



# The Sairal

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PHEW!!!! that was one exhausting week which felt like forever! from the travel to the destination fort, from the haldi to the scintillating sangeet, from the baraat to the reception everything was extravagant. My experience with the Indian wedding was overwhelming. But lets talk about this phenomena called INDIAN WEDDING. It is much more than the I DO ,KUBUL HAIN ,SAAT PHERAS,ANANT KARAJ.It is about the emotions,culture,values and tons of amusement.In India, marriages are a centuries-old tradition dating back to the fourth century. In ancient times, marriages often took place at the time when the bride and groom were in their adolescent age.

But now the times have changed tremendously .

Indian weddings are traditionally multi-day affairs, and involve many intricate ceremonies, such as the painting of the hands and feet of the bride called mehndi. Garlands are presented to guests of honor instead of corsages, and lots of flower or rose petals are thrown for good luck. The distinctive thing about Indian weddings is that celebrations do not end with the wedding ceremony. Post-wedding celebrations are more fun. Some rituals like stealing the shoes of the groom, inviting a new bride at home, games for wedding couples, and rituals like Muh-Dikhai, Reception, etc extend happy celebrations.

# Pre-Wedding

How can i forget how our family, even in this digital world got the wedding invites printed. It was an attractive booklet kind of a thing with all the details of the wedding functions.

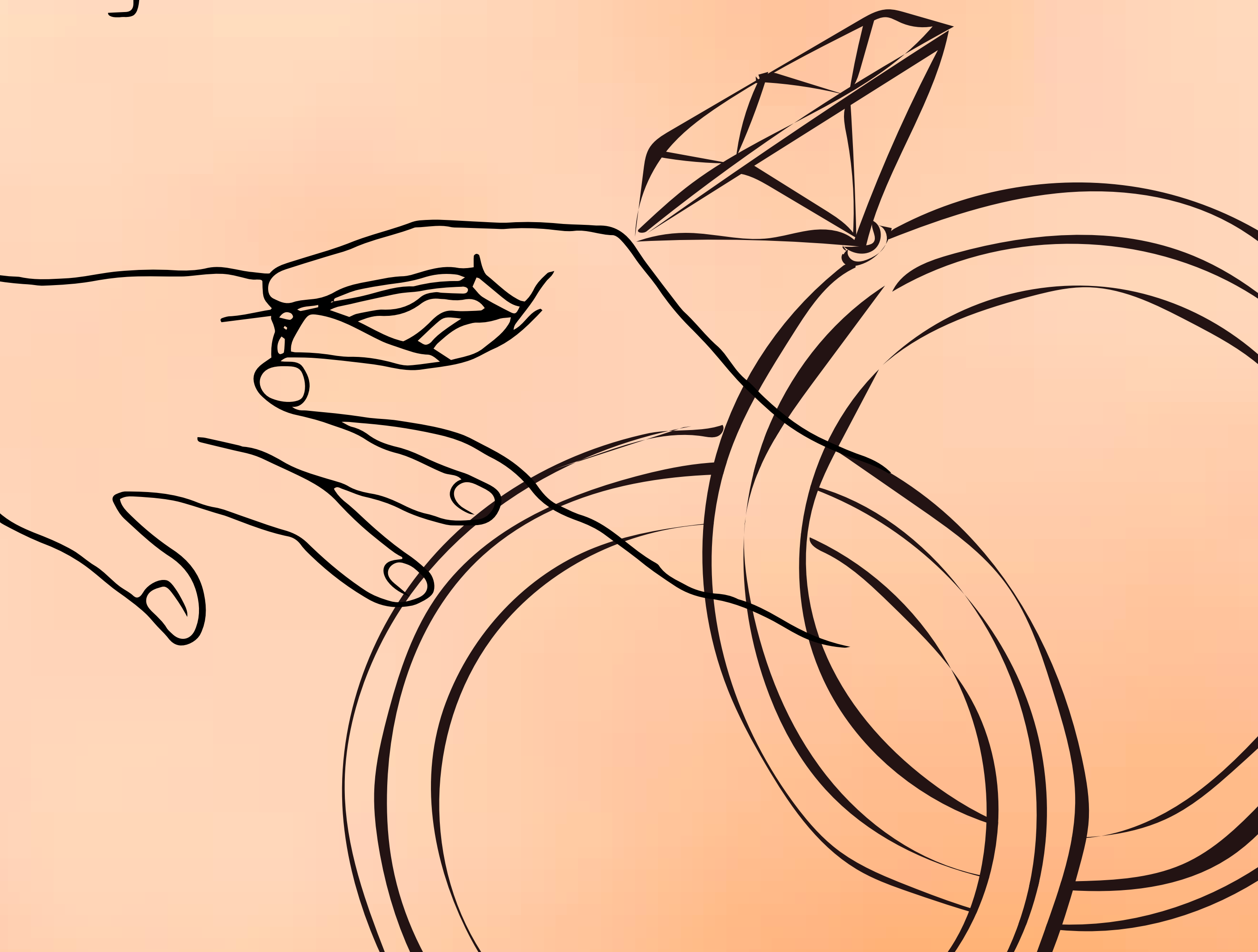
While we were busy distributing the invites, the bride and groom happily went on with their pre-wedding shoots from the beaches to the cruise and more such exotic places.



