

TODAY'S traveller

CORPORATE, BUSINESS, AVIATION, LUXURY & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE SEPTEMBER 2026 - ₹400



**THE ART OF WEDDINGS FINDS ITS HOME WITH
RADISSON HOTEL GROUP**

SICIS O'CLOCK



The greatest luxury is time

Sicis Jewels Milan · Via della Spiga 9, Milan 20121 · www.sicisjewels.com · jewels@sicis.com
Sicis Jewels Paris · Rue François 1^{er}, 41 · Paris 75008 · Ph: +33 0149528989

Visa At Your Doorstep

Submit your visa application from your doorstep - home, office or preferred location with our optional service.

- ✓ Visa submission process
- ✓ Biometric enrolment (fingerprint & digital photograph)
- ✓ Passport collection and delivery



Book 'Visa At Your Doorstep' now

Visit: vfsglobal.com/visa-at-your-doorstep

This optional service is known as **On-Demand Mobile Visa (ODMV)** for UK visas, and **Visa At Your Doorstep (VAYD)** for Schengen visas.



Scan to apply



The global leader in trusted technology services, empowering secure mobility for governments and citizens.

25 Years Since Inception	71 Client Governments	170 Countries of Operation	4,275 Application Centres	Over 562 Million Transactions* Processed	Over 243 Million Biometric Enrolments	Over 17,900 Employees	170 Nationalities
------------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--	---	---------------------------------	-----------------------------



*Comprising 346.74 million transactions by VFS Global and 215.82 million transactions by CiX Citizen Experience

Disclaimer: Please note this service is currently offered for select countries. Availability and service charge for above mentioned service may vary depending upon the country/location where it is procured. The choice of location for availing the service may vary depending on the concerned Embassy. The grant or refusal of the visa is at the sole discretion of the Embassy and availing above value-added service will not affect the processing time or decision of your Visa as VFS Global is neither involved in the process nor is liable or responsible in any manner whatsoever for the grant or rejection of the visa application of any customer by the Embassy. For further information on the same, kindly refer to the VFS Global website. The above-mentioned service is optional and will be charged in addition to the visa application fee. The customer hereby accepts and confirms that they, prior to availing the above-mentioned service, have read, understood, and agreed to be bound by, without limitations or qualification, all of the terms and conditions associated with the service. I Statistics as on 31 July 2026

CHAIRMAN
KEWAL GILL

PUBLISHER/EDITOR
KAMAL GILL

MANAGING EDITOR
ARJUN GILL

SR. VICE PRESIDENT - SALES
VAGISH MISHRA

VICE PRESIDENT - SALES & ALLIANCES
SAFAL SAALWAR

MANAGER - SALES & OPERATIONS
ABHISHEK MANDAL

MANAGER - SALES
SHIVAM KUMAR SINGH

ADMIN EXECUTIVE
ABIN MATHEW THOMAS

ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHANDRUTPAL DAS BORO

SUB EDITOR
JEET BHATTACHARYA

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
YOGESH SHARMA

Cover Image: Radisson Blu Hotel, Guwahati

Today's Traveller is published/printed by Kamal Gill on behalf of M/s Gill India Concepts Pvt. Ltd. Registered Office: Z-33, 11nd Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi, 110016

Printed at: Sonu Printer
B-180, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1,
New Delhi - 110020
All rights reserved.

For correspondence and advertising:
Z-33, 11nd Floor, Hauz Khas, New Delhi, 110016
Mobile: 9953701567, 9625846296
Email: publications@gillindia.com

All information in TODAY'S TRAVELLER is derived from sources, which we consider reliable. Information is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. The contents of this publication contain views of authors and are not the views of M/s Gill India Concepts Pvt. Ltd. (GICPL). Similarly, opinions/views expressed by any party in abstract and/or in interviews are not necessarily shared/do not necessarily reflect any opinion of GICPL. All rights reserved throughout the world. Reproduction in any manner is strictly prohibited. Material appearing in the publication cannot be reproduced in whole or in part without prior permission. The same rule applies when there is a copyright or the article is taken from another publication. Publications reproducing material either in part or in whole, without permission could face legal action. Editorial enquiries and enquiries concerning the reproduction of articles, advertising and circulation should be emailed at publications@gillindia.com. The publisher assumes no responsibility for returning unsolicited material nor is responsible for material lost or damaged in transit. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw, amend or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation. All advertisements must comply with the Indian Advertisements Code as well as the Advertisements Code of South Asia. The publisher will not be liable for any damage or loss caused by the late publication, error or failure of advertisement to appear.



CON

06

THE ART OF WEDDINGS FINDS ITS HOME WITH RHG

RADISSON HOTEL GROUP IS EMERGING AS A QUIET ARCHITECT OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST MEMORABLE WEDDINGS

28

LESS OBLIGATION, MORE EXPERIENCE

CHETAN VOHRA, CO-FOUNDER & CEO OF WEDDINGLINE, ON PERSONALISATION, GEN Z AND THE WEDDING EXPERIENCE

30

A WEDDING WITH YOUR DNA

BIRJU C GARIBA, FOUNDER & CEO OF ISKRA EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS, EXPLORES HOW AI, GEN Z, SHIFTING IDEAS OF LUXURY, AND STRONGER PERSONALISATION ARE RESHAPING WEDDINGS IN 2026-2027

32

THE NEW AGE OF 'THIS IS SO US'

MINNAT LALPURIA, FOUNDER, CEO & MANAGING DIRECTOR OF 7VACHAN, REFLECTS ON CHANGING IDEAS OF LUXURY, TRADITION AND CELEBRATION

34

BIG WEDDINGS, BETTER STORIES

KAVERI VIJ, FOUNDER & CHIEF DREAMER AT DESIGNER EVENTS, INC., DECODES THE NEW MOOD OF MODERN WEDDINGS IN INDIA

12

LUXURY WEDDING TRENDS 2027: ACCESS IS THE NEW EXCESS

THE NEXT EXPRESSION OF LUXURY WEDDINGS WILL LIE IN WHAT REMAINS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN

22

THE WEDDING RING GOES WILD

WEDDING RINGS GET A WILD NEW PERSONALITY WITH SCULPTURAL ANIMAL PORTRAITS

24

MADE HERE, MARRIED EVERYWHERE

INDIAN WEDDING CLASSICS ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A FABULOUS MAKEOVER



TENTS

CORPORATE, BUSINESS, AVIATION, LUXURY & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE | VOLUME 29 | No. 09 | SEPTEMBER 2026

36

NEVER ONE MOOD

NEARLY FOUR DECADES IN, RINA DHAKA STILL PREFERS FASHION WITH PERSONALITY, MOVEMENT AND A LITTLE REBELLION

40

CRAFT, CUT AND THE CONTEMPORARY GROOM

DHRUV VAISH RESHAPES CONTEMPORARY GROOM DRESSING WITH THOUGHTFUL CRAFT, CLEANER SILHOUETTES AND A MODERN SENSIBILITY

44

THE PRICE OF A PERFECT WEDDING

BEHIND EVERY SEAMLESS WEDDING IS A HIDDEN ECONOMY OF LABOUR, LOGISTICS, PRECISION AND HOSPITALITY

48

WHAT BECOMES AN HEIRLOOM NOW?

AS WEDDINGS BECOME MORE PERSONAL, COUPLES ARE COMMISSIONING OBJECTS THAT MAY CARRY THEIR STORY INTO ANOTHER GENERATION

52

DRESSED TO DAZZLE

FROM FAMILY JEWELS TO FRESH FLEX, THE GROOM IS SHINING DIFFERENTLY

56

TRADITION AT THE LUXURY TABLE

REGIONAL CHEFS, SEASONAL INGREDIENTS, REFINED PRESENTATION AND THOUGHTFUL SERVICE ARE BRINGING HERITAGE FOOD INTO MODERN CELEBRATIONS



VISIT US AT:

WWW.TODAYSTRAVELLER.NET

FOR MARKETING ENQUIRIES:

PUBLICATIONS@TODAYSTRAVELLER.NET

OR FOLLOW US



<https://facebook.com/TodaysTraveller>



https://Instagram.com/TodaysTraveller_updates/



<https://linkedin.com/company/TodaysTraveller/>

THE ART OF WEDDINGS FINDS ITS HOME WITH RHG



Namah Nainital, A Member of Radisson Individuals Retreats

Radisson Hotel Group is emerging as a quiet architect of the country's most memorable weddings

TT BUREAU

India's destination wedding story is unfolding across hillsides, riverfronts, beaches and city gateways, with couples seeking places that give every ritual a stronger sense of identity. As these celebrations become increasingly immersive and personal, Radisson Hotel Group is bringing together distinctive locations and thoughtful hospitality, supported by the operational ease required to transform ambitious wedding plans into experiences families remember long after the final farewell.

Couples are choosing hillsides over hometowns, riversides over reception halls, while the entire extended cast of family, friends and well-wishers travels along with them. The guest list may be familiar, but the setting is increasingly expected to feel singular, cinematic and unmistakably personal.

Industry estimates place India's wedding economy among the largest in the world, with a meaningful and fast-growing share now flowing into the destination segment. What was once the preserve of Bollywood royalty and business dynasties has moved into the broader upper-middle class, aided by better roads, more flight connections to India's smaller cities, and a generation of couples who have grown up travelling and want their biggest celebration to look and feel like nowhere else. For hospitality groups with a wide enough footprint, this shift represents one of the most significant growth opportunities in Indian tourism today.

Few global operators are positioned to capture that opportunity as comprehensively as Radisson Hotel Group. Over the past several years, the Group has quietly assembled a portfolio of wedding-ready properties that reads like a map of India's most photogenic geographies: the misty hill country outside Mumbai and Pune, the fortress-studded deserts of Rajasthan, the beaches of North and South Goa, the lake country of Uttarakhand, the riverfront of the Kashmir Valley, and key metro gateways for couples who need to move hundreds of guests in and out with ease.

THE NEW INDIAN WEDDING MAP

What distinguishes the current wave of destination weddings from the pandal-and-caterer celebrations of a generation ago is the demand for narrative. Couples are no longer simply looking for a large enough lawn; they want a setting that says something about who they are—adventurous, traditional, romantic or understated.

A hotel's banquet capacity matters, certainly, but so does the view from the mandap, the light in the late-afternoon photographs, and the story guests will tell when they return home. Here, the destination frames the wedding and shapes every shared experience.

This is where a diversified portfolio becomes a genuine competitive advantage. A single flagship property, however grand, can tell only one story. A network spanning hill stations, deserts, coastlines, and riverfronts offers a dozen different options, while still ensuring the same standard of service, the same quality of banqueting infrastructure, and the same ease of booking that a professional wedding planner—or a stressed set of parents—has come to expect.

"Weddings in India are no longer confined to a single city or a single day; they have become immersive, multi-destination celebrations." — Nikhil Sharma, Managing Director & COO, South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group

Today's couples are increasingly looking for wedding venues that offer a combination of natural beauty, memorable experiences, and seamless execution. Whether it is a countryside estate, a lakeside retreat, or a riverfront property, the focus is on creating celebrations that are both distinctive and effortless.

As destination weddings continue to grow in popularity, venues are evolving to meet these expectations by offering versatile event spaces, diverse culinary experiences, personalised services, and warm hospitality. The growing wedding tourism segment reflects a clear demand for thoughtfully curated destinations where couples and their families can celebrate in a beautiful setting while enjoying a smooth and memorable experience.



Radisson Blu Hotel & Suites GRT Chennai

MAHARASHTRA'S HILL COUNTRY: A DESTINATION WEDDING WITHIN REACH

For couples based in Mumbai or Pune, the appeal of a destination wedding without complex destination logistics has made the Sahyadri hills one of India's busiest wedding corridors. Radisson Resort and Spa Lonavala and Radisson Resort and Spa Khopoli capitalise on precisely this convenience, placing couples and their guests amid rolling hills, waterfalls and monsoon-green valleys that feel worlds away from the city, despite being just two hours away.

A short distance away, Radisson Blu Plaza Resort & Convention Centre, Karjat, adds scale to the equation. Its expansive lawns and large-format convention centre make it a natural fit for the bigger, multi-generational guest lists that characterise many Indian weddings, without asking families to sacrifice the countryside setting that has made this belt so popular. Together, the three properties allow couples to plan what feels like a destination wedding with manageable domestic logistics, a combination that has proved irresistible for time-pressed families juggling guest counts in the hundreds.

