

JULY-AUGUST 2021
VOLUME 3 NUMBER 9

BRIDES TODAY

INDIA
TODAY
GROUP

Aditi Rao
Hydari
*Poetry In
Romance*



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TODAY

AUGUST 2021

ON THE COVER



TAKE MY BREATH AWAY 140

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HERE COMES THE MODERN BRIDE

SIX STYLISH WOMEN REVEAL HOW THEY PERSONALISED THEIR LOOK ON THEIR BIG DAY

COVER LOOK

Aditi Rao Hydari wears a Lehenga Set by **Gaurav Gupta**, and Necklace by **Gaurav Gupta Occasions Fine Jewellery**.

Vivek and Prince wear Achkan Sets and Shoes, both by **Gaurav Gupta**.

Styled by: Who Wore What When. Photographer: Errikos Andreou. Models: Vivek Dhiman and Prince Singh. Hair and Make-up: Mitesh Rajani at Feat. Artists. Photographer's Assistant: Ankit Sharma. Hair and Make-up Assistant: Mansi Seth. Videographer: Santosh Mishra. Production: Studio Little Dumpling. Location: Lukshmi Villas Palace, Vadodara.

IMAGE: COURTESY THE BRAND

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TODAY

AUGUST 2021

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NANDINI BHALLA

TRUE TO YOURSELF

In many ways, planning a wedding is like putting together an elaborate theatre production—with design sets, behind-the-scenes instructions, a script...and actors.

But in the flurry of activity that often accompanies the wedding function(s), we sometimes ignore a crucial detail...that a wedding celebration is, ultimately, about the loving bond between a couple.

Which is why, at *Brides Today*, we believe it is important for the couple to be able to express their individuality on their special day. To make their celebrations an expression of their personalities...and relationship.

Your wedding festivities can be a wonderful opportunity to share your creativity, interests, and joy with loved ones. You might find it useful to spend some alone-time with your to-be spouse, discussing favourite colour palettes and foods, stories of your courtship, childhood memories, and expectations around how you imagine your special day. Some of these discoveries could help you shape your functions, and also find their way into the décor, themes, or tiny, meaningful elements.

Designing your special day to reflect your personal style, aesthetics, hopes, and dreams can seem like a difficult task...especially when there might be family, friends, and planners involved. But, as many women who have 'been there, done that' will tell you, the experience can be truly rewarding.

In this issue, a special set of contributors reveal how they did things their way...choosing to wear an unexpected pant-suit for their wedding day, for instance, or swapping heels for comfortable *juttis* so they could dance away the night with loved ones. Also in the pages ahead, several stylish men come together to model a range of *au courant* menswear styles—from minimal to statement-making—to suit every groom's (and guest's) cup of tea. In the fashion pages, you will find plenty of inspiration based on colour, silhouette, and trends; and in the *Brides Today* Planner, our selection of real weddings offer décor and theme ideas that cover a gamut of styles, from traditional to contemporary. These suggestions will, we hope, help you identify what truly speaks to you and your distinctiveness.

The thrill of planning a beautiful wedding is undeniable, but in the end, remember to relax and create joyful memories.

Because once the theatre set has been deconstructed, what you will be left with is the people and memories that truly matter.

Until next time,

Nandini Bhalla,
Digital Editor,
Brides Today

IMAGE: COURTESY THE BRAND



Rose Colours Of
Life Tanzanite
Emerald Ring,
₹95,000

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1

Bulgari
Serpenti
Forever
Crossbody
Bag,
₹2,08,000



2

Jimmy Choo Marta
Malachite Suede
Mules with Crystal
Buckle, ₹63,000



3

Nornament
Gulmohar Dove
Gold & Diamond
Earrings,
₹1,68,000

4

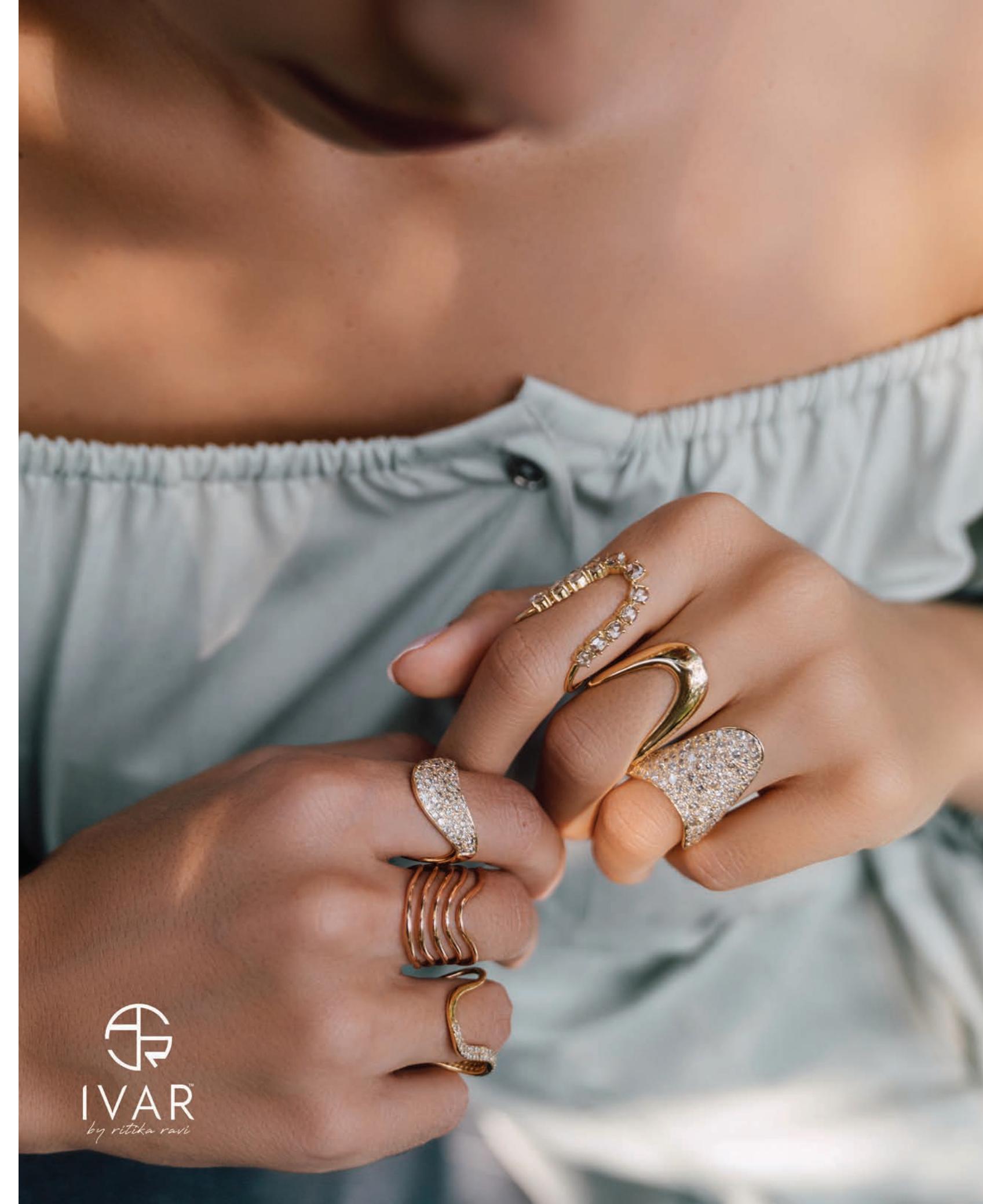
Duet Luxury
Assymetrical
Yellow Dragonfly
Clutch, ₹12,000

5

Jaipur Watch Company
Abheer Art
Pichwai
Watch,
₹15,000

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 IVARTM
by ritika ravi



Must HAVES



2

In ear shot

Ananta Jewellery
White and Gold
Finish Sapphire
Earrings, ₹11,500



4

Boxed in

1
Be so bold

Dune London
Murphy Di
Embellished
Stilettos, ₹10,999

5

Rose Tanzanite
and Pearl Bubble
Ring, ₹3,62,000

17

Free spirit

M U S T H A V E S

A beach-themed function
will truly capture the
mood when surrounded
by elegant shades of aqua.

VARUN CHAKKILAM

1

Carried away

Gucci Dionysus
Super Mini Bag,
₹71,250

10

Carried away

9

Step up

Innochi Cala
Flats, ₹4,800

8

Blue collar

7

Swarovski
Millenia Necklace,
₹50,250

6

Twist around

5

Rose Tanzanite
and Pearl Bubble
Ring, ₹3,62,000

4

Long story

3

Get the
point

2

In ear shot

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Boxed in

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point

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In ear shot

1

Boxed in

17

Free spirit

9

Step up

The LOOK

Play with accents of different colours to liven-up your style and match your personality.

Jacket and lehenga set, price upon request,
Anamika Khanna.
Necklace, price upon request, earrings, ₹44,200, and necklace (worn as mathapatti), ₹52,000, all **Apala by Sumit**.



THE COLOUR OF LOVE

The rich and bold red hue is an essential in any wedding celebration. Embrace the passionate shade with confidence to ensure all eyes are on you.

*Photographs by CHANDRAHAS PRABHU
Styling and Creative Direction by WHO WORE WHAT WHEN*

The LOOK



Tone-on-tone embroidery looks exquisite when different fabrics are added to the ensemble.

Gown, price upon request,
JADE by Monica & Karishma. Lara Matha Patti, ₹41,000, Heer Cuff with Ring, ₹32,000 and Zoya Earrings, ₹29,900, all **Sheetal Zaveri by Vithaldas**.



Wear a boyfriend blazer with detailed craftsmanship to keep away the cold, stylishly, of course.

Gown, price upon request, **JADE by Monica & Karishma**. Jacket, price upon request, **Anamika Khanna**. Lara Matha Patti, ₹41,000, Heer Cuff with Ring, ₹32,000 and Zoya Earrings, ₹29,900, all **Sheetal Zaveri by Vithaldas**.

The LOOK



Detailed gold embroidery is a sure-shot way to magnify a rich bridal attire.

Husna Lehenga Set, ₹6,25,000, **Sahil Kochhar**. Naushad Nose Ring, ₹5,000, Bhuv Studs, ₹7,000, Mira Necklace, ₹33,000, Aish Necklace, ₹60,800 and Festive Choker, ₹45,000, all **Sheetal Zaveri by Vithaldas**.



Consider tribal embroidery for a boho-chic function. Pair the look with layered jewellery.

Jacket and lehenga set, price upon request, **Anamika Khanna**. Necklace, price upon request, earrings, ₹44,200, and necklace (won as mathapatti), ₹52,000, all **Apala by Sumit**.

The LOOK



No need to search for another outfit when you are dressed in an intricately-beaded creation.

Crimson Couture Lehenga,
price upon request,
Falguni Shane Peacock.
Earrings, necklaces, and
ring, prices upon request,
all **Neeta Boochra**.



Lehenga Set, ₹95,600,
Ridhi Mehra. Earrings and
necklace, prices upon
request, both **Neeta**
Boochra. Maangtikka,
₹14,500, **Apala by Sumit**.

The LOOK



Be on top of the world
with a cascading gown
worn to the reception...
as the cherry on
the icing.

Gown, ₹4,25,000, **Gaurav Gupta**. Bangles, prices upon request, earrings, ₹68,500, and ring, ₹19,500, all **Apala by Sumit**.

The LOOK



Mirrorwork helps draw attention to the face with its play of light. Add it to your outfit to truly stand out.

Lehenga Set, price upon request **Apita Mehta**.
Earrings, ₹34,200,
necklace, ₹97,500,
and ring, ₹14,500, all
Apala by Sumit.

Skip the *dupatta* and don a floor-length jacket for a hands-free evening of having fun.

Red Bohemian Rose Lehenga Set, ₹40,000,
Label Anushree.
Earrings and necklace, prices upon request,
both **Neeta Boochra**.



The LOOK



Put your hands up for
the quintessential red
lehenga set that is
perfect for the big day.

Vana Indrani Lehenga,
₹3,36,000, **Mrunalini**
Rao. Chandrika Earrings,
₹45,000, Begum Nosering,
₹12,000, Pihu Maangtikka,
₹10,600, all **Apala**
by **Sumit**.



A pleated top lends
depth to an all-red
attire. Include subtle
hints of colour to
transform your style.

Gown, ₹4,25,000,
Gaurav Gupta. Bangles,
prices upon request;
earrings, ₹68,500, and
ring, ₹19,500, all **Apala**
by **Sumit**.

The LOOK



Consider a full sleeves gown or *anarkali*, especially if it has a deep neck, to keep your style interesting.

Gown, price upon request,
JADE by Monica & Karishma. Lara Matha Patti, ₹41,000, Heer Cuff with Ring, ₹32,000 and Zoya Earrings, ₹29,900, all **Sheetal Zaveri by Vithaldas**.



Throw caution to the wind and pair a heavily-embellished blouse with chunky jewellery.

Lehenga Set, ₹95,600,
Ridhi Mehra. Earrings and necklace, prices upon request, both **Neeta Boochra**. Maangtikka, ₹14,500, **Apala by Sumit**.

The LOOK



Rest assured that a running embroidery pattern will make the desired impact.

Husna Lehenga Set, ₹6,25,000, **Sahil Kochhar**.
Naushad Nose Ring, ₹5,000, Bhuv Studs, ₹7,000, Mira Necklace, ₹33,000, Aish Necklace, ₹60,800 and Festive Choker, ₹45,000, all **Sheetal Zaveri by Vithaldas**.



Model: Sheryl Bennett.
Make-up: Shruti Sharma.
Hair: Pushkin Bhasin.
Production: Studio Little Dumpling.
Location: Mundota Fort & Palace.

Change your views on the colour red and embrace it as a modern trousseau must-have.

Lehenga Set, price upon request **Arpita Mehta**.
Earrings, ₹34,200,
necklace, ₹97,500,
and ring, ₹14,500, all
Apala by Sumit.

PERSONAL REQUEST

From customised wedding suites to perfume bottles embossed with your nuptials' logo and a luxurious, private salon to pop your proposal, the post pandemic bride and groom are spoilt for choice. By Manish Mishra

Bespoke has been the very essence of Indian luxury for centuries. And that desire for something made 'just for you' has seen an efflorescence in the modern bride and groom's shopping habits. As the intimate wedding continues its hold, adding a personal touch to one's celebrations has become paramount, from finer decor touches to the wedding outfit and the bridal party.

Think private appointments, personalised designs, and quality fittings... *Brides Today* presents some of the finest customised services that marry creativity with curation.

TIFFANY & CO.

Once you have found your significant other, finding that special ring is what comes next. If you need help with the design or a venue to pop the question, reach out to Tiffany & Co.'s to choose the all-important engagement ring, wedding band, or two complimentary designs to capture your commitment.

Their store in New Delhi offers private salon services for scheduled appointments, where you can also pop the question by informing them beforehand. Tiffany & Co. will arrange



the champagne and the cake, and even engrave the ring or band with initials, a short phrase, or a memorable date for an extra-special touch.

GUCCI

The groom with a strong sense of identity can consider the Gucci DIY (Do It Yourself) personalisation service, which provides options to customise tailoring and shoes. Customers can express their creative side by adding embroidery details to the extensive range of jackets, blazers, tuxedos, and coats in several silhouettes for both day and eveningwear. You can also choose from a wide range of fabrics and buttons, as well as from a host of monogram lettering options.

The key to the process is the selection of linings, and here, Gucci is producing



(This page)
Tiffany & Co.
Engagement rings, prices
upon request

IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS



of their Indian flagship in Mumbai with something special: the first-of-its-kind Christian Louboutin Wedding Suite.

Both men and women can look forward to making a statement on their wedding day by customising the shoes, bags, and dainty leather goods, as well as several extras to make the big day even grander. The Tattoo Made to Measure station offers the betrothed an opportunity to add a signature touch of embroidery to any piece. Louboutin's special service features an array of fabrics, heights, and shoe styles to create that one-of-a-kind pair—all to be made by hand in the brand's Paris atelier.

And for the bride who like to match her accessories with her outfits, there is a sari table to lay the ensembles out and decide on her final look, in her own time.



(From top) **Gucci**
Customised shoes and
jackets for the groom



CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

The label recently marked the first anniversary



Christian Louboutin
The Wedding Suite in Mumbai, where brides can decide on the material, height, and style of the shoes

ALL GOOD SCENTS

From adding your wedding logo to the perfume bottle, to incorporating a meaningful message on the perfume box and scented candles, All Good Scents allows you have a fragrant nuptial. The homegrown scent brand has created DIY perfume kits to experience the joys of making your own fragrance using 14 fundamental aromas or facets that reflect your personality. If you want to bond with your family and friends, but are unable



Zegna The Made to Measure service allows customers to design their outfit, with over 700 fabrics to choose from



to travel to be together, you can host a digital, scent-making workshop with the brand's experts to craft your own signature scent. Finally, package the scents in the Love & Joy heart-shaped boxes that can be engraved with a special message in gold lettering.

ZEGNA

Craving an unrivalled personalised experience for your outfit? Look no

further than Zegna. Your Made to Measure experience starts with a one-to-one meeting with a style advisor, either at the VIP room in-store or in the comfort of your own home. Zero-in on the fabric, style, and finishing touches of your garment, which will be ready in five to six weeks. The luxury house offers over 700 fabrics to choose from, and they even have a special category of evening shirts, evening suits, and jackets in exclusive fabrics like silk, mohair and wool, fresh from Zegna's mill in Trivero, Italy. ■

BRIDES

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FOR TODAY'S BRIDE



ALL THE INSPIRATION
Visit [BridesToday.in](#) for all the beauty, fashion, and planning advice for your Big Day.

The LOOK



1. Gucci Geometric-Frame Sunglasses with Crystals, ₹91,467. **2. Mahesh Notandass Fine Jewellery** Diamond Necklace, price upon request. **3. Amaris by Prerna Rajpal** Diamond Punch Ring, ₹1,95,000. **4. Jimmy Choo** Saeda Platinum Ice Dusty Glitter Pump with Crystal Embellishment, ₹73,833. **5. Ruhmaha** Grey Sequins Embroidered Blouse and Lehenga Set, ₹38,000. **6. Outhouse** Silver Finish Handcrafted Sling Bag, ₹35,000. **7. Chopard** L'Heure du Diamant Watch, price upon request. **8. Bulgari** Serpenti Forever Crossbody Mini Bag, ₹1,86,000. **9. Steve Madden** Chandel Sandals, ₹9,999. **10. Orra** Platinum Hanging Earrings, ₹87,359. **11. Ivar by Ritika Ravi** Bracelet Zero 2, ₹2,94,849. **12. Surendri by Yogesh Chaudhary** Grey Moon Foil Embroidered Lehenga Set, ₹49,200. **13. Eshaani Jayaswal** Grey Embroidered Corset Lehenga Set, ₹46,000.

BY AMISHA ZAIANI

A woman with dark hair is wearing a red sequined headband and large, round, light-colored sunglasses. She is positioned in front of several large, vibrant red flowers, possibly tulips or carnations. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white, creating a bright and airy feel. The overall composition is a fashion advertisement.



1. Sabyasachi The Calcutta Sling in Rouge Bengal, price upon request. **2. Papa Don't Preach By Shubhika** Red Chain-link Embellished Belt Bag, ₹9,500. **3. Rose** Ruby Chandelier Earrings, ₹3,91,000. **4. Vandals** Diamond and Ruby Necklace, price upon request. **5. Versace** Medusa Stud Sunglasses, price upon request. **6. Kehiaa by Kashmira Red** Red Embroidered Lehenga Set, ₹69,900. **7. Farah Khan** Amaira ring, ₹1,95,000. **8. Jimmy Choo** Aveline Red Sandals with Oversized Mesh Bows, ₹67,297. **9. Panerai** Piccolo Due Madreperla Watch, price upon request. **10. Bluestone** The Unnati Twister Bangle, ₹52,427. **11. Limerick by Abirr N'Nanki** Red Embroidered Blouse and Pant-Sari Set, ₹42,000. **12. Oceedee** Amyra Red & Titanium Mule, ₹4,999. **13. Amit GT** Red 3D Floral Embroidered Motifs Ball Gown, ₹85,000.

BY AAKANKSHA BATRA

The LOOK



Sanjana Rishi,
Content Creator,
Lawyer & Founder of
Nindia Loungewear

"I had a micro-wedding; there was no *sangeet* or *mehendi*, just our wedding day. With the pandemic restrictions upon us last year, we hosted a 12-people wedding in my husband's backyard, and there was no need for a new outfit. So, I wore a vintage pant-suit from Gianfranco Ferré (that I had bought earlier) with a Torani *dupatta* as a veil (that was added two days before the wedding). With this, I wore jewellery from Anu Merton.

This was a controversial look for those accustomed to traditional Indian bridalwear, and I received a mixed-bag of reactions. With a little distance and perspective, none of those opinions matter now. The only opinions I will carry with me forever are my own and those of my husband. I believe that one shouldn't be forced or shamed into wearing something you don't want to on your wedding day."



HERE COMES THE MODERN BRIDE

The rules are being rewritten by brides who are opting for what suits her style, identity, and individuality. Text by Radhika Bhalla. Compiled by Sneham Choudhary.



Aastha Sharma,
Celebrity Stylist & Entrepreneur

"I always wanted to wear orange and yellow for my wedding, rather than the traditional red. At the combined *mehendi* and *sangeet* sundowner, I wore a one-shoulder, embroidered cropped top and flared pants by Nikhil Thampi, and I was so comfortable in it. It was an elegant-yet-easy style, which left me free to dance the night away. I felt confident about my look, and all my guests appreciated that. In fact, I even received many texts from other brides who were inspired by my decision. My advice is to follow your heart and wear what you wish to, for your special day. Make sure you are comfortable and everything will fall in place."

Ayesha Amin Nigam,
Creative Director & Fashion Stylist

"I was clear from the beginning that I won't buy anything that I can't repeat later. And, that I won't wear anything 'heavy'. So, for my wedding day, I wore a white bodysuit with an organza skirt, and slipped into a pair of wide-legged pants for the sundowner reception. [Designer] Gaurav Gupta and I designed the style together, and he suggested we add a cape to the second look to complete it. So, I had a five-part wedding outfit: a bodysuit, skirt, pants, cape, and a veil...all of which I can use separately!"

It took me a few months to get the piece together, as not many designers create white wedding gowns. I finally sat down one evening with Gaurav, and we decided everything in one go! I knew from his sketches and our ideas that the result would be exactly as I had envisioned. I was showered with compliments for how different it was.

My advice is to select a design that is not fussy and won't bother you as these things have a way of affecting one's mood."





Kaabia Grewal Shah, Co-Founder, Outhouse Jewellery

"I had a clear vision of what I wanted my wedding celebrations to be like...a three-day-long extravaganza in Phu Quoc, Vietnam, where each function truly defined my husband's and my strong personalities. We decided to keep it experimental, flamboyant, and artistic."

The first function was the Mad Mansion Party, for which I wore a custom-made gown and cape by Amit Aggarwal. With it, I wore an elaborate earcuff that my sister Sasha and I designed, featuring 780 semi-precious tourmalines and over 2,000 Swarovski crystals. We also created a body harness for this look, which had 10,000 crystals.

