

# Wows & Vacay

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## Timeless Royalty





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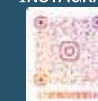
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## The Tanisi, Goa

### A Hidden Jewel of Tranquillity and Celebration

**In the heart of North Goa, just 800 meters from the golden sands of Candolim Beach, lies a haven where peace and revelry entwine seamlessly—The Tanisi Hotels and Resorts, Goa.**

#### Luxury Villas for Indulgence

Discover six exclusive villas at The Tanisi Goa, where privacy meets grandeur in the most exquisite way. The Tranquillity Luxury Villa and the Rainflower Premium Villa, both four-bedroom masterpieces, are designed for those who seek the extraordinary. Each villa boasts private infinity pools, soothing jacuzzis, entertainment lounges, and lavish interiors, creating an oasis of comfort and sophistication.

Whether it's a refreshing dip, an intimate evening by the pool table, or simply unwinding in your own private retreat, these villas offer an unparalleled escape that truly redefines indulgence.

#### Culinary & Recreational Pleasures

The resort's signature rooftop pool is more than a place to unwind—it is the heart of The Tanisi Goa's vibrant social life. Here, evenings come alive at our barbecue poolside restaurant, where live music blends with the gentle Goan breeze, creating an atmosphere of pure indulgence.

Guests can savor exquisite flavors, sip on handcrafted cocktails, and immerse themselves in a setting that seamlessly combines relaxation with rhythm. With full service and select offerings continuing late into the night, every craving is met with effortless elegance.

#### Perfect for Celebrations

At The Tanisi Goa, every occasion transforms into an unforgettable memory. The resort's expansive manicured lawns provide a breathtaking setting for dream weddings and grand gatherings of over 250 guests or more, where romance and festivity come alive under the Goan sky.

Complementing this is our pillar-less banquet hall, an elegant venue designed for lavish receptions, conferences, and intimate soirées, where every detail exudes sophistication. Whether it's a wedding, milestone celebration, or corporate event, The Tanisi Goa ensures every moment is marked with seamless luxury and timeless charm.

#### What's Next at Tanisi

The journey of The Tanisi Goa, continues with exciting new additions. Soon to be unveiled is a world-class spa for ultimate relaxation, along with 16 elegantly designed annexe rooms. A dedicated pure-vegetarian kitchen will elevate diverse dining experiences, while our barbecue, state-of-the-art rooftop poolside restaurant with live music promises unforgettable evenings under the Goan sky.



At The Tanisi Goa, serenity, celebration, and sophistication come together seamlessly. Be it a dreamy luxury wedding, a stylish corporate gathering, or a leisurely holiday, every moment is designed to be more than a stay—it's an extraordinary experience.

Website: [www.tanisihotels.com](http://www.tanisihotels.com)





## MESSAGE *from the* EDITOR

Dear Readers,

As we unveil the August - September edition of Vows & Vacay, we're delighted to share that this special issue will not only reach the desks of top wedding planners, hoteliers, and decision-makers across India, but also enjoy exclusive circulation at the prestigious IATO Convention in Puri.

The issue is a celebration of how India's wedding landscape continues to evolve—blending tradition with destination glamour and sustainable sensibilities.

We begin in Puri, a city once known solely for its spiritual significance, which is now emerging as a sought-after wedding destination offering couples the best of beachside beauty and sacred blessings. In perfect contrast, we take you to the newly opened Anantara Jewel Bagh Jaipur, where Rajasthan's royal heritage meets modern-day grandeur through spectacular indoor and outdoor venues.

For honeymooners, we whisk you away to the Maldives, a paradisiacal escape of overwater villas, romantic spa rituals, and starlit beachside dinners—a place where new beginnings feel truly timeless.

Planning a bachelor or bachelorette trip? Look no further than Phuket, a vibrant Thai island that pulses with energy, luxury, and style—tailored for pre-wedding celebrations that are as unforgettable as the big day itself.

In the world of hospitality, we spotlight the Radisson Hotel Group and its pioneering strides in sustainable tourism, setting industry benchmarks that prove you can celebrate lavishly while caring for the planet.

And finally, we bring you the inspiring journey of Vikramjeet Sharma, the visionary behind Le Florence, a design brand that infuses Indian weddings with soul, spectacle, and sustainability.

As always, Vows & Vacay remains your trusted guide through the ever-evolving world of destination weddings, luxury getaways, and celebration travel. Here's to new beginnings, beautiful locations, and love that deserves nothing less than extraordinary.

Warm wishes,

**Priyanka Saxena Ray**  
Editor, Vows & Vacay

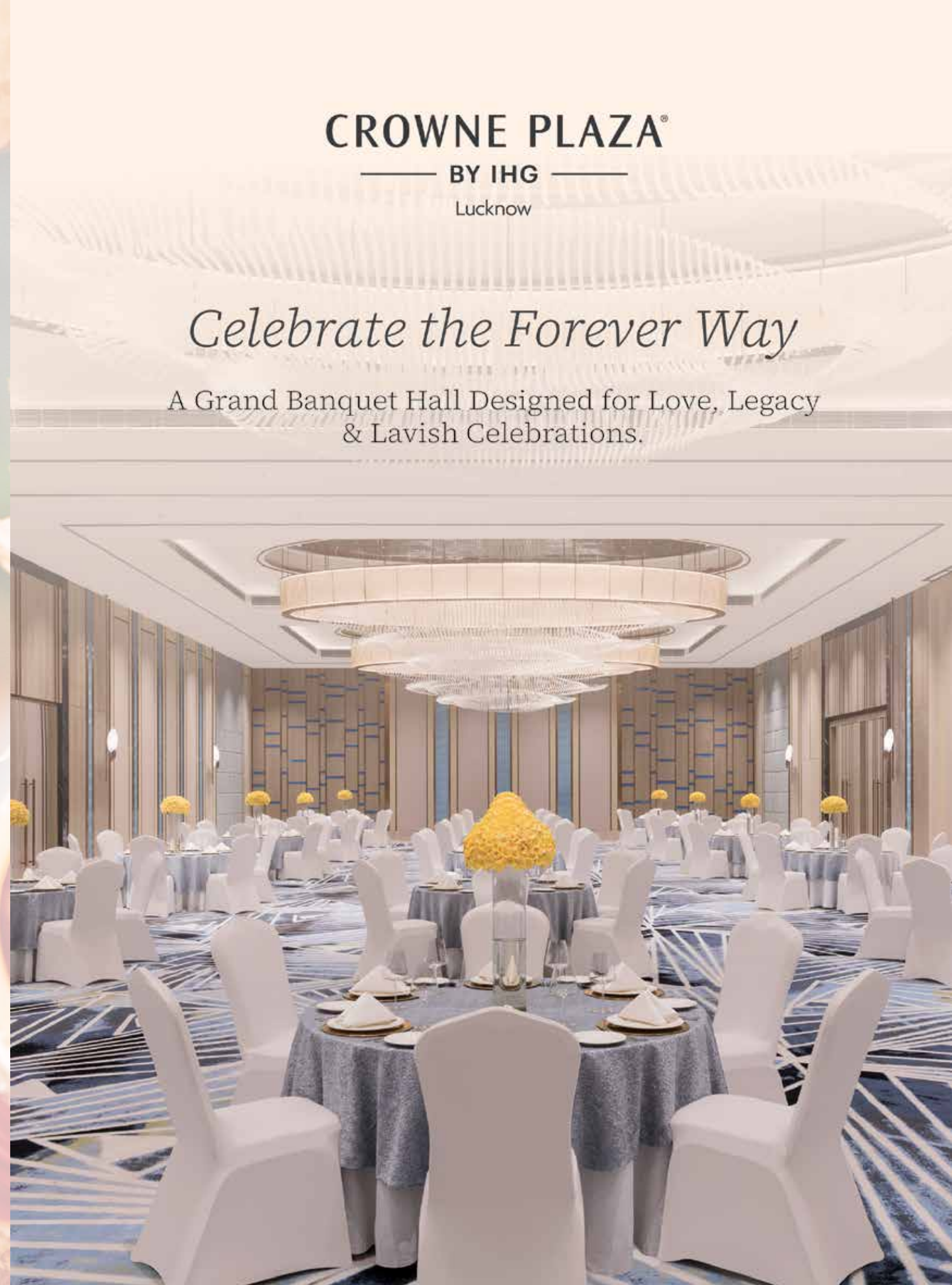
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## Club Med unveils premium summer escapes globally

Club Med is redefining summer travel with eight stand-out premium resorts across the globe. Known for luxury, adventure, and cultural immersion, the brand highlights destinations from tropical islands to summer-transformed alpine retreats like Tignes and Valmorel in the French Alps. These properties offer hiking, biking, scenic vistas, and après activities in warm weather. Club Med continues to promote connection, exploration, and joy, making summer holidays vibrant, memorable, and unique for every type of traveler.



## Tivoli Hospitality plans expansion in Wedding Destinations

Tivoli Hospitality Group is expanding its footprint across India with a focus on immersive destination weddings. The group is eyeing growth in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Mohali, Chandigarh, and Hyderabad—regions known for their cultural richness and scenic venues. With the vision to create memorable, multi-day wedding experiences, Tivoli aims to tap into the rising demand for intimate yet elaborate celebrations, attracting wedding planners, leisure travelers, and culturally rooted audiences alike.

## Ibis Styles Goa Vagator launches intimate wedding packages

Ibis Styles Goa Vagator now offers curated wedding packages for couples seeking intimate celebrations. Ideal for haldi, mehendi, sangeet, cocktails, and receptions, the venue brings ease and style to every function. Goa remains a top wedding destination, especially for younger couples looking for scenic and laid-back vibes. With its charming setting and energetic atmosphere, the hotel provides the perfect backdrop for colorful, personalized weddings in one of India's most loved beach destinations.



## Click Click by Yaash Jain elevates pre-wedding photography

Click Click by Yaash Jain is revolutionizing pre-wedding shoots across Asia and the Middle East. Renowned for its cinematic and emotional storytelling, the brand captures love stories in stunning destinations like Vietnam, Dubai, and Oman. Each location is handpicked to match the couple's personality—be it Vietnam's old-world charm, Oman's raw beauty, or Dubai's luxe appeal. The boutique photography studio blends travel, romance, and narrative, making each photoshoot a unique and unforgettable journey.



