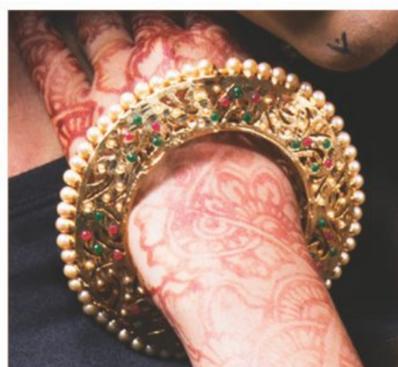
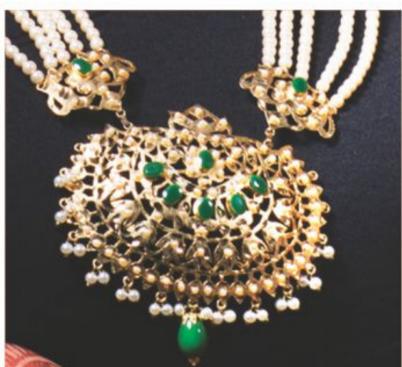




STYLE COUNCIL

Mughal jewellery galore



Rise and shine people! Not quite feeling bright and beautiful? Don't worry, before the winter blues set in permanently, let's discuss something as fascinating as jewellery.

Surely by now, I have your attention. Now read on...

We all know that most of us live and breathe life only because there's something delightful in the world as winter weddings and 'kachchi biriyani'; well some-one of us even live extended lives because of all the ecstasy related to makeup, dress up and jewellery.

So, what if this winter, you wanted to dress up as Empress Noorjahan, for instance? What kind of jewellery would you wear at the wedding of your closest pal?

Mughals, were particularly keen about anything shiny, dangling and larger than the size of your heart. Of course, you can replicate similar sentiments with relatively inexpensive costume jewellery instead of the real deal.

One thing Mughals particularly loved were pearls, so whatever you plan on wearing, try to keep a size-able amount of this precious object attached to your

statement jewellery. A single string of pearls is more British than Mughal, so if you are indulging in the style of the Indian Subcontinent; opt for more layers. Five is a lucky estimate.

If you want to go beyond and explore the zillions of precious and semi-precious stones available; then please feel free to do. No Mughal jewellery is ever complete without their shine.

'Jhapta', 'Jhumka', 'Noth' are all regal creations of the glorified era; they look essentially well when paired with other Mughal tributes like the 'Lehenga', 'Sharara' and 'Anarkali' dresses.

We really hope these few pointers will help you go back to a magical time ruled by the emperors and empresses. Even if you cannot physically transport yourself, at least your heart will be in solidarity with the grandeur of the flamboyant dead!



By Fashion Police

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TIPS

ALL THAT GLITTERS is probably gold!

Jewellery is available in a wide variety of metals and precious stones. As beautiful as it looks when worn, it needs to be cared for in order to maintain its shine.

GOLD

The best way to clean gold jewellery is to soak it in a concoction of warm water and non-detergent based soap. How long you soak it depends on how much debris the piece has accumulated. Anything between a few minutes to an hour or two is acceptable. Once you remove it from water, rub it gently with a soft cloth.

For intricately designed gold pieces with dirt particles stuck in its crevices, use a soft bristled, preferably worn out brush and gently rub till clean.

SILVER

Silver jewellery is most susceptible to becoming tarnished over a period of time. If you do not want to get it professionally polished, a good way to clean it at home is by taking a dish bowl and placing a piece of aluminium foil at the bottom with its dull side facing down. Fill another bowl with water and bring it to a boil. Put 1 tbsp of baking soda per cup of water in the boiling water. Now place your silver piece in the bowl lined with aluminium foil making sure it is touching the foil.

Pour the water boiled with baking soda in this bowl and let the piece soak in the solution for about 10 minutes. Again, depending on the level of tarnish, soak it for longer. Gently wipe it once taken out of water and see it shine!

GOLD PLATED

Plated jewellery is generally made of silver with an extremely thin layer of gold on it. Unlike jewellery made of solid gold, this thin layer of gold plating needs extra protection against scratching and harsh chemicals. The best thing would be to rub it gently with a very soft cloth to get rid of any superficial dirt. However, if it requires a more thorough cleansing then wash it with warm water and mild soap and gently rub with a soft tooth brush. If you rub too vigorously then there is a chance that the gold plating might come off.

DIAMOND

Much like gold and gold plated jewellery, diamond jewellery must also be cleaned regularly with warm water and a mild soap to retain its sparkle. Gentle rubbing with a soft toothbrush will help dislodge any dirt in its crevices. Diamonds have very fragile settings because of which any cleaning procedure should be undertaken with a light hand lest the tiny prongs holding the diamond in place become loose or get damaged.

BASIC CARE

Prevent your jewellery from coming in contact with any caustic chemicals, perfumes, lotions, hair sprays, etc. For this reason, it is advisable to wear your jewellery last and take it off first when you dress up or wind down. Store your jewellery in pouches or boxes such that the pieces do not rub against each other.

Regardless of the kind of jewellery, a little care can go a long way in keeping your jewellery looking new, beautiful and flaunt worthy!

By Samina Hossain