For our *mehendi* celebrations, we hosted a 'Le Hoi' party by the beach, which means carnival in Vietnamese. We had already held a small ceremony for my traditional henna party, so our guests got face painting and white henna patterns applied to their hands at this party. I truly enjoy Afro-tribal culture, and shared my ideas with our friends and designers Shivan & Narresh. They stitched a bamboo frame onto the blouse to accentuate my look, and it came together wonderfully.

Finally, for my wedding, I wore a custom-made, ecru-coloured *lehenga* by Shivan & Narresh that featured their signature carnation skein work and pearls.

Even today, people tell me how unique our wedding was, that it was more like a three-day-long festival. I would advise other brides to wear what is the truest representation of themselves. The devil is in the details, so I knew my wedding had to be perfect to the T."

Preyal Dewani, Founder of Handpicked Society

"My partner Dani and I were both sure that we didn't want our wedding outfit to be too traditional...we didn't want it to look like a costume, and we definitely wanted to be able to wear them again. Comfort was also important, and the styles had to represent our personalities, while being rooted in Indian design and craft."

Both of us have rather busy jobs and we were planning the wedding ourselves. We didn't have time to travel to India and found that the team at Rani by Raja was the ideal bridge between the team at Payal Singhal in India and us. We looked at pieces to see how we could tailor them to our vision, and even made sure we had pockets for make-up and phones!

Being yourself on your wedding day is incredibly important. Clothes are such a strong representation of identity, why use someone else's idea of what you should look like on such an important day? Enjoy yourself, and enjoy moments with the guests who have taken the time to celebrate with you."



Hanna S Khan, Luxury, Fashion, & Lifestyle Influencer

"For our reception, I wore a rose-gold, Elie Saab Couture bridal gown that Mr Saab custom-made for me. It had a 20-metres circumference, and was a masterpiece of construction. Ever since I was a young girl, I have been following fashion weeks and waited for the showstopper look to be revealed. My reception outfit, for me, had to be that 'grand finale' look that would leave people spellbound. I received many compliments from those who appreciate couture creations, and I was also mindful not to wear jewellery that could overpower the style.

For the *mehendi*, I wore a palazzo-like *sharara* and cape blouse designed by my sister, Ohaila Khan. The design took inspiration from an Art Deco, lace parasol, and it struck a balance between elegance and fierceness, which matches my personality and style sensibility. I chose to wear red to the *mehendi*, rather than orange, which was a departure from tradition. My friends and family thought my outfit was a refreshing change. It upsets me to see brides looking like clones, and I would advise brides-to-be to select an outfit that suits their personality." ■





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the latest in fashion,
beauty, and celebrity news.



the countdown

MORE THE MERRIER

*The finest fashion,
jewellery, and décor pieces
to fall in love with.*



BRIGHT FUTURE

The cheery cherry shade has found a bright pride of place in Punit Balana's range, Mandana. Inspired by Jaipur and its architecture, these essentials for women and men are well-suited to the intimate wedding, be that in person or digital.

Punit Balana
Styles from the
Mandana range,
prices upon request

IMAGE: IMAXTREE/CARLO SCARPATO. WORDS BY RADHIKA BHALLA.

The COUNTDOWN

POTTER AROUND

The endearing beauty of blue pottery never goes out of style. And the new range of chinoiserie-inspired ceramicware by The Decor Kart will find a happy spot in your home. From owl-shaped coin banks to hand-painted rabbits and tea sets, these collectibles from the Rendezvous with Blue range make great gifts as well.

Available at thedecorkart.com



GILDED PROMISE

Paying homage to the year Gustav Fabergé opened his jewellery boutique in St. Petersburg, the esteemed brand has created the 1842 Collection. This range of 11 pieces is inspired by the iconic egg-shaped hallmark, with a distinctly modern, minimal appeal. The necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and rings are crafted in 18-carat yellow gold, with delicate engraving alongside cut-out designs and a responsibly-sourced ruby hidden inside. The fine jewellery pieces work well for both day and evening looks.

The collection will be launched in September and will be available at the Diacolor boutique in Delhi



CALM TONES

Infuse shades of blue to your outfit for a soirée under the stars.

Veteran designer Hemant Trivedi is bringing in the calm by making aqua the hero of his latest collection, Paradoxical Shadows. The ombré-dyed silks and organza creations include both modern and traditional saris, tunics, and palazzo pants, among others, to suit the fuss-free, intimate weddings of our times. The best part is that the separates can be worn over the years with different combinations, as they are dressy and understated at once.

Available at hemanttrivedi.com and perniaspopupshop.com



MODERN LOVE

Be the belle of the ball with these intricate creations.

Whether you are attending a mehendi function or a beachside wedding, a stylish outfit is what you need to get the party started. Consider the latest collection by Qbik, Rang, that has been designed keeping in mind the young, stylish dresser. The outfits marry two, traditional craft techniques of Benarasi and Bandhani, in vivid colours of fuchsia pink, bright red, yellow, purple, and green. Take your pick from the sharara pants with kurtis, draped saris, kaftans, or lehangas that are paired with experimental blouses. To complete the look, the label has collaborated with jewellery-brand Fooljhadi for some standout pieces.

Available at Qbik store at Dhan Mill, Delhi



HIGH TIME

Horology aficionados have reason to celebrate. Montblanc has released a special timepiece to mark the 200th anniversary of French watchmaker Nicolas Rieussec's inking chronograph and the 9th edition of the Only Watch charity auction. The Star Legacy Nicolas Rieussec Chronograph Only Watch'21 Unique Piece will go under the hammer in November, and is a collector's piece to cherish.

Details at onlywatch.com



Mohini set, ₹1,20,000

The COUNTDOWN

Silver Myra
Earrings,
₹9,785



Silver
Utkarsha
Maathapatti,
₹45,320

Silver
Kumudini
Hook
Earrings,
₹6,077

Silver Gold-
plated Phulwari
Pearl Choker,
₹23,690

BLOSSOMING ROMANCE

Adorn yourself with precious jewellery that boasts delightful floral motifs.

The master craftsmen and women at Tribe by Amrapali have created a collection of pretty jewellery pieces that deserve a spot in your trinket box. The Parijat range is handmade in gold-plated silver, with pearls and coloured glass, and each design is a testament to the delicate workmanship that is the strength of India's rich heritage. Take your pick from the maathapattis, necklaces, earrings, and more, to shine bright.

Available at tribeamrapali.com

House of
Badnore
Platter,
₹3,200



RAY OF HOPE

Rumi's poem *Unfolding the Rose* inspired Archana Kumari Singh from House of Badnore to create her latest Rose collection. The extensive range include candlestands, platters, frames, saris, and more, that make for wonderful presents as well as home essentials. The brand also offers pocket squares and cufflinks for men, which are delivered across the country.

Available at houseofbadnore.com

SOFT TOUCH

Pamper yourself and your partner with ultra-soft, plush towels by luxury home furnishings brand

Maishaa
Towels,
₹2,995
(approx)

Maishaa. The towels have been designed and crafted in Portugal, and are woven using cotton and Modal yarn, ensuring that the lightweight, fluffy pieces leave you in a good mood right from the moment you get ready for the day.

Available at Home Stop and Home Centre stores across the country



Ashely Furniture
Homestore Wooden
furniture, prices
upon request

THE SUBTLE SHEEN OF SILVER

Make room for a sophisticated take on bridalwear.

Designers Monica and Karishma of the label Jade took inspiration from their personal silver jewellery collection to create their latest range, Shubhra. The subtle and elegant range of lehenga sets makes use of a variety of traditional embroidery techniques, paying ode to the timeless beauty of vintage silver pieces.

Available at the flagship stores in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Los Angeles

Jade by Monica
and Karishma
Rose Pink Lehenga
Set, ₹1,08,500



Jade by Monica and
Karishma Dark
Maroon Lehenga Set,
₹1,28,700

Flowerbox by
Meghaa Golden
Elegance, ₹10,000

ARTFUL SURPRISE

Add a touch of Japanese- flower- arrangement to your interiors, or your wedding décor, with the special displays by ikebana artist Meghaa. The youngest Master of the artform in the world, Meghaa has her own brand called Flower Box, from where you can order flowers for your loved ones, or your nuptials.

Orders and details at flowerbox.in



HOME SWEET HOME

Elegant interiors are, many consider, a good way to keep the peace at home. If you believe in the modern adage, consider the console tables by Ashley Furniture Homestore. The cream-toned, wooden designs have a weathered, rustic feel, which blend in seamlessly with any décor. Use the extra storage to stash away essentials when guests drop in last minute.

Available at store.ashleyfurniture.in



The COUNTDOWN



OUT OF THIS WORLD

Imaginative, abstract décor pieces for the artful home.



REGAL NOTES

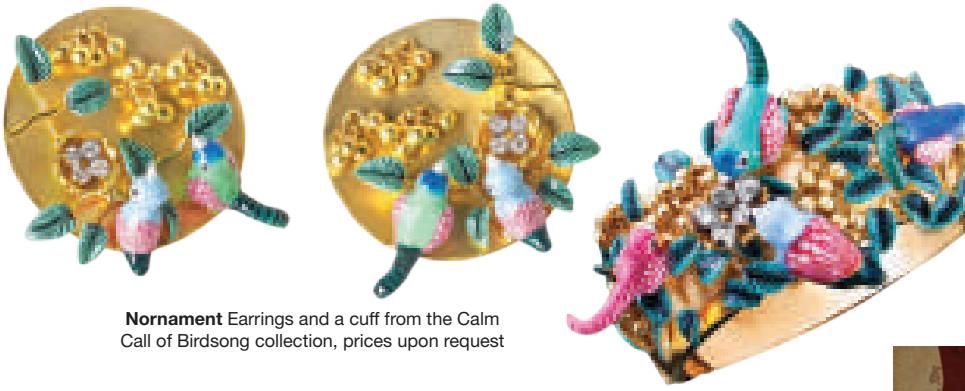
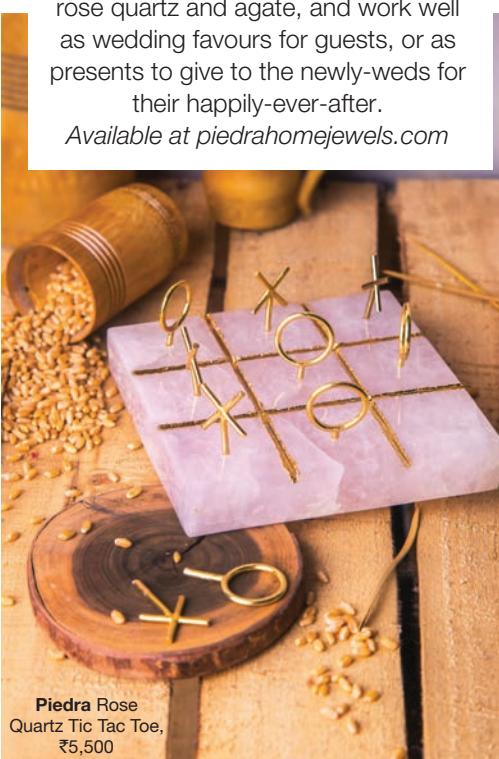
Delicate dupattas, embroidered anarkalis, and lehengas add a feminine touch to the bridal look... The Dori range by Label Megha & Jigar offers such styles by bridging traditional silhouettes with a minimal aesthetic, keeping in mind small-scale celebrations. Add these styles to your trousseau, which celebrate techniques like dori work, nalki work, and motifs from royal Rajasthani art.

Available at
meghaandjigar.com

HEALING POWER

Add the powers of crystals to your space with the platters, candlestands, napkin rings, coasters, clocks, and more from homegrown label, Piedra. The artefacts are made with stones like rose quartz and agate, and work well as wedding favours for guests, or as presents to give to the newly-weds for their happily-ever-after.

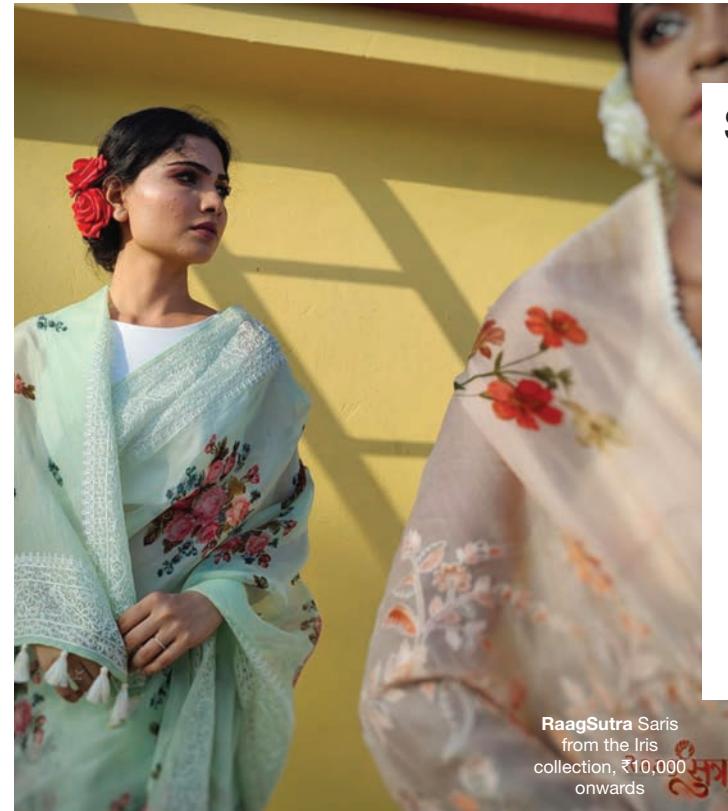
Available at piedrahomedjewels.com



FLIGHT OF FANCY

Birds of a feather deserve to be adorned on earrings, rings, cuffs, and pendants, as the latest collection by label Nornament proves. The 18-carat pieces from the Calm Call of Birdsong collection have been treated to German lacquer and French enamel to leave you in a chirpy mood.

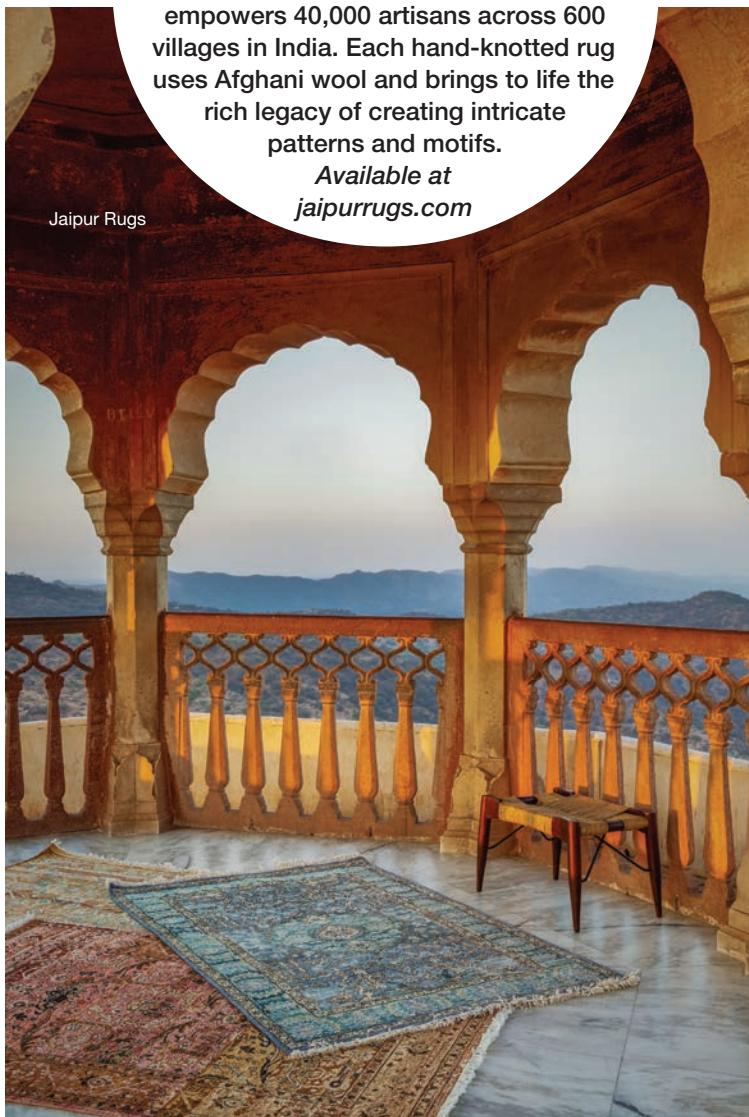
Details at nornament.com



SUMMER JAM

Pure organza and silk saris have been treated to hand-printed flowers and thread embroidery by Surat-based label, RaagSutra. The brand delivers across the country, and orders need to be placed two weeks in advance.

Available at
[@raagsutra](http://Instagram/@raagsutra)



BRIGHT SPARK

Diamonds are forever and this jewellery brand's new range of white diamonds set in 18-carat rose and yellow gold bring the point home. The modern designs from the Vivid Symphony range can be worn with a cascading gown on your reception, or even for a night out, long after the festivities are over.

Available at entice.in



GET ON THE FLOOR

The final touches of a room lie in its carpets and rugs, simple spreads that can make or break its look. For a contemporary spread that is rooted in tradition, turn to the Someplace in

Time range by Jaipur Rugs that empowers 40,000 artisans across 600 villages in India. Each hand-knotted rug uses Afghani wool and brings to life the rich legacy of creating intricate patterns and motifs.

Available at
jaipurrugs.com

The COUNTDOWN

PRETTY PASTELS

Make the most of a day function with light-toned outfits.

Designer Ridhi Mehra's latest range, Dawn of Love, marries classic silhouettes with a modern appeal. Keeping in mind the intimate wedding, the outfits offer a balance between dressy and understated, with a generous helping of frills and drapes. Think breezy chiffons, raw silk, organza, and net in gentle tones for a feminine appeal with these styles. Available at ridhimehra.com and the flagship store in Delhi



COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Get lost in kaleidoscope skies with the first-ever Haute Joaillerie collection by Gucci, which turns to nature and the vast universe for inspiration.

The over 130-piece strong range, called Hortus Deliciarum (Latin for 'Garden of Delights') includes motifs of magical beasts and symbols of nature in diamonds, sapphires, topaz, opals, and more. The pieces carry the flavour of Alessandro Michele's [Gucci's Creative Director] love for the unique and fantastical...certainly one to make a statement.

More details at the Gucci boutiques in Delhi and Mumbai



COLOUR CONFIDENT

Menswear has a charming update with the range of pastel-hued kurta, achkans, and churidaars by a young label named Kudrat Couture. The sharply-tailored pieces in the Aarambh collection inspired by the *Mahabharata*. The styles are

both summer-and winter-friendly, are well-suited to men who appreciate the finer details of style.

Available at Instagram/@ kudratcouture

MODEL: DAVINA ERAPPA. MAKE-UP: SHRUTI SHARMA. HAIR: PUSHKIN BHASIN. PRODUCTION: STUDIO LITTLE DUMPLING. LOCATION: TUARA FORT & PALACE.

The JEWELS



WHEN LOVE SPARKLES

Traditional jewellery to complete the bride's look, and contemporary essentials for a modern celebration.

Earrings, Bangles, Cuffs, and Maangtikka, prices upon request, all **Neety Singh Jewellery**. Lehenga, price upon request, **Tarun Tahiliani**.

Photographs by **Omkar Chitnis**. Styling and Creative Direction by **Who Wore What When**.

The JEWELS

Maangtikka, Earrings,
Bangles and Ring, prices
upon request, all **Aaharya**.
Roopal Black Sari, ₹69,000,
Raw Mango.

HEART OF GOLD

Gilded creations add a dose of glamour to the wedding attire. Invest in these keepsakes to pass down the generations.

*Photographs by OMKAR CHITNIS
Styling by WHO WORE WHAT WHEN*

Necklace and
Maangtikka, prices
upon request, both
Shri Paramani
Jewels: Akasia
Lehenga, price
upon request,
Anita Dongre.



The JEWELS

Earrings and Choker,
prices upon request,
Shri Paramani Jewels.
Lehenga Set, ₹1,43,800,
Raw Mango.



Matha Patti, Earrings and
Ring, prices upon request,
all **Joolry**. Embellished
Kurta and Lehenga Set,
₹1,30,000, **ITRH**.

The JEWELS



Cuffs, Bracelets,
Headwear, Earrings, and
Necklace, prices upon
request, **Neeta**
Boochra. Lehenga Set,
price upon request,
Anamika Khanna.

Earrings and Choker
Necklace, prices upon
request, both **Shri**
Paramani Jewels.
Lehenga Set, ₹1,43,800,
Raw Mango.



The JEWELS



Necklace, Bangles,
and Maangtikka, prices
upon request, all **Shri
Paramani Jewels**. Akasia
Lehenga, price upon
request, **Anita Dongre**.



Maangtikka, Earrings,
Bangles, and Ring, prices
upon request, all **Aaharya**.
Roopal Black Sari, ₹69,000,
Raw Mango.

Model: Dayana Erappa. Make-up: Shruti Sharma.
Hair: Pushkin Bhasin. Production: Studio Little Dumping.
Location: Tijara Fort & Palace.

The JEWELS

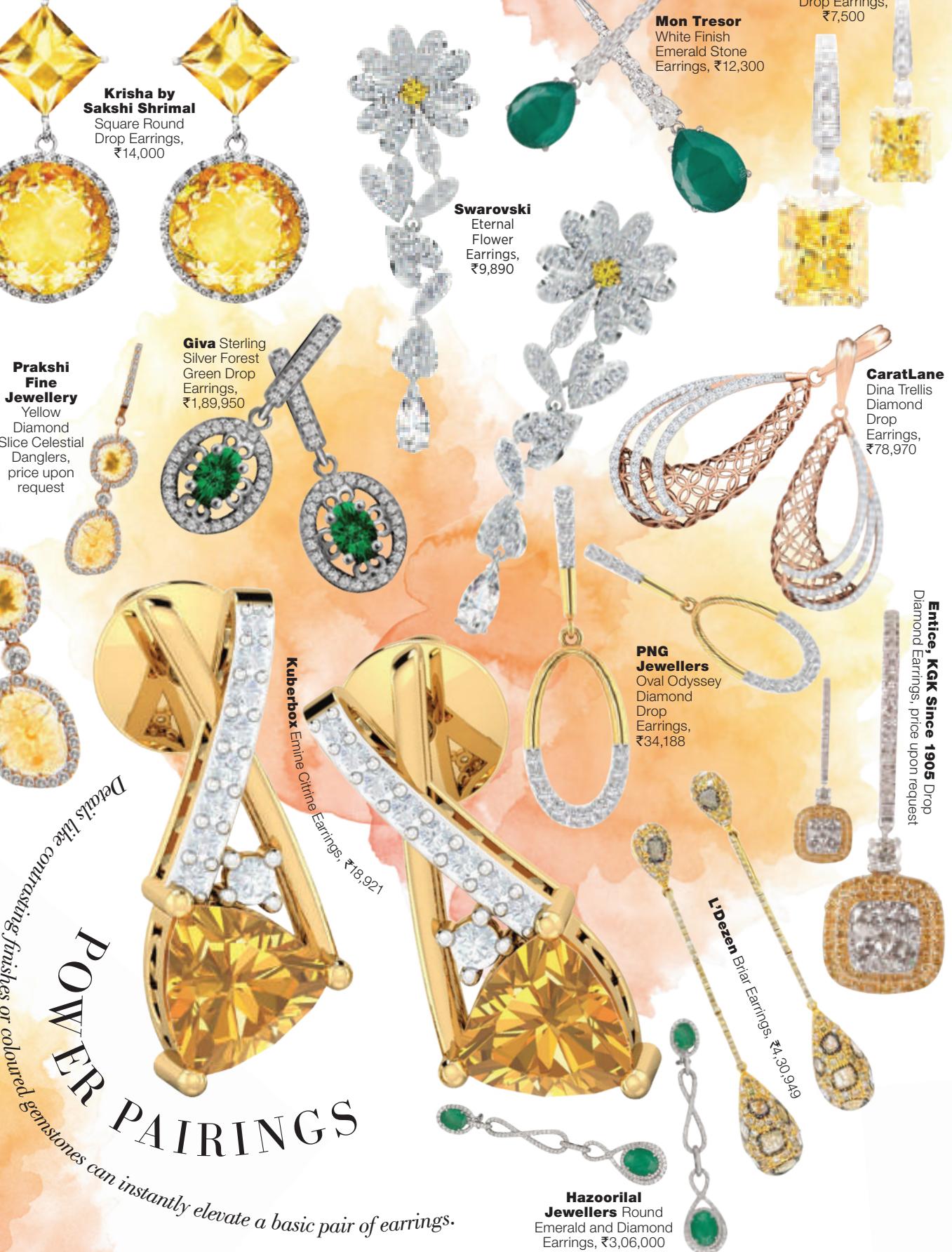


IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY: SNEHAM CHOURHARY.



