh, Mussoorie, and Coorg will attract couples looking for spiritual, mountain, and nature-inspired celebrations.

LOCATIONS COUPLES WILL PREFER

Couples will move away from banquet halls, favouring intimate, meaningful venues. Home ceremonies for Haldi and Mehendi will add a personal, nostalgic touch.

Expect weddings in vineyards, beaches, and desert landscapes, offering picturesque backdrops. Temples will gain prominence, blending spirituality with serenity. Royal palaces and forts, will remain grand, intimate choices.

AMBIENCE THAT WILL TREND

Couples will embrace two aesthetics, one favouring bold floral arrangements and vibrant hues, the other leaning towards minimalist sophistication.

Some will prefer grand celebrations with lively décor and upbeat energy, while others opt for understated elegance with soft lighting and refined floral arrangements.

WEDDING JEWELLERY TRENDS

Bridal jewellery will blend heritage with modern minimalism. Kundan, Jadau, and temple jewellery will remain treasured heirlooms, while lightweight gold pieces with pastel gemstones will appeal to contemporary brides.

Matching couple jewellery is growing in popularity. One couple chose coordinated bracelets over a mangalsutra, adding a timeless personal touch. The 18th-century "Toi et Moi" ring, symbolising union and balance, is making a comeback.

BRIDE AND GROOM WEAR IN 2025

Bridal fashion will fall into two distinct styles. Some brides will embrace bold, playful elegance, opting for intricate lehengas, elaborate jewellery, and statement makeup. Others will choose understated grace, favouring ivory, pastels, and delicate embroidery for a timeless, ethereal look.

Grooms will prefer structured sherwanis in emerald green, navy, and maroon, featuring subtle embroidery and luxurious fabrics. Coordinated outfits for the bride and groom will remain popular, ensuring harmonious wedding aesthetics.

WEDDING VOWS GRAND ARRIVALS

Modern Indian brides are rewriting traditions: replacing quiet, demure entrances with joyful, celebratory arrivals, often dancing under the phoolon ki chaadar.

Grand entrances will continue to evolve, with vintage cars, horse-drawn carriages, and even hot air balloons making weddings more memorable. Drone light shows will replace fireworks, creating eco-friendly yet breathtaking spectacles.

Weddings in 2025 will be non-stop celebrations, featuring DJ nights, celebrity performances, and immersive dance floors.

Divya Chauhan & Vithika Agarwal, Founders, Divya Vithika Wedding Planners

MICRO, MEGA, OR METAVERSE?

Shubh Muhurat Luxury Weddings Founder Shrawan Kumar talks about the 2025 Wedding Palette

TT BUREAU

Image Courtesy: Shubh Muhurat Luxury Weddings

A trailblazer in luxury weddings and bespoke travel, ooking ahead to 2025 wedding trends, Shrawan Kumar unveils the evolving landscape, from mood boards and bridal fashion to grand arrivals and sustainable celebrations.

WHAT MOOD BOARDS WILL TREND

Weddings will embrace 'Eco-Luxe Minimalism and Cultural Heritage with a Modern Touch'. Couples will favour soft neutrals, sustainable décor, and understated elegance, exuding luxury through simplicity. Others will honour their heritage through bold colours, intricate designs, and artisanal craftsmanship. Zero-waste setups, biodegradable floral arrangements, and locally sourced elements will shape wedding aesthetics, blending visual grandeur with environmental responsibility.

GEN Z WEDDINGS AND NEW TRENDS

Personalisation, technology, and sustainability will take centre stage. AI-powered wedding planning, AR photo booths, and drone photography will elevate guest experiences. Interactive digital invitations, unique guest experience zones, and immersive storytelling elements will become the norm. Sustainable weddings, featuring eco-friendly décor, plant-based catering, and carbon-neutral venues, will be mainstream. Destination micro-weddings, custom wedding hashtags, and intimate, meaningful celebrations will define modern nuptials.

FOOD STYLES TO TREND

Menus will strike a balance between luxury, nostalgia, and health-conscious choices. Gourmet street food will offer elevated versions of chaat, golgappa, and kebabs, while desserts will feature fusion elements such as matcha laddoos, cheesecake-infused mithais, and handcrafted truffle-inspired sweets. Vegan and Ayurvedic menus will gain popularity, featuring organic farm-fresh dishes, plant-based thalis, and gut-friendly beverages, catering to health-conscious guests.

TOP WEDDING DESTINATIONS AND WHY

Couples will seek breathtaking global locations for their celebrations. Lake Como, Tuscany, and Santorini will remain

sought-after for their romantic landscapes. Bali's beaches and Dubai's opulent venues will continue to attract luxury weddings.

In India, Rajasthan's palaces, Goa's beachside resorts, and Kerala's backwater retreats will be among the most desired wedding destinations. Emerging hotspots like Rishikesh, Mussoorie, and Coorg will appeal to couples looking for spiritual, and nature-inspired ceremonies.

WHAT KIND OF LOCATIONS WILL COUPLES PREFER

Immersive venues will redefine wedding settings. Royal palaces and forts will remain in demand for their historic grandeur, while boutique resorts and luxury villas will cater to those seeking exclusivity. Eco-retreats and nature resorts will attract couples prioritising sustainability, while urban rooftop venues with city skyline views will appeal to those who favour sophisticated metropolitan settings.

WHAT AMBIENCE WILL TREND

Earthy tones such as deep maroon, terracotta, mustard, and sage green will dominate the 2025 wedding palette, bringing warmth and sophistication. Lighting will be pivotal, with fairy lights, vintage chandeliers, and soft lanterns creating an intimate and ethereal setting. Floral designs will merge traditional and modern aesthetics, incorporating marigolds, lotuses, peonies, and roses into floating installations, hanging blooms, and oversized floral arches for a bold yet elegant statement.

WHAT WILL WEDDING JEWELLERY TRENDS LOOK LIKE

Bridal jewellery will merge heritage with modern minimalism. Brides will embrace Kundan, Jadau, and temple jewellery, often heirloom pieces with sentimental value. Meanwhile, lightweight gold designs, pastel gemstones, and delicate statement chokers will appeal to contemporary brides. Emerald-studded pieces, layered necklaces, and personalised jewellery featuring initials or symbolic elements will gain traction, offering a balance between tradition and individuality.

