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AUGUST 2025 - ₹50

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SHAADI SAGA: LOVE, LIGHT, LEGACY

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# LUXURY GIFTS SHAPING FOREVER IN STYLE

Crafted for forever, wedding gifts are defined by beauty and meaning

## TT BUREAU

In a world where weddings increasingly mirror a couple's lifestyle and aspirations, gifting has become an art in itself. Luxury presents evoke not only grandeur but also the spirit of discovery, reflecting the craftsmanship and global heritage of the maisons behind them. They offer newlyweds a beginning marked by beauty, rarity, and timeless appeal. Here are two exemplars that embody different expressions of luxury.

### HERMÈS EVER HERAKLES WEDDING BAND

The Hermès Ever Herakles Wedding Band represents the height of refined jewellery design. Crafted in radiant white gold, it carries the instantly recognisable Hermès "H" motif, its lines flowing seamlessly with the natural curve of the finger. The result is a look that is subtle yet captivating.

With a heritage rooted in meticulous French craftsmanship, Hermès blends artistry with contemporary design sensibilities to create a band that speaks of permanence and grace. Its minimalist aesthetic makes it versatile for daily wear, while its heritage ensures it becomes a cherished heirloom, a symbol of devotion that stands the test of time.



### ROLEX DATEJUST FOR HIM & HER

The Rolex Datejust watch stands as a beacon of timeless elegance and precision engineering. Celebrated worldwide for its iconic design, the Datejust combines durability with sophisticated aesthetics, making it an ideal symbol of enduring love and commitment.

Its versatile style allows the wearer to transition effortlessly between formal occasions and everyday moments with equal grace. As one of Rolex's most recognisable models, the Datejust represents a fusion of heritage, innovation, and understated luxury.

As a wedding gift, it offers not only beauty and craftsmanship but also a lasting reminder of the strength and precision required to sustain a lifetime together.

Together, these two gifts exemplify luxury in its purest forms: one, an intimate token of love worn close to the heart; the other, a testament to heritage and shared journeys.

Each is a celebration of craftsmanship and meaning, offering newlyweds the rare pleasure of beginning their union with objects that reflect both artistry and aspiration.

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Image Courtesy: Iskra Events & Celebrations

# LOVE, LIGHT, & LAYERED MEANING

Design dances with heritage, luxury turns thoughtful, and each wedding ceremony becomes its own poetic experience.

TT BUREAU

**W**ith over two decades in the events space and more than a thousand global celebrations under his belt, Birju C Gariba is no stranger to spectacle. As the Founder and CEO of Iskra Events & Celebrations, he leads a powerhouse experiential agency designing weddings, MICE, and milestone events across 75 countries. His understanding of scale, aesthetics, and cultural nuance has made him a leader in the wedding industry's global evolution.

Birju shares what's shaping the next wave of weddings and how Indian rituals, values, and imagination are redefining the world's idea of celebration.

## DESIGNS ROOTED IN MEMORY

In 2025–26, I see weddings embracing a refreshing blend of soft nostalgia and bold design. Earthy tones, pastels, and our classic reds continue to charm, yet the palettes that are catching my eye now include chocolate mocha brown, clay rose, muted jade, and sun-faded saffron. These colours pair beautifully with influences drawn from fashion designers and architectural styles, especially the clean lines and geometry of Scandinavian minimalism.

At the same time, I'm seeing retro-vintage aesthetics being reimagined with cultural depth and personal flair. It's not about repeating the past but giving it new purpose.

## RITUALS WITH NEW WINGS

There's a growing yearning for authenticity, especially among NRI couples, and I'm seeing a powerful return to traditional rituals. Pheras, haldi, varmala, and mehendi are no longer background elements; they're becoming emotional anchors.

At a recent wedding, I remember an American guest who was genuinely moved to tears by the sheer beauty of the rituals. That same couple wanted their guests to experience the joy of Holi, so we created a vibrant, immersive celebration complete with gugal, regional folk elements, and music. These moments go beyond entertainment; they create emotional memory.



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### SUSTAINABILITY, QUIETLY WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC

Today's couples are thoughtful and aware. They want their weddings to reflect who they are, and that includes being responsible about the environment. We've worked on weddings that used 100% recycled décor, implemented carbon-neutral concepts, and included tree-planting rituals.

Even gifts are shifting toward more conscious choices. Parents often remain influential in decision-making, and I've noticed younger couples gradually weaving sustainability into every level of planning, not as a trend but as a value.

### LESS IS LUXE

Luxury, for me, has changed. It's not about scale anymore; it's about meaning. Couples are leaning into intimacy, choosing smaller gatherings with impeccable service and rich, sensory detail. I've seen a rise in storytelling through food, immersive

experiences, and thoughtful curation that feels deeply personal.

Visual spectacle still matters, especially when the Instagram reel drops, yet the new luxury is about connection and crafting something that resonates long after the lights go down.

### DESTINATIONS THAT SPEAK EMOTION

Offbeat destinations are where the magic lies now. Couples are choosing places that connect with them emotionally. I've seen increasing interest in locations that were once under the radar, like the untouched coastlines of Spain and Italy.

Celebrity weddings at Lake Como or St Moritz sparked early interest, but it's the emotional resonance and aesthetic uniqueness that make these venues unforgettable. It's no longer about how grand the venue is but how beautifully it frames the couple's story.

### TRADITIONS GO GLOBAL

Indian weddings have become more than celebrations; they're cultural phenomena. I've watched tourism boards across the globe use them as case studies to attract Indian clients.

Countries like Thailand and regions in the Middle East have already benefited, and now more destinations are looking at how our traditions, crafts, and hospitality can drive their wedding economy. I've seen guests travel across continents simply for the chance to witness our rituals. They don't see it as attending a party; they see it as entering a living tradition.

### GEN Z REWRITES THE REEL

Gen Z couples are changing the rules in exciting ways. They approach their wedding as much through the lens of content as culture. The after-movie, the perfect reel, the cinematic storytelling, these elements shape their decisions in décor, lighting, and even the sequence of ceremonies.

What surprises me most is how conscious they are. I've seen them rethink guest lists, reduce waste, and opt for eco-friendly décor, all while ensuring everything looks spectacular. It's a remix of tradition with intention, and it's setting the tone for what weddings can be.



Birju C Gariba, Founder & CEO, Iskra Events & Celebrations



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# GOLDEN LOVE STORIES COME ALIVE



Image Courtesy: Wow Wedding Makers

Elegance is redefined as rituals revive, tech enhances, and sustainability becomes second nature in Indian weddings.

## TT BUREAU

**U**mesh Sawant is the visionary behind WoW Wedding Makers and Managing Director of WoW Entertainment and Media Pvt. Ltd., with over 37 years of expertise spanning media, events, and entertainment. Known for orchestrating landmark moments, from Filmfare Awards to soulful destination weddings, he has mastered the art of merging tradition with storytelling. With a foundation built at The Times of India Group, and a flair for emotionally resonant experiences, he leads with precision, purpose, and creativity.

Here's how Umesh interprets the mood and momentum of weddings in the next few years

### STYLED BY NATURE

The colour narrative for 2025 is grounded in Mocha Mousse (Pantone 17-1230), a deep brown radiating quiet luxury. It speaks of comfort, harmony, and richness. In weddings, this

tone appears in table styling and attire with contemporary cuts.

This warmth pairs with muted olive, maroon, dusty rose, and antique gold; colours drawn from nature and nostalgia. These palettes shine with materials like silk, brocade, stone, and carved wood. Couples are favouring understated elegance over flamboyance. The tones photograph beautifully in natural light and evoke calm sophistication. The age of colour chaos is giving way to balance. Personal expression is becoming central to palette curation, with stories told through texture as much as through tone.

### STORIES IN CEREMONY

A heartwarming shift is the revival of family rituals, given intimate, contemporary twists. Brides are re-wearing their mother's or grandmother's sarees with updated styling.

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Image Courtesy: Wow Wedding Makers

The Kanyadaan, once a formal ritual, is now often prefaced by a speech or tribute. Families are integrating audio or video montages telling the couple's story. At WoW Wedding Makers, traditions are framed with emotional context, letting couples see culture as connection, not obligation. Even classic rituals like the mehendi or haldi are being given personal flair through storytelling and music.

### **EARTH WOVEN IN**

Couples are asking for sustainable options like digital invites, plant-based menus, reusable décor, and locally sourced florals. Small tweaks like compostable tableware or gifting potted plants are powerful statements.

WoW collaborates with artisans to add eco-conscious details: seed-infused paper, bamboo packaging, recycled-wood signages. Zero-waste weddings may still be rare, but sustainability is now a mindset, not a trend. Clients are increasingly choosing mindful luxury over excess, creating a ripple effect across all elements of planning.

### **LESS IS LUXE**

Luxury no longer means sheer opulence. Today's couples want meaning. This shift shows up in smaller guest lists, curated rituals, and personal touches. Luxury is now attention to detail, not venue size. Planners translate the couple's story into every element, from floral layouts to farewell notes, making each moment matter.

### **MAGIC IN THE MARGINS**

While most weddings are held in

heritage hotels and palaces, there's growing demand for offbeat locations: coastal villas, ancestral homes, forest clearings, even abandoned textile mills. WoW scouts properties offering authenticity and flexibility, letting décor and tradition breathe in uncharted spaces.

### **TRADITIONS CROSSING BORDERS**

Indian weddings are now cultural exports. From music and attire to rituals and cuisine, the aesthetic captivates globally.

Couples abroad travel to India for a "real Indian wedding," complete with pheras and baraats. WoW is also curating Indian wedding experiences abroad, such as a vibrant celebration in Vienna designed for European guests eager to immerse in rhythm and ritual.

### **GEN Z: CEREMONY IN REBELLION**

Gen Z couples bring fearless energy. Requests include detachable lehengas, themed welcome parties, and fusion playlists.

They value comfort, sustainability, and storytelling. As a tradition-rooted company, WoW finds their boldness inspiring and is ready to support their vision with elegance and detail.

### **STILLNESS IN CELEBRATION**

Weddings are high-energy, but couples now prioritise well-being. WoW offers slower-paced itineraries with built-in breaks and wellness corners.

Menus feature plant-based stations, fresh juices, and healthier desserts without sacrificing flavour. The message is clear: couples want guests to feel cared for, not only impressed. Restful elegance is now a vital part of celebration design.

### **DIGITAL WITH DEVOTION**

WoW believes in tech that enhances rather than overwhelms. Drones, projection mapping, and digital seating guides are used, but the aarti, pheras, and blessings remain sacred and central. Even in high-tech weddings, soul and simplicity remain the guiding ethos.

### **WHAT STAYS, WHAT FADES**

One trend ready to retire is over-theatrical music during sacred rituals. These moments deserve soft, soulful melodies, not stage drama.

What deserves revival is handcrafted details. From handwritten vows and woven garlands to calligraphy invites, artisanal touches bring heart to a celebration.



Umesh Sawant, Founder, Wow Wedding Makers

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# BEYOND SPECTACLE, INTO SOUL

Design meets legacy in weddings shaped by storytelling, heritage, and a deeper sense of belonging

TT BUREAU

**A**s the founder of VLW Global and VLW Experiences, Shruti Tiwari has emerged as one of India's most respected names in destination wedding planning. Known for curating deeply personal, emotionally resonant celebrations, she leads an all-women team that specialises in bringing cultural richness and understated elegance to life. Her work blends precision and creativity, championing sustainability, heritage, and individuality.

Shruti shares her vision for the evolving landscape of Indian weddings where timeless rituals, conscious choices, and heartfelt details take centre stage.

## MOOD BOARD PREDICTIONS FOR 2025 TO 2026

Indian weddings no longer follow trends. They are personalised. For 2025 to 2026, couples are embracing quiet luxury: timeless layers, personal meaning, and intimate details over spectacle.