The JEWELS

POWER PAIRINGS



IMAGES COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY: SNEHAM CHAUDHARY & AAKANKSHA BATRA.

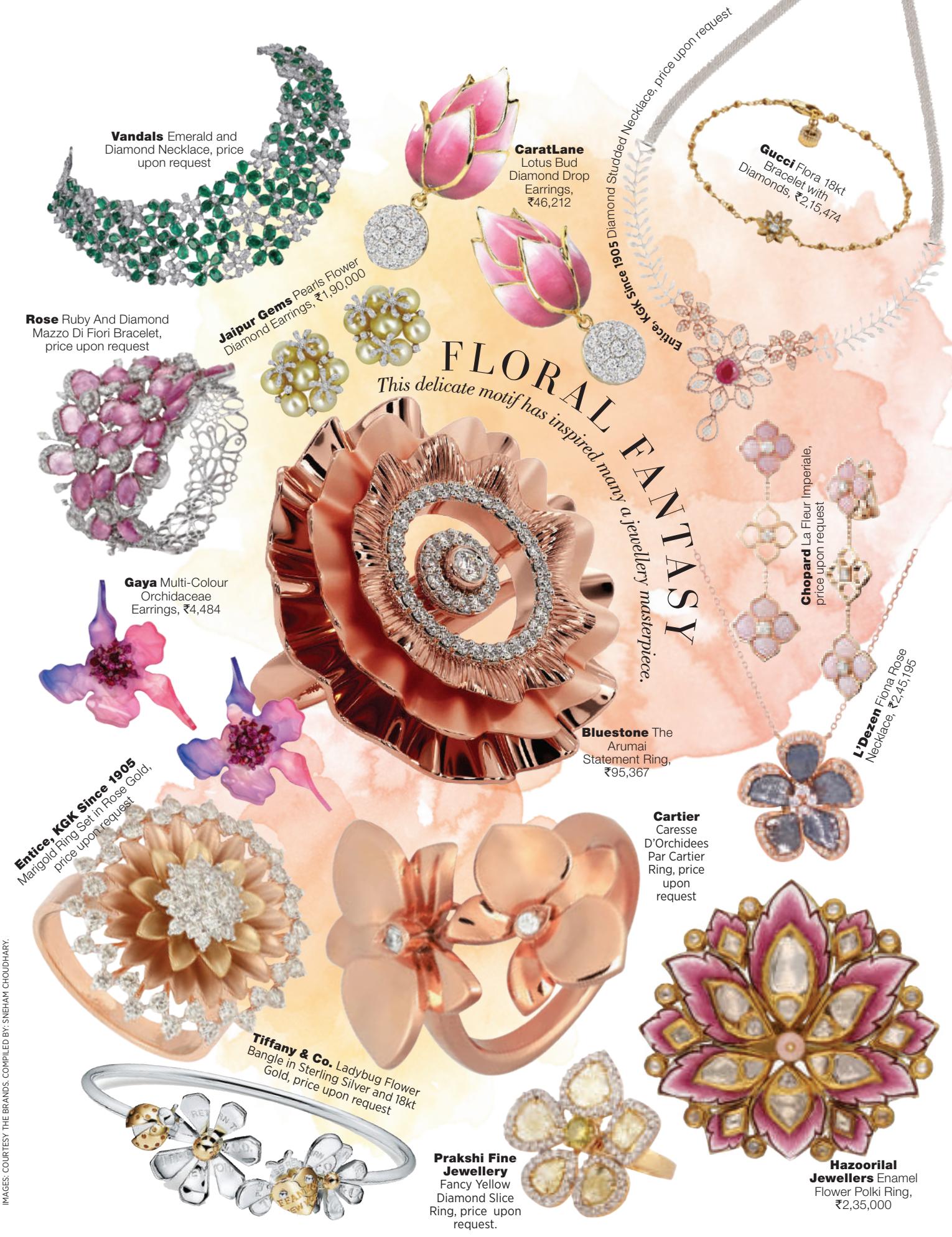
IMAGES COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY: SNEHAM CHAUDHARY.



The JEWELS



IMAGES COURTESY THE BRANDS COMPILED BY: SNEHAM CHOURDHARY & AAKANKSHA BATRA.



The JEWELS

Entice, KGK Since 1905
Statement Ring
Set in 18-karat Rose-Gold, price upon request

Kohinoor Jewellers Agra
Ruby and Diamond Earrings, price upon request

Niaj by Shraddha
The Mon'na Earrings, ₹2,78,000



Her Story
Laughter In The Rain Drop Earrings, price upon request



Hazoorilal Jewellery
Ruby & Diamond Bracelet, ₹2,0,000

Mahesh Notandass Fine Jewellery
Ruby and Diamond Ring, price upon request

Ananya Fine Jewellery
Scatter Diamond Ruby Hoops, price upon request

Vandals
Ruby & Diamond Necklace, price upon request

RESPLENDENT RUBIES

This gemstone lends an elegant touch to any jewel piece it adorns.



RK Jewellers
Ruby & Diamonds Necklace, price upon request

IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY: SNEHAM CHAUDHARY.

The DETAILS



MAKE A BOLD STATEMENT

Stunning accessories
to liven up your treasured trousseau.



Gucci Diana Bag, price upon request

The DETAILS



CANDY CRUSH

Bank on these lively accessories to instantly brighten up your look.

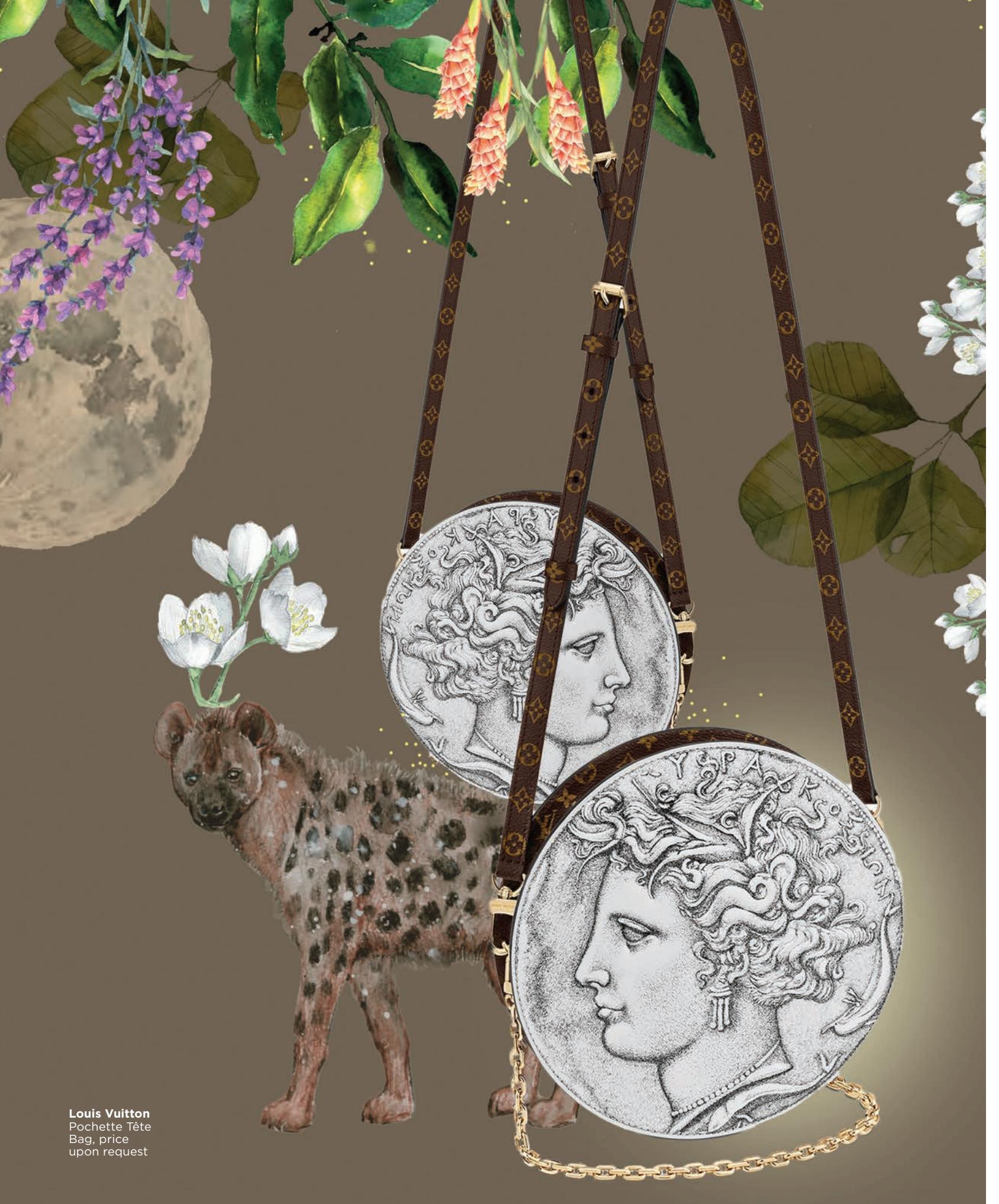
ANAMIKA KHANNA

1. Fendi Baguette 1997 Pink Satin Bag with Sequins, ₹2,78,835.
2. Kohinoor Jewellers Agra Gold and Stone Necklace Set, price upon request.
3. Anita Dongre Rose Gold Jhumki Earrings, ₹7,500.
4. Jimmy Choo Sunbleached Napa Sandals with Crystal Embellishment, ₹1,82,877.
5. Amaris Jewels by Preerna Rajpal Pristine Tanzanites Choker, ₹4,40,000.
6. Christian Louboutin Half d'Orsay Embellished in Handmade Embroidery, ₹2,07,777.
7. Anchal Sayal Blush Potli Bag, ₹9,100.
8. Aranyani Stone Drop Baguette, ₹93,686.
9. Gucci Cat-Eye Sunglasses with Crystals, ₹78,449.
10. Oceedee x Rahul Mishra Embroidered Stilettos, ₹14,999.
11. Renu Oberoi Diamond and Ruby Ring, price upon request.
12. Tarun Tahiliani Rose Gold Hand Embroidered Potli Bag, ₹13.
13. BVLGARI Allegra Watch, ₹23,22,000.
14. Isharya Tupe Hoop Earrings, ₹8,099.

ALL IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY: MILONI THACKER.



Christian Dior Lady D-Lite Bag with Orange and Multicolour Dragon and Fire Embroidery, ₹3,41,091



The DETAILS



SEEMA GUJRAL



The DETAILS



ALL IMAGES COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY: AAKANKSHA BATRA.

The DETAILS



1. **Fuchsia by Aashka Mehta** Silver Mirror Work Potli, ₹3,360. 2. **Kalki Fashion** Mauve Beige and Green Jhumkas, ₹6,500. 3. **Hazoorilal Jewellers** Enamel Ruby Choker Necklace Set, ₹12,80,000. 4. **Needle Dust** Darpan Juttis, ₹7,790. 5. **Sabyasachi** Kutch Nani Bucket Bag, ₹71,750. 6. **Christian Dior** Brown Flash Gold Sunglasses, ₹25,949. 7. **Kanvas** Floral Mughal Loafers, ₹1,800. 8. **Tarun Tahiliani** White Pearl Hand Embroidered Clutch, ₹34,900. 9. **Trink** Graphic Print Box Clutch, ₹3,599. 10. **Zever by Geeta** Gold Plated Bridal Maangtikka, ₹10,300. 11. **Kari** Gold Plated Emerald Gajra Bangles, ₹39,340. 12. **Jaipur Watch Company** Pichwai Watch, ₹15,000.

ALL IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY: MILONI THAKKER



The DETAILS



1. Fendi White Fendi IShine Watch, ₹2,90,500. **2.** Jaquet Droz Lady 8 Petite Mother-of-Pearl Watch, price upon request. **3.** Dior 18-carat Yellow Gold, Diamonds and Decorative Stones Gem Dior Watch, price upon request. **4.** Rolex The Oyster Perpetual Day-Date 36 Watch, price upon request. **5.** Omega Constellation Petite Seconde Women's Watch, price upon request. **6.** Piaget Limelight Stella Watch, price upon request. **7.** Michael Kors Round Analogue Watch with Rose-Gold Dial, ₹21,995. **8.** Titan Raga Moments of Joy Pink Mother-of-Pearl Dial Analog Watch, ₹14,495. **9.** Harry Winston Twist Automatic Watch, price upon request. **10.** Bulgari Allegra Watch, ₹23,22,000. **11.** Chopard Esperanza Watch, price upon request. **12.** Chanel Code Coco Watch, ₹46,64,000.

IMAGES: COURTESY THE BRANDS. COMPILED BY AMISHA ZALANI AND AAKANKSHA BATRA.

These glamourous watches will serve as sparkling heirlooms for the new-age bride.

SUNEET VARMA



1. Tissot Seastar 1000 Chronograph Watch, ₹40,500. **2.** Michael Kors Dylan Chronograph Watch, ₹16,795. **3.** Jaipur Watch Co. Jumping Hour Watch, ₹50,000. **4.** Tag Heuer Carrera Automatic Watch, ₹2,33,750. **5.** Fossil Chronograph Blue Leather Watch, ₹7,995. **6.** Longines Sunray Blue Watch, ₹1,20,500. **7.** Omega De Ville Hour Vision Co-Axial Master Chronometer Watch, ₹3,88,000. **8.** Ulysse Nardin Marine Torpilleur Watch, ₹5,84,600. **9.** Hugo Boss Essential Blue Dial Watch, ₹19,500. **10.** Tommy Hilfiger Round Dial Quartz Watch, ₹19,500. **11.** Breitling Super Chronomat 44mm Men's Watch, ₹6,69,172. **12.** Maserati Potenza Blue Dial Watch for Men, ₹20,700.

AMARE



Harper's BAZAAR

INDIA

Follow @bazaarindia on
INSTAGRAM
for exclusive insights on fashion, beauty, luxury, and more.

The GROOM THE STYLISH SET

*In a Brides Today exclusive,
22 men come together in the
season's finest outfits,
signalling all that is
modern, original, and
altogether dapper.*

Photographs: KARISHMA BEDI
and VIJIT GUPTA
Styling by SHAURYA ATHLEY



On Varun: Peonies Printed Sherwani and Pants, ₹48,000
Siddartha Tytler. Brooch,
Jadau Jewellery by Falguni Mehta. Rings and
Bracelets, **Amarapali.** All
prices upon request. Shoes,
Varun's own.

VARUN
AGRAWAL
BLOGGER

STYLE TIP
Large prints in pastel hues are perfect for a day function, while solid accessories lend an elegant touch to the ensemble.



ROHIT GANDHI
AND RAHUL
KHANNA
DESIGNERS

STYLE TIP

Refreshing details like a brooch can instantly spruce up a classic *bandhgala*.

On Rohit and Rahul: All clothing, **Rohit Gandhi + Rahul Khanna**. Brooches, **Sunita Shekhawat**. All prices upon request.



SIDDHARTH
BATRA
BLOGGER

STYLE TIP

Graphic elements—like simple stripes of white across a dark canvas—instantly make an outfit more memorable.

On Siddharth: Black Velvet Sculpted Overlap Bandhgala and Trouser, ₹90,000, both **Gaurav Gupta**. Brooch, price upon request, **Sunita Shekhawat**.

ANKUSH
BAHUGUNA
BLOGGER

STYLE TIP

Throw on a shawl in hues matching your outfit to amplify the colour palette.

On Ankush:
Bandhgala, ₹28,500, Shawl,
₹27,500, and Shoes,
₹18,000, all **Divyam**
Mehta. Silver Bangles and
Rings, price upon request,
Amrapali.



GAUTAM SETH AND
PRATEEK JAIN
CO-FOUNDERS, KLOVE

STYLE TIP

Layer a floral *sherwani*
over a crisp white
kurta to inject
freshness to the look.

On Gautam: Kurta, ₹26,500,
Rahul Mishra. Brooch,
Outhouse. Ring, **DiColor**.

On Prateek: Kurta and
Sherwani, ₹1,66,900, **Rahul
Mishra**. Brooch, **DiColor**.
All prices are upon request.





RAHUL
JHANGIANI
PHOTOGRAPHER

STYLE TIP
Minimalists will
appreciate the subtlety
in a jacket that features
embroidery in the
same tone.

On Rahul: Jacket, **Falguni**
Shane Peacock. Brooch,
Dell Art Inde. All prices are
upon request.



ARVIND
VIJAY MOHAN
CEO, ARTERY INDIA

STYLE TIP
White, one of the most
versatile shades in the
colour wheel, allows you
the freedom to put together
various looks, from
traditional to Indo-western.

On Arvind: Handloom
Textured Bandhgala,
₹40,000, and Pants, price
upon request. **Khanijo**.
Brooch and Ring, price
upon request. **Jindal**
Jewellers. Watch, his own.



NIKHIL AND
SHANTANU MEHRA
DESIGNERS

STYLE TIP
Military-inspired
elements—including
brooches and buttons—
work seamlessly with
kurtas just as they do
with a blazer.

On Shantanu and Nikhil: All
Clothing and Brooches,
Shantanu & Nikhil. All
prices are upon request.



PARAM SAHIB
DESIGNER

STYLE TIP
Who said bold shades are
only reserved for the
bride? A bright pair of
pants paired with a muted
sherwani makes for a
delightful *sangeet* look.

On Param:
Peppermint
Sherwani with
Geometric
Embroidery,
₹57,000,
Siddartha Tytler.
Shoes, **Shoe
Society**. Brooch,
**Sambhav
Rakyan**. Rings
and Bracelets,
**AKM Mehrasons
Jewellers**. All
prices upon
request. Pants and
Socks, his own.

ROD ANKER

HAIRSTYLIST
AND FOUNDER,
ROD ANKER SALONS

STYLE TIP

A well-tailored *bandhgala* is all you need to look sharp on your wedding day. Add a jewelled detail to elevate the style.

On Rod: Midnight Bandhgala with Velvet Detailing and Pants, both **Rohit Gandhi + Rahul Khanna**. Brooch,rings, and Bracelet, all **Outhouse**. All prices are upon request.



SHIVAN
BHATIYA
AND
NARRESH
KUKREJA
DESIGNERS

STYLE TIP

Traditional doesn't have to be boring. Exhibit A: these textured and embroidered kurtas that are perfect for a destination wedding.

On Shivan and Narresh: All Clothing, **Shivan & Narresh**. Rings and Bracelets, **Jindal Jewellers**. All prices upon request.



GURFATEH
PIRZADA
ACTOR

STYLE TIP

The easiest way to experiment with your wedding look is by teaming a formal outfit with a pair of printed espadrilles or mules.

On Gurfateh: Asymmetric Moss Green Bandhgala and Pants, ₹37,995, both **Dhruv Vaish**. Brooch, price upon request, **Sunita Shekhawat**. Shoes, price upon request, **Shivan & Narresh**.



ABHINAV
MATHUR

BLOGGER

STYLE TIP

Add a little drama to an all-black outfit with surface sequins for understated elegance.

On Abhinav: Dori Embroidered Bandhgala, **Anita Dongre**. Brooch, **DiaColor**. All prices are upon request.

SMARAN
SAHU
ACTOR

STYLE TIP

For the big Indian wedding gala, invest in a solid-hued *sherwani* with an embroidered twist.

Keep it monotone, or add a contrasting kurta to kick things up a notch.

On Smaran: Jacket, Kurta, and Pants, all **Manish Malhotra**. Shoes, **Artimen**. Socks, **Mint & Oak**. Rings and Bracelets, **Jet Gems**. Silver Brooches with Precious Stones, **Amapali**. All prices upon request.



DANIEL
BAUER
CELEBRITY MAKE-UP ARTIST

STYLE TIP

Bold, metallic accents are perfect for the groom, or guest, who enjoys being the centre of attention.

On Daniel:
Handwoven Metallic Polymer Jacket with Corded Details, ₹1,25,000, **Amit Aggarwal**. All Rings and Brooch, price upon request, **Maheesh Notandass Fine Jewellery**.



RIAAN J.
GEORGE
BLOGGER

STYLE TIP

A pair of fun socks is a great way to add a playful touch to your wedding look.

On Riaan: Midnight Blue Concentric Bandhgala and Trouser, ₹95,000, both **Gaurav Gupta**. Brooch, Rings, and Bracelet, all **Gehna Jewellers**. Socks, **Mint & Oak**. Shoes, **Artimen**. All prices upon request.



SAHIL SHARMA
(ZAEDEN)
SINGER AND PRODUCER

STYLE TIP
Fusing a modern pattern with a traditional silhouette makes for an eye-pleasing effect.

On Sahil: Handloom Silk Bandhgala and Pants, ₹45,000 **Khanijo**. Brooch, price upon request, **Goenka India**.



USAAMAH
SIDDIQUE
BLOGGER

STYLE TIP

While a cream *sherwani* might be the minimalist groom's dream, textured details can lend an interesting element.

On Usaamah: Sherwani with Metallic Cord Texture, ₹89,900, and Pants, price upon request, **Rimzim Dadu**. Brooch, price upon request, **Anmol Jewellers**. Shoes, price upon request, **Modello Domani**.



Hair and Make-Up:
Karan Rai, Kiran, and
Bhavya Arora at
Eficiente Artist
Management. Fashion
Assistants: Aprajita Puri
and Janvhi Jaiswal.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARJUN MARK

The BEAUTY

P R E T T Y
A S A
P I C T U R E

Luxurious hair treatments to
indulge in before the big day,
potions for exceptional skin,
and the best palettes to
highlight your features.





