

# tourism one

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## Breathtaking Wedding DESTINATIONS IN INDIA



India's Best  
Wedding  
Destinations  
Unlocked

Indian Weddings:  
A Celebration  
Woven in  
CULTURE

 Lakshadweep

# When Celebrations Stay Home The Nation Grows

In 2023, our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave a timely call to Wed in India - an idea that deserves deeper reflection. When high-net-worth Indians marry abroad, celebrations quietly turn into forex outflow. When they marry in India, traditions thrive, livelihoods grow, and pride stays home.

From the turquoise calm of Lakshadweep - ideal for weddings and honeymoons, even for NRIs - to Praveg's serene Thinnakkara, India offers world-class romance. Closer home, Adalaj Theme Park stands ready for timeless celebrations.

The future of destination weddings doesn't lie abroad. It begins here. 

**Dr. Vishnukumar Patel**  
Chairman - PRAVEG LIMITED



# When a Nation Celebrates Love

In India, a wedding is never a single moment. It is a season, a journey, and a collective emotion. Long before vows are exchanged, calendars are consulted, homes are prepared, recipes are perfected, and families begin their quiet transformation. This special issue of Tourism One is dedicated to that journey that moves through geography, faith, ritual, flavour, and memory.

Across the country, weddings speak in different accents. In the North, they arrive with spectacle and sound, where fire bears witness and community affirms permanence. In the West, marriage unfolds as a social contract: colourful, communal, and deeply grounded in shared responsibility. The South offers restraint and sacred precision, where calendars rule and rituals follow cosmic alignment. In the East, weddings lean into intimacy, intellect, and emotional depth, proving that grandeur does not always require scale.

Yet, beneath this diversity lies a single truth: in India, marriage is sacred before it is celebratory. It is not merely about two individuals choosing each other, but about families, communities, and traditions choosing continuity. This is why Indian weddings endure; why rituals persist even as venues modernise and aesthetics globalise.

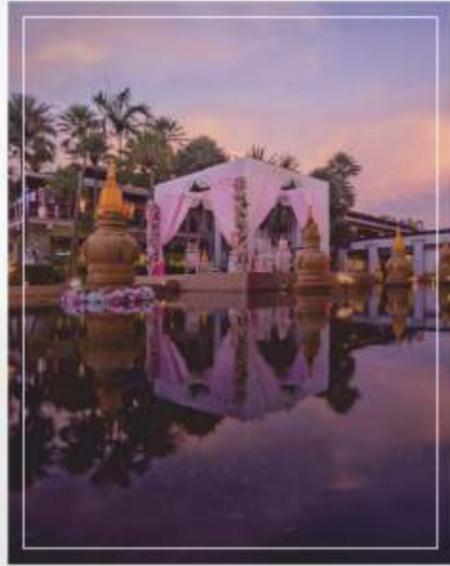
Travel and weddings, therefore, are inseparable in the Indian context. From palace towns and beach shores to temple cities and quiet hills, the country does not merely host weddings, it absorbs them. Each destination adds its own rhythm to the celebration, turning ceremonies into lived experiences rather than staged events.

No Indian wedding is complete without food. The recipes in this issue - Angoor Basundi, Cocktail Samosa, Gulab Jamun, and Saffron Pistachio Kulfi - are not inclusions for indulgence alone. They represent pauses between rituals, conversations between generations, and the sweetness that follows solemn vows. In India, dessert is memory served on a spoon.

As this issue unfolds, we invite you to read Indian weddings not as events, but as expressions of civilisation. Here, love is not hurried. Commitment is not whispered. And celebration is never accidental.

Because in India, when two people marry, the country quietly joins them - ritual by ritual, season by season. 

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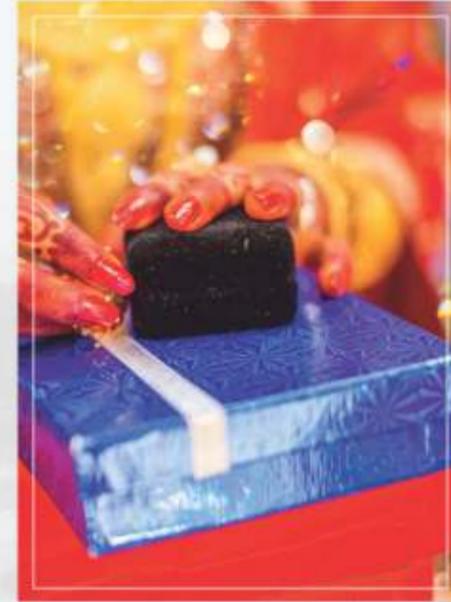
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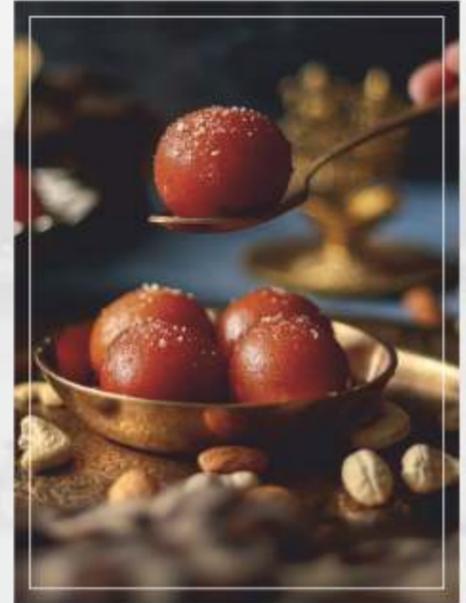
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## PRAVEG

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# Wedding Destinations in India

By JAYESH PUROHIT

*Popular locations perfect for your dream wedding*

In India, wedding season is not just a calendar window; it is an emotion that arrives with auspicious dates, family group chats buzzing at midnight, jewellery lockers opening after months, and destinations quietly preparing to host stories of a lifetime. Amid this vibrant season, two phrases often get used interchangeably: destination weddings and wedding destinations.

While a destination wedding is about couples travelling away from home to marry in a chosen location, a wedding destination is about places that are naturally or professionally equipped to host weddings. India, with its geographic and cultural diversity, offers wedding destinations that feel less like venues and more like living backdrops—each one carrying its own rhythm, symbolism, and promise. From shores that whisper vows to palaces that echo royalty, these destinations don't just host weddings; they elevate them.



Goa Wedding

# BEACH WEDDINGS

The Sea Becomes a Witness

There is something profoundly liberating about getting married by the sea. The horizon feels endless, rituals feel lighter, and celebrations flow with a certain ease.

Goa remains India's most instinctive beach wedding destination. Beyond its postcard beaches, Goa offers seamless infrastructure—international connectivity, experienced planners, luxury resorts, and a culture that understands celebrations. Beach mandaps at sunset, candlelit receptions, and a relaxed yet refined vibe make Goa ideal for couples who want grandeur without gravity.

Further south, Varkala Beach brings spirituality to the

shoreline. Perched cliffs overlooking the Arabian Sea, natural sunsets, and a slower pace lend Varkala an intimate charm. It is perfect for couples who want a soulful, minimalist wedding where nature does most of the storytelling.

Then there is Lakshadweep, a destination that feels almost unreal. Turquoise lagoons, coral islands, and unmatched privacy turn weddings here into once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Lakshadweep appeals to couples seeking exclusivity—small guest lists, curated ceremonies, and memories framed by untouched beauty. Here, luxury lies in isolation, and vows feel whispered directly to the sea.

Lakshadweep



Beach Wedding

# SPIRITUAL DESTINATIONS

## Faith Blesses the Union

**F**or many Indian families, marriage is not complete without divine presence. Spiritual destinations offer that rare blend of sanctity and celebration.

In Varanasi, weddings unfold against the eternal rhythm of the Ganges. Ghats glowing at dawn, ancient temples, and chants in the air lend ceremonies a timeless gravitas. A wedding in Varanasi feels less like an event and more like a sacred chapter written into history itself.

At Tirumala Temple, weddings are deeply devotional. Marriages here are marked by simplicity, discipline, and faith, making it a preferred choice for families seeking divine sanction over spectacle. It is not about scale, but about surrender.

Haridwar and Rishikesh add serenity to sacred vows. Riverside rituals, Himalayan air, and the presence of ashrams create weddings that feel pure and grounded. Rishikesh, in particular, balances spirituality with boutique luxury, making it ideal for elegant yet meaningful celebrations.

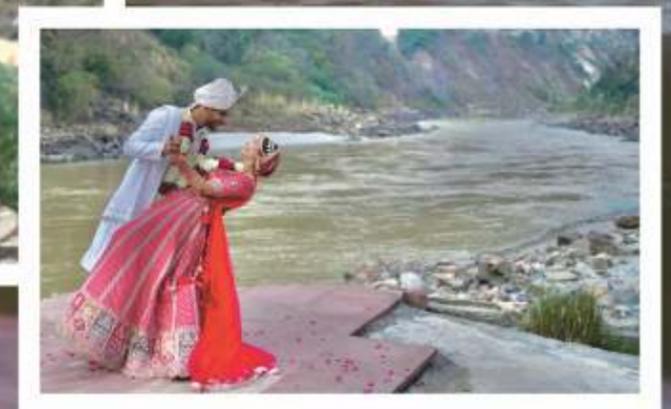


Photo Courtesy: Instagram.com/pink\_bow\_hity

Rishikesh

# PALACES & HERITAGE

Royalty Still Lives

If Indian weddings are known for grandeur, heritage destinations give that grandeur a legitimate throne. Udaipur is the undisputed crown jewel. Lakeside palaces, sunset-lit courtyards, and regal architecture turn every ceremony into a spectacle. Udaipur weddings are cinematic—designed for couples who want royalty not as a theme, but as an atmosphere.

