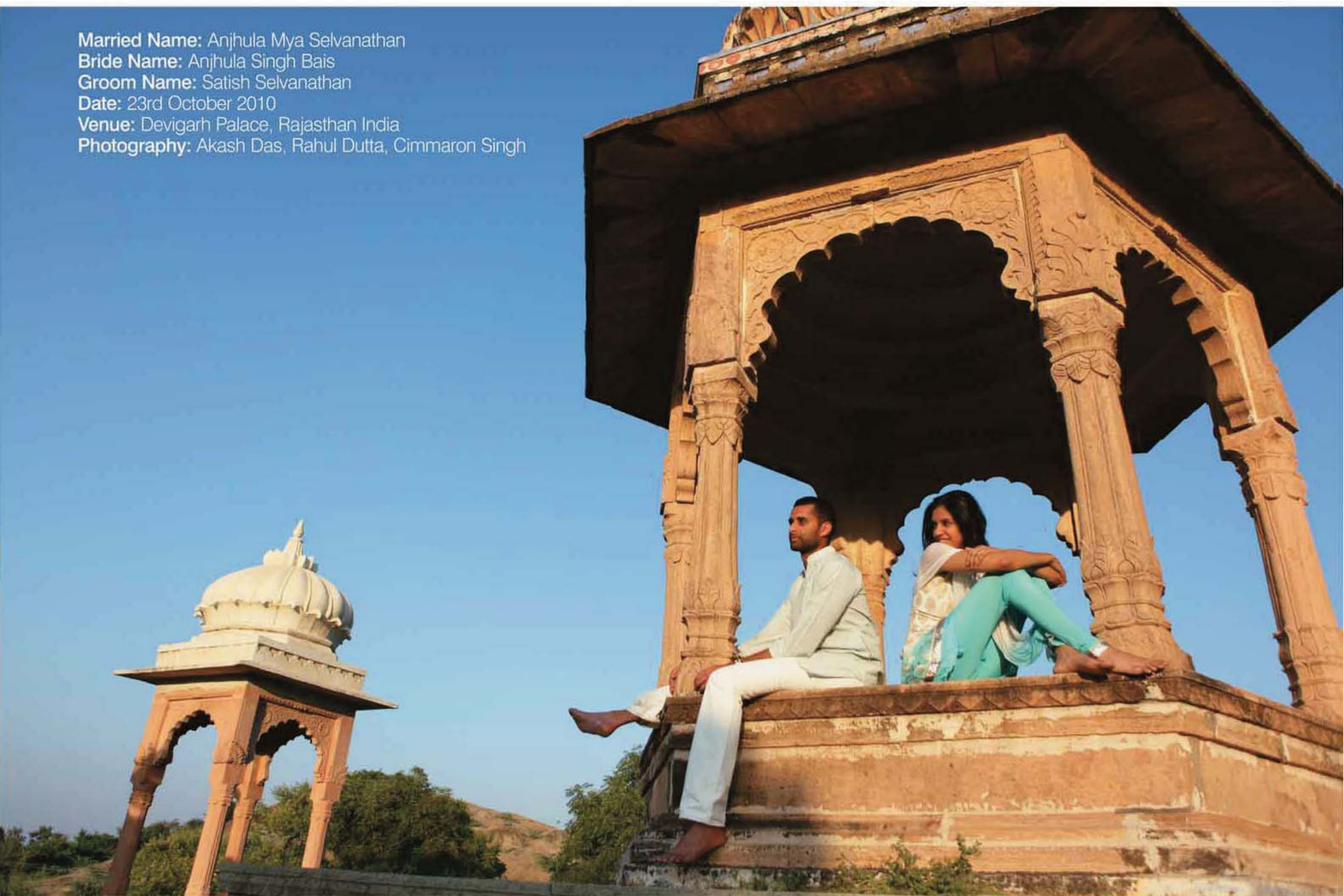


**Married Name:** Anjhula Mya Selvanathan  
**Bride Name:** Anjhula Singh Bais  
**Groom Name:** Satish Selvanathan  
**Date:** 23rd October 2010  
**Venue:** Devigarh Palace, Rajasthan India  
**Photography:** Akash Das, Rahul Dutta, Cimmaron Singh