# Engagement Ceremony

The engagement, or 'Sagai', is a beautiful promise of unity. Amidst the joyous laughter and melodious beats of the dhol, the couple exchanges rings, marking their commitment to each other. It's like a sweet prelude to the grand symphony of the wedding, a mingling of two souls ready to embark on a journey of love and togetherness. The air is filled with the fragrance of flowers, the warmth of blessings, and the sparkle of joy. The engagement

ceremony is not just an event, it's the first thread in the vibrant tapestry of an Indian wedding. This marks the official union of the couple in the presence of their family members and close friends. Families exchange gifts and bless the couple before they embark on their new life together.

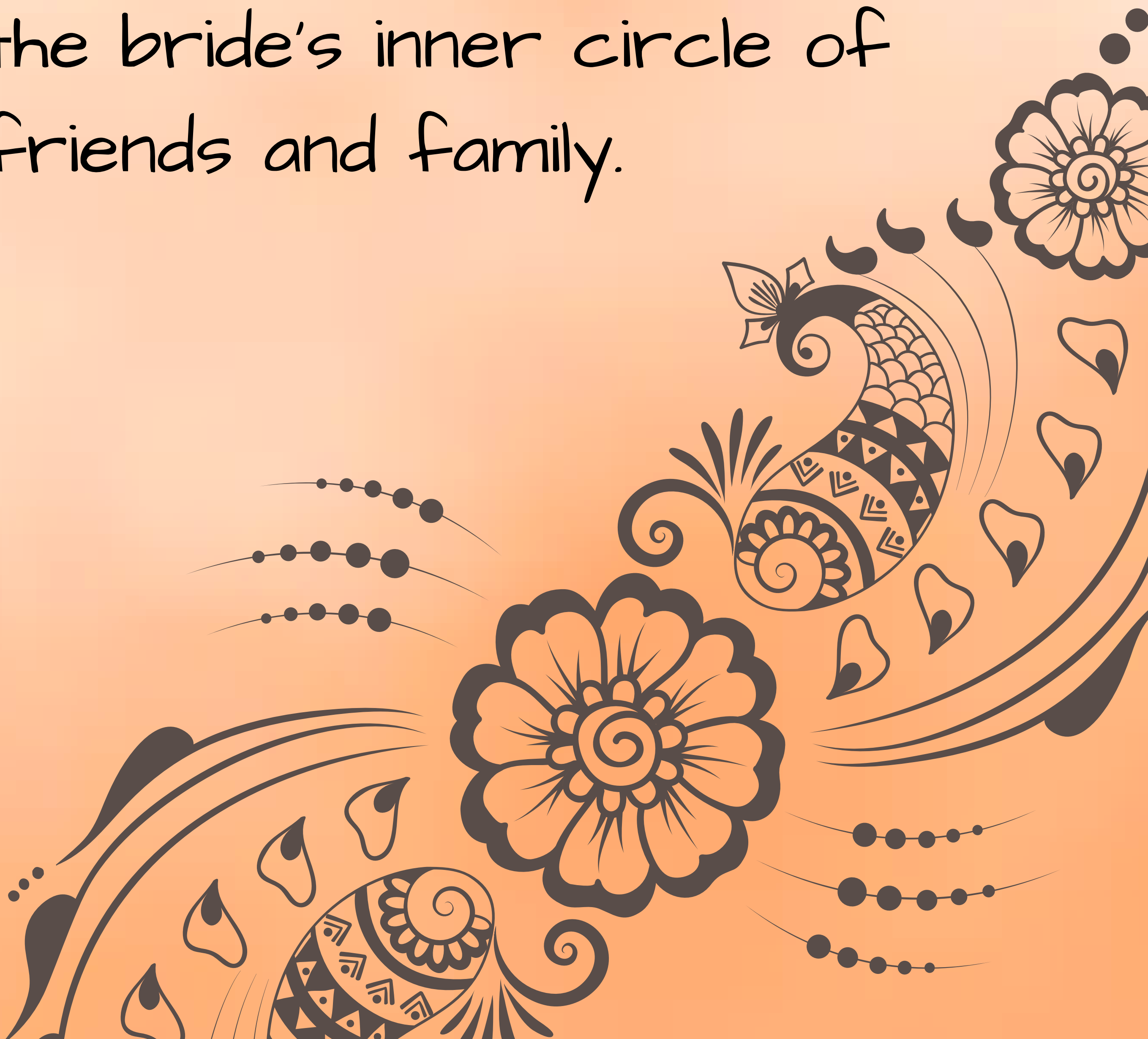


# Mehendi Ceremony

Mehndi, otherwise known as henna, is a paste associated with positive spirits and good luck. Indian Wedding tradition calls for a Mehndi ceremony to be held the night before the wedding as a way of wishing the bride good health and prosperity as she makes her journey on to marriage. Mehndi party is a pre-wedding celebration in Hindu and Sikh culture; during this event, the bride has a red-orange mehndi "stain" applied to her palms



the back of her hands, and her feet. Not only is it considered to bring luck, joy and beauty, its scent also said to have aphrodisiac properties. In most Indian communities, mehendi used to traditionally be applied by someone happily married from the bride's inner circle of friends and family.