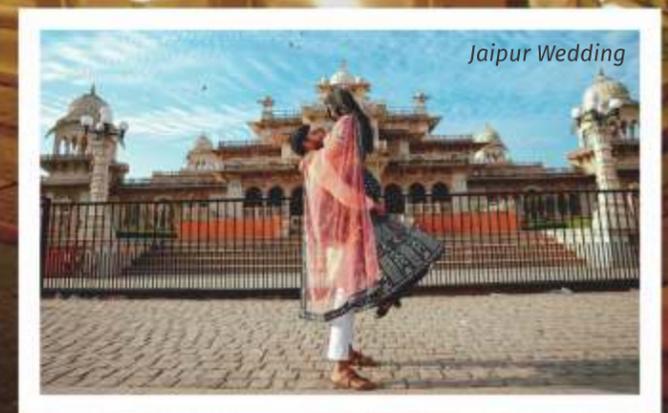
Jaipur blends heritage with accessibility. Its palaces,

havelis, and forts offer versatility—from grand traditional weddings to contemporary royal affairs. Jaipur's charm lies in its balance: opulence without intimidation.

In Jodhpur, the desert meets drama. Dominated by Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur weddings are bold and visually arresting. The sandstone architecture, expansive views, and desert sunsets make it ideal for couples who want a powerful, unforgettable setting.



Jodhpur



Jaipur Wedding



# MOUNTAINS & SCENIC NATURE

## Love Breathes Freely

**N**ature has a way of softening ceremonies, making them more intimate, more real.

**Jawai** is unconventional and deeply compelling. Known for its granite hills and leopard landscapes, Jawai offers wilderness luxury. Weddings here are quiet, exclusive, and rooted in nature—perfect for couples who want rarity over routine.

**Mussoorie** feels like a nostalgic romance. Misty mornings, colonial charm, and valley views create weddings that feel poetic. Mussoorie suits couples who dream in pastels and prefer elegance over excess.

**Shimla** brings classic hill-town charm. Heritage hotels, pine forests, and cool climates make Shimla a perennial favourite. Weddings here feel cosy yet celebratory, framed by nature's calm grandeur.

Grand Eulogia, Ahmedabad

# URBAN BANQUETS

Convenience Meets Celebration

**C**ities, too, have perfected the art of weddings—efficient, stylish, and impeccably managed.

**Mumbai** excels at intimate luxury. World-class banquets, top-tier hospitality, and unmatched vendor ecosystems make Mumbai ideal for chic, well-curated weddings. It is fast, fashionable, and flawlessly executed.

**New Delhi** offers scale and sophistication. From five-star ballrooms to sprawling farmhouses, Delhi caters to weddings of every size. Its strength lies in variety—traditional, contemporary, or fusion, all executed with finesse.

**Bengaluru** is emerging as a destination of balance.

Resort-style venues on the outskirts, pleasant weather, and modern aesthetics make Bengaluru perfect for relaxed yet refined weddings.

Finally, **Ahmedabad** stands out for its cultural grounding. Grand venues, strong hospitality infrastructure, and a deep-rooted wedding culture make Ahmedabad a rising favourite, especially for traditional celebrations executed at scale.

In the end, the perfect wedding destination is not just about beauty or budget. It is about resonance. A place that aligns with the couple's story, the family's beliefs, and the memories they wish to carry forward. India does not offer one way to get married—it offers a hundred. And somewhere within its beaches, temples, palaces, mountains, or cities, every love story finds its rightful setting. 

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# Weddings in India

## Festivals Precede the Grand Matrimony

By JAYESH PUROHIT

In India, a wedding is never just a wedding. It is a sacred passage, approached with the seriousness of a religious duty and the warmth of a collective celebration. Marriage here binds not only two individuals but families, lineages, beliefs, and futures. Elders turn to scriptures and customs, calendars and constellations, ensuring that every step—from consent to ceremony—unfolds under divine and social sanction. Each ritual, whether intimate or grand, carries layered meaning: blessings sought, continuity promised, prosperity invoked.

This reverence does not emerge overnight. Indian weddings announce themselves long before invitations are printed—through temple visits, astrological consultations, and the familiar question, “Is this an auspicious time?” When Chaturmas ends and the gods are believed to awaken, the country itself seems to prepare. Markets swell, cities reorganise, and daily life bends around mandaps, flower stalls, jewellers, and tailors. Weddings are not interruptions here; they are everyday life, heightened.

Across this wedding season unfolds a remarkable cultural map. While the sacred intent remains shared, each region speaks its own ritual language—north, south, east, and west expressing marriage through distinct ceremonies, symbols, and gestures. For Indians living abroad, this season becomes a call home, stitching continents together through tradition. India does not host weddings on single days. It lives them through seasons—shaped by myth, memory, agriculture, astrology, and community—each celebration pulling the mandap in its own, meaningful direction

# North India

## Spectacle, Sound & Sacred Timing

In North India, weddings arrive with scale. Not just in guest lists or decor, but in collective momentum. When the wedding season opens, it opens for everyone. The most decisive moment is Dev Uthani Ekadashi—the day Vishnu is believed to awaken from cosmic sleep. For four months prior, during Chaturmas, marriages are paused. Not discouraged, but paused. Then, on this single date, the calendar exhales. Auspiciousness returns.

This is not symbolic alone; it is operational. Thousands of weddings align themselves to the same few dates. Priests, florists, caterers, musicians, photographers, transporters—all move in unison, as though responding to a single cue. Entire towns feel louder, brighter, slightly overwhelmed. The scarcity of dates amplifies urgency, and urgency becomes spectacle.



## Tulsi Vivah

Soon after comes Tulsi Vivah, the symbolic marriage of the Tulsi plant with Vishnu or Krishna. Conducted in courtyards and temples, it turns domestic space into ritual space. This divine wedding does not compete with human weddings—it authorises them. By marrying the gods, households reaffirm that marriage itself is sacred, not merely social.



## Fire, Lineage & Public Celebration

North Indian weddings are acts of public affirmation. In Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Punjab, marriage unfolds loudly and visibly, where lineage is announced, alliances are displayed, and ritual becomes collective theatre. Fire anchors the sacred, but community validates the bond. Nothing here is private; permanence demands witnesses.

Roka or Thaka marks the first sanction. Before any vow is spoken to the divine, society agrees. Families exchange gifts, words are fixed, and uncertainty is formally dissolved. This ritual establishes that marriage is not an impulsive choice but a socially ratified decision, endorsed by elders and networks that will later enforce continuity.

Haldi follows as bodily preparation. Turmeric paste is applied to protect from the evil eye, invite fertility, and purify intention. Laughter surrounds the ritual, yet its purpose is serious: the body must be made ready to carry lineage forward. In agrarian cultures, this yellow is not cosmetic but agricultural, invoking abundance and health. The Baraat transforms marriage into procession. The groom arrives not quietly, but triumphantly, asserting mobility, masculinity, and family strength. Music, dance, horses, and cars turn arrival into announcement.

## Rajasthan

In Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab, this season also witnesses community wedding fairs—collective ceremonies held in open grounds, temples, and palace precincts. These are not modest affairs. They resemble melas, with food stalls, processions, folk music, and entire communities participating. The line between ritual and festival dissolves.

From a travel perspective, this is when palace towns, heritage havelis, and temple cities transform into living theatres of matrimony. Weddings spill into streets. Fireworks echo against old stone. For visitors, it becomes impossible to distinguish where tourism ends and tradition begins.

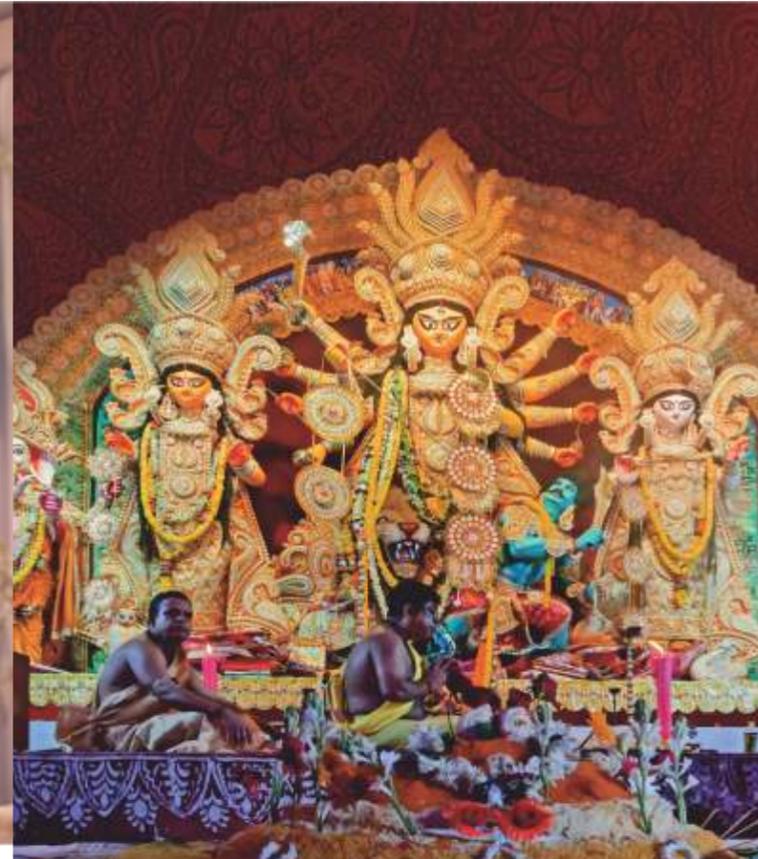
In North India, weddings are not whispered. They are declared—with sound, colour, and cosmic approval.



