

# When the Wedding Bells Ring...

As told to **Unnati Sagar**

**A**n Indian wedding is a colourful saga. It is an occasion with plenty little events going on throughout the venue. There aren't enough words which can describe the magnitude of emotions that fill the ambience of a marriage hall. The day when a couple decides to tie the knot, they are surrounded by their loved ones, flushed with enthusiasm, celebrating all things matrimonial. Pictures captured on this day are priceless. These pictures tell us the couple's story. And the challenging yet rewarding role of narrating their story is played by wedding photographers.

When the newlyweds get their wedding album, they come across photos they've been eagerly waiting for along with little somethings they didn't expect. That's what is beautiful and unique about wedding photography. In this issue of **Smart Photography**, we present you with an assortment of some special moments from three of country's talented contemporary wedding photographers' collection. Photographing weddings has its own set of challenges and intricacies and these photographers have outdone themselves.

We interviewed Chetan Saini, Ashmeet Singh & Mahek Chawla (Studio Finesse) and Subinoy Das (De WeddingBells). They provided us with an overview of how they manage to get the best possible photographs in the most constricted of timelines. They also shared with us, their fond memories and insights, and revealed what they love the most about creating a visual documentary of the best day in a couple's life. Here is an article showcasing some of the best pictures captured by dedicated wedding photographers who go above and beyond the call of duty to capture the most breathtaking shots, ensuring that the couple looks their absolute best on their special day.



**Chetan Saini**

Chetan Saini is an engineer turned fine-art wedding photographer based in Faridabad, India. His simplistic nature and love for his family are two things that have helped him achieve his desired goals. Chetan's journey into the world of photography began after he left the country to pursue further studies.

While he lived in the UK, his camera became his constant companion. In his words, "During that period, in the absence of my family, my camera used to be my best friend. To be honest, I'd say that the camera was, in fact, my first love". Once he was back in India, he continued his hobby and started photographing people and nature around him. Talking about his love for photography, Chetan says, "The sound of the shutter is something my ears yearned to hear. In that moment, I realized that photography is the only thing which gives me a sense of satisfaction and eternal happiness."

In the year 2012, Chetan took up professional wedding photography and since then, there has been no turning back. Chetan's work is unique and has been appreciated and acknowledged by various publications. To follow Chetan's photographic journey, visit his Facebook page: [chetansainifotography](#)

**"The sound of the shutter is something my ears yearned to hear. In that moment, I realized that photography is the only thing which gives me a sense of satisfaction and eternal happiness."**





**Sometimes guests at the wedding, without realising, interfere by stepping into the photographer's frame, thus ruining the opportunity to take shots...** That's the thing about photographing weddings; it all happens on the go! It is live and there are no retakes here. Even if you're determined and equipped to capture the entire event as it happens, there are bound to be certain inevitable hindrances. The relatives and friends in the audience who have gathered to witness the wedding of their loved ones are excited to capture these special moments through their smartphones. In such a situation, you cannot tell people to excuse you when they get in your way. All you can do is request them for your space. It is honestly a difficult situation to tackle. But as a fine-art wedding photographer, I try to use them as my props and try to photograph with more creativity.

**The radiant look on faces of the newlyweds is enigmatic. This calls for a post-wedding shoot, a trending sub-genre of wedding photography...**

Photography is one of the most important things for a couple on their wedding day. But sometimes, the stringent timelines do





© Chetan Saini



© Chetan Saini

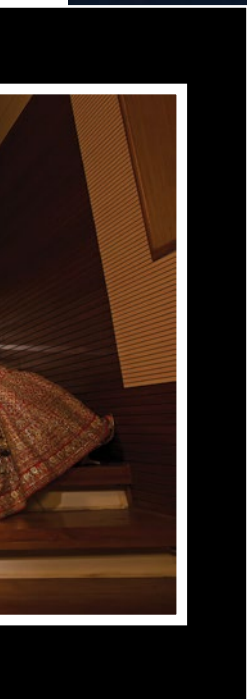


© Chetan Saini



© Chetan Saini





© Chetan Saini









© Chetan Saini



© Chetan Saini



not allow us to achieve the most beautiful portraits of them. These are the images which they will look back at, for years to come. Hence it is crucial for us to get the perfect shot of the newlyweds in their wedding attire. A post-wedding shoot is a great solution to it. Also, according to me, what makes this sub-genre more interesting is that, we can travel to a more exotic location post the event, away from the hustle and bustle of the guests and photograph the beautiful couple.

**The last word...** What I love about photographing weddings is that, the kind of emotions one witnesses during a wedding is overwhelming. You meet new people, get to know their religion, witness their rituals and understand their customs. On one side you see frenzied organisers while on the other, you see the moist-eyed father of the bride. There is happiness, nervousness and oceans of different emotions felt at the same time, under one roof. For me, photographing a wedding is the most joyous thing which cannot be replaced by any other.



### Ashmeet Singh & Mehak Chawla

The co-founders of Studio Finesse, Ashmeet Singh and Mehak Chawla are passionate photographers based in New Delhi, India. Besides being the co-founders of their company, they have also been great friends. Ashmeet, who worked as a graphic designer, started pursuing his hobby of photography in 2011, which eventually became his profession.

