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A Benarasi *is for* FOREVER

RADIANT IN RED P3
TIMELESS BRIDAL WEAR
CRAFTING THROUGH CRISIS C
ARTISANS' STRUGGLE IN THE FACE OF RISING COSTS
SNAPSHOT! P8-9
A PHOTOGRAPHER'S JOURNEY

PHOTOGRAPHER: HADI UDDIN
MODEL: NAJMA CHISTI
WARDROBE: MIRPUR KATAN REVIVAL COLLECTION BY NOBO X SHARMIN RAHMAN
WEAVER: KUTUB UDDIN
MAKEOVER: SHABABA RASHID

#FASHION & BEAUTY

What to wear to a wedding? Ideas for every festive moment

Weddings in Bangladesh are nothing short of magical. The air hums with the melody of laughter, the aroma of biriyani wafts through grand banquet halls, and every corner dazzles with the glimmer of marigold garlands and fairy lights. But amidst all this charm lies the ultimate question that can make or break the experience: What should I wear?

THE BEAUTY OF WHAT YOU ALREADY OWN

One of the most sustainable and heartfelt ways to prepare for a wedding is to repurpose your wardrobe.

That saree your mother handed down or that kurta you wore to a friend's wedding last year might just be your ticket to standing out this season. Vintage handloom sarees like Jamdani, Tangail, or silk can be styled differently to make them feel fresh.

And if you are travelling for the wedding and have limited packing space, choose versatile pieces. A black or gold saree is a safe choice as it can be styled in multiple ways. Pair it with a statement blouse or jacket to create a fresh look.

Accessories are game changers. That old black saree can become party-ready with a pair of earrings, a studded clutch, and a choker. Don't shy away from borrowing jewellery from family – it's a tradition as much as a style hack.

FUSION WITH A FLAIR!

While lehengas and sarees remain a popular choice for weddings, an Anarkali can offer the perfect balance of comfort and charm. Imagine the outfit from the second image – a beautifully embroidered Anarkali with earthy tones and intricate patterns. It's the kind of attire that whispers, "effortlessly graceful."

Choose fabrics like georgette or chiffon to ensure ease of movement and add a pair of colourful jhumkas and bangles for a playful vibe. Moreover, comfortable yet stylish footwear, like embroidered juttis can keep you on your feet through hours of celebrations.

If you are aiming to stand out, layer your outfit with a vibrant dupatta or shawl that pays homage to Bangladesh's heritage – think Nakshi Kantha-inspired embroidery or ethnic prints.

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T WANT TO SPLURGE

Buying a brand-new outfit for every wedding can be both financially and environmentally taxing. Instead, make small tweaks to elevate your existing wardrobe.

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#PERSPECTIVE

Why Bangladeshi brides choose red and how the palette is changing

Imagine the quintessential Bangladeshi bride. She enters the wedding venue, draped in a resplendent red saree, glowing under the flicker of fairy lights. Red — bold, vibrant, and unapologetically commanding — has been the traditional colour of Bangladeshi bridal wear for centuries. But why this strong association with red? And why are we now seeing brides experiment with hues like pink, white, and even green?

THE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF RED: A COLOUR OF POWER AND PASSION

In South Asian cultures, red has always held a position of reverence and power. It is the colour of life, vitality, and auspicious beginnings. In the context of marriage, red symbolises fertility, prosperity, and marital bliss — attributes traditionally cherished in a bride.

In Bengali weddings, the choice of red goes beyond aesthetics. Shafayet Hossain Khan, owner and designer of KhanSaab Studio, explains, "Red in Bengali weddings embodies passion, strength, and new beginnings. For me, it represents a bride's courage and the depth of love in this new journey. I chose red to honour tradition and to create a piece that resonates emotionally with the wearer."

On a psychological level, red is universally recognised as an attention-grabbing colour. It evokes feelings of confidence and power, making a bride look radiant and regal on her special day. This emotional response to red makes it an obvious choice for bridal wear in a culture that celebrates grandeur and festivity.

A PERSONAL STORY: TRADITION VERSUS CHOICE

Silvia Mahjabin, who recently got married, recalls feeling conflicted when deciding on her wedding attire. "My family wished to see me as a bride dressed in red, and so I chose a Jamdani in similar hue to wear at my wedding," she shares.