PHOTOGRAPH: ERRIKOS ANDREOU

RESTORE YOUR MANE GLORY

Brides Today recommends indulging in these luxurious treatments to achieve healthy, lustrous locks before the big day. By Meghna Sharma

Your hair is such an important part of your bridal look. Whether you prefer glamourous 'dos or no-fuss hairstyles, healthy locks are crucial to ensuring your look comes together. *Brides Today* spoke to the experts to help zero-in on the treatments to consider in the run-up to your special day.

PROGENRA TREATMENT

Stress-induced hairfall can leave you even more worried. However, if it persists, consider this advanced rejuvenation and micro-surgical hair-growth treatment. Available at ISAAC Luxe in New Delhi and Mumbai, the Founder and leading cosmetologist Dr Geetika Mittal Gupta explains: "This treatment uses regenerative cells extracted from the patient's scalp to stimulate specific areas that are experiencing hair loss. Progenra improves the skin of the scalp, the density of the existing strands, and stimulates hair growth." The Progenra Treatment is FDA-approved, and promises to deliver quick results with no downtime.

OLAPLEX

One of the most-trending in-salon treatments, Olaplex has secured a cult following in the past few years. Colourists often use this to keep their clients' hair in good condition, as chemical treatments are harsh and can destroy the hair fibre. This is a three-step routine, the first two of which need to be performed by professionals in a salon, and the third step includes an at-home product. Olaplex No 1 can be used as is or mixed with colour and a pre-lightener; while Olaplex No 2 is a Bond Perfector, used post-rinse. Finally, Olaplex No 0 and 3-7 are for at-home use. This treatment helps rebuild damaged disulphide bonds that often break during various chemical processes, and it strengthens and structures the integrity of your hair...consider this a 'reset', if you will. Available at Jean Claude Biguine in Mumbai, the treatment takes 45 minutes to an hour, and the salon experts recommend brides get the treatment done thrice before their wedding, to prepare their hair.

SYSTEM PROFESSIONAL ELIXIR PRO TREATMENT

This rich in-salon treatment, infused with argan, jojoba and almond oils, leaves locks smooth and shiny, instantly. The sensorial

four-step treatment fuses the benefits of two individual products into one personalised hair-care experience. The Elixir Pro Treatment starts with an intense massage, which ensures that the ingredients penetrate deep into the scalp while stimulating blood flow. And the mix of lightweight oils nourish each strand and help in taming frizz, smoothening the hair shaft, and enhancing luminosity.

KÉRASTASE CHRONOLOGISTE CAVIAR VIP RITUAL

If your hair has been looking dull and lifeless, this treatment was designed for you. The Kérastase Chronologiste Caviar VIP Ritual is a luxurious treatment that helps rejuvenate the scalp and hair fibre. The Chronologiste range is powered by three, star ingredients—hyaluronic acid, Vitamin E, and abyssine—that restore your hair's health. Created exclusively for the Chronologiste Ritual, the mimetic caviar pearls in the serum contain abyssine—a precious molecule found 300 metres beneath the sea that calms, repairs, and protects the scalp. The result: sleek, silky locks with newfound volume. The best part is that this restorative treatment works for all hair types.

SEBASTIAN PROFESSIONAL DARK OIL INTENSE THERAPY
Short on time? This quick-fix, in-salon treatment can be performed in under an hour, and leaves hair feeling nourished. The routine involves cleansing and prepping hair with Sebastian Professional's Dark Oil Shampoo, which is followed by a 10-minute mask, quick rinse, and an application of Dark Oil, which is the hero product of this treatment. A luxurious blend of natural oils like sandalwood, cedarwood, and argan, this oil smells delightful along with replenishing the hair. Formulated with DiffusX Technology, the lightweight potion disappears into the tresses, and makes them more manageable. ■



SCULPTED PERFECTION

On days you want to give your best features a lift, consider these hard-working contour palettes featuring cream and powder formulas that work well with different skin types.



BY: MEGHNA SHARMA. PHOTOGRAPH: MEHTAB MANN

Anastasia Beverly Hills
Face Palette in Off To Costa Rica, ₹6,000

Flower Beauty
Lift & Sculpt Contouring Palette in Light/Medium, ₹1,250

Guerlain
Terracotta Sun Trio, ₹5,050

Benefit Cosmetics
Cheek Stars Reunion Tour 2020 Cheek Palette, ₹6,200

Huda Beauty
3D Cream and Powder Highlighter Palette, ₹3,600

Kevyn Aucoin
The Art of Sculpting and Defining Volume III Palette, ₹4,780 (approx) at cultbeauty.com

M·A·C Studio Fix Sculpt & Shape Face Palette, ₹5,300

Smashbox
The Cali Contour Palette, ₹3,750

Dior Dior Backstage Contour Palette, ₹4,300

Too Faced
Cocoa Contour Contouring and Highlighting Palette, ₹3,900

Kay Beauty
Contour & Highlight Pro Palette in Contour Genius, ₹1,099

Fenty Beauty
Match Stix Trio, ₹4,000 (approx.)

Charlotte Tilbury Filmstar Bronze & Glow Palette, ₹5,800

Creating an illusion of higher cheekbones or a sharper jawline will be a breeze with the help of these best-selling contour palettes. Invest in a two-to-four-shade palette (featuring a mix of bronzer, highlighter, and blush) if you like to keep things simple. However, to achieve pro-level perfection, consider a multi-shade palette like the ones by Too Faced, Smashbox, or M·A·C.



BY: MEGHNA SHARMA.

BRIGHT EYED

Puffy eyes can instantly reveal a night of poor sleep. To combat that, bring home a potent formula that promises to depuff under-eye bags, blur fine lines, and diminish dark circles.



NEUTRAL NECESSITIES

While you might be tempted to reach out for the brightest red in your bridal beauty box, don't underestimate the versatility of a beautiful nude lip product.



BY: MEGHNA SHARMA. PHOTOGRAPH: KARISHMA BEDI.



Just like the colour red, not all nudes are created equal, so you must invest in one that works for you. For instance, pinkish-nudes look flattering on fair skin tones. Meanwhile, medium skin tones can pull off most shades, and caramel and beige shades in sheer formulas look best on them. Finally, dark skin tones can consider chocolate and rosy-browns to ensure the face doesn't appear ashy.

Mont Blanc
Lady Emblem
L'Eau EDP,
₹6,050/50ml



You don't have to let go of a beautiful fragrance flacon just because it is over...there are several ways you can upcycle it. Stack empty bottles on a tiered tray to create a stylish display for your bathroom shelf or dresser. Or, turn your favourites into a vase to house fresh flower stems or create a permanent arrangement with the help of silk blossoms.



Miu Miu
L'eau Bleue
EDP,
₹4,400/30ml

The House Of Oud
Grape Pearls
EDP,
₹15,200/75ml



Marc Jacobs Daisy
Anniversary
Deluxe Edition
EDT,
₹19,800/100ml

Aigner
Starlight
Gold EDP,
₹5,800/100ml

Louis Vuitton

On The Beach EDP,
price upon request

ON THE BEACH
LOUIS VUITTON

AERIN
Hibiscus
Palm EDP,
price upon
request

Versace
Eros Pour
Femme
EDP,
₹6,200/50ml

Bulgari Le
Gemme
Amarena EDP,
₹21,500/100ml

Carolina Herrera 212
VIP Party
Fever EDP,
₹5,725/80ml



BY: NEGHINA SHARMA

FRAGRANT MEMORIES

Luxury fragrances are often housed in artistic bottles that work perfectly for a bride's dresser and allow her to reminisce special memories whenever she revisits them.



PHOTOGRAPH: NISHANTH RADHAKRISHNAN.

The BEAUTY

THE SKINCARE HEROES

A carefully-curated edit of the most trust-worthy formulas to ensure you look flawless on your big day.



PHOTOGRAPH: PRASAD NAIK

A collage of various skincare serums and products, including Kiehl's Vital Skin-Strengthening Super Serum, L'Occitane Harmonie Divine Serum, Dermalogica Biolumin-C Serum, Sunday Riley C.E.O. 15% Vitamin C Brightening Serum, Guerlain Abeille Royale Double R Serum, Elizabeth Arden Visible Whitening Melanin Control Day Essence, Thalgo Hyalu-ProCollagène Intensive Wrinkle Correcting Serum, Glamglow Super Serum, and others.

Your morning and night-time routines are incomplete without a serum armed with active ingredients that promise to boost luminosity, even out skin tone, tackle pigmentation, refine texture, and blur fine lines. Splurge on one of these potent formulas to achieve your best skin ever.

Kiehl's
VITAL
SKIN-STRENGTHENING
SUPER SERUM
Skin to Help Repair
Tissues while Boosting
and Improving Texture
With Hyaluronic Acid &
Organic Herbal Complex
0 fl. oz. - 30 ml
₹4,500

L'Occitane en Provence
Harmonie Divine Serum,
₹15,500

Sunday Riley
C.E.O. 15%
Vitamin C
Brightening
Serum, sephora.
now.com,
₹7,660

Herbivore
Prism 20% AHA
+ 5% BHA
Exfoliating Glow
Serum, ₹4,000
(approx.)

Innisfree
Black Tea
Youth
Enhancing
Ampoule,
₹2,780

Sulwhasoo
Concentrated
Ginseng
Renewing
Serum,
₹12,900

Chanel
Le Lift
Sérum,
price upon
request

La Prairie
Skin Caviar
Liquid Lift,
price upon
request

Victoria Beckham Beauty
Cell Rejuvenating
Power Serum, price
upon request

D'You
Hustle Face
Serum,
₹3,200

Glamglow
Superserum
6 Acid
Refining
Treatment,
₹4,500

iS Clinical
Active
Serum,
₹7,700

Murad Vita -C
Glycolic Brightening
Serum, ₹6,650 at
nykaa.com

Elizabeth Arden
Visible
Whitening
Melanin
Control Day
Essence,
₹7,575

Thalgo
Hyalu-
ProCollagène
Intensive Wrinkle
Correcting
Serum, ₹9,440

Dior
Capture
Youth
Matte Maximizer
SÉRUM MATIFIANT
SIGNES DE L'ÂGE RETARDES
AGE-DELAY
MATTIFYING SERUM

Dior
Capture
Youth Matte
Maximizer
Age-Delay
Mattifying Serum,
price upon
request

The BEAUTY WILD AND FREE

The newest member of the Hermès Twilly d'Hermès family will entice you with its carefree, modern spirit.

By Meghna Sharma

Born in 2017, the Hermès Twilly d'Hermès fragrance amassed a cult following soon after it was launched. Created by renowned perfumer Christine Nagel, it was a scent like no other—woven with

daring notes of ginger, bitter orange, tuberose, and jasmine. In 2019, Hermès added another charming version to the series. However, there is something strikingly different about the latest iteration.

While the inspiration behind Hermès Twilly d'Hermès Eau Ginger remains the same, it stands out because of its strong character and whimsical spirit. Speaking about her latest creation, Christine tells

Brides Today, "The boldness of youth is still my major source of inspiration. Like its two predecessors, Twilly Eau Ginger was inspired by the young women of today—women who embody burgeoning femininity and love playing with convention."

Housed in a similar flacon to the original, and featuring the signature silk ribbon around the neck, Twilly Eau Ginger is a flash of radiance. Fusing three distinct notes together—vibrant peony, vivid candied ginger, and supple, lively cedar—this scent creation exudes sunshine and joyful energy...one which a bride-to-be can never have enough of. ■

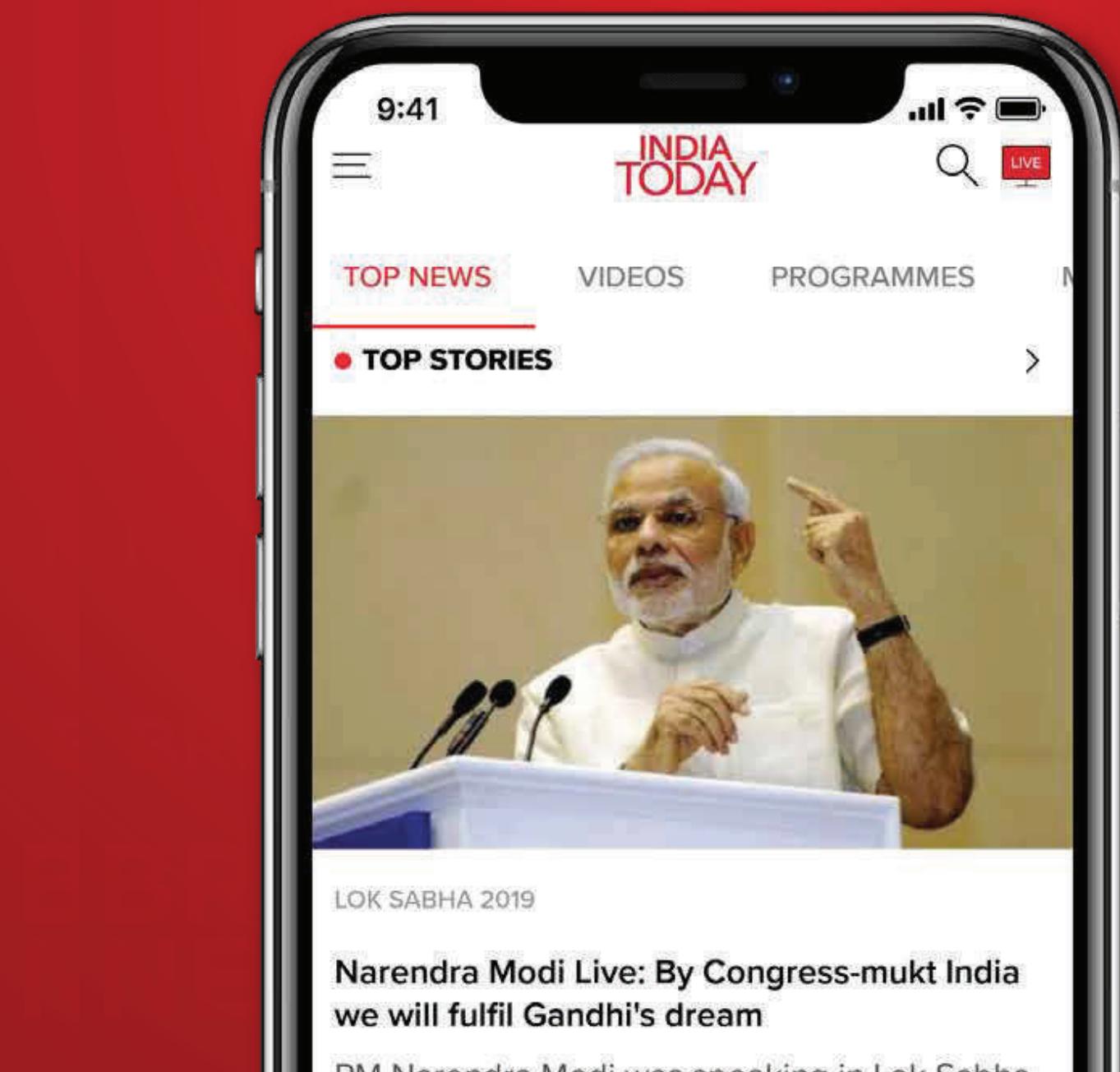
Hermès Twilly d'Hermès Eau Ginger is priced at ₹11,500/85ml and now available at Hermès stores across the country



INDIA
TODAY

BREAKING NEWS

JUST A TAP AWAY

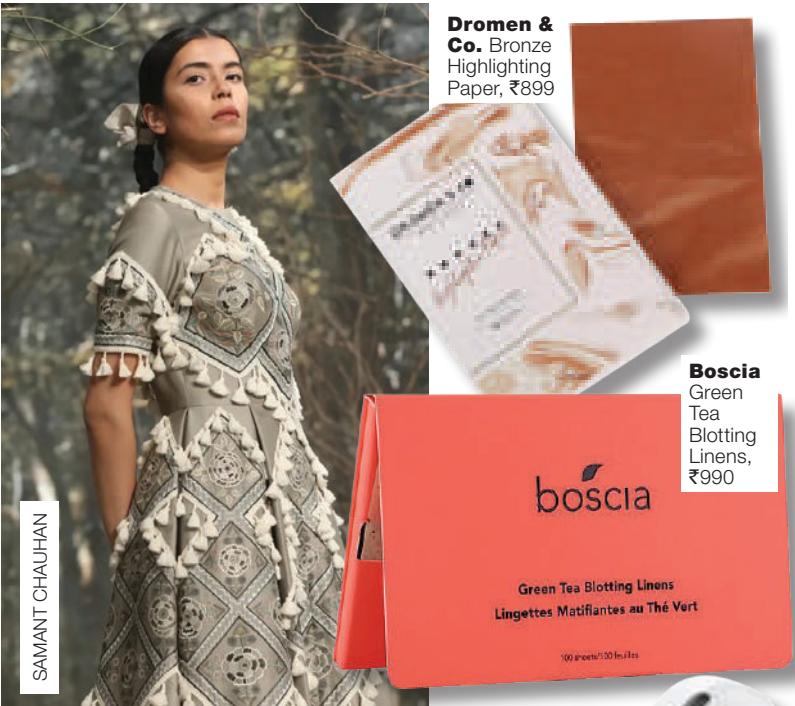


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The BEAUTY NEWS



HEALTHY, STYLED LOCKS

The greatest gift you can give your hair is minimum damage when using heat-styling tools. L'Oréal Professionnel recently launched a one-of-its-kind multi-styling tool, the SteamPod 3.0, which allows you to straighten hair or create waves with the help of its patented 'steam' technology. SteamPod is accompanied with an integrated comb, which detangles hair and provides hold for faster results. The tool works for all hair types and causes 91 percent less damage.



THE PERFECT PALETTE

Huda Beauty has reimagined its iconic New Nude Palette and the result is impressive, to say the least. Featuring 18 shades in a host of finishes like high-shine metallics, velvety-soft mattes, reflective marble creams, and a never-seen-before gloss coated with bronze and berry pearls, the Naughty Nude Palette allows you to get creative with your various make-up moods. Whether it is a single wash of colour, smokey eyes, or colour-blocked lids, this hardworking, multi-tasking palette will help you serve alluring eye looks.

PAPER CURRENCY

No, we are not referring to money... The latest innovation in the world of beauty allows you to refresh your skin or add a hint of blush, highlighter, or bronzer by gently dabbing a 'formula-infused paper' on your face. Perfect for travelling, Boscia's credit card-sized sheets of paper instantly blot away excess oil without disturbing your make-up, while Dromen & Co. has launched two variants (to be used as blush and bronzer-highlighter) that absorb excess oil from the face while adding a hint of colour or radiance to the face and body.



VARUN BAWH



Pilgrim
Secrets Of
Jeju Island
Volcanic Lava
Ash Face
Wash, ₹350

Pilgrim
Secrets Of
Vinotherapie
Red Wine
Body Wash
with Mulberry
& Aloe, ₹450

Pilgrim
Secrets Of
Jeju Island
Sulphate
Free
Shampoo,
₹400

THE SECRET BEAUTY CODE

Pilgrim, a new vegan-certified, cruelty-free, and FDA-approved brand, uses hand-picked ingredients from different parts of the world to create products focused on improving the health of one's skin and hair. Boasting an array of products for the face, body, and hair, Pilgrim currently has two main ranges: Secrets Of Jeju Island and Secrets Of Vinotherapie. Both of them utilise time-tested ingredients from the South of France and Jeju Island in South Korea, which help you achieve luminous skin and lustrous locks.



Chopard
Happy Chopard
Lemon Dulci
EDP,
₹10,000/100ml

CITRUSY GOODNESS

Bored of sweet, floral scents? Allow Chopard to infuse a zesty energy into your day with their latest launch: Happy Chopard Lemon Ducci. The scent has been especially blended to uplift the wearer's mood, featuring notes of ginger and green leaves that are boosted with sweet apple, and finished with aromas of mango, cucumber, and orange flower. We suggest adding this perfume to your beauty box to help you stay calm during the strenuous wedding prep.

FOR A RADIANT COMPLEXION

We all need a trusted formula that can guarantee luminous skin. And this tiny bottle houses a luxurious serum that comes with the same promise. Formulated with 100 percent pure kumkumadi oil—a trusted, age-old Ayurvedic formulation that is hailed for its brightening properties—this lightweight serum is a unique combination of pure oils and bio actives that help even-out the skin tone, reduce pigmentation, and lighten dark circles. Plus, it has anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, and antiseptic properties, and works well for sensitive skin types too.



Mantra Herbal
Anantam
Soundarya
Kumkumadi
Serum, ₹2,295

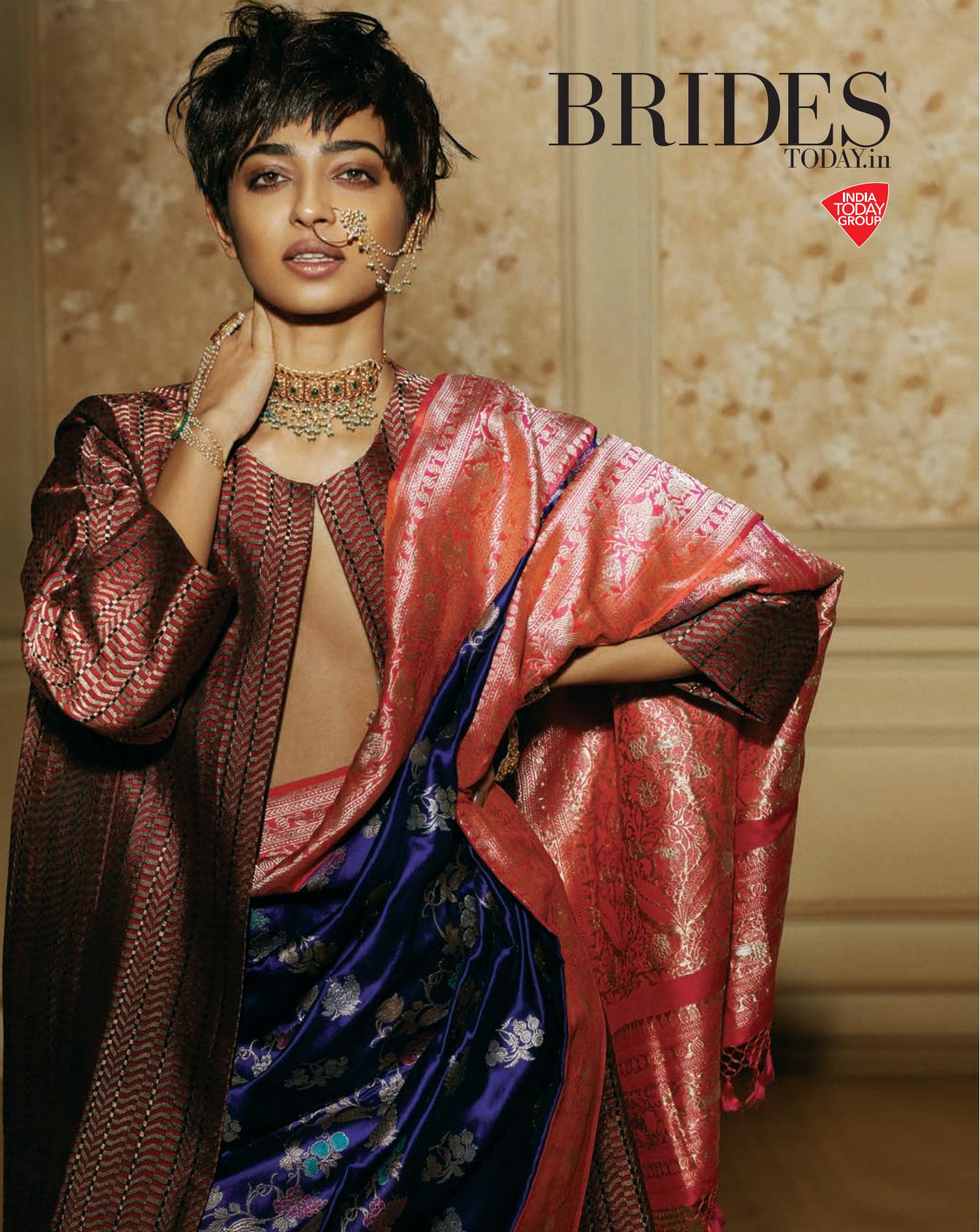


NATURALLY BOLD

While fuller arches were on every bride's wishlist a couple of years ago, this year, make-up experts are set on enhancing the natural shape of one's brows to lend definition to the face. Brow pens are the perfect solution to achieve fluffy-yet-natural-looking eyebrows.