RAJASTHAN: REGAL GRANDEUR AND RUSTIC ROMANCE

No conversation about Indian destination weddings is complete without Rajasthan, and Radisson's presence in the state captures two distinct sensibilities that attract couples for very different reasons. Radisson Blu Resort Kumbhalgarh sits in the shadow of Kumbhalgarh Fort, its ramparts among the longest continuous fortifications in the world, lending every celebration held here an unmistakably regal air. Sunset ceremonies against the amber stone of the hills have become something of a signature for couples seeking old-world Rajasthani drama.



Radisson Resort & Spa Lonavala

For couples who want the romance of Rajasthan without its more conventional trappings, Aaramgah Jawai, a member of Radisson Individuals Retreats, offers something rarer: raw, rugged wilderness. Set amid the granite hills of Jawai, an area better known among wildlife enthusiasts for its free-ranging leopard population than for weddings, the property has carved out a niche among couples seeking an intimate, offbeat celebration beneath open skies, far removed from the scale and spectacle of a traditional big fat Indian wedding.

GOA: DIFFERENT COASTLINES, DIFFERENT KINDS OF BEACH WEDDING

Goa remains, for many Indian couples, the instinctive answer to "where should we get married by the sea?", and Radisson's two properties are positioned to capture the state's genuinely different northern and southern personalities. Radisson Blu Resort Goa, Cavelossim Beach anchors South Goa's quieter, more manicured stretch of coastline, popular with couples who want a polished, resort-style beach wedding with the infrastructure of a large hospitality brand behind it.

Mandrem Beach Resort, a member of Radisson Individuals Retreats, farther north, taps into a different Goan sensibility altogether: laid-back, bohemian and increasingly favoured by couples planning smaller, design-conscious celebrations that lean into sunset ceremonies on the sand rather than ballroom formality. Between the two properties, Radisson effectively offers a choice between Goa's two competing identities without asking couples to look beyond a single hospitality group.

MOUNTAINS AND MIRROR LAKES: NAINITAL AND SRINAGAR

As couples increasingly look northward for cooler climates and quieter settings, two properties stand out for offering something genuinely different from what the plains offer. Namah Nainital, a member of Radisson Individuals Retreats, sits on the edge of one of Uttarakhand's best-loved lakes, giving couples an intimate, mountain-ringed setting for smaller, more personal ceremonies—an increasingly sought-after counterpoint to the scale of the typical destination wedding.

Farther north, Radisson Collection Hotel & Spa, Riverfront Srinagar occupies a position along the Jhelum River in the heart of the Kashmir Valley, a setting that has quickly become one of the more romantic and photogenic options for couples chasing snow-capped backdrops and still-water reflections. As Kashmir's tourism infrastructure continues to strengthen, properties like this one are increasingly finding themselves on the shortlist for couples planning a wedding that looks, quite literally, unlike anyone else's.

THE CONVENIENCE FACTOR: METRO AND GATEWAY WEDDINGS

Not every couple wants, or can logistically manage, a wedding in a hill station or desert fort. For families hosting hundreds of



RADISSON
collection

Radisson Collection Hotel & Spa,
Riverfront Srinagar



Radisson Resort & Spa Lonavala

guests travelling from across India and overseas, ease of arrival matters as much as scenery, and Radisson's metro and airport properties are built precisely around that need. Radisson Blu Hotel Guwahati, overlooking the Brahmaputra, gives Northeast India's wedding market a sophisticated venue with genuine regional character, while Radisson Blu Hotel & Suites GRT Chennai brings the Group's signature service standards to South India, pairing contemporary event spaces with the warmth traditionally associated with Chennai hospitality.

At the country's two busiest aviation hubs, Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport and Radisson Blu Mumbai International Airport solve a specific and very common problem: how to host a large wedding without turning it into a travel ordeal for guests. Both properties combine well-appointed banquet facilities with direct airport access, allowing families to fly in relatives from across time zones and have them at the mandap within the hour—a logistical advantage that, for many wedding planners, now outweighs even the most spectacular scenery.

WHAT COUPLES ARE ACTUALLY BOOKING FOR

Talk to wedding planners handling multi-city, multi-day events and a consistent pattern emerges: couples are no longer booking a venue so much as a sequence of experiences. The mehendi might call for open lawns and daylight; the sangeet, a ballroom with serious production capability; the wedding ceremony itself, whichever backdrop photographs best at golden hour. Few standalone venues flex across all three without feeling like a compromise somewhere along the way.

This is arguably the strongest case for a hotel group over a single-purpose wedding venue. A resort with a spa, multiple lawns, indoor banqueting, and a bench of experienced event managers can host the entire arc of a wedding, from the first mehendi function to the final send-off brunch, without guests ever needing to change hotels. It also means far less risk for families: one point of accountability for catering, décor logistics, guest rooms, and contingency planning when the weather

does not cooperate—which, across most of Radisson's outdoor-facing properties, from Lonavala's monsoon showers to Jawai's open-air settings, is a real and carefully planned-for possibility.

That reliability matters more than it may seem. Indian weddings routinely involve coordinating vendors across décor teams, choreographers, caterers, and photographers, often arriving from a different city altogether. A hotel with in-house wedding specialists who have run dozens of these events, rather than a handful, tends to absorb that complexity far more gracefully. It is this operational depth, as much as any individual view or backdrop, that increasingly determines which properties make a shortlist and which do not.

A PORTFOLIO BUILT FOR THE NEXT DECADE OF INDIAN WEDDINGS

What emerges from a survey of Radisson's wedding portfolio is not a single flagship property competing for attention, but a deliberately built network—one that lets the Group meet couples wherever their vision takes them, whether that is a fortress in Rajasthan, a beach in Goa, a riverfront in Srinagar or a banquet hall a fifteen-minute drive from the airport. As India's wedding tourism segment continues its rapid expansion, that breadth of geography, paired with a consistent standard of service and execution, may prove to be Radisson's most durable advantage.

"With a growing footprint across India's most sought-after wedding destinations, Radisson Hotel Group continues to strengthen its position in the country's fast-expanding wedding tourism segment," the Group notes. "By pairing globally recognised hospitality standards with distinctive, locally rooted settings, we are well positioned to meet the evolving expectations of modern Indian couples, wherever and however they choose to say 'I do.'"

For an industry built as much on emotion as on logistics, that combination—scale without sameness—may be exactly what the next decade of Indian weddings demands.

THE WEDDING GOES GRAND SPECIAL 2026



LUXURY WEDDING TRENDS 2027: ACCESS IS THE NEW EXCESS



Image Courtesy: Iskra Events & Celebrations

The next expression of luxury weddings will lie in what remains difficult to obtain

KAMAL GILL

From rare temple access and ceremonial jewellery to private estates, living couture and signature scents, the weddings of 2027 will make luxury deeply personal.

The Indian wedding has spent the past decade learning how to become larger. Guest lists expanded, celebrations stretched across continents, couture wardrobes multiplied and venues became theatrical worlds built for a single weekend. The industry grew with the spectacle. India's wedding economy is now estimated at around US\$130 billion, with eight to ten million weddings taking place each year.

That march towards mind-boggling expenditure will continue. Yet the most influential weddings from 2027 onwards are unlikely to compete only through scale. Size is becoming easier to purchase. A palace can be filled with flowers, a global performer can be flown in and an elaborate set can be recreated almost anywhere.

The next expression of luxury will lie in what remains difficult to obtain: access, provenance, privacy, time and cultural authority.

A sacred space that opens for only a few hours. A wedding textile woven for a year. An old family jewel reconstructed without erasing its history. Flowers grown for one ceremony rather than ordered from a catalogue. A fragrance composed around a place and a memory. A celebration experienced fully by its guests and released to the world only when the family chooses.

SACRED ACCESS

The temple wedding is poised for a sophisticated return, particularly among families who want the ceremony to carry more spiritual weight than scenic drama. The most desirable setting may no longer be a hotel designed to resemble a temple. It may be an actual place of worship where access depends upon trustees, religious authorities, conservation rules, local administration and the customs of the shrine.

This will create a new category of high luxury: the access-led wedding.

The appeal will come from restriction. A historic temple may permit only the couple, immediate family and a limited ceremonial party. Photography may be controlled. Cooking, amplified music, décor and large-scale production may be prohibited. Timings may be determined by the temple calendar rather than the wedding planner.

Hampi already illustrates the complexities. Weddings around its protected temple precincts face overlapping rules involving the Archaeological Survey of India, state archaeology authorities and the religious endowment department. Such constraints could make carefully authorised ceremonies more coveted among families seeking a genuinely sacred experience.

Gujarat's 2026–27 destination-wedding strategy also points towards religious and heritage wedding circuits built around places including Somnath, Dwarkadhish and Ambaji.

The ceremony could take place at dawn, attended by perhaps 20 or 30 people. A larger celebration would follow



Image Courtesy: Bon Evento



Image Courtesy: Bismah 11, Pexels

elsewhere. The temple would provide the spiritual centre of the wedding, not its entertainment infrastructure.

The priest will become important too. Families will seek scholars and respected ritual specialists who understand the couple's traditions, regional customs and family lineages. For intercultural marriages, ceremonies may include carefully



Image Courtesy: Aman Ajimal Fashion Stylist, Pexels

prepared translations explaining each mantra and vow. The highest level of service will come from accuracy, research and sensitivity, rather than from shortening rituals for the convenience of a production schedule.

GOLD BECOMES MORE CONSIDERED

Gold will retain its place in the Indian wedding, but the relationship with it is already changing.

In 2025, India's gold jewellery demand fell 24 per cent by volume, while annual spending reached a record US\$49 billion. By the second quarter of 2026, jewellery demand remained lower year on year, yet its value continued to rise. High prices have accelerated interest in lighter pieces, lower caratage, studded jewellery and exchanges of old gold for new designs.

The wedding jewel of 2027 will therefore be judged less by accumulated weight and more by the quality of its stone, workmanship and story.

Brides may begin with one exceptional jewel and build the wedding wardrobe around it. A rare emerald, an old Golconda-style diamond, an unusual spinel or a family necklace with documented history could become the defining object.

Rising gemstone scarcity will sharpen interest in unusual natural stones, untreated gems and documented provenance. For leading jewellers, the provenance file may become nearly as important as the presentation box.

Old family gold will return to the workshop. A grandmother's necklace may be disassembled and rebuilt so that its original elements appear across the bride's necklace, the groom's brooch and a pair of heirloom buttons.

The groom's jewellery wardrobe will also expand. Sarpeches, necklaces, cufflinks, buttons, collar pins and ceremonial brooches will be commissioned as serious pieces rather than decorative additions.

COUTURE WITH A BIOGRAPHY

Bridal couture is moving away from the assumption that value must be expressed through density. Recent collections have placed greater emphasis on movement, proportion, textile and restrained surface work, while younger clients are showing growing interest in archival clothing and historic textiles.

From 2027, the most desirable wedding wardrobe may begin much earlier than the usual fitting calendar. A sari could be woven to order in the bride's ancestral town. A textile researcher may locate a discontinued weave. Embroidery could reproduce a motif from a family home, an old manuscript or a piece of jewellery. Names and dates may be encoded into borders where they remain almost invisible.

This is couture as biography.

The clothes will also be designed for a longer life. A lehenga may separate into pieces that work with simpler blouses and jackets. A wedding sari may arrive with documentation about its weave and instructions for preservation.



RANKED NO. 2 HOTEL BRAND IN THE WORLD

India's Finest, *World's Best.*



Recognised #2 World's Best Hotel Brand in Travel + Leisure
World's Best Awards 2026, this honour is a testament to four
decades of True Indian Luxury defined by excellence.



Voted Travel+Leisure World's Best Brand in 2020, 2021 and #3 in 2023 and 2024.

For reservations call: 1800 1031 444 | Email: reservations@theleela.com | www.theleela.com | @theleela @f



Scan to know more



Image Courtesy: Uday Ahir, Pexels



TIMELESS WEDDINGS

YOUR FOREVER BEGINS HERE

Script your Timeless Wedding with Taj

+91 22 6665 1316 | timelessweddings@ihciltata.com | www.tajhotels.com/en.in/wedding



Image Courtesy: Mart Production, Pexels

Archival dressing will develop further. Brides and grooms may borrow from family wardrobes, acquire vintage couture or commission new pieces around an old textile. The goal will be a wardrobe that looks assembled through time rather than delivered in a single season.