**Colours:** Dusky rose with antique gold. Terracotta beside old ivory. Soft metallics like tarnished silver and vintage gold.

**Textures:** Velvet and raw silk for winter. Chikankari and Banarasi for beach pheras. Hand-embroidered napkins and block-printed baskets.

**The Vibe:** A grandmother's paan-daan at the bar. A mother's dupatta as a canopy. Florals that feel freshly foraged. Candlelight over fairy lights.

Luxury now means a wedding that feels like you and your family.

## THE RETURN OF TIMELESS TRADITIONS

Couples are embracing rituals with more intention. The pheras are becoming more inclusive. Both sets of parents or grandparents now often sit within the mandap. One of our designs included low seating so elders could be part of the ceremony.





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Image Courtesy: VLW Global

The mehendi is shifting too. Less performance, more comfort. Home-cooked food, humming old songs, and henna applied by someone close. These are the moments that last.

### SUSTAINABILITY AS SECOND NATURE

Luxury does not need to create waste. We have designed large weddings using no foam, sourcing florals locally, and using brass over single-use decor.

In Udaipur, haldi flowers were repurposed for the pheras. Surplus food was donated that night. These thoughtful choices add value to the celebration.

### RETHINKING LUXURY

Couples today are choosing intimacy over scale. One brief I loved said, "Make it feel like our family dining under the stars." No stage, no spectacle. Just folk music, warm lights, and long conversations. That is the kind of luxury guests remember.

### OFFBEAT AND UNFORGETTABLE

Some of our most cherished weddings happened in unconventional spaces.

A mango orchard that belonged to the groom's family. A cliff in Goa that was the bride's favourite picnic spot. These spaces were not traditional venues, but they were perfect.

The future of destination weddings is not about grandeur. It is about belonging.

### CULTURAL SOFT POWER

Indian weddings are cultural soft power in action. When guests from Italy wear gajras or friends from the Gulf join the haldi, it brings people together through emotion. Every artisan featured, every folk act performed, uplifts identity and tradition.

### GEN Z DISRUPTIONS

Gen Z couples are clear about what they want and what they do not.

One couple banned single-use plastic, including the crew's tea cups. Another chose a family-style dinner over a buffet, cutting waste and encouraging connection.

They are not turning away from tradition. They are asking what matters most. Their celebrations often include open-mic toasts, playful playlists, and surprise performances.

This generation invites everyone involved to rethink what makes a wedding meaningful.

### WELLNESS-FIRST WEDDINGS

This is close to my heart. I've seen wedding prep leave couples drained.

Now, couples are choosing calm. Sunrise yoga before pheras. Herbal teas and spa brunches after the main event help everyone reset.

One bride told me, "I want to be calm enough to remember my own wedding." That's what wellness offers: presence and peace.

### TECH VS. TRADITION

I appreciate good tech drones, AR invites, livestreamed varmalas. But tech should enhance, not overpower.

Indian weddings thrive on warmth and spontaneity. We balance both, digital booths with handwritten notes, drone shows with folk aartis.

Real magic happens when innovation supports tradition.

### TRENDS ON TRIAL

If I could retire one trend, it would be overproduced gimmicks that overshadow emotion.

LED floors, indoor fireworks, and over-choreographed entries often distract more than delight.

What would I bring back? Baithak-style mehendis — mats, folk songs, home food, and shared laughter.

Flash fades. Feeling stays.



Shruti Tiwari, Founder, And VLW Global Team

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Image Courtesy: Le Florence Weddings

# STORIES WOVEN IN SILK & SOUND

Floral rituals, soulful settings, and barefoot baraats mark a new era of weddings with deeper meaning

TT BUREAU

**V**ikramjeet Sharma is the Founder and Director of Le Florence Weddings, a globally recognised wedding planning company known for crafting elaborate “Big Fat Indian Weddings” that marry creativity, tradition, and storytelling. With over two decades of experience, Vikramjeet is celebrated for orchestrating emotionally rich celebrations across India and abroad. From Michelin-starred menus to intricate rituals set on cruise ships or coastal villas, he blends the personal and the spectacular with effortless finesse.

Vikramjeet opens up on what couples are truly seeking in the next era of weddings.

## MOOD BOARDS ROOTED IN NOSTALGIA AND NUANCE

Indian weddings in 2025–26 are embracing a balance between modern minimalism and cultural depth. Couples are opting for earthy neutrals paired with bold jewel tones: sand with emerald, terracotta with indigo. The aesthetic speaks of “slow luxury.” It is intimate, intentional, and emotionally immersive. Monochrome themes are also on the rise, where one tone ties everything together, delivering visual

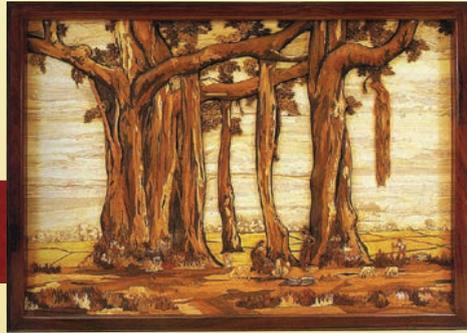
harmony with understated elegance. Indian handlooms, mirror work, and heritage textiles are layered into decor and silhouettes that reflect both craft and contemporary vision.

## TRADITION WITH EMOTIONAL RESONANCE

The phoolon ki chadar has evolved into a powerful tribute to family and feminine strength. Brides are increasingly involving mothers, grandmothers, or bridesmaids in carrying the chadar, using heirloom dupattas or flowers like mogra and jasmine that carry deep meaning. These are rituals redefined by intimacy, proving that heritage breathes and grows with those who honour it.

## SUSTAINABILITY, REIMAGINED WITH SOUL

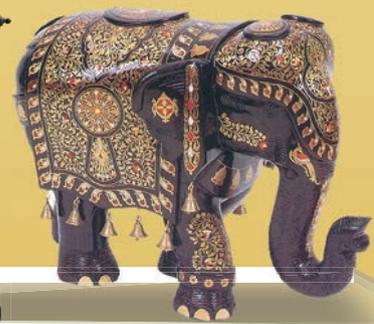
One of our most memorable weddings was styled entirely with live potted plants and indigenous blooms. No cut flowers, no waste—just a living setup that guests later took home. Sustainability is no longer an afterthought. It is becoming the norm. Digital invites, recycled decor, and sourcing from local artisans are now central to the planning process. At Le Florence Weddings,



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Image Courtesy: Le Florence Weddings

the new definition of luxury lies in intention, and elegance finds its edge in mindful choices.

### LUXURY REDEFINED BY INTIMACY

What defines luxury today? It is no longer chandeliers or sprawling sets. It is how a moment feels. Couples are opting for private ceremonies in historic palaces, personalised vows, artisanal gifting, and unplugged events that invite presence over performance. Smaller guest lists, curated experiences, and emotional attention to detail are overtaking ostentation. In 2025, true luxury is shaped by meaning, memory, and connection.

### OFFBEAT WITH A PULSE

We are curating a wedding in Kovalam, at a resort framed by a private beach and backwaters. It is not about square footage. It is about soul. The pheras at sunset with waves nearby, the sangeet under swaying palms—all of it speaks of place, presence, and peace. Couples are increasingly drawn to locations that move them. Destination weddings are evolving into emotional landscapes where nature, heritage, and intimacy align.

### INDIAN WEDDINGS AS GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

Across rooftops in New York and vineyards in Tuscany, Indian rituals are casting a global spell. Sitar strings, turmeric rituals, Banarasi silks, and genda phool arrangements are redefining the visual and emotional language of weddings abroad. At Le Florence, we have seen global audiences embrace Indian craftsmanship and customs with awe and affection. Our weddings have become cultural exports, radiating joy, tradition, and timeless beauty.

### GEN Z IS REWRITING THE SCRIPT

A recent haldi we designed in a mango orchard felt more like a soulful music festival. No formal seating, no rigid programming. Only colour, rhythm, and connection. This generation values authenticity and is unafraid to remix traditions with flair. They want weddings that reflect who they are—comfortable, content-driven, and curated for emotional impact. The captions may be cooler, but the essence is deeply rooted.

### WELLNESS IN EVERY DETAIL

Well-being is now integrated into the celebration. Couples are adding morning yoga sessions, spa brunches, and menus featuring Ayurvedic teas and gluten-free delights. Even the baraats are shifting, replacing noise with soulful processions and live acoustics. These weddings nourish not only the guests but also the couple's spirit. Wellness-first weddings are here to stay.

### TECH WITH A TENDER TOUCH

Technology should enhance emotion, not overpower it. At Le Florence, drones, projection mapping, and even holographic invites are used when they align with the soul of the event. We have synced lighting with shlokas and projected family montages during the varmala. The aim is balance. Technology acts as an amplifier of emotion, not a distraction.

### TRENDS WE'RE RETHINKING

One trend we are ready to retire is the oversized, impersonal giveaway box. In its place, we encourage storytelling through detail—handwritten notes, customised tokens, and gestures that linger. A ritual worth reviving is the kundali milan ceremony, approached with consciousness and warmth. At Le Florence Weddings, we believe that by honouring the past with intention, we shape the most meaningful path forward.



Vikramjeet Sharma, Founder, Le Florence Weddings

# TIMELESS WEDDINGS AT TAJ

Where Heritage & Celebration Unite

TT BUREAU

For generations, weddings at the Taj have symbolised an extraordinary union of love amid timeless opulence. Timeless Weddings by Taj elevate every celebration into reality. Taj Surajkund, NCR and Taj Damdama, Gurgaon, bring alive the enduring promise of a Taj wedding—crafted with care.

## TAJ SURAJKUND RESORT & SPA, DELHI NCR

Grace, intimacy, and warmth define every celebration, turning wedding ceremonies at Taj into unforgettable experiences. Continuing this illustrious tradition, Taj Surajkund Resort & Spa, Delhi NCR, offers a sanctuary of serenity beside the Aravalli Range. Inspired by the heritage of Surajkund, the resort fuses classic Indian artistry with contemporary sophistication.

Its 287 exquisite rooms and suites, signature dining at Paranda, Oasis, and Easy Bar, along with indulgent wellness rituals, ensure a seamless blend of celebration and reflection. Bespoke experiences such as Barefoot Dining under the stars heighten intimacy, while spectacular venues including the Aravali Ballroom, Courtyard, and Laburnum Lawn create unforgettable stages for every moment.

## TAJ DAMDAMA LAKE RESORT & SPA, GURUGRAM

Spanning 20 verdant acres at the foothills of the Aravallis, Taj Damdama Lake Resort & Spa, Gurugram, redefines milestone weddings in a setting of tranquillity and splendour. Expansive lawns and refined indoor spaces, paired with a bridal lounge and



Taj Surajkund Resort & Spa, Delhi NCR



Taj Damdama Lake Resort & Spa, Gurugram

wedding studio, elevate every detail with privacy and poise.

Luxurious rooms, suites, and villas welcome guests into comfort, complemented by curated dining journeys and the indulgent Hammam and Spa ritual. By day, ceremonies unfold upon nature's canvas, and by night, starlit skies transform receptions into ethereal affairs.

At both destinations, Taj's signature of Timeless Weddings shines bright, where traditions are honoured, memories created, and every celebration becomes a masterpiece of elegance.



Taj Damdama Lake Resort & Spa, Gurugram



Taj Surajkund Resort & Spa, Delhi NCR

# THE POETRY OF PHERAS

Celebrations where colour, craft, and culture tell stories of love

TT BUREAU



Image Courtesy: Designer Events Inc.

**K**averi Vij is reshaping Indian weddings through emotion and heritage. At Designer Events Inc., a wedding becomes more than an occasion. It becomes memory stitched with ritual and meaning. Her work draws inspiration from ancestral fabrics, temple flowers, Mughal arches, and the poetry of regional traditions. Weddings, in her hands, become expressions of identity, culture, and soul.

