



Earring: Vishal Jewels

Necklace: Prakshi Fine Jewellery

Bracelet: Falguni Mehta

Ornamental Regalia

At every wedding, the beautiful bride is always the centre of attention. She looks like an ethereal beauty and there is an undeniable glow in her that radiates from within. Although she is decked in a heavy ensemble all day, the bride makes no fuss about it. She is as graceful as the calming sounds of a river's creek. One of the major accessories that make or break a bride is her choice of jewellery. In India, no wedding is complete without heavy-

set jewellery. While gold jewellery pieces have always been the classic crowd pleasers, precious diamonds and gemstones are also rapidly finding their way into the new-age bride's trousseau.

Wedding Affair caught up with some well-known jewellery designers and experts in the country, so that you can make informed choices and decisions if you are investing in jewellery made of precious stones.

Common precious stones that sell well in the Indian market

While most jewellery designers and *gurus* like Bhavana Jhokia, Creative Head at Om Jewellers, Prakshi Sharma, Creative Head and Designer at Prakshi Fine Jewellery and Rahul Maheshwari, Co-owner of Vishal Jewels agree on the fact that diamonds are the largest selling stones in the Indian market; pearls, rubies, sapphires and emeralds are also quickly becoming the new flavours of the wedding season. Nishant Tulsiani, Director at Anaqa is of the view that gemstones have gained immense popularity in recent times. He opined that, "Today's fashion conscious women like to experiment with a variety of stones available in the market. The Indian market offers a massive collection of gemstones ranging from precious to semi-precious stones like amethyst, tanzanite and aquamarine among others."

Stones that work well with Indian ethnic outfits

Ritika Bhasin Gupta, owner of the jewellery label of her own name shares her views with Narendra Kumar, Creative Director at Amazon Fashion, Bhavana Jhokia and Rahul Maheshwari that rubies and emeralds are gemstones that perfectly complement ethnic Indian outfits and bring out the quintessential *desi* feel of the entire attire. Prakshi Sharma, however, has a slightly different take on which gemstones work well with Indian outfits. Sharma feels that when it

comes to styling an Indian outfit, one should not be hesitant about experimenting with different types of precious stones, even though one can never go wrong while teaming up a heavy *anarkali* suit or a *saree* with diamonds and white pearls. She further added that, "Indian brides have an inclination towards contemporary styling. Instead of opting for statement *jadau rani haars* and heavy jewellery, modern brides are choosing contemporary jewellery pieces like layered chokers, danglers and *maang tikkas* embellished with white diamonds, rubies or emeralds. These pieces in sharp cuts and refined detailing give a dazzling touch to the traditional outfits."

Things to consider while purchasing precious stones

Besides stressing on styles that are "everlasting and versatile", Bhavana Jhokia considers that the first step to purchasing jewellery is the most important one. One must





Ritika Bhasin Reinventing Jewellery

Adwana by Sonal's Bijoux

Faiguni Mehta

Wear Your Shine

Ritika Bhasin Reinventing Jewellery

Vishal Jewels

Charu Jewels

Dwarkadas Chandurnal Jewellers

Prakshi Fine Jewellery

buy it from a trustworthy source only. She added that, "It is essential to get the value certificate from renowned authorities like Gia or IGIA." Prakshi Sharma confabs that, "It is extremely important to play safe with the choice of the gemstone you are splurging on. Rubies in a pinkish-red hue, green emeralds and blue sapphires are always in vogue and render a luxe essence to one's appearance." Ritika Bhasin on the other hand shed light on the cut, colour and quality of the gemstone. Bhasin says, "The colour of every stone even of

the same type is different, depending on the exposure it has been given during the process of formation." Narendra Kumar draws attention to the fact that you have to first and foremost decide which type of gemstone you are most attracted to and if that very gemstone would deem as the perfect fit. He states that, "The cut, colour and make of precious stone jewellery should flatter your skin type and facial features to make for a perfect match." Kumar adds that one should pick stones that do justice to the ensembles.

Do different coloured stones work better with different skin tones?

According to Nishant Tulsiani, "Indian skin tone is considered to be very versatile and almost all types of coloured stones suit this skin tone." Gemstones like emerald, amethyst, onyx, tanzanite, lapis and garnet are considered an apt choice for people with cool skin tones whereas for people with warm skin tones, gemstones with a tint of yellow like citrine and sapphires, corals and peridots make an ideal option." Prakshi Sharma too is of a similar opinion and said that since Indian skin tone is synonymous to a wheatish complexion, almost every gemstone works well with it. Rahul Maheshwari, Ritika Bhasin Gupta and Bhavana Jhokia believe that the colour of someone's skin should not be a barrier to trying out and experimenting with stones of different colours. However, Gupta also says that, "Colour combinations have a major role to play in jewellery." Jhokia too mirrors the same sentiment and states that, "The colour of someone's skin or skin tone does not particularly affect styling. The colour and placement of precious stones enhance the piece of jewellery and the ensemble."

How can men incorporate or accessorise with coloured stones for their wedding day?

Bhavana Jhokia's tips on how men can incorporate coloured stones into their attire are elegant and straightforward. "The groom can accessorise with an uncut and coloured stone *kalgi* or a *meenakari* broach on their *safas*." Prakshi Sharma believes that brooches are the perfect accessories to add some glam to the wedding day look. *Kalgis* and

layered *haars* too are a popular choice amongst Indian grooms. "Brooches crafted in white gold and diamonds embellished with a single ruby or sapphire stone at the centre, works great when paired with *sherwanis*." Whether the groom chooses to don ethnic or western ensembles, Narendra Kumar suggests that they can incorporate coloured stones in many different ways. To add a quirky and unique twist to their *sherwanis*, grooms can use precious stone buttons and precious stones on their *safas*. Incorporating precious stones in their ensembles in creative and unique ways will add drama and glam to their outfits. He further added that, "For suits and tuxedos, men can use coloured stones in their cufflinks or lapel pins. If they are open to jewellery, they can wear precious stones in rings and bracelets as well." ■