Armed with precision tips and long-wear, smudge-proof formulas, these pens help you create thin, gentle strokes that mimic the natural pattern of your hairs and easily cover-up sparse areas. Perfect for brides who like to enhance their natural features.

By Meghna Sharma



BRIDES
TODAY.in



ALL THE INSPIRATION

Visit [BridesToday.in](#) for all the beauty,
fashion, and planning advice for your Big Day

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERRIKOS ANDREOU STYLED BY WHO WORE WHAT WHEN MODELS: VIVEK DHIMAN AND PRINCE SINGH HAIR AND MAKE-UP: MITESH RAJANI AT FEAT ARTISTS. PHOTOGRAPHER'S ASSISTANT: ANKIT SHARMA. HAIR AND MAKE-UP ASSISTANT: MAINA SETH. VIDEOGRAPHER: SANTOSH MISHRA. PRODUCTION: STUDIC LITTLE DUMPLING. LOCATION: LUXSHMI VILLAS PALACE, VADODARA.



The FASHION
HEAVEN
SENT

Actors Aditi Rao Hydari and Vaani Kapoor open up about their dreams for their lives, and traditional silhouettes get a delightful update for your trousseau.

The FASHION

A DELICATE TOUCH

Aditi Rao Hydari

Set against the majestic Lukshmi Villas Palace, Vadodara, covergirl Aditi Rao Hydari speaks about her dream partner, her inner child, how she has evolved over the years, and more.

Photographs By ERRIKOS ANDREOU

Interview By NANDINI BHALLA

Styling By WHO WORE WHAT WHEN



Lehenga Set, **Gaurav Gupta**.
Nosering, **Gaurav Gupta**
Occasions Fine Jewellery.

The FASHION



Lehenga Set and Achkan Sets, all **Gaurav Gupta**. Nosering (on Aditi), **Gaurav Gupta Occasions Fine Jewellery**.



Lehenga Set and Achkan Sets, all **Gaurav Gupta**. Nosering (on Aditi), **Gaurav Gupta Occasions Fine Jewellery**.

TheFASHION



Achkan Sets and Shoes, all **Gaurav Gupta**.



Achkan Set, **Gaurav Gupta**.

TheFASHION



Lehenga Set, Gaurav Gupta. Nosering, Gaurav
Gupta Occasions Fine Jewellery.

The FASHION



Lehenga Set, Achkan Sets and
Shoes (on Vivek and Prince),
all **Gaurav Gupta**. Necklace
(on Aditi), **Gaurav Gupta**
Occasions Fine Jewellery.



Achkan Sets,
both **Gaurav Gupta**.

TheFASHION

Lehenga Set, Gaurav Gupta.



TheFASHION



Lehenga set, Gaurav Gupta.
Maathapatti, Gaurav Gupta
Occasions Fine Jewellery.



Lehenga Set, Gaurav
Gupta. Necklace,
Gaurav Gupta
Occasions Fine
Jewellery.

The FASHION



Lehenga Set, Achkan Sets and Shoes
(on Vivek and Prince), all **Gaurav Gupta**.
Necklace (on Aditi), **Gaurav Gupta Occasions Fine Jewellery**.



Lehenga Set, **Gaurav Gupta**.
Nosering, **Gaurav Gupta**
Occasions Fine Jewellery.

Nandini Bhalla: What is Aditi like when she's in love?

Aditi Rao Hydari: I feel very nurtured and fearless when I am in love. I feel like I have a lot of love to give, and I feel consumed with happiness. Love also makes me very childlike, in a way, because when you are a child, you are not afraid of anything. When I am in love, I don't have doubts... I am extremely curious, happy, excitable, and fearless.

NB: I have always sensed a wonderful, childlike energy in you... and I know that you protect it because it helps you in your life. Tell me a bit more about how you have held onto that innocence.

ARH: I feel that adulting is very overrated because you can always be a wise child. I saw my grandmother celebrate her inner child till the day she passed away...always curious, learning, with a twinkle in her eye. My grandmother was spoiled rotten by everybody. I was very close to her and learnt to be that person from her. She reaffirmed my belief that you don't have to behave in a particular way for people to take you seriously. If you think I'm like a child and you don't take me seriously, that is your problem because children can be very wise too. And in their playfulness, they are the fastest learners. They are the most open, and don't judge others.

In my industry, there is so much comparison and pressure to fit into a stereotype of how a heroine should be. People want to help you so they tell you these things. I tried to mould

myself into what was expected of me. But then I realised that what I am is my strongest quality. How can I change that? In the last few years, I haven't felt the pressure to be somebody else or dress up in a particular way. Even on set, I am approachable and will weep if I am uncomfortable or laugh uninhibitedly. If people want misuse that, then that is their problem, not mine.

NB: What is your wedding style like?

ARH: It is traditional but very simple, whether I wear a *lehenga*, *sari*, or *sharara*. I love saris but don't wear them very often because I can't dance in them, and I love to dance. But what I truly enjoy is jewellery, especially *mathapatti*. I adore traditional *jadau* jewellery, especially from Hyderabad, which is a lovely marriage of Southern temple jewellery traditions with the Jaipur style.

I enjoy luxury, but to me, luxury doesn't mean that I have to show it off. I need to feel it. It brings with it a sense of comfort, like how the inner lining of a garment feels on the skin. I prefer feeling luxurious rather than looking it.

NB: And what is your energy like at a wedding? I remember you telling me about how you spontaneously break into dance at times...

ARH: Usually, I am dressed in clothes that are big for me because they are made to sample size. So I tend to sit around in my high heels, but as soon as the music starts, my heels are off in some corner, I'll remove my earrings, and dance my heart out. I don't care which cameras are pointed where, I just dance and make sure that whoever is around me also dances. Of course, by the end of it, I have awfully dirty feet...oh my God, it is gross [laughs]! It doesn't bother me at that point, but later, I'll be curling my toes...

NB: How do you see your own wedding in the future? Will it be intimate or grand, where would it be, and what will you be wearing?

ARH: It will definitely be intimate with close friends and family. I would like it to be by the water... There should be a beach, but there should also be an old *haveli* because I love heritage. At the same time, there is a vintage-

**“I FEEL THAT ADULTING IS VERY
OVERRATED BECAUSE YOU CAN
ALWAYS BE A WISE CHILD.”**



hipster side to me...I am also this happy, free spirit who wants to dance barefoot on a beach. So my wedding would have to be a combination of both my qualities. As for my outfits, I think I would wear a *lehenga* for one function and saris to the others.

NB: And what qualities would you look for in a life partner?

ARH: Mutual respect is such an essential quality. I need to respect my partner for who he is, how he lives in the world, and his choices. Those are some of the most important traits for me. I'd look for dignity and respect, but at the same time, a childlike core...that is such a beautiful quality in a person. I want to be able to laugh at the stupid things, and I want to be silly and not take myself too seriously with him. Even if there is an argument about something, we should be able to laugh about it because they are just opinions at the end of the day.

NB: Have your views about relationships changed over the years?

ARH: That is a bit difficult to answer because you just grow up one day and don't even realise how or what has changed in you... I feel like one's core remains the same, but now I understand that respect and dignity, along with a childlike innocence and curiosity, are traits that I look for in a partner. But along with that, my partner should be able to recognise these qualities in me as well and not brush them aside by calling me childish. He should be fearless, transparent, and vulnerable about how he feels. And he should be able to laugh. The more you accept yourself, the clearer you get about what you want.

NB: How have you changed over the past decade in the industry?

ARH: I think I am much more comfortable with being my authentic self. I don't feel that I need to prove anything to anybody; I have to keep bettering myself. However, I believe that I must earn the love and respect of those I work with, and I must love and respect them in return. I don't want my experiences to break me or turn me into a bitter, resentful person; I want them to make me grow. That is what I crave. I think the penny dropped when I worked with Mani Ratnam. It was a childhood dream to work with him, and I became a Mani Ratnam heroine when I joined the industry. There was a moment when I realised that life is about being yourself! He provided me, and everyone else on the set, with the space to explore, learn, experiment, and be a fearless child. It was literally like a vitamin booster shot and then I kept craving more experiences that were similar to that. I believe that when you are clear about your intentions, the right people enter your life... I mean, one can only hope. It is a work in progress, one sort of meanders, but I am very happy exploring.

NB: What kind of films or scripts are you drawn to?

ARH: The genre doesn't matter because it is ultimately about the director. Because great directors tell great stories. For me, the script is about feelings and how the stories makes you feel, whether as an actor or the audience (I am also an audience at the end of the day). I am a very passionate person and am drawn to romantic stories because romance is possibly the most important aspects of a person's life. Love is like a life force, and everything stems from it... your interests and even your work. Being a dancer, I appreciate that every emotion, or *rasa*, has many layers. Love carries with it anger and envy. But even these emotions stem from love. I find that very beautiful.

NB: And what kind of films and books have shaped you?

ARH: So many of Mani sir's films... One of the first films I watched of his was *Bombay*, and I was mesmerised by it, from the music to the cinematography and the actors. It sparked a desire in me, and I knew that is where I wanted to be. Then there are other films of his in Tamil like *Mouna Ragam*, *Nayakan*, *Iruvar*, and *Alai Payuthey*. After that there was *Dil Se...* But there are other love stories as well, like *Pan's Labyrinth* and *Life Is Beautiful*. While growing up, I read quite a bit of Isabel Allende and Amy Tan; again, these are within the realm

of magic realism. And I truly enjoyed Pearl S. Buck because there was so much emotion and drama in her writing. It was very exciting.

NB: What do you think is the secret to getting over a heartbreak?

ARH: Oh my God, that is a very hard one! Begin with just acknowledging that you are heartbroken, rather than pretending that you are okay or doing something impulsive to get over it. You have to heal and nurture yourself, and seal your heart back into feeling strong again. There are different ways of doing this, but you have to provide yourself with time, understanding, and gentleness. Many people suppress the pain and act alright on the outside, but carry a big gash within that keeps festering. Which, then, shows up in other relationships and equations. I think it is so important for people to heal from situations and reach a state of neutrality. You need to be able to function from your most happy, fearless self to be the best version of yourself. Everyone has a lovely inner self, and you can't let anyone take it away from you.

NB: What was your experience shooting for the *Brides Today* cover?

ARH: This cover shoot has been special because we had been wanting to make it happen for so long. And I always look forward to working with people I like. I enjoy visiting places with history, and the palace was exquisite. Sometimes, in between shots, I would imagine all that must have taken place over the centuries. I am always imagining situations and scenarios... I was thinking about who must have been married here, and would they have sat and drank tea in this spot? What was a particular room used for? I would imagine someone strolling in the garden, their lives, and how they must have led them. I find such things exciting...it is like a film script being written in my brain. I was dressed in Gaurav Gupta's creations for the shoot, which I find almost Baroque. They are so intricate and larger than life but at the same time, minimalist, which resonates with me. I believe that one's personality must shine through in the clothes you wear.

NB: Tell me about the designers you enjoy wearing for Indianwear?

ARH: Even with my eyes shut I would pick up Sabyasachi! I love heritage so much, and I love his clothes. I truly appreciate the way he combines prints. My mother has always worn handloom, and so did my grandmother. And they never matched the blouses with the saris...for instance, they might pair an *ikat* blouse with a different handloom sari. I would always tell them to be consistent, that all my friend's mothers matched their blouses. Why couldn't they match their blouse? But now, I think it is so cool. My love for textile and handloom comes from my family, and that is why I appreciate Sabyasachi for his take on the Indian aesthetic. I have witnessed the change since I entered the industry. Today, we have access to such a variety of beautiful, handloom garments, even on Instagram. And people are wearing Indian ensembles with so much pride. For bridalwear, my favourite is Jayanti Reddy because she has a very simple and delicate aesthetic. I also appreciate Anand Kabra and Anamika Khanna's work.

NB: Finally, what are your hopes for the future?

ARH: Just to laugh and be happy. To love my inner child and be in love forever. It's not just about being with someone; the feeling of always being in love is truly important. ■

Models: Vivek Dhiman and Prince Singh. Hair and Make-up: Mitesh Rajani at Feat. Photographer's Assistant: Ankit Sharma. Hair and Make-up Assistant: Mansi Seth. Videographer: Santosh Mishra. Production: Studio Little Dumpling. Location: Lukshmi Villas Palace, Vadodara.

**"LOVE CARRIES
WITH IT ANGER
AND ENVY. BUT
EVEN THESE
EMOTIONS STEM
FROM LOVE.
I FIND THAT VERY
BEAUTIFUL."**

Vaani Kapoor

TAKE MY
BEATH A WAY



Old-school romance and an intimate wedding are what actor Vaani Kapoor envisions for her happily-ever-after.

*Photographs by TARAS TARAPORVALA
Styled by AYESHA AMIN NIGAM AND SHAURYA ATHLEY*

Interview by RADHIKA BHALLA

Tribal Embroidered Top and Quilted Patchwork Skirt, both Anamika Khanna.
Black Beast Shoes, Zori World. Enamelled Polki Kara, Marquise and Diamond
Spinnal Ring and Earrings, all A Jewels by Anmol. Guile Rug, Ruby Delight Rug
and Elegante Fusion Rug, all Cocoon Fine Rugs.

The FASHION



Silk Blouse and Sharara, both **Punit Balana**. Rubies and Polkis Iranian Feroza Choker and Earrings, Gold Kara with Filigree Work, Burmese Ruby Jadau Polki Kara, Navrattan Kara, Polki and Gold Rings, all **A Jewels by Anmol**. Rug, **Cocoon Fine Rugs**. Flame Stitch Coral Cotton Cushion, **Sarita Handa**.



Silk and Gota Patti Blouse and Lehenga, both **Punit Balana**. Jadau Polki Maangtikka with Emerald and Pearl, and Enamelled Kara, both **A Jewels by Anmol**.

The FASHION

Tribal Embroidered Top and Quilted Patchwork Skirt, both **Anamika Khanna**.
Black Beast Shoes, **Zori World**. Enamelled Polki Kara, Marquise and Diamond
Spinnal Ring and Earrings, all **A Jewels by Anmol**. Guile Rug, Ruby Delight Rug,
and Elegante Fusion Rug, all **Cocoon Fine Rugs**.



Vaani Kapoor is a romantic at heart, even though her on-screen presence in movies like *Befikre* would have you believe otherwise. We are on a Zoom call with the *Brides Today* covergirl, to speak about her views on love, life, relationships, and happiness, and the 33-year-old actor is uninhibited when it comes to discussing her philosophies. “My parents provided me with a very real and solid upbringing, with strong moral and ethical values in place,” she tells us. “As a result, I am not what you would call an ‘impressionable mind’ that anyone can sway. My core is strong, and I am very true to who I am.”

This clarity of thought has found admirable place in Vaani’s approach to partnerships, as well. Like when she tells us about how she wants her to-be husband to be kind, respectful, and sharing similar core values. Or how her face lights up when she discusses her desire to help others, and spread joy. This is Vaani Kapoor: authentic, content, and raring to make the most of her life. Read this intimate conversation to learn more about what she truly wants in her future.

Brides Today: What are your views on love?

Vaani Kapoor: I am old-school at heart, and believe that love should be pure and noble. While I won’t call myself a romantic, I grew up watching romantic films that celebrate nobility in love. And I still believe in that. I know this might sound ridiculous or outdated to some, because people

have changed the definition of love nowadays...many approach relationships as a means of convenience. But I believe in purity, honesty, respect, and loyalty in a relationship because that is the kind of love I am accustomed to. I have been very fortunate to be surrounded by wonderful people—my family, friends, and personal relationships. For me, it is a deal-breaker if these qualities are not in place.

BT: Which movies have inspired your definition of love?

VK: I enjoy watching all kinds of romantic films. Some of my favourites are *The Bridges of Madison County*, movies by [filmmaker] Yash ji [Chopra], which were larger-than-life and so very special... Classics like *The Holiday*, and many new-age love stories that are great fun to watch. Just about any romantic comedy works for me, to be honest. I am a sucker for romantic films...they leave me feeling happy.

BT: What brings you joy?

VK: My family and friends. I am close to a handful of people, and each of them means the world to me. I won’t go around making 50 friends; I am not very social. My circle is very limited, but I hold on very tightly to those in my life, and I will always be there for them. I follow the same principle when it comes to my movies—I will work on a few projects, but give each my all. Food gives me a lot of joy, too. And I love watching movies; I can binge-watch all-day-long. The simple things in life make me the happiest.

BT: What kinds of food do you enjoy?

VK: All kinds. My friend [actor] Anushka Ranjan lives in the same building as me, and when we are not at each other’s home’s, which is all the time, we keep sharing photographs of food on Instagram [*laughs*]. I am passionate about food and not many people believe it, because I look slim. I enjoy Indian and Chinese cuisines, French fries, pizzas, spicy Korean noodles, sushi, and desserts...you name it! The thing is, my portion sizes are huge—I can eat like a man, or even more than one! You could compete with me, and I will still eat more. Which is why I mentioned Anushka, in case you ever want to cross-check with her.

“MANY APPROACH RELATIONSHIPS AS A MEANS OF CONVENIENCE. BUT I BELIEVE IN PURITY, HONESTY, RESPECT, AND LOYALTY.”



Silk Blouse and Sharara, both **Punit Balana**. Ruby and Polki Iranian Feroza Choker and Earrings, Gold Kara with Filigree Work, Burmese Ruby Jadau Polki Kara, Navrattan Kara, Polki and Gold Rings, all **A Jewels by Annol**. Rug, **Cocoon Fine Rugs**. Flame Stitch Coral Cotton Cushion, **Sarita Handa**.

BT: And what makes you sad?

VK: Many things...I am a hyper-sensitive person. I get easily affected by things. However, I don't show this to others, especially when it comes to issues that deeply affect me. I try to stay in control with bigger issues, but sometimes the small things can get me worked up, especially if it is regarding someone I care about.

BT: What has been your greatest learning over the past year?

VK: I have learnt to be more aware. And to be grateful. I know this sounds very philosophical, but it is true. I have been reading a lot—*The Buddha in Your Mirror, Open* by Andrea Agassi, *Think Like A Monk* by Jay Shetty—even though I wasn't an avid reader earlier. And I have discovered that books give me peace, happiness, and joy. Over the last year, I also had a very strong, creative itch to try something new, like learning tennis, but then I realised that to even think like this was a privilege. There are so many who have been left unemployed by the pandemic and people are battling many issues...I am grateful that I could be financially-secure, safe at home, and eat two meals. I don't need many things in life; I am happy with what I have.

Emotionally, I had some ups and downs, like everyone else. There are days when I feel lonely and sad, because I don't live with my family. I live alone with two cats—Kiki and Koko—who are the only two walking souls in my home. I miss my friends and family, but I'm coping. We have been FaceTiming to stay in touch, but there are days when I get extremely low...the kind of blues you can't explain. But then I pick myself up, and am happy and thankful for everything I have going for me in life.

BT: Does this inner strength find its way into your professional life as well?

VK: I am a lazy person, but when it comes to work, I am a super-determined girl! If I put my head and heart to something, I give it my all. I value and respect work, a lot. On other days, I can zone out very easily...I can jump from one conversation to the next, and not even realise it, like a space cadet [laughs]. But I take work very seriously, and you won't see me laid-back there at all.

BT: Where do you get this will power from?

VK: From the strong women I have grown up with. My mother, sister, and cousins: I think, on a very subliminal level, I have imbibed these values from them. I truly believe I am very lucky to be surrounded by such strong women. I believe that women, in general, are very determined. And when it comes to proving ourselves, we don't leave any stone unturned.

BT: What was it like growing up with your sister, and how has your relationship evolved over the years?

VK: Like all siblings, my sister [Nupur Chopra] and I fought a fair bit...we'd pull each other's hair, and there would be slippers flying across the room. Sometimes we would fight over friends. They were very silly, lame fights. But now, we truly treasure those memories. We look back and laugh about how silly we were. Those were amazing times.

Nupur got married when she was 18-years-old and moved to Amsterdam. I was 15 then, and was on my own after that. But even though we have lived in different countries, we share a very loving bond. I am very possessive about her, like I am about my family. I would do anything for them. I'm sure a lot of people feel the same for their family. My family is my foundation and they have given me a purpose to excel in life and follow my dreams.

**"I JUST KNEW
THAT MARRIAGE
COULDN'T BE MY
END GAME;
THAT I NEEDED
TO DISCOVER
MYSELF FIRST."**

BT: Did your sister's marriage shape your views on the subject of marriage?

VK: I felt that she skipped an entire phase of life because she married young, and I decided that I won't follow the same path. I made up my mind to achieve something in life first. You know how business families can be...I think girls in Delhi tend to get married early. Of course, things are changing now. Luckily, my brother-in-law is a wonderful man, and my sister is very happy.

That said, I didn't decide to work to get out of marriage. My parents were very supportive; they are very cool people, otherwise! But I just knew that marriage couldn't be my end game; that I needed to discover myself first. And I think my parents also realised that, perhaps, it might have been too early for my sister to have gotten married as well. So they thought it best to let me prove my worth and do what I believed in. They backed my decision and put their faith in me. Living in a different city, all by myself, was not the kind of experience I had, growing up. My dad was super-strict, and I wasn't even allowed to go on school trips. We always had somebody accompanying us, and we were never allowed sleepovers, even at a cousin's home...forget at a friend's. Of course, my friends could stay over at my place. But we followed a very strict routine, which was in complete contrast to how they allowed me to explore a completely different world in Mumbai, in my early 20s.

BT: So what are your views on marriage now?

VK: I believe one should marry when one is mentally prepared for it. You shouldn't feel pressurised because you are a certain age, or because your friends are settling down. I won't say 'yes' unless I am 100 percent sure of my decision, and I think I will know it when I am with the right person...I can't marry just anyone because someone tells me to. I want to be in a solid relationship before settling down. I want to grow old with my person. I want to be absolutely sure.

BT: And what qualities would that person have?