## MOOD BOARD PREDICTIONS FOR 2025 TO 2026

At Designer Events Inc., every mood board begins as a story. In 2025 to 2026, couples are drawn to colours that carry memory. I see dusky marigold, proposal pink, and Bengal red appearing more than ever. These shades reflect moments, not trends. Visual maximalism still flourishes, but it carries meaning. You will find elephant motifs next to family crests, heirloom trunks turned into bars, mandaps draped in fabrics passed down through generations. Our design is always about storytelling through colour, texture, and heart.

## THE RETURN OF TIMELESS TRADITIONS

Traditions are not being left behind. They are being reinterpreted. Today's couples want rituals that feel personal and present. At one wedding in Fairmont Jaipur, a couple who met in Turkey asked for a Varmala moment that reflected their journey. We brought in life sized hot air balloons, blending Turkish charm with Indian grandeur. That is the magic of what we do, grounding tradition in emotion while letting it breathe in the now.

## SUSTAINABILITY AS A STATE OF MIND

For me, sustainability is not about checking boxes. It begins with intent. We reuse structures, reduce plastic, and repurpose florals, yes. But the heart of it lies in our connection with artisans, the weavers, painters, woodworkers, whose hands carry forward legacy. Every element we choose is rooted in purpose. We prefer meaning over mass, heritage over waste. Sustainability is about preserving more than materials. It is about preserving memory.

## RETHINKING LUXURY

Luxury has changed. It is not about how much you show, but how deeply you feel. Today's couples ask about the

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OF *designing* LOVE STORIES



**Designer Events Inc.** is a luxury wedding planning and design house redefining the art of celebrations with timeless storytelling, thoughtful design etched in cultural values and heritage. With roots in Delhi and Dubai, we have spent over 11 years crafting intimate, emotional, and detail-driven weddings across the globe.

Alongside our work, we host exclusive workshops, a blend of creativity, strategy, and hands-on learning ; designed for aspiring beginners and seasoned planners who wish to refine their craft in luxury wedding planning and design.

DESIGNER EVENTS INC.  
रुहानियत वाली मोहब्बत | رومانوی محبت



Image Courtesy: Designer Events Inc.

source of their flowers and the story behind every detail. At Designer Events Inc., we focus on compostable botanicals, heirloom crafts, and designs filled with emotion. Luxury now lives in mindfulness and connection. It is the quiet power of intention that defines elegance.

### OFFBEAT AND UNFORGETTABLE

It is never about the venue. It is always about the story we tell within it. A beach at the Marriott Palm Jumeirah became a canvas for nostalgia, with phulkari, mitti scented rituals, and heritage pavilions. A lawn at the Ritz Carlton Abu Dhabi became an ode to Sindhi roots, with family recipes and heirloom designs. A location becomes unforgettable only when love, legacy, and meaning fill its corners.

### CULTURAL SOFT POWER

Indian weddings are now global love letters to culture. They are no longer private rituals. They are emotional exports. At Designer Events Inc., we showcase handwoven Banarasi, heirloom turbans, regional menus, and rituals once reserved for family courtyards. These elements tell the world who we are. They do not only look beautiful, they feel eternal. We do not plan events. We preserve legacies.

### GEN Z DISRUPTIONS

Gen Z is beautifully curious. They ask why a muhurat matters, want to include female priests, and choose rituals that reflect who they are. Their weddings are not rebellious, they are conscious. One couple asked us to explain every step of the ceremony before performing it. That gave me hope. They are writing new notes on ancient pages, and I am here for every line.

### THE RISE OF WELLNESS FIRST WEDDINGS

Wellness has moved into the heart of the celebration. Couples now prefer journaling over rehearsals, herbal teas over cocktails, and Ayurvedic breakfasts to start their day. We have added spa corners, gratitude rituals, and mindful



Image Courtesy: Designer Events Inc.

menus. These weddings are no longer about appearances. They are about presence. They are about feeling nourished in body and spirit.

### TECH VS. TRADITION

Technology helps us plan. But it is tradition that moves us. A drone might capture the view, but it cannot capture your grandmother humming a folk tune during haldi. We use tech, yes, but we do not let it lead. Emotion must stay in the centre. The weddings I want to create are those you remember in fifty years without a screen, only heart and memory.

### TRENDS ON TRIAL

Yes, phoolon ki haldi carnivals with colour bombs. Haldi was once an intimate ritual of turmeric, rosewater, folk songs, and love. Now it often feels loud and empty. I want to bring back the softness. The raw joy. The dholki with spoons. Because sometimes, returning to our roots is the most graceful way forward.



Kaveri Vij, Founder, Designer Events Inc.



# STUNNINGLY SPORTY

Travellers, sports enthusiasts, and adventure-seekers pay close attention! Carl F. Bucherer Manero Central Counter is a sporty chronograph in manly shades of green and black with just the right hint of glamour. With a hybrid rubber strap, domed sapphire crystal and stainless steel casing, this limited-edition timepiece is going to take your breath away.

# TRADITION IN A NEW HUE



Image Courtesy: Krayonz Weddings

A towering wishing lamp in the Thar Desert says it all, expect the unexpected now.

## TT BUREAU

**W**ith over 30 years in the industry, Achint Nag, founder of Krayonz Entertainment, has built a legacy of designing deeply personal, detail-driven weddings across India and beyond. Known for blending cultural richness with creative flair, his team has delivered over 150 memorable celebrations.

Achint Nag shares how Indian weddings are evolving through fresh aesthetics, meaningful rituals, and a growing emphasis on wellness and sustainability.

### PALETTE FORECAST

The wedding landscape is evolving, with couples embracing experimentation and designers reimagining tradition. Bold palettes and theatrical themes are taking centre stage. We recently executed a Van Gogh-inspired wedding that resonated strongly with guests.

I foresee an uptick in vibrant colours, statement prints, and themes like “Shimmer and Shine Under the Stars.” Large-scale stage setups, LED installations, and immersive lighting will feature prominently, all while blending tradition with modernity to create unforgettable memories.

### OLD MEETS NEW

Across communities, rituals remain the heart of Indian weddings. It

is moving to see young couples re-embrace ceremonies like the तैल बान (groom’s oil ceremony) or the symbolic tearing of garments on the wedding morning.

What’s evolving is the context. Today’s celebrations incorporate tradition with elegance. The mehendi, for instance, is less about spectacle and more about shared stories, family warmth, and laughter. These traditions remain the soul of the celebration, even as everything else changes.

### GREEN BY DESIGN

Eco-conscious choices are no longer an exception; they are expected. At Krayonz, we introduced electric vans for guest transfers to reduce emissions. We also prioritise recycled stationery, reusable water bottles in hotels, and plastic-free décor.

Sustainability is an enhancement of luxury instead of opposing it. Guests appreciate the thoughtfulness, and it sets a powerful tone of responsibility.

### LESS FLASH, MORE FEELING

Luxury is no longer about grandeur for its own sake. It is about intimacy, taste, and hospitality. Couples today are trimming guest lists while elevating the experience through refined florals, curated menus, and seamless hospitality. Our clients



*Achint Nag, Founder, Krayonz Weddings*

often travel the world and expect high standards. Their weddings reflect that subtle elegance over extravagance, emotional depth over visual excess.

### **OFF THE BEATEN AISLE**

One of our most striking weddings was hosted in Jaisalmer's Thar Desert. We transformed the landscape into an Agraba-inspired fantasy with a 40-foot wishing lamp, fire dancers, immersive projections, and luxe tents. The guests were enthralled. It felt like stepping into a dream.

Destination weddings are now moving beyond resorts and palaces. They're becoming more personal, anchored in nostalgia, heritage, and storytelling.

### **CELEBRATING ROOTS GLOBALLY**

Indian weddings have become cultural ambassadors. Hotels, tourism boards, and entire countries now welcome Indian clients with enthusiasm. The rituals, the colour, the cuisine, it captivates global audiences.

Our weddings have also uplifted artisans, musicians, and local chefs. They are celebrations that generate both joy and livelihoods. This is India's cultural capital on full display.



*Image Courtesy: Krayonz Weddings*

### **GEN Z'S REMIX**

We are not seeing disruption so much as evolution. Gen Z couples want their stories reflected in every detail. They personalise with backstories. A first date at Hard Rock Café becomes a food counter. A shared playlist becomes the sangeet soundtrack.

They want experiences that reflect who they are rather than what is expected. It is still rooted in tradition, but with a fresh twist and a modern voice.

### **SELF-CARE IN CELEBRATION**

Wellness is becoming a quiet revolution in weddings. Today's couples want to feel good throughout, not just look good. We now see pre-wedding fitness regimes, calming spa therapies, and herbal drink counters alongside champagne towers.

There is growing awareness that a mindful, well-paced wedding creates more meaningful experiences. When families are rested and present, everything flows more beautifully.

### **THE MODERN BLEND**

Technology is a tool, not the centrepiece. Drones, lighting rigs, and holograms can enhance, but never replace, the warmth of an Indian wedding. We integrate tech to elevate, not overwhelm.

A perfect wedding balances innovation with emotion. A drone show can wow, but a grandmother's blessing still steals the moment.

### **WHAT'S IN, WHAT'S OUT**

If I had to retire one trend, it would be mandatory family dance performances during the sangeet. It often feels forced and loses authenticity. Let those who love performing, perform. Let others enjoy the moment.

What I would bring back is a focus on bonding. A simple pre-wedding get-together where families meet, laugh, and share stories. No production, just connection. That is the heart of why we gather.

# AN INTIMATE LENS ON CELEBRATION

Personal stories, meaningful rituals, and exquisite detail define Bon Evento's distinctive celebration aesthetic

## TT BUREAU

**N**ishi and Aditya Bajaj, the founders of Bon Evento, bring a clear and considered approach to modern luxury weddings. As a husband-and-wife team, they focus on designing celebrations that are personal, purposeful, and visually refined. Known for their ability to blend tradition with contemporary style, they prioritise emotion, detail, and seamless execution.

They offer their perspective on the changing face of Indian weddings, and how today's celebrations are increasingly defined by meaning, identity, and intentional design.

### CRAFTING DREAMS: THE EVOLVING SOUL OF THE INDIAN LUXURY WEDDING

Indian weddings are an emotion, a narrative, and global benchmarks for celebration. At the centre of this transformation lies a blend of tradition, design, and identity. Luxury weddings today are more curated, personal, and meaningful than ever before.

From vintage car baraats to candlelit dinners beneath open skies, today's weddings tell stories through rituals, design, and experience. These are not moments created for effect — they are made to move. And like all great stories, they leave a mark.

### A NEW VISUAL LANGUAGE: MOODBOARDS OF 2025 TO 2026

The aesthetic of Indian weddings is shifting. Instead of formulaic red and gold, couples are embracing emotion-led palettes. Terracotta and dusty blue, raisin plum with butter yellow, icy lavender paired with maroon, these have become memory cues.

Design is becoming more layered and thoughtful. Textiles like Kalamkari, Banarasi, and Chikankari are used in refined ways. Themes such as Whimsical Royalty, Theatre in the Garden, and Neo Nautical blend florals with folklore, and lighting becomes a storyteller. Weddings moving forward will feel alive and a character of their own.





वन की बात

**KASEZ**



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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES

# KANDLA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

Kandla Special Economic Zone bearing the distinction of being the first SEZ in the Asia-Pacific region, was inaugurated by Late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on 7th March, 1965 as an Export Promotion Zone which was seamlessly converted into a Special Economic Zone in 2006. KASEZ has been awarded as "First Green Industrial City of India" in Platinum Category for the year 2021-2026, under IGBC Green Cities rating for existing Cities in industrial cities category. This zone is home to 281 exporting units providing employment to over 28,000 persons.