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## Timeless Royalty@

# Anantara Jewel Bagh Jaipur

The newly-opened Anantara Jewel Bagh Jaipur offers a rare mix of indoor and outdoor wedding venues, each thoughtfully designed to reflect the grandeur of Rajasthan while catering to a variety of celebration styles and guest capacities.

**Rohit Chopra**, Area Commercial Director – India, Minor Hotels gives us a sneak-peek into all that the hotel offers...

**Gunjan Sabikhi**

### Why Anantara Jaipur is a Distinctive Choice for Destination Weddings in India?

Anantara Jewel Bagh Jaipur is a fresh and exciting new venue that brings the charm of royal Rajasthan to life, making it a perfect choice for modern couples seeking a culturally rich and elegant wedding. What sets this property apart is its authentic

palace-inspired design and serene setting. Just 30 minutes from Jaipur International Airport, the location offers easy access for guests while still feeling like a hidden royal retreat.

The hotel is built as a tribute to Rajasthan's heritage, with grand jharokhas (balconies), shimmering tikri mirror

work, and beautifully landscaped courtyards that create a stunning royal backdrop for every wedding function. Whether it's a traditional pheras ceremony under the open sky, a regal sangeet in the courtyard, or a lavish reception in one of the indoor banquet spaces, every corner of the hotel is designed to tell a story.

What truly makes Anantara Jewel Bagh special is the experience it offers beyond the wedding itself. Couples and their families can enjoy curated heritage walks, traditional Rajasthani food experiences, and personalized rituals that add meaning and depth to the celebration. It's not just a wedding venue—it's a cultural journey where every moment feels grand, personal, and unforgettable.

### Tell us about the wedding venues within the hotel – both indoor and outdoor – and how they cater to different styles and scales of weddings.

Anantara Jewel Bagh Jaipur offers a rare

mix of indoor and outdoor wedding venues, each thoughtfully designed to reflect the grandeur of Rajasthan while catering to a variety of celebration styles and guest capacities. For outdoor functions, the hotel features five beautifully landscaped gardens. Amer Bagh is the largest, perfect for grand receptions and cocktail evenings, accommodating up to 1,500 guests. Jai Bagh, set against a striking stone façade, is ideal for mid-sized gatherings like sangeets or engagement ceremonies with up to 350 guests. Mor Bagh—a lush, emerald lawn inspired by the peacock—is perfect for vibrant daytime events like Haldi or brunches for up to 300 guests. For more intimate functions, Bawdi Bagh offers a peaceful poolside setting suited for Mehendi or smaller pre-wedding rituals with up to 100 guests.

Indoor venues at the hotel are equally distinctive. The grand, pillarless Kohinoor Mahal Ballroom can host up to 300

guests in regal style, while Rang Mahal offers a more intimate indoor space, adorned with hand-painted murals and detailed carvings, suitable for up to 70 guests. Swarna Mahal, a cosy and elegant indoor venue, is perfect for smaller ceremonies or private dinners, with a capacity of up to 50 guests. For modern needs, the Darbar Boardroom provides a sleek, tech-equipped space for planning meetings or intimate events.

### How does your team personalise the wedding experience – from food and décor to cultural rituals and guest hospitality?

At Anantara Jewel Bagh Jaipur, every wedding is treated as a deeply personal journey. Our dedicated events team ensures that each couple has a single point of contact to manage every detail—from planning to execution—making the entire experience seamless and stress-free.

Culinary experiences are led by Executive Chef Sunil Jajoria, who brings over







two decades of expertise in crafting customised menus. Whether it's authentic Rajasthani dishes or international cuisines, every menu is tailored to the couple's preferences, using traditional methods like stone-ground spices to enhance flavour and authenticity.

What truly sets us apart is the thoughtful addition of cultural elements to elevate the overall experience. From live flute artists playing softly during breakfast to traditional Rajasthani welcomes with folk music and floral garlands, we add touches that turn regular wedding moments into unforgettable memories. Décor, music, and rituals are curated in collaboration with local artisans and cultural experts, ensuring every celebration reflects the couple's heritage and vision while embracing the soul of Rajasthan.

**With sustainability becoming increasingly important, how is Anantara Jaipur incorporating eco-conscious elements into luxury celebrations?**

Sustainability at Anantara Jewel Bagh Jaipur is thoughtfully woven into every aspect of the wedding experience. From using locally sourced ingredients and indigenous flowers to energy-efficient design and reusable décor, the hotel balances eco-conscious choices with royal elegance.

A major step in this direction is the hotel's dedicated solar power plant, which now supplies a large portion of its electricity needs—helping offset over 2,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. Water is conserved through a zero-discharge treatment plant, while composting and

waste-reduction practices are part of daily operations.

Weddings here are not just grand—they're mindful. Guests often receive sustainable welcome hampers, while the hotel promotes organic wellness products, minimal packaging, and support for local artisans, ensuring each celebration leaves a positive impact on both the environment and the community.

**How do you collaborate with wedding planners and vendors to deliver seamless and spectacular events?**

Collaboration with wedding planners is central to the Anantara approach. The in-house events team works in close sync with planners, decorators, and stylists from the early planning stages, offering logistical support, venue walkthroughs, and bespoke experience design. A single-point-of-contact model ensures clarity and agility in decision-making. Planners benefit from tech-enabled facilities at the venue—including advanced audio-visual setups at Darbar Boardroom and Kohinoor Mahal—as well as a trained team familiar with complex wedding rituals, regional customs, and multi-event coordination. This synergy of local knowledge and professional precision ensures events are not only well-orchestrated but rich in character and creativity.♥

**Anantara Jewel Bagh Jaipur offers a rare mix of indoor and outdoor wedding venues, each thoughtfully designed to reflect the grandeur of Rajasthan while catering to a variety of celebration styles and guest capacities.**





# Puri, Odisha

## INDIA'S NEW WEDDING WONDERLAND

Puri, with its pristine beaches, spiritual aura, and rich cultural heritage, is fast emerging as a sought-after wedding destination in India.

**Nitin Konde**



For a long time, Puri has been one of the most prominent and revered holy pilgrimage destinations for Hindus. The place has a long history of Hindu pilgrims seeking blessings and prayers from their god, Lord Jagannath, largely due to the temple and the Rath Yatra procession. But times have changed, and the city as a whole is seeing tremendous upheaval. Couples looking for a

wedding venue might consider Puri for its religious significance and beautiful beach views. Couples looking to create magical moments on their wedding day will find Puri, with its stunning coastline and strong religious traditions, to be an ideal location. Because it incorporates both traditional Indian wedding practices and contemporary elements, a Puri wedding is quickly becoming the wed-

ding of choice for many couples.

### State Tourism launches Destination Wedding Drive

Going beyond its traditional offerings, the state is aiming to become a top destination for prestigious weddings and corporate gatherings, competing with places like Goa and Kerala, as well as the royal cities of Rajasthan. Several news outlets have reported that the state's tourism authority has chosen to market prominent beach towns like Puri and Konark in the Puri district as venues for destination weddings and large conferences. According to a recent announcement from the state tourist department, these locations provide five-star hotels

### Puri's pristine beaches emerge as the new 'Aisle of Love'

Weddings on the beach are growing in popularity in Puri, India, thanks to the city's stunning shoreline and lively beach culture. With its picturesque coastlines and peaceful environment, Puri provides a one-of-a-kind and romantic backdrop for couples planning to tie the knot. This location is perfect for couples looking for a once-in-a-lifetime wedding because of its beautiful beaches and proximity to the Jagannath Temple.

The Bay of Bengal and Puri's beaches make for a picture-perfect setting for wedding festivities. As the sun sets and the sound of the wave's ebbs and flows,

a mystical and enchanting ambiance is created. The peaceful coastlines and golden sands of Puri, which were once mostly visited for religious reasons, are increasingly becoming popular as idyllic wedding locations. With its breathtaking natural settings and rich cultural and spiritual heritage, Puri has become a popular choice for small, private weddings that focus on providing guests with unforgettable experiences.

Wedding vows are being exchanged on Puri's beaches by couples from all around India and even beyond. In this ancient town, it is now commonplace to have receptions with the ocean breeze, mandaps surrounded by coconut palms, and sunset pheras on the beach.

The Odisha Tourism Department has

that are perfect for hosting events like destination weddings all year round. The eco-retreat locations offer a variety of amenities, including luxurious tents, cottages, large halls, and more. All the necessary amenities for a destination wedding are available at these locations. The state's tourism bureau will help arrange for anything else that may be required.





been actively marketing Puri as a top location for weddings since it saw a chance to broaden the state's tourist offerings. The state is doing all it can to make weddings easier, from easing the process of obtaining necessary permits to forming partnerships with venues, photographers, and event planners. Traditional Odia ceremonies and beachfront grandeur are coming together in new vacation wedding packages.

The city's improved connections, hospitality services, and local transportation, among other infrastructure upgrades, are also making it easier than ever to organise famous weddings there.

A wedding in Puri will be unlike any other because of the city's effortless blend of old-world charm and contemporary amenities. All in one place: a seaside celebration to cap off the big day and blessings from the temple to begin. The



rituals are made more genuine with the help of local craftspeople, classical music performances, Odissi dance performances, and traditional food.

In addition, boutique hotels and luxury resorts have begun to provide curated wedding packages that include spa treatments, pre-wedding picture sessions at famous locations like the Konark Sun Temple, and coastal-themed traditional wedding decorations.

### Enchanting Venues in Puri for your coastal Fairytale Wedding

**Swosti Premium Beach Resorts**  
USP- Seamless blend of luxury, tradition, and beachfront serenity

Swosti Premium Beach Resorts, Puri is a peaceful and elegant destination with great amenities. It is located along the beautiful coastline of Puri in the Indian state of Odisha. The Swosti Group runs this 5-star resort, which has 125 rooms. The rooms are well decorated, and there are six suites that are very lavish and

have big windows that look out over the sea. The furniture is both stylish and eco-friendly, which makes for a truly joyful experience. With its beautiful outdoor grounds and pillarless banquet hall that can hold 1,000 people, the resort is great for weddings, conferences, and other special occasions.