# East India

## Auspicious Minimalism & Seasonal Sanctity

If North Indian weddings announce themselves loudly, Eastern weddings arrive with quiet confidence. Here, marriage is not diminished by restraint, it is deepened by it. While Dev Uthani Ekadashi is observed, its interpretation differs. There is less emphasis on mass celebration and more on precision. Dates are chosen through meticulous astrological calculation. Rituals are conducted with intellectual seriousness, often led by scholarly priests. The spectacle is internal rather than external.



## Durga Puja

In Bengal, the wedding season truly begins after Durga Puja. During the festival, the goddess is imagined as a daughter returning to her maternal home. When she departs for Kailash, a subtle emotional shift occurs. The household turns inward again. Weddings resume, not as celebration alone, but as continuation of familial cycles.

The mythology is tender. A daughter leaves her parents' home—so does Durga. A bride begins a new life—so does the season. The parallel is never stated explicitly; it does not need to be. It is felt.

## East India: Intimacy, Intellect & Sacred Precision

East Indian weddings do not overwhelm; they concentrate. Across West Bengal, Odisha, and Assam, marriage unfolds as a series of deliberate gestures where intellect tempers emotion and intimacy is expressed with restraint. Rituals here privilege meaning over magnitude, allowing silence, gaze, and touch to speak with calibrated authority.

Aiburo Bhaat begins this transition quietly. The pre-wedding feast marks a gentle farewell to bachelorhood, acknowledging a life about to change without dramatics. Food becomes memory, shared laughter becomes closure, and the individual is slowly prepared for relational responsibility.

Saat Paak introduces agency through movement. The bride, seated on a wooden plank, is carried around the groom, reversing expectations of passivity. Each circumambulation asserts presence and choice before union. When Shubho Drishti finally occurs, the lifted betel leaves fall away and eyes meet. Consent is exchanged not through words, but through gaze—direct, mutual, and unmistakably human.

Sindoor Daan follows with striking minimalism. A single line of vermilion placed along the hair parting carries immense gravity. There is no excess, no ornamentation competing for attention. Commitment here is marked by precision, not spectacle.



## Harvest Festival

In Assam, weddings gather momentum after Bhogali Bihu, the harvest festival. Agricultural abundance creates social readiness. Families are fed, granaries are full, and the community is inclined toward alliance-making. Weddings here are woven into feasts, riverside rituals, and shared labour memories.

Travel in Eastern India during the wedding season offers something rare: intimacy. Tea gardens, river islands, old neighbourhoods—spaces where ceremonies feel less staged and more lived-in. Guests are not audiences; they are participants.



# West India

## Community Contracts & Collective Celebration

In Western India, marriage is understood less as an individual leap and more as a collective agreement. This worldview shapes everything—from rituals to guest lists.

Tulsi Vivah here often transcends household boundaries. Entire towns participate. Processions move through streets. Bhajans echo in public squares. Feasts are prepared not for invited guests, but for whoever arrives. The symbolic marriage becomes a rehearsal for the social marriage to follow.



## Marwari

This ethos reaches its most visible form in mass community weddings—particularly among Patels, Jains, Marwaris, and Maheshwaris. Hundreds of couples marry on the same day, under identical mandaps, wearing similar attire. At first glance, it appears uniform. Look closer, and dignity emerges.

These weddings are not about cutting costs alone. They are about equality. No family outshines another. No bride is measured against another bride. The community absorbs the financial weight, allowing marriage to remain accessible without losing ritual integrity.

The month of Kartika holds special significance. Spiritually charged and disciplined, it is associated with restraint, devotion, and dharma. Weddings conducted during this period are considered grounded, steady—less flamboyant, more enduring.

For travellers, Western India during wedding season feels unusually open. You are likely to be fed, welcomed, and included without formal invitation. The boundary between guest and stranger is porous.

Here, marriage is not just about two people choosing each other. It is about society choosing to hold them together.

## Commerce, Colour & Community Contracts

West Indian weddings are negotiations of emotion, economy, and ethics, conducted in full public view. In Gujarat and Maharashtra, marriage is neither purely sacred nor casually festive; it is a social contract, colourfully celebrated and carefully witnessed by community, kinship, and custom. Rituals here speak the language of agreement, threshold, and transfer, revealing how families formalise trust while honouring feeling.

Gol Dhana opens the conversation. A simple exchange of jaggery and coriander seeds, it seals sweetness into intent. More than engagement, it is a verbal handshake ritualised—an announcement that two households accept future responsibility. In mercantile Gujarat, where trust is currency, this moment quietly mirrors commercial ethics: clarity, consent, and mutual gain.

Mandap Muhurat follows, transforming ordinary ground into consecrated territory. Wooden pillars are erected, soil is blessed, and space itself is contracted for sacred use. This act of construction reflects western India's instinct for order: nothing significant begins without preparing the site. The mandap is not decoration; it is an architectural promise that what unfolds within will be protected, witnessed, and remembered.

## One Country, Many Wedding Calendars

Across India, weddings follow different clocks.

In the North, they roar.

In the East, they resonate.

In the West, they gather.

In the South, they align.

For Indians abroad, this multiplicity is precisely why Indian weddings feel larger than life—even when recreated overseas. What travels is not just ritual, but memory of seasons, myths, and collective participation. No ballroom can replace that, but many try.

India's weddings are not excessive by accident. They are layered by design.



When Marriage Becomes a Season, and Celebration Becomes a Journey

# South India

## Sacred Calendars & Temple-Centred Festivals

In South India, weddings submit themselves to the calendar before anything else. Dates are not flexible; they are obeyed. One of the most profound expressions of this is Kalyanotsavam—symbolic divine weddings conducted in temples. These ceremonies, inspired by celestial unions such as Shiva-Parvati or Vishnu-Lakshmi, are not theatrical re-enactments. They are theological affirmations. The divine marriage becomes a template for human marriage.

The post-Chaturmas window is narrow and exacting. A handful of dates are deemed suitable. Families reorganise lives around them. Display yields to discipline. Timing matters more than scale. This has given rise to a distinctive phenomenon: temple wedding tourism. Places like Tirupati, Madurai, and Guruvayur witness dawn weddings conducted with minimal ornamentation and maximum devotion. The bride and groom arrive before sunrise. Rituals conclude quickly. The rest of the day is spent in quiet assimilation.



## Sacred Geometry & Eternal Continuity

South Indian weddings are not performances staged for spectacle; they are carefully composed continuums where philosophy, family, and time intersect. Across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh, rituals move with a quiet precision, forming what feels like sacred geometry—measured, intentional, and enduring. Each ceremony may appear simple, even austere, yet every gesture carries centuries of reflection on duty, balance, and shared becoming.

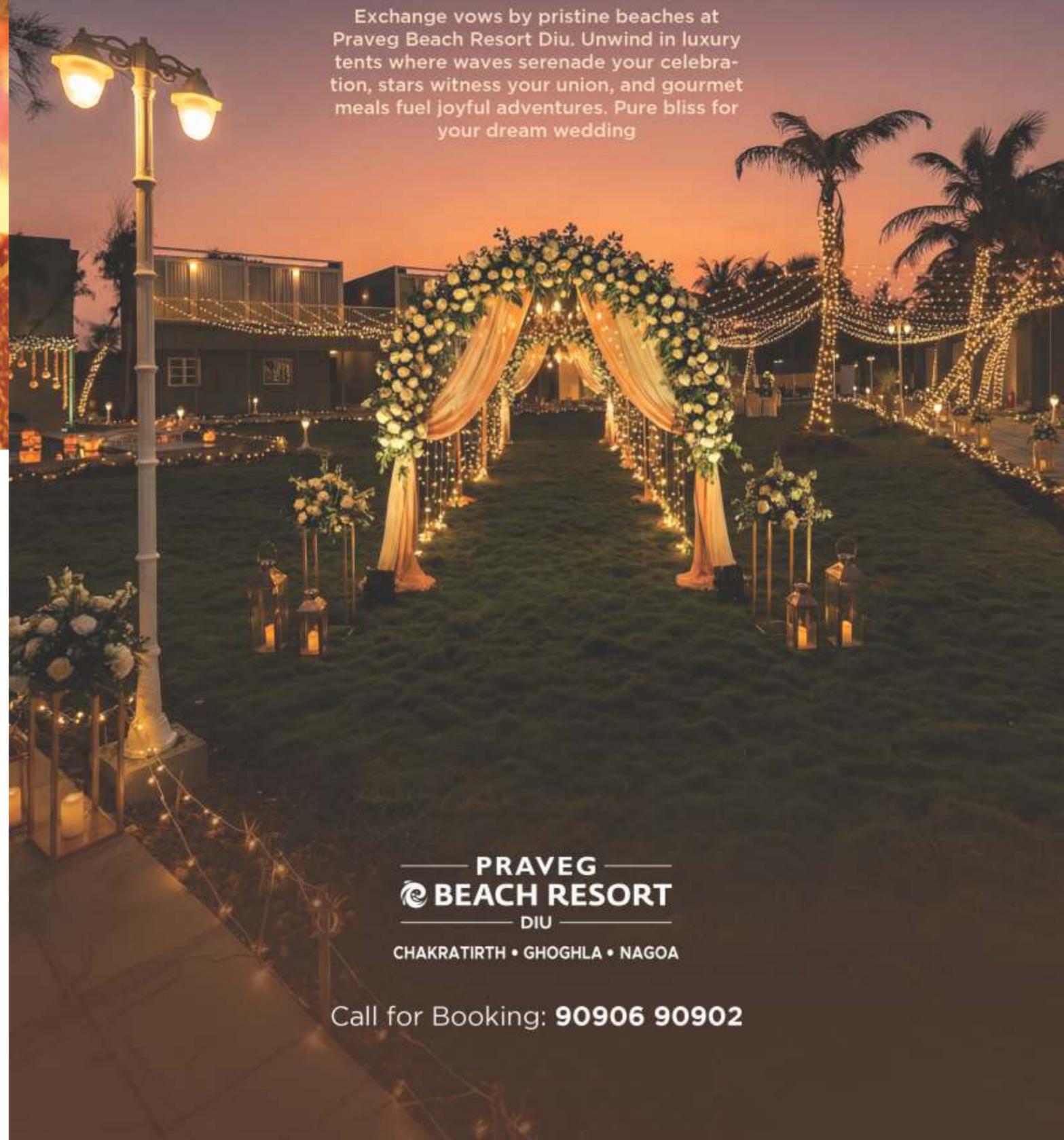
Kashi Yatra marks the first profound pause. The groom symbolically announces his intention to renounce worldly life and depart for Kashi, the city of liberation. It is not drama but deliberation. When elders intervene and redirect him toward marriage, the ritual acknowledges that responsibility, too, can be a spiritual path. Renunciation is considered, not denied, before commitment is embraced.