"I didn't necessarily want to be the typical bride, in red — it was more the social context. Even my sister, who got married in 2015, resorted to being a 'bride in red' because everyone around us was getting married in a red sari or lehenga."

Silvia's story highlights how societal expectations often play a significant role in the decision-making process, even for modern brides who might otherwise prefer to deviate from tradition.

In recent years, however, the bridal fashion landscape in Bangladesh has begun to change. Social media platforms like Instagram and Pinterest, coupled with increased access to global wedding trends, are encouraging brides to think beyond the conventional.

Pink, white, pastel hues and even bold shades of green and blue are making their way into the Bangladeshi bridal lexicon.

What's driving this shift?

Sadia Rahman, who wore a blush-pink lehenga on her wedding day, explains, "Pink felt so much more me. It was romantic and elegant. My family was initially hesitant because pink didn't feel 'bridal' enough, but they eventually came around when they saw how it complemented the entire wedding theme."

The globalisation of fashion has exposed Bangladeshi brides to bridal trends from around the world. Western brides often choose pink and white while South Asian designers have popularised unconventional bridal colours. Brides are now borrowing inspiration from these styles, blending them with their cultural heritage.

"As someone who has always challenged conventions, wearing white for my wedding felt like a statement," says Tasnim Haque, a digital marketer. "It was clean, minimal, and beautiful – exactly how I wanted to feel on my special day."

Therefore, modern brides increasingly value personal expression over strict adherence to tradition. A bride might choose white to reflect her soft and romantic personality or opt for emerald green to stand out as unique.

THE FUTURE OF BANGLADESHI BRIDAL WEAR

As more brides break free from the red mould, the future of Bangladeshi bridal fashion looks bright and colourful. While red will likely remain a classic choice, it will coexist with a spectrum of other colours that cater to diverse tastes and personalities.

In the end, what truly matters is not the colour of the attire but the confidence and happiness of the bride. Whether in traditional red, romantic pink, minimalist white, or bold green, every bride has the right to feel beautiful and empowered on her special day.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: M H Bipu
Designer: Shafayet Hossain Khan (KhanSaab Studio)
Makeup Artist: Zahid Khan

JAMDANI AND RED: A MARRIAGE OF TRADITION AND ELEGANCE

For many designers, pairing red with Jamdani creates a masterpiece of cultural pride.

Shafayet H Khan explains, "Choosing Jamdani is about embracing a rich cultural legacy and its delicate beauty. Reviving this heritage textile is a personal passion for me and our Carnation floral work is a tribute to its artistry."

The intricate weaving process of Jamdani, which takes months to complete, lends itself beautifully to bridal wear. Khan elaborates, "The word 'jamdani' means 'flower vase', which aligns beautifully with our carnation floral motifs. By blending traditional Jamdani patterns with French couture-inspired floral embroidery, at my studio, we try to preserve Bangladeshi textile heritage while adding a refined, modern touch."

#PERSPECTIVE

WEDDINGS, WEAVERS, AND HERITAGE

Choosing taant to support Bangladesh's artisans

As the year winds down, Bangladesh's neighbourhoods come alive with the anticipation of yet another wedding season. Homes are adorned, alleys sparkle with lights, and the air buzzes with excitement as families prepare for celebrations. In our search for vibrant sarees and panjabis, it's worth pausing to consider the hands that weave these garments.

The country's taant (handloom) industry — a vital piece of the nation's cultural and economic fabric – is currently struggling under the weight of economic challenges. This season, our support for these artisans, who breathe life into traditional garments, is more important than ever.

A LABOUR OF LOVE AND HERITAGE

Bangladesh's taant industry has deep roots, extending back through centuries and interwoven with the nation's cultural identity. The industry's resilience has withstood wars, economic downturns, and political upheaval but today it faces a more insidious threat — consumer disinterest and limited local support.

Kutub Uddin, a weaver at Benaroshi Polli in Mirpur 10, who has been weaving since his childhood, reflects on how his career began out of necessity in the years following Bangladesh's independence. His family, hit by poverty, relied on weaving to survive.

Over the decades, he watched as demand for handloom Benaroshi sarees fluctuated, with recent years seeing a noticeable decline. "Ten or twelve years ago, Benaroshi sarees were in high demand," he says. "But now, the industry is in crisis."