Wedding styling will consequently become a larger profession. Stylists are emerging as influential intermediaries between affluent families, Indian designers and international luxury houses, particularly because Indian clients expect extensive customisation and cultural fluency. By 2027, the leading stylists will operate like curators, balancing clothing, jewels, family archives and dress codes across several ceremonies.

FLOWERS GROWN FOR THE VOWS

Flowers will remain abundant, but floral luxury will move closer to agriculture.

Couples may reserve sections of flower farms months before the wedding. Specific varieties of jasmine, roses, tuberose, lotus or marigold could be cultivated for the ceremony, with the planting calendar planned around the wedding date. The garlands exchanged by the couple may come from one dedicated harvest, handpicked at dawn and strung according to the floral traditions of their families.

The choice will extend beyond colour. Families will consider season, region, fragrance, religious association and the way particular flowers have historically appeared in weddings within their community.

Rare imported blooms will still have a place, although provenance will carry more distinction than distance. A flower grown exceptionally well near the wedding destination may feel more luxurious than one flown across continents. Floral designers will work with growers, temple garland makers, botanists and craftspeople to create installations that belong to the landscape.

The most advanced floral programmes will also plan the afterlife of every bloom. Flowers may be distilled into attar, pressed into handmade paper, converted into natural colour, composted locally or preserved inside wedding objects.

THE WEDDING GETS ITS OWN SCENT

A wedding has always had a smell: henna, incense, jasmine, sandalwood, ghee, rain, food and fresh flowers. Now that atmosphere is becoming intentional.

Scent design is moving through three layers: fragrance for the couple, scent for the venue and a related fragrance for guests. From 2027, high-end weddings may commission a perfumer in the same way they commission a couturier.

The process could begin with personal memories. The smell of the bride's grandmother's garden, vetiver screens in a summer home, cedar from a Himalayan holiday or the first monsoon rain in Mumbai might become part of the brief. Different ceremonies could carry variations of the same composition: fresher for the haldi, floral for the wedding and darker for the evening celebration.

The fragrance will need restraint. It should sit alongside food, flowers and incense without overwhelming them. Used well, it becomes an invisible thread connecting spaces and events.

A small quantity may then be bottled for the couple and their guests. Years later, opening it could return them to the wedding more immediately than a photograph.

IMMERSION THROUGH PARTICIPATION

"Immersive" has often meant projection screens, moving sets and performers appearing around the audience. That language will begin to feel familiar. The next stage will place guests inside the culture of the destination.

In Kashmir, guests might meet embroiderers and papier-mâché artists whose work appears throughout the wedding. In Rajasthan, a celebration could be structured around miniature painting, local music and regional food traditions. In Kerala, waterways, temple arts, flower work and dining customs could shape the rhythm of the stay. The destination will function as a living culture rather than a decorative theme.

Food will follow the same direction. Large menus designed to display abundance will be joined by smaller, deeply researched experiences. Family recipes may be reconstructed with culinary

CHALET
HOTELS

@athiva_hotels

JUST SAY “I do.”

Enjoy the *big moments*.
Leave the *small details* to us.

Vivaah BY
ATHIVA

JOY IS ON
the HOUSE



For reservations contact:
+91 124 4886700

athiva.com



ATHIVA
HOTELS & RESORTS

historians. Regional cooks could prepare dishes tied to specific festivals or communities. Each meal will have a reason for being there.

The wedding weekend may also stretch into a private residency. Guests could arrive slowly, settle into a fully bought-out estate and choose from a programme of music, wellness, craft, nature and food before the main ceremonies begin. The greater luxury will be unhurried time.

PRIVACY BECOMES PART OF THE DESIGN

The more prominent the family, the more valuable control becomes.

Private weddings will involve much more than security at the gate. Entire hotels, villas, islands, safari lodges or heritage properties may be bought out so that no unrelated guest enters the wedding environment. Staff access will be tiered. Vendor teams may work under confidentiality agreements. Deliveries, photography zones and backstage movement will be mapped long before the first guest arrives.

Phone-free ceremonies will grow, supported by secure storage, professional guest photography and carefully timed image releases. Invitations may carry individual digital credentials. Different groups of guests may receive different travel information, venue details and access permissions.

Technology will become quieter. WhatsApp-based wedding concierges already manage private, multilingual guest communication and restrict information according to guest groups. By 2027, such systems could remember dietary

requirements, room preferences, mobility needs, transport movements and event permissions while escalating sensitive requests to human teams.

Used responsibly, this technology will make the wedding feel more gracious. A guest's preferred breakfast appears without repeated requests. An elderly relative finds a buggy waiting. A multilingual concierge explains a ritual in the guest's own language. The system disappears behind the hospitality.

THE MOST EXPENSIVE THING WILL BE MEANING

The grand Indian wedding is not approaching an age of restraint. It is entering an age of selectivity.

Money will continue to pour into extraordinary jewellery, couture, destinations, food and entertainment. Yet the celebrations that set the tone from 2027 onwards will direct that money with greater precision. They will purchase months of an artisan's time, controlled access to a sacred setting, the privacy of an entire property, the expertise of a ritual scholar and the cultivation of flowers intended for one morning.

The next great wedding may still be dazzling. It may fill a palace, illuminate a forest or bring hundreds of guests across the world. Its real power, however, will sit in quieter details: a Sanskrit vow understood by everyone present, an old jewel given a new life, jasmine harvested before sunrise, a garment woven with the family's history and a fragrance that returns decades later.

The spectacle will last a weekend. The finest choices will be designed to outlive it.



Image Courtesy: Refuge Weddings



JW MARRIOTT

MUMBAI SAHAR

JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar The Gateway to Forever

Celebrate your eternal love at JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar—Mumbai's Gateway to eternal bliss. Pass through our gleaming arch into majestic ballrooms and hidden garden sanctuaries, where intuitive service and culinary artisans blend India's vibrant spices with global flair. Every moment here is a grand arrival into your happily ever after.

For further details: 022 6882 8904 / +91 77100 09250

Follow @JWSahar on    

Go There With

MARRIOTT BONVOY®

THE WEDDING RING GOES WILD

Wedding rings get a wild new personality with sculptural animal portraits

TT BUREAU



Wedding jewellery is often discussed in familiar categories: heirloom, statement, classic, ceremonial. But the most interesting pieces entering the bridal conversation now are not always the predictable ones. They are the objects with personality, the ones that feel chosen rather than expected. Cartier's Faune & Flore de Cartier rings belong to that mood.

Instead of treating jewellery as decoration alone, they approach it as character, with animal heads that are sculptural, expressive and quietly dramatic. In a wedding context, that makes them especially compelling: they feel more like pieces with an individual spirit.

A NEW MOOD FOR WEDDINGS

What makes these rings stand out is that they resist the overly polished idea of bridal jewellery. There is no attempt to soften them into something merely pretty. The collection brings together five creatures: tiger, parrot, carp, crocodile and rhinoceros, each rendered as a distinct head, with jaw, muzzle or beak becoming part of the design language.

Cartier describes this world as one shaped by magnetic creatures and by an animal repertoire that has long been part of the Maison's history. That larger lineage matters, because these rings feel rooted in an established design universe rather than invented as novelty objects. For wedding gifting, that gives them a different kind of value.

FIVE CREATURES, FIVE PERSONALITIES

The charm of the rings lies in how clearly each animal has been given its own mood. The parrot is perhaps the most spirited, worked in coral and tsavorite garnets, with a vivid sense of movement and colour. The rhinoceros takes a more grounded route, with smoky quartz and spessartite garnets lending it warmth and weight.

The crocodile turns sharper and more graphic through diamonds, onyx and emeralds, while the tiger and carp both move into cool blue territory, using sapphire, aquamarine and



Into The Wild Collections. Image Courtesy: Cartier

dumortierite quartz. Cartier's use of colour is not decorative in a generic sense; it helps define the identity of each creature. That is what makes the group feel so rich editorially. These are not five versions of the same ring. They are five separate personalities, each with its own appeal, and that makes them ideal for wedding gifting where the point is to match the piece to the person.

CRAFT, SCALE AND PRESENCE

There is also something important in the way these rings are made to feel alive on the hand. Cartier emphasises the role of designers, jewellers, lapidaries and gem-setters in shaping their presence, and that sense of hand-worked precision comes through in the details.

Metals are chiselled and fused; surfaces are polished or brushed by hand; pavé techniques are used to evoke fur, scales and texture. The lapidary work is equally central, from the rhinoceros' opalescent smoky quartz horns to the carp's dumortierite quartz gills and the parrot's coral and onyx feather tuft readjusted by hand. These are small details, but in editorial terms they matter, because they shift the rings from being simply decorative luxury to being miniature studies in material and form. For bridal wardrobes and wedding trousseaux, that level of craftsmanship makes them feel collectible rather than merely occasion-bound.



Into The Wild Collections. Image Courtesy: Cartier

MADE HERE, MARRIED EVERYWHERE

Firozabad Glass. Image Courtesy: National Portal of India

Indian wedding classics are in the middle of a fabulous makeover.

JEET BHATTACHARYA

Jewels, textiles and decorative objects once associated with ceremonial display are being recast as fashion statements, styled to spark curiosity, admiration and conversation.

A vintage choker gains edge with a sharply cut blouse. Banarasi silk appears as a tailored jacket. Gota becomes a sculptural detail, while handblown glass, brassware and fragrant attars are woven into the setting with editorial flair. Their placement feels fresh, expressive and deliberately unexpected.

Young couples are approaching these design details with the eye of a stylist. They are playing with scale, colour, form and context, placing inherited pieces beside contemporary fashion and commissioning traditional crafts in striking new avatars. Every detail becomes part of the wedding's personality, from the bride's look to the tablescape and the guest experience.

This fresh approach gives familiar wedding objects a powerful new presence. Rich with history and reimagined for the moment, they emerge as scene-stealers with serious fashion energy.

SILK, BUT MAKE IT NOW

Banarasi silk has the kind of presence that needs little introduction. Brocade, zari, intricate motifs and luminous surfaces have made it a natural part of wedding wardrobes for generations. Saris are treasured, folded carefully into cupboards and passed through families, carrying memories of mothers, grandmothers and landmark occasions.

Its heirloom status remains part of its charm, while contemporary designers and global Indian weddings have made Banarasi a fashion favourite with confident energy.

Wedding wardrobes are having fun with it. Ivory lehengas, aubergine dupattas, jewel-toned jackets, groomwear and cropped blouses bring personality to the weave, while inherited saris return with inventive styling.

A grandmother's textile may appear at a mehendi with modern jewellery, a metallic Banarasi skirt can work beautifully for cocktails, and a classic weave feels completely at home at a destination celebration overseas. Across Europe, the Middle East and Asia, Banarasi has become part of a global Indian wedding vocabulary. It carries history, colour and a certain unmistakable attitude.

THE SCENT OF THE CELEBRATION

Kannauj brings fragrance into the wedding with an elegance that never needs to shout. The city's attar tradition has long been associated with rose, kewra, khus, jasmine and layered botanical blends, distilled into intensely expressive scents. In a celebration where every visual detail is considered, fragrance adds another dimension, one that guests absorb almost without noticing.

A small vial tucked into a welcome hamper feels personal and specific. Bespoke scents can follow the mood of the wedding, with floral notes for a garden celebration, earthy khus for a summer evening or richer attars for a candlelit reception.

Fragrance can appear in bridal suites, gifting, dressing rituals and guest amenities, adding a signature across the festivities. Long after the wedding, a familiar scent can bring back a room, a song, a flower arrangement or the feel of silk against the skin. Kannauj gives the celebration an atmosphere that lingers.

GOTA FINDS A NEW RHYTHM

Gota brings sparkle with a particularly Indian sense of play. The metallic ribbon work associated with Rajasthan loves movement, colour and ceremony, which makes it wonderfully suited to weddings. Its shimmer works across lehengas, saris, dupattas and turbans, and the same visual language slips naturally into invitations, potlis, favour boxes, textile details and tablescapes.