Kandla Special Economic Zone offers opportunity to set up new manufacturing units in various sectors such as engineering, pharma and chemical, Textiles, timber and plywood and new emerging technologies including E-Vehicles and their accessories. 36.92 Ha (100 Acres) is being developed into 75 plots of size ranging from 2800 sqm to 6300 sqm which is an opportunity ready to be seized by investors.

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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Email: dc.kasez-gj@gov.in

Website: www.kasez.gov.in

Tel: (02836)-252475 | Mobile: +91-9717055199



Image Courtesy: Bon Evento

### TIMELESS TRADITIONS, THOUGHTFULLY REIMAGINED

Traditions today are chosen, not followed blindly. Take the Baraat, once reserved for grooms, is now shared by brides too. We have seen brides leading their own with dhols, dancers, and custom signage. The Kaleera ceremony is embraced across communities as a joyful moment with friends.

These rituals are reframed to reflect personal voice and cultural belonging in today's weddings.

### SUSTAINABILITY AS A STATE OF MIND

Sustainability is quietly becoming part of wedding planning. Couples may not ask directly for eco-conscious weddings, but they gravitate toward choices that feel thoughtful and rooted. Seed-paper invites, biodegradable serveware, and gifts supporting artisans are common. Florals become thank-you cards, organic holi colours, or candles.

### LUXURY: FROM MORE TO MEANING

Luxury now speaks softly. Couples are choosing intimacy, curation, and emotion. Think candlelit dinners, menus that tell their story, and acoustic music instead of fireworks. Weddings have moved on from just spending more to spending with intention.

### OFFBEAT AND UNFORGETTABLE

Destination weddings are moving beyond palaces and beaches. Couples are choosing unique spaces like abandoned mills, orchards in Punjab, and terraces in Maharashtra. These locations add texture and character. Velvet drapes, repurposed looms, and lighting turn the venue into part of the narrative.

### INDIA'S CULTURAL SOFT POWER

Indian weddings are now cultural showcases. NRI and international couples return not only for family, but to share

India's heritage. Weddings are immersive with regional food, folk music, craft installations, and live rituals, with guests taking an active part. These celebrations connect heritage and the wider world.

### GEN Z: BREAKING THE MOULD WITH STYLE

Gen Z couples are co-creating weddings with sincerity and flair. A bride proposing during sangeet. Pheras with orchestral music. Rituals reimaged with creativity and honesty. These weddings are expressive, inclusive, and still grounded in tradition.

### THE RISE OF WELLNESS FIRST CELEBRATIONS

Wellness is now a core part of planning. Couples build in time to rest and reflect. Wellness lounges, yoga, gratitude rituals, and Ayurvedic meals are integrated. Guests slow down and connect more meaningfully.

### TECHNOLOGY: THE SOULFUL BLEND

Technology now enhances the story. Drone shots, holograms, and AI-written vows are balanced with handwritten notes, rose-scented paper, and nostalgic videos. Screens deepen emotion without overwhelming it.

### WHAT'S IN. WHAT'S OUT.

Retire: Loud couple entries with pyros and smoke.

Revive: Mehfil e Khaas — candlelight, poetry, music, and presence.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The Indian luxury wedding is no longer about extravagance. It is about authenticity. The future lies in experiences that reflect who couples are, emotionally, culturally, and creatively. The most beautiful weddings are not the most expensive but the most honest.



Nishi Bajaj & Aditya Bajaj, Founder, Bon Evento

# GREAT PENMANSHIP

While the art of penmanship is all but dead, this special edition pen by Mont Blanc is sure to revive it. Designed as a tribute to Jimi Hendrix, this pen gives out a distinctly retro vibe with its stylish black cover. The rollerball tip uses water-based ink that makes writing sharper, clearer and more vibrant.



# LESS EXCESS, MORE ESSENCE

Old customs wear new colours, as joy, rest, and ritual waltz beneath twilight skies

TT BUREAU

**W**ith roots in exhibitions and corporate events, Monil Shah brings a seasoned eye and a grounded spirit to weddings at Kkings Events. Based in Mumbai, his journey has been defined by evolution, first into luxury celebrations, then into destination expertise through his co-venture Jack's Entertainment. His signature? Big-picture vision with precision detail.

For Monil, luxury means meaning, logistics meet theatre, and trends take shape around emotion, not excess. His team has curated music-festival haldis and theatrical Joota Chupais, all while staying deeply personal.

Monil shares what's shaping 2025–26 weddings and why the future looks beautifully intentional.

## YOUR MOOD BOARD PREDICTIONS FOR 2025–26

In 2025–26, we'll see weddings move from just colour palettes to full-blown experiential design. Instead of merely planning a "yellow Haldi," couples now want a "Hangover Haldi" with unique installations, immersive elements, and quirky storytelling. It's no longer about whether the flowers are peach or rust it's about whether the guests felt something. Expect to see mood boards that centre around emotions, not aesthetics laughter, nostalgia, bold energy. That's where the real magic is heading.

## THE RETURN OF JOOTA CHUPAI

The Joota Chupai is having a major comeback but with a twist. Instead of random chaos under the mandap, we're turning it into a full-on planned segment: tug of war, relay races, even





Image Courtesy: Kkings Events

trivia quizzes between both sides. Guests love it, families join in, and it brings old-school charm in a new-school format. It's tradition... but make it theatrical!

### SUSTAINABILITY NOT JUST FOR INSTAGRAM

Sustainability is no longer an afterthought it's becoming part of the very DNA of planning. We recently executed a wedding where the couple chose 100% local vendors, used repurposed décor for multiple events, and even gifted guests upcycled luxury hampers. The elegance of sustainability now lies in thoughtful curation, not compromise. And we love how clients are genuinely embracing it not for Instagram, but for impact.

### RETHINKING LUXURY

The new luxury isn't just about grand décor or headline singers. It's about offering something unforgettable. From inviting wellness chefs to curating tastings with renowned mixologists or bringing in cultural storytellers, couples now want guests to have interactive, personal experiences. It's not about size anymore it's about soul. They're spending the same, but smarter.

### OFFBEAT AND UNFORGETTABLE

One of our boldest events happened when we consciously moved away from a grand five-star palace venue to a raw, untouched property in Dune with absolutely nothing within a 4 km radius. And we built the entire celebration there from scratch. No running water, no backup options just pure creativity, logistics mastery, and vision. And the result? A celebration that guests still talk about.

### INDIAN WEDDINGS GO GLOBAL

Absolutely. Indian weddings have become global cultural events. With their layered rituals, fashion, music, and food each function

has a different energy, theme, and sentiment. Today, people from around the world have "attend a big fat Indian wedding" on their bucket list, just like they would Tomorrowland. That says it all.

### GEN Z DISRUPTIONS

Contrary to the perception that Gen Z are disruptors, we're finding they're more about balance. They want to enjoy the process, be involved in decisions that matter to them like the vibe, music, or outfits but they're also happy to let their families or planners take charge of the rest. It's not rebellion it's clarity. And it's refreshing.

### WELLNESS-FIRST WEDDINGS

Wellness isn't a trend anymore, it's a priority. Right from the pre-wedding phase, couples focus on fitness, skincare, nutrition, and mindful routines with their partners. Bridal showers are now more like wellness parties or high-tea skincare studios. During the wedding, we've arranged yoga or gym sessions post-haldi, and even curated breakfast menus with wellness coaches. After the celebrations, many opt for quiet retreats with family before their honeymoon. It's self-care meets celebration.

### TECH VS. TRADITION

It's not Tech vs Tradition anymore they're co-existing beautifully. Yes, we're seeing drone entries and digital invites fade a bit, but now it's all about meaningful gifting, immersive installations, and curated touchpoints that evoke emotion. If anything, soulful storytelling is now being powered by smart tech and that's a blend we're here for.

### TRENDS ON TRIAL

If I could retire one trend, it would be the pressure to pack every event with 2-3 dance performances. It dilutes the emotion and feels repetitive. Instead, I'd love to revive the charm of handwritten notes or personal stories woven into décor those little gems that make a celebration feel truly intimate.



Monil Shah & Karishma Shah, Founders, Kkings Events

# CRAFTING THE NEW VOWSCAPE

Gen Z couples are redefining rituals, blending heritage with style, meaning, and mindful celebration in every detail.

TT BUREAU

**A**t the helm of Momente Weddings, Darshan Shroff blends tradition with contemporary elegance to craft deeply personal celebrations. Alongside Neha Shroff, they have curated some of the most elegant and meaningful weddings across India and beyond. Known for his calm precision and flair for personalised storytelling, he brings together venue, design, entertainment, and logistics in seamless harmony.

Darshan reflects on evolving wedding aesthetics, sustainability

as a new luxury, and how Gen Z couples are reshaping rituals with meaning and flair.

## MOOD BOARDS FOR THE FUTURE

Weddings in the upcoming season will reflect a mix of modern simplicity and timeless detail. I call it “minimal opulence,” soft, elegant shades with deeper undertones. Hand-embroidered details, muted metallics and clean silhouettes are replacing overt glamour. We’re



# WHY? TO GET A STEP AHEAD OF DISEASE.

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Image Courtesy: Momente Weddings

seeing a resurgence of traditional Indian motifs and temple-inspired patterns, merged with contemporary design. Even larger events feel more curated. It is no longer about scale but about design that speaks personally and emotionally.

### A NEW REVERENCE FOR RITUAL

The pheras are making a quiet comeback, not as a checkpoint but as the soul of the celebration. Couples want this moment to feel sacred and serene, often choosing open-air mandaps in peaceful, intimate spaces.

We've reimaged these moments with softer lighting, natural décor and personalised vows around the seven steps. These changes do not replace tradition. They enhance its emotional resonance.

### SUSTAINABILITY, SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATED

Sustainability is becoming second nature. Couples are choosing everything from seed paper invitations to reusable fabrics and curated plant-based menus. We've worked on weddings where even the water bottles were biodegradable and local ingredients dominated the food.

What's elegant today is also mindful. These are not compromises. They are conscious upgrades that add purpose to luxury.

### LUXURY, RETHOUGHT

Couples now want refined, elegant weddings that reflect their identity. It is not about being big. It is about being meaningful. They are more interested in how guests feel, what memories are made, and what stories are told.

We guide our clients toward experiences where everything has intention. From minimal floral arrangements that reflect their story to food that's family-inspired, the luxury lies in how closely the event reflects the couple's essence.

### DESTINATIONS THAT SURPRISE

One of my most unforgettable projects was at The Westin Dragonara in Malta. We created a sunset celebration that blended Mediterranean ease with Indian vibrancy. It was intimate, fresh and full of charm.

Destination weddings are moving beyond predictable resorts. Couples are choosing places with character, remote forts, beach coves, vineyard estates. They want venues that surprise guests and carry emotional value.

### INDIA'S CULTURAL POWER

Indian weddings have become global ambassadors of emotion, artistry and craft. I have seen international guests marvel at our rituals, colours and cuisine, and ask for it at their own celebrations.

We have an opportunity to showcase regional arts and traditions in a way that feels authentic and inclusive. Each celebration is a cultural story, and India's story resonates.

### GEN Z DISRUPTIONS

This generation is not here to follow the rules. They are rewriting them with confidence. We've seen brides lead their baraats, couples choose female pandits and rituals shaped around inclusivity.

Their social media fluency is reflected in aesthetic-first planning. Every visual detail is curated for the feed, but not at the expense of meaning. They blend personal and public moments with ease.

### WELLNESS TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Wellness is now part of the celebration. Couples want to enjoy their wedding with energy and calm. We've included yoga sessions, spa mornings and menus with clean eating. One bride even created a "rest tent" for guests to relax.

When people are well-rested and balanced, the energy of the event transforms. This mindful pacing is a new form of luxury.