**Mayfair Heritage, Puri**  
USP- Seaside opulence with a temple-inspired design

Mayfair Heritage combines classic elegance with contemporary conveniences, and it's situated on the beach. Private ceremonies and pre-wedding gatherings can be held in the property's roomy banquet facilities or on the lawns overlooking the ocean. Situated near the revered Jagannath Temple, this venue boasts exquisite interior design and provides a serene coastal setting for your event.

**Toshali Sands Resort**  
USP- Exquisite mansion nestled in 30 acres of lush landscaping  
Indulge in a royally beautiful wedding at Toshali Sands, where you may still be sur-

“  
**A wedding in Puri will be unlike any other because of the city's effortless blend of old-world charm and contemporary amenities. All in one place: a seaside celebration to cap off the big day and blessings from the temple to begin.**  
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rounded by nature. It is perfect for opulent destination weddings due to its palatial atmosphere and breath-taking views of Balukhanda Reserve Forest. To assist guests relax in between celebrations, the resort provides Ayurvedic spa treatments and architecture reminiscent of temples.

**Sterling Puri Resort**  
**USP- Relaxed elegance with a seaside twist**

Sterling Puri, located close to the tranquil Balighai Beach, is an ideal venue for smaller, more intimate weddings due to its boutique yet refined ambiance. It can

accommodate both laid-back beach weddings and posh cocktail parties thanks to its ocean-view lawn and contemporary banquet rooms.

**The Hans Coco Palms**  
**USP- A peaceful beach setting with a colonial flair**

Hans Coco Palms is a beautiful and historically significant property that was once the summer residence of the Raja of Jagannath Puri. It is a popular choice for couples seeking a romantic, vintage atmosphere because to its well-kept grounds, historic buildings, and close proximity to the ocean.

**Hotel Holiday Resort**  
**USP- Stylish, family-friendly, waterfront accommodation**

Holiday Resort, situated on Marine Drive Road, provides stunning ocean views and affordable packages, making it an ideal alternative for wedding parties of medium size. A worry-free party is guaranteed with its adaptable banquet spaces and helpful personnel.

**Blue Lily Beach Resort**  
**USP- Fresh, lively, and beachy**

Blue Lily is the perfect venue for a modern beach wedding if you're picturing cocktails as the sun goes down and dance parties after dark. The resort has open lawns,

a pool area suitable for haldi and mehendi ceremonies, and private beach access; it is just a short drive from Puri's main town.

**Swosti Chilika Resort**  
**(For a Waterfront Detour)**  
**USP- Perfect for houseboat Baraat**

Even though it's not exactly in Puri, this hidden gem at Chilika Lake provides a gorgeous setting for a wedding—just two hours away by car. Envision starlit pheras by the lakeside, lotus pond mehendis, and houseboat baraats.

Puri is fast becoming one of the most unique and enchanting wedding sites in all of India. It is a place where the old spiritual rituals of the sea meet the modern rhythms of life. This coastal city has beautiful beaches, a bustling culture, and deep-rooted traditions that make it the perfect place for couples to start their adventure together. Puri's best quality is that it may change.

In Puri, one can have any kind of ceremony he chooses, from a little one inside the Jagannath Temple with divine bless-

ings to a big one on the beach with golden sunsets. The pleasant natives, the many wedding-friendly places, and the fancy resorts all make any celebration more unforgettable.

Also, the Odisha government is working hard to promote Puri as a destination for weddings, which would make it a major player on India's wedding map. These efforts involve building infrastructure, providing eco-friendly venue options, and putting together experiences. It's not only possible to arrange a wedding here, but it's also a lot of fun because there are so many professional planners, designers, and caterers to choose from.

Puri has a unique mix of natural beauty, cultural richness, and spiritual depth that modern couples want in a wedding site. This makes it the perfect place for a wedding. It's not just a place; it's a journey. Puri is more than just a wedding destination; it's a sincere beginning. More and more couples are choosing it as a unique place to commemorate their love stories.❤





# Vikramjeet Sharma

## The Rise of Le Florence

What began in 2008 as a behind-the-scenes hustle transformed into a global luxury wedding powerhouse by 2019. Abandoning privilege for perseverance, **Vikramjeet Sharma**, Founder of **Le Florence** built the brand from the ground up—learning, adapting, and obsessing over the smallest details. Today, Le Florence is redefining Indian weddings by fusing visual grandeur with emotional depth and a conscious commitment to sustainability. **Priyanka Saxena Ray**



**From 2008 to founding Le Florence in 2019—how did your journey in events evolve into a global wedding planning powerhouse?**

My journey started back in 2008 with a deep curiosity for what goes on behind the curtain of big events. I didn't come from privilege—I came from hustle, from ground-level execution, from figuring it out with my back against the wall. Every gig I took was a chance to learn something new—be it logistics, design, or people psychology.

By 2019, after more than a decade of trial, error, and obsession with detail, I knew I had to build something of my own. That's how Le Florence was born—not as a brand, but as a belief. A belief that Indian weddings can be emotionally rich, visually breathtaking, and flawlessly executed, without compromising integrity. Today, we're not just planning weddings, we're curating experiences that stay with people for life.

**Le Florence is known for blending grandeur with eco-consciousness. What inspired this sustainable approach, and how do you incorporate it into your events?**

Weddings, especially luxury ones, are often seen as indulgent. But I've always believed luxury doesn't have to mean waste. Our planet doesn't need another extrava-

gant mess, it needs intention.

The shift started when I became a father. Suddenly, legacy felt bigger than decor. At Le Florence, we now integrate eco-conscious practices seamlessly: reusable structures, digital invites, mindful sourcing, and partnerships with local artisans. We've even done weddings where floral waste was composted or repurposed into natural dyes.

We don't market it loudly, we let our work speak. Because true sustainability isn't a trend, it's a value.

**Having curated 200+ weddings, could you share one or two events that were particularly memorable or creatively challenging?**

Every wedding we plan is layered with emotion, design, and logistical intricacies. But some experiences truly test your ability to adapt and deliver luxury under pressure.

One such moment was during a wedding at a centuries-old palace in Jaipur. The grandeur was unmatched—elephant processions, custom Rajputana-inspired decor, and a guest list that included royalty and celebrities. But the challenge? Working around the heritage restrictions. We couldn't drill, pin, or modify the architecture, which meant our entire floral and lighting setup had to be engineered with freestanding structures and zero-impact

rigging. It pushed our creativity and logistics to the limit, and the result was absolutely breathtaking.

Then there was a beach wedding in Goa where the weather flipped on us mid-sangeet. Forecast said clear skies; the universe said otherwise. We had minutes to shift an open-air celebration to a covered deck without compromising the guest experience. Our team moved in silent coordination, flipping layouts, preserving décor, and resetting AV under pressure, while the guests danced on, blissfully unaware of the storm we were managing in the background.

It's in those unpredictable, high-stakes moments that you realize: luxury isn't just how it looks, it's how seamlessly it flows, no matter what happens.

**How do you tailor destination weddings across diverse cultures and geographies while keeping the core essence of celebration intact?**

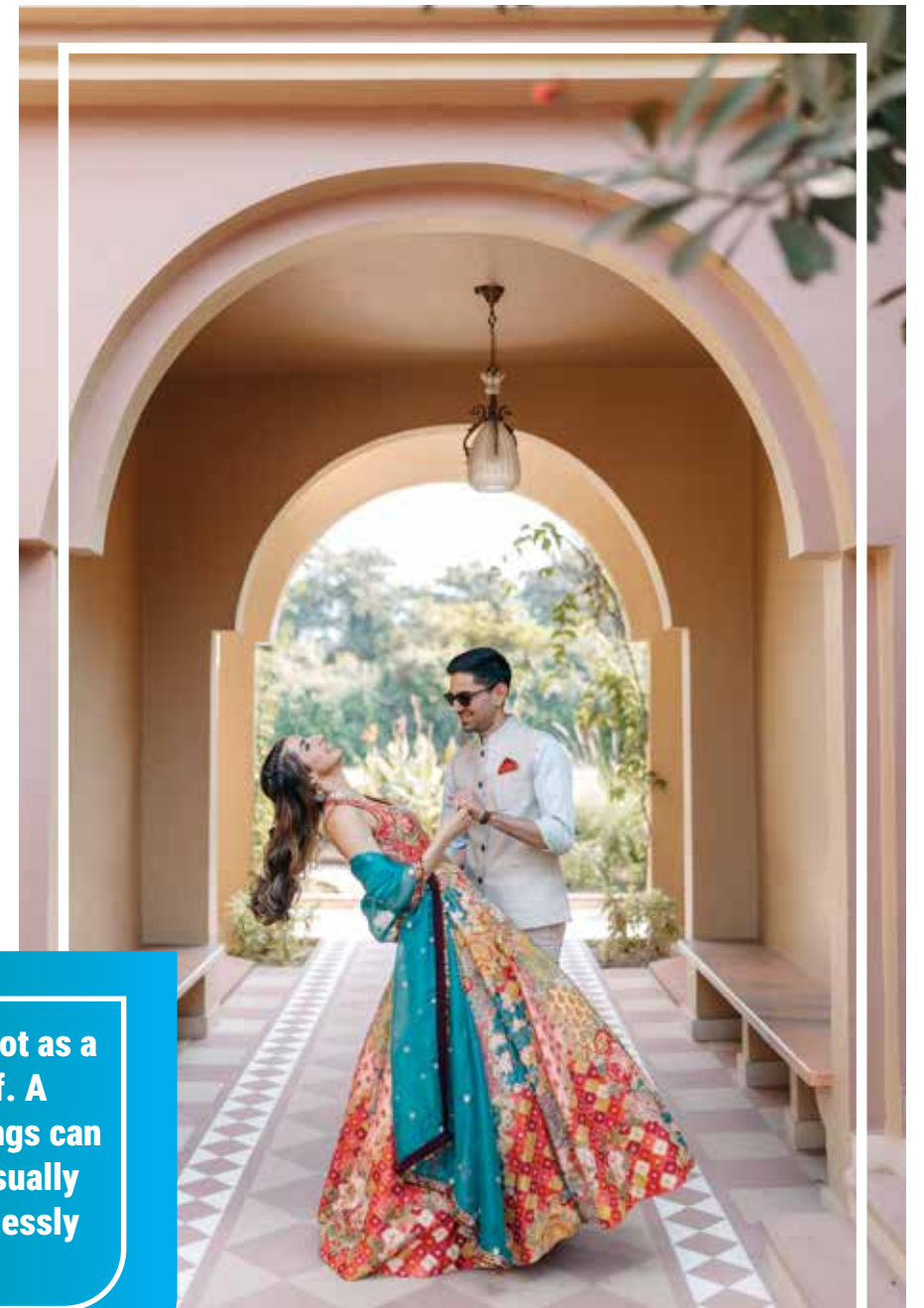
The heart of any wedding—regardless of culture or continent, is emotion. It's family, tradition, love, and legacy. That's what we start with. Before any décor, menu, or location comes into play, we dig

**Le Florence was born—not as a brand, but as a belief. A belief that Indian weddings can be emotionally rich, visually breathtaking, and flawlessly executed**

into the couple's story—what they value, what they envision, what they want their guests to feel.