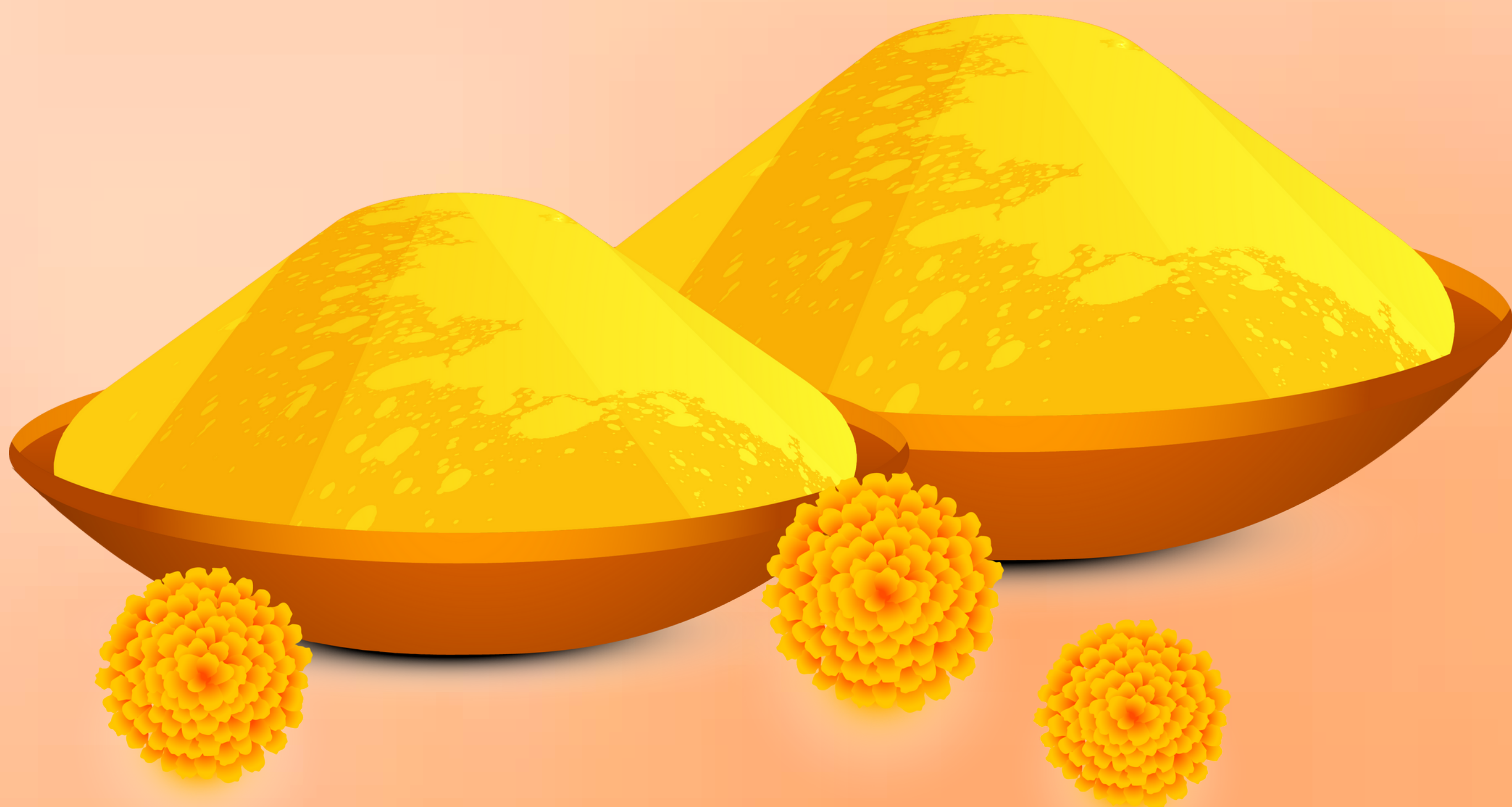


# Haldi Ceremony

The Haldi ceremony is one of the most loved pre-wedding rituals of Hindu weddings in India where the bride and the groom are smeared with turmeric paste. The haldi ceremony is also known as pithi, tel baan, gaye holud, ubtan or mandha in different regions of India."

Punjabi weddings generally refer to the ritual as haldi while South Indian weddings usually refer to it as pithi. The haldi ceremony is held by both the bride and groom's side, generally a day before the actual wedding. The

ritual takes place during the morning where paste is applied to the bride and groom's body including face, neck, hands and feet. The bride and groom wear a traditional sari and kurta pajama respectively even though the Haldi can create quite a mess. While the ceremony is going on family members gather around to sing traditional songs pertaining to the ritual.



# Sangeet Ceremony

A Sangeet ceremony is an Indian wedding tradition that celebrates the union of two families. This joyous event is typically held one or two days before the actual wedding day, and guests enjoy a colorful celebration filled with music, dancing, and performances. It's like a pre-wedding reception where friends and family ceremonially welcome the couple into their lives. This welcoming celebration often includes lots of dancing and music, religious traditions, ethnic games, ceremonial attires, delicious food, and more!

Games and activities are an important part of the sangeet ceremony. More recently, couples have been finishing their evening with a Bollywood flash mob or dance-off! Whatever your style may be, it's important to get creative and incorporate your unique personality into the night. Indian Wedding Photographers look forward to photographing the exciting performances from all of the aunts, uncles, and many cousins. A Sangeet is the ultimate rehearsal dinner with incredible music and dancing. There are so many great Sangeet Ceremony decorating ideas. It really starts with what you are envisioning for the event.

There are so many great Sangeet Ceremony decorating ideas. It really starts with what you are envisioning for the event. Attending a sangeet ceremony is a great opportunity to dress up and look your best. For women, traditional dress typically includes sarees or lenghas of bright colors, paired with heavy jewelry. Men usually wear kurtas or sherwanis as part of their look.