### TECH WITH A SOUL

Drone entrances, holographic invites and projection mapping are growing, but always as a complement. The real magic still lies in the grandmother's blessing, the sibling's toast, the bride's walk.

Technology can elevate a moment, but the soul of a wedding is its emotion. That always comes first.

### TRENDS TO KEEP AND LET GO

I would retire overdone photo booths. They have become more of an eyesore than a delight. Couples are leaning toward ambient corners, natural backdrops and lounges that double as photogenic spaces.

What I would bring back is handwritten notes. A short message in a welcome bag or place setting leaves an impact that digital messages cannot match. It is thoughtful, intimate and timeless.



Darshan Shroff, Founder, Momente Weddings

# A BIT OF SPARKLE

Small, stylish and superbly elegant – this pair of cufflinks by William Penn can uplift any humble white shirt. Made from tough Basildon steel and inlaid with mother-of-pearl, this nifty piece is a must-have in any gentleman's wardrobe.



# HAPPY RABBIT TIE BY HERMES

Perhaps the most visible piece of formal garment is also the most neglected one. But not anymore. Hermes is on a mission to save men from stylistic disasters and its new range of quirky ties is the perfect tool in its arsenal. Wear it with pride!

# OLD CUSTOMS WEAR NEW COLOURS



Image Courtesy: Copper Events

In sacred moments and sculpted spaces, joy becomes quiet luxury, and rituals bloom with personal truth.

## TT BUREAU

**A**t Copper Events, Prateek Tandon approaches weddings as artful experiences shaped by emotion and intent. With deep roots in hospitality and marketing, he guides each celebration with precision and soul.

His events reflect thoughtful choices, original design, and a commitment to making weddings feel elegant, personal, and lasting. His style blends modern sensibility with emotion, culture, and connection, crafted for the kind of celebrations guests remember long after the last dance.

Prateek shares his views on wedding aesthetics, cultural influence, Gen Z's evolving approach, and why soulful details still matter most. His voice reflects the shift in the Indian wedding industry—towards authenticity, relevance, and designs that breathe.

## MOODBOARDS OF TOMORROW

Elevated jewel tones are back—with burnished bronze and antique silver adding depth. Pastels are getting an upgrade with deeper undertones and subtle metallics. Couples are embracing bolder pairings like saffron and olive or maroon and rosewood. Ivory and cream are highlighted by rich textures and thoughtful pops of colour.

Sustainability shapes design through local sourcing, biodegradable elements, and minimal-waste setups. Cultural storytelling takes centre stage—expect Thikri mirrorwork, jasmine, and bamboo. Immersive storytelling brings it alive with floral chandeliers, drone shows, and live art. Whether retro-glam or sculptural minimalism, the theme is clear—make it intentional, make it memorable.

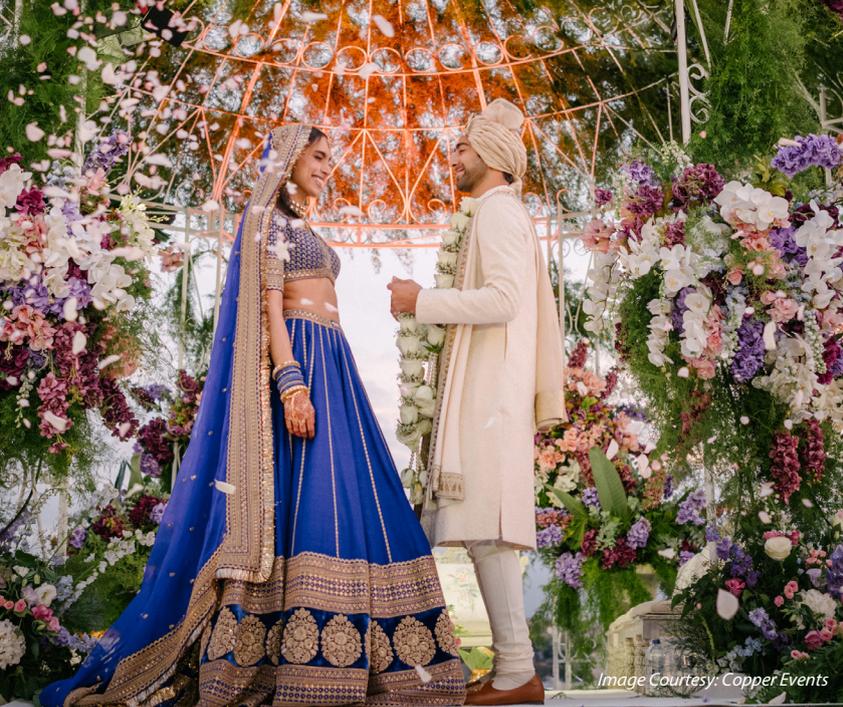


Image Courtesy: Copper Events

### THE PERSONALISED PHERAS

The age-old ritual of Pheras is being revived with heartfelt clarity. Couples now voice vows that echo the meanings of each sacred step—nourishing not just food, but dreams, and promising not only presence, but playful friendship. The ritual becomes a narrative, anchored in timeless tradition and told in a modern tongue. Guests are moved not just by symbolism, but the couple's unique expression of love.

### ECO, ELEVATED

A day-to-night venue transformation saved material, time, and the planet—proving sustainability doesn't mean sacrifice. With lighting shifts and spatial reworkings, the event felt renewed without waste. It's proof that mindfulness and beauty can dance together. Every decision was curated—from seed paper invites to recyclable cutlery—and that made all the difference. Even behind the scenes, every crew member was briefed to uphold the same values.

### REDEFINING LUXURY

Today's couples seek meaning over size. Curated guest lists allow deeper connection and elevated experiences. Welcome kits tell stories. Meals are personal, rooted in the couple's past or heritage. Bespoke cocktails, handwritten notes, and immersive experiences replace spectacle with sincerity. Narrative décor inspired by memories, regional art, and sustainable design speak volumes. True luxury now lies in mindful choice, cultural integrity, and intimacy—not display, but resonance.

### OFF THE BEATEN AISLE

A wedding in the dunes became a lesson in building beauty from scratch. The absence of infrastructure was the opportunity—it allowed a completely bespoke world to rise. Even the washrooms were part of the vision, showing the smallest details can sing. The barren land was transformed into a canvas of joy.

### SOFT POWER, STRONG ROOTS

Indian weddings have become global showcases. Banarasi, Phulkari, Warli, and Thikri are now part of international design vo-

cabulary. Indian rituals move audiences not by spectacle, but by soul. Each function touches a universal chord. Paired with regional cuisine in miniature, these experiences enchant and educate. Guests don't just attend—they participate and leave inspired.

### GEN Z REWRITES THE RITUAL

One Gen Z bride requested a female pandit and reimagined Kanyadan—not in protest, but reverence. It reflected partnership and equality. Gen Z isn't discarding tradition—they're polishing and reinterpreting it to make it matter more.

### THE WELLNESS-FIRST WEDDING

Pre-wedding, the planning process is simplified to preserve joy. Couples are given curated choices. During celebrations, rituals are streamlined for presence and play. After vows, couples retreat for a "Zenmoon"—a short pause before the honeymoon. Menus include mindful choices—herbal infusions, anti-inflammatory fare, and slow mornings.

### TECH THAT TELLS THE TALE

Drones, holograms, and livestreams amplify emotion when used with care. Tech now serves the story. The goal isn't wow for its own sake—it's connection, beautifully lit. Audio mapping and lighting design now build mood, not noise.

### GOODBYE, MARATHON SANGEET

The endless sangeet performances feel like a chore. A one-hour celebration brings back the magic. Joy doesn't need hours—it needs rhythm and heart.

### HELLO, GHAR WALI SHAADI

What's missed most? The intimacy of home weddings. Plush floor seating, soft lighting, and familial warmth. Even grand venues can feel like home—with intention and love.



Prateek Tandon, Founder, Copper Events

# ASTROLOGY MEETS AI: CELESTIAL MATCHMAKING

Astrology and AI unite to redefine modern wedding experiences

CHANDRUPAL DAS BORO



For centuries, people have looked to the skies for answers, especially when it comes to love. In India, matching Kundlis is still a trusted way to see if two people are made for each other. In China, couples check the lunar calendar before saying “I do.” Even ancient Greeks consulted the stars to choose the best time for a wedding.

However, today’s couples want something more than grand venues and expensive décor. They’re searching for meaning. They want weddings that feel deeply personal, rooted in their heritage, and yet... completely up to date. That’s where Artificial Intelligence steps in. AI and astrology might sound like an unlikely pair, but together, they’re rewriting the rulebook on luxury weddings.

Instead of flipping through almanacs and waiting days for a birth chart analysis, couples now get personalised insights within seconds. AI tools analyse planetary data instantly, com-

binning ancient astrological wisdom with smart algorithms. It’s quick, precise, and surprisingly emotional. The result? A wedding plan that’s not only beautiful but also astrologically aligned, down to the hour, the hue, and the hors d’oeuvres.

In fact, many couples say it feels like having a celestial co-planner by their side—one that never sleeps and knows both your sun sign and your schedule.

## SMART TECH FOR SACRED MOMENTS

Let’s break it down. AI-powered astrology platforms do way more than compare sun signs. They scan deep birth chart data, combining Vedic and Western methods. Think emotional compatibility, financial habits, even spiritual outlooks—explained in easy terms, without jargon. The software learns over time too. As it analyses more weddings and couples, it gets smarter, spotting patterns in successful relationships and refining its suggestions.

And it doesn't stop at matchmaking. Planning the wedding itself becomes a cosmic experience. Want to know the best day for your vows? There's an app for that. Not sure if your ceremony timing matches your moon sign? The AI will check. You'll even get a nudge if the stars suggest switching your mehndi timing to the next day for better energy.

Some apps go a step further, blending astrology with numerology, tarot, and palmistry—offering a full “cosmic blueprint” for your relationship. And then there are AI-powered chatbots that guide you like a digital astrologer: clear answers, multiple languages, and no need to wait for an appointment.

Even logistics get an upgrade. These tools help with seating plans (based on guest compatibility!), ideal travel days, and ritual timings. You can sync them with your smartwatch, get alerts when planetary movements shift, and fine-tune every part of your day. All of this is wrapped in bank-level encryption because privacy matters, especially for high-profile or luxury weddings.

And if you're working with a multicultural guest list or planning a destination wedding, the adaptability of these platforms can be a godsend. They handle time zones, local customs, and even translation support, all while keeping your planetary schedule in check.

### YES, IT'S A WHOLE MOVEMENT

This isn't a fringe trend. It's a full-blown wave. The global astrology app market is booming, projected to grow from \$4.01 billion in 2024 to a whopping \$29.36 billion by 2033. And within that, the wedding segment is growing by over



18% a year. Why? Because couples today want more than a checklist—they want a ceremony that feels written in the stars.

Luxury weddings are now curated to cosmic perfection. A bride born under Pisces might lean toward soft ocean hues and dreamy lakeside venues. A fiery Aries couple may go bold with colour, music, and décor that reflects their dynamic energy. Food menus are built using Ayurvedic wisdom, matched



to planetary influences. Even the cocktail list can be tuned to the couple's zodiac personality.

Fashion's not left behind either. AI platforms suggest fabrics, styles, and even gemstones that align with your chart. Brides might wear colours chosen to match Venus energy. Grooms may select accessories that align with their ascendant. It's style with a purpose, and it looks stunning.

And don't forget the guests. AI tools can recommend seating arrangements that minimise drama and maximise good vibes. They optimise timelines for everyone's comfort and energy levels, and they keep surprises under control with real-time adjustments. Even live music selections and the scent of the floral arrangements can be personalised based on the cosmic atmosphere.