Although demand rises slightly during the wedding season, imported sarees, especially from India, flood the market and divert customers away from local artisans.

The weaver explains that creating a Benaroshi saree can take anywhere from a few weeks to several months, depending on its intricacy. In the past, he worked alongside a team where each person specialised in a step of the process, from twisting threads to making zari. However, many of his former colleagues have left the industry, taking up jobs as rickshaw pullers or in restaurants to support their families.

Today, local weavers like him are overshadowed by cheaper, imported alternatives, which deprive Bangladesh's taant industry of the support it needs to survive.

The process of creating a handloom saree is labour-intensive and requires immense skill, yet the artisans are paid modestly for their work. A weaver in Chapai Nawabganj explains that they are paid per yard, with a single weaver managing to produce three to four yards on a good day.

Each piece they create is a labour of love, meticulously crafted to perfection but it's also a product of rising material costs. The price of threads, dyes, and silk has increased significantly over the years, squeezing profit margins and leaving weavers struggling to sustain their craft.

This weaver points out that while one might expect wedding season to boost demand, reality paints a different picture. Customers often overlook locally made handloom sarees in favour of imported options, limiting local weavers' access to new business.

"We think wedding season will bring in orders, but mostly we only see demand rise around Eid," he explains, "While for weddings, people often look to India or other countries."

ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS AND LIMITED SUPPORT

For many artisans, the art of weaving is a family tradition, with skills passed down from generation to generation. However, the economic realities of weaving have made it harder for artisans to encourage their children to continue in their footsteps.

Sandip Basak, a Tangail saree seller describes how increasing production costs and low sales affected his business during the recent puja season, a time they hoped would bring a surge in demand.

Instead, sales were disappointing, and many artisans now face the prospect of leaving the handloom industry altogether. "If this trend continues, we might not have anyone left to pass on this knowledge," he notes.

This loss of generational knowledge is one of the most significant threats facing the handloom industry. If young people do not see a viable future in weaving, they will pursue other professions, leading to the disappearance of traditional techniques that have been refined over centuries.

Md Sajib, a Jamdani weaver, once serving a steady base of clients, finds himself in a difficult position now, as even his most loyal clients have begun to cancel orders due to rising prices. He has reached out to banks to secure a loan to sustain his business, only to be denied.

"Banks don't want to support us because they believe the Jamdani market is struggling," he explains, feeling the lack of support keenly. For him, the future of the taant industry relies not only on customers but also on financial backing, so artisans can continue their work and keep the craft alive.

Weavers' calls for financial assistance are more than pleas for personal relief — they reflect a need to protect an industry deeply connected to Bangladesh's identity. Without support, they are at risk of losing not only their income but a part of their heritage.

SUPPORTING OUR WEAVERS THIS WEDDING SEASON

The wedding season offers an opportunity for each of us to make a difference. By choosing to buy locally crafted handloom sarees, we directly support the artisans who sustain this age-old tradition.

One weaver reminds us, "The sarees of our country – whether Jamdani, Benaroshi, or cotton — are unique. People should understand that, so weavers like me can continue our work."

Let's show our appreciation for their skill and dedication because when we support our weavers, we weave a more sustainable, culturally rich future for Bangladesh.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Hadi Uddin
Models: Najma Chisti and Shanila Mehjabin
Wardrobe: Mirpur Katan Revival Collection by NOBO x Sharmin Rahman
Weaver: Kutub Uddin
Makeover: Shababa Rashid
Speacial thanks to Silmat Chisti and NOBO

#COVER STORY

HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS

Anika and Tuhin's journey with Berger Luxury Silk

Anika and Tuhin had just wrapped up their wedding celebrations — a whirlwind of rituals and laughter. Stepping into married life, they found themselves in a blank canvas of a house — ready to be transformed into their sanctuary; a place where every corner echoed their story.

"Colours play a significant role in mental well-being," Anika shared, as they sorted through a swatch book. "We wanted to create spaces that felt like us — calming, warm, and full of life."

It was not long before they stumbled upon Berger Design Diaries Series, a serendipitous guide to their creative journey. Inspired by real stories and homes featured in the series, the couple decided it was time to craft their narrative, one brushstroke at a time.