Shrawan Kumar, Founder, Shubh Muhurat Luxury Weddings

WHAT WILL BRIDE AND GROOM WEAR

Bridal fashion will focus on lighter lehengas with intricate embroidery, combining comfort and grandeur. Pastel hues with gold accents will dominate,. Grooms will favour sleek, structured sherwanis in deep emerald, navy, and maroon, featuring subtle embroidery and luxurious fabrics. Coordinated bridal and groom ensembles will remain a popular trend, ensuring a visually cohesive and striking wedding look.

WEDDING VOWS AND GRAND ARRIVALS GO BIG

Personalised wedding vows will take centre stage, with couples choosing handwritten, heartfelt messages over traditional scripts. Cultural storytelling, poetry, and song dedications will add emotional depth to ceremonies.

Grand entrances will be reimagined, with drone light shows replacing fireworks, offering a sustainable yet spectacular display. Thematic arrivals, such as vintage cars, horse-drawn carriages, and even hot air balloons, will become statement-making moments, ensuring a memorable and unique wedding experience.

As 2025 approaches, weddings will evolve into deeply personal, immersive celebrations. In fact, the future of weddings will be defined by authenticity, innovation, and meaningful experiences.

Image Courtesy: Shubh Muhurat Luxury Weddings

LUXE GIFTS FOR THE JUST MARRIED

Meaningful gifts for the beautifully matched

TT BUREAU

In 2025, wedding gifts are about leaving a lasting impression. As couples embrace curated lifestyles and collect experiences as passionately as possessions, gift-giving has taken a sophisticated turn. The most desirable presents are no longer defined by price tags alone, but by their ability to reflect the couple's journey, values, and shared taste.

From legacy-making classics to personalised luxury, here are wedding gifts that bring thoughtfulness and style into perfect harmony.

THE COUPLE'S FIRST CLASSIC CAR

Few gifts capture timelessness quite like a vintage car. A fully restored Porsche 356, Jaguar E-Type, or even a made-to-order Rolls-Royce Boat Tail offers more than mechanical excellence, it represents the start of a new chapter. Curated through specialists like RM Sotheby's or Hemmings, each car becomes a four-wheeled memory-maker. For couples who enjoy the open road or plan to join exclusive motoring clubs, it's a gift that speaks to passion and permanence.

A PRIVATE WINE CELLAR CURATED BY BERRY BROS. & RUDD

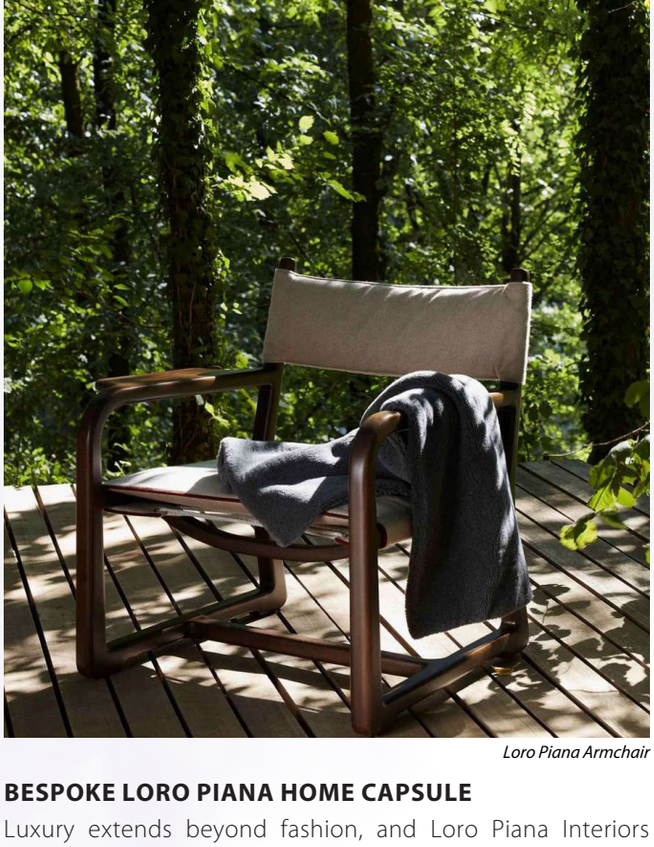
For the newlyweds who prefer to celebrate with something beautifully aged, a bespoke wine cellar is both indulgent and intelligent. Renowned wine merchants like Berry Bros. & Rudd or Maison Chapoutier offer a fully curated experience from selecting investment-grade bottles to designing the cellar layout itself. With optional vineyard visits and expert guidance, it becomes a journey into connoisseurship.

Add a Liebherr climate-controlled cabinet, and the couple has everything they need to toast anniversaries for decades.

LIMITED-EDITION STEAMER TRUNKS BY GOYARD

Gifting a Goyard trunk is like presenting a portable piece of heritage. Known for their discretion and craftsmanship, Goyard offers limited-edition, made-to-order steamer trunks complete with custom linings, hand-painted crests, and unique interior fittings. They're often used as travel companions or adapted into stylish home elements — statement bars, linen storage, or design centrepieces. Either way, it's the kind of gift that stays with the couple, across cities, homes, and generations.

Assouline Ultimate Tower



Loro Piana Armchair

Minaudière Trunk Bag By Goyard Paris

BESPOKE LORO PIANA HOME CAPSULE

Luxury extends beyond fashion, and Loro Piana Interiors is proof. Their home capsule collections feature ultra-fine cashmere throws, merino wool bedding, and travel essentials crafted to the highest standards.

Everything is dyed, woven, and assembled to the couple's specification with an option to collaborate directly with the Milan atelier. It's a soft-spoken expression of elegance, the sort that becomes quietly essential to daily life.

AN HERMÈS EQUESTRIAN EXPERIENCE

Hermès offers couples a rare chance to engage with its equestrian legacy through private experiences at Haras de la Gesse in southern France. It's an immersive week of tailored riding sessions, fittings with Hermès saddle makers, and meals crafted around regional ingredients.

Set against rolling pastures and centuries-old stables, it's an elegant way to slow down, connect, and embrace a lifestyle rich in tradition and grace.

A JAEGER-LECOULTRE ATMOS CLOCK

Marrying engineering and art, the Atmos clock by Jaeger-LeCoultre is a poetic addition to any space. It runs without batteries or winding, powered entirely by subtle shifts in temperature.