Oonjal follows as a rhythmic meditation. Seated on a gently swaying swing, the couple is rocked by family members while sacred verses are sung. The movement is subtle, almost hypnotic, reminding the couple that life will oscillate between joy and strain. Balance is not the absence of motion, but the ability to remain centred while the world moves. 



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# Sacred Vows

## *Weddings Across Faiths*

*Ritual, reverence, and the many ways India celebrates marriage*

By JAYESH PUROHIT

In India, a wedding is never only about two people. It is about memory, lineage, prayer, food, music, and the invisible threads that bind families to faith and tradition. Across religions, the languages of marriage differ, yet the emotion feels familiar. A mother adjusting a veil, a father greeting guests with folded hands, friends laughing between rituals, elders whispering blessings.

Whether under a mandap, inside a mosque, before a church altar, or in the serene presence of the Guru Granth Sahib, a wedding becomes a bridge between the sacred and the social. Customs vary across regions and communities, but the intention remains similar: to sanctify companionship, to seek divine grace, and to celebrate continuity.





# Pheras

Fire as Witness, Ritual as Poetry

A traditional Indian wedding often unfolds like a carefully composed raga. There is a rhythm to it, a rise and fall of emotion, a sequence that moves from playful to profound. The ceremonies can stretch across days, sometimes weeks, depending on family traditions and regional customs.

The visual heart of Indian wedding is the mandap, a decorated canopy under which the core rituals take place. Flowers, lamps, and sacred symbols create an atmosphere that feels both festive and devotional. At the centre burns the sacred fire, or agni, believed

to be the divine witness to the vows.

Among the many rituals, the Saptapadi or seven steps around the fire holds special weight. With each step, the couple makes a promise — about nourishment, strength, prosperity, family, harmony, and friendship. These are not abstract ideals but practical wishes for a shared life. Marriage here is seen as a dharmic duty as much as a personal bond.

Pre-wedding rituals such as mehndi and haldi add colour and intimacy. Mehndi is not just body art; it is a quiet

celebration among women, filled with songs and teasing. Haldi carries symbolism of purification and protection from the evil eye. Then comes the baraat, where the groom arrives in a procession of music and dance, signalling joy and social recognition.

A wedding in India rarely feels minimal. It is layered, symbolic, and deeply communal. Yet at its core lies a simple idea: two individuals entering grihastha ashram, the stage of household life, with responsibility and reverence.



# Nikah

The Power of Consent and Contract

Nikah, is striking in its clarity. At its core lies a contract, a mutual agreement entered with full consent. In a world where marriages were historically arranged, this insistence on acceptance by both bride and groom was progressive and protective.

The nikah can take place in a mosque, at home, or in a wedding venue. The setting may be grand or modest, but the essentials remain consistent. An officiant conducts the ceremony in the presence of witnesses. The bride and groom each declare their acceptance, and the mahr — a mandatory gift from the groom to the

bride — is agreed upon. Mahr symbolises respect and financial security, not a purchase but a promise.

What stands out in many Muslim weddings is the blend of restraint and celebration. The nikah itself is often simple and dignified. Yet the associated events can be vibrant. The walimah, or reception hosted by the groom's family, becomes a social announcement of the marriage. Guests gather for a meal, prayers are offered, and blessings flow generously.

Cultural influences shape the festivities. In some communities, you may

see elaborate décor, coordinated outfits, and multi-day celebrations. In others, the emphasis stays on humility and prayer. Still, the spiritual message remains steady: marriage is half of faith, a partnership that nurtures moral and emotional growth.



# Church Weddings

Vows Before God and Gathering



Step into a church during a wedding and the first sensation is often stillness. Sunlight through stained glass, the soft echo of hymns, the fragrance of flowers. A church wedding carries a quiet solemnity even when it is joyful.

The ceremony usually centres around the exchange of vows before a priest or minister. These vows are deeply personal yet universally recognisable. To love, to honour, to stay through sickness and health. The exchange of rings follows, symbolising eternity, with no beginning and no end.

The processional is one of the most

anticipated moments. The bride walking down the aisle, often escorted by her father or a close family member, creates a cinematic pause. It is not merely an entry but a symbolic transition from one chapter of life to another.

Scripture readings and prayers form an integral part of the service. In Catholic weddings, a nuptial mass may be included. Protestant and Orthodox ceremonies have

their own liturgical structures. Cultural adaptations also appear. In Indian church weddings, you might see the tying of the minnu in Kerala or the use of the wedding saree instead of a gown.

After the church ceremony, the reception shifts the tone. Toasts, cake-cutting, and the first dance bring warmth and informality. The sacred and the celebratory find their balance.

# Anand Karaj

Union in the Presence of the Guru



A Sikh wedding, known as Anand Karaj, translates to “blissful union.” The name itself reflects the spiritual emphasis of the ceremony. It is not merely a social contract but a journey towards oneness in the presence of the divine.

The wedding takes place in a Gurudwara, before the Guru Granth Sahib. The atmosphere is serene,

marked by humility and devotion. There is no priest acting as an intermediary. The Guru is the eternal guide, and the congregation becomes a witness.

The central ritual is the Laavan, four hymns that describe stages of spiritual union. As each hymn is sung, the couple walks around the Guru Granth Sahib. These rounds are not

about circling an object but about aligning life with spiritual wisdom. The message is clear: marriage is a path where two souls support each other's growth.

Equality is a quiet but powerful theme in weddings. Both partners sit side by side. There is no concept of giving away the bride as property. The emphasis is on companionship and shared responsibility.

Following the ceremony, the langar meal is served to all guests. Sitting together and eating the same food dissolves hierarchy.