Whether it's a mehendi in the Udaipur, a Sangeet in Goa, or a haldi under Moroccan lamps infused skies, we ensure cultural rituals are honoured with authenticity and elegance. We collaborate with local artisans, chefs, and performers to create immersive, respectful experiences—while weaving in that Le Florence signature: opulent, intentional, and emotionally resonant. The key is balance, letting the destination shine without diluting the soul of the wedding.

**What are some wedding trends you foresee gaining momentum in the next couple**







What builds legacy isn't just beauty—it's honesty, consistency, and the courage to do things your way.

of years—especially in the Indian and international markets?

We're seeing a big shift from "bigger" to "braver." Couples are no longer chasing grandeur for the sake of scale, they're prioritizing meaning, design storytelling, and personalization.

In India, we'll see more intimate multi-day celebrations in offbeat luxury locations—think fort ruins, heritage estates, and curated private retreats. There's also a rising preference for cultural revival: phulkari in decor, traditional rituals in new-age formats, even handwritten invites. Globally, sustainability isn't just a trend—it's becoming a non-negotiable. Destination weddings with lower carbon footprints, hyper-local sourcing, digital-first planning, and even vintage décor reusability are here to stay.

Tech will play a bigger role too—AI-driv-

en planning assistants, 3D walkthroughs, AR invites—it's all coming, and we're ready to lead from the front.

As a young entrepreneur and industry leader, what advice would you offer to aspiring wedding planners who wish to leave a lasting impact?

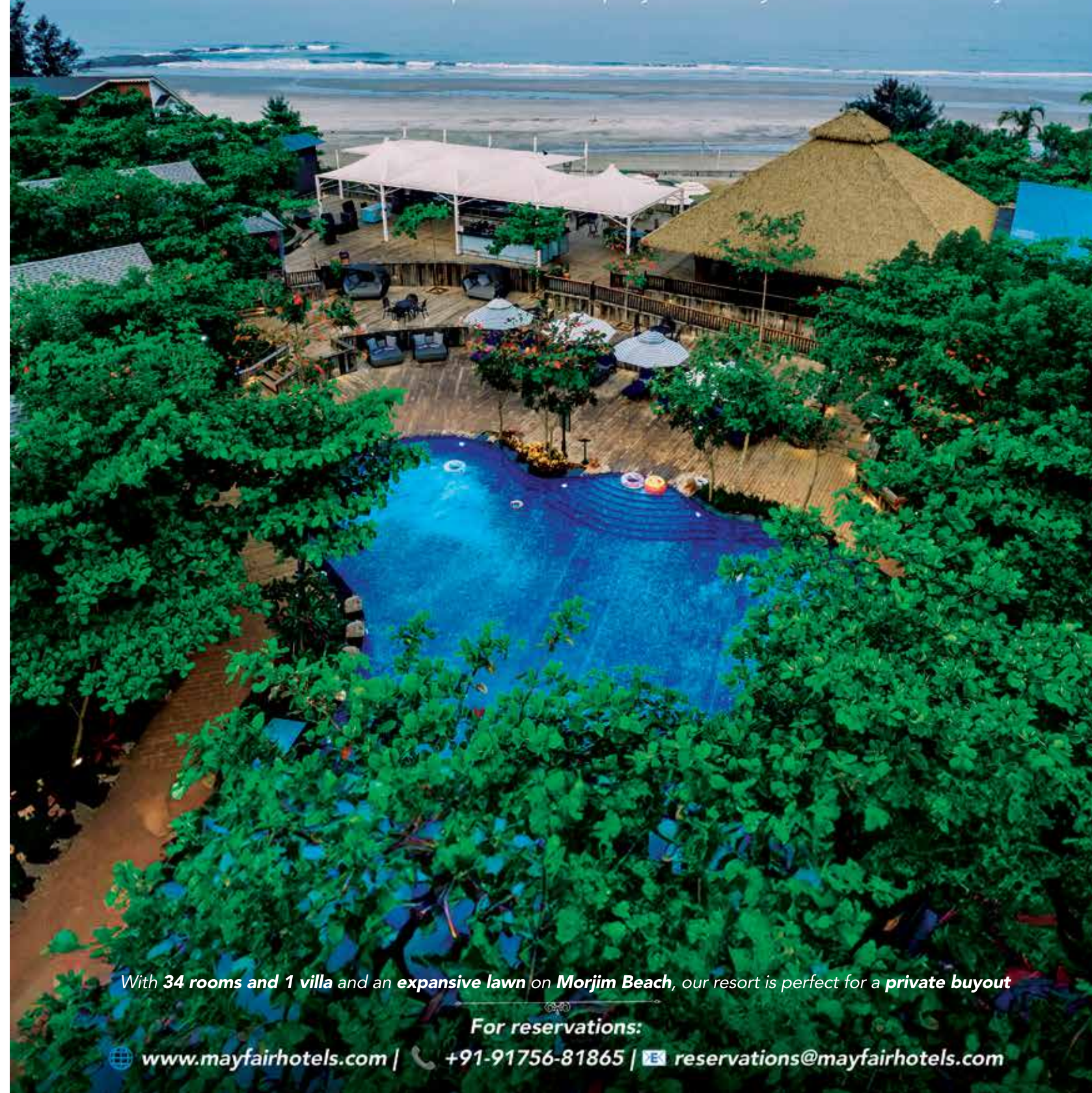
Don't chase aesthetics. Chase alignment. This industry is filled with noise, pretty reels, viral trends, and curated perfection. But what builds legacy isn't just beauty—it's honesty, consistency, and the courage to do things your way. Start small, but start smart. Respect budgets. Be obsessed with detail. Listen more than you speak. And when things go wrong (because they will), show up with grace, not panic. And most importantly, don't just build weddings. Build trust. That's what lasts. That's what sets you apart.❤️



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YES! TO THE  
DRESS!

With intricate handcraft, fluid silhouettes, and a signature blend of tradition and rebellion, **Anamika Khanna** continues to redefine what it means to be a modern Indian bride. In an interview with **Jyoti Verma**, the ace designer unpacks what young brides are wearing down the aisle, how celebrity weddings have shaped bridal aspirations, and why true couture always begins with the bride's spirit.

# The Couture of Confidence



**G**one are the days when a bridal lehenga was defined by weight, width, and a fixed colour code. In today's India, bridal fashion is a language of identity, and few designers speak it more fluently than Anamika Khanna. With a label that seamlessly blends heritage techniques like zardozi and chikankari with cutting-edge silhouettes, Khanna has built a couture house that resonates across generations, red carpets, and continents. She has pushed the boundaries of traditional Indian fashion by brilliantly blending time-honoured Indian techniques and fabrics with contemporary Western shapes and styles.

"Gen Z is beautifully rewriting the rulebook," she says. "They want meaning in their choices: something personal, not just traditional for the sake of tradition." According to Khanna, today's brides and grooms are not just shopping for a look; they are crafting a statement. Whether it's rewearable couture or heirloom-inspired detailing with a modern spin,



every element is curated to reflect their inner world.

While lehengas still hold sway, the silhouettes have become bolder and more experimental. Think sculptural draped skirts, blouses with asymmetric cuts, capes replacing dupattas, and even pre-stitched sarees that blur the lines between structure and ease. "The saree is definitely having a renaissance," says Khanna. "But it's worn with a new-gen, rebellious edge."

## A Palette of Possibilities

Colour trends are also evolving with nuance. "There's a resurgence of sindoor reds, rusts, and deep vermilion, but worn in thoughtful, non-obvious ways," she notes. At the same time, offbeat tones like stone grey, burnt gold, and charcoal are becoming quiet favourites. Pastels remain popular too, but now they are often paired with metallics or worn in unexpected contrasts that reflect the bride's personality.

Nowhere was this balance of heritage and individualism more visible than at the much-talked-about wedding of actor

**“Gen Z is beautifully rewriting the rulebook. They want meaning in their choices: something personal, not just traditional for the sake of tradition. Today's brides and grooms are not just shopping for a look; they are crafting a statement. Whether it's rewearable couture or heirloom-inspired detailing with a modern spin, every element is curated to reflect their inner world.”**

”





Athiya Shetty and cricketer KL Rahul in 2023. For her intimate Khandala wedding, Athiya wore a rose-pink chikankari lehenga from Anamika Khanna's atelier, detailed with zardozi and jaali embroidery. "She was my biggest inspiration," Khanna shared in an interview. "She wanted something timeless, subtle, and elegant. No cancan, nothing loud, just a lehenga that flowed with her, not against her."

The bespoke outfit, which took nearly 10,000 hours to handcraft, reflected Athiya's personality to perfection: soft, assured, and fuss-free. "It wasn't just a look. It was her," the ace designer added.

Royalty, too, finds its dream dress in Khanna's world. The Princess of Faridkot,

Gurmehak Brar, searched high and low for her perfect bridal ensemble before discovering it in a peach-pink Anamika Khanna lehenga. Worn for her Anand Karaj ceremony in January 2025, the lehenga married heritage with a soft pastel palette that felt regal yet grounded.