In a sea of trends and seasonal fads, they chose to stay true to themselves.

The bedroom — a space for peace and dreams — was gently wrapped in shades of blush and ivory. "Soft, calming shades make the world slow down a bit, don't they?" Tuhin mused, describing the walls painted with Berger's Luxury Matte finish. It was a texture that spoke of intimacy and warmth, an everyday luxury that made the mundane somehow magical.

The living area, however, was a different story — one of vibrancy, conversations, and laughter. The couple's wall was painted with Luxury Super Silk, providing the highest shine or gloss. Hosting visitors after the wedding was inevitable and Anika and Tuhin wanted their home to say "welcome" without uttering a word.

They turned to Berger's Illusion Paints for a statement wall — bold, eye-catching, yet tasteful. "We wanted to highlight our favourite space," said Anika. "So, we made it a piece of art."

Their inspiration was not plucked from thin air. Scrolling through digital platforms like Pinterest and Instagram, they followed trends, saved photos, and pored over ideas. However, Berger Design Diaries was a turning point — a mirror of homes like theirs, real and full of personality. "The series felt genuine," Tuhin noted. "We saw ourselves in those homes and that's why we based our vision on it."

Every room was a story waiting to be told. The dining area, where mornings begin with cups of tea and evenings with shared meals, was awash in warm, inviting tones. The kitchen — minimalist, contemporary, yet undeniably "deshi" — was where nostalgia met functionality.

"Different colours for different rooms; different textures to bring out their character," Tuhin explained, marvelling at the matte, silk, and illusion finish they handpicked together.

Each choice was not merely aesthetic — it was a memory, a compromise, a shared vision.

The couple's choices reflected a deeper understanding of their journey.

They were not alone in this — couples across the city have embraced coordinated colour themes, from weddings to their homes.

"It's about continuity," Anika reflected. "Our favourite shades — pink and blue — were in our wedding and now they are part of our home. It keeps the essence alive."

Colour, after all, is more than a visual treat. It affects mood, inspires, and sometimes, heals. For

Anika and Tuhin, each wall painted was a step towards making the house theirs. It was not about keeping up with trends but creating a haven they would always return to.

"The home doesn't have to scream; it can whisper comfort instead," Tuhin said, glancing around their handiwork.

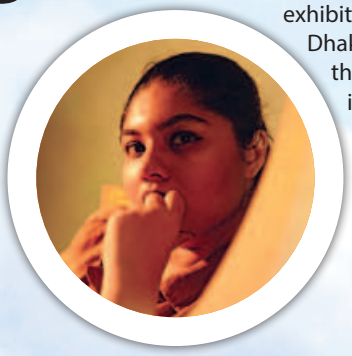
Every married couple, even Anika and Tuhin, might find it difficult to adjust to a shared life but occasionally, all it takes to transform the ordinary into the spectacular is a little paint, a sprinkle of creativity, and a dash of patience. As they adjust to their new lives, every brushstroke on their walls reminds them that home, like love, is best constructed together.

By K Tanzeel Zaman
Photo Courtesy: Berger

Star LIFE Style

#INTERVIEW

From hobby to a career: Sheikh Suraiya Rehnuma's journey with photography



In Bangladesh, over the past few years, photography has evolved remarkably transforming from a beloved hobby into a thriving profession. For many, what started as casual snapshots has grown into a passion and ultimately careers in visual storytelling. Sheikh Suraiya Rehnuma is one such photographer, carving out her path in the industry. Rehnuma's journey, which began with a student camera and a friend's inspiration, is a compelling display of how imagination, hard work, and self-discovery unexpectedly influenced her career.

A DECISION MADE

Before photography became her focus, Rehnuma was an architecture student relishing in the world of design principles and blueprints. Photography was not even on her radar and it was not until everyone in her course collectively invested in cameras for their studies that she was drawn into the art of capturing images.

Inspired by a friend who had a knack for taking portraits, Rehnuma began experimenting with photography and trying to understand the techniques behind a well-composed shot. Soon, as she got a hold of comfort with her camera, she found herself framing and capturing moments beyond her course requirements.