# ROYAL AFFAIR

When you come from a regal background, having a princess perfect wedding is only to be expected, as celebrated by **Satish & Anjhula Selvanathan**

## THE PROPOSAL

Longingly or unexpectedly, every woman awaits the day her knight in shining armour drops down to his knees to ask for her hand in marriage. The planning of the Big Day itself to perfection may be the passion of the bride-to-be, but that comes later – the big decision to actually agree to marry is one set up by the man, and for them, setting the scene is of utmost importance.

Not that Satish had any problems in that department; he made sure he picked the perfect place that would make any girl go weak at the knees. On the beach, facing out into the ocean, Satish made his proposal in the lavish resort of Punta Del Este, South America, known as the St Tropez of Uruguay. Remarkable for its

pristine beaches, picturesque views and exclusivity, Satish made sure his bride to be, Anjhula, was in a place that looked as close to paradise as possible.

Anjhula revealed: 'It couldn't have been more perfect. I felt like I was the star of my own romantic movie, with my leading man professing his devotion to me. It was an intimate, beautiful moment in a secluded part of the beach, but when he proposed, I screamed yes so loud I'm sure people from South America to India could hear it!'

## THE PLAN

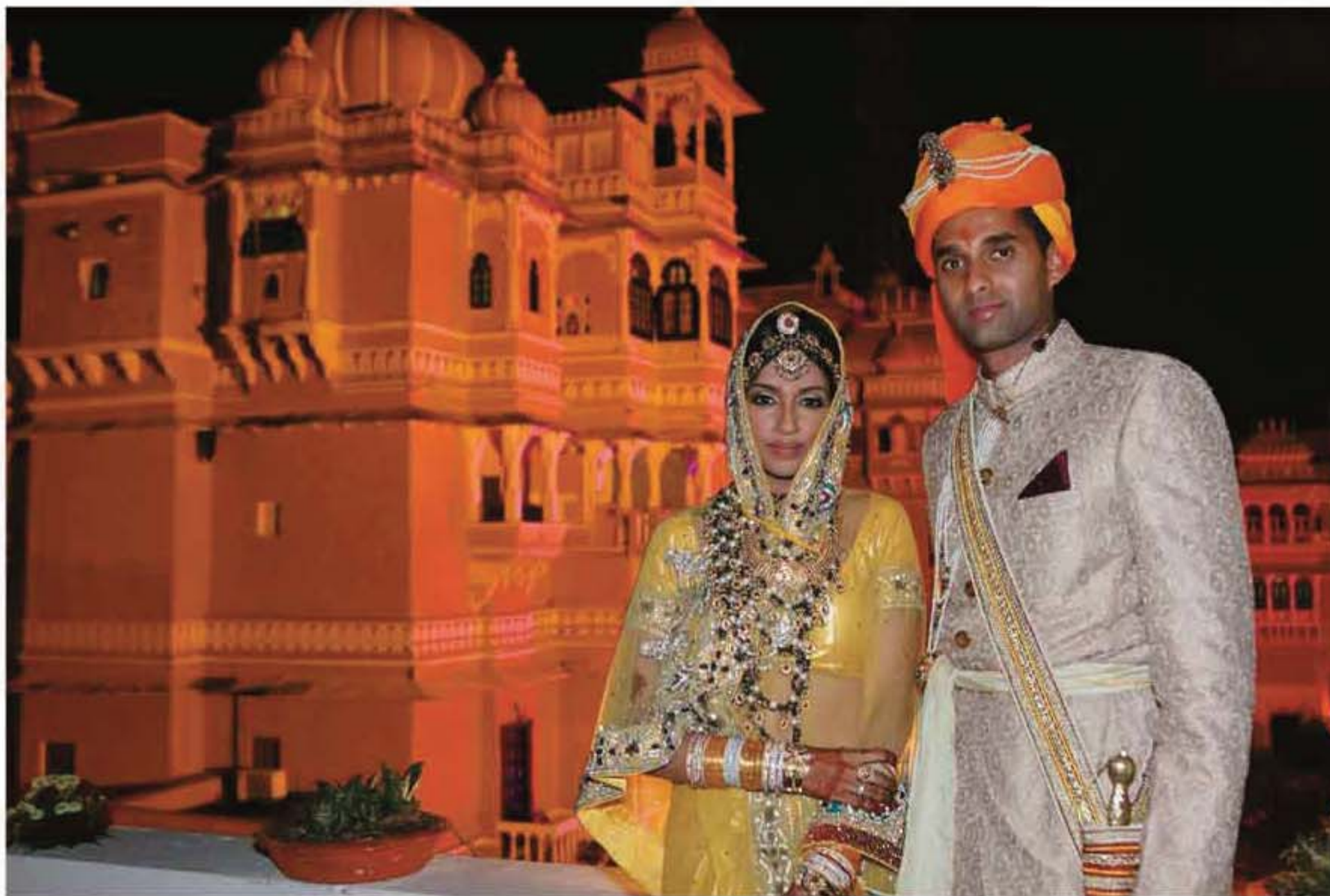
In keeping in with Anjhula's royal background, the wedding was to be set in India's largest state and regularly voted one of the world's most romantic destinations, Rajasthan.