# Designer Wedding

The bride and groom don't mind travelling alone or with family for such a shoot. Besides that, nowadays it's not only about a casual photoshoot with couples standing close to each other hands in hands, changing outfits and poses.

There's even variation to it.

Under-water shoot, vintage shoot, one with your best friends, miniature shoot, in-house shoot one where the couple's furry friends are also present because let's get real, animals do make the photos look special and cute!

# The Wedding

Weddings in India vary according to the region, the religion, the community and the personal preferences of the bride and groom. They are festive occasions in India, and in most cases celebrated with extensive decorations, colour, dresses, music, dance, costumes and rituals that depend on the community, region and religion of the bride and the groom, as well as their preferences. India celebrates about 10 million weddings per year of which about 80% are Hindu weddings.



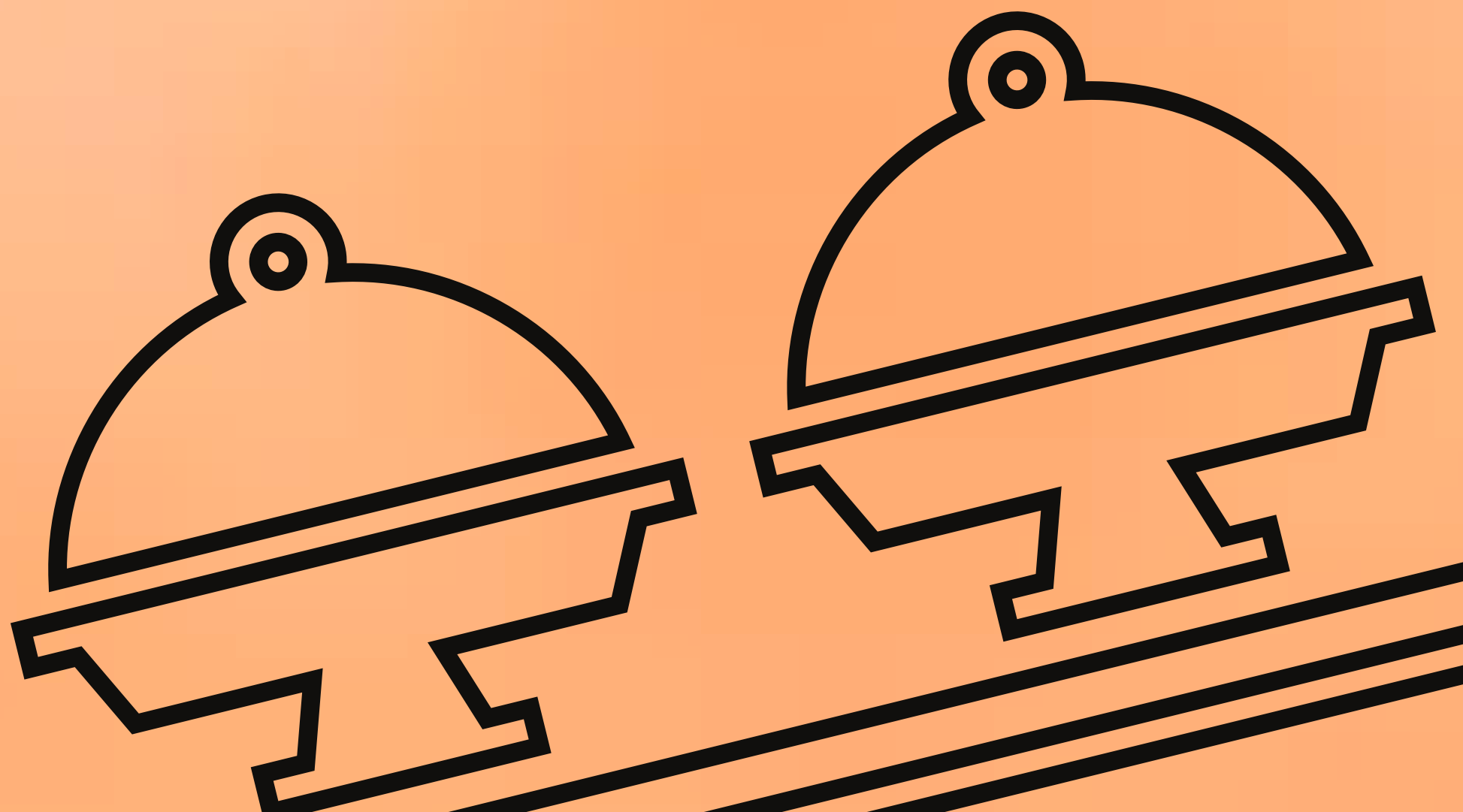
Indian Sikh - marriages are through a ceremony called Anand Karaj. The couple walk around the holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib four times (known as Laava), and then do an Ardaas, and a grand feast called Langar.