Mahek's love for photography led her to take up a basic course in photography after graduating from college. She niched down her genre to beauty photography and has been conducting test shoots in collaboration with models and makeup artists as well as doing commercial work and portfolios. Mahek and Ashmeet collaborated in the year 2014 in order to work towards the branding and development of Studio Finesse and eventually tied the knot in February this year.

Talking about their style of work, Mahek says, "We strive hard and emphasize on creating timeless photographs and films that evoke a blend of elegance and heartfelt expressiveness, and tell a story in a contemporary manner". As co-founders, and moreover as professional wedding photographers, their mantra is to understand their clients' tastes and requirements in order to deliver memories which will be cherished for a lifetime. To view more of Mahek and Ashmeet's work, visit: [studiofinesse.in](http://studiofinesse.in)

***"We strive hard  
and emphasize on  
creating timeless  
photographs and films  
that evoke a blend of  
elegance and heartfelt  
expressiveness,  
and tell a story in  
a contemporary  
manner"***



© Studio Finesse





© Studio Finesse

**During wedding shoots, there is almost always a variety of lights – halogen lamps, household bulbs, electronic flash, affecting the White Balance...** Normally, we would want to highlight our subject and underexpose the background with vivid colours. We play around with different lighting conditions and colours present in the ambience by controlling the Kelvin option of White Balance in the camera. If we are using an electronic flash, we would prefer the overall tone to be natural warm. We also use colour gels on our speedlights to control different colour temperatures in a particular scene.

**Some thoughts about portfolio shoots...** Wedding portfolios are one of the most important (and our favourite) things to cover at any wedding. While taking portraits of the bride or the groom we always play around with the lights, colours (colour gels), poses etc. In most cases we would just like them to be their natural selves. That is the time we get to incorporate our creativity with the grace of the bride and the charm of the groom on the biggest day of their lives. One of the reasons, we feel that these portfolio shoots are imperative is because the details of their dresses and jewellery are also covered. We love shooting portfolios because they are very important to our couples, as they have undergone months of planning before buying them. Also, many of their portraits' spreads go into the album or huge prints on the walls of their bedrooms.

**Favourite wedding moment...** There is one project that will always be special to us as it was one of a kind. It doesn't happen often, that you get hired to shoot a couple's wedding in four different styles, in four consecutive days. One of our



© Studio Finesse





clients had four kinds of weddings - a spiritual wedding, a Christian wedding, a Hindu wedding and a Buddhist wedding - right in the nature's lap in Bir, Himachal Pradesh. The wedding was planned within a span of just 45 days and executed with utmost simplicity, keeping in mind their spiritual leanings. Their spiritual wedding was the one that we had never heard of anyone having.





Trekking 5 kms into the forests of Bir, while photographing them alongside was in itself a challenging experience and overall very novel. Also, not everyday will you witness 70-80 people walking into the forest for miles, just to see a couple get wed. Their friends and families had gathered and spoke their hearts out about the lovely couple. The happiness quotient of this wedding is way too high and unmatched.

**The last word...** There is not one but many things that we love about photographing weddings. Most importantly, we get to be a part of one of the most important days of the couple and witness real emotions. People spend numerous hours prepping and planning for their wedding day, and a lot of that effort goes into ensuring that they look absolutely

beautiful. That in itself is a huge responsibility and we make sure that we make the best of this opportunity. Shooting the bride and groom's portraits is our favourite part. And so far, we have covered weddings from varied cultures with different traditions and rituals. It is kind of overwhelming to witness such a diverse culture within one country.





**Subinoy Das**

One of India's talented and 'offbeat' wedding photographer, Subinoy Das is the founder of De WeddingBells. Subinoy holds a master's degree in Computer Application, and has worked as a graphic designer before he found his true calling.

Talking about his journey, he says, "I believed that there was something which was always missing. I guess I wanted to be on my own. I wanted to travel, meet new people and document their stories. Photography seemed just the right tool that facilitated such storytelling, empowering me with infinite creative freedom". Subinoy pursued his passion for photography by starting his career as a professional wedding photographer in the year 2014. In no time, his outstanding work was acknowledged and well-received by his contemporaries and clients alike.

The weddings photographed by him have also been featured in renowned publications. Patience, he believes, is a key ingredient in creating the kind of work he desires. It is his unique perspective that has resulted in his work being appreciated as offbeat yet universal. To get a glimpse at Subinoy's wedding collection, visit his website: [deweddingbells.com](http://deweddingbells.com)

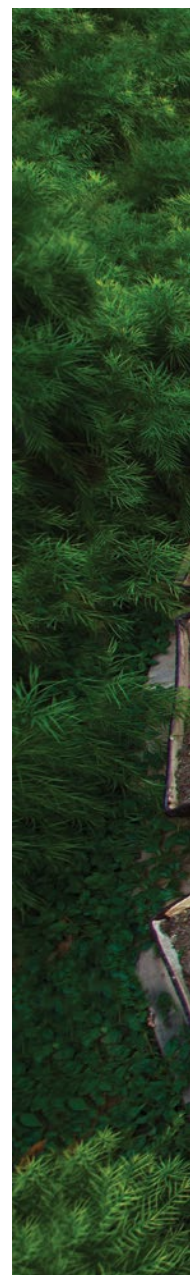
© De WeddingBells



© De WeddingBells



***"I wanted to be honest with myself while creating photographs. Probably a different perspective has resulted in my work being appreciated as offbeat yet universal"***