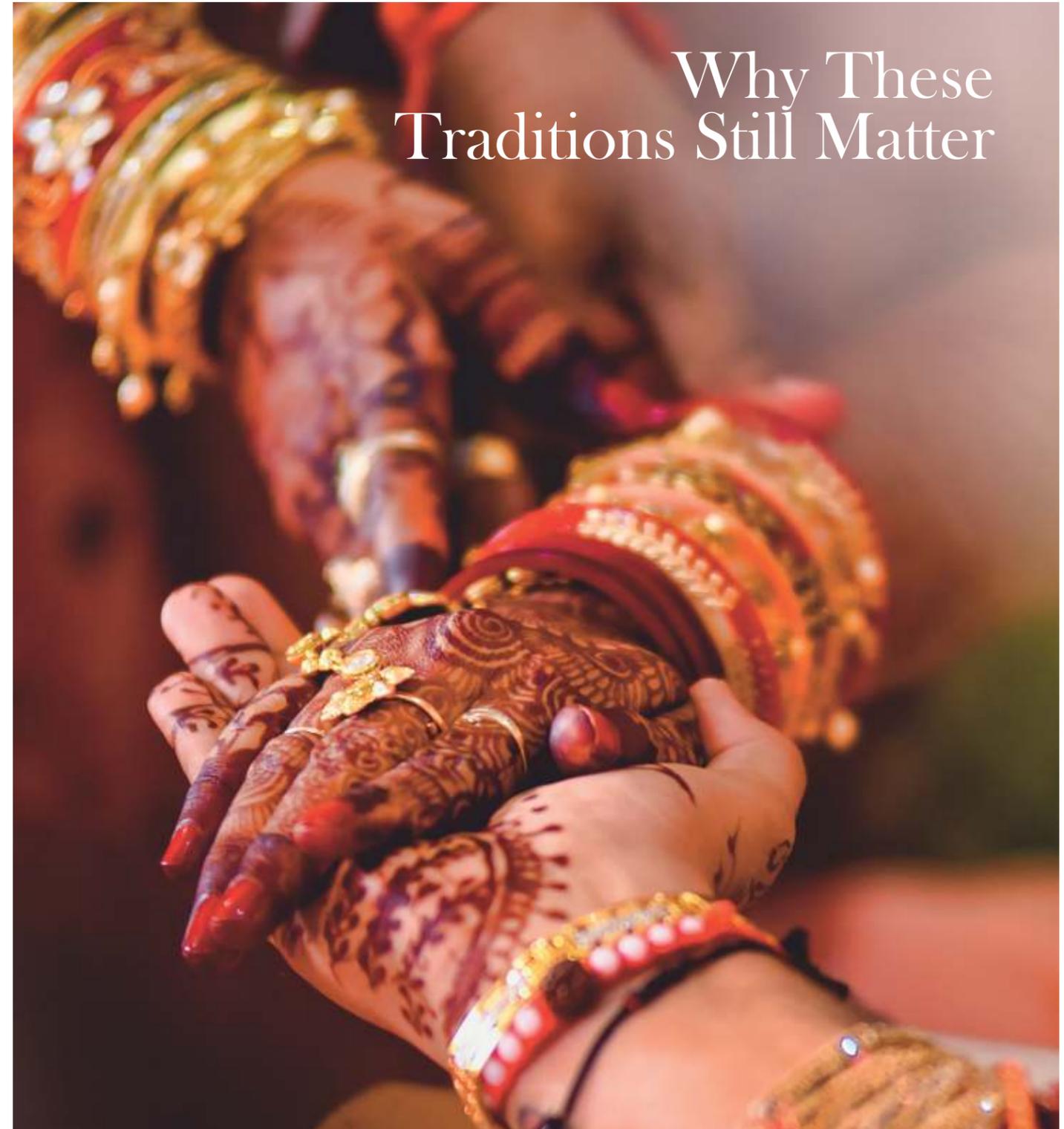
## Shared Threads, Distinct Patterns

If one steps back and observes these traditions together, patterns emerge. Every faith treats marriage as sacred. Every ceremony invites community participation. Every ritual, whether it involves fire, scripture, vows, or hymns,

seeks divine blessing. Yet the expressions differ beautifully. Hindu weddings lean into symbolism and layered rites. Nikah highlights consent and contractual clarity. Church weddings emphasise vows before God. Anand Karaj focuses on spiritual

companionship and equality.

The differences do not divide; they enrich. They show how culture and faith shape the same human milestone in varied ways.



## Why These Traditions Still Matter

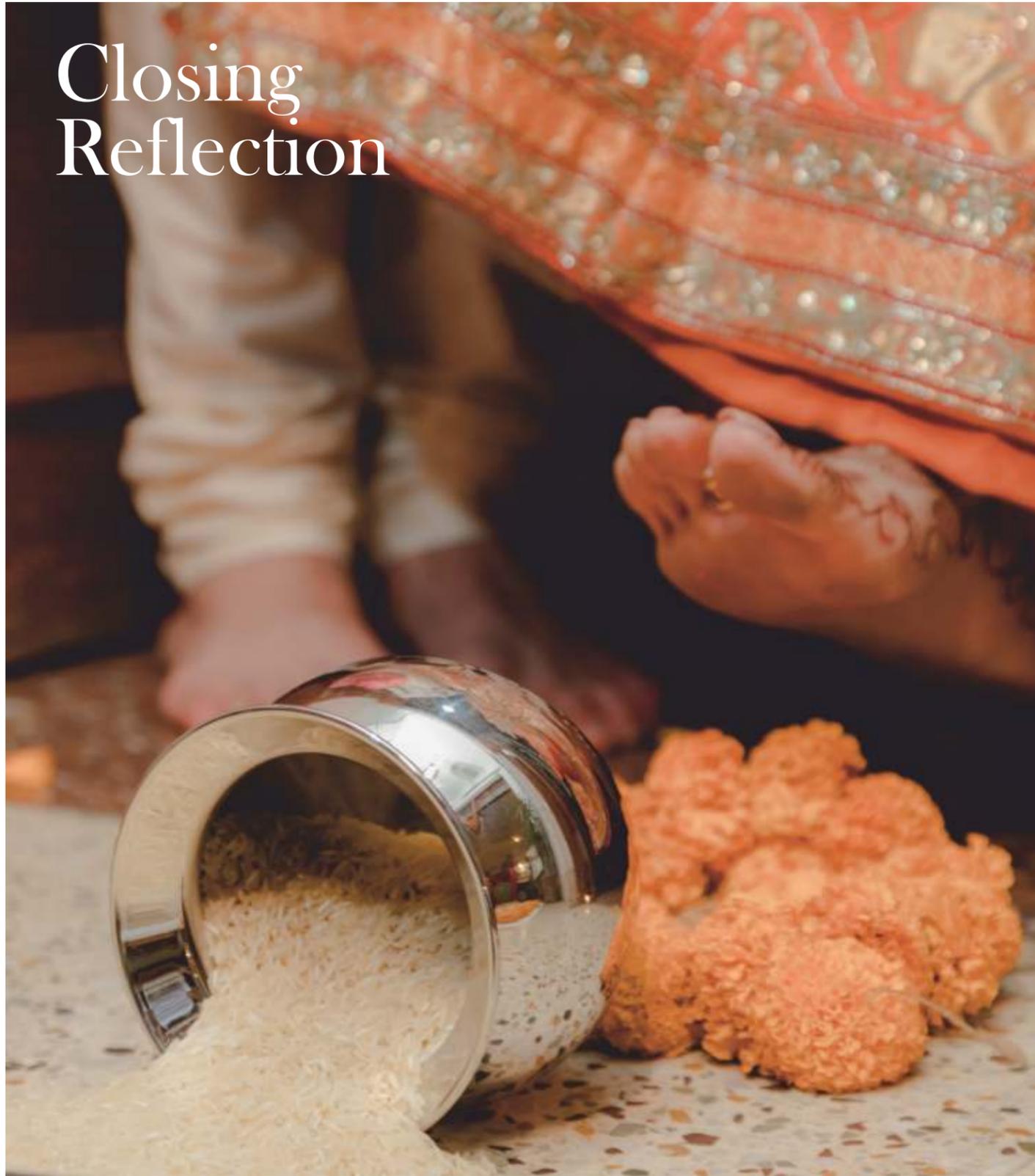
Modern couples often personalise weddings. Destinations change, outfits evolve, guest lists expand or shrink. But rituals endure because they carry meaning. They connect the present

to ancestry. They reassure families that values continue even as lifestyles shift.

For many Indians today, a wedding is where modern aspiration meets inherited belief. A couple may host a cocktail night

and still wake up early for a prayer ritual. They may livestream the ceremony yet insist on traditional vows. The coexistence is not contradiction; it is cultural continuity.

# Closing Reflection



**A**cross religions, weddings reveal how people understand love, duty, and togetherness. They are mirrors of society and windows into faith.

In the end, the decorations fade and the music quietens. What remains are the vows spoken, the blessings received, and the shared hope that two lives will walk

forward with grace.

And perhaps that is what makes every wedding, regardless of religion, feel sacred. 🕯️



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# Why Indian Weddings Are Grand Because Marriage Is Sacred

*Ritual, Reverence, and the Scale of Celebration*

By JAYESH PUROHIT

*Grandeur Is of Excess in India  
It Is Expression*



In India, weddings are not events. They are processes. Slow, deliberate, layered processes that begin long before the first invitation is printed and continue long after the last guest leaves. What appears, at first glance, as spectacle is often mistaken for indulgence. Yet, in the Indian imagination, grandeur has never been synonymous with waste. It is expression.

Marriage, here, is not a private arrangement negotiated between two consenting adults. It is a civilisational act. A moral contract. A sacred undertaking that must be seen, heard, witnessed, and remembered. The scale, therefore, does not arise from vanity but from seriousness. When something matters deeply, it is done carefully and publicly.

This is why even Indians who choose minimalist weddings abroad often feel a quiet incompleteness. The ceremony may be elegant, the vows heartfelt, the setting picturesque. Yet something feels abbreviated. The rituals were rushed. The elders were missing. The fire did not bear witness. What was meant to be a passage felt like a performance.

Indian weddings are grand because marriage itself is sacred, social, and continuous. And when a civilisation treats an institution as sacred, it does not whisper its commitment. It announces it.

# Marriage in India

*A Sacred Institution Before a Social Event*



In the Indian worldview, marriage precedes society. It is not created by it. Within Hindu philosophy, marriage is recognised as a sanskara, a sacrament that refines and transforms the individual. Among the sixteen such sacraments, marriage holds a singular position because it is the only one that binds two lives into a shared moral journey.

Marriage is not convenience. It is dharma. A disciplined way of living that demands responsibility, continuity, and ethical participation in the world. The vows exchanged are not confined to each other. They are made to fire, to ancestors, to society, and to time itself.

This is also why marriage is understood as a union of souls,

not merely bodies. The idea of ardhagini (Better half) is not poetic embellishment. It reflects a philosophical belief that life is incomplete in isolation. Marriage, therefore, is not a merger of identities but a balancing of existence.