By 2015, Rehnuma's passion for photography had bloomed. She took the bold step of hosting a solo exhibition at Beauty Boarding of Old Dhaka, showcasing her work to the public for the first time and introducing her professional brand, Lenzkraft.

This experience solidified her commitment to photography and by 2018, she had set up a small, rented studio.

This was a humble start — informal, small-scale, and focused on a close circle of clients and personal projects. However, this little studio marked her transition from amateur to dedicated professional, paving the way for her career.

For Rehnuma, the COVID-19 pandemic was a significant turning point. In 2021, with a newfound time to focus, she decided to fully embrace photography, making Lenzkraft a fully active venture from then onwards.

CRAFTING HER NICHE

Rehnuma speaks openly. "It definitely is male-dominated. While that's not necessarily a bad thing, there's no denying the lack of balance."

Her observation is not just about numbers, but about perception as well. She points out that people often label her as a "female photographer" rather than simply a "photographer." To her, this reflects the deeper societal belief that photography is primarily a male profession; a mindset that has limited the industry's inclusivity for years.

Breaking into an industry with few female peers, she navigated a space where her identity as a woman often overshadowed her identity as an artist. However, instead of letting this deter her, Rehnuma uses it as motivation, working to challenge stereotypes and prove that women are just as capable of excelling in this field.

Rehnuma's primary focus is on fashion, portraits, and fine art photography.

She has worked with a variety of concepts, bringing an artistic edge to her photographs that go beyond the typical shot. From pre-wedding and post-wedding shoots to maternity sessions, her portfolio is a blend of elegance and storytelling, capturing moments with depth and authenticity.

When asked if she would consider venturing into event photography, Rehnuma replied, "Weddings are not on the bucket list yet!"

For Rehnuma, photography is not just about capturing moments but crafting them, an approach that aligns well with her work in concept and glamour photography.

As she continues to build her brand, Rehnuma remains committed to her original vision, pushing her boundaries in fashion and fine art photography while staying true to her values.

Sheikh Suraiya Rehnuma has come a long way from the architecture student with a shared camera to the professional photographer behind Lenzkraft, her journey a blend of self-learning, resilience, and a touch of rebellion against societal norms.

By Nusrath Jahan
Photo Courtesy : LenzKraft

Grameenphone launches the latest episode of Lumière featuring Kanak Chapa Chakma

Grameenphone has unveiled a special episode of its Lumière series showcasing Kanak Chapa Chakma, the renowned Bangladeshi artist celebrated for her poignant depictions of the lives of ethnic minority communities. Hosted by Nabila Khalid, the episode explores an in-depth conversation that delves into Kanak Chapa Chakma's upbringing, her values, her work, and the activism she channels through her art.

Kanak Chapa Chakma has gained widespread acclaim for her paintings, which vividly capture the daily lives of women in rural and indigenous settings. Her unique style seamlessly blends semi-realistic and abstract elements, using bold colours and dynamic compositions to convey both

the beauty and struggles of her subjects. Through her artwork, Kanak Chapa Chakma has long been an advocate for marginalised communities, using her canvases as a voice for those often unheard.

In the episode, Kanak Chapa Chakma reflects on her childhood, sharing how her family and early life experiences have shaped her artistic journey. Host Nabila Khalid navigates the conversation with warmth and curiosity, encouraging Kanak Chapa Chakma to discuss her vision for the future of art in Bangladesh, particularly for young artists who wish to make a difference through their craft.

Earlier this year, Kanak Chapa Chakma was honoured with the Ekushey Padak 2023, one of the highest civilian awards in Bangladesh, in recognition of her significant contributions to the art world. This accolade has further cemented her status as an influential figure in the country's cultural landscape.

The Lumière series by Grameenphone, now in its second season, continues to highlight individuals who have made profound contributions across various sectors in Bangladesh. By featuring such luminaries, Lumière aims to inspire audiences and provide a platform where creativity, culture, and impactful dialogue intersect. This latest episode not only celebrates Kanak Chapa Chakma's artistic achievements but also highlights her commitment to social change through her art.

#TRAVEL

PLANNING A TRIP?
Your credit card might just be your new best friend!

Banking and financial transactions have become very convenient in modern days. Gone are the days of long queues and tedious purchasing practices. Now, almost every financial transaction can be done online and the use of credit cards has made things a lot easier. Even more so if you are a traveller.