VK: We need to share a connection, a spark, and be compatible. It is all about how two people click. Someone could be incredible, but not compatible with you. We could be great as individuals, but if we don't connect over core values, we may never get along. So, I would look for someone I vibe with mentally and emotionally, and someone I share a similar belief system with. Of course, they need to be kind and a good person. Some people have that aura around them, they exude the right energy. You just know when you meet them. I hope my partner is passionate about life, about what he does, and he inspires me to be a better person. In turn, I would want to do the same for him.

BT: What is the most memorable wedding you have attended?

VK: My sister's wedding was truly memorable, and I had such a blast! However, I barely attend weddings, and many of my friends are single. I don't enjoy weddings because they are so formal, with too many people in attendance. It's like one big display. I might change my view when I get married, but I'd much rather have an intimate celebration with a close-knit group of friends and family. I wouldn't want something too grand; I'll have a simple wedding but a pretty one. It will probably depend on how I feel at that point.

BT: And have you thought of what you would be wearing?

VK: I don't think my mother has kept anything from her wedding, so it won't be an heirloom piece. I think I'd want to have a typical *desi*, Indian look. I'd probably wear a traditional *lehenga*. I love pastel shades, but I could very well go with red or maroon. I can be flaky when it comes to colours. I love all colours, but I don't think I'll wear a black *lehenga*. I could wear white or a champagne shade, which I find very pretty.

BT: You are in such good shape, what are your diet and workout regimes like?



Embroidered Blouse with Silk Satin Lehenga, both Punit Balana. Jadau Polki Set, Kundan Polki Rings, and Kundan Polki Bangles, all A Jewels by Anmol.

"I BELIEVE IN THE UNIVERSE, AND THAT WHAT YOU SEND OUT—THOUGHTS AND ENERGY—COMES BACK TO YOU."

VK: The thing is, I love food, but when a project or song is in the pipeline, I get on a very strict diet and eat healthy. I don't eat smaller portions, I just eat better. I am now a pescatarian, and I haven't eaten chicken in a very long time for ethical reasons. It just doesn't feel right. I eat good fats, food with high-fibre content, and drink lots of water. I drink two glasses of water, first thing in the morning, to flush out the toxins.

Working out is very important, and I make it a point to hit the gym. Many people think I love working out, but I don't. I have to exercise for the profession I am in, and for the roles that require me to be in a certain shape. If a role doesn't need it, I might happily not work out for a bit. But I do understand the importance of exercise for the years to come. If I don't take care of my body today, I may have health issues in the future, because my parents face quite a few health problems. My sister and I decided to be more disciplined so that we don't have to suffer the same.

My advice is to follow what you enjoy and are comfortable with—weight training, cardio, strength training, or yoga. The same workout doesn't work for all. And even if you can just devote 20 minutes a day to it, devote it. Go for an evening walk if you have to. Make it a habit; it will eventually become a part of your life and routine.

BT: Any beauty advice?

VK: I don't remember the last time I went for a facial because I don't like people touching my skin. However, I use a jade roller to help with lymphatic drainage because my face tends to get puffy and bloated. I use it to massage my face every day so that the excess water retention is drained out, and it also keeps the skin tight.

In my field of work, one's appearance matters a lot, so looking fresh is important. My advice would be to keep your skin clean. I can be very lazy and have to pull myself out of bed to wash my face at night. However, I have learnt the value of applying the right creams to avoid signs of ageing. Age gracefully, because everyone has to age, eventually. But take care of yourself. I always apply sunscreen after washing my face because my skin started getting pigmented due to sun exposure.

BT: What is your idea of self care?

VK: You need to be calm and at peace mentally, because everything will fall flat if your soul is not happy. You know what they say about thoughts becoming your reality? I truly believe in that. The more negatively you think, the more it traps you and your view of the world. It is as if you multiply that unhappiness sevenfold, so it is wiser to indulge in happy thoughts. Be genuinely grateful for the things you have, and you will end up attracting more of that.

I spend time with the people I truly care about. And it gives me immense joy when I can do something for others, like my friends or my house help, for instance. It makes me genuinely happy when I can be of use to someone. I am not trying to sound righteous, I am a human being at the end of the day, and I have both good and bad days. However, I enjoy putting a smile on another person's face.

BT: Are you a believer in the law of attraction?

VK: Yes, I believe in it. I believe in the Universe, and that what you send out—through your thoughts and energy—comes back to you. I have read *The Secret* and I listen to Dr Nair's views on the subject. Your thoughts manifest your life, and that is who we become. We all have energy within us, and we attract a similar energy to ourselves. ■

Hair and makeup: Daniel Bauer. Fashion Assistants: Sejal Satish Nandanwar, Aprajita Puri, and Preeti Chhatpar. Production: P Productions. Video: Santosh Mishra

The FASHION

ELOQUENT SILENCE

The power of seduction lies in a confident celebration of the self, and, as these portraits reveal, in India's exquisite craftsmanship and legacy.

Photographs by PRASAD NAIK

Styling by SHAURYA ATHLEY

Silver Necklace (worn as Headwear), **Silverline Jewellery**. Layered Polki and Emerald Necklace, and Bangles, **Goenka India**. Polki Emerald and Diamonds Choker, Earrings, Bangles, and Rings, **Anmol Jewellers**. All prices upon request. Handwoven Tissue Silk Sari, ₹37,175, and Blouse, ₹8,975, **Ekaya**.





THIS PAGE: Bangles, **Goenka India**. Emerald with Uncut Diamond Bangles and Ring, Emerald and Pearl Bangles, Ruby and Uncut Diamond Ring, **Anmol Jewellers**. All prices upon request. Handwoven Tissue Silk Sari, ₹37,175, **Ekaya**.
OPPOSITE PAGE: Necklace, and Earrings, **Razwada Jewels**, Mathapatti, **Anmol Jewellers**. All prices upon request. Tribal Bamboo Jacket, ₹2,35,200, **Anamika Khanna**.



THIS PAGE: Bangles and Rings, prices upon request, **Jadau Jewellery by Falguni Mehta**. Coral Rattan Bangles, ₹4000, **Ritika Sachdeva**. Neysa Lehenga, ₹75,000, **Anita Dongre**.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Silver Afghani Bangles, **Amama**. Necklace, Earrings, and Ring, **Razwada Jewels**. Mathapatti, **Anmol Jewellers**. Kerala Silver Belt, **Silverline Jewellery**. All prices upon request. Kaftan, ₹12,800, **Payal Khandwala**. Tribal Bamboo Jacket, ₹2,35,200, **Anamika Khanna**. Afreen Jutti, ₹3,490, **Needledust**.





THIS PAGE: Bangles, price upon request, **Ritika Sachdeva**. Emerald Necklace, Earrings, and Rings, price upon request, **Goenka India**. Polki Rings, price upon request, **Razwada Jewels**. Navrathana Necklace (worn as headband), ₹19,500, **Joolry**. Silver Hair Clips, price upon request, **Silverline Jewellery**. Teal Sculpted Blouse, ₹24,000, **Rimzim Dadu**.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Bhumi Florite Choker (worn as Bajuband), ₹21,600, and Earrings, price upon request, **Joolry**. Ruby and Pearl Necklace, Bangles and Rings, **Jadau Jewellery by Falguni Mehta**. Silver Orrisa Necklaces (worn as Headwear), **Silverline Jewellery**. All prices upon request. Coral Rattan Bangles, ₹4000, **Ritika Sachdeva**. Neysa Lehenga, ₹75,000, **Anita Dongre**.



THIS PAGE: Polki Maangtika, Necklace, Bangles, and Haathphool, **Razwada Jewels**. Silver Ear-cuffs, and Ring, **Amrapali**. All prices upon request. Pink Lampi Lehenga Set with Zari Dupatta, ₹1,30,000, **ITRH**.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Bangles, and Haathphool, **Razwada Jewels**. Ring, **Amrapali**. All prices upon request. Pink Lampi Lehenga Set with Zari Dupatta, ₹1,30,000, **ITRH**.





THIS PAGE: Bangles, Emerald Necklace and Earrings, and Rings, price upon request, **Goenka India**. Polki Rings, price upon request, **Razwada Jewels**. Navrathanam Necklace (worn as headband), ₹19,500, **Joolry**. Silver Hair Clips, price upon request, **Silverline Jewellery**. Teal Sculpted Blouse, 24,000, **Rimzim Dadu**. Organza Lehenga, 1,89,900, **Tarun Tahiliani**.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Mix Bangle Stack, **Ritika Sachdeva**. Contemporary Gold Sakla Necklace, Chandbali Earrings, and Polki Nath, **Basra pearls**. Jadau Jewellery, **Falguni Mehta**. Pajeb, **Madhya Pradesh Anklet**. Chutki, **Rajasthan Toe-rings**. Silverline Rings, **Anmol Jewellers**. All prices upon request.

Lehenga and Cape with Tribal Embroidery, ₹4,70,400, **Anamika Khanna**. Shoes, ₹77,000, **Christian Louboutin**.

Model: Naayaab Sheikh at Anima Creative. Hair and Make-up: Mehak Oberoi at Eficiente Artist Management. Fashion Assistant: Aprajita Puri. Fashion Intern: Preeti Chhatpar. Video: Santosh Mishra.

The FASHION

On Shania (left):
Gardenia Celebration Skirt,
₹63,950, **Shivan and Narresh**. Navratna Empress Maang Tika, ₹3,00,000, **Beena Raheja**.

On Sanmathi (right):
Vana Alika Saree, ₹1,12,000,
Mrunalini Rao. Eyelin Kundan Ring, ₹6,300, **Diosa Paris**.
Navratna Empress Necklace,
₹8,00,000, **Beena Raheja**.
Damiana Bracelet, ₹8,50,000,
Beena Raheja.

LIGHTNESS OF BEING



Delicate embroidery and exquisite florals lend themselves to flirty silhouettes...perfect for the bride and her entourage of bridesmaids.

*Photographs by SUSHANT KADAM
Styling & Creative Direction by ESHAA AMIIN*

The FASHION



On Shania: Zaida with belt, ₹89,900, **Ridhi Mehra**. Rings, ₹6,300 and ₹5,800, and necklace, ₹7,000, **Anayah Jewellery**.



Lehenga, price upon request, **Reynu Taandon**. Necklace and earrings both, ₹15,000, and ring, ₹5,800, all **Anayah Jewellery**.



Ecstasy Lehenga, ₹2,10,000,
Couture by Niharika.
Earrings, ₹14,000, Anayah
Jewellery. Rings, ₹6,300 and
₹5,800, Anayah Jewellery.



On Shania (left): Blush Floral Lehenga, ₹1,14,500, **Geisha Designs**. Roseatta Necklace and earrings, ₹13,00,000, **Beena Raheja**. Electro white gold plated ring, price on request, **Azotique**.
On Sammathi (right): 3D Floral Embellished Lehenga, ₹4,21,000, **Shirya Som**. Plumes Paradise Necklace, ₹15,00,000, **Beena Raheja**. Starfish Ring, ₹7,500, **Ananta**.



On Shania (left): Shades of Mauve Tulle Lehenga, ₹4,49,900, **Tarun Tahiliani**. Electro White Gold Plated Earrings, price on request, **Azotique**. Ring, price on request, **Diosa Paris**. Esse Bracelet, ₹13,500, **Ananta**. On Sammathi (right): D- Impudent lehenga set, ₹2,85,000, **Cherie D**. Necklace, ₹8,500, **Aquamarine Jewellery**. Romantic Rouge Ring, ₹7,300, **Ananta**.

The FASHION



On Sanmathi (left):
Meraki Pleated Pant Saree Set,
₹25,999, **Dheeru Taneja**.
Polka Jhumki
Earrings, ₹7,00,000, **Beena
Raheja**. Ring, ₹3,000,
Aquamarine Jewellery.
On Shania (right):
Lehenga, price
upon request, **Aisha Rao**.



On Sanmathi (left):
Fresh Aroma Saree, ₹32,800,
Nayantaara.
Electro Gold Plated Earrings,
price on request, **Azotique**.
Ring, ₹3,750, **Aquamarine
Jewellery**.
On Shania (right):
Helenor with belt, ₹83,600,
Ridhi Mehra.
Queen Primera Necklace,
₹18,00,000, **Beena Raheja**.
Ring, ₹3,400, **Aquamarine
Jewellery**.

The FASHION

On Sanmathi (left):
Aiza Ivory Lehenga, ₹55,900,
Mahima Mahajan. Esmeralda
Necklace, ₹15,00,000, **Beena**
Raheja. Ring, price on request,
Diosa Paris.

On Shania (right): Citrus Set,
₹7,575, **Couture by Niharika**.
Necklace, ₹7,000, and Ring,
₹6,300, **Diosa Paris**.



Hair and Make-Up: Kritika Gill and
Sachi Agarwal. Fashion assistants:
Ankitha Chauhan and Rashmi
Sanklecha. Models: Shania Lobo
and Sanmathi Wagale at Anima
Creatives. Location: Renaissance
Mumbai Convention Centre Hotel.

REVEL IN HER CHARM

Classic silhouettes and embroideries accentuate the best of the bride's features and ensure that she celebrates herself, and her love for culture, on her special day.

*Photographs by OMKAR CHITNIS
Styling and Creative Direction by
WHO WORE WHAT WHEN*

When wearing an elaborate outfit, keep your neckline bare so that your look doesn't get overwhelmed. Less is more.

Lehenga, price upon request, **Tarun Tahiliani**.
Earrings, Bangles, Cuffs and Maangtikka, prices upon request, all **Neety Singh Jewellery**.



The FASHION

Dress up a simple *lehenga* set with a layered necklace that features a large pendant.

Lehenga set, ₹1,10,000,
Lajjoo C. Necklace,
Earrings, and Bangles, all
Ambrus by Arpit Goyal.



A vivid *dupatta* is perfect to highlight an elegant, ivory-hued ensemble with subtle hints of gold.

Lehenga Set, ₹1,43,800,
Raw Mango. Earrings,
Choker, Bangles, and Cuffs,
all prices upon request, all
Shri Paramani Jewels.



The FASHION

For the modern bride,
wear an embroidered
shirt or jacket with a
high-waisted skirt.

Jacket and Skirt,
₹2,50,000, **Varun Bahl**.
Earrings, Cuffs, and
Ring, all prices upon
request, **Neeta
Boochra**.



A sleek ponytail is
ideal to flaunt your
wedding jewellery.
Feel free to go OTT
with your selection.

Lehenga Set, ₹1,43,800,
Raw Mango.
Earrings, Choker,
Bangles, and Cuffs, price
upon request, **all Shri
Paramani Jewels**.

The FASHION

Lime tones can be worn both for a day and night event. Add notes of pink to the look to complete it.

Akasia Lehenga, price upon request, **Anita Dongre**. Necklace, Bangles and Maangtikka, all **Shri Paramani Jewels**.



Add a tinge of red to a white canvas, and wear the combination with silver jewellery for a day function.

Lehenga Set, price upon request, **Anamika Khanna**. Cuffs, Bracelets, Headwear, Earrings, and Necklace, price upon request, **Neeta Boochra**. Potli, ₹7,500, **Beaumonde**. Shoes, price upon request, **Christian Louboutin**.





The *mehendi* look is incomplete without a happy shade of yellow. Add some emerald-green to stand out.

Lehenga Set, ₹1,10,000,
Lajjoo C. Necklace,
Earrings, and Bangles, all
Ambrus by Arpit Goyal.

The FASHION

Frame a thick stack of glass bangles with gold *karas* to make it look more dressy for the wedding.

Lehenga, price upon request, **Tarun Tahiliani**.

Earrings, bangles, cuffs and maangtikka, prices upon request, all **Neety Singh Jewellery**.



Colour-blocking in pastel shades is the ideal way to stylishly break the rules.

Jacket and Skirt, ₹2,50,000, **Varun Bahl**. Earrings, Cuffs, and Ring, all prices upon request, **Neeta Boochra**. Shoes, price upon request, **Christian Louboutin**.

The FASHION

Step into your new life with a carefree approach by ditching the *dupatta* for an evening of fun.

Akasia Lehenga, price upon request, **Anita Dongre**.
Necklace, Bangles, and Maangtikka, all **Shri Paramani Jewels**.



Black and gold is an eternal classic. Turn to this match for a soirée under the twinkling stars.

Roopal Black Sari, ₹69,000,
Raw Mango. Maangtikka,
Earrings, Bangles, and
Ring, price upon request,
all **Aaharya**.



The FASHION



Rest assured that
a faded-pink and
metallic outfit will keep
you in the spotlight.

Embellished Kurta and
Lehenga Set, 1,30,000,
ITRH. Matha-patti,
Earrings, Bangles and Ring,
price upon request, all
Joolry.

Rather than a cummerband, select a *lehenga* that features a band of embroidery to tie it in together.

Lehenga, price upon request, **Tarun Tahiliani**. Earrings, Bangles, Cuffs and Maangtikka, prices upon request, all **Neety Singh Jewellery**.



The FASHION

The lace sari spells sophistication like no other. Wear it with an off-shoulder blouse this season.

Saree, 98,000, **Seema Gujral**. Nath, Necklace and Bangle, all **Ambrus** by **Arpit Goyal**.



Drape an overcoat over your shoulders to add a stylish, layered look and keep the cold away.

Lehenga Set, price upon request, **Anamika Khanna**. Cuffs, Bracelets, Headwear, Earrings, and Necklace, price upon request, **Neeta Boochra**.



The FASHION



Invest in a traditional striped blouse, for it can double up as a cropped-top for the after-party.

Lehenga Set, ₹1,43,800,
Raw Mango. Earrings, Choker, Bangles, and Cuffs, all prices upon request, **all Shri Paramani Jewels**.

Model: Dayana Erappa. Make-up: Shruti Sharma. Hair: Pushkin Bhasin. Production: Studio Little Dumpling. Location: Tijara Fort & Palace.

the planner



ALL IMAGES: COURTESY AASH STUDIO

THE GREAT INTIMATE WEDDING

Personalise your celebrations with advice from the experts, and add a luxurious, bohemian touch to the décor. Plus, fall in love with the heart-warming stories of three newly-wed couples.

A tepee is a delightful way to create seating at an outdoor function



The *mehendi* look is incomplete without a happy shade of yellow. Add some emerald-green to stand out.

Lehenga Set, ₹1,10,000,
Lajjoo C. Necklace,
Earrings, and Bangles, all
Ambrus by Arpit Goyal.

Rather than a cummerband, select a *lehenga* that features a band of embroidery to tie it in together.

Lehenga, price upon request, **Tarun Tahiliani**. Earrings, Bangles, Cuffs and Maangtikka, prices upon request, all **Neety Singh Jewellery**.





A vibrant indoor seating arrangement featuring pampas grass, tassel details, and other bohemian accents by Aash Studio



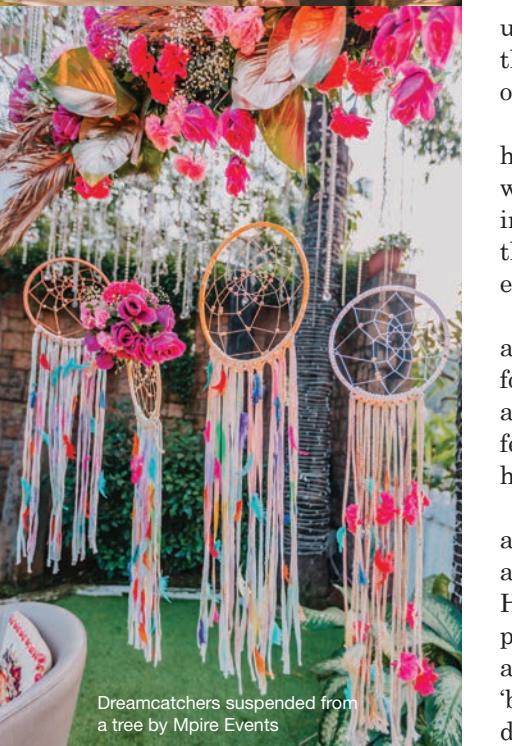
A bohemian-inspired wedding mandap with pampas grass, dried flowers, and macramé details by To The Aisle



Chrysanthemums and orchids in a lantern and watering can by Theme Weavers Designs



Light bulbs suspended from a tree with jute ropes by Aash Studio



Dreamcatchers suspended from a tree by Mpire Events



A centrepiece with baby's breath by Theme Weavers Designs



A minimalist wooden seating arrangement with rustic light fixtures by Theme Weavers Designs



Bohemian rugs and stools at an outdoor function by Mpire Events

The intimate Indian wedding has steered away from the same-old, traditional set-up and given way to the personal and the unconventional... Enter, the bohemian celebration that welcomes a burst of colour and a generous dose of whimsy to your wedding gathering.

"From organic table runners to macramé hangings, dream catchers, dyed threadwork, and wooden embellishments, the boho trend calls for the inclusion of laidback décor accents while ensuring that the overall look remains sophisticated," explains Vikram Mehta, Founder, Mpire Events.

"Consider a warm, earthy palette and jewel tones, and play with dyed textures and patterns, especially for table centerpieces and wall hangings. You could also organise a low-level seating arrangement featuring bohemian rugs and succulent planters," he adds.

According to Prerana Agarwal Saxena, Founder and CEO, Theme Weavers Designs, "The bohemian aesthetic urges you to be mindful of sustainability. Highlight the natural setting and select eclectic pieces to make a statement. The intention is to exude an aura of understated luxury, by transcending 'basic' décor styles and paying attention to minute details."

Prerana recommends including shades like muted forest green, cappuccino brown, or apricot orange, rather than focusing only on bright pops of colour or soothing pastel hues. "Use candelabras and dried flowers as centerpieces and tents and tepees to create delightful sitting spaces. You may also consider incorporating celestial details in your décor —take inspiration from the galaxy, the stars, and the moon. The sheer beauty of the bohemian style lies in its ability to adapt," she shares. ■

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

From rustic rattan furniture to intricate macramé patterns, two wedding experts share advice on how to host the perfect boho-chic celebration.

By Diya Verma

MAGES: AASH STUDIO

DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL

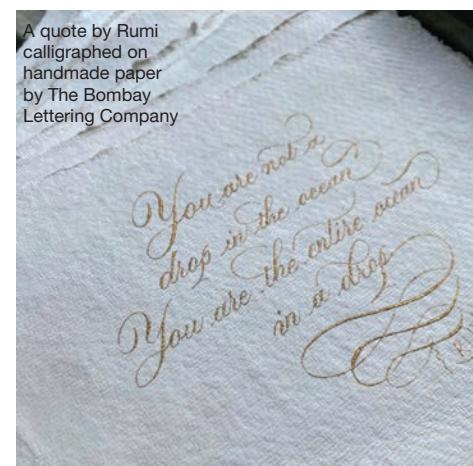


An event stylist and a lettering artist share why you need to adopt a more customised approach to your nuptials.