Clever touches often have the most charm. A narrow gold edge on ivory linen, a flash of gota against hot pink, a metallic motif on a menu cover or a row of decorative tassels catching candlelight can lift an entire setting.

The craft works beautifully with raw silk, block prints, velvet and soft cottons, giving stylists plenty of room to play. Jaipur's gota carries the energy of celebration in a direct way. It sparkles, moves and photographs beautifully, exactly the qualities a wedding evening appreciates.

SHOLA GOES SCULPTURAL

Shola brings a softer kind of drama. Made from the light pith of the shola plant and deeply connected with Bengali ceremonial craft, it is instantly recognisable in the bride's mukut and the groom's topor. Its pale tone, feather-light quality and sculptural possibilities also make it beautiful for wedding design.

Shola flowers can sit across dinner tables, climb installations, frame a mandap or float above a dining space in layered white forms. The material responds beautifully to colour and light. Deep burgundy makes it theatrical, emerald gives it richness, ivory keeps the mood soft, and mirrors or polished metal lend it a gallery quality.

Hand-cut details create intricacy up close, while the overall effect remains airy. In a celebration filled with silk, flowers, candlelight and movement, shola brings a quiet sculptural note that feels fresh and beautifully composed.



Male Topor & Biyer Mukut Made From Shola. Image Courtesy: Supu, Pinterest

GLASS AFTER DARK

Firozabad knows how to work with light. The city's glassmaking tradition, famous for its bangles, offers a rich palette for wedding tables and evening decor. Amber tumblers, rose-tinted candleholders, cobalt votives, green glass bowls and smoky vessels can make a dinner setting richly atmospheric.

Coloured glass becomes especially seductive after sunset. Candlelight travels through every surface, catching tiny bubbles, variations and subtle shifts in tone. A long table dressed in plum linen and amber glass feels warm and cinematic.



La Atir Kashmiri Amber Attar. Image Courtesy: Generic, Amazon



Polki Jewellery. Image Courtesy: Designer Events Inc.

Bottle green tumblers beside brass cutlery create depth, while rose or cobalt details bring a playful flash to a poolside dinner. Handmade glass gives every setting personality through its slight variations and tactile quality, especially when the styling leaves enough space for the materials to shine.

THE TABLE GETS INTERESTING

Moradabad adds a final flourish with brass, copper, and finely worked metalware. The city's long association with metal craft has produced bowls, platters, trays, lamps, planters and decorative objects that fit naturally into wedding hospitality. A hammered tray carrying cocktails, a sculptural brass bowl filled with flowers, or a line of tall candelabra can add warmth and polish to the setting.

The material changes mood easily. Polished brass brings a glow to a palace dinner; brushed finishes sit beautifully with linen and stone; copper warms a winter table; and darker metal tones give evening celebrations a moodier edge.

Serveware can be both functional and highly decorative, which is exactly why it works so well. Guests may notice the cocktail, flowers or food first, but the object holding them

quietly shapes the impression. Moradabad has a way of making hospitality feel considered, generous and beautifully finished.

OLD GOLD, NEW ATTITUDE

Traditional gold jewellery is finding fresh expression in the wedding wardrobe. Heirloom necklaces, temple pieces, chokers and family gold are being reset, layered, shortened and reworked into cleaner, more contemporary forms. A heavy necklace may become a sculptural choker, old bangles can be redesigned into cuffs, and inherited stones may find their way into sharper settings that feel completely current.

The emotion remains intact, but the styling gets a new personality. Brides are pairing old gold with minimalist blouses, sleek silhouettes and unexpected jewellery combinations, creating looks that feel personal rather than prescribed. The result is gold with history, but also with edge, confidence and a distinctly modern point of view.



Embroidered Juttis With Pearl & Stone Necklace. Image Courtesy: Designer Events Inc.



Sandalwood Attar. Image Courtesy: Kannauj Perfume

FRANCK MULLER
GENEVE



Art Meets Its Match

VANGUARD LOES VAN DELFT

A playful collision of colour, character and Swiss watchmaking.
Made for wrists that were never meant to blend in.



Image Courtesy: Weddingline

LESS OBLIGATION, MORE EXPERIENCE

Chetan Vohra, Co-founder & CEO of Weddingline, on personalisation, Gen Z and the wedding experience

TT BUREAU

Chetan Vohra sees the Indian wedding becoming more individual, with couples shaping design themselves, questioning convention, investing in experiences and discovering new destinations while holding on to the traditions that matter most today.

THE WEDDING MOOD BOARD FOR 2026-2027?

The 2026 mood board is being shaped by personal goals. Couples are discussing what they want, with bride and groom playing a more equal role. They research online and use AI tools to arrive with ready concepts for planners and décor teams. Couples are borrowing from family weddings, cultural memories, fashion and AI-led research. Mood boards are increasingly coming directly from them.

HOW IS GEN Z CHANGING THE BIG INDIAN WEDDING?

Gen Z is rewriting how weddings are planned. Guest lists are being questioned, especially invitations based purely on family obligation. They are more conscious of costs and where money

goes. They are happy to spend on experiences, but less willing to spend on obligation.

DESTINATIONS CHALLENGING WEDDING FAVOURITES?

With Wed in India, more states are recognising the wedding opportunity. The Northeast is gaining attention, with Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and Assam seeing growing interest. Shillong, too, is emerging on the wedding map. Bhubaneswar and Odisha are opening up too. Earlier, conversations centred around Kerala, Goa and Rajasthan. Today, eastern India is emerging strongly, helped by better hospitality infrastructure and investment.

WHAT DOES WEDDING LUXURY MEAN TODAY?

Luxury can mean all three, depending on the client. For some, it is a large wedding; for others, a smaller celebration or personalised experience. For me, personalisation takes the cake. When everything from the invitation to the overall experience feels personalised, that becomes something money alone cannot buy.

WHICH WEDDING TRADITIONS ARE EVOLVING?

Families still hold traditions carefully. A five-puja format may become two pujas or one, but the puja remains. Younger generations realise tradition is the binding thread and do not want to give it up. Revival is visible through fashion, with brides wearing pieces inspired by their mothers and grooms choosing achkans or sherwanis linked to fathers or grandfathers. Traditions may change in scale, but they are not disappearing.

WHAT'S NEXT IN WEDDING FASHION AND JEWELLERY?

Personal style. Brides and grooms are realising they do not need to wear a particular designer because everyone else is wearing them. With more designers and emerging labels, couples are willing to discover something new. The focus is moving beyond the brand towards an individual style statement, defining fashion and jewellery.

WHERE ARE COUPLES WILLING TO SPLURGE?

Couples are willing to spend on personalisation and experiences. Food, drink, entertainment, hotel check-ins and dressing are becoming more experiential. At the same time, they are cutting unnecessary expenditure. Gifting is changing, with some questioning elaborate gifts and others choosing charity instead.

WHICH WEDDING TREND HAS RUN ITS COURSE?

Wedding trends have a long shelf life, moving from major cities to Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets and remaining visible through social media. What is changing is the visual and experiential language. Unique colours, single-colour palettes, pastels and Indian flowers are gaining ground. Sustainability is becoming more important. Couples are reducing oversized buffets for smaller, personalised food experiences and moving away from multiple performers. The larger shift is towards weddings that feel more deliberate, personal and conscious about where money and attention are going.



Image Courtesy: Weddingline



Chetan Vohra, Co-Founder & CEO, Weddingline

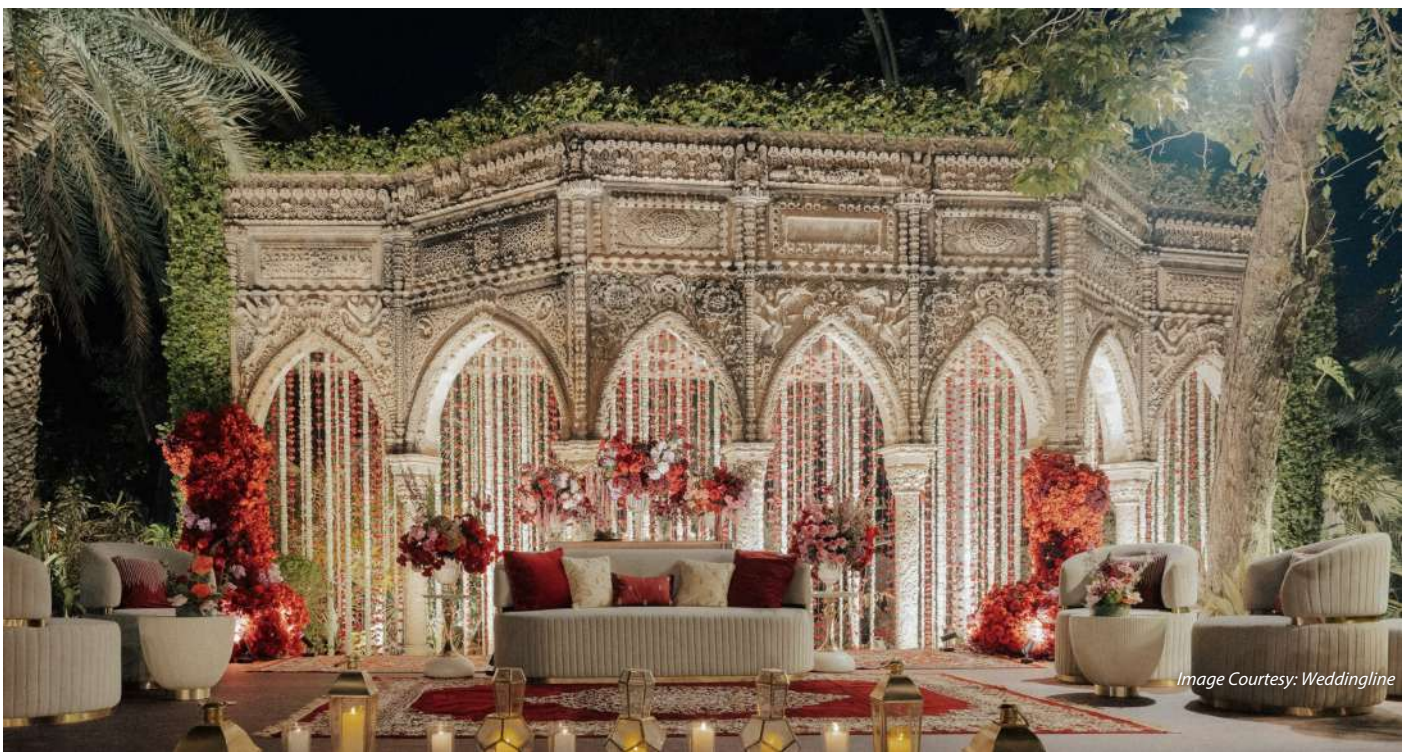


Image Courtesy: Weddingline

A WEDDING WITH YOUR DNA

Birju C Gariba, Founder & CEO of Iskra Events & Celebrations, explores how AI, Gen Z and personalisation are reshaping weddings in 2026-2027

TT BUREAU

Birju C Gariba looks at a wedding landscape becoming more individual, more experience-led and far less predictable, where identity, intention and originality matter more than spectacle or scale.

THE WEDDING MOOD BOARD FOR 2026-2027?

Wedding mood boards are evolving rapidly, with AI pushing ideas into more niche and creative territory. For 2026-2027, I see a shift from visually spectacular weddings to celebrations

with a strong identity. Couples are looking beyond colour palettes and Instagram trends, asking how the wedding reflects their story. Mood boards are becoming more layered, with rich textures, nuanced colours, sculptural florals, lighting and greater emphasis on architecture and the destination's natural setting.

HOW IS GEN Z CHANGING THE BIG INDIAN WEDDING?

Gen Z is now calling the shots in the wedding content playbook, while parents have become advisers and financiers. They are questioning assumptions around size, scale, food, drinks and what



makes a memorable wedding. They want to understand why a ritual or format exists, and many are embracing traditions more deeply. They draw references from fashion, travel, architecture and music, but prefer reinterpretation over replication. Guest experience matters, but so does their own vision. With Gen Z, the big Indian wedding is becoming more personal.

DESTINATIONS CHALLENGING WEDDING FAVOURITES?