Here are 5 ways credit cards can be useful in your foreign travels.

CASHLESS AND SECURITY

Even though Bangladesh is not quite cashless yet, the future is looking very much cashless at the moment. By getting a credit card, you get one step closer to the future. It is also more secure than carrying cash in person. When you travel with your credit card, it can become the cashless instrument that you use for every transaction. It's also easy to endorse your credit card for foreign currency transactions.

LOUNGE FACILITIES

Most credit cards will offer you some sort of lounge facility. This is one of the key points for many people while getting a credit card because international flights can be tedious, exhausting, and time consuming. Sometimes, you need a place to just sit back and relax, process the exhaustion, eat something or sometimes you just need a place to sit.

Lounge facilities are really handy at this hour and having your credit card will offer you an opportunity for admission in selected lounge areas. Depending on your card provider, the facilities may vary, so it is up to you to know about the available facilities before getting a card.

EASIER TICKETS, BOOKINGS AND SHOPPING

Booking tickets has never been easier. One can book their ticket directly online by using their credit card these days. The same goes for booking hotel rooms and online shopping. In addition, most credit cards have a list of partners where you can get a discount or priority service by using the credit card. For example, your card might get you a 10 per cent discount on air tickets. You may get another 10 per cent on your shoe shopping or hotel booking. It's a good idea to ask the retailer if your card gets you any additional discount.

REWARD POINTS

Most credit cards come with a reward system or credit point; which will vary with your bank/card provider of course. But one of the most common features is that the user can collect and redeem these reward points to get different facilities. This may include but is not limited to — different types of fee waivers, discounts on selected purchases, or any other rewards. These can be really useful while you are shopping on your travels.

TRACK YOUR EXPENSES

People will tell you that travelling is a matter of courage. Well, it's a matter of money too and it is really challenging to arrange a foreign trip within a fixed budget. More often than not, you come back and you wonder how did you spend so much. Using a credit card can be helpful in this aspect. If you make all your transactions on your credit card, you will find it in the statement and that way you may track all your expenses and manage your finances accordingly.

Remember, it is always a good idea to contact your bank whenever you are in confusion about anything. Whether it is about fees, charges, or facilities and offers, feel free to reach out to your bank or their helpline. Always research and try to learn about the perks and benefits before choosing a credit card. And, if you are still in confusion, ask a friend who has a credit card to share his experience.

By Ashif Ahmed Rudro
Photo: Collected

What to wear to a wedding? Ideas for every festive moment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Have an embroidered blouse? Pair it with a contrasting plain saree. A rich dupatta? Style it with a monochrome salwar suit or even a Western-style dress.

In cities like Dhaka, many boutiques and designers now offer outfit rentals for weddings. This allows you to wear high-end designer pieces at a fraction of the price. That said, customising outfits can be immensely rewarding. Add sequins or embroidered patches to an old saree or lehenga to give it a modern twist. Similarly, embellish your blouse with beads or tassels to make it stand out.

ACCESSORISING THE DESHI WAY

No outfit is complete without the right accessories, and Bangladeshi weddings are the perfect excuse to go all out!

Kundan or polki sets work beautifully for heavy sarees and lehengas. For simpler outfits, opt for oxidised silver jewellery or minimalistic gold pieces. Embroidered potlis or sequined clutches not only look stunning but are also practical for carrying essentials.

And remember, whether it's mojaris, juttis, or embellished heels, ensure they are both stylish and comfortable.

Ultimately, what makes an outfit truly stand out is the confidence you bring to it. Whether you are wearing a sleek black saree, a vibrant Anarkali, or a bold lime-green drape, owning your look is the key to leaving a lasting impression.

