

**BY RANI SHARMA**

Most girls dream about their wedding day since childhood- the riot of colors, the rituals, the fabulous clothes, the dazzling jewelry... It is also an important event for the entire family. A big fat Indian wedding today takes a lot of work. There are themes to think of; clothes, jewelry and accessories to match; venues to be decided; decorators and photographers to be hired, guests to be invited... the list goes on. With some planning and coordination ahead of time, every wedding can be a dream affair.

With endless ensemble choices in the market, how do you decide what to wear at each wedding event? Find out what to wear and how to match and accessorize for the mehndi ceremony, the sangeet party, the wedding and the cocktail/reception.

**Mehndi & Sangeet:** Traditional is the way to go. A great dress idea for the bride is crushed silk bandhni lehnga with gota patti work, brocade piping, a katan silk blouse and net dupatta. The groom wears a dhoti kurta or churidar kurta in a similar color, but of lighter shade. The mother and mother-in-law can wear bandhni saris a couple of shades lighter than the bride. The sisters and other young girls in the family can wear lehngas in lighter shades as well.

Wear traditional jewelry with meenakari work. The model here is wearing meenakari set in peacock design.

**Haldi:** The ceremony calls for a traditional sari with light work and light antique jewelry. The groom



# The Dream Indian Wedding

opt for a net lehnga with shimmer petticoat in mermaid cut that accentuates her figure. The groom wears a black suit and a chic tie that coordinates with his bride's outfit. The family also sticks to blacks, grays and blues for a great coordinated look.

For the reception, the bridal party can choose from pastels and light shades of purple, ferozi or cream. The groom can opt for the Indo-western look with a short Indian jacket.

Both occasions call for diamond/crys-

*Find out what to wear and how to match and accessorize for the mehndi ceremony, the sangeet party, the wedding and the cocktail/reception. For more information, call Rani Sharma at 404-633-4966 or visit [www.raneez.com](http://www.raneez.com).*

*All photos by Passion Photo & Video*



tal jewelry set in elegant, modern style. The bride can finally carry a swarovski crystal encrusted clutch.

**Make-up and hair:** All wedding events call for bright make-up and comfortable platform heels. The bride wears her hair in an updo that is brightened with fresh flowers. The only occasion she leaves her hair open is the mehndi ceremony.

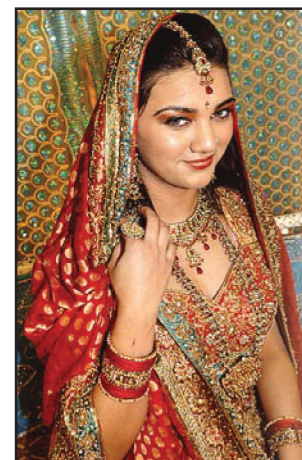


can wear comfortable lucknowi kurta pajama.

**Wedding:** This season, the bride wears a traditional lehnga or sari with plenty of gold work. Cream, red, maroon and burgundy are the in colors this season. The groom can match his bride in a long sherwani with a scarf and turban with a kalgi fixed in the front. He pairs the ensemble with embroidered jhootis. The rest of the family wears outfits of the same color, but of a different shade. For instance, if the bride is in a red lehnga, the rest of the women wear maroon or burgundy. This match-in-contrast makes for great photos.

Wear heavy kundan jewelry with open polki.

**Cocktail/Reception:** It is finally time to go modern. For the cocktail party, the bride can wear a chic black or blue net sari with a halter neck or spaghetti blouse or



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