Another interesting wedding featured a six-event celebration where every outfit, from a pistachio sharara with zardozi detailing to a jazz-inspired lavender lehenga, a mustard yellow organza saree, a dramatic flaming red sangeet ensemble, and a pearl-lined Anand Karaj look, was custom-designed by Khanna. The final reception outfit, a metallic off-shoulder blouse with a sculptural black skirt, was inspired

by one of Khanna's archived pieces from over a decade ago. Across all these events, the designs wove together tradition, vintage references, and global silhouettes to create a deeply personal bridal story.

#### Crafted With Soul

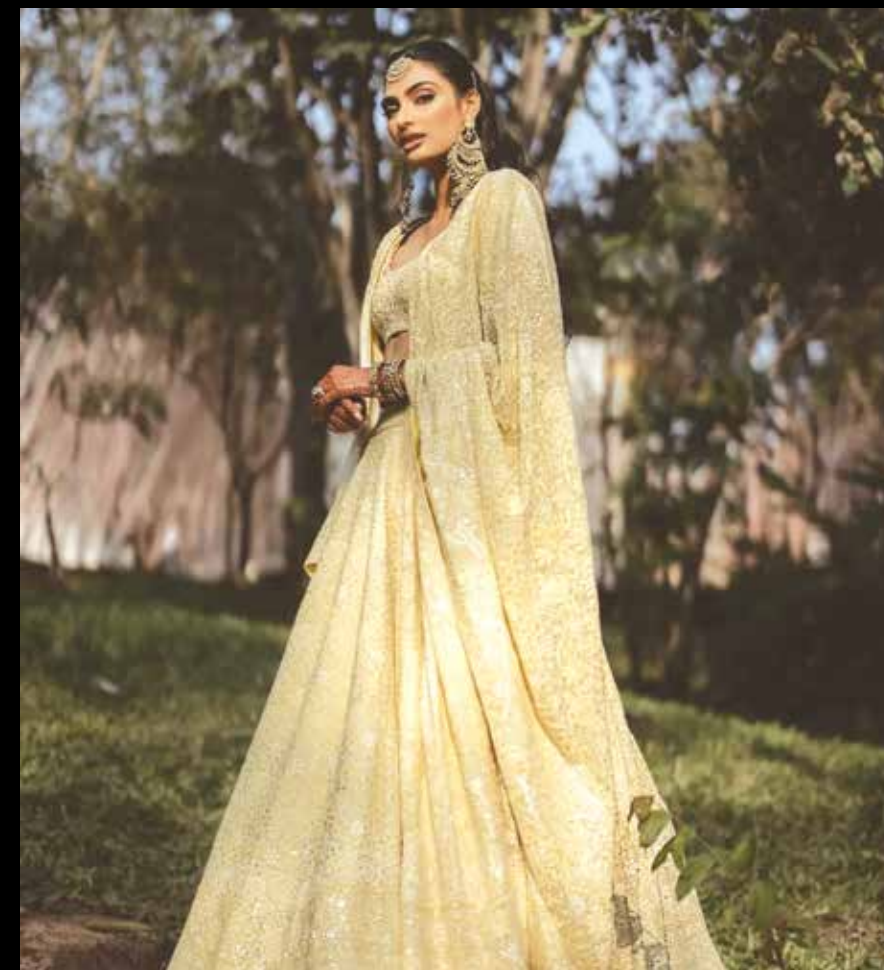
Each Anamika Khanna creation is steeped in fine artistry and a commitment to Indian craftsmanship. She uses handwoven silks, organzas, and traditional embroidery forms, but the way she presents them is global. Her collections have featured bold inspirations, always marrying concepts with craft and tradition with innovation.

In today's evolving bridal trousseau,

Khanna spotlights an unexpected star: the blouse. It is no longer an afterthought, but the showstopper, she says. "Sculptural, architectural, and boldly expressive blouses are taking centre stage. Think exaggerated sleeves, asymmetric necklines, even blazer-inspired silhouettes. There is a sense of freedom, and Gen Z is embracing it to make a bold statement. This celebration of individualism defines today's couples. They do not just wear fashion. They curate it. It is about blending legacy with authenticity, and telling a story that is uniquely theirs," she adds.

For brides who want to figure out their individualistic character, Khanna has an advice that is as handcrafted as her couture: "Figure out what you want to say and stay true to that. Fashion cannot just be noise. It has to mean something."

In a world chasing trends, Anamika Khanna's bridal vision reminds us of the enduring power of self-expression, craft, and couture that speaks in whispers rather than shouts. For brides who wish to be remembered not just for what they wore, but for who they were, this is where the story begins.



“Each Anamika Khanna creation is steeped in fine artistry and a commitment to Indian craftsmanship. She uses handwoven silks, organzas, and traditional embroidery forms, but the way she presents them is global. Her collections have featured bold inspirations, always marrying concepts with craft and tradition with innovation.”



# Maldives

## The perfect beginning to your forever

The Maldives is not just a destination—it's the honeymoon you've always dreamed of... **Priyanka Saxena Ray**

A dreamy mosaic of crystal-clear lagoons, powder-white sands, and overwater villas, the Maldives is an unrivalled honeymoon destination that whispers romance at every turn. Nestled in the heart of the Indian Ocean, this tropical paradise is made up of nearly 1,200 islands, each home to a unique luxury resort—offering the perfect blend of privacy, indulgence, and adventure. For newlyweds seeking a serene escape, the Maldives offers the ideal setting to unwind, bond, and celebrate the beginning of forever. From lounging in private infinity pools and enjoying rejuvenating couples' spa treatments to savouring candlelit dinners on the beach under a starlit sky, every experience is designed to delight. And for those who crave a dash of thrill, activities like snorkelling with manta rays, sunset cruises, and diving among vibrant coral reefs add just the right amount of excitement. The Maldives

is not just a destination—it's the honeymoon you've always dreamed of. Here are a few honeymoon resort options that can help you make your decision –

### The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort

Located on a private island in the Dhaalu Atoll, The St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort is a luxurious sanctuary nestled between lush tropical forest and pristine white sands. The resort offers 77 elegantly appointed villas—33 on land and 44 over water—each featuring a private pool, sundeck, and panoramic ocean or garden views. Guests are pampered with 24/7 bespoke service by the iconic St. Regis Butlers. The resort boasts seven fine dining venues, a tranquil Iridium Spa with a private lagoon, and an outdoor infinity pool. For adventure seekers, an







array of water sports and excursions are curated through the diving centre.

### Furaveri Maldives

Furaveri Maldives offers an idyllic escape with lavish accommodation ranging from Garden Villas to opulent Ocean Pool Residences. Set amidst tropical greenery, beachfront bliss, and turquoise lagoons, each villa is tailored to provide comfort

and seclusion. Culinary experiences include international and Maldivian fare, destination dining, and cultural meals like Maldivian Fridays. The resort features a unique Wellness Village inspired by traditional Asian therapies, offering holistic treatments in bamboo-clad tranquillity. Guests enjoy immersive experiences such as coral reef snorkelling, local island visits, and romantic cruises. Seasonal offers include free upgrades, seaplane transfers,

floating breakfasts, and generous spa discounts for stays until October 2025.

### Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru

Tucked within the pristine Baa Atoll UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru is a luxurious blend of natural beauty and transformative wellness. From sun-

rise water villas with overwater nets and sea-facing lofts to the ultra-private four-bedroom Landaa Estate with an 80-metre beach, each accommodation offers serene seclusion with private pools and lagoon access. Guests can enjoy Michelin-starred dining at Blu Beach Club, snorkel with manta rays, or unwind at AyurMa wellness sanctuary. Whether in beachfront bungalows or family-friendly sunset villas, the resort pairs unmatched privacy with cutting-edge sustainability and warm Maldivian hospitality in every detail.

### Cheval Blanc Randheli

Located in the Noonu Atoll, Cheval Blanc Randheli redefines luxury through refined elegance and experiential hospitality. The resort's 46 artfully designed villas—each a private haven—blend modern aesthetics with local inspiration. Children revel in the 500 sqm Le Carrousel wonderland and teen-exclusive Le Paddock, while families enjoy tailored dining, water sports, and nature excursions. The Maison offers world-class gastronomy, from sandbank picnics to indulgent dining at Le 1947. Wellness is an island of its own, curated by Guerlain

From lounging in private infinity pools and enjoying rejuvenating couples' spa treatments to savouring candlelit dinners on the beach, every experience is a delight.









rituals in serene spa settings. With Ambassadors crafting each moment, every stay is elevated into a celebration of emotion, art, and Maldivian magic.

### Dusit Thani Maldives

Nestled on Mudhdhoo Island, within the UNESCO-recognised Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve, Dusit Thani Maldives blends refined Thai elegance with warm Maldivian charm. Just 35 minutes by sea-plane (or 25-minute domestic flight plus 10-minute speedboat), the resort offers 94 spacious beach, overwater, and waterfront pool villas adorned with Thai furnishings, private terraces and direct reef access. Guests savour a rich culinary palette—from international buffets at The Market to authentic Thai at Benjarong and grilled seafood at The Sea Grill.

The award-winning Devarana Spa, with tree-top treatment pods amid coconut canopies, invites deep relaxation. Activities range from snorkelling the vibrant 360° house reef and manta-spotting at Hanifaru Bay to fitness sessions, tennis, and cooking classes—all enhanced by personalised butler service.

### One&Only Reethi Rah

Set on one of the largest private islands in the North Malé Atoll, One&Only Reethi Rah is a sanctuary of barefoot luxury surrounded by the dazzling blues of the Indian Ocean. Guests can choose from expansive Beach Villas with direct ocean access, tranquil Water Villas perched above the lagoon, and ultra-private Grand Residences with multiple bedrooms and personal pools. The Grand Sunset Residence

offers unmatched seclusion with two pools, private beach, and dedicated staff. From Bodu Beru drum performances to world-class wellness and curated adventures, every detail is thoughtfully tailored, making this resort a favourite for romantics, families, and luxury seekers.