So, as you prepare for the next round of invitations, embrace the opportunity to dress up, express yourself, and celebrate love and tradition in style. Bangladeshi weddings are more than just an event – they are a canvas for your creativity and individuality. Let your outfit tell a story that's as unique as the celebration itself.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Tirtha Biswash
Model: Kaniz Shupriya
Wardrobe: ANOKHI by Humaira Khan
MUA: Murad

HOROSCOPE

ARIES
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Romantic relationships could be under pressure. Changes at home will be favourable. Make changes that will enhance your appearance. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

You can make major gains if you talk to your boss. Uncertainty regarding your partner may emerge. Enjoy socialising this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

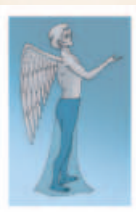
Career changes will benefit you. You'll be appreciated for your competence. Expect problems with your partner if you haven't been present. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Invite friends over. Your intellectual charm will bring unexpected opportunities. Empty promises will cause upset. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO
(JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Include children in your activities. Someone you care about will let you down. Losses could occur if you've been careless. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

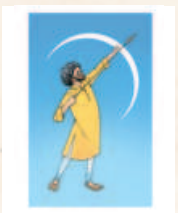
You will be admired for your giving nature. Look into making your home more comfortable. Moves will be favourable in the end. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Avoid being lavish at social events. Dazzle others with your charm. Interaction with others will be enjoyable this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Make sound financial investments quickly. Seek a change of pace. Someone you like may actively seek your company. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Avoid being overly opinionated. Reduce tension by having fun. Social activities should be on your agenda. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Make necessary changes this week. Enjoy social events to meet new people, but avoid overspending. Do something constructive outside. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Include loved ones in redecorating plans. Your fickle nature may spark jealousy. Attract new love interests by being social. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Travel and lectures will stimulate you. Consider changing your living arrangements. Focus on your domestic scene. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

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DESIGNING YOUR DREAM BEDROOM

A guide for newlyweds

Decorating the bedroom is a newlywed's first big adventure as it embodies their shared goals and aspirations. Here, partners make future plans, hold each other's hands in sickness and in health, and maybe have the classic argument over who left a wet towel on the bed!

The decoration of a new bedroom can be overwhelming when mixing and matching furniture pieces takes too much guessing and hassled trips to furniture markets. As honeymooners have to constantly juggle many things after the wedding, investing in a furniture set can be a real saver.

A carefully chosen furniture set can, however, make the room effortlessly stylish while ensuring maximum utility. So, let's take a look at a few tips and tweaks to work with a stunning furniture set— that vibes like your very own honeymoon suite!

PICK THE RIGHT FURNITURE SET

Bedroom furniture sets can come with diverse options to choose from. From minimalistic to modern and chic— you can choose the one that aligns with your vision for your romantic sanctuary.

For starters, pick the set according to the size and layout of the room. For small-scale rooms, clean-cut furniture sets with low-height beds, slender nightstands, and compact dressers will save space for walkability. To make the space appear open, opt for dressers and cabinets with geometric shapes and light reflective finishes.

For a grand bedroom, a set with a queen-sized bed, a lavish dresser with mirror panels, or a pair of loveseats can add luxury to the bedroom. Add an oversized rug, large-scale artwork and tall lamps to create engaging zones.

COLOURS TO COMPLEMENT THE FURNITURE SET

It is completely fine to get fussy with the colours as they set the tone of the space. A bold accent wall with the right colour scheme can also complement your furniture set and brighten up the room.

A calming colour palette with light grey, or eggshell paired with dusty blue can foster relaxation with a surreal vibe. You can opt for a dark-eclectic aesthetic as they add a lot of character to the room. Navy, deep plum, or amber-green swatches paired with metallic gold or bronze accents create a sultry atmosphere.

Taupe and cream paired with rose gold or amber red can create a sophisticated look with a hint of passion, perfect for your love nest.

Look out for beds with beautifully crafted headboards to add a regal touch. As the bed is the focal point of your room, make sure the layers of the bedding match the base colours of the room.

EVERYTHING IN ONE PACKAGE

Ensure an elegant furniture set that is highly functional with matching materials and offers a clutter-free room. You may opt for sets with concealed options for added storage. Add a lot of personal details to make the room uniquely yours. Make sure your room has enough sunlight, textures and nature.

Showcase your wedding photos and keepsakes. Splash plenty of indoor greens to keep your bedroom feeling fresh.

Decorating your "honeymoon suite" marks the glorious beginning of your married life. Buying an efficient and elegant furniture set is a cost-effective long-term investment. To ensure your purchase is friendly to your finances, subscribe to furniture brands that offer EMI (Equated Monthly Instalment) plans, and make this venture stress-free and enjoyable.

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