Couples are already living this dream. In Jaipur, one pair planned a sustainable wedding aligned with astrological principles, complete with lakeside vows, eco décor, and the calmest wedding day their guests had ever experienced. Another couple split their ceremony across three continents—Tuscany, Bali, and Kyoto—based entirely on shared planetary transits. It wasn't just romantic. It was astrological genius.

The stories are multiplying. A New York-based bride used AI to suggest not only her wedding venue but the exact moment to walk down the aisle. Her chosen time aligned with a Venus-Jupiter trine, a moment known for love and luck. Spoiler: it worked beautifully.

## THE SOUL OF THE CELEBRATION STILL BELONGS TO YOU

Let's be clear. AI isn't here to replace your family astrologer, spiritual guide, or grandma's trusted rituals. It's here to help. While the software crunches the data, the human touch still leads the heart. Many couples use a combination of both: the precision of AI and the intuition of seasoned astrologers.

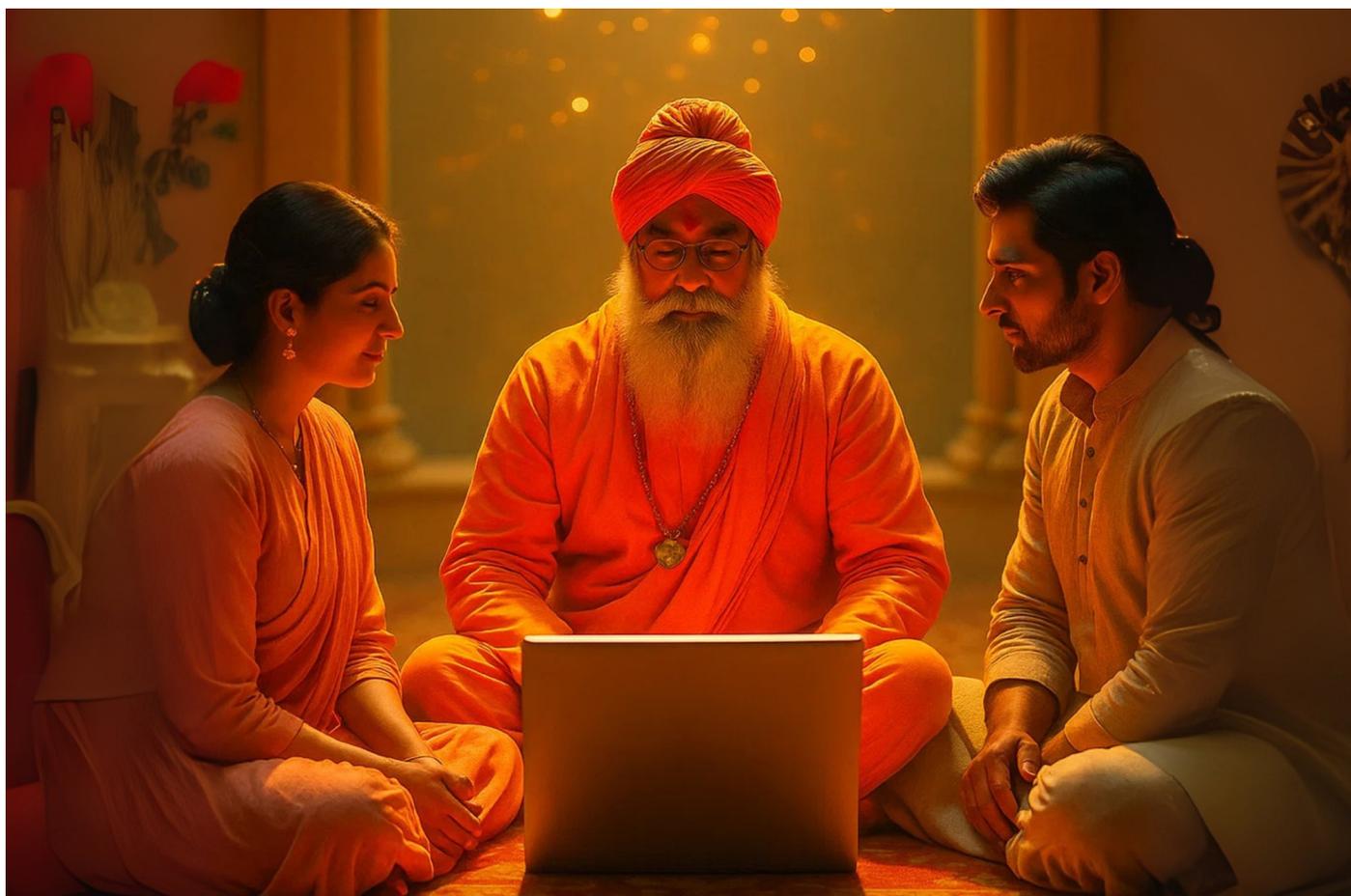
But as this trend grows, so do the questions. Is your birth data safe? (Yes, if you're on a credible platform.) Can an algorithm understand love? (It can help, but it won't replace gut feeling.) Developers are actively working on making these platforms more inclusive, ethical, and respectful of traditions across the world.

And the tech? It's getting better every day. Emotional AI will soon help newlyweds navigate life post-wedding—like cosmic life coaching. Augmented reality will let you preview your wedding décor based on your zodiac. Platforms will blend Chinese, Vedic, and Western astrology in a seamless interface for multicultural couples. Even blockchain is stepping in to protect your data with airtight security.

What we're seeing is a true evolution in how we celebrate love. Astrology isn't going away. It's being reimaged. And luxury weddings are becoming smarter, more soulful, and deeply personalised in ways that feel utterly timeless.

So, the next time someone asks, "When's the big day?"—you might respond with, "When Venus and Jupiter say so... and our AI wedding planner agrees."

Because in this new era, love stories aren't written in stone. They're written in stars—and a little bit of code.





## 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.

# WILDLY IN LOVE: NATURE'S VOWS

In today's digital blur, couples are choosing the intimacy of wilderness weddings.

## TT BUREAU

This shift has sparked a growing trend: off-the-grid weddings set in remote, awe-inspiring natural settings. Think forest clearings, mountain ridges, desert horizons, or wild coastal cliffs. These are places where the WiFi fades out and the emotions come alive.

Rather than traditional banquet halls or city rooftops, couples are now drawn to destinations where nature takes centre stage. The quiet of the wilderness, the soft rustle of trees, the rush of distant rivers, these become the backdrop for a truly personal celebration.

### SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS: WHERE LOVE MEETS LEGEND

The Scottish Highlands are a land of timeless beauty and quiet intensity. With their vast rolling hills, mirror-like lochs, and sweeping moorlands covered in purple heather, they offer a setting straight out of a romantic novel. There is something about the Highlands that stirs the heart and soul. The landscapes feel both ancient and untouched, holding the kind of beauty that does not shout but speaks softly to those who are willing to listen.

This region is made for couples who find magic in myths, poetry, and history. The Highlands are steeped in folklore and legend, with every glen and valley echoing stories of brave warriors, tragic love, and mystical beings. It is a place where time seems to pause, where the mist clings to the mountains and the air feels charged with meaning. For those drawn to the charm of old-world romance, it is hard to find a better match.

### THE FJORDS OF NORWAY: A FAIRYTALE CARVED BY ICE AND TIME

The fjords of Norway are among the most breathtaking natural wonders in the world. Towering cliffs rise sharply from glassy, ice-blue waters, while slender waterfalls tumble down from snow-tipped peaks. These deep glacial inlets carve through the landscape like ancient poetry, creating a world that feels untouched, still, and almost otherworldly. Here, every angle offers a postcard view, and every moment feels suspended in something magical.

For couples seeking a wedding that feels dreamlike, the Norwegian fjords are pure enchantment. The vastness of the scenery evokes a sense of calm and quiet awe. There is something humbling about standing between sea and sky, where the land narrows and the horizon seems to disappear into mist. It is a setting that brings you closer to nature, to stillness, and to each other.

Image Courtesy: Pham Hoang Kha, Pexels

### CANADIAN ROCKIES: WILDERNESS & ROMANCE

The Canadian Rockies stretch across western Canada like a living masterpiece. Emerald lakes glisten beneath snow-capped peaks, alpine meadows bloom with wildflowers in summer, and dense forests cradle hidden glades where silence reigns. Every season brings a new kind of beauty, but all share a sense of peace that feels both powerful and tender.

Summer opens up endless lakeside opportunities. Picture a private canoe floating on turquoise waters, with vows exchanged while surrounded by towering pine trees and the gentle lap of water. The long golden evenings and fresh mountain air bring a lightness to the day that is impossible to replicate elsewhere.

In winter, the Rockies transform into a snowy dreamscape. Couples can wed among frost-dusted evergreens, beneath soft snowfall, then retreat to a cosy cabin with roaring fires and candlelit dinners. The quiet of the snow, the sparkle in the air, it all turns simple moments into unforgettable memories.

### CHILE & ARGENTINA: LOVE AT THE EDGE OF THE EARTH

Patagonia is a place where the land stretches wild and wide, untouched and untamed. Straddling the southern reaches of Chile and Argentina, it is home to some of the most dramatic scenery on the planet. Towering glaciers, endless steppe, wind-carved peaks, and skies so vast they seem to go on forever, it is raw, it is fierce, and it is utterly unforgettable.

Glacial valleys provide surreal backdrops for small ceremonies. The wind, ever-present, dances through the grass as if offering its own blessing. Evenings often end around crackling fires beneath skies crowded with stars, a moment of stillness after the wild beauty of the day. It is the kind of atmosphere that strips things back to their essence, just two people, promising forever, with nothing but the vast Earth and sky in witness.

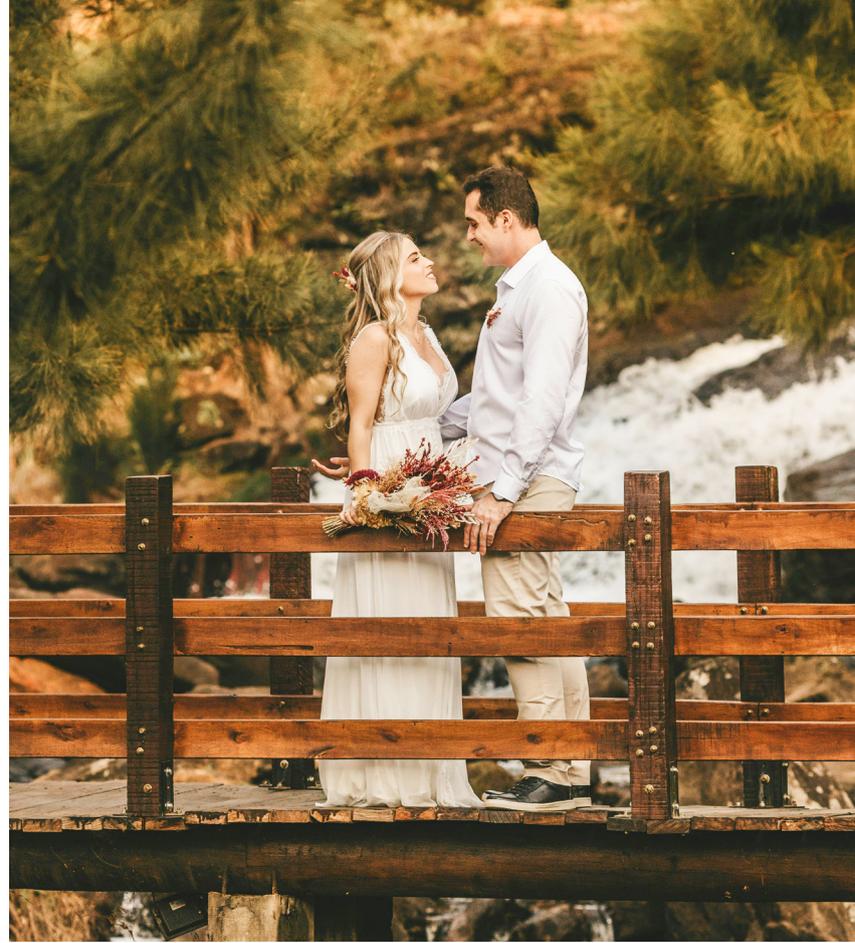


Image Courtesy: Jonathan Borba, Pexels

### THE WESTERN GHATS, INDIA: A SACRED SYMPHONY OF NATURE AND LOVE

The Western Ghats stretch like a green spine along the western edge of India, cloaked in dense rainforest and humming with life. This ancient mountain range is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, where every turn reveals a hidden waterfall, a spice-scented grove, or a mist-wrapped hilltop that feels close to the divine. The land is alive here, lush, fertile, and deeply rooted in India's cultural and spiritual traditions.

