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# Hotels Sold Out as Big Fat Indian Weddings Are Back

Many five-star hotels are reporting rise in bookings this month following pent-up demand for splashy weddings after two years

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## Tying the Knot

<b>Fairmont</b> Jaipur almost sold out from Oct end till Feb	<b>Hotel Noor Mahal</b> in Haryana all booked from Oct 15-Mar 23
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**Wyndham Hotels & Resorts** has 100% bookings on wedding dates in Chandigarh, Kochi, Dehradun, etc.



**Lemon Tree Hotels** seeing robust wedding bookings

**Royal Orchid and Regenta** getting wedding bookings for destinations such as Hampi, Ranthambore and Goa



**1 New Delhi:** There are no 'auspicious' dates this month, but expect choc-a-bloc hotels as 'tremendous' pent-up demand following two years of Covid-induced lockdowns and curbs leads to the resurgence of big, fat Indian wedding festivities.

For instance, you may find it hard to get a room at The Fairmont hotel in Jaipur this month end. "Between October end till February, the hotel is almost sold out. We even have an NRI wedding on new year's eve. We are closer to Delhi/NCR, but we have been getting bookings from all over India — from Guwahati and Sikkim to Hyderabad, Chennai,

Punjab and Gujarat," said Rajiv Kapoor, general manager of the property. "Rates are up 35% from the pre-Covid period and we will cross 100 weddings this year. Everything is back to normal and I believe luxury hotels such as ours will flourish in the next six months," he added.

Vikramjit Singh, president at

Lemon Tree Hotels said this could be the best wedding season for the sector in many years. "We had a lot of Sava dates in April, May and June, but because Omicron cases had just come down, and restrictions across the country were not fully lifted, people were not so sure. With all of that behind us, we see a lot of

pent-up demand. The big fat Indian weddings have been pending for a while," he added.

Wyndham has 100% bookings on wedding dates in multiple Indian cities, including Chandigarh, Kochi, Dehradun, Mussoorie, Kasauli, Jalandhar, Lucknow, Udaipur and Jaipur, said Nikhil Sharma, regional direc-

tor for Eurasia at Wyndham Hotels & Resorts EMEA. "At Wyndham Hotels & Resorts we continue to see an uptick in bookings including for non-auspicious dates and we look forward to seeing this trend continue into the next quarter," he added.

Bookings are also coming in for Royal Orchid and Regenta hotels in Goa, Mussoorie, Ranthambore, and Hampi. "We are in 18 locations where both big and small weddings can take place. Our resort in Bengaluru does exceedingly well and we are adding rooms there. People are hosting weddings of larger numbers," said Chander K Baljee, chairman of Royal Orchid and Regenta Hotels.

Manbeer Choudhary, chairman of Jewels Group of Hotels, that runs five-star hotel Noor Ma-

hal in Haryana, said the property is sold out from October 15-March 23. "Even during a period like December 15-January 15, when the wedding season takes a pause, we are packed. People are shedding their fears of non-auspicious dates and those who could not get venues on auspicious dates are picking those. They are also bringing their weddings forward to this month. We have 18 party venues and we will be hosting about 8-10 functions everyday," he added.

Ritesh Mudgal, resort manager for Raffles Udaipur said the chances of a complete hotel buy-out for certain wedding dates were 'high'. "We are a private island spread across 21 acres and have 101 rooms, which is more than other luxury hotels in the city," he added.