### The Residence Maldives at Falhumaafushi

Tucked within the remote Gaafu Alifu Atoll, The Residence Maldives at Falhumaafushi is a refined hideaway with 94 beach and overwater villas blending seamlessly into the lush island landscape. Built with natural materials and adorned with Maldivian artefacts, each villa offers ocean-facing tranquillity and direct access to vibrant marine life. The resort features three restaurants, includ-

ing the overwater fine-dining Falhumaa, and four bars for relaxed indulgence. Guests enjoy exclusive Clarins Spa treatments, water sports, and immersive dive experiences via a PADI 5\* Dive Centre. A kids club, fitness centre, and seamless access to sister resort Dhigurah enhance this tropical escape for couples and families alike.

### Heritage Aarah Maldives

Tucked away in the pristine Raa Atoll, Heritage Aarah Maldives invites you to escape to a world of unparalleled beauty and tranquillity. From the moment you step onto the soft, sandy shores, the resort's serene ambiance sets the tone for an unforgettable stay. The resort's luxurious villas, whether nestled along the

beach or perched over the lagoon, are designed to blend seamlessly with the natural surroundings. Each accommodation offers stunning views, modern comforts, and private spaces that invite you to unwind and reconnect with nature. Dining at Heritage Aarah is a journey through flavours. The resort's all-inclusive concept features a variety of culinary experiences, from international dishes at Ranba to the rich spices of Maldivian cuisine at Ambula. Fresh seafood at Ginifathi and fusion creations at Baani, paired with panoramic ocean views, create unforgettable dining moments.

### Kandima Maldives

This game-changing resort is an affordable lifestyle destination. Kandima

Maldives is smart, playful, rooted, and responsible. This 3-kilometre resort is a place with an authentic Maldivian soul. It is all about genuine hospitality with a human touch and innovative solutions that make use of the latest technology. Kandima Maldives is part of the hospitality group Pulse Hotels & Resorts and caters to guests of all ages: families, couples, groups of friends, and honeymooners. Whether you seek relaxation, both aquatic and island adventures, well-being, fitness or just family time, this 270-room beach resort has something for everybody. With one of the longest outdoor pools in the Maldives, a football pitch, tennis and volleyball courts, Aquaholics water sports, E-Go-Karting and dive centre, Kula art studio and many more, there is plenty to keep everyone occupied.❤







# Reimagining the Wedding Plate

THE EVOLUTION FROM CHAAT COUNTERS TO CULINARY SHOWSTOPPERS

By Rupali Dean

## BOWLS OVER BUFFETS

Indian weddings are more than just grand celebrations—they are sensory feasts, and nowhere is this more evident than in the food. Food is a core memory-maker of the Big Fat Indian Wedding (BFIW), serving as the glue that binds rituals, raucous baraat dancing, and heart-warming family moments together. Couples today want their wedding menu to be an extension of their personalities—fresh, unexpected, and unforgettable. With traditional staples getting bold upgrades and international cuisines moving CenterStage, the wedding plate is having its own glow-up

moment. Let's dive into the hottest trends, redefining India's wedding banquet scene.

### Customised Cocktails and Caffeine Lounges

Gone are the days of cookie-cutter mojitos and whiskey-on-the-rocks. Today, couples are curating cocktail menus inspired by 'their' love story. Enter creative cocktails with quirky names, ingredients inspired by their meet-cute (think hibiscus from their first vacation or elderflower from their engagement party), and bespoke presentations—from cocktails smoked theatrically to those served with edible floral garnishes. And if alcohol isn't your thing (or if your guest list spans teetotaling family members), chai and coffee stations are an equally robust crowd-pleaser. Think spiced Darjeeling chais, frothy saffron lattes, or cold brews infused with locally sourced herbs. Tea bars with selections from Assam to Munnar, or espresso martini-style live coffee counters, make wonderful conversation starters.

### Comfort Foods, Glammed Up

Nostalgia never fails, especially when served bite-sized and fancy. Imagine the humble golgappa, but played up to wedding royalty with fiery vodka-infused tamarind water; or the much-loved idli, now skewered into lollipop-sized bites accompanied by a trio of artfully crafted chutneys. High-profile weddings (like Radhika Merchant and Anand Ambani's functions) are leaning towards com-



fort-food classics, just reimagined for Instagram-worthy bites. Guests enjoy grabbing these vibrant, flavour-packed mini plates as they sip their cocktails and mingle, making the food an experience in itself, not just a backdrop.

### Bowls Over Buffets

The buffet line has stiff competition, with soaring requests for 'bowl foods.' Bowls strike the perfect balance between portion size, practicality, and flair, offering guests a savvy dining option during main courses. No fiddling with cumbersome plates or juggling (read: spilling) gravies while you work the dance floor; bowl foods fit perfectly in one hand while the other clutches your drink. Couples have embraced everything from Korean bibimbap and Thai curry bowls to Indian Kadhi chawal bowls served with a dollop of truffle butter. Bowl foods combine convenience with creativity and are es-

pecially great for events like sangeets or receptions.

### Locally Sourced Luxe

Minimalism is having its moment, and wedding menus are no exception. Guests are increasingly interested in sustainability and farm-to-table dining. Seasonal, locally sourced ingredients are taking the spotlight, and live counters showcasing their freshness are a major hit. Expect live seafood grills, seasonal veggie roasts that celebrate India's monsoon bounty, or tandoori stations featuring lesser-known regional favourites. People are deliberately choosing regional specialties, be-

With traditional staples getting bold upgrades and international cuisines moving CenterStage, the wedding plate is having its own glow-up moment.







it freshly shucked oysters from the Konk-an coast or Himachali trout cooked live. It's less about extravagance and more about harnessing bold, natural flavours.

### Multinational Menu Mashups

Move over, vanilla fusion food—the modern wedding menu embraces a more eclectic series of world cuisines. Sure, there's a love affair with Italian classics and Chinese mainstays, but couples today bring in the unexpected. Think a Korean barbecue setup, a lavish mezze platter straight out of a Tel Aviv dining dream, or taco bars that bring a touch of Mexico to Indian soil.

Indian food, too, is defying tradition-

**A chaat counter with an artisanal twist? Absolutely. There is so much you can do with panna cotta infused with Indian rasmalai flavours or mishti doi cheesecakes.**

al boundaries. A kulcha bar with black truffle and burrata kulchas? Yes, please. A chaat counter with an artisanal twist? Absolutely. There is so much you can do with panna cotta infused with Indian rasmalai flavours or mishti doi cheesecakes.

### Celebrity Chefs and Culinary Statements

If weddings were rock concerts, the chefs would be the electric guitarists playing solos that sweep the crowd off their feet—only, they're hidden backstage, crafting edible magic that turns every bite into a memory. The culinary world's A-listers are finally stepping into the limelight, and oh, how deliciously overdue this spotlight is! If budget permits, today's weddings are also vying for star power. Internationally celebrated chefs or India's finest culinary masterminds are being flown in to curate show-stopping meals that lend an element of exclusivity. It's not just about eating anymore; it's about the story behind the plate. Whether it's a two-star Michelin chef crafting hors d'oeuvres or showcasing India's own heritage restaurants helping live food counters, the personalized touch speaks volumes. Think Parisian pastry chefs prepping delicate soufflés for post-vow bites or Japanese



sushi masters carving out nigiri so pristine it could rival a bride's veil.

### The Rise of the Minimalist Wedding Cake

Let's face it—wedding cakes used to have the subtlety of a fireworks display. Tier after tier was dressed up in fondant layers so thick you could mistake them for an awkwardly glamorous hat parade. French roses sprawled across frosting like dramatic actresses clamouring for attention, and the colours? Sometimes they looked like an unexpected guest crashed the pastel party and brought neon as their plus-one. Today's wedding cakes are whispering, not shouting—and they're far more charming for it. Rustic cakes with buttercream swirls and fresh florals are stepping forward like ethereal daydreams. Minimalist cakes have heart, and they've got taste to match. Suddenly, wedding desserts are taking a quieter stand with textures so light they feel like clouds, and flavours so balanced they could serenade your taste buds. They offer the perfect finale to that once-in-a-lifetime feast, a sleek, sophisticated 'happily ever after' in the world of wedding pastries.

2025's wedding menu is all about personality and staying bolder, fresher, and more elevated than ever. Forget heart-shaped ice sculptures, let quirky cocktails, glam comfort food, ingredient-driven dishes, and global plate-hopping steal the show. Bon appétit... or shall we say, 'shubh bhojan!' ❤️







# Sahiba Anand

## WHERE ARTISTRY MEETS ELEGANCE

**B**orn and raised in the vibrant heart of New Delhi, Sahiba Anand is a name that resonates with grace, glamour, and unparalleled artistry. An award-winning, certified makeup and hair expert, Sahiba has carved a niche for herself in the beauty and fashion industry with a portfolio that spans across editorial shoots, high-profile events, celebrity styling, television, films, and luxury weddings.

With over 13 years of hands-on experience, Sahiba now leads a talented team of 10 stylists, offering expert makeup and hairstyling services across the country. Her impressive collaborations include brands like Taj Vivanta (Surajkund), Look Salon, Lakmé, #fame, L'Occitane, Kalyan Jewellers, Porsche, Audi, and Bombay Shirt Company, among others. With over 5,500 happy clients and a reputation built on elegance, professionalism, and creativity, Sahiba Anand continues to redefine beauty—one brushstroke at a time.

**Priyanka Saxena Ray**



### YOUR SIGNATURE MAKEUP PHILOSOPHY

I believe there's no such thing as 'creating beauty'. Everyone is born distinctive and truly beautiful; my job lies in enhancing the natural features, charm and elegance of a face. To create the perfect look for each bride, we follow a few steps. Firstly, we have a detailed consult with each bride and discuss the colours, style, vibe for each occasion. We also discuss the details such as use of accessories – teeka vs. matha Patti vs. paasa. Also, if we require flowers- fresh or artificial, etc. The products we use are HD, water resistant and long lasting, so that each client can enjoy their events to the fullest without worrying out the longevity of their glam! My truest joy is when I hear that my clients were showered with more compliments, they could keep track of!

### MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

I find it a blessing to be a part of someone's special day. I remember my first Bridal for a Destination Wedding. I said to myself: I'm doing something I love. I'm not only getting paid for it, but also getting to travel all expenses paid? How does it get it any better than this? I really enjoy what I do- my brides know I love playing music, enjoy getting to know them and have OCD issues for the tiniest details.