Silent and mesmerising, the Jaeger-LeCoultre Atmos offers a sculptural take on timekeeping. Special editions designed in collaboration with artists and architects elevate it further, making it a gift that blends aesthetic refinement with enduring function.

A PAIR OF CUSTOM GLOBE-TROTTER VANITY CASES

Travel essentials can be as luxurious as the destination. Globe-Trotter's handcrafted vanity cases are made to order, finished with the couple's initials, wedding date, and personalised colourways. Lined in leather and finished with polished hardware, they're a glamorous way to store beauty essentials or tech accessories on the go.

For a thoughtful touch, add a curated set of travel-size products from Creed, Dr. Barbara Sturm, or Augustinus Bader — a perfect blend of practicality and polish.

Hermès Passifolia Dinner Service

Liebherr Wine Cabinet

Image Courtesy: Swaaha Weddings & Experiences

FROM PARIS TO PUSHKAR

Wedding fashion trends that are rewriting 2025

TT BUREAU

Wedding wardrobes across the globe are undergoing a vibrant transformation. With personal expression, cultural depth, and eco-conscious values leading the way, bridal fashion is evolving into an art form.

Across continents, stretching from the couture capitals of Europe to the ceremonial heartlands of India, 2025 is shaping up to be the year of boundary-breaking bridal style.

Designers are blending innovation with tradition, and brides are embracing looks that speak not only to beauty but also to identity, purpose, and legacy. Each ensemble now carries deeper meaning, rooted in storytelling, craftsmanship, and a desire to honour individuality with intention.

BEYOND THE WHITE DRESS

The white wedding gown is being reimagined. Designers like Ashish Gupta and Kate Halfpenny are embracing colour, embellishment, and storytelling fabrics that speak to a bride's individuality. This year's gowns feature everything from metallic accents to celestial-inspired embroidery, with pinks, champagnes, and even lavender hues stealing attention.

Silhouettes are becoming more sculptural. Dramatic basque waists, structured sleeves, and corseted bodices give wedding dresses a powerful, architectural presence. These designs, showcased by names like Vivienne Westwood and Ines Di Santo, reflect a fusion of tradition and innovation, offering brides elegance with an edge.

Adaptability is also redefining bridalwear. Dresses with detachable layers, switchable trains, and multi-wear elements allow brides to move effortlessly between ceremony and celebration. For the confident trendsetter, bridal pantsuits and sleek jumpsuits are stepping into the spotlight—sleek, empowering, and refreshingly modern.

Bridal jewellery is now bold, ethical, and deeply expressive. Sculptural earrings, modern crowns, and vintage-inspired brooches make strong statements while doubling as keepsakes. Many designers are embracing sustainable materials and ethically sourced gems to offer luxury that aligns with conscious living.

Sustainability has become a key narrative in bridal couture. Fashion houses are designing dresses using upcycled fabrics, plant-based dyes, and environmentally mindful processes. Gowns that transform for future use or can be passed through generations are now being considered the ultimate luxury.

Image Courtesy: Saisha

Image Courtesy: Vivienne Westwood

INDIA GOES BOLD

The bridal lehenga has returned to the spotlight, not in its usual form, but reinterpreted through layered textures, vintage embroidery techniques, and rich craftsmanship. Intricate zardozi, mirror work, and fine handloom weaves are making a powerful cultural statement.

Artisans are drawing inspiration from archival patterns, reimagining them with new materials and unexpected colour combinations that reflect both heritage and evolution.

Silhouettes are evolving too. Corset-style cholis lend structure to bridal ensembles, and cape-style dupattas offer a fluid, modern drape. These updated elements give traditional outfits a contemporary character without taking away their ceremonial charm. Asymmetry, layering, and movement are now embraced as part of the design vocabulary.

Brides opting for daytime weddings are gravitating toward pastel palettes. Dusty rose, pistachio green, and powder blue dominate, offering a soft and romantic aesthetic perfect for outdoor or daytime nuptials.

As the day turns to evening, opulence takes over, with sequins, velvets, and metallics ushering in a glamorous transformation. Rich jewel tones, dramatic silhouettes, and heritage jewellery create visual contrast that elevates the mood.

The demand for personalisation has soared. Brides are requesting their initials, wedding dates, or meaningful quotes to be delicately embroidered along the hem of their lehengas or veils. This subtle storytelling adds an emotional layer to the outfit, turning fashion into memoir.

SIGNATURE COLLECTIONS: THE DESIGNERS DEFINING BRIDAL FASHION IN 2025

In 2025, bridal fashion continues to evolve, with designers across the globe unveiling collections that blend tradition with contemporary flair. From the runways of New York to the ateliers of Mumbai, these signature collections are redefining wedding aesthetics for the modern bride.

GLOBAL VISIONARIES

Vera Wang, a stalwart in bridal couture, continues to push boundaries with her latest collection. Emphasizing personal expression, Wang's designs feature unconventional silhouettes and intricate detailing, encouraging brides to embrace individuality on their special day.

Ines Di Santo's 2025 collection showcases voluminous ball gowns and delicate lacework, capturing the essence of romantic elegance. Her designs, characterised by meticulous craftsmanship, offer a harmonious blend of classic and contemporary elements.

Esé Azénabor, known for her opulent designs, introduces a collection rich in hand-beading and luxurious fabrics. Her gowns, often adorned with intricate embroidery, reflect a fusion of African heritage and European elegance, catering to brides desiring a statement piece.

Image Courtesy: Annika by Kelly Faetanini

Elie Saab, revered for his ethereal creations, returns with a bridal collection that features delicate tulle, sweeping trains, and hand-applied floral appliqués. His work continues to captivate brides drawn to elegance, grandeur, and timeless femininity.

Zuhair Murad blends drama and grace in his 2025 bridal collection, incorporating sheer panels, high slits, and intricate crystal embroidery. His gowns are bold yet balanced, perfect for those seeking red-carpet glamour in a bridal context.

INDIAN MAESTROS

Manish Malhotra's latest bridal offerings are a testament to his signature style, merging traditional Indian motifs with contemporary silhouettes. His use of rich textiles and detailed embellishments creates ensembles that exude grandeur and modernity.

Sabyasachi Mukherjee continues to captivate with his timeless designs. His 2025 collection features intricate embroidery and classic cuts, resonating with brides who appreciate heritage craftsmanship.