Like a true maharaja and maharani, the couple decided to wed in a setting truly fit for royalty – a breathtaking palace owned by the Maharaja of Devigarh, a close family friend of the bride.

Taking the pressure off the often long and arduous process of planning, Anjhula admits: 'Our Rajput history dates at least 700 years, so it's understood what is done when it comes to hosting a wedding celebration. Our history is so rich and the palace so extraordinarily beautiful that I didn't have to worry about those types of things.'

Although unlike many grand royal affairs, Anjhula and Satish decided to keep it a small and intimate affair inviting just 210 of their nearest and dearest.





### SANGEET, MEHNDI & RECEPTION

Having come from a royal background, Anjhula believed it was only suited that the build up to the big day and the wedding itself was themed around a regal feel – yellow and pink for the mehndi, and Mughal opulence for the sangeet.

The guests were blown away from the outset. Anjhula explained: ‘It’s fair to say no expense was spared. It was such a thrill to see beautiful baby elephants greeting each guest as they entered.’

The entertainment was legendary, but with the laughter also came a hearty side serving of happy tears. Anjhula recalled: ‘We played an amazing slide show documenting each phase of our lives until the point of the wedding, many people ended up in tears!’

But there was enough pampering on offer to ensure no one was left not feeling utter contentment. Anjhula revealed: ‘Mini stalls full of trinkets, bangles and bindis were set up during the mehndi, as well as Ayurvedic Massages on offer at the Royal Tents, plus 24hour hookah lounges.

*“It’s fair to say no expense was spared. It was such a thrill to see beautiful baby elephants greeting each guest as they entered the palace”*

Guests were ferried in the royal armoury vehicles from one ceremony to another eventually ending up in the Cinnamon Grand in Colombo Sri Lanka for the reception.’

### THE RIGHT VENUE

Deciding to marry in a Rajasthani palace meant that guests were spoiled from the minute they stepped off the plane, greeted by white gloved staff offering a silver tray service on the luxury buses that ferried guests from the Airport to the wedding.

Anjhula recalled: ‘Traditional Rajasthani dancers welcomed the guests as they entered the palace, fort and royal tents whilst camel carts brought in the guests luggage!’

Even the rooms were decked with gifts. She added: ‘Each guest received either a

sari or kurta on the bed in their room alongside tons of Carlsberg beer (Satish’s father is responsible for bringing the Carlsberg brand into India), with a welcome booklet that explained their story, the history of their families and respective states (Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and so on).’