Such a sacred act cannot be casual. It requires repetition, precision, invocation, and collective memory. Rituals ensure that nothing is left to assumption. Every step, every chant, every circumambulation (Phera) reinforces the seriousness of the bond being forged. Scale, then, is inevitable.

Because when the sacred is at stake, sufficiency is never enough.

# Why There Are So Many Wedding Ceremonies



Indian weddings unfold through a sequence of ceremonies not because tradition enjoys excess, but because meaning demands articulation.

Pre-wedding rituals are preparatory. They purify, soften, and prepare the individuals for transition. Consent is established, emotions are tempered, and identities begin to shift. These rituals acknowledge that marriage alters one's position in the world and such alteration deserves pause.

The wedding rituals themselves are transformative. Vows are spoken, identities realigned, and cosmic forces invoked. Fire becomes witness. Mantras become anchors. The individual steps into a new moral geometry.

Post-wedding rituals are integrative. They allow families to accept change, communities to absorb the new relationship, and the couple to find equilibrium within altered social structures.

What appears repetitive is, in fact, layered validation. Emotional acknowledgment sits alongside spiritual sanction. Social recognition accompanies legal legitimacy. Nothing is redundant because each ritual addresses a different dimension of human existence.

In India, marriage is never between two people alone. It is between families, lineages, communities, and generations both remembered and imagined. Rituals ensure that every stakeholder, living or ancestral, is acknowledged.

# Multiplicity is not confusion here. It is completeness.

*The Role of Community: Why Guest Lists Are So Large*



**M**arriage, in India, needs witnesses. Not merely as spectators but as moral guarantors. Community presence lends legitimacy and durability to the union. A marriage seen by many is a marriage protected by many.

Hospitality, therefore, becomes ritual. Feeding guests is not indulgence. It is duty. Food carries blessing. To be fed at a wedding is to be folded into the sanctity of the occasion.

This is also why destination weddings, despite their changing geographies, remain unmistakably Indian. The location may shift, but community must travel. A wedding without collective presence feels unmoored.



# In Indian culture, privacy is respected, but sanctity demands publicity

*Ritual Economics: Why Indian Weddings Are Expensive*



**E**xpense, in the Indian context, is often responsibility masquerading as opulence. Weddings sustain ecosystems. Priests, musicians, weavers, florists, cooks, craftsmen, and countless seasonal workers depend on the wedding calendar.

Entire economies breathe around marriage seasons.

November to February is not just astrologically auspicious; it is economically vital. Weddings distribute livelihood across traditional skill networks that would otherwise fade.

From a travel perspective, wedding tourism preserves heritage. Palaces, temple towns, and historic venues remain alive because marriage continues to seek beauty anchored in history.

# Money circulates culture

*Regional Diversity, Same Sacred Core*

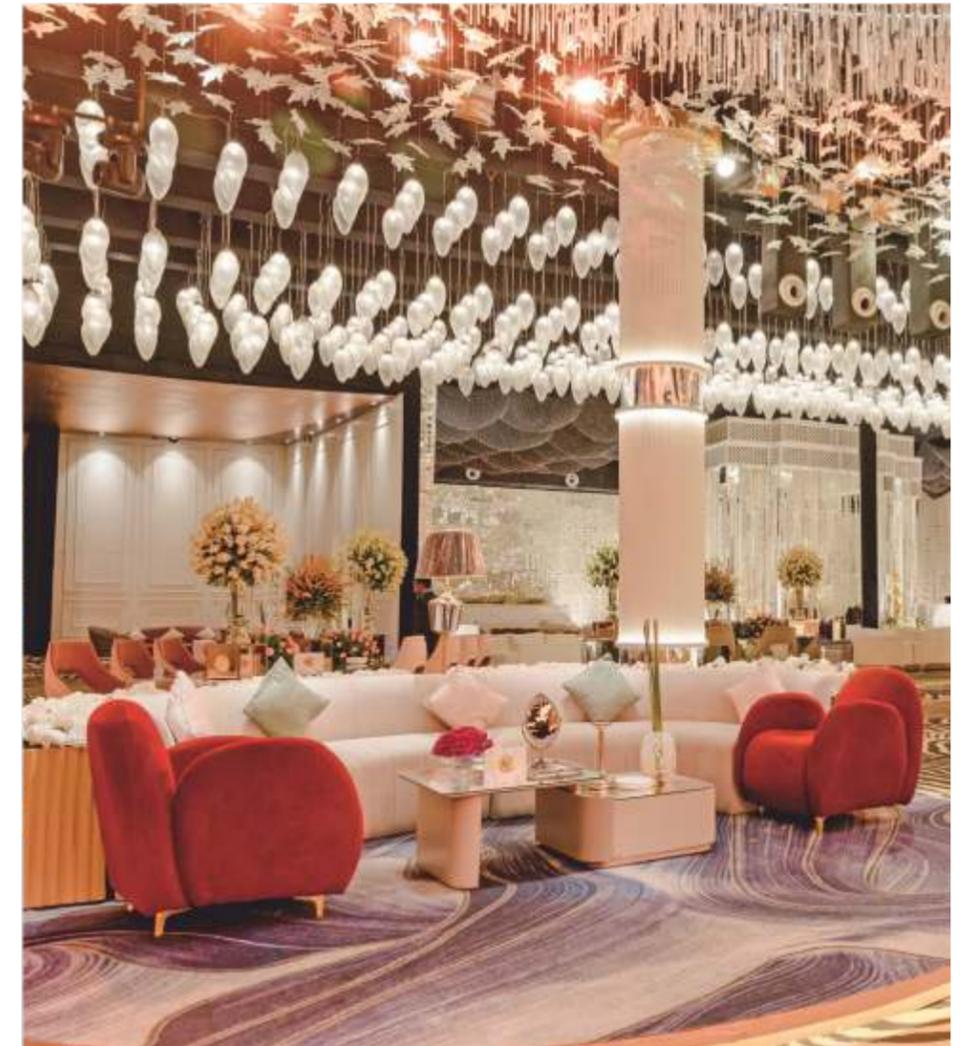
Indian weddings vary dramatically in form but not in intent. Northern weddings favour public spectacle and fire-centric rituals. Eastern ceremonies lean into emotional symbolism and priestly precision. Western traditions emphasise community contracts and collective responsibility. Southern weddings reflect temple cosmology and sacred geometry.

Geography shapes expression, not belief. The core remains intact. Sanctity adapts without dilution. No two weddings look alike because India does not believe in uniform reverence.



# The Modern Indian Wedding: Change Without Dilution

Venues have evolved. Aesthetics have globalised. Timelines have compressed. Hybrid ceremonies are now common. Yet, fire still witnesses vows. Blessings still matter. Family consent remains foundational. For the diaspora, rituals often intensify. Distance sharpens attachment. What is optional at home becomes essential abroad.



Why Indian Weddings are Grand Because Marriage is Sacred

# Modernity, in India, negotiates with tradition

*It does not erase it*



## Conclusion

*Grandeur Is the Language of Reverence*

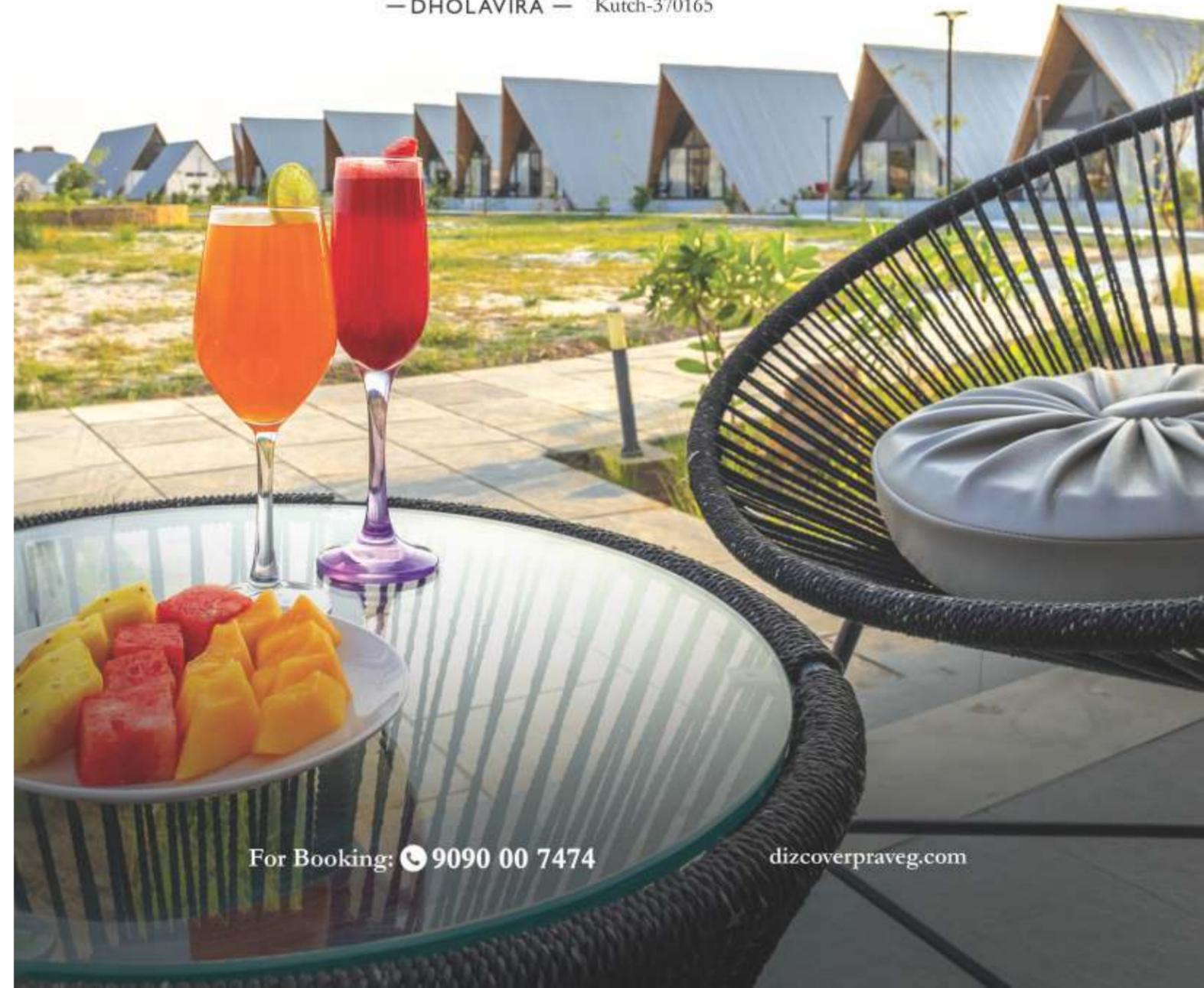
Indian weddings are grand because marriage is sacred. The scale reflects seriousness, not excess. In this civilisation, what is holy is never done quietly. To witness an Indian wedding is to watch a society renew its moral contract with itself. Ritual by ritual, generation by generation. 🇮🇳