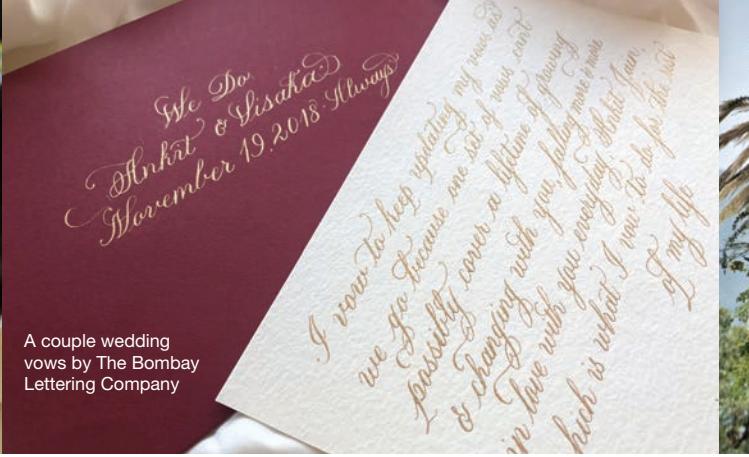
By Diya Verma



quirky
gnage for
rections by
o The Aisle



A quote by Rumi
calligraphed on
handmade paper
by The Bombay
Lettering Company



A couple wedding vows by The Bombay Lettering Company



Bespoke Mr and Mrs stoles on
chairs by To The Aisle

With fewer guests in attendance at the wedding, attention to detail has become one of the most important aspects of the celebrations. Couples, today, are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that their guests are offered a more personalised experience, be that with the invitations, the dinner table setting, or decorations.

“Personalising the wedding ceremony has been the biggest outcome of intimate weddings, ever since the Covid-19 restrictions were imposed. The modern bride is now in charge of her big day, and she is ensuring that her guests leave with everlasting memories,” explains Prerika Puri, Founder and Creative Head, To The Aisle.

Sanjana Chatlani, Calligrapher and Founder, The Bombay Lettering Company, adds, "Initially, concepts such as place cards for sit-down meals and entrance signages were solely seen in the West. However, over the past few years, we have witnessed an increase in the demand for personalised stationery, collaterals, gifts, and more. For instance, we created an on-site, seating chart in calligraphy for Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas's Jodhpur wedding in 2018."

"With calligraphy, we embrace the personality of the couple and incorporate meaningful elements. Many couples include this to save-the-date invitations, welcome letters, hamper tags, signages, place cards, menus, party favours, as well as the wedding itinerary. The idea is to celebrate their love story," Sanjana adds.

Highlighting a few more ways to personalise your affair, Prerika suggests, “Make your bridesmaids and groomsmen feel special by curating personalised gift boxes—think monogrammed boutonnieres, champagne flutes, and flip flops. A ‘find your seat’ station can also be included to add a fun element to the wedding décor.” ■



Personalised guest
place cards for
Priyanka Chopra
and Nick Jonas's
wedding by The
Bombay Lettering
Company



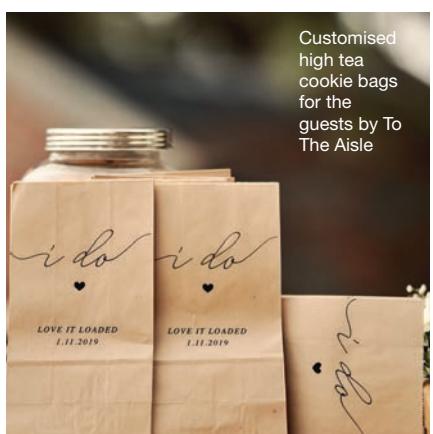
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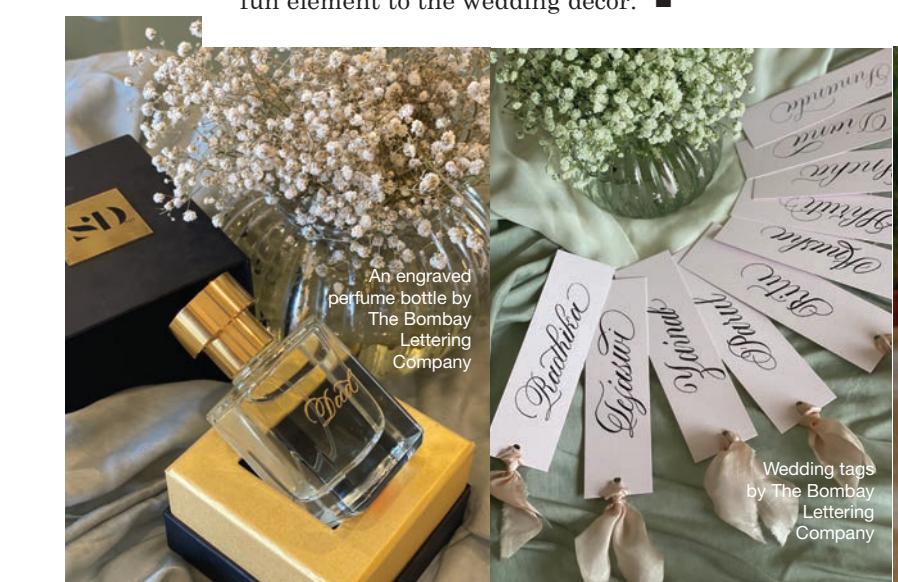
A name tag with a
satin ribbon and
Baby's breath by The
Bombay Lettering
Company



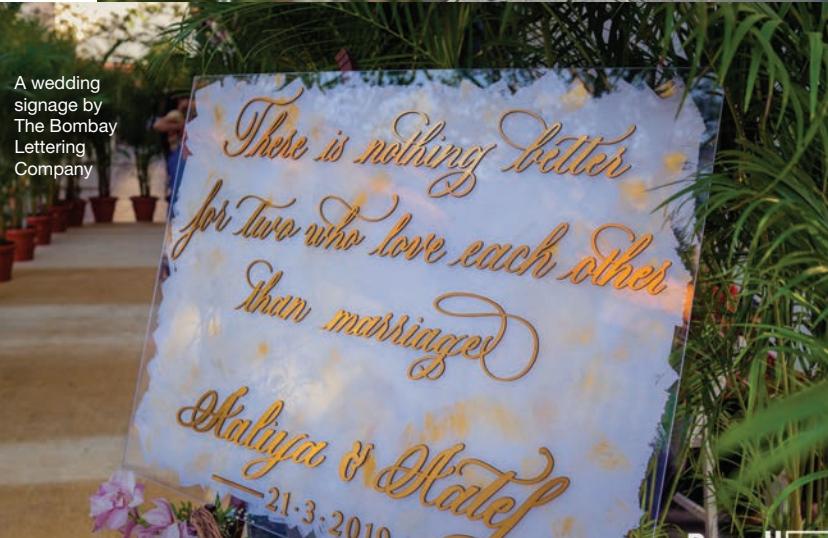
Paper napkin ring
by The Bombay
Lettering Company



Customised
high tea
cookie bags
for the
guests by To
The Aisle



IMAGES: AASH STUDIO



wedding
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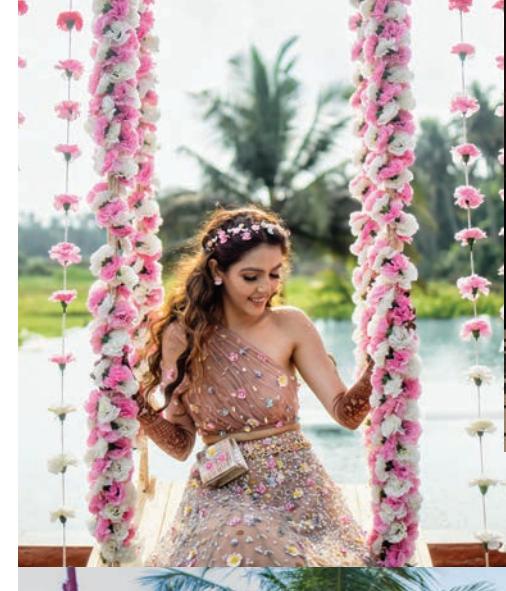
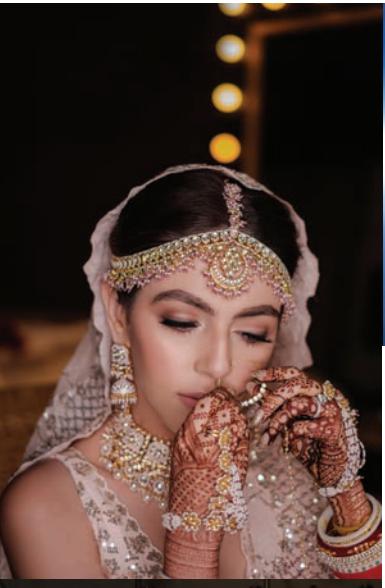


NEVER LOOKING BACK

Two years of a stormy relationship and a break-up later, sparks began to fly once again between content creator Meghna Sahijwani and singer Jai Bhattacharya. Hand-in-hand, they vowed to make it work against the odds.



The PLANNER



The Details

Wedding Planner: Castles & Coasters
Photographer: Knotting Bells
Bridal Outfits: Richa Jaisinghani Label, Seema Gujral, K&A by Karishma And Ashita
Makeup Artist: Meraki by Ritika
Bridal Hair: AnitaShil
Entertainment: Dj Aj



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE
Meghna with her bridesmaids.
The bride with her bridesmaids at the mehendi function.
Wedding signages.
The bride at her haldi function.



JUST THE TWO OF US

Wedding stylist Tania Chackumkal and data analyst Jacob Kottoor felt an instant connection the first time they set eyes on each other. Three years later, Tania 'woke up' engaged! Find out what went down in this roller coaster of a love story.

The Details

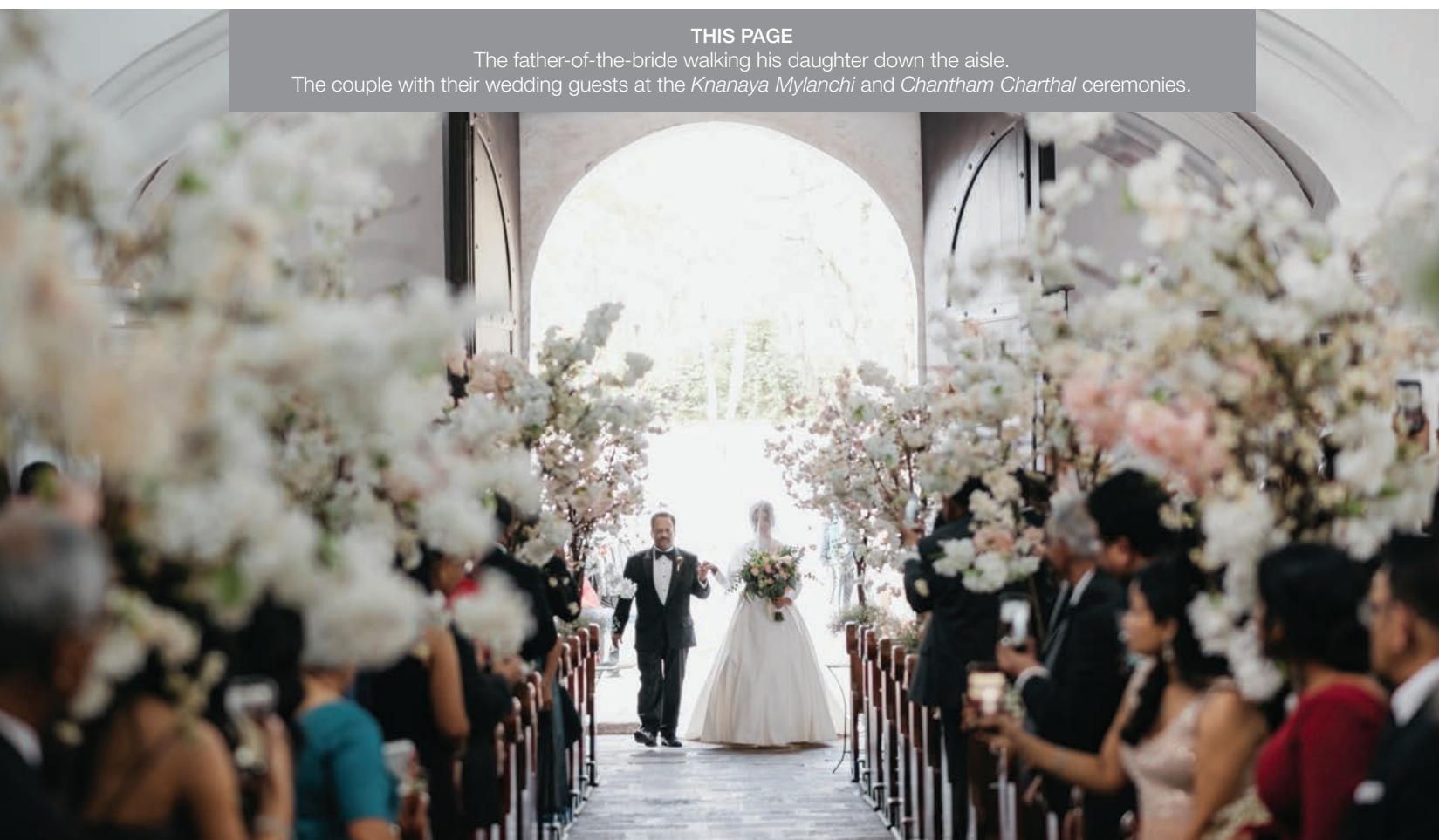
Wedding Conceptualization and Styling:
Tania Kottoor
Wedding Planner: Saguzo Events
Photographer: Joseph Nance and
Daniel Lopez Perez
Bridal Outfits: WEST X EAST
Floral Designers: Bea De la Roca, Escenica
Events, Expressions Artes Florales
Makeup Artist: Jocelyn Biga
Mehendi Artist: Henna by Inder



"I believe it is essential to create vision boards for all your events, and mood boards for the outfits. Always begin with the colour palette."

THIS PAGE

The father-of-the-bride walking his daughter down the aisle.
The couple with their wedding guests at the *Knanaya Mylanchi* and *Chantham Charthal* ceremonies.



How They Met

Jacob and Tania first met at a mutual friend's birthday party in New York City, in July 2016. The moment Tania walked into the soirée on that fateful summer evening, she and Jacob locked eyes and they both felt a magnetic energy that attracted them to each other. It was kismet, they say.

She Said 'Yes!'

Three years later, in May 2019, Jacob surprised Tania with a 'glamping trip' to Governor's Island in New York City. They biked across the isle, ate dinner at sunset, and ended the night with a romantic bonfire. He slipped the ring on her finger while she was asleep—and she woke up happily engaged!

The Big Day

The couple hosted traditional *Knanaya Mylanchi* and *Chantham Charthal* ceremonies amidst the ruins of an ancient convent. Featuring an oceanic colour palette, foliage, and warm wooden accents, the wedding décor served as a reminder of their tropical, Kerala homeland. For their 'honeymoon' in Lake Atitlan, the newlyweds invited their loved ones for a Mayan wedding ceremony and boat party.

Memories That Will Last a Lifetime

For their first dance, Tania and Jacob performed a Latin ballroom rumba to one of their favorite Michael Bublé tunes. Surprise fireworks at the end were the perfect way to commemorate the once-in-a-lifetime experience.

My Advice

"I believe it is essential to create vision boards for all your events, and mood boards for the outfits. Always begin with the colour palette. This process helped me conceptualize 75 custom outfits, as well as design four events," said Tania.

Living Through a Pandemic

Jacob and Tania have been spending their time gardening, cooking, and watching shows and movies together. The newly-weds often go on long walks to Prospect Park in New York City, and have been visiting their families in Chicago and San Antonio.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

The two-tier
wedding cake.

The couple at their Catholic
ceremony.

The bride's mother and sister
helping Tania get ready for the
reception ceremony.

The couple pose before their
first dance.

The couple at their reception.

The bride getting ready for her
Knanaya Mylanchi and *Chantham
Charthal* ceremonies.

The couple pose for a photograph.

By Diya J Verma

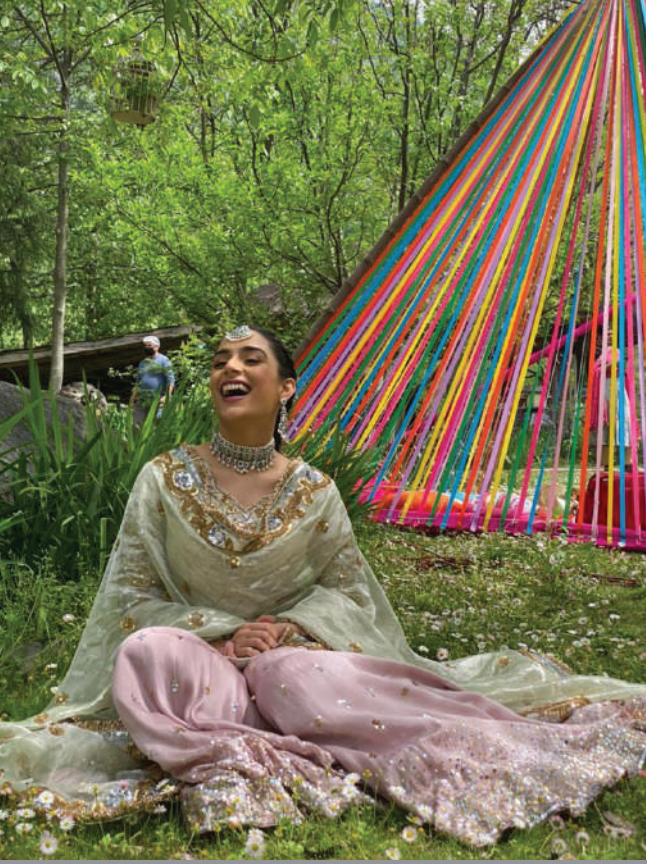


IMAGES: AASH DECOR, SUTLEJ PANNU AND NAYAN



UNDER THE PERFUMED BOUGHS OF THE LAGERSTROEMIA TREE

Artist and illustrator Tripat Kaur Kang and banker Rehmat Singh chose the dreamlike locales of Manali for their wedding, surrounded by nature and the fondest memories of their courtship.



How They Met

An exchange of numbers orchestrated by family friends led to a bowling date in Chandigarh. There was an instant spark, and what followed was an adventure—strolls in London, sunsets in Mallorca, an evening in Amsterdam, and finally, a proposal on a mountaintop in Kullu, two years later.

The Proposal

"Last year, Rehmat was in London and I was in Chandigarh. We couldn't meet for over 11 months because of the pandemic. Finally, we reunited in Kullu, and that's when Rehmat proposed," Tripat shares.

A Significant Wedding Location

"Our home near Manali, is a place close to my heart. My family and I have spent many special moments here. We chose to have the *Anand Karaj* ceremony in the garden, under the lagerstroemia tree. It's an especially peaceful spot in the lap of nature, where you can hear the river, smell the flowers, and see the last of the cherry blossoms. Serendipitously, a picture of this very spot in the garden is the first photograph I shared on my WhatsApp chat with Rehmat," the bride reveals.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
The couple pose together after their wedding ceremony.
The sangeet décor inspired by fireflies in the mountain woods.

Locally sourced design elements at the sangeet.

The couple take a stroll after their wedding.

Tripat enjoys a light moment.

The *Anand Karaj* ceremony.

The couple during their pheras.

Sustainable décor details.

Multi-hued satin ribbons create a vibrant canopy at the *mehendi* ceremony.

Safety Precautions in the time of Covid

The couple limited their guest list to about 70 of their closest family and friends. Everyone was tested, and masks and sanitizers were made readily available. "We even requested our guests to refrain from handshakes, hugs and any physical interactions for the sake of everyone present," the newly-wed shares as a piece of advice. ■

By Simrit Tiwana



The Details

Décor: Aash Studio

Custom Illustrations and Invitations:

Tripat Kaur Kang

Bride's make-up: Shradha Luthra

Bride's Hair: Ruchi Arya

Photographer: Nayan for the décor, Sutej

Pannu for the wedding

Planner: Mandap Martini

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

The carnival-themed *mehendi* celebration.

The mandap, a dome bedecked with locally-sourced flowers of purple, white, and blue.

A table setting with candles and glass lamps.

Seating installations with cushion covers custom-printed by the bride.



BLOOMING LOVE

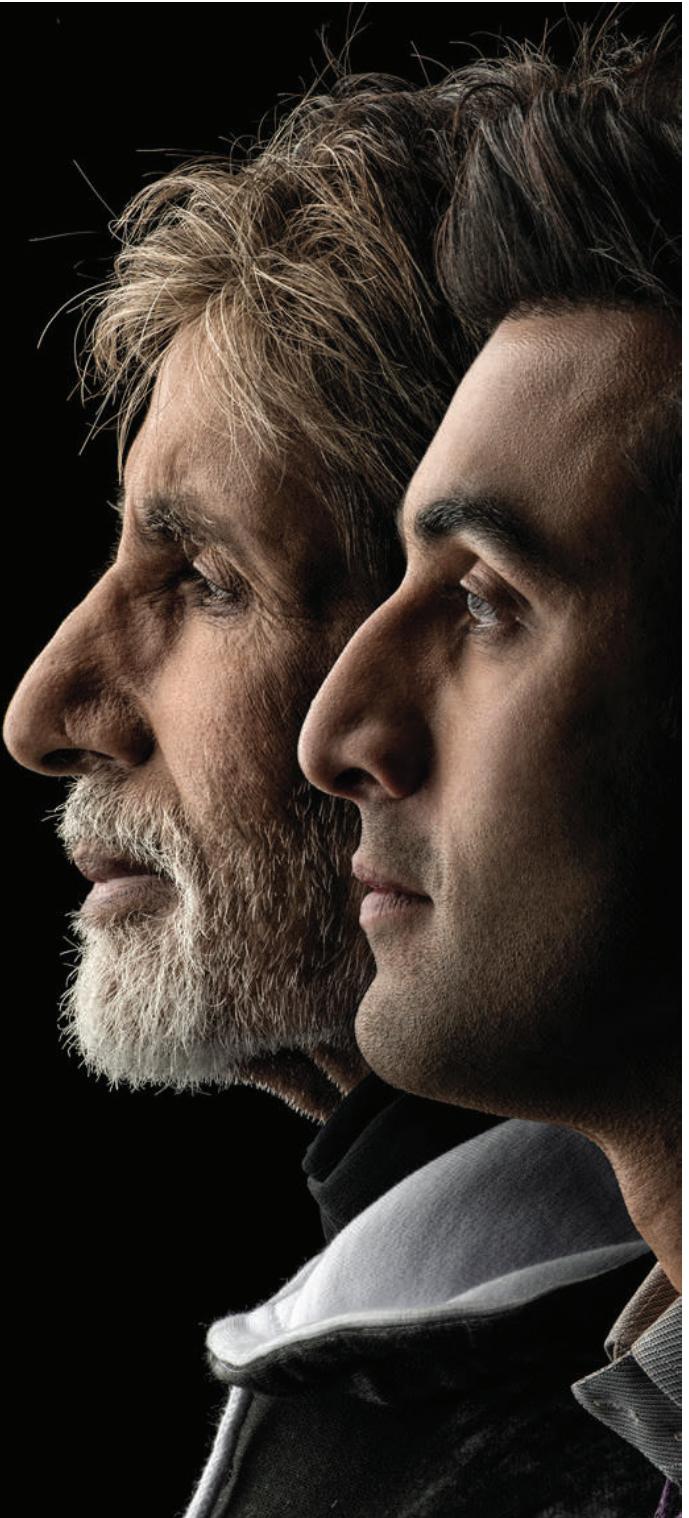
A profusion of flower patterns and intricate details celebrate the blossoming of a new romance.