Internationally, couples are looking beyond the conventional luxury circuit. Italy, France, Greece and Spain remain strong, while Budapest, Portugal and Montenegro are seeing greater interest. Georgia is the flavour of the year for pricing and access, and Vietnam continues to rise. Regional conflicts has also shifted preferences, with weddings from the Middle East moving back to India or towards the Far East. Within India, destinations such as Rishikesh and Ranthambore are gaining momentum.

WHAT DOES WEDDING LUXURY MEAN TODAY?

Luxury today is increasingly about personalisation and access rather than scale. Earlier, guest numbers, abundance and production signalled luxury. Today, sophisticated celebrations can be visually restrained yet carry a subtlety money cannot buy. True luxury is the freedom to create something entirely your own: an extraordinary venue, exceptional food, curated entertainment or simply the time and attention to get every detail right. For me, luxury is when guests remember not how much was spent, but how personal the wedding made them feel.

WHICH WEDDING TRADITIONS ARE EVOLVING?

Traditions are not disappearing; many are returning as couples seek deeper understanding. Rituals with emotional or cultural significance are being brought back in ways that feel relevant to a new generation. Family ceremonies and regional traditions are gaining importance, while practices couples do not identify with, or consider oppressive or environmentally unfriendly, are being repurposed or left out. The best weddings allow tradition and contemporary design to coexist naturally.

WHAT'S NEXT IN WEDDING FASHION AND JEWELLERY?

Though fashion is not my core domain, I expect individuality rather than one dominant aesthetic. Brides are experimenting with silhouettes, fabrics, colour and jewellery layering, often mixing heirloom pieces with contemporary jewellery. Grooms are becoming more expressive too. Both brides and grooms are dressing for their personalities rather than simply trying to look traditionally "bridal" or "groom-like."

WHERE ARE COUPLES WILLING TO SPLURGE?

Couples are spending on what directly affects the experience: exceptional food and beverage, curated entertainment over big names, great cinematographers over traditional photography, and personalised details for guests. They are more discerning about scale. Bigger is not automatically better, and couples are

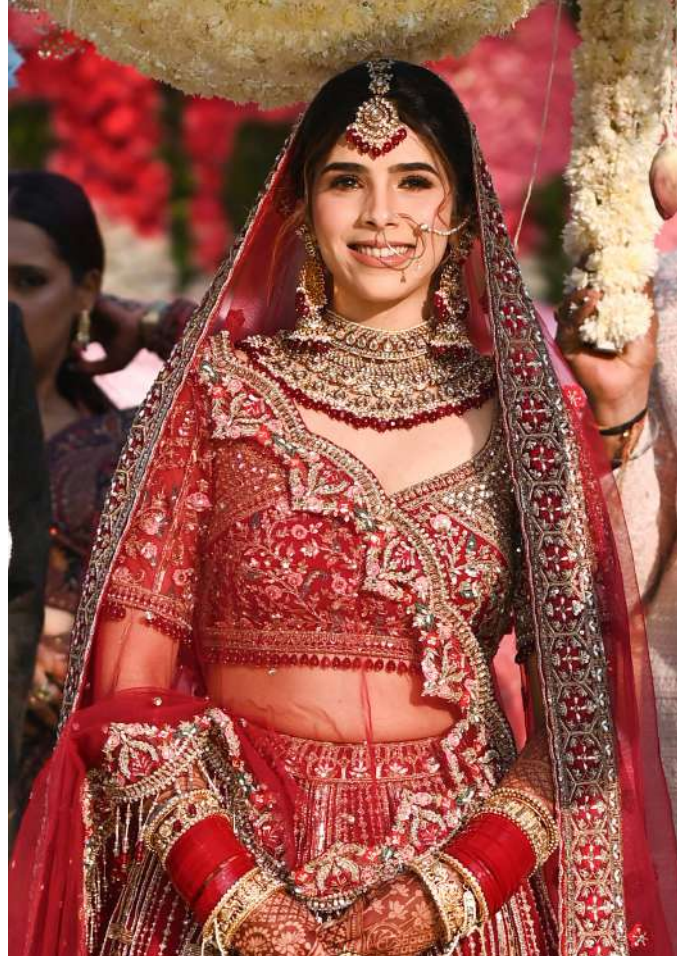


Image Courtesy: Iskra Events & Celebrations

questioning whether another installation or production element genuinely adds to the experience.

WHICH WEDDING TREND HAS RUN ITS COURSE?

The over-produced wedding is beginning to run its course: massive stages, choreographed entrances and constant spectacle. We are moving towards celebrations with more rhythm, breathing space, personalisation and guest-centric experiences. Extraordinary production will remain, but with purpose. I see the future as high design, low predictability. A wedding should surprise you without constantly trying to impress you. Alongside this, the era of wedding hashtags is slowly heading towards its curtain call.



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

THE NEW AGE OF 'THIS IS SO US'

Minnat Lalpuria, Founder, CEO & Managing Director of 7Vachan, reflects on changing ideas of luxury, tradition and celebration

TT BUREAU

Minnat Lalpuria has seen the Indian wedding evolve from spectacle-led celebrations to deeply personal experiences. She reflects on changing ideas of wedding celebrations in a time of rapid transformation. So what will be the choices for 2027 when it comes to luxury, destinations, fashion, tradition and the growing desire for something "that is so us"?

THE WEDDING MOOD BOARD FOR 2026-2027?

After 15 years of planning weddings, I've realised that the question couples ask today is no longer, "How grand can we make it?" It is, "How can we make this feel like us?" Couples are moving away from décor for impact toward details that



carry their story: a hometown textile, family heirloom, childhood-inspired menu, or meaningful ritual. Luxury is quieter, less about abundance and more about thoughtfulness: quality linen, warm hospitality, food and guest care. The most special weddings feel Indian, contemporary and unmistakably personal.

HOW IS GEN Z CHANGING THE BIG INDIAN WEDDING?

Gen Z is not necessarily making weddings smaller; they are making them more personal. They are comfortable questioning traditions because “this is how weddings are done.” They may replace a conventional event with a shared interest or choose a smaller guest list. Social media has made them aware of fashion, design, photography and experiences, but they no longer want something that only photographs beautifully. They want it to feel beautiful while living it. The wedding belongs to the couple.

DESTINATIONS CHALLENGING WEDDING FAVOURITES?

Rajasthan, Goa and Kerala are not going anywhere, but couples are curious about less expected destinations. Nature-led locations, quieter hill towns, intimate properties, heritage homes, private villas and boutique resorts are appealing. The perfect destination is not necessarily fashionable. For some, it is grandeur; for others, privacy, adventure or having everyone they love together. The destination that matters gives the wedding a story.

WHAT DOES WEDDING LUXURY MEAN TODAY?

Luxury has changed completely. Earlier, it was often about scale: more flowers, larger installations and more entertainment. Today, true luxury lies in thoughtfulness. It is in the details: a smoothly planned arrival, a comfortable room, exceptional food or remembering a guest’s needs before they ask. Luxury is when the planning is invisible, but the feeling unforgettable.

WHICH WEDDING TRADITIONS ARE EVOLVING?

Indian couples are not moving away from tradition; they are making it their own. Families are rediscovering regional crafts, heirloom jewellery, traditional textiles, old family recipes and rituals, while becoming selective about traditions performed because they are expected. A bride may wear her grandmother’s sari in a contemporary way, redesign an heirloom, make a ceremony smaller, or revive a childhood dish. Tradition survives when emotion and story remain, when someone says, “This reminds me of home.”

WHAT’S NEXT IN WEDDING FASHION AND JEWELLERY?

One word: individuality. Brides are choosing what they love, what feels comfortable and what they can wear again, with a renewed focus on craftsmanship, heirloom textiles, regional influences and jewellery that evolves with the wearer. Grooms are experimenting too, with jewellery, brooches, layered pieces and statement accessories. Couples are moving away from perfectly matched looks, connecting instead through colour, craft or fabric. The future is about looking like yourself, just more elevated.



Image Courtesy: 7Vachan

WHERE ARE COUPLES WILLING TO SPLURGE?

Couples are spending on what guests truly experience: food, hospitality, entertainment and photography that captures emotion. There is less interest in elements created purely for a photograph. Many would rather invest in one memorable dinner or meaningful experience than repetitive events. The question is shifting from “How much should we spend?” to “What will this give us?” The best investments create memories that last.

WHICH WEDDING TREND HAS RUN ITS COURSE?

We are moving away from weddings designed around the photograph. Beauty alone is not enough; even spectacular weddings can feel interchangeable. The weddings I remember are personal: music that suits the couple, food that reminds families of home, meaningful rituals and details that tell their story. Weddings are becoming less like productions and more like stories. People may forget the flowers or elaborate stage, but they remember how they felt, what made them laugh and the moments they shared. The future is creating something so personal it could never belong to anyone else.



Minnat Lalpuria, Founder, CEO & Managing Director, 7Vachan

Image Courtesy: Designer Events Inc.

BIG WEDDINGS, BETTER STORIES

Kaveri Vij, Founder & Chief Dreamer at Designer Events Inc., decodes the new mood of modern weddings in India

TT BUREAU

Kaveri Vij approaches weddings as immersive expressions of personality, culture and emotion. Her work brings together thoughtful design, contemporary sensibility and a strong respect for Indian heritage.

With couples increasingly seeking celebrations that feel original rather than formulaic, Kaveri Vij is closely tuned into the shifts shaping modern weddings. Here, she shares her perspective on changing aesthetics, emerging destinations, evolving traditions, fashion, luxury and the rise of personalisation.

WHAT IS SHAPING THE WEDDING MOOD BOARD FOR 2026-2027?

The biggest shift is from “aesthetic” to “atmosphere”. Couples are asking what they want guests to feel, rather than collecting references.

Indian heritage is being reinterpreted through regional craft, architecture, textiles, folklore and old-world details mixed with modern silhouettes. Quieter luxury is emerging through layered textures, materials, thoughtful lighting and fewer elements for

scale. The strongest mood boards are less “Pinterest-perfect” and more personal.

HOW IS GEN Z REWRITING THE RULES OF THE BIG INDIAN WEDDING?

Gen Z is making weddings personal. They are questioning fixed sequences and choosing what feels natural, from relaxed ceremonies and non-traditional palettes to fashion-forward bridal looks and experiences around music, food and storytelling. They want references translated into something new. Gen Z sees the wedding as an extension of identity rather than a performance.

WHICH EMERGING DESTINATIONS ARE CHALLENGING INDIA'S FAMILIAR WEDDING FAVOURITES?

There is growing appetite beyond the palace circuit. I'm particularly excited about Orchha, Maheshwar, Hampi, Mandu and Shekhawati. Orchha offers the Betwa River and Bundela architecture; Maheshwar

the Narmada, temples and handloom heritage; Hampi its boulders and ruins; Mandu and Shekhawati rich architectural vocabularies. The Little Rann of Kutch offers distinctive landscape. The Future is about places with stories, where architecture, food, landscape and culture become part of the celebration.

WHAT DOES WEDDING LUXURY MEAN TODAY: SCALE, EXCLUSIVITY OR PERSONALISATION?

Personalisation, with one more word: intention. Luxury is not the largest floral installation, biggest guest list or most expensive production. A 300-person wedding can feel more luxurious than a 1,000-person wedding if hospitality is exceptional, design has a point of view and the celebration reflects the couple through a travel-inspired menu, family-rooted ceremony, meaningful performance or thoughtful guest journey. For us at Designer Events, the test is simple: could this wedding belong to anyone else? True luxury is creating something impossible to replicate because it belongs only to that couple.

WHICH WEDDING TRADITIONS ARE BEING REVIVED, REINTERPRETED OR QUIETLY RETIRED?

Traditions are being rediscovered. Regional crafts, heirloom jewellery, traditional textiles, folk music, local food and meaningful ceremonies are returning, but couples are choosing what resonates rather than accepting an entire template. A mehendi can become an immersive cultural experience, a sangeet a theatrical narrative, a haldi a design-led celebration, and the mandap an architectural expression rather than a standard floral structure. What is retiring is the pressure to do something because “everyone does it”. Tradition becomes more meaningful when chosen and given contemporary context.

WHAT WILL DEFINE BRIDAL AND GROOM FASHION AND JEWELLERY IN THE COMING SEASON?