Tarun Tahiliani's 2025 bridal collection, titled "Timeless - Summer Wedding Edit," embodies ethereal elegance. Featuring hand-embroidered mirror work and fluid silhouettes, his designs reflect light and movement, ideal for summer weddings. Tahiliani's creations honour traditional craftsmanship while embracing contemporary aesthetics, offering brides a harmonious blend of heritage and modernity.

REVIVING LEGACY, SUSTAINABLY

A revival of heirloom textiles is also making waves. Vintage Banarasi silks, Patolas, and Paithanis are being styled with contemporary elements like antique dupattas with structured corsets or traditional jewellery paired with bold makeup and sleek hairstyles.

This fusion honours legacy as well as creates something entirely new. Layering heritage weaves with modern silhouettes allows brides to express individuality while paying tribute to family traditions and regional artistry.

Eco-conscious choices are shaping Indian bridal fashion too. Designers are working with organic fabrics, natural dyes, and regional crafts that support local artisans.

Brides are also finding creative ways to reuse their wedding outfits, styling them for festivals, family occasions, or repurposing them into separates. This thoughtful approach brings new meaning to bridalwear, turning garments into pieces that evolve alongside the wearer's journey.

Bridal fashion in 2025 is defined by stories, woven in threads, sculpted into silhouettes, and styled to reflect values. It's not about following a rulebook. It's about celebrating identity, heritage, and imagination on one of life's most meaningful stages. Each ensemble becomes a personal archive, alive with memory, movement, and meaning.

Image Courtesy: Vivienne Westwood

LAUREATO 42 MM

The Laureato 42mm showcases the iconic combination of polished and satin finished surfaces in its stainless steel case. With a slim profile of 10.68 mm, it easily fits under a shirt cuff, while the well-designed steel bracelet ensures a comfortable fit for the wearer.

WEDDINGS, BUT MAKE IT GEN Z: RE-IMAGINING "I DO"

Gen Z swaps tradition for experience, sustainability, and soul

KAMAL GILL

Gen Z is flipping the script on weddings. Forget cookie-cutter ceremonies, extravagant guest lists, and rigid traditions—this generation is all about making their big day personal, intentional, and just a little bit rebellious. Whether swapping ballrooms for backyards, sustainability over excess, or TikTok over traditional planners, Gen Z is reimagining "I do" in a way that feels right for them.

MARRIAGE STILL MATTERS, BUT ON THEIR TERMS

Despite growing up in a world where commitment looks different, Gen Z still believes in marriage. 86% see it as part of their future, with most already thinking about their wedding long before they're engaged. But here's the twist—they're not following the same rulebook as past generations. Marriage isn't about pressure or expectation; it's a choice they make when it feels right. Instead of feeling trapped by tradition, they're shaping it to fit their own lives, values, and timelines.

Shares Annika Talwar, Wedding Network, " With the onset of AI taking a predominantly significant role in bringing ideas to the forefront, mood boards and final output are set to be something out of a fairy-tale. Minimalistic elements in decor, leading to a grand display of design and creativity as a whole as set to define creativity and design moving forward."

SMALL, INTENTIONAL, AND HYPER-PERSONAL

Big weddings? Not always the vibe. Gen Z couples are leaning into smaller, more intimate affairs, curated ceremonies that can cost the earth but can hold a deeply personal touch.

Shares Mareesha Parekh, Swaaha Weddings & Experiences - 'Gen Z Indian weddings are all about personalization, sustainability -eco friendly, and intimate experiences; having

Image Courtesy: The Wedding Network

Image Courtesy: The Wedding Network

said that there is a set of families who will believe in going all out in making it larger than life on all fronts, though the number of such events will be much lesser than the way it used to be in the last decade. Couples are now blending traditions with modern aesthetics, opting for eco-friendly décor, digital invites, and meaningful gatherings. Fusion fashion, immersive entertainment, and interactive elements create unique celebrations and thus, the focus is on experiences over extravagance, making weddings more conscious, engaging, and memorable as individual experiences.'

The "microwedding" trend—where guest lists are capped at 50—is gaining serious traction, with nearly half of couples considering it. This isn't just about budget, because curation is extremely expensive; it's about creating a wedding that actually means something to them.

Neha Mehrotra of Foreign Wedding Planners further explains, 'Gen Z couples are redefining the concept of weddings by prioritising authenticity and individuality over convention. Many are moving away from rigid formalities and opting for more relaxed, personal celebrations that truly reflect their personalities. Traditional banquet halls are being replaced with unconventional venues such as backyard gardens, cosy elopement destinations, and scenic outdoor settings. The emphasis is on creating immersive experiences, where the focus shifts from social media documentation to being fully present in the moment. Many weddings are now embracing an unplugged approach, with guests encouraged to put away their devices and engage in genuine, intimate celebrations."

Every detail, from the location to the music, is curated and reflects their personality and relationship. It's less about impressing distant relatives and more about curating an experience with the people who matter most... no matter the price.

According to Shrawan Kumar, Shubh Muhurat Luxury Weddings, 'The younger generation is redefining weddings with personalization, technology, and sustainability at the forefront. AI-powered wedding planning, AR photo booths, and drone photography will enhance the guest experience. Unique guest experience zones, interactive digital invitations, and intimate, meaningful celebrations will be key trends. Sustainable weddings will rise, with eco-friendly décor, plant-based catering, and carbon-neutral venues becoming mainstream. Destination micro-weddings, custom wedding hashtags, and storytelling elements will also shape the celebrations.'

Image Courtesy: ESL Events

THE TIKTOK EFFECT: WEDDINGS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Gen Z plans weddings the same way they do everything else-on their phones. Pinterest boards and bridal magazines? Sure, but TikTok and Instagram are where the real inspiration happens.

Says Jatin Oberoi, Reet Entertainment, " Gen Z is redefining weddings with a mix of digital creativity, pop culture influence, and social media-driven experiences. From Netflix-inspired aesthetics to viral Reels and curated wedding hype, these weddings are more than just ceremonies—they're immersive digital events. With Instagram and TikTok dominating social spaces, weddings are designed to be Reel-worthy. Couples are investing in pre-wedding shoots that feel like short films, featuring cinematic proposal and engagement videos with professional editing and storytelling."