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# Top 10 Wedding Gift Ideas

By UMANG SHARMA

**W**eddings are a celebration of love and commitment, making them the perfect occasion to present thoughtful and memorable gifts. Whether you're looking for something for the couple's new shared home, gifts that enhance their everyday lives, or a touch of opulence, we've curated a list of stunning items available on Amazon. These selections highlight style, durability, and exceptional value, making them ideal for Indian weddings. Let's explore our top 10 picks in detail.

# Coffee Mug

Cpensus

This stunning ceramic mug showcases a unique marble pattern complemented by an elegant gold trim and handle. Designed for durability, it includes a matching lid and spoon, making it a perfect gift for coffee enthusiasts. Ideal for special occasions such as anniversaries or Valentine's Day.

**Ratings:** 4.4 out of 5 stars (2,259 ratings)

**Price:** ₹ 749

**URL:** <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0BY8F3L2X>



# Luxury Bath and Body Care

Kimirica

Pamper yourself or your loved ones with this luxurious 100% vegan bath and body care kit. It includes indulgent bath salts, a nourishing body wash, a hydrating lotion, a fragrant bathing bar, and a soothing hand cream, all elegantly packaged. Perfect for birthdays, anniversaries, or any special occasion, it weighs 400g and is proudly made in India.

**Ratings:** 4.5 out of 5 stars (1,746 ratings)

**Price:** ₹ 1,147 (15% savings)

**URL:** <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B09S3SRKMT>



# Golden Swans

Behoma

These exquisite golden aluminium swan couple showpieces symbolize enduring love and elegance. They double as candle holders, adding a touch of romance and grace to any home or office decor. Perfect for weddings, anniversaries, and Valentine's Day, these pieces come in two charming sizes: 14x7.5x13.5cm and 11.5x7.5x12cm. All you need for cleaning is a simple dry or wet cloth.

**Ratings:** 4.6 out of 5 stars (580 ratings)

**Price:** ₹ 999

**URL:** <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0BY2XCXYC>



# Laxmi Ganesh Saraswati Murti

Ekhasa

Bestow the newlyweds with blessings of wealth, wisdom, and success through these exquisitely crafted brass idols of Laxmi, Ganesh, and Saraswati, presented in a luxurious red velvet gift box. These idols are perfect offerings for home altars and serve as magnificent décor items for weddings, housewarmings, or shop openings.

**Ratings:** 4.8 out of 5 stars (5 ratings)

**Price:** ₹ 1,299 (57% savings)

**URL:** <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0DDHFBGF4>





# Satin Bedsheet

Stoa Paris

**E**levate their bedroom decor with this luxurious 300-thread count satin king size bedsheet in a chic champagne colour. Measuring 274x228 cm and accompanied by two matching pillow covers, this hypoallergenic and breathable fabric is not only wrinkle-resistant but also machine-washable, perfectly blending sophistication with functionality.

**Ratings:** 4.0 out of 5 stars (2,215 ratings)

**Price:** ₹ 1,767 (9% off)

**URL:** <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0BP2LQRM5>



# Glass Tumbler

Indian Art Villa

**T**his stunning set of handcrafted pure brass tumblers includes six elegant pieces, each featuring a unique embossed design. With a capacity of 270ml, these tumblers not only offer Ayurvedic benefits for health but also elevate home decor. They're ideal for gifting at weddings or anniversaries.

**Ratings:** 4.0 out of 5 stars (1,453 ratings)

**Price:** ₹ 2,895 (54% savings, ₹ 482.50 per count)

**URL:** <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B07HD2J3ZM>



# Drinkware

Indian Art Villa

**T**his elegantly designed drinkware set features pure copper embossed items, including a 900ml bottle and two 300ml glasses. The artistic pieces come beautifully packaged in a premium blue gift box, making them perfect for daily use, festive occasions, weddings, or simply to enhance home decor.

**Ratings:** 4.3 out of 5 stars (307 ratings)

**Price:** ₹ 1,895 (19% savings)

**URL:** <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B07XCNVMN5>



# Gift Card - Wedding Gift Box

Amazon Pay

**G**ift the couple flexibility with a physical Amazon Pay gift card thoughtfully presented in a wedding-themed box. This card is worth ₹ 5000 and can be redeemed on a wide array of products on Amazon.in (excluding apps and branded cards). It comes activated upon delivery, valid for one year, and non-refundable, ensuring that their shopping experience is as delightful as their wedding day.

**Ratings:** 4.7 out of 5 stars (1,536 ratings)

**Price:** ₹ 5,000

**URL:** <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B078HWGLVX>



**अवतार STUDIO**

## Caricature Photo Frame

**Avataar Studio**

Celebrate the couple's unique love story with this handcrafted caricature photo frame. Measuring 7 inches and made from premium engineered wood, this personalized gift captures the couple's essence in a playful and artistic way, making it a treasured keepsake for years to come.

**Ratings:** 4.4 out of 5 stars (65 ratings)

**Price:** ₹ 425 (47% savings, limited time deal)

**URL:** <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0DVZN3FP6>

## Wine Glasses

**Professional Handicrafts**

Exude sophistication with this exquisite set of two handmade 24K gold-plated brass wine goblets. Each goblet features a delicately embossed floral design and has a capacity of 200ml. Perfect for weddings, anniversaries, Diwali celebrations, or corporate gifting, this luxurious set comes beautifully presented in a red gift box.



**Ratings:** 4.4 out of 5 stars (65 ratings)

**Price:** ₹ 4,184 (30% savings, limited time deal, M.R.P. ₹ 5,999)

**URL:** <https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0BD5BH325>

**Conclusion :** These thoughtfully selected wedding gifts encapsulate a blend of tradition, luxury, and practicality, ensuring that your gesture will be cherished by the couple for years to come. With high ratings, significant savings, and the

convenience of Amazon delivery, these choices take the hassle out of gift-giving. Choose a gift that resonates with their style, whether it's personalized, divine, or indulgent, to make their special day even more radiant. 📦



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## Gulab Jamun

*A Sweet That Belongs to Celebrations*

By JAYESH PUROHIT

In an Indian wedding, sweets are not served—they are announced. Among them, Gulab Jamun holds a place of quiet authority. Soft, warm, and soaked in fragrant syrup, it arrives after the vows are taken, the rituals completed, and the blessings exchanged. From wedding feasts to Diwali dinners and Raksha Bandhan lunches, Gulab Jamun marks moments when happiness must be shared, slowly and generously.

Made from milk solids and flavoured with rose and cardamom, this classic dessert has travelled from temple kitchens to banquet halls, remaining unchanged in emotion if not always in method.

### Ingredients:

#### For Gulab Jamun

- 1 cup milk powder or grated khoya (unsweetened)
- 5 tbsp all-purpose flour (maida)
- 1 tbsp curd (or ¾ tsp lemon juice)
- 1 tsp ghee or oil
- 2–4 tbsp milk (as required)
- 1 large pinch baking soda (or ½ tsp)
- Ghee or oil for deep frying
- For Sugar Syrup
- 1¼ to 1½ cups sugar
- 1½ cups water
- 4 green cardamom pods (or ¼ tsp cardamom powder)
- 1 tsp rose water

#### For Garnish

- Finely sliced pistachios

**Method:** Gulab Jamun with Khoya or Milk Powder



### Method

#### Fry the Jamuns

Heat ghee or oil on a low-to-medium flame. Drop a small piece of dough to test—if it rises slowly without browning, the oil is ready. Fry the balls in batches, stirring gently, until they turn an even golden brown. Remove and rest briefly.

#### Soak and Serve

Add the warm Jamuns to the slightly hot sugar syrup. Let them soak for at least 45 minutes, allowing the syrup to seep into every layer.

Garnish with pistachios and serve warm—or with vanilla ice cream for a modern touch.

In weddings and festivals alike, Gulab Jamun is more than dessert.