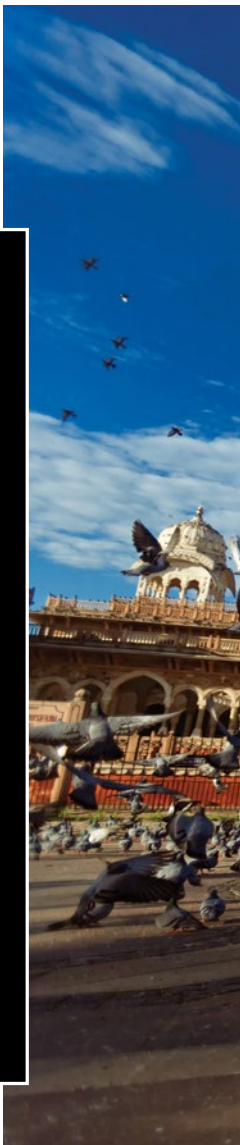




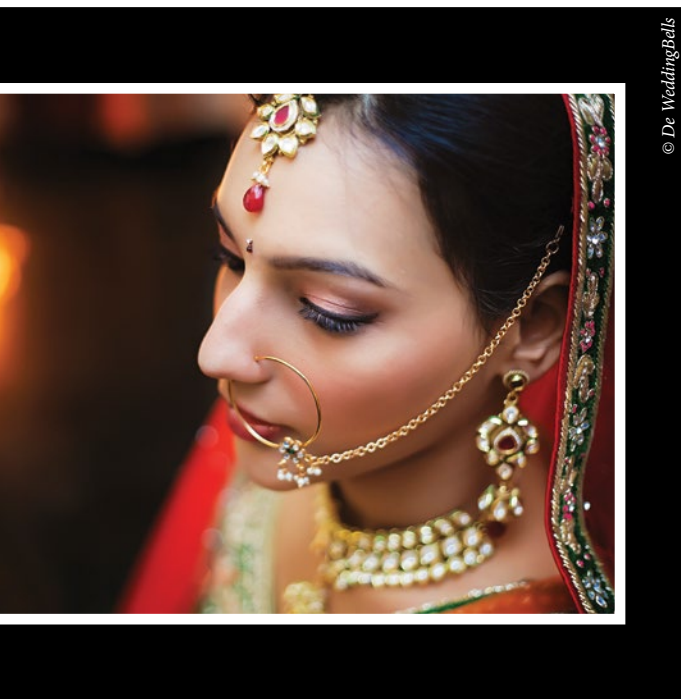


**As a wedding photographer, if I was asked to choose between a higher megapixel camera, or a camera that autofocus quickly and accurately in the low/poor light, I'd choose... Neither and both!** While technology facilitates creation and delivery of better images, without a creative perspective the images fail their purpose. The camera of a mobile device in hands of a creative individual may sometimes yield amazing results, whereas a very high-end camera in hands of a novice may yield poor results. However, a higher megapixel camera not only ensures larger/better print quality but also enables cropping into the image to re-frame it, if need be so, without loss of perceivable quality. Also, blazing fast & accurate autofocus system enables one to freeze









© De WeddingBells



© De WeddingBells



© De WeddingBells

Smart Photography  
November 2017





© De WeddingBells

important moments irrespective of varying lighting conditions (typical of an Indian wedding). As compared to yesteryears, fortunately, today's cameras are equipped to deliver great image quality at quite an affordable price.

**Talking about pre-wedding photography...** I personally think, other being one of the most trending 'ritual' involved in weddings today, pre-wedding photography has an

important role to play. It not only works as an ice-breaker for the client-photographer relationship but it also builds a bond of trust as the session progresses. While we get a taste of client's character and chemistry, at the same time, they get conversant with our style of work. Our couple sessions are mostly about creatively designed posed portraits and candid moments.

**Favourite wedding moment...** Back

in October, 2016, I met Joseph and Lydia, as I was invited to their Indo-Polish wedding. Looking at the couple - passionate and enthusiastic Joseph, and shy yet humble Lydia - the thought of filming their story crossed my mind. With a yearning to create memories that Lydia and Joseph could cherish forever, I documented their journey in cinematography style. The film of their connubial ceremony called 'Confluence' is one of my personal favourite projects till date.





**The last word...** Life is an eternal journey and I have set sail to explore everything that comes my way. As a wedding photographer, I not only get an opportunity to pursue my passion, it is also a learning experience as I get to meet new people, understand their cultures and document the most important day of their lives. The best part about wedding photography is that, to a great extent, it helps in mastering various other genres of photography as well. |SP



© De WeddingBells



© De WeddingBells

Smart Photography  
November 2017