Jatin goes on to add, "On the wedding day, live content is captured through behind-the-scenes footage, countdown stories, and in-the-moment highlights. Slow-motion dances, emotional vows, and stunning drone shots are incorporated to create viral-worthy wedding content that not only immortalizes the day but also engages a wider digital audience"

Wedding content creators are the new must-haves, capturing behind-the-scenes moments in real-time and making sure the wedding looks just as good online as it does in person.

Viral trends, candid reels, and AI-powered wedding-planning tools are all part of the mix. Expensive shoots, elaborate settings, quirky locations, personal space overs, mood boards, music—it's a full-blown extravaganza that captures mood, love, and personality to perfection.

Vithika Agarwal of Divya Vithika Wedding Planners adds, "Gen Z is redefining weddings through technology, personalisation, and sustainability. AI-powered planning, AR photo booths, and drone photography will enhance guest experiences, while interactive digital invitations and immersive storytelling will become wedding staples."

CREATING HYPE: THE WEDDING AS A DIGITAL EVENT

Gen Z understands the power of digital buzz and turns their wedding into an event worth talking about. Teaser announcements build anticipation with countdown posts, engagement story highlights, and sneak peeks of wedding details.

Of course, Gen Z makes it a fine art. Shares Jatin, "Gen Z weddings are live experiences shared with a digital audience, ensuring that those near and far can take part in the celebrations. Personalized wedding hashtags allow guests to tag and track posts related to the big day, creating an online wedding album in real time. Live streaming is a must, with remote guests tuning in via Instagram Live, YouTube, or Zoom. Meanwhile, interactive elements such as photo booths, 360° cameras, and instant digital photo-sharing ensure that every guest has content to post, adding to the event's social media presence."

Custom digital invitations, animated save-the-dates, and personalized wedding websites create an exclusive and interactive experience for guests. Post-wedding, couples keep the momentum going with professionally edited wedding recap films, thank-you Reels, and after-party highlights that set trends for future weddings.

It's not about being flashy, though; it's about authenticity—because if it's not documented right, did it even happen?

NETFLIX INFLUENCE: CINEMATIC WEDDINGS

Jatin Oberoi has a good understanding how Gen Z's love for storytelling is shaping weddings into cinematic experiences, drawing inspiration from Netflix series and films. Jatin points out,

Image Courtesy: The Wedding Network

Image Courtesy: The Wedding Network

"Many couples are opting for themes that reflect their favorite shows, such as Bridgerton-inspired Regency decor, Euphoria-style neon receptions, or gothic chic elements inspired by Wednesday Addams. Dramatic entrances have become a staple, mirroring epic scenes from hit series with grand staircases, fog machines, or theatrical lighting. Music plays a huge role in creating the right atmosphere, with live orchestras performing scores from Netflix originals or playlists filled with trending soundtracks from popular series."

SUSTAINABILITY IS THE NEW LUXURY

GEN Z isn't here for wasteful weddings. Sustainable and ethical choices are front and center, from eco-friendly venues to pre-loved dresses and zero-waste decor. Nearly a third of Gen Z couples are making sustainable swaps in their wedding plans, proving that a dream wedding doesn't have to come at the planet's expense, even if it comes at a big price.

The shift isn't just about aesthetics—it's about values. Ethical diamonds, plant-based menus, eco-friendly dresses, and digital invites aren't just trends; they're a reflection of a generation that actually cares about what they consume.

Neha Mehrotra of Foreign Wedding Planners says, " Sustainability is also at the heart of Gen Z wedding trends. Eco-conscious choices such as thrifted wedding décor, locally sourced flowers, and ethical bridal fashion are becoming the norm. Sustainable practices are not just limited to décor and fashion but extend to every aspect of wedding planning. From biodegradable confetti to digital invitations and zero-waste receptions, couples are making conscious efforts to minimise their environmental footprint. Personalisation is key, with couples writing their own wedding vows, designing interactive digital invites, and even experimenting with 3D-printed wedding cakes to add a unique touch to their special day.'

SPENDING SMARTER, NOT BIGGER

Gen Z is pragmatic about money, but when it comes to weddings, it's personal choice over the planned budget. While some still go all out, many are finding creative ways to have a super special event without sacrificing the experience.

The average wedding today costs $35,000, and a growing number of couples are opting for expensively planned elopements, romantic destination weddings, or unconventional venues to keep things unique.

The economy plays a role here, too—73% of Gen Z and Millennials believe weddings can never be too expensive if the world stops in its tracks for them. Sensational is the first rule in the playbook.

BREAKING THE RULES AND MAKING THEIR OWN

The classic wedding formula is officially out the window. Gen Z is ditching wedding parties, choosing non-traditional outfits, and swapping classic ceremony songs for ones that are curated to mean something to them.

Gender roles? Not a thing. Wedding traditions that don't feel right? Skipped. It's all about creating a day that feels true to them, not just following a script. Weddings today are more than just a big event—they're an extension of identity, a creative expression, and a celebration of love in a way that makes memories for modern couples.

As Gen Z continues to rewrite the wedding playbook, one thing is clear: Tradition isn't dead; it's just evolving.

MANDAPS & MILLION DOLLAR MOMENTS

India's wedding industry has experienced remarkable growth in recent years, with luxury celebrations taking centre stage

TT BUREAU

The Indian wedding market is expanding at an unprecedented pace, particularly in the luxury segment, fueled by a growing affluent population and evolving consumer aspirations. The sector is projected to grow by 6.5-7% annually in 2025, with high-end fashion, bespoke experiences, and immersive shopping playing pivotal roles in this surge.

In 2024, an estimated 4.8 million weddings were held, generating a staggering $70.4 billion in revenue. Notably, 9% of these weddings had budgets exceeding ₹1 crore, with over 60% of them being destination weddings, an indicator of the rising preference for opulent, experience-driven nuptials.

As per the latest reports, the Indian wedding industry is currently valued at approximately ₹10.79 lakh crore, nearly double the size of the U.S. wedding market. Today's Traveller takes a deep dive into some of the factors behind the meteoric rise of ultra-luxury Indian weddings

THE WEDDING AS A SPECTACLE

In India, weddings are more than just a celebration; they are a statement of wealth, power, and social stature. What was once a deeply personal affair has evolved into a grand spectacle, where opulence knows no bounds. The past decade has witnessed an unprecedented rise in ultra-luxury weddings, featuring multi-day celebrations at palatial venues, Michelin-starred catering, world-renowned entertainers, and couture ensembles that rival royal wardrobes. This transformation mirrors India's economic boom and the ever-growing influence of globalisation, redefining weddings as extravagant, multi-million-pound affairs.