Next season is about individuality, movement and longevity. Brides are embracing craftsmanship and heritage jewellery that works beyond the wedding. Convertible jewellery, layered pieces, coloured stones, heirloom-inspired designs and unique silhouettes stand out. Fashion moves between traditional and contemporary silhouettes, with ivory, softer greens and pastels alongside richer heritage tones. Construction, texture and movement matter more than embellishment. For grooms, there is less emphasis on matching the bride and more on identity through textures, unconventional colours, contemporary tailoring and meaningful accessories. To our surprise, they are more experimental than brides nowadays.

WHERE ARE COUPLES WILLING TO SPLURGE, AND WHERE ARE THEY CUTTING BACK?

Couples are spending where guests feel the difference: exceptional rooms, welcome experiences, food and beverage, entertainment and the guest journey. Photography and cinematography preserve the emotion after the celebration.



Image Courtesy: Designer Events Inc.

Design spending is smarter, with stronger concepts, materials, lighting and craftsmanship replacing excess décor. Couples are cutting back on repetitive elements created simply to look “big” on Instagram. The shift is from quantity to impact: fewer things, but better things.

WHICH WEDDING TREND HAS RUN ITS COURSE, AND WHAT WILL REPLACE IT?

The era of the “Instagram wedding”, built around one spectacular picture, is beginning to run its course. Oversized installations, identical floral structures, copy-and-paste entries, and literal Pinterest recreations may photograph beautifully but often say little about the couple. What is replacing them is an experiential approach: a visual and emotional narrative about how guests arrive, what they discover, eat, and hear, how spaces evolve, and the details that make them say, “This is so them.” The future is creating something unforgettable.



Kaveri Vij, Founder & Chief Dreamer, Designer Events Inc.

NEVER ONE MOOD

Nearly four decades in, Rina Dhaka still prefers fashion with personality, movement and a little rebellion

TT BUREAU



Rina Dhaka has spent nearly four decades doing fashion her way: instinctive, experimental and always a little ahead of the curve. She entered the Indian fashion scene in the late 1980s and quickly developed a language that brought traditional silhouettes together with modern fabrics, sharper proportions and an easy sense of movement. The “Gautier of the East” tag captured her fearless approach rather well.

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

One of her most defining moves came in the 1990s, when she introduced Lycra churidars, turning a familiar Indian silhouette into something sleeker and easier to wear. Her work went on to earn international attention, with recognition in Milan and Miami, appearances in Paris and Germany, and names such as Naomi Campbell, Deepika Padukone and Uma Thurman wearing her designs.

STILL MOVING FORWARD

Through runway shows, cultural projects and collections that have moved between glamour, ease and Indian craft, Dhaka has continued to evolve without losing her signature confidence.

Recent honours, including recognition for sustainable fashion, the Shakti Award, the Devi Award in 2025 and a Womenpreneur Excellence in Fashion honour in 2026, add another chapter to a career that keeps moving.

What makes that journey feel current is her refusal to settle into one version of herself. She continues to shift between mood, material and silhouette with the same instinct that shaped her early work, keeping each chapter recognisable without allowing it to feel repetitive.

Rina Dhaka's real signature may be her curiosity: always ready to rethink a silhouette, change the fabric and make fashion feel fresh again.





Malaika Arora & Nimrat Kaur. Image Courtesy: Rina Dhaka

Master of complications

ROUND
TRIPLE MYSTERY



Inspired by a vision of time as fluid and unbound, the Mystery collection has always challenged convention. From the first single-disc Mystery to the Double Mystery with hours and minutes.

FRANCK MULLER
GENEVE



Image Courtesy: Dhruv Vaish

CRAFT, CUT AND THE CONTEMPORARY GROOM

Dhruv Vaish reshapes contemporary groom dressing with thoughtful craft, cleaner silhouettes and a modern sensibility

TT BUREAU

The modern groom is redefining wedding dressing, moving away from overtly traditional, heavily embellished looks towards a more individual and considered expression of luxury. Craftsmanship and a sense of occasion remain important, but the emphasis today is increasingly on modern tailoring, refined detail and clothes that feel personal to the man wearing them.

This shift sits naturally within Dhruv Vaish's approach to menswear. A graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, Vaish worked with designers such as Calvin Klein, Diane Von Furstenberg and Rohit Bal before launching his own high-end menswear label. That exposure to different design languages has helped shape an aesthetic that is clean, youthful and sophisticated, with craftsmanship balanced by contemporary form.

In his wedding collections, traditional techniques are retained but treated with a lighter, more modern hand. Resham embroidery may appear alongside metal beads, while familiar decorative references are replaced by abstract patterns and more restrained surface treatments. The craft remains visible, but it does not overwhelm the garment. Instead, texture, proportion and detail work together to create a quieter sense of richness.

His strength lies in the way craft is controlled and edited. Embroidery is used to sharpen a silhouette, introduce texture or create a point of visual interest rather than cover the garment. Surface work is often subtle enough to reveal itself gradually, giving the clothes depth up close while preserving a clean, composed appearance from a distance.

There is also a strong emphasis on finish and material. The interplay of fabric, embroidery and construction gives each piece



Image Courtesy: Dhruv Vaish



Image Courtesy: Dhruv Vaish

its character, with detailing often built into collars, panels, jackets and layered separates. Rather than treating craftsmanship as decoration alone, Vaish allows it to become part of the structure and personality of the garment.

Silhouettes are evolving in much the same way. Classic Indian forms coexist with structured jackets, elongated proportions, asymmetric elements and layered separates, allowing the groom to dress for the ceremony without feeling confined by convention. These are pieces designed with a life beyond one wedding function, giving the wardrobe a more contemporary and versatile character.

Colour has become more assured as well. Timeless neutrals, deep saturated tones and subtle metallic accents are replacing the need for excessive decoration. Richness comes through fabric, texture and finish rather than ornamentation alone.

The result is a more confident idea of occasion dressing. Today's groom is looking for clothes that acknowledge tradition without being dictated by it, and that allow personality to come through with greater ease.

For Dhruv Vaish, luxury lies in that balance between craftsmanship, individuality and modern design. It is an approach that keeps the ceremony intact while giving the groom space to look and feel unmistakably like himself.



Dhruv Vaish

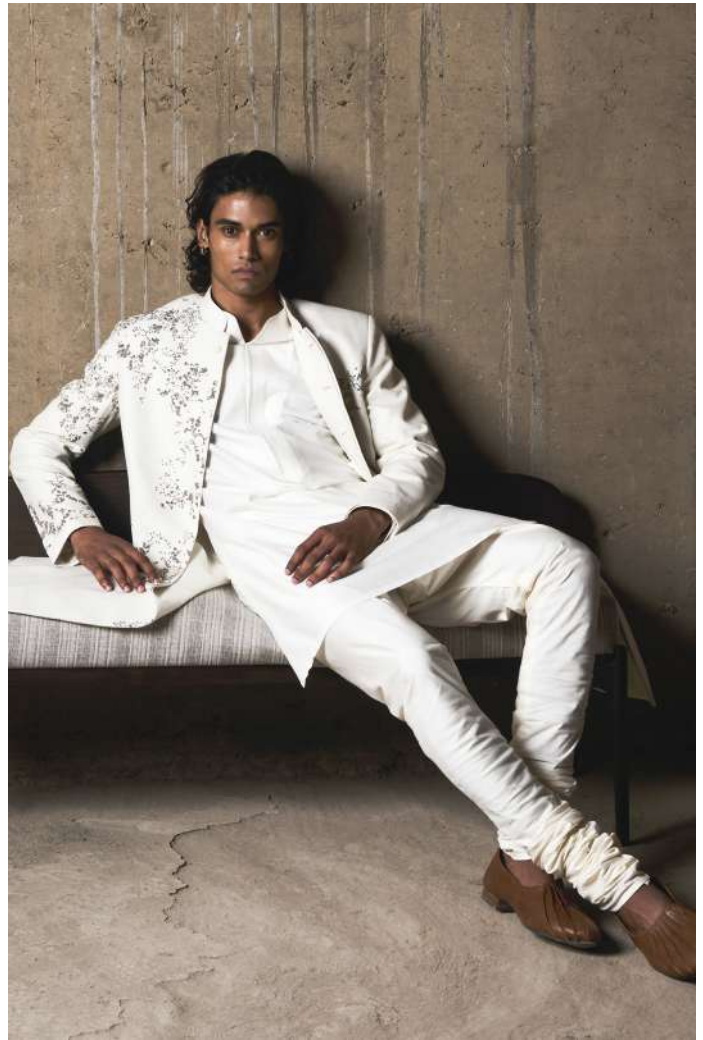


Image Courtesy: Dhruv Vaish

HOMAGE TO EPIC WARRIORS MINUTE REPEATER

– Alexander the Great



The 18K 2N yellow gold dial is engraved by hand, its *taille-douce* lines recalling the spears of Alexander's army.

A softly blurred enamel scene brings Alexander and Bucephalus to life on the battlefield.

The 18K white gold case and buckle carry the distinctive Macedonian pattern of spear notches



Image Courtesy: Momentum Experiences and Events LLP

THE PRICE OF A PERFECT WEDDING

Behind every seamless wedding is a hidden economy of labour, logistics, precision and hospitality

TT BUREAU

Long before the first guest arrives, the wedding is already in motion. Service entrances fill with trucks, florists unpack flowers, temporary kitchens receive supplies and production teams test lighting, sound and structures that may exist for only a few hours. At the hotel, rooming lists are matched with arrival schedules, drivers work through airport manifests and housekeeping teams prepare for guests and baggage. By the time the celebration begins, most of this activity has receded from view. The flowers appear perfectly placed, the music starts on cue, dinner moves smoothly across the room and guests drift between functions with little sense of the machinery supporting them.

At the larger end of India's wedding market, that ease depends on an operation resembling a temporary city. It brings together accommodation, transport, kitchens, technical infrastructure, entertainment, housekeeping, security and a large workforce within a narrow window.

AN ECONOMY BUILT AROUND CELEBRATION

The scale of India's wedding economy shows how extensive that supporting world has become. The Confederation of All India Traders projected 46 lakh weddings and ₹6.5 lakh crore in business between 1 November and 14 December 2025, along with more than one crore temporary and part-time jobs across catering, decoration, hospitality, transport, entertainment and related services.

CAIT's estimate rose from ₹3.75 lakh crore in 2022 to ₹5.9 lakh crore in 2024, before reaching ₹6.5 lakh crore in 2025. Catering accounted for 10% of projected expenditure, event management 5%, floral decoration 4%, and travel and hospitality, music, and lighting and sound 3% each. Photography and videography represented another 2%.

Behind those percentages sit thousands of transactions. A stage requires fabrication, transport, installation and technical checks. Floral installations bring growers, wholesalers,

transporters and crews into the chain. Dinner draws on procurement, storage, kitchens, service and stewarding. The finished setting may appear composed, but the route to it is dense with movement.

BUILDING THE TEMPORARY CITY

Destination weddings make the scale easier to see. A major Udaipur wedding produced in 2025 involved more than 650 guests, around ten lakeside hotels and celebrations across five heritage venues. Guests moved by air, road, boat and golf cart while teams managed rehearsals, food, florals, lighting, sound, hospitality and venue preparation. Planning stretched over nine months, while the celebration itself unfolded in just a few days.

An upcoming Indian wedding in Nha Trang, Vietnam, takes that logistical scale even further. Scheduled for December 2026, the four-day celebration is expected to cost more than ₹47 crore, host around 1,400 guests and involve more than 600 staff. Guests are expected to arrive on charter flights, while teams from several countries coordinate hospitality, technical production, catering, entertainment and event operations. Guests are expected to stay four nights, bringing accommodation, transport and destination services into the same operating network.

Flights affect hotel arrivals, baggage handling and transfers, while venue access shapes floral and technical installation. Crew movements run alongside the social programme as kitchens, hotels and production teams continue working in the background.

HOSPITALITY AS THE MAIN EVENT

WeddingWire India's survey of more than 1,500 couples married in 2024 found an average guest list of 330 people. Around 34.5% held three-day weddings and another 25% celebrated over two days. Food was a priority for 55% of respondents, while almost half placed guest enjoyment and care high on their planning list.

The same survey recorded an average wedding cost of ₹29.6 lakh. Another major industry survey for 2025 to 2026, based on a different respondent group, placed average expenditure at ₹39.5 lakh, up 8% year on year. For destination weddings, the average climbed to ₹58 lakh within India and more than ₹1.5 crore internationally. Around one in four Indian weddings is now estimated to be a destination celebration, with 89% taking place within India. The average destination wedding lasts around 3.2 days.