It is softness after ritual, sweetness after tradition, and a quiet reminder that every celebration in India ends the same way—on a sweet note.

Recipes by [www.indianhealthyrecipes.com](http://www.indianhealthyrecipes.com)

## Jalapeño Poppers

*Popular appetiser that combine spice, creaminess, and crunch*

By JAYESH PUROHIT

Jalapeño poppers are a popular appetiser that combine spice, creaminess, and crunch. Filled with a cheesy mixture and deep-fried to a golden finish, they make an excellent party snack or starter. This version is easy to prepare at home and tastes just like a restaurant-style serving.

### Ingredients

- 340 g cream cheese, softened
- 225 g shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 tbsp bacon bits
- 340 g jalapeño peppers, halved and seeds removed
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup maida (all-purpose flour)
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs
- Oil for deep frying



### Serving Suggestion

Serve hot with dips like garlic mayo, cheese sauce, or mint dip.

### Method

In a bowl, mix cream cheese, Cheddar cheese, and bacon bits until smooth. Fill this mixture into the jalapeño halves. Keep three separate bowls ready — one with milk, one with flour, and one with bread crumbs.

Dip the stuffed jalapeños in milk, then coat with flour. Place them on a plate and let them rest for about 10 minutes. Dip them again in milk and roll in bread crumbs. For a thicker coating, repeat once more. Let them dry slightly.

Heat oil in a kadhai or deep pan to about 180°C. Deep-fry in batches until golden brown (around 2–3 minutes). Remove onto tissue paper to drain excess oil.

Recipes by [www.allrecipes.com](http://www.allrecipes.com)

## Saffron Pistachio Kulfi Sphere

*A kulfi that freezes beautifully and tastes deeply indulgent*

By JAYESH PUROHIT

Kulfi is not ice cream. It is slower, denser, grainier—and unapologetically Indian. Made by patiently reducing milk until it turns rich and thick, kulfi relies on time, heat, and restraint rather than shortcuts. This traditional method rewards you with a creamy, crystal-free kulfi that freezes beautifully and tastes deeply indulgent.

### Ingredients:

- **Whole milk** – 2 litres
- **Heavy cream** – 1 cup
- **Sugar** – ¾ cup (adjust to taste)
- **Corn starch** – 4–5 tsp, dissolved in 2 tbsp water
- **Cardamom powder** – 1 tsp
- **Rose water** – 1 tbsp
- **Pistachios** – ¾ cup, chopped
- **Saffron** – a pinch, soaked in 1 tbsp milk



### Notes

- Use a heavy-bottom pan only.
- Stir consistently, especially once the milk thickens.
- Thickness is key—well-reduced milk ensures zero ice crystals.
- Mawa/khoya can be added, but a properly reduced milk base is enough.

### Method

- Soak saffron in warm milk. Set aside.
- Dissolve corn starch in water, ensuring there are no lumps.
- Boil milk in a heavy-bottom pan. Lower the flame and let it simmer, stirring regularly.
- After about 35 minutes, add sugar, saffron milk, and corn starch mixture. Stir well.
- Add cream and continue simmering on low heat, stirring frequently.
- Add chopped pistachios and mix.
- Cook until the milk reduces significantly and becomes very thick (about 1.5 hours total).
- Add cardamom powder and rose water. Switch off the flame.
- Cool the mixture completely.
- Pour into kulfi moulds or small bowls.
- Freeze for 5–6 hours or until set.
- Unmould by dipping briefly in warm water. Garnish with pistachios if desired.

Recipes by [www.cookwithmanali.com](http://www.cookwithmanali.com)

## Cocktail Samosa

*A crisp indulgence that disappears faster than conversations*

By JAYESH PUROHIT

Cocktail samosas are the elegant, bite-sized cousins of the classic samosa—small enough to pop into your mouth, yet bold enough to hold their own. Crisp on the outside, generously spiced within, they are designed for mingling, not lingering.

### Ingredients:

- **Ready samosa dough** – 1½ cups
- **Oil** – 2 tsp + for deep frying
- **Cumin seeds** – ½ tsp
- **Coriander seeds** – 1 tsp
- **Green chillies** – 2, chopped
- **Ginger** – 1 inch, chopped
- **Potatoes** – 2 medium, boiled and mashed
- **Red chilli powder** – ½ tsp
- **Garam masala** – ½ tsp
- **Dried mango powder** – ½ tsp
- **Green peas** – ¼ cup, boiled
- **Fresh coriander leaves** – 2 tbsp, chopped
- **Salt** – to taste
- **Date and tamarind chutney** – to serve



### What Makes Cocktail Samosa Special

- Mini-sized, mess-free, and perfect for standing gatherings
- Quick to assemble with store-bought samosa sheets
- Deeply spiced, not heavy - ideal for cocktail menus
- Can be prepared in advance and frozen

### Method

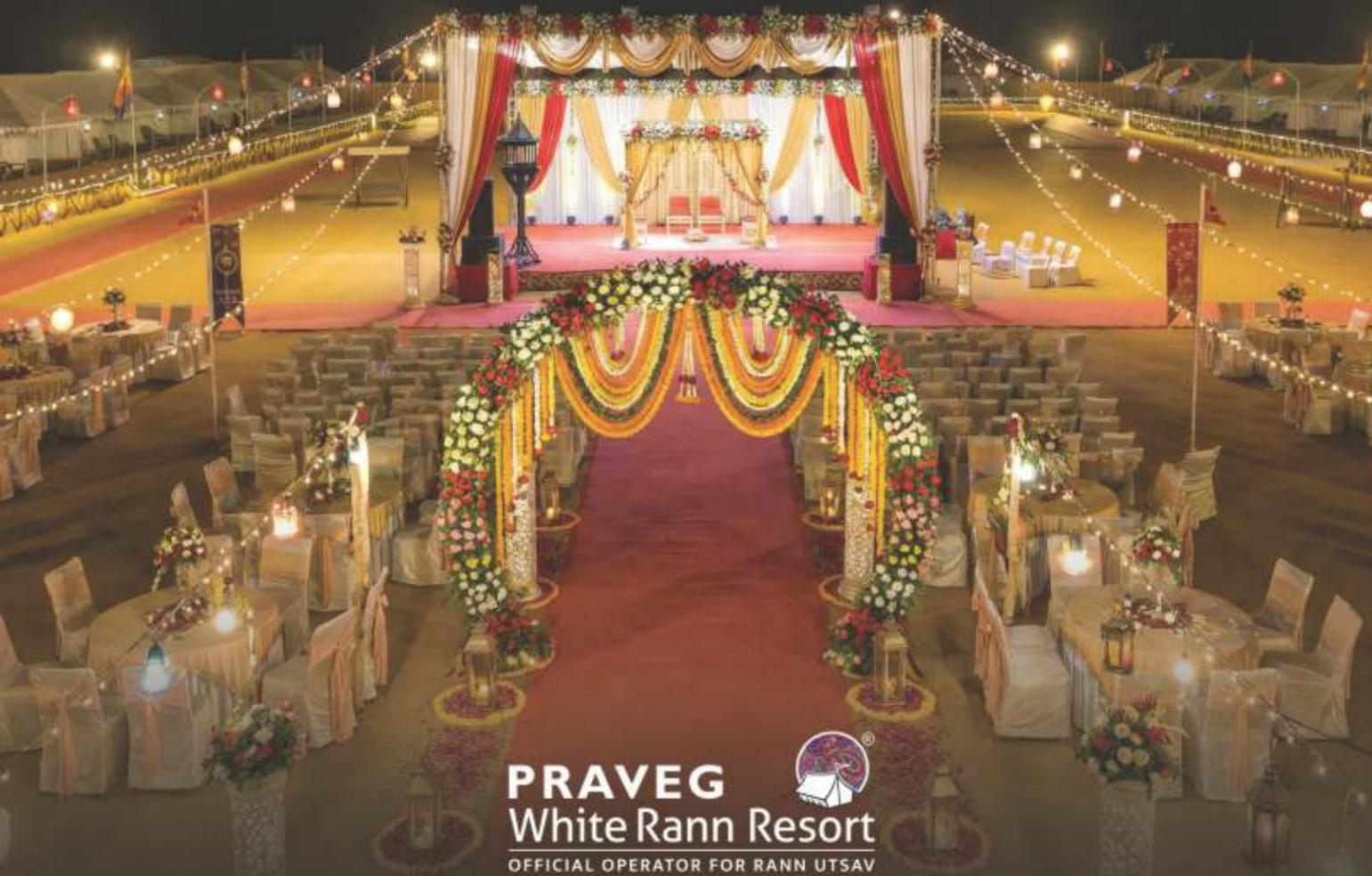
- Heat 2 teaspoons of oil in a non-stick pan. Add cumin seeds and sauté until aromatic. Add coriander seeds, green chillies, and ginger. Sauté briefly.
- Add mashed potatoes and mix well. Stir in red chilli powder, garam masala, dried mango powder, peas, coriander leaves, and salt. Cook for 2–3 minutes. Remove from heat and cool.
- Divide the samosa dough into portions. Roll thin, cut into halves, and shape each half into a cone using water to seal edges.
- Fill with the potato mixture, seal firmly, and shape into mini samosas.
- Deep-fry in hot oil until golden and crisp. Drain on absorbent paper.
- Serve hot with date and tamarind chutney. 🍴

Recipes by [www.sanjeevkapoor.com](http://www.sanjeevkapoor.com)

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