For couples drawn to serenity, balance, and a sense of the sacred, the Western Ghats offer a rare kind of sanctuary. This is not only a place of natural beauty but also of quiet power,



Image Courtesy: Casper Somia, Pexels



Image Courtesy: AK, Pexels

where rituals feel more meaningful and time seems to slow. The air is rich with the scent of cardamom and rain-soaked earth, and the landscape pulses with the rhythm of monsoon-fed rivers and ancient trees.

### **THE OKAVANGO DELTA: WHERE VOWS FLOW WITH THE WILD**

The Okavango Delta is a miracle of nature, an inland river system that floods the Kalahari Desert, transforming dry plains

into a lush mosaic of winding waterways, palm-dotted islands, and whispering reeds. It is one of the few places on Earth where the rhythm of life is entirely shaped by water, wildlife, and the seasons. This ever-changing landscape offers a deeply intimate setting, where the wild does not stand back but gently leans in.

### **THE SOUTH AFRICAN BUSHVELD, SOUTH AFRICA: A WILD AND GROUNDED BEGINNING**

The South African bushveld is a landscape of contrasts, vast open savannas stretch toward the horizon, dotted with thorn trees and framed by distant mountains. The golden light of sunset spills across the grasses, casting a warm glow that turns everything into something extraordinary. It is a place where silence holds meaning, and every rustle in the leaves reminds you that you are not alone in the world.

For couples who seek something raw yet deeply grounding, the bushveld offers an unforgettable setting. This is where the wild is not a backdrop but a living, breathing presence. The thrill of spotting a distant elephant or hearing a lion's call in the evening air adds unmatched energy to the day. It is nature at its most majestic, and love here feels elemental, rooted and real.

### **WHERE LOVE BELONGS TO THE WILD**

Wilderness weddings offer something no ballroom ever can, a sense of intimacy that feels deeply real, a kind of authenticity that cannot be staged, and a timelessness that stays long after the day ends. These are celebrations not shaped by trends or timelines, but by the natural world and the quiet power it holds.



Image Courtesy: Samet Tecimen, Pexels



**CARL F. BUCHERER MANERO  
CENTRAL COUNTER**

Carl F. Bucherer Manero Central Counter is a sporty chronograph in many shades of green and black with just the right hint of glamour. With a hybrid rubber strap, domed sapphire crystal and stainless steel casing, this is a limited-edition timepiece.

# THE WORLD OF LUXURY CELEBRITY WEDDINGS

Love may be eternal, but celebrity weddings? They're made for the now.

TT BUREAU



Image Courtesy: Pinterest

In 2025, saying “I do” comes with couture gowns, undisclosed destinations, and pre-wedding performances that rival Coachella lineups. And nothing screams “now” louder than Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez’s jaw-dropping wedding. The billionaire Amazon founder reportedly wed aboard his \$500 million megayacht *Koru*, anchored somewhere off the Amalfi Coast.

The wedding guest list? Ultra-exclusive. With rumours of private performances, high-fashion couture, and a multi-location celebration, this wedding was the ultimate soft power move in ultra-high-net-worth circles. So, what’s trending right now in the OTT world of celebrity weddings? Think millions spent, dozens of looks, and guest lists that double as power maps.

## WHEN THE PRE-WEDDING BECOMES THE PERFORMANCE

Why settle for a wedding day when you can have a wedding month?

In India, the Ambanis redefined the game with the pre-wedding bash of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant in Jamnagar — reportedly costing over ₹1,200 crore. It included three days of extravagance, 1,200 guests, performances by Rihanna, and even a visit to an animal rescue centre. Beyoncé might have lit up Isha Ambani’s sangeet in 2018, but Rihanna’s power-packed 2024 act launched a new era: pre-weddings as festival-scale productions.

Nita Ambani turned heads wearing an emerald-encrusted necklace reportedly valued at a staggering ₹500 crore. Said to be among the most expensive pieces of jewellery in the world, the

show-stopping neckpiece was paired elegantly with her ivory and gold saree. Shloka Ambani was also seen wearing a necklace of comparable value, adding to the jaw-dropping glamour of the occasion.

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's royal wedding remains one of the most expensive celebrity weddings to date, with an estimated price tag of \$42 million. Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck followed suit with a multi-day vow renewal in Georgia, complete with waterfront ceremonies, fireworks, and an aesthetic nod to Old Hollywood.

### THE COUTURE-DRIVEN CEREMONY

Parineeti Chopra's bridal lehenga stitched by Manish Malhotra featured embroidered motifs inspired by her ancestral history, and Kiara Advani's blush pink Manish Malhotra lehenga embroidered with Roman architecture (a nod to her Italy proposal) was valued at ₹2 crore. Her emerald and diamond neckpiece? A 90s-style choker rumoured to have a 2024 price tag of ₹6 crore.

Meanwhile, Sofia Richie's three custom Chanel looks in the South of France gave bridal fashion its new blueprint: legacy couture with viral appeal. Her wedding transformed her into the ultimate "quiet luxury" It-girl, setting off a global Pinterest frenzy. Modern celebrity weddings are sartorial sagas. Lauren Sánchez wore four couture outfits across her Venetian nuptials, including a Dolce & Gabbana gown that took 900 hours to complete.

### BUDGETS MEASURED IN BLOCKBUSTERS

Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra's 2018 wedding, which spanned five days and included both Christian and Hindu ceremonies, reportedly cost \$800,000 (₹6.5 crore). That included a palace venue (Taj Umaid Bhawan in Jodhpur), a 75-foot-long veil, and Sabyasachi on speed dial.

Not to be outdone, Sofia Richie's wedding at the Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc featured three Chanel dresses, round-the-clock

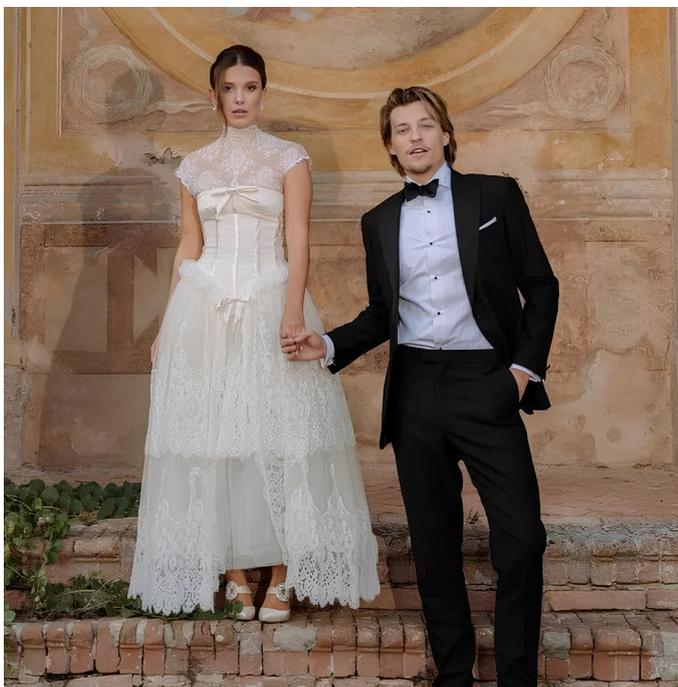


Image Courtesy: Pinterest



Image Courtesy: Pinterest

security, and floral installations worth millions. Celebrity weddings now command budgets that rival film productions. Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh booked out Lake Como's Villa del Balbianello for an intimate yet high-security affair. Their estimated spend? Around ₹77 crore, including couture, guest security, and an Italian wedding planner flown in.

### MARRYING ACROSS BORDERS AND CULTURES

Multicultural weddings are now the rule, not the exception. Priyanka and Nick's wedding had both a Christian pastor and a Hindu pandit. Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal's Rajasthan wedding included Punjabi rituals, bridal kaliras customised with charms (each with a personal memory), and a mehendi ceremony set to Sufi music.

The hot trend now? Dual ceremonies — often held across countries. One in a church or vineyard in Europe, another in a heritage fort in India. Grooms wear Tom Ford tuxedos for one day, and sherwanis laced with zardozi on the next. Every ritual, every moment, is tailor-made for both culture and content.

The rise of multi-location, multicultural weddings mirrors the globalised identities of modern celebrities. Simone Biles and Jonathan Owens tied the knot in a courthouse before jetting to Cabo for a destination fête.

### GUEST LISTS AS STRATEGIC NARRATIVES

Getting invited to a celebrity wedding today is less about closeness and more about narrative. Expect a calculated mix of co-stars, legacy names, social media darlings, and rising



Image Courtesy: Pinterest

entrepreneurs. At Kiara and Sidharth's wedding, Karan Johar, Shahid Kapoor, and Isha Ambani sat alongside stylists, PR managers, and a few surprise faces — all part of a very visual guest list.

Influencers now attend as semi-official wedding correspondents. Their 'GRWM' (Get Ready With Me) reels from inside the venue get more views than the actual wedding photos.

When Chris Evans married Alba Baptista, Marvel co-stars in attendance sparked online reunion chatter. The seating chart wasn't just thoughtful—it was tactical. The modern guest list is a matrix of relevance, reach, and resonance. Being invited says you matter; being absent says even more.

### SET DESIGN ON A CINEMATIC SCALE

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli's 2017 Tuscan wedding set the tone for soft pastel romance and floral opulence. That Pinterest-core aesthetic is still trending — but now with a cinematic upgrade.

Expect floating mandaps, mirrored aisle runways, phoolon ki chadar with embedded lights, and custom installations that go viral. At one Mumbai wedding, the bride entered under a ceiling of hanging jasmine that changed colour as she walked in. At another, the couple said their vows under a banyan tree strung with 100,000 diyas.

### CONTENT CREATION AS CORE RITUAL

Celebrity weddings today come with NDAs for guests and full-

blown content crews. Think drone shots, teaser trailers, edited vow videos, and even dedicated "wedding drops" coordinated with brands.

Celebs are not just getting married — they're staging viral moments with fashion impact. Sidharth and Kiara posted their wedding images with the caption "Ab humari permanent booking hogayi hai," sending Instagram into a meltdown. Within 24 hours, bridal brands saw a 3X spike in pink lehenga searches.

### CULTURAL CAPITAL IN COUTURE AND RITUAL

The celebrity wedding of 2025 is no longer just a union. It's often a cultural flex. Whether it's Beyoncé performing at a private elopement in the Alps or the Ambanis building entire cities of celebration, the wedding space today is where money, creativity, fashion, and fame explode into spectacle.

Designers are now storytellers. Planners are creative directors. Every moment, every frame is co-authored for cultural impact. Whether it's Beyoncé performing at a private Alps elopement or the Ambanis constructing a temporary city in Jamnagar, the message is clear: love is personal, but celebration is political.

### THE FINAL CURTAIN: PRIVATE VOWS, PUBLIC VISION

Celebrity weddings in 2025 are the defining cultural currency of our time. They have become mirrors of modern cultural aspiration — about global reach, meaningful storytelling, and fashion that speaks louder than any vow. They're where luxury, identity, influence, and spectacle converge.

