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Biggest ever turnout**

**The 3rd Edition of
Bharat Diamond Week**

**Messika Shined in
The Celebrity World**

**Special Rate Announced
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**4th Edition of
COUTURE India
DAZZLES IN
NEW DELHI**

Artistic Approaches of Indian Jewellery

In India, the custom of ornamenting the human body has been practiced since the earliest times. While ornaments can be fashioned from a variety of materials, the term 'jewellery' implies the use of gems and precious stones. The earliest evidence of jewellery in ancient India dates from 2500 BC in the Indus Valley civilization which flourished in western and northwestern India. Excavated



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Jewellery Courtesy: Raniwala Jewellers, Jaipur

figurines show lavish ornaments worn variety by the inhabitants. Relics recovered from the ruined sites show that beads were fashioned in precious and semi-precious stones, and these were also exported to as far as Mesopotamia.

Though few pieces from the classical period of Indian history (the beginning of the Christian era to the 12th century AD) which established the basic styles of traditional Indian jewellery which continue to be popular till this day. Both men and women wore a profusion of jewellery. The ability

to recognize and judge the quality of gems and to distinguish between real and imitation gold was considered to be the mark of a cultured individual in ancient India.

While the early Muslim invasions did

not have much impact upon traditional styles, the coming of the Mughals infused distinct Persian styles into India. The Mughal emperor Akbar the Great, a contemporary of Queen Elizabeth I of England, however, sought a deliberate synthesis of Persian and Indian styles. He established court workshops for all the crafts where Hindu and Muslim craftsmen worked together. Under the lavish patronage of the Mughal court, jewellers and goldsmiths flourished and as a result beautiful articles of jewellery it was at this

time that the technique of enamelling, or Minakari was developed and perfected in India, as was the famous Kundan work of the Mughal court jewellers

In Europe, from Roman times onwards, India has been famous as the land of spices and fabled jewels. In the past many marvellous emeralds, rubies, sapphires and pearls, in addition to diamonds, found their way from India to the courts of Europe. One of the most famous of Indian diamonds, the Kohinoor, is set in the British Crown Jewels. The Kohinoor is said to have originated in Golconda in the Deccan, where the most renowned diamond mines were located.

While Indian craftsmen understood the art of cutting and polishing stones scientifically, they primarily concerned with creating overall aesthetically beautiful ornaments and not involved in the creation of fire and sparkle in individual stones. As a result, pieces of Indian jewellery often include flawed stones; as long as





Jewellery Courtesy:
P. C. Totuka & Sons, Jaipur

they were otherwise suitable in shape and colour, they were considered passable. Prized jewels were set into turban ornaments or used as necklace pendants. Those in royal treasuries were often engraved with the owner's name. Stones were commonly set by

The best pieces came from Jaipur in Rajasthan. Now days there are three major enamelling centres in India, each with its own distinctive traditional style - at Jaipur, Varanasi and Lucknow. The craftsmen of Jaipur have maintained the skills for which they were renowned in the court of the imperial Mughals. Jaipur enamel on gold is still considered outstanding among all. Varanasi is known for its pink enamel in which large areas of dominant white are over painted with pink floral motifs. Lucknow enamel is done mainly on silver and had traditionally been used on silver objects d'art and is less common on jewellery. Lesser enamelling centres exist in Delhi and Nathdwara in Rajasthan.



Jewellery Courtesy:
Nine Jewellery, Jaipur

Unique glasses for Thewa Jewellery are treated by a special process to give a glittering effect, highlights the intricate gold work. The motifs used on Thewa jewellery are reflecting the culture, heritage and tales of romance and values of