Indian weddings have traditionally been elaborate, with rituals spanning several days. However, the scale and execution of modern ultra-luxury weddings have reached heights previously unseen. According to a 2023 report by KPMG India, the Indian wedding industry is valued at over

Image Courtesy: Momentum Experiences and Events

Image Courtesy: Reet Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

$75 billion, with high-net-worth families spending anywhere between $2 million and $15 million on a single wedding. Increasingly, families no longer view weddings merely as a personal milestone but as a global event, meticulously curated by international planners and stylists.

THE CURATION BEHIND THE CELEBRATION

This transformation owes much to India's elite wedding planners and designers, who craft each wedding as an immersive experience. Industry pioneers such as Vandana Mohan of The Wedding Design Company and Manish Malhotra, known for his couture-inspired décor, have redefined luxury in Indian weddings. They create themes inspired by European royal courts, Persian palaces, and even futuristic aesthetics, ensuring that no two weddings are alike. These planners collaborate with florists from France, lighting experts from Italy, and culinary artists from Japan, orchestrating events where every detail is curated to perfection.

The rise of ultra-luxury weddings has also fuelled India's couture industry. Brides are no longer confined to traditional red lehengas but commission custom ensembles from leading designers such as Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Tarun Tahiliani, and Falguni Shane Peacock. Some even collaborate with international fashion houses like Dior and Chanel to create personalised couture infused with Indian craftsmanship. Meanwhile, grooms embrace luxury with bespoke sherwanis woven with gold threads and accessories sourced from heritage jewellery houses.

EPIC VOWS, EXOTIC LOCALES

Indian couples are no longer limited by geography when selecting wedding venues. While grand palaces in Rajasthan, such as Umaid Bhawan Palace and Udaipur's Lake Palace, remain popular choices, there has been a surge in destination weddings overseas. Many affluent families now prefer tying the knot in iconic international locations, from the vineyards of Tuscany to the pristine beaches of the Maldives and even the snow-capped Dolomites.

These destination weddings often span several days, with entire luxury resorts reserved exclusively for guests. Every element is meticulously planned, from welcome soirées and curated cultural experiences to lavish post-wedding brunches and personalised concierge services for attendees. The emphasis is not just on luxury but on crafting an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience that extends beyond the couple to everyone in attendance.

THE ENTERTAINMENT EXTRAVAGANZA

No luxury wedding is complete without high-profile entertainment, and the stakes have never been higher. Gone are the days when a few Bollywood dance performances would suffice. Today, couples seek world-class musical acts, private concerts, and immersive theatrical performances that rival international music festivals.

From global icons like Beyoncé, Ed Sheeran, and Coldplay to exclusive performances by Bollywood's biggest stars, these weddings leave no stone unturned in delivering a spectacular show. The Ambani wedding in 2018, where Beyoncé performed

Image Courtesy: Swaaha Weddings & Experiences

at a private pre-wedding celebration, set a new benchmark for wedding entertainment. Since then, international headliners have become an essential part of India's ultra-luxury wedding landscape, with families willing to pay exorbitant sums for top-tier acts.

Beyond musical performances, these weddings often feature aerial dancers, interactive digital art installations, fireworks displays, and choreographed processions, ensuring that guests are entertained at every turn.

STYLE, STORY & SUSTAINABILITY

In the digital age, social media has revolutionised the wedding industry, with ultra-luxury weddings turning into global spectacles thanks to professional content curation. Couples now hire digital storytellers, cinematographers, and social media strategists to document their weddings in a way that resonates with their personal brand.

From Instagram-worthy décor to cinematic wedding films and custom wedding hashtags, every element is carefully designed for online visibility. The modern bride and groom do not just want a beautiful wedding; they want a wedding that trends, setting new standards for luxury and aspiration. Planners, venues, and designers are now chosen with social media in mind, ensuring that the event will be nothing short of picture-perfect.

Interestingly, despite the grandeur of ultra-luxury weddings, an emerging trend is the integration of sustainability. Many high-profile families are incorporating eco-conscious elements into their celebrations, demonstrating that luxury and responsibility can go hand in hand.

Zero-waste catering, locally sourced flowers, and repurposable décor are becoming increasingly popular. Some couples are moving towards digital invitations instead of paper, while others are investing in carbon-neutral travel

Image Courtesy: Reet Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

arrangements for their guests. One of the most high-profile examples of this trend was Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding celebrations in 2024, where solar-powered décor, plant-based cuisine, and sustainable fashion were key elements.

This shift highlights a growing awareness that even the most opulent weddings can be mindful of their environmental impact, setting a precedent for future celebrations.

THE FUTURE OF ULTRA-LUXURY INDIAN WEDDINGS

As India's elite continue to push the boundaries of luxury, the ultra-luxury wedding market is poised for even greater expansion. The future will see an even more seamless blend of tradition and modernity, with immersive technology, augmented reality experiences, and metaverse-based pre-wedding celebrations becoming mainstream.

From digital wedding invitations that incorporate personalised AI-generated messages to interactive holograms of distant relatives attending virtually, the wedding industry is set to embrace futuristic innovations while retaining its deep-rooted traditions.

Ultimately, these extravagant weddings are not just about wealth, they are about legacy. The modern Indian wedding is a showcase of status, creativity, and meticulous planning, ensuring that long after the last guest has departed and the final firework has faded, the event remains etched in memory as an extraordinary celebration of love, culture, and grandeur.

Image Courtesy: ESL Events

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The banquet as the heart of the celebration

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Weddings have evolved into cultural showcases, statement pieces, and sometimes full-blown theatrical productions. And leading this grand performance? The food, of course. Gone are the days when weddings were measured by the size of the guest list or the sparkle of the bride's jewellery. Now, they're judged by the truffle oil content in the hors d'oeuvres, the Instagram-worthiness of the dessert table, and how well the cocktails paired with the mehendi theme.

Globally and across India, the wedding banquet has moved from being a functional necessity to a curated experience. Food is no longer just eaten, it's unveiled, performed, photographed, personalised, and, occasionally, flamed at the table by someone in a chef's hat with artistic tendencies.

Let's take a closer look at what's trending on the world's fanciest wedding plates - and how India, in true dramatic fashion, is leading a culinary revolution of its own.