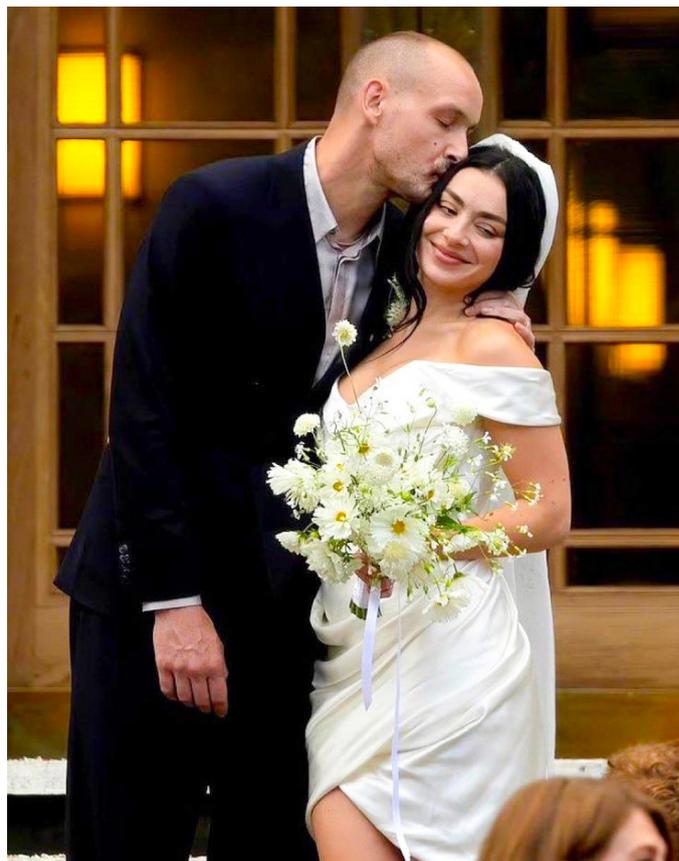


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# FROM THALIS TO TAPAS

A Feast Like Never Before: How Indian Wedding Food in 2025 Is Turning Every Bite Into a Statement of Style, Story, and Sensation

KAMAL GILL



Wedding Spread. Image Courtesy: Angel Ayala

From Thalīs to Tapas isn't just a food trend—it's a vibe. It's about honouring where you come from, but serving it up with a side of style. Whether you're noshing on a Kathiyawadi thali, popping a paneer tikka taco, or building your jalebi masterpiece, today's luxury weddings are all about food that's as unforgettable as the vows. So, as you plan your big day, remember: the best parties are the ones where the food is as bold as the love story. And in 2025, every thali is a tapas, every plate is a post, and every bite is a memory in the making.

Indian wedding food is having its moment in 2025. Let's be honest: in 2025, Indian weddings are less about the "I do" and more about the "What's on the menu?"

## THE REGIONAL REVIVAL: ROOTS, REIMAGINED

The hottest trend right now? Going hyper-local, but make it luxe. Couples are swapping generic spreads for menus that shout out to their roots. Think: a Mehendi brunch in Hyderabad where guests nibble on bite-sized Andhra gunpowder idlis and mini Gongura chicken sliders, all served on chic ceramic platters. Or a Sangeet in Delhi where the midnight snack bar is a nostalgia

trip—tiny Amritsari kulchas, Kashmiri kahwa shots, and mini Rajma chawal bowls, all artfully plated.

At a recent Mumbai wedding, guests ditched the passport and took a "Culinary Tour of India"—live counters lined up like a food festival, each one repping a different state. From Goan prawn balchao tapas to Rajasthani dal baati churma shooters, it was a pan-India joyride in stilettos and sherwanis.

Small plates are having a big moment. Tapas-style Indian is where it's at—think Gujarati dhokla cubes with wasabi mousse, or mini Kerala appams topped with avocado salsa. At a Jaipur destination wedding, the cocktail hour was basically a parade of edible art: pani puri ceviche, bite-sized vada pav sliders, and even "tandoori tacos" stuffed with smoky jackfruit.

And the creativity keeps coming. At a recent Udaipur wedding, a "Global Chaat Bar" featured Korean gochujang bhel, Mexican guac sev puri, and Japanese tempura pani puri—each bite a passport stamp.

## INTERACTIVE EATS: FOOD AS THEATRE

If you're not customising your plate, are you even at a 2025 wedding! Interactive food stations are the new dance floor. At

a Udaipur palace wedding, there was a live dosa bar where you could pick your fillings (truffle cheese, anyone?) and a chaat “mixology” counter where chefs whip up beetroot pani puris and avocado dahi puris to order.

Desserts are getting the live treatment too. At a Bengaluru reception, the crowd went wild for a DIY jalebi station—choose your batter, pick your rabdi flavour (rose, saffron, pistachio), and watch the magic happen. Meanwhile, a Delhi couple wowed their guests with a “Nitro Mithai Lab,” where paan-flavoured mousse and thandai kulfi got the liquid nitrogen treatment for that smoky, Insta-worthy finish.

Today’s couples want their food to be as mindful as their yoga practice. Wellness is in, and indulgence is getting a health-conscious twist. At a Chennai wedding, the breakfast spread was a millet wonderland—ragi dosas, bajra upma, and vegan coconut laddoos.

The juice bar? Cold-pressed, with superfood boosters and edible flowers. Vegan and gluten-free are no longer afterthoughts. At a Pune reception, the dessert cart rolled out sugar-free besan barfi, almond milk rabdi, and even keto-friendly gulab jamuns. The real flex? A “wellness shot” bar serving turmeric-ginger elixirs and aloe vera coolers between courses.

According to a 2025 ShaadiSaga report, over 60% of luxury weddings now include a dedicated “wellness zone”—think immunity-boosting soups, probiotic salads, and mocktail bars with adaptogens like ashwagandha and tulsi.

**PERSONALISATION: YOUR LOVE STORY, ON A PLATE**

Personalisation is the secret sauce of 2025’s wedding cuisine revolution. Couples are ditching generic buffets for menus that reflect their personalities, love stories, and family heritage. Think



Muffins. Image Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons



Golgappa Shots. Image Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

family recipes passed down generations, dishes inspired by the couple’s first date, or even food that nods to their favourite travel destinations.

At a Lucknow wedding, every table had a mini “food diary” explaining the couple’s connection to each dish, from their first date pani puri to the midnight pasta they shared after a long drive. Another couple in Mumbai curated a “story menu” where



Butter Chicken With Pita Naan. Image Courtesy: Snappr

each course represented a milestone in their relationship—think “Proposal Pasta” and “Honeymoon Halwa”.

Bespoke thali experiences are trending too. Guests can now pick from curated thalis based on region, dietary preferences, or even the season, with live counters serving hot phulkas and fresh sabzis, making the meal both interactive and intimate.

And let’s not forget dessert: wedding cakes are getting a personal twist with flavours like lavender honey, tiramisu, and even hand-painted designs that match the couple’s wedding theme. Some couples are skipping the cake altogether for macaron towers, croquebouches, or mini cheesecake bites that reflect their favorite indulgences.

### LATE-NIGHT BITES: BECAUSE THE PARTY NEVER ENDS

When the sangeet playlist is still going strong at 2 a.m., you need snacks that slay. Enter the late-night munchies bar. At a Kolkata wedding, guests lined up for mini kathi rolls, truffle fries, and spiced hot chocolate. In Jaipur, the after-party featured a “chai & churros” cart, complete with masala chai shots and cinnamon-dusted churros with jaggery caramel<sup>16</sup>.

And don’t forget the “Samosa Bar”—now a staple at after-parties across India, with fillings like parmesan and cream, dribbled with chilli oil, and even caviar for the truly extra.

If it’s not photogenic, did it even happen? Presentation is everything. At a Delhi reception, the dessert table looked like a Parisian patisserie—rasmalai macarons, edible gold leaf on gulab jamun, and thandai mousse in chic terracotta cups. Even the salads were served in edible bowls made of baked papad. At a recent Suryagarh, Jaisalmer wedding, the main course was plated on artisanal stoneware, with edible flowers and



*Dhokla Cake. Image Courtesy: Wikimedia Commons*

microgreens turning every dish into a work of art. Guests were handed Polaroids of their favourite plates as keepsakes.

### MORE REAL WEDDING INSPIRATION

A wedding in Alibaug dialed up the brunch game with a “South India meets Mediterranean” fusion—mini uttapam pizzas, coffee affogato with a local twist, and paniyarams stuffed with olive tapenade, setting the tone for a luxe destination wedding. Bangalore’s after-party scene went next-level with its “Midnight Maggi Bar” concept, offering a gourmet twist on a comfort food favorite; think truffle oil, artisanal cheeses, and unexpected spice blends that kept the energy soaring well into the early hours.

In Jodhpur a young couple transformed their royal-themed welcome dinner into a “Rajputana Tapas” affair: picture bite-sized portions of traditional jungle maas, saffron-infused khichdi, and delicate ghewar pastries adorned with rose petals, each dish a miniature masterpiece.



# THE LATEST IN WEDDING COUTURE

Global glamour meets Indian artistry in a season of silhouettes that dare to be different

TT BUREAU





Image Courtesy: The Wedding Network

The bridal runway for 2025–2026 sees tradition and innovation walk together. Designers craft gowns and lehengas that merge heritage, artistry, and individuality. Revived craft traditions sit alongside contemporary techniques, reflecting a shift toward conscious luxury and responsible sourcing. Brides increasingly choose detachable elements for mid-event transformations, moving from ceremony to cocktail without changing the core look. It is a year of maximalist detailing, comfort-led fabrics, and statement accessories.

### INDIAN ELEGANCE: WEDDING FASHION AT HOME

In India's wedding fashion scene, the mood is lighter, brighter, and highly individual. Pastel palettes including lilac, dusty rose, sage, mint, and sky blue dominate daylight ceremonies, flattering in natural light. Cape dupattas and airy, trailing veils deliver drama without compromising ease, giving brides an ethereal presence. Lightweight fabrics such as organza, tissue silk, and sustainable blends keep lehengas refined yet breathable for long celebrations.

The blouse is in the spotlight, with bold necklines such as plunging, one-shoulder or delicately draped, paired with elaborate sleeves balancing tradition and flair. Personalisation takes centre stage, with embroidery featuring initials, wedding dates, or symbols meaningful to the couple. Heritage weaves including Kanjeevaram, Banarasi, Gharchola, and Chikankari appear in unexpected palettes, elevated with metallic threadwork, sequins, mirror work, and gemstone-like beadwork.

Grooms are redefining sophistication with monotone sherwanis in pastels, coordinated turbans, and fusion tailoring bridging classic and contemporary. Accessories stand out with heritage jewellery, emerald chokers, ruby maang tikkas, and polki diamonds inspired by celebrity weddings.

### GLOBAL GLAMOUR: INTERNATIONAL BRIDAL TRENDS

Internationally, designers revive vintage silhouettes with modern artistry. Basque waists in "V" and "U" shapes lend gowns timeless refinement, while drop waists and bubble hems create voluminous, sculptural statements. Floral appliqués, intricate lace, and jacquard add rich texture, while sculptural bodices and peplums bring architectural precision. Hats and pillbox headpieces nod to mid-century muses.

Statement sleeves such as sheer puff, bishop cuts, and detachable options introduce movement and versatility, while oversized bows serve as focal points. Corsetry and lace-up backs enhance structure with vintage allure, and cape overlays or neck scarves add a regal flourish. Colour palettes stretch beyond whites into jewel tones, pastels, and bohemian hues, with lingerie-inspired lace lending a contemporary edge.

Across continents, bridal fashion in 2025–2026 celebrates individuality, each ensemble a love story crafted at the intersection of heritage, style, and artistry.

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