Going through some of the testimonials sent by my clients, I take pride in the fact that a lot of my brides feel like they become a friend, to whom I am a great listener and a confidant, keeping them calm and happy,





**I take pride in the fact that a lot of my brides feel like they become a friend, to whom I am a great listener and a confidant, keeping them calm and happy**



and ensure they look like the best version of themselves!

### TIPS FOR BRIDES-TO-BE

Everyone really is unique. A lot of times ladies show pictures of celebrities as references, but at the end of it all- the outfits they choose, with the makeup and hair and the personality they carry it off with- It's a concoction of it all! So, I always suggest the brides not to go with what's "trending". Remember to go with the look that you feel most confident and "yourself" in. I love that for destination weddings; one can create the entire event in accordance to what they'd like to wear- like a Gatsby style cocktail.

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT MUA IS SUPER IMPORTANT:

- ✂ Choose a MUA who you vibe with. It's important to be on the same page for the look you have in mind.
- ✂ Book a MUA who is available to talk to you when required- be it about skin care or the colour of your jewellery or literally about any outbursts you may have! Trust me- there are lots!
- ✂ Ensure you are aware of the kind of products they use and the longevity of it. If you're sensitive to a particular brand or product it's super essential to share it.
- ✂ Know the inclusions. Even if we step out for destination weddings, we travel with our high chair, lights, makeup and hair products, Coloured contacts, nail paints and bindis. We also provide hair extensions and hair accessories/ flowers on request.
- ✂ Work on the timeline- the more detailed you can get with the timings, the more organised you'll be. This helps with the BTS shots and interviews planned with the photographers. A lot of brides overlook this and regret it later. It's a great idea to connect the photographer with the MUA's team as well.

But when working with different climates, it's good to ensure the outfit materials are thought of with great detail.

### YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON EVOLVING BRIDAL TRENDS

As of 2025, I am loving the fact that the Bridal Makeup and the overall vibe is an amalgamation of glowing skin, muted lips, well-contoured face and false lashes that look really natural. On the whole, this look is everlasting and you simply can't go wrong with it. I have been using "individual lashes" for the last 2 years on my clients and I can very happily say they're here to stay! ❤



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*For those dreaming of a wedding under the stars, our rooftop terrace offers a magical setting, while its vibrant ambiance also makes it perfect for Haldi and Mehendi celebrations.*

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# Radisson Hotel Group's Green Pledge

Radisson Hotel Group (RHG) has emerged as a global frontrunner in eco-conscious hospitality, reaffirming its commitment to achieve Net Zero by 2050. With verified sustainability practices, award-winning green buildings, and impactful partnerships, RHG is setting new industry benchmarks where people and planet are equally prioritized.

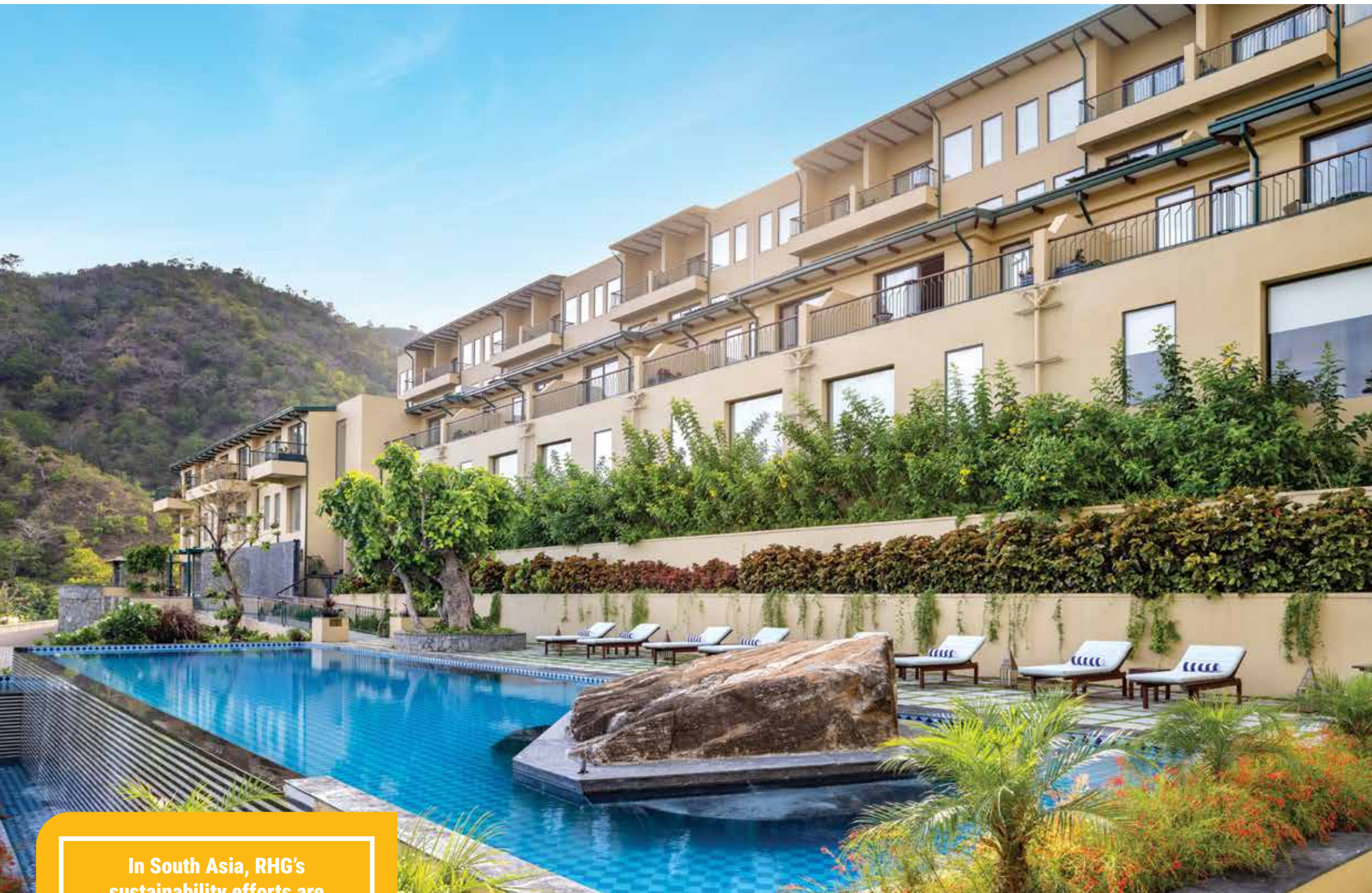
**A**t the heart of RHG's sustainability vision is its Verified Net Zero Hotels program, an initiative that reflects the Group's dedication to delivering responsible travel experiences. The first two hotels under this pioneering framework—Radisson Hotel Manchester City Centre and Radisson RED Oslo—are designed around three fundamental pillars: 100% renewable energy, low-carbon menus, and minimal waste operations. These hotels mark a defining moment in RHG's mission to reduce its carbon footprint globally.

## Driving the Sustainability agenda in India

In South Asia, RHG's sustainability efforts are spearheaded by K.B. Kachru, Chairman, South Asia, who continues to guide the Group's regional sustainability strategy. Earlier this year, RHG facilitated a strategic alliance between the Hotel Association of India (HAI) and MakeMyTrip (MMT) to develop a Sustainable Hospitality Charter for India. This was further enhanced by the launch of an industry-first Sustainability Hotels







In South Asia, RHG's sustainability efforts are spearheaded by K.B. Kachru, Chairman, South Asia, who continues to guide the Group's regional sustainability strategy.

book, offering structured guidance to hotels on embracing sustainability. A remarkable milestone in the Group's journey came when Radisson Blu Hotel, Bengaluru Outer Ring Road became the first RHG hotel globally to be awarded the prestigious LEED Zero Carbon certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. This accolade highlights

the hotel's efficient systems, renewable energy usage, and zero carbon emissions status.

### Green Conferencing and Verified Practices

RHG's sustainability initiatives are not limited to its properties alone. The Group's annual conference in Goa was 100% carbon compensated, setting a benchmark

in sustainable conferencing. From reducing waste to using eco-friendly materials, every aspect of the event reflected the brand's environmental priorities.

Looking ahead, RHG is also making third-party verification under WTTC's Hotel Sustainability Basics a mandatory brand standard. All RHG hotels in India are already aligned with these global sustainability criteria, ensuring transparency and consistency across operations. ❤️

## BEST PRACTICES FROM RADISSON HOTELS

### Radisson Blu Resort Temple Bay, Mamallapuram

A shining example of circular operations, this property runs entirely on open-access renewable energy and uses 97% LED lighting. With zero greywater discharge and 68 rainwater harvesting pits, it exemplifies water stewardship. An on-site vegetable and fruit farm spanning 4.5 acres complements its waste diversion strategies and electric mobility.

### Radisson Blu Outer Ring Road, Bangalore

The first RHG hotel to receive the LEED Zero Carbon certification, this property is powered by 100% on-site solar energy and boasts a solar-driven EV transport system. It features a bio-gas plant, circular laundry water systems, and glass bottling for waste reduction.

### Radisson Resort & Spa, Lonavala

Blending local architectural aesthetics with smart infrastructure, the hotel is run on 100% off-site renewable energy. Features include LED lighting, heat pumps, rainwater harvesting, smart showers, and EV charging stations for low-impact hospitality.

### Radisson Blu Faridabad

Certified under the Hotel Sustainability Basics, this hotel has significantly reduced potable water use and employs recycled water for cooling and horticulture. Solar panels, inverter chillers, heat pumps, and CFC-free HVAC systems drive its energy efficiency, while white-tiled roofs reduce the urban heat island effect.

### Radisson Blu Plaza, Delhi Airport

This city hotel demonstrates exemplary water-saving techniques including in-house glass bottling, STP reuse, and water-from-air systems. Its energy-saving strategies include VFD chillers, motion sensors, and appliances rated by BEE. From linen reuse to sourcing cage-free eggs, sustainability is embedded in its day-to-day operations.

### Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Nashik

This property stands out for its off-site solar energy sourcing, saving ₹18 lakh per month. With VFD chillers, occupancy sensors, composting, and waterless urinals, the hotel actively reduces environmental impact. Community-focused initiatives include TB nutrition programs and plastic-free practices.

### Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh

An IGBC Platinum-certified property, it operates a 147k W solar plant and uses sensor-based taps and STPs. With a 40–45% renewable energy share, composting of 5 MT/year organic waste, and a 3-acre farm supplying local produce, the hotel champions holistic sustainability.

Radisson Hotel Group's multi-layered green strategy underscores its mission to care for both people and the planet. From carbon-neutral buildings and sustainable supply chains to water conservation and waste reduction, RHG's initiatives serve as a blueprint for responsible hospitality. With each verified step, RHG continues to lead the hospitality industry toward a greener, more resilient future.



# Bichiya

## Footsteps into Matrimony

While the mangalsutra and sindoor often take centre stage in Hindu weddings, the humble toe ring—*bichiya*—holds an equally sacred place in marital traditions.

In Hindu culture, the toe ring is not merely a piece of jewellery but a meaningful marital symbol worn by married women. Traditionally made of silver, it is worn on the second toe of both feet, immediately after the wedding, often as part of a special ceremony where the groom places it on the bride's toes. This gesture, much like the tying of the mangalsutra or the application of sindoor, is considered a public affirmation of marital commitment.

The spiritual significance of the toe ring is deeply rooted in Hindu beliefs. It is associated with Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth, prosperity, and well-being. Wearing toe rings is believed to invoke her blessings and ensure marital harmony and prosperity in the household. It is also a symbol of feminine energy—Shakti—and is said to ground the woman to the Earth, balancing her energies post-marriage.

Beyond its symbolic value, the toe

ring has physiological and Ayurvedic connotations as well. Ancient Ayurvedic texts suggest that nerves from the second toe are connected to the uterus and the heart. Wearing toe rings is said to regulate the menstrual cycle and increase fertility. Silver, being a good conductor, absorbs energy from the Earth and passes it into the body, helping to maintain a woman's reproductive health.

In South Indian and North Indian traditions alike, the toe ring holds immense cultural reverence. In Tamil and Telugu weddings, it is known as Metti and in Marathi, as Veni or Vedi. It is not uncommon for the mother-in-law to gift the toe rings as part of a

woman's post-wedding adornment, making it a symbol of her welcome into the new family.

In essence, the toe ring is a perfect fusion of aesthetics and purpose. It might rest quietly on a bride's toes, but it speaks volumes about tradition, spirituality, and the deep cultural wisdom that defines Hindu marriage customs. ♥

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# Phuket

## Asia's ultimate Party Playground

Where beachy bliss meets electrifying nightlife – the perfect escape for bachelor/ bachelorette parties and milestone moments. **Priyanka Saxena Ray**

When it comes to planning an unforgettable bachelor or bachelorette party, few destinations rival the magnetic charm of Phuket. This Thai Island gem, nestled in the azure waters of the Andaman Sea, has transformed over the years from a backpacker's paradise into one of Asia's most luxurious and vibrant party hubs. With its pulsating nightlife, stunning beaches, luxury villas, top-tier hotels, beach clubs, and world-class spas, Phuket is tailor-made for soon-to-be brides and grooms—and their squads—looking to celebrate in style.

### The Vibe

Phuket offers a unique blend of laid-back island charm and non-stop party energy. The island is effortlessly cosmopolitan while maintaining its tropical allure. Whether you're walking barefoot along the shores of Patong Beach or sipping

craft cocktails at a rooftop bar overlooking the sea, Phuket knows how to turn every moment into a celebration. The vibe is young, energetic, fun, and just the right touch of exotic.

Bachelorette and bachelor parties here take on a personality of their own—fun, free-spirited, sun-drenched by day and wild by night. It's the kind of place where the soundtrack of your weekend is a mix of ocean waves, beach beats, and late-night laughter.

### From Bars to Beaches

Patong Beach is the heartbeat of Phuket's nightlife. Lined with bars, beach clubs, and open-air lounges, it's a must for partygoers. Bangla Road, a neon-lit stretch of unfiltered fun, comes alive at night with international DJs, fire shows, and go-go bars that spill out into the street. For a taste of wild, this is where your evening

should begin—or end.

Looking for something upscale? Catch Beach Club in Bang Tao is an iconic venue with white cabanas, creative cocktails, and a glamorous crowd. Café del Mar in Kamala offers Ibiza-style beach vibes with live music and luxurious lounging. If your tribe is after an exclusive party setting, Ska Bar perched on the rocks at Kata Beach offers epic sunset views, reggae tunes, and an easy-going crowd.

Beyond land, the party continues on the water. Yacht and catamaran parties are an absolute hit in Phuket. Cruise the Andaman Sea with your closest friends, anchor near secluded beaches, dive into turquoise waters, and pop champagne under the sun. Popular routes include sailing to the Phi Phi Islands or James Bond Island—each stop a new reason to toast.

### Stay in Style

Phuket is home to some of Thailand's most plush accommodations, perfect for group getaways. Ultra-luxury pool villas overlooking the ocean, chic boutique resorts, and international five-star hotels offer privacy and space for your entourage.

Top picks for party-friendly stays include Sri Panwa, a celebrity-favourite retreat with villas that open out to infinity pools and the famous Baba Nest rooftop bar. The Slate in Nai Yang blends art, design, and comfort with a party-friendly vibe. Keemala offers a more serene, forested luxury—perfect for the group that wants to balance debauchery with deep rest.

Many villas also come with private chefs, bartenders, and event coordinators, which means your pre-wedding







Phuket is home to some of Thailand's most plush accommodations, perfect for group getaways. Ultra-luxury pool villas overlooking the ocean, chic boutique resorts, and international five-star hotels offer privacy and space for your entourage.

bash can be as curated or carefree as you want it to be.

### Wellness before the Wild

Let's not forget—Phuket is also a wellness haven. Before the celebrations kick into high gear, indulge in a day of pampering at one of the island's many spa centres. Thai massages, herbal steam therapies, and beachside yoga sessions are the perfect way to unwind and recharge. Notable mentions include Oasis Spa, Let's Relax Spa, and the serene Spa at Banyan Tree Phuket.

A spa day with your crew not only helps shake off jet lag but sets the perfect tone of indulgence for the days ahead. For brides and grooms-to-be, this is also an ideal time to sneak in some couple's spa sessions, facials, and pre-party grooming.

### Feast before the Fun

No party is complete without good food—and Phuket delivers in style. The culinary scene is as diverse as it is delicious. From seafood barbecues by the beach to fine-dining Thai cuisine, you'll find options that cater to every craving.

Places like Suay Restaurant, Blue El-

ephant, and Raya serve up refined local fare in elegant settings. For those looking to kick off the night with a gourmet meal, the island is home to several Michelin-Plate and Bib Gourmand establishments. And don't forget the night markets—vibrant, aromatic, and endlessly Instagrammable, they offer a taste of local street food culture that's unmissable.

### Celebrating Milestones

While Phuket is undeniably a haven for bachelor and bachelorette parties, its appeal extends far beyond. It's fast becoming a hotspot for milestone celebrations—be it 30th or 50th birthdays, wedding anniversaries, graduation trips, or friends' reunions. The ease of travel, hospitable Thai culture, and range of experiences make it ideal for Indian travellers planning destination events.

In fact, Phuket has seen a surge in Indian groups celebrating personal occasions with a full itinerary—sunrise yoga, private yacht parties, beachside DJ nights,



and farewell brunches by the pool. Local planners and Indian-friendly menus make it seamless, luxurious, and endlessly memorable.

### Phuket—A Party you'll never forget!

From luxury to laid-back, wild nights to wellness days, Phuket strikes a flawless balance for party-loving souls. Whether you're toasting your last days of singlehood, celebrating a major milestone, or simply chasing good vibes with your closest friends, this Thai island promises memories soaked in sun, salt, and sparkle.

So, if you're planning your next big celebration—one that deserves the perfect mix of glamour, thrill, and tropical magic—pack your party wear and head to Phuket. It's where the party never ends and every sunset marks the start of another unforgettable night.❤





# Monsoon Glow-Up

## Hydration & Skincare Tips

*Monsoon weddings may bring romance and magic, but the humidity can wreak havoc on your skin and energy levels. For brides-to-be preparing for their big day during the rainy season, staying hydrated—inside and out—is key to achieving that lit-from-within glow. Here's a quick guide to monsoon-friendly home remedies and diet tips to help you stay fresh, dewy, and camera-ready.*

### 8 Monsoon Must-Dos for Radiant Brides

#### 1. Coconut Water Daily

Rich in electrolytes and natural minerals, coconut water keeps you hydrated, flushes out toxins, and adds a subtle glow to the skin. One glass a day is a bridal beauty essential.

#### 2. Mint-Infused Cucumber Water

This simple detox drink is cooling, hydrating, and perfect for battling bloating and puffiness. Keep a jug in your fridge and sip throughout the day.

#### 3. Aloe Vera Gel as a Night Mask

Apply a thin layer of pure aloe vera gel before bed to soothe the skin, reduce inflammation, and control excess oil—a common monsoon woe.

#### 4. Include Water-Rich Foods

Add watermelon, cucumbers, oranges, and zucchini to your meals. These foods not only hydrate but also provide essential antioxidants that brighten the skin.

#### 5. Oats and Honey Face Pack

For that flushed, soft glow, apply a homemade pack using oats, honey, and a splash of milk. This gentle exfoliant clears dead skin and adds radiance.

#### 6. Chia Seeds Soaked Overnight

A tablespoon of soaked chia seeds in your morning smoothie or juice helps keep your body cool and provides omega-3s for healthy, supple skin.

#### 7. Avoid Heavy Creams

Opt for gel-based moisturizers or light serums. Heavy products can clog pores in humid weather, leading to dullness or breakouts.

#### 8. Rose Water and Ice Cube Rub

Freeze rose water in an ice tray and rub a cube on your face for an instant tightening, toning, and cooling effect—perfect before your makeup routine or evening events.♥



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Guwahati

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