Indian Muslims- In a Nikah, the bride and groom sign a marital contract. The ceremony includes a sermon called Khutba, and it's followed by a grand feast known as Walima. The groom is also expected to give a gift called Mahr to the bride.

Indian Christian - weddings followings traditional Christian marriage customs. Among Protestants in India, the betrothal rite celebrates the engagement of a couple, with prayers being offered for a couple and engagement rings being blessed by a pastor.

# Scrumptious Wedding Affair!

First thing that comes in the mind seeing an invitation card is the food. Ready to know the Indian dishes you cannot escape if you happen to be a guest at an Indian wedding yes you guessed it right- it has to be Pani Pooori, Chicken Butter Masala, Biryani, Jalebi, Gulab Jamun, Dal Makhni ,Salad, Fruit Corner, Live counter for South Indian dishes or Italian Cuisine and a lot more!



# Reception

The reception is where the couple's families will throw a lavish reception party held after the completion of a marriage ceremony as hospitality for those who have attended the wedding. Part of the celebration includes speeches and loved ones singing, dancing and performing routines for the couple. The reception is the grand finale of the Indian wedding saga. It's a jubilant symphony of laughter, music, and dance. The newlyweds, resplendent in their finery, greet their guests amidst a dazzling display of lights and decorations. The air is filled with the tantalizing aroma of delectable cuisines, adding another layer to the sensory delight. It's a night of celebration, a testament to the joy of togetherness, and a perfect end to the magical journey of the wedding.

# About The Author

Having attended numerous Indian weddings, I've developed a deep appreciation for the rich traditions and vibrant celebrations that define them. Indian weddings are a beautiful blend of traditions, emotions, and celebrations. Each ceremony holds a specific meaning and purpose. Through my personal experiences, I've gained a deep understanding of these customs and their significance. I hope to share these insights through my column, shedding light on the fascinating world of Indian

weddings. Through my personal observation I've come to understand the intricacies of Indian weddings. From the significance of each ritual to the grandeur of the celebrations, I bring my unique perspective to this column. Indian weddings are a kaleidoscope of emotions and colors. Every ritual, from the pre-wedding events to the main ceremony, is filled with joy and significance. I share these personal experiences in my column, hoping to give readers a glimpse into the heart of these vibrant celebrations. This column is a reflection of my experiences and insights.



# Summary

Indian weddings are a grand affair, a fusion of traditions, emotions, and celebrations.

They're not just a union of two individuals, but a bonding of two families. The festivities may last

for several days, filled with various rituals like Roka, Haldi, Mehendi, and Sangeet. From the colorful decor to the traditional attire, everything about an Indian wedding is fascinating. It's a spectacle of cultural customs and mutual respect, truly a unique

experience! it also involve various regional customs, exquisite attire, and traditional music and dance. It's a cultural extravaganza!

Indian weddings are a potpourri of vibrant hues, melodious symphonies, and tantalizing aromas. They're a tapestry of love, joy, and traditions, a mosaic of unforgettable moments. Each ritual, from the intricate Mehendi designs to the sacred Varmala exchange, is an ode to our rich heritage. It's a kaleidoscope of emotions and celebrations, truly a spectacle to behold.