Every additional day extends the hospitality cycle. Rooms remain occupied, housekeeping turns rooms while functions continue, transport teams move guests and kitchens prepare one service while another is still underway. Luggage, dietary requirements and late arrivals become part of the daily rhythm.

Industry figures show weddings and wedding-related events contributing close to 16% of food and beverage revenue for one major hotel group during the first five months of 2026, with average revenue per cover around 8% higher. Other hotel data shows banquet business accounting for as much as 50% to 60% of food and beverage revenue at large properties, with weddings forming a significant share. Behind the visible experience of



Image Courtesy: Kkings Events



rooms, lawns and ballrooms sit banquet kitchens, bars, laundry, housekeeping, luggage handling, crew requirements and coordination between hotel teams and planners.

WHILE THE WEDDING SLEEPS

Some of the most demanding work begins after guests return to their rooms. A ballroom used for a sangeet at night may need to look completely different the following day. Furniture is replaced, flowers are dismantled or refreshed, lighting positions change, technical equipment is moved and tables are dressed again. Housekeeping clears the room while kitchens begin the next service cycle.

These transformations depend on florists, carpenters, riggers, electricians, technicians, cleaners, chefs, drivers and security teams working to compressed schedules. Temporary stages, trusses, generators, electrical distribution, scaffolding and kitchens also bring structural safety, fire protection, cable management and emergency access into the operation.

The workforce has become more specialised too. Photography, videography and décor remain among the most widely hired wedding services, while an estimated 1% to 2% of wedding budgets now goes towards digital content creation and social-media coverage. Drone operators, reel creators, same-day editors and content teams increasingly work alongside traditional photography and film crews.

AFTER THE GUESTS LEAVE

Once the final function ends, another operation begins. Décor is dismantled, equipment is packed, kitchens are cleared, and waste is collected. A professionally managed zero-waste wedding in Mangaluru in 2025 generated 1,333 kilograms of waste across its functions, with wet material sent for composting and dry material for recovery and recycling.

A very different five-day wedding in Auli in 2019 generated 32,100 kilograms of waste and cost the local municipality more than ₹8 lakh to clear. The two events differ greatly in scale and approach, but both show the physical footprint that remains after a celebration.

Waste management now carries a stronger regulatory dimension. India's Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 include marriage halls, banquet halls, hotels and convention spaces within the bulk-waste framework when specified thresholds are met. Gatherings of more than 100 people at unlicensed locations also carry advance notification and waste-segregation requirements.

The final bill may list rooms, food, flowers, entertainment and photography, but the operating ledger is wider. It includes vehicles dispatched, bags moved, meals produced, equipment transported, flowers installed, systems tested, overnight shifts completed and material cleared. For a few days, an entire workforce gathers around one celebration, and its success rests on hundreds of moving parts working with precision while the guest experiences only the finished result.





Traditional Wonders

"CAUVERY" Karnataka State Arts & Crafts Emporia

The ultimate destination for true connoisseurs of arts and crafts...



KARNATAKA STATE HANDICRAFTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.,

[A Government of Karnataka Enterprise]

No.45, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore 560001.

Ph. : 00-91-80-25582656 / 25582793 • Fax : 00-91-80-25580402

email : md@cauveryhandicrafts.net • Website : www.cauverycrafts.com

On-line sale website : www.cauveryhandicrafts.net





Bride in Traditional Red Bridalwear with Family. Image Courtesy: ANS Weddings

WHAT BECOMES AN HEIRLOOM NOW?

As weddings become more personal, couples are commissioning objects that may carry their story into another generation

CHANDRUTPAL DAS BORO

After the guests leave, a wedding continues in fragments. Flowers leave a fragrance, a song returns unexpectedly and photographs gather on screens. Alongside these traces, a quieter collection takes shape: jewellery, a watch beneath a cuff, preserved flowers, portraits and objects settling into the couple's home.

Together, they form a family archive. Indian weddings have always carried older stories into the present. A grandmother's necklace leaves its velvet box, a mother's sari returns with new styling and an old watch is wound for the ceremony. Couples now add their own pieces, allowing the archive to grow through anniversaries and future weddings.

Personal detail is reshaping Indian weddings today. India's wedding-services market reached US\$103.93 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach US\$228.69 billion by 2030. Within that scale, the objects left behind reveal its emotional texture. Craftsmanship, repair and provenance are shaping choices,

along with an appreciation for beauty that gathers character with age.

OLD GOLD, NEW STORIES

Jewellery understands inheritance instinctively. A grandmother's diamonds become a clean-lined ring. An old pendant anchors a contemporary necklace. Family gold becomes a pair of cuffs, while a necklace is divided among sisters. Each intervention brings the jewel closer to its wearer, allowing its history to travel.

Wedding jewels have followed a similar rhythm. Queen Mary's Fringe Tiara began with diamonds from a necklace given to her by Queen Victoria for her wedding in 1893. Remade as a tiara in 1919, it appeared at the weddings of Princess Elizabeth, Princess Anne and Princess Beatrice. The Nizam of Hyderabad necklace, presented to Princess Elizabeth for her marriage, was worn later by Catherine, Princess of Wales. Each appearance added another layer to the jewel's history.

Contemporary commissions hold their codes discreetly. A date appears inside a ring, two hometowns form a motif and a parent's handwriting rests behind a pendant. Certificates, sketches and notes about inherited stones give a future owner the story behind the setting.

Jewellery has always held sentiment alongside material value. The global luxury-jewellery market reached US\$54.2 billion in 2025, with Asia-Pacific accounting for 66.9% of revenue. A mechanical watch carries a related appeal. Engraved, serviced and worn often, it enters workdays and holidays. India's luxury-watch market is expected to grow by approximately 11 to 12% annually. Gradually, the watch becomes a record of time spent together.

A PORTRAIT ON THE WALL, A MEMORY IN THE AIR

Art gives wedding memory a wider frame. A painter may capture the surrounding landscape, the room before guests arrive or the evening sky. A sculptor might bring two cultures into one form. Drawings and studies become part of the provenance, carrying the couple's presence within the making.

The idea has deep historical roots. In 1483, four Nastagio degli Onesti panels were commissioned from Botticelli's workshop for the marriage of Giannozzo Pucci and Lucrezia Bini in Florence. Intended for a domestic setting, they carried family identity and artistic patronage into the marital home. Centuries later, they still hold the atmosphere of that celebration.

Flowers, among the most fleeting parts of a wedding, are also being given a longer life. Real roses, petals, leaves and other natural forms can be dried, polished, waxed and prepared before being plated in 24-carat gold. The process preserves the veins, curves and irregularities of the bloom, turning something briefly carried into a pendant, keepsake or sculptural object. A flower from a bouquet, bridal hair or the mandap can move from ceremony into the family archive, retaining the form that made it unique.

Fragrance creates a portrait through mood. A perfumer may compose a scent around jasmine, sandalwood, roses, monsoon earth or coastal air. Fleurissimo, associated with Grace Kelly's 1956 wedding to Prince Rainier III of Monaco, entered bridal lore. A bespoke scent might perfume the ceremony, return on anniversaries and reappear at another family wedding.

Memory gives fragrance its enduring hold. Research suggests that odour-evoked autobiographical memories are vivid and closely connected with people, places and emotion. A record of ingredients and the original brief allows a scent to be composed again. A vial, kept with the date and location, completes the record.

WHEN THOUSANDS OF IMAGES BECOME ONE BOOK

A modern wedding produces a vast visual record. Cameras, drones, phones and social feeds catch almost every movement. Thousands of images survive, yet only a handful receive the attention that turns a photograph into family memory.



Newlywed Couple with Custom Hand-Painted Wedding Portrait. Image Courtesy: Painted Forever

The physical album gives that abundance shape. Selection creates rhythm, gives moments weight and places people in sequence. A hand-bound volume may combine prints with vows, menus, letters, flowers and wedding fabric. Archival paper, stable inks and binding allow the book to be opened, shared and read again years later.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert offer an example of creating a wedding image for posterity. Their 1840 ceremony took place before wedding photography became established, so they restaged the occasion for the camera in 1854. The portraits shaped how generations encountered their marriage.



'Romance of Polki'. Image Courtesy: Tanishq's Rivaah



Botticelli & Workshop, Scenes From The Story of Nastagio Degli Onesti, 1483, Commissioned For a Florentine Wedding. Image Courtesy: Web Gallery of Art

The global photobook and album market was valued at US\$3.51 billion in 2025 and is projected to reach US\$5.61 billion by 2034, supported by customised wedding albums and premium memory-preservation products. Formal portraiture is returning. A composed family portrait gathers faces, clothing and relationships into one frame, offering future viewers a map of the occasion.

Digital files need equal care. High-quality versions, named folders and details such as names, dates and locations preserve the context. A photograph gains depth when viewers know who is standing beside whom.

THE LIFE WAITING AFTER THE WEDDING

Many heirlooms gain meaning through everyday use. A dining table commissioned for the marital home gathers dinners,

festival meals, birthday cakes and difficult conversations. A trunk begins with wedding keepsakes and fills with letters, albums and children's treasures. Rugs, ceramics, silverware, lamps and furniture absorb the habits and memories of a household.

The Renaissance wedding chest, or cassone, offers a version of this journey. Painted or carved, these chests travelled with a bride into her new home, carrying textiles and expressing family lineage. Many remained in use for generations before entering collections and museums. Their surfaces still speak of craftsmanship, ceremony and domestic life.

Indian craft gives couples a rich vocabulary for the home: carved

wood, hand-knotted rugs, metalwork, inlay, painted ceramics and woven textiles shaped by origin. A table with identifiable joinery, a rug rooted in a weaving tradition or ceramics carrying marks of the hand connects family memory with individual skill. The maker's name and materials allow that connection to travel.

Repairability quietly enters the story. Jewellery is reset, watches are serviced, furniture is refinished and rugs are rewoven. Each act of care marks a decision to keep an object close. Future generations will choose which pieces become heirlooms, guided by their memories, craftsmanship and stories. Today's couples begin that conversation, leaving objects ready to gather a life shaped by the wedding that first brought them home.



Vintage Wedding Album. Image Courtesy: Picime



Princess Beatrice wearing Queen Mary's Fringe Tiara at her wedding. Image Courtesy: Benjamin Wheeler



BIANCHET ULTRAFINO MASERATI



Image Courtesy: Abhishek Shekhawat, Pexels

DRESSED TO DAZZLE

From family jewels to fresh flex, the groom is shining differently

TT BUREAU

There is a new energy around the Indian groom. He is paying attention to detail, enjoying the process, and building a wedding wardrobe with a point of view. The sherwani matters, of course, but so does everything around it. The neckline, the cuff, the collar, the wrist, the way a stole falls, the tiny flash that appears when he lifts a glass.

It feels relaxed, confident and very personal. Groom dressing is no longer about assembling one grand ceremonial look and calling it done. Weddings span several days, each with its own mood, and men dress accordingly. A sunlit haldi asks for ease. The pheras call for ceremony. Cocktail night can take a little swagger. Even the smallest jewellery detail can shift the entire mood.

The result is a groom who looks considered without looking overly styled. He knows when to layer, when to keep it clean and when one fabulous piece is quite enough.

PEARLS ARE HAVING A MOMENT

Pearls look particularly good on men right now. There is something about their softness against the structure of a sherwani or bandhgala that immediately gives the look polish.

Layered malas are the obvious favourite, particularly in ivory and cream, where the strands almost blend into the outfit before catching the light. Longer satladas bring ceremony, while shorter pearl necklaces feel younger and easier. Mix in an emerald pendant or a few uncut stones and the look gains just enough colour.

The styling is key. Pearls look especially fresh over open necklines, tonal kurtas and sherwanis with restrained embroidery. An ivory outfit with several loose strands has a wonderfully languid quality. Against black, deep bottle green or burgundy, the same pearls suddenly feel sharper and a little more evening.

There is also plenty of room to play with scale. Tiny pearls give a finer finish, while larger strands have almost a Maharaja mood. The sweetest spot usually sits somewhere in between, where the jewellery feels luxurious but the groom still looks like himself.