INDIA GOES BIG

Indian weddings are epic productions with prequels, sequels, and a star-studded cast that includes caterers, decorators, and that cousin who insists on dancing solo. Food has always been central. What's changed is the scale and the serious culinary ambition.

India's wedding industry hit ₹4.25 lakh crore in 2023 (about £41 billion), with food commanding the spotlight. Menus are now designed months in advance, featuring 200+ dishes over multiple events. A breakfast might include Kanjivaram idlis with yuzu chutney, while the haldi could feature coconut risotto with saffron foam. One doesn't simply feed guests anymore, one impresses them.

GOURMET REGIONAL FLAVOURS

Regional cuisine has been reinvented. Gujarati thalis are served with wine pairings. Rajma chawal turns up as rice cakes with mint foam. Butter chicken gets turned into a canapé. Filter coffee appears in martini glasses with jaggery froth.

Indian Wedding Buffet

Butter Chicken Canape

Rajma Rice Cake

Chefs like Manish Mehrotra and Thomas Zacharias are reshaping Indian food aesthetics by keeping the soul intact, but dressing it in haute couture. Grandma's recipe now wears a bowtie and gets served on a ceramic slate.

CURATED FOOD CONCEPTS

Gone are the days when all wedding meals were indistinguishable versions of "North Indian Buffet + One Chinese Counter". The modern wedding menu now comes with mood boards. Mehendi brunches mix vada pav sliders with sushi pani puri; haldi ceremonies serve dosa skewers and banana fritters.

Planners now treat food like couture where every function is a runway show, "Royal Rajasthani" welcome dinners, "Tokyo Nights" sangeets, and "Temple Feasts" with brass cutlery and QR-coded menus. Menus set the mood, spark conversations, and guarantee at least one debate about who had the better canapé: the bride's side or the groom's.

SWEET STATEMENTS

The Indian sweet tooth has entered its designer era. Laddoos are now faceted, dusted with edible gold, and plated like modern art. Dessert counters feature gulkand baklava, matcha modaks, paan mousse in chocolate leaves, and 3D-printed sugar sculptures that threaten to upstage the cake.

Some weddings now offer entire Dessert Rooms — temperature-controlled, mood-lit, and yes, with a queue. Ice cream is flash-frozen to order with dry ice theatrics, and wedding gifts have gone gourmet too with artisanal chocolate, saffron tea, spice jars, and other edible bribes guests will happily accept.

RAISE THE BAR

Bars at Indian weddings have been seriously upgraded. What used to be whisky and soda is now saffron gin with 12 tonic pairings, cold brew espresso stations, and pop-up champagne carts that roll out just before the pheras. Someone always cheers - sometimes even the bride's grandfather.

Mocktails are getting the same love: masala chai with cinnamon foam, tender coconut coolers in glassware that costs more than the return gift, and saffron milk with a brûléed top. Hydration has become a lifestyle choice.

TECH TAKES OVER

Spreadsheets and software are now vital guests at the table. Guest preferences, dietary restrictions, and even portion sizes are tracked in real-time. Apps allow chefs to tweak menus on the fly. Menus are accessed by QR codes, and some weddings even offer WhatsApp polls so guests can vote for their favourite dish before dessert arrives.

It's a data-driven buffet where nothing goes to waste — and everything gets logged. Even the fact that six people requested Jain sushi. Yes, that happened.

FOOD AS THEATRE

No one's standing in line for soggy pasta anymore. Instead, guests are being handed fresh oysters by chefs who moonlight as magicians. In Paris, shucking stations are now accompanied by champagne sabrage. In Bali, vegan sushi

Chickpea Appetizer

stations turn out edible art in real time. In Dubai, foie gras is torched tableside while a violinist plays Ed Sheeran.

Wedding food is now entertainment. According to a report, 62% of couples in 2023 included at least one experiential food element in their reception — pasta spun inside flaming parmesan wheels, tacos assembled by robotic arms, or liquid nitrogen ice cream bars that fog the venue like a budget music video. It's dinner and a show.

MENUS WITH MEANING

Today's luxury wedding isn't about "buffet for all". It's about menu personalisation so specific, it could come with a monogram. Across Europe and North America, couples are designing meals around shared heritage, first dates, family recipes, and — in one memorable case — their dog's preferred treats.

Plant-based, gluten-free, and allergy-friendly options have gone gourmet. Think beetroot tartare with cashew cheese, mushroom-based foie gras, or jackfruit tacos topped with edible flowers. Guests often receive food surveys before the big day, ensuring their plate is as tailored as their place card.

FOOD BY FUNCTION

One menu does not fit all, not anymore. Every event now has its own culinary identity. Mehendi brunch? Street food with global sass — sushi pani puri, taco chaat, and pav bhaji sliders. Cocktail night? Mezze boards and sangria popsicles. Sangeet? Think "Tokyo Nights" with yakitori skewers and matcha tiramisu.

The wedding day itself may feature a "Temple Feast with a Modern Twist", complete with banana leaf service and QR codes revealing origin stories. Each function feels like a mini food festival with a dress code.

Gajar Halwa Cheesecake

THE FINAL COURSE

Weddings are no longer only about vows and volume. They're about flavour, flair, and making sure no one goes home unimpressed, or unfed. The wedding feast has become an extension of personality, a platform for creativity, and occasionally, a competition between families to see who had the better chaat.

From Tuscany to Tirupati, food is now the star. It's the story. The spectacle. And the one detail guests won't forget, long after the music stops and the flower walls come down.

Because love may be what brought everyone together, but the second helping of dal makhani is what keeps them coming back.

Wedding Food Spread

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SHUBH MUHURAT TO SAAT PHERAS

Choosing the right time and date is not merely about convenience but a matter of cosmic blessing for a lifetime!

TT BUREAU

A wedding is more than just a celebration, it's a sacred union of two souls, especially in Indian culture, where marriage is believed to be a Saat Janam Ka Rishta!

It's a moment when love, families, and traditions come together, making the choice of the right time and date essential. Beyond convenience, it's about seeking cosmic blessings for a lifetime of happiness and harmony. So ready to uncover the Shubh Muhurat for your perfect beginning?

NOT KISMAT, IT'S COSMIC CONNECTION!

A wedding is one of the most significant milestones in a person's life, and in Hindu culture, it is considered much more than just a social or emotional bond. To ensure a prosperous and harmonious life together, couples and their families rely on Vedic astrology to select the most auspicious date and time for the wedding, what we call the Shubh Muhurat.