1. Hermès Les Necessaires d'Hermès Folding Screen, ₹28,98,725. 2. Ritu Kumar Home Grey Brass Flicker Lamp, ₹8,750. 3. ABACA Hand-painted Jar with Metal Handles, ₹9,600. 4. Imperial Knots Multi-colour Suzani Hand-tufted Carpet, ₹10,990. 5. Pink Peacock Couture Home Yellow Cushion with Rose Gold Flower Embroidery, ₹5,000. 6. The Rural Theory Eden Scissors, ₹1,190. 7. Vista Alegre Amazonia Salt and Pepper Shakers, ₹6,420. 8. Ayush Kasliwal Design at Anantaya Surajmukhi Wall Flower Decor, ₹2,760. 9. Oriental Living Painted Coffee Table, ₹66,500. 10. ARTychoke Ivory Lotus High Gloss Trays, ₹8,000 for a set of three. 11. RARE Flourish Sunburst Mirror, ₹5,500. 12. Versace Virtus Faux Fur Reversible Cushion, ₹91,500. 13. Gucci Moire Dragonfish Jacquard Chair, ₹5,55,000. 14. Karo Aqua Utility Box, ₹2,750. 15. Klove Studio Table Lotus Decor, ₹14,160.

16. Assemblage Hydrangea Nesting Marble Cake Stand, ₹4,800. 17. Sabyasachi X Thomas Goode East Of Calcutta Coffee Saucer, ₹8,204. 18. Courtyard at Pepperfry Lotus Gold Iron Light Cluster Hanging Lamp, ₹4,250. 19. Michael Calliou at The House of Things Bouquet Wallpaper Fragment, ₹10,500. 20. Living with Elan The Amber Tantra Stainless Steel Pyramid Four Tier Lunch Box, ₹2,520. 21. The Plated Project Banish the Princess Wall Art, ₹2,299. 22. Metal & Wood Floral Wood Napkin Ring, ₹2,940. 23. The Edit Isle Upholstered Bench, ₹54,000. 24. The 7 DeKor Gold Metal Dessert Tray, ₹5,390. 25. Good Earth Wild Himalaya Demitasse, ₹10,000 for a set of four. 26. Nicobar Orchid Telfairia Lumbar Cushion Cover, ₹1,800. 27. Mayur Arts Bone Inlay Box, ₹17,100. 28. Cyahi Magnolias Round Teak Tray, ₹3,400. 29. Jazz My Home Maroon Cushion with Floral Detailing, ₹4,699.

IndiaContent

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the travel

A photograph of a traditional-style wooden bungalow with a red-tiled roof and a thatched roof extension. The bungalow is surrounded by lush green trees. In the foreground, there is a wooden deck and a small stone wall. The sky is a warm, golden color, suggesting sunset or sunrise.

WILD AT HEART

The most luxurious safaris and sanctuaries for you to visit with your partner, to revel in the awe-inspiring beauty of nature.

By Priya Kumari Rana

A Machan Bungalow Baghvan Taj Safari for blissful sleep-outs surrounded by nature



BAGHVAR TAJ SAFARI Pench National Park, Madhya Pradesh

Live the *machan* high life, and re-live the glory days of the '50s, in this lodge by the Pench river that lets you turn into a modern-day adventurer. Located in southern Madhya Pradesh, Pench National Park is teeming with wildlife such as tiger, leopard, wild dog, gaur, sambar, chital, and variety of bird species, and yet it is one of India's lesser-known parks. The Baghvan Taj Safari (the name is inspired by the Bengal tiger, *bagh*, and forest, *van*), is a mere five-minute drive from the park's entrance, and offers a colonial-era experience in the jungle. "The location of the lodge, on the dry river-bed of the Pench River, makes it particularly quaint," says Kanhai Kapoor, Associate Vice President, Taj Safaris. "It is also very close to the



Enjoy a cocktail or two by the in-house mixologist after a thrilling safari drive



Turia Gate, which is one of the most popular safari zones in Pench."

The standout feature of this resort are the 12 stand-alone suites that come with a private *machan* for a one-on-one experience with the surrounding forest. "The Machan Bungalows have a private verandah overlooking the forest as well as a romantic, open-to-air shower," Kanhai shares. "The couple can choose to sleep in their air-conditioned bedrooms or on the *machan*. This is a cocoon of privacy for nature lovers, and lovers... You can sit outdoors in the early mornings and be serenaded by chirping birds, or try your hand at photography, with abundant sun and shade provided by trees." For those who enjoy cooking, there is an open kitchen in each bungalow where you can prepare traditional Indian dishes (all recipes and ingredients are provided).

Take a short drive to the Teliya buffer zone to experience a monsoon-drenched jungle—or a night drive (between 6 P.M. and 9 P.M.) into the area to catch a glimpse of wolves, porcupines, flying squirrels, and other animals not seen during the day (without harsh search lights). The Park is home to endangered species such as the king of the jungle, the tiger—the dominant predator, leopard, hyena, and jackal. If you are a bird buff, you might want to take your binoculars and gaze at parakeets, kingfisher, orioles, minivets, wagtails, hornbill, and raptors like the crested hawk eagle and crested serpent eagle. You can book a drive to the Rukhad Wildlife Sanctuary, which epitomises the densest part of the jungle. Here, explore the ancient Kurai Garh (an old bandit fort) that offers stupendous 360 degrees panoramas of the forest.

A Bonnet Breakfast (served literally on the bonnet of your 4 x 4 Safari vehicle while you're in the park, comes replete with fresh bakes, curried rolls, fresh juice, muesli, sandwiches, and your favourite tea or coffee. For lunch and dinner, consider the à la carte menu of soup, tossed salads (with vegetables from the kitchen garden or nearby farms), pizzas, pastas, or, of course, delicious local dishes of the Vidarbha region.

Discover surrounding villages and their unique crafts like the Pachdhar Potters' Village, a half hour's drive away, and try your hand at pottery. Or visit the Khamba Village, where the inhabitants still live as they did centuries ago, and ride on a bullock cart. End your day with a high tea on Kohka Lake, six kilometres from Baghvan.

The heart of wilderness is calling, and this just may be the answer.



SUJÁN JAWAI Jawai Bandh, Rajasthan

Set amidst ancient granite hills and scrubland of Marwar, this luxurious tented camp redefines glamping, even as you enjoy leopard sightings and a brand-new equine wellness therapy, featuring the fiercely-loyal Kathiawari and Marwari horses. Amidst the former royal Rajput States of Jodhpur and Udaipur, the property borrows its name from the seasonal Jawai river that flows through the arid landscape. Think spacious, air-conditioned tents propped up in the middle of rocky terrain comprising granite hills, which are 850 million years old. This Relais & Châteaux property is your own private wilderness, with the Suján group's comforting and luxe touches.

Lodging is the real star (as are the excursions and safaris, of course), with eight Rock Suites, one Royal Panthera Suite, and the brand-new private encampment called Eden. Suján founders Anjali and Jaisal Singh have personally overseen the refurbishment of the interiors, with natural fabrics and weaves. Guest areas like lounge and bar tents have been opened up and brought closer to the wilderness, allowing further engagement with the magnificent views. As supporters of not only the wildlife and forests of the area, the Singhs are opening a boutique in each camp (with some pieces designed by Anjali) that supports local traditions and crafts.

In stark contrast to the rugged, rocky landscape are the scarlet turbans of the Rabari herdsmen and herdswomen who roam the area with their flocks of sheep. Suján Jawai pays homage to them by not only organising strolls with this fascinating pastoral community (the men wear white angarkhas and dhotis with mojris, while the women wear



Cool-off with a dip in the pool after a long, hot safari



Learn to tie a bright red saafa (turban), Rabari-style, by a member of the nomadic Rajasthani tribe



Uninterrupted views of the rocky terrain at Suján Jawai



Minimalist lobby and lounge tents



The fierce and loyal Kathiawari and Marwari horses are the true stars of the equine therapy programme

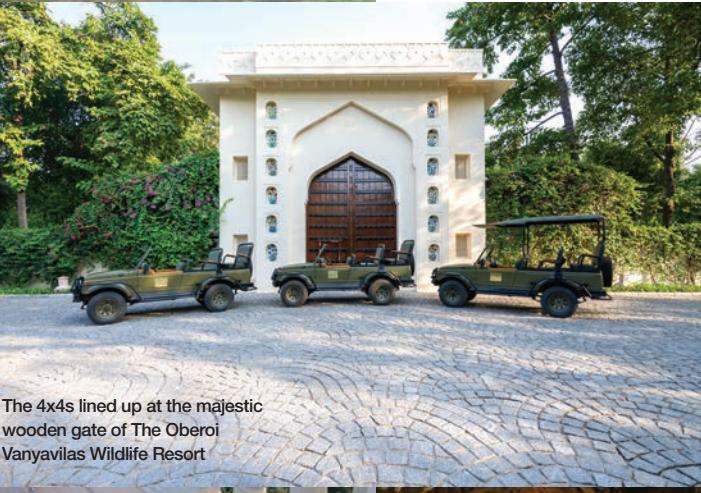
deep-red lehengas and dupattas, gold naths and white churas), but also with photographs inside the tents that highlight their colourful attires.

Since you are in the leopard territory, hop into any one of the two wilderness drives that leave the camp in 4 x 4 Gypsies, in search of the elusive big cats. While leopards are the predominant species in the area, you will most probably chance upon antelope, hyena, crocodile, and smaller mammals, too. On safari, there are trackers and expert drivers who will look out for the precise location of, say, a leopard, so sightings are virtually guaranteed if the animal happens to be in that area. The area is also home to over 250 species of birds, from the migratory greater flamingos and sarus cranes to resident raptors. What makes your expedition all the more enjoyable is a packed picnic with hot beverages and breakfast food.

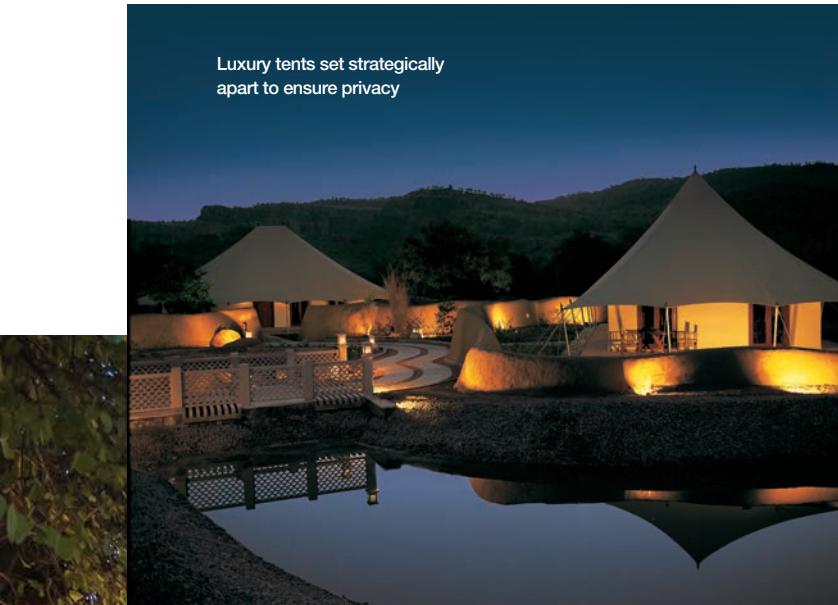
Dine al fresco with chairs surrounding a bonfire as you sip a spirit of your choice, or eat a hearty Rajasthani meal—with their farm-fresh produce (ethically-sourced from local producers), Suján Jawai's cuisine is a mix of local delicacies and international classics. What Anjali and Jaisal have added this year is the concept of Riding in the Wild—where not only can you explore the rugged landscape on horseback, but also improve your mental health through their Healing with Horses programme. The first of its kind experience in the country, the programme aims to spiritually connect you with the horse handpicked by you. Tenacious and loyal, these magnificent creatures are surely bound to teach you a thing or two.



Relish champagne and canapés or take in the views of the Ranthambore National Park from your personal observation tower



The 4x4s lined up at the majestic wooden gate of The Oberoi Vanyavilas Wildlife Resort



Luxury tents set strategically apart to ensure privacy

THE OBEROI VANYAVILAS WILDLIFE RESORT Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan

Get away from your busy life and make a date with the regal Indian tiger as this September, The Oberoi Vanyavilas Wildlife Resort—that sits within 20 acres of landscaped gardens, adjacent to the Ranthambore National Park and Tiger Reserve—reopens after being shuttered down for the monsoon season. Set between the Aravali and Vindhya mountain ranges in South-Eastern Rajasthan (land at Jaipur Airport and have one of the resort's cars pick you up—a 180 km drive), lies this property (one of India's first, truly-luxurious jungle resort) that is buzzing with bird life and verdant shrubbery and trees.

Stay in one of the resort's 790-square-feet 25 luxury tents, placed within a discreet distance of each other, inspired by the caravans of the royal families who once patronised this forest, replete with wooden floors and furniture, and done up in the colours of the jungle. Needless to say, the handsome four-poster bed is the central, most welcome element of your stay, with a mattress that ensures heavenly repose after a day spent ambling along treks or exploring the jungle on special drives. Be woken up at the crack of dawn and make your way to the 4 x 4 vehicle waiting in the driveway (pack sunscreen and hats with you as it can get extremely hot) and explore the depths of the 392-square-kilometre Park with experienced guides. The drive comes with cushioned seats and a detachable roof, and seats up to four people.

It is not rare to spot upto six tigers in one go—not to mention crocodiles and deer (and, if you are very lucky, a leopard or two). The Park (open from October to June) is a photographer's delight—if you are fortunate enough to spot the Royal Bengal

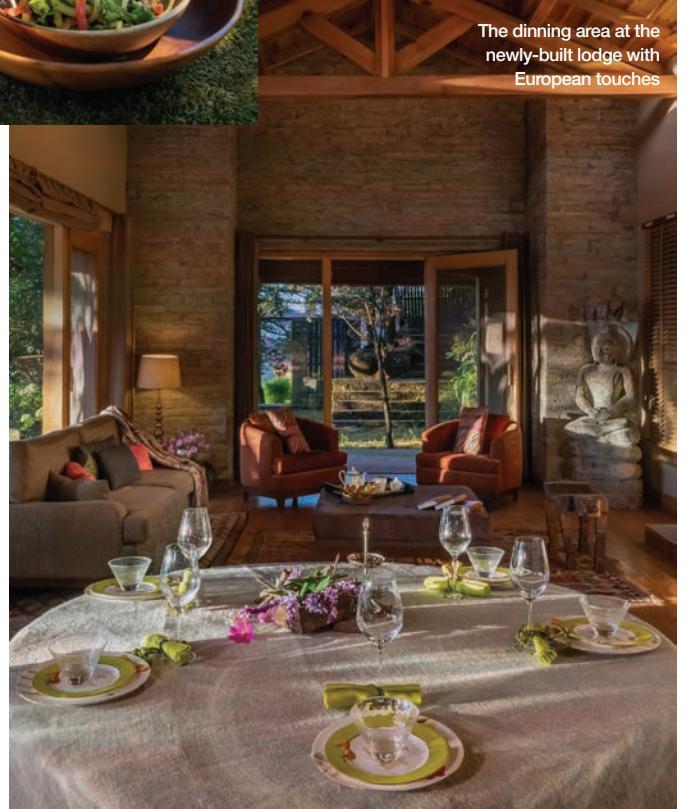
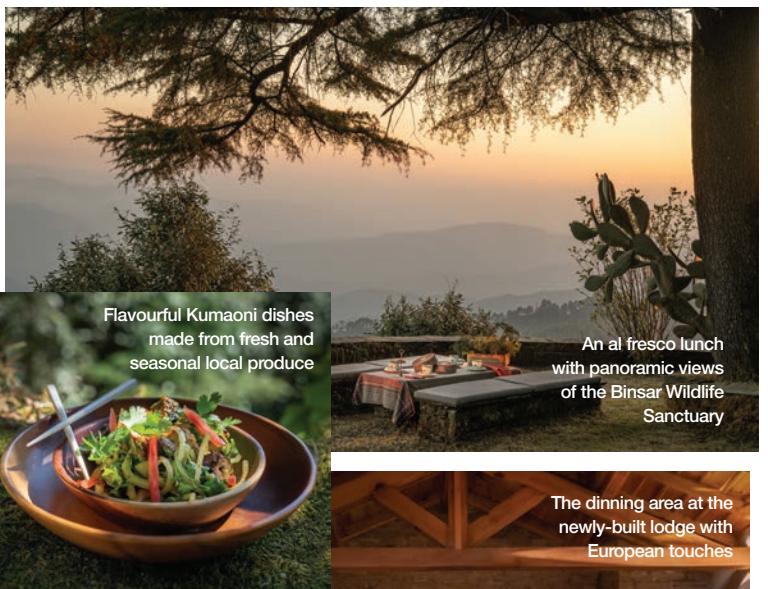
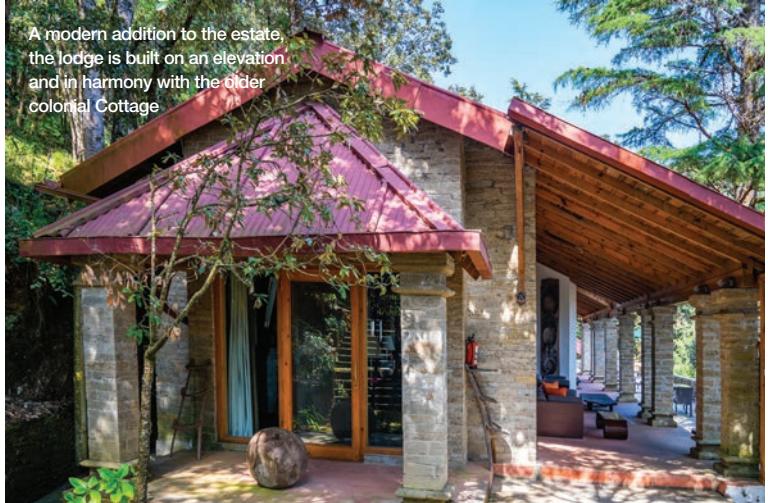


Make a dinner date or enjoy a Rajasthani Thali at the private lily pond

Tiger loitering around the ruins of the former Raj Bagh fort, stone arches, steps, and palace outhouses located between two water bodies, which makes for surreal imagery. Back at the resort, take a walk around the garden, or indulge in a spa treatment, spend time birdwatching, enjoy panoramic views (or a champagne sundowner, served with canapés made with herbs and vegetables from the resort's vegetable garden) of the neighbouring jungle from the resort's private observation tower. Or opt for dinner under the stars in the restaurant courtyard (with pan-Indian, Rajasthani, or Continental fare), in the gardens or in a special, romantic setting by the small, private lily pond nestled within an amphitheatre. The Royal Rajasthani Thali served here is best savoured on a candlelit table, surrounded by burning *mashaal* fire torches, with traditional folk music and dance for entertainment.

We are told this monsoon has brought enough water to rejuvenate the forests of Ranthambore; the water bodies are full, bringing down the temperature of the area and providing relief for the jungle's creatures. The population of tigers has risen to 70 tigers, according to the latest data, which includes 22 cubs. This means that all the zones of the park may become tiger territory, offering great sighting opportunities to its visitors.





MARY BUDDEN ESTATE Binsar, Uttarakhand

This charming British Raj-era estate is a set of two luxurious cottages set inside a private, unspoilt Himalayan forest sanctuary that offers the perfect antidote to harried lifestyles, with nature walks, bird watching, and the chance to explore quaint Kumaoni villages. Tucked inside the densely-forested mountains of Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary (just a short drive from Almora town) sits the five-acre Mary Budden Estate. Bought in 1899 by the Englishwoman after whom it is named, the original cottage served as a school for orphans. It lay derelict for a century until Delhi-based photographer, Serena Chopra, bought it in the 1990s. "The original structure, which had three rooms, is 200 years old, and Serena added more rooms by constructing the lodge next door," says Siddharth Yadav, Vice President, MRS Group of Hotels, which manages this boutique property.

The original cottage houses six people in three rooms, along with a dining and living room, while there are four additional rooms at the lodge, all tastefully done up by Serena herself, with antique furniture, wooden accents, log fireplaces, stone patios, and plenty of sit-outs. Since it is built on an elevation, all the rooms have picture-perfect views of the forest and mountains. The bathrooms have a wooden theme, and the water is heated via solar panels and tends to be scarce (they use harvested rainwater, so use it wisely!). Luxurious touches such as cashmere throws and opulent, high-thread-count cotton bedsheets make the indoors all the cosier.

But it is being in the middle of this private sanctuary in the Himalayas that is the ultimate luxury. Home to 26 leopards, the deodar and pine tree forest beckon you and you can explore it at your own pace. Take a half-hour walk to the famous Zero Point, to the jaw-dropping 180 degree panorama of the Himalayan range, which includes peaks like Nanda Devi, strung across the horizon like a snow-capped pearl necklace. Amble on ponies or by foot along Ramsay's Road (named after the much-loved Henry Ramsay, assistant commissioner of Kumaon around the 1840s), through cedars and oaks, past waterfalls and rock outcrops. Discover the Dalar Village, one of Kumaon's best-kept secrets, and one of its oldest settlements, with stone roofs and bright blue windows. "It is like a Hobbit town," says Siddharth. You can enjoy a lovely picnic prepared by the Mary Budden Estate chefs, on the banks of the Kosi River, featuring fresh fish. The forest has 170 bird species, and guides are happy to point out babblers, thrushes, and woodcocks (Uttarakhand is home to 50 percent of India's bird species, including five endangered species like the red-headed vulture and Himalayan quail). And if you are lucky, you might just catch a fleeting glimpse of a leopard, from the estate itself!



Eating outdoors can never be more pleasurable and a stay at the Mary Budden Estate offers ample opportunities to enjoy your breakfasts, brunches, and dinners nestled in the lap of nature. One such highlight is the Serena Garden Lunch, where you can feast on Himalayan or colonial-era dishes, in a sunlight-filled corner with a magnificent view, seated on low stools and surrounded by oak trees. With such clear, smog-free skies, it is an absolute treat to dine under the starry skies, something the resort happily arranges.

And in such sylvan surroundings, comes the spiritual desire to absorb cosmic energy that can be found in the temple

dedicated to Goddess Kasar Devi, in the eponymous village not far from Almora. The temple structure dates back to 2nd century CE, and has attracted the likes of Swami Vivekananda, Lama Govinda, writer D.H. Lawrence, and musicians Bob Dylan and George Harrison, who chose it as their meditation spot. You can also visit the famous Jageshwar Temples, a set of iconic 124 stone temples dedicated to Lord Shiva (dated between the 7th-14th century), or visit the quaint Chitai bell temple dedicated to the God Golu with its myriad bells. ■

MODERN ROMANCE

The new symbols of love are far from same-old and straightforward... They celebrate our individuality, much like Gucci's new range of rings, bracelets, and necklaces from the Link To Love collection. These sleek, geometrical designs, in 18-carat yellow gold, white gold, and rose gold, are embedded with tourmaline, rubellite, and diamonds..and are perfect for stacking and layering. Oh, if only all romances were as easy as that... ■



Gucci Link to
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IMAGE: COURTESY THE BRAND. TEXT BY RADHIKA BHALLA.



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