Clasp Octopus Design Brooch. Image Courtesy: SHEIN.in

EMERALDS, POLKI, OLD GOLD

This is where the jewellery box gets richer.

Emeralds bring instant depth to Indian menswear, particularly against ivory, beige, black and deep jewel tones. A long strand anchored with a substantial emerald pendant can hold an entire look together. Add pearls and the effect becomes beautifully layered.

Polki and jadau bring their own glow. Uncut stones have a softer brilliance, which works especially well with textured fabrics, antique gold embroidery and traditional silhouettes. Old gold has that same warmth. It looks particularly striking when the finish feels slightly aged rather than highly polished.

Temple-inspired pieces are also finding their way into groom dressing. A substantial necklace over a clean sherwani has presence without requiring much else. Coloured stones can bring in ruby, sapphire or green accents, while a single statement pendant gives the eye somewhere to land.

The trick lies in knowing when the jewellery has said enough. Three beautiful layers can look spectacular on one groom; another may need only one bold necklace. Personal style matters. Confidence matters even more.

THE KURTA GETS ITS COOL BACK

The kurta is quietly becoming one of the best parts of the groom's wedding wardrobe. It suits the functions where everything feels a little lighter, from mehendi and haldi to family lunches, pujas and the morning after.

Lucknowi chikankari is particularly good in this space. Ivory and white remain the strongest shades, allowing the embroidery and texture to do the work. A finely embroidered kurta with tonal trousers feels polished without becoming formal, while a soft stole or sleeveless jacket can lift it for a larger celebration.

The jewellery can stay beautifully restrained. Pearls at the neck, a kada at the wrist, a signet ring, or a discreet brooch is often enough. For a sharper look, emeralds against white chikankari have serious visual impact.

Draped kurtas and fluid regional silhouettes are also giving the groom more room to experiment. Pleated trousers, asymmetrical hems, longer jackets and textured fabrics keep the look interesting while preserving that easy kurta mood.



Brooches. Image Courtesy: Om Sons Bridal

There is something especially appealing about a groom who looks comfortable enough to dance, sit cross-legged through a ceremony, and still look excellent when the photographs arrive.

BROOCHES, BUTTONS AND THE GOOD LITTLE DETAILS

Some of the coolest jewellery never reaches the neck.

A polki brooch pinned neatly on a bandhgala can change the whole outfit. Gemstone buttons running down an ivory sherwani add tiny flashes of colour. A pair of cufflinks appears only when the hand moves. A signet ring brings weight to an otherwise minimal look.

These details suit grooms who enjoy jewellery but prefer precision. One strong brooch, a beautifully made kada and a ring can be far more effective than piling on every available piece.

Sherwani buttons deserve special attention. Emeralds, pearls, enamel work and uncut stones can turn something functional into a real styling moment. The same goes for cufflinks, collar pins and lapel details. They reward anyone who looks closely.



Stylish Wedding Rings. Image Courtesy: Uzziini, Pexels



Traditional Indian Groom Attire. Image Courtesy: Vireshstudio, Pexels

Then there is the ear stud, small, discreet and surprisingly chic with Indian eveningwear. Add a perfectly cut bandhgala, clean hair and one good stone at the ear and the look feels finished.

Wedding style often lives in these tiny decisions. The good ones never feel accidental.

RAID THE FAMILY LOCKER

A grandfather's ring. A father's cufflinks. An old sarpech wrapped carefully in velvet. A mother's solitaire. A strand of family pearls. These pieces carry a kind of glamour that has nothing to do with how recently they were bought.

The fun begins in how they are worn. A solitaire can become a brooch. An old sarpech can sit beautifully on a turban or bandhgala. Pearls can be restrung at a length that works for the groom. Family stones can be reset into rings, cufflinks or buttons.

The emotional pull is obvious, but the style value is just as strong. An old piece often has character that freshly assembled jewellery takes years to acquire. The finish may be softer, the setting unusual, the proportions slightly different. That individuality makes it interesting.

And there is something rather lovely about a groom walking into his wedding wearing a piece that has already seen a few family celebrations.

THE WEDDING ENDS. THE JEWELLERY STAYS.

A brooch returns on a black bandhgala for another wedding. Gemstone buttons become cufflinks. A signet ring slips easily into everyday dressing. An inherited stone gets reset into something clean enough to wear with a suit. Pearls come back for a festive dinner or anniversary.



Traditional Embroidered Attire. Image Courtesy: Deepak Khiradwala, Pexels

That is where the best pieces become part of a wardrobe rather than wedding memorabilia. They gather stories, acquire a little patina and start appearing in photographs from entirely different chapters of life.

The modern groom has understood something useful: jewellery does not need to be saved for the biggest room, the longest guest list or the most ceremonial outfit. A good piece simply needs personality, a little confidence and somewhere to go. And right now, the groom's jewellery box is looking very good indeed.



Indian Groom's Necklace. Image Courtesy: PICRYL



TEA BOARD OF INDIA
www.teaboard.gov.in



World's Gold Standard

CELEBRATE LIFE WITH INDIAN TEA AND YOGA

Set out on a fulfilling journey of wellness, healing and peace through the two invaluable gifts from India — Yoga and Tea. Scientific studies have shown that both Tea and Yoga help relieve stress and anxiety, and have proven health benefits for the patients with diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

We welcome you to connect with your inner self and discover the perfect harmony of mind, body and soul through the unique confluence of Yoga and Indian Tea.



TRADITION AT THE LUXURY TABLE

Regional chefs, seasonal ingredients, refined presentation and thoughtful service are bringing heritage food into modern celebrations

TT BUREAU



Image Courtesy: Heritage Food Stories

Memorable luxury wedding dishes often begin beyond the ballroom. They may come from a grandmother's kitchen, a community feast or a specialist cook whose measurements live in the hand.

At a contemporary wedding, its surroundings have changed. It may arrive on fine silverware beneath sculptural lighting, with service as precise as a beautifully paced tasting menu. Yet the flavour must create recognition. That balance is reshaping luxury wedding dining: heritage food presented with cultural confidence and modern finesse.

That balance shaped a defining recent celebration. Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's Mumbai wedding created a Banaras-inspired concourse with chaat, mithai, lassi, chai, khari and paan, surrounded by brasswork, pottery, attar, flowers and

bangles. Guests encountered the city's food alongside the crafts, scents and rituals that give it context.

For years, grandeur was expressed through scale. Long buffets, imported ingredients and cuisines gathered from every corner of the world became shorthand for generosity. They remain part of the celebration, though regional food is gaining a more assured position beside them. Couples are asking hotels to recreate family recipes, invite traditional cooks into professional kitchens and build menus around the season and destination.

The change arrives at a significant moment. India hosts around 10 million weddings annually, with spending estimated at US\$130 billion, according to industry research. Within this celebration economy, food has unusual emotional reach. It welcomes guests, expresses abundance and allows two families to share their histories without saying a word.

THE HANDS BEHIND THE FEAST

The regional chef and traditional cook are becoming central figures in the modern wedding kitchen. Their value comes through a knowledge of texture, timing and taste that is difficult to standardise.

A Kashmiri waza understands which cut of meat belongs in each wazwan preparation and how its texture should change across the feast. A Himachali boti knows the order in which dham must be cooked and served. The halwai recognises the exact moment when sugar syrup is ready, while cooks experienced in sadya understand the position, sequence and pace of more than 25 preparations on a banana leaf.

Luxury hospitality can give these specialists a larger stage. Professional kitchens offer scale, hygiene systems and sophisticated service, while traditional cooks protect the flavour and ritual that make the food distinctive. The strongest collaborations respect both forms of expertise. Hotel chefs refine logistics and presentation; regional specialists guide technique, seasoning and cultural detail.

For guests, this creates a richer form of culinary theatre. Watching roomali roti stretch across a cook's forearms has more character than seeing it appear beneath a silver lid. Jalebi is more exciting when it spirals into hot oil and dips into syrup moments before service. Breads cooked on a chulha bring fire and aroma into the dining space, while sweets shaped by hand reveal the patience hidden inside every perfect piece.

Such experiences give traditional cooks visibility and allow guests to meet the people behind the food. Skill becomes part of the luxury.

WHEN THE SEASON TAKES A SEAT

Seasonality is giving wedding menus a stronger sense of place. A winter celebration can draw on tender greens, fresh carrots, jaggery, sesame and slow-cooked gravies. Summer brings raw mango, citrus, cooling yoghurt dishes, lighter grains and fruit-based desserts. Coastal menus can follow the day's catch, while celebrations in the hills may use orchard fruit, local herbs and regional millets.

The ingredient gains value because its moment is brief. A perfectly ripe mango, served during its natural season, carries an immediacy that an imported product cannot match. The same is true of winter vegetables, fresh seafood or a local rice harvested in small quantities. Their luxury comes through flavour, provenance and a clear relationship with the landscape.

Seasonal menus also encourage chefs to work with local farmers, fishers, spice growers, sweet makers and small producers. Wedding hampers can continue that relationship through regional preserves, tea, coffee, mithai, savouries and condiments. Guests leave with an edible memory of the celebration rather than a gift disconnected from it.



Image Courtesy: Rashmika Mandanna, Instagram

HERITAGE, PLATED WITH CONFIDENCE

At today's luxury wedding table, presentation begins with cultural recognition. Silver, kansa, handmade ceramic and banana leaf locate the food before the first bite. Menu cards identify family recipes and unfamiliar ingredients, giving an elegant setting a more intimate voice.



Image Courtesy: Jonathan Goncalves, Pexels



Image Courtesy: Jonathan Borba, Pexels

The dish itself stays recognisable. Paturi releases mustard and steam as its wrapping opens; puran poli arrives soft and warm; lagan nu custard retains its comfort in fine porcelain. Portions are designed for longer meals, with refinement evident in proportion, temperature, and timing.

At Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda's Udaipur wedding, guests sat down after the morning Telugu ceremony to a 25-dish South Indian feast on banana leaves. Telangana-Andhra preparations shared the leaf with Kodava kadambuttu, noolputtu and bamboo-shoot curry. The leaf served as both tableware and cultural marker, bringing two family histories together.

THE CHOREOGRAPHY OF GENEROSITY

Once the table is set, service creates its cadence. Wazwan gathers four guests around a copper trami. Sadya progresses across the leaf in an established order. A Bengali wedding feast is built around vegetables, fish, meat and mishti. These ceremonial rhythms already contain theatre and intimacy.

Luxury teams are adapting that grammar for larger gatherings. Smaller first servings leave room for the full sequence, followed by attentive refills. Breads arrive off the griddle, fried dishes retain their crispness and mithai reaches the table at the right temperature. Regional cooks protect technique and flavour while hospitality teams carry it smoothly across hundreds of settings.

At Sobhita Dhulipala and Naga Chaitanya's temple-inspired wedding in Hyderabad, nearly 300 guests moved among five food stations representing Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Each cuisine received its own space, making the distinctions within southern Indian food immediately legible.

Abundance is becoming more composed. Fresh batches replace dishes waiting in oversized vessels, while made-to-order counters bring aroma, conversation and handwork into the dining room. Generosity appears in an offered second helping and food arriving at its best.

WHERE THE MENU BECOMES MEMORY

Behind the staging sits a more intimate decision: whose memories appear at which celebration. Chefs speak with couples, parents and grandparents, searching for the hometown breakfast, wedding-season pickle or festive sweet that immediately feels like family.

A multi-day wedding gives these memories space. One family's cuisine shapes the welcome lunch; another leads the ceremonial meal. The cocktail evening carries a global menu, while breakfast returns to comfort food. Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda opened with an elegant Japanese dinner before Telugu and Kodava traditions took centre stage at the wedding feast. Each occasion held its own mood.

Caviar, truffles and exquisite pâtisserie retain their glamour. Regional food now receives equal polish through specialist knowledge, seasonal flavour and emotional recognition. The setting is considered, the service exacting and every detail beautiful. At its heart remains a flavour someone remembers.



Image Courtesy: Jonathan Borba, Pexels



MEISSEN COUTURE

JOAILLERIE



My little
MYSTERY!



MEISSEN® ITALIA, Via Monte Napoleone 3, Milano · www.meissen.it · Tel: +39 02 89 42 37 25



ATUL
JEWELLERS

Exclusive
Heritage
Jewellery

*D9, Defence Colony,
New Delhi 110024
Ph. no. 011 - 47095522*