Astrologers look at several factors, including the Moon's position, Nakshatras (constellations), Tithis (lunar days), and planetary alignments as these are believed to influence the success and longevity of the marriage. By following these ancient calculations, couples believe they are starting their journey together with the best possible cosmic support.

SUN VS MOON

Did you know that in Hindu astrology, the Moon is more important than the Sun, but the question is, why?

It determines Rashi (zodiac sign), Dashas (planetary periods), and Muhurats (auspicious timings), and the combination of these factors play a crucial role in governing our emotions, intuition, and destiny while the Sun represents elements such as soul, career, and authority but holds lesser influence in daily life.

So, the next time you hear about a wedding date being picked after consulting your Parivarik Panditji, you'll know it's not just tradition—it's a way of seeking celestial blessings for a lifetime of harmony.

Image Courtesy: Shubh Muhurat Luxury Weddings

Image Courtesy: The Wedding Network

MEET PANCHANG, YOUR CELESTIAL MATCHMAKING GURU!

Ever wondered why your grandma insists on checking some complicated-looking calendar before finalising your wedding date? Well, meet the Panchang—the ancient wedding planner, that has been setting dates long before Google Calendar was even a thing!

The Panchang is not just a fancy astrology book; it's the ultimate matchmaking guru that ensures your big day is drenched in cosmic blessings. It consists of five key elements, each playing its own quirky role in shaping your future:

- **Tithi (Lunar Day):** Think of this as the mood of the universe on your wedding day. The Moon's phase affects emotions, energy, and even the success of big events. Pick a bad one, and you might end up arguing over toothpaste caps for life!
- **Vaar (Weekday):** Each day has its own planetary ruler. Monday (Moon) brings emotions, while Saturday (Saturn) is all about discipline. Your wedding day's energy depends on which planet is in charge!
- **Nakshatra (Constellation):** The Moon moves through 27 different star clusters, some luckier than others. Where it's positioned on your big day can influence your marriage's harmony—so aim for a prime cosmic location!
- **Yog (Auspicious Period):** Consider this as the universe's mood forecast. Some days are calm and lucky, while others spell chaos. A good Yog means a smooth wedding, a bad one… well, let's not risk it!
- **Karana (Half Tithi):** This decides how the day's energy plays out. A good Karana sets you up for success, while a bad one might bring unnecessary drama. And who wants extra drama on their wedding day?

So, before you set the date, let the Panchang do its magic—because a little celestial planning goes a long way!

WHY MUHURAT IS THE REAL VIP?

A Hindu wedding is not just a celebration but a sacred series of rituals that must be performed at specific times to harness the maximum positive energy from planetary alignments.

The Shubh Muhurat is not just about selecting the wedding date but also involves the precise timing of each ceremony, ensuring divine blessings and spiritual protection for the couple.

Priests carefully analyse astrological charts to determine the exact moment when key wedding rituals should be conducted. Some of the most significant ceremonies that require precise Muhurat calculations include:

- **Kanyadaan –** The emotional moment when the bride's parents give her away to the groom, symbolising their blessings and the sacred responsibility of marriage.
- **Mangal Phera –** The couple walks seven times around the sacred fire, each round representing a vow of commitment, mutual respect, and love.
- **Sindoor Daan –** The groom applies vermillion (sindoor) to the bride's forehead, marking the sacred bond of marriage.

By following the Shubh Muhurat, these rituals are conducted under the best planetary influences, ensuring that the marriage is protected from obstacles and misfortunes.

BEST WEDDING MONTHS & THOSE TO AVOID: TIMING IT RIGHT!

Picking a wedding month isn't just about good weather and venue availability—in Hindu tradition, the lunar calendar plays a big role in deciding when not to say "I

Image Courtesy: The Wedding Network

Image Courtesy: The Wedding Network

do!" Some months are filled with divine blessings, while others… well, let's just say they come with cosmic red flags!

WHEN TO DO, BIG YES YES!

These months are packed with positive energy, ensuring a smooth and blissful married life.

- **Margashirsha (Nov–Dec):** Blessed by Lord Vishnu, this duration is perfect for a harmonious and love-filled union.
- **Magha (Jan–Feb):** A month of prosperity and stability, ideal for couples looking for strong foundations.
- **Phalguna (Feb–Mar):** A festive time bringing joy, celebration, and fresh beginnings.
- **Vaishakha (Apr-May):** The planets align in your favour, making it a great month to start your journey together.
- **Jyeshtha (May-Jun):** Known for building lasting relationships and stability in marriage.
- **Kartika (Oct–Nov):** Spiritually powerful, ensuring deep bonds and divine blessings.

Note: If you want the stars to cheer for your marriage, these months are your best bet!

WHEN NOT TO DO, BIG NO NO!

Some periods come with planetary turbulence, and let's face it - you don't want the cosmos frowning on your big day!

- **Chaturmas (Jul–Oct):** Hindu deities take their much-needed rest, and weddings are off the table.
- **Pitru Paksha (Sept):** A time for honouring ancestors, not for tying the knot.
- **Eclipse Months:** Marrying during a solar or lunar eclipse? Nope! It's believed to bring instability and obstacles.
- **Shukra & Guru Asta (Venus & Jupiter combust periods):** Since Venus and Jupiter represent love and wisdom, their "power nap" period is considered unlucky for weddings.

Note: Avoiding these months helps ensure a smooth and happy married life, because who wants to start their journey with celestial roadblocks?

SHUBH MUHURAT IN THE MODERN ERA

Modern couples are redefining wedding date selection by blending tradition with personal significance. While some still follow the Shubh Muhurat, others choose dates tied to anniversaries, lucky numbers, or simple convenience. Practical factors like venue availability, weather, and guest schedules often take priority over planetary alignments.

For those skipping the traditional Muhurat, rituals like pujas, mantra chanting, and Ganesh Homas help balance cosmic energies and ensure blessings. This evolving approach lets couples honour their heritage while making choices that feel right for them—because in the end, love (and a stress-free venue booking) matters the most!

While Shubh Muhurat is believed to bring good fortune and harmony, the true essence of a successful marriage lies in love, trust, and mutual respect. Whether rooted in astrology, numerology, or sentimental milestones, the focus remains on celebrating love with a blend of old and new, creating weddings that feel both meaningful and uniquely theirs.

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