### THE LOOK

In fitting with the theme of royal grandeur, it was only natural that Satish and Anjhula had five outfit changes each on the big day! And as you’d expect from the Vogue supermodel, we’re talking glamour from head to toe. Anjhula explained: ‘All the designers I have modeled for in magazines and on the catwalks gave us bespoke outfits as presents, along with hand written letters of congratulations.’





◁ To complement Anjhula's outfits, Bollywood's own makeup artist Kazee Rai, completed the royal and regal look whilst the Gem Palace spent a whole three months creating a dazzling five-layered kundan/pearl necklace inspired by *Jodha Akbar* movie.

Even her mehndi designs were unique. Instead of the usual paisley prints, she instead chose to have her body adorned by Kama Sutra miniature paintings.

### THE BIG DAY

After much planning and preparation, the day had finally arrived, and what a beautiful day it was. To show it was a day for the people as much as it was for the happy couple, the guests were asked not to bring any presents but instead asked to donate to charities if they so wished.

Anjhula revealed: 'The two main

charities we encouraged guests to donate to were the citizens Initiative Fund for Sri Lanka (helping displaced refugees after the war) and Concern Worldwide which I am an ambassador for. This novel idea was well received extremely well by the elite guests.'

In keeping with the majestic image, the couple impressed their company with entertainment provided by Rajasthan Roots. Anjhula gushed: 'They are the most esoteric Folk band around and are a huge favourite among the royals and just signed up by Sony Music India. They really were the perfect blend of modernity and old school rhythms.'

The days leading up to the wedding and the big day itself were catered with an array of wonderful foods to satisfy the needs of every guest including a silver thali vegetarian dinner on their wedding day.

Having the wedding location set in one of India's more hidden-away places gave the couple a great excuse to lay out a wealth of excursions for their guests, including safari tours and hot air balloon rides during their stay. As if that wasn't enough, Silver coins were also presented to the guests imprinted with Anjhula and Satish and the wedding date on one side and the image of Tirupati ji (believed to be the incarnation of Lord Vishnu) on the other side.

### PERFECT PICTURE

While many wedding videos are long, rambling affairs with little rhyme or reason, theirs was nothing short of a veritable masterpiece. Shot, directed and edited by the critically acclaimed cinematographers Couture Cinema of LA, who flew out to cover the wedding and ensure the end result was good ▷







◁ enough to rival any Hollywood blockbuster!

Said Anjhula: ‘These are the same people who covered supermodel Coco Rocha’s wedding in Paris, and I must say, looking through my own video, it looks every bit as glittering as I remembered it.’

As for the still images, celebrity photographers Akash Das, Rahul Dutta and Cimmaron Singh took to their cameras as a personal favour to the couple, providing mind-blowing shots from the day, injecting every shot with their inimitable dose of magic.

**FONDEST MEMORIES**

For the happy couple it was essential that above anything else their intimate affair made a positive impression on everyone. Looking back, Anjhuna said: ‘It was important to know that my guests had never seen anything like it and that our

“ Seeing myself dressed up as a princess in a palace with my prince by my side, I realised this was the moment I was living out my dreams ”

occasion literally made their day... if not their week! And hopefully, it made some realise that you can have a lavish ceremony while being mindful of the world we live in. As well as donating all gifts to charity, we kept everything sustainable, monitored our carbon footprint and gave back to the local community. This accrued a lot of blessings.’

One of the most enjoyable moments during the guests stay was the Elephant polo during the Sangeet. The bride’s friends played against the groom’s side, who won by one goal! The beautifully decorated elephants (all nine of them!)

raised their trunks to salute all their guests, whilst one elephant garlanded the couple with its trunk!

As a treat Satish and Anjhula took 20 close friends on a tiger safari in Rathambore, Gem Palace in Jaipur and the Taj Mahal in Agra to end what was an awe-inspiring union. And that’s all before the honeymoon!

Says Anjhula: ‘Every little girl dreams of having a fairytale wedding. There were moments during my wedding, seeing myself dressed up as a princess in my palace with my princely man by my side that I had to accept that this was the moment I was living out all my dreams.’ □

