

# artsentertainment

## New book examines Hindu wedding traditions in the U.S.

FROM NEWS DISPATCHES

Actress Jacqueline Fernandez, who stars opposite Amitabh Bachchan in "Aladin," as well as fashion designers Satya Paul and Deepika Gehani from the house of Genesis Colors were among the celebrity guests at the launch of a new book that examines wedding traditions of Indian-American Hindus.

"Bollywood Weddings" by London-based author Kavita Ramdya was launched Nov. 22 at Mint Leaf Restaurant & Bar in the British capital. Festivities included a fashion show, dinner and cocktails, a magic show and a DJ, a press release said.



Guest of Honour Jacqueline Fernandez with Sanjay Kapoor, Managing Director of Satya Paul and author Kavita Ramdya

Fernandez, the guest of honor and Miss Sri Lanka 2006, joined Paul and Gehani in staging the fashion show, which displayed the designers' fall/winter 2009 collections. The fashion show, in fact, paid tribute to the book.

Chapter 3 of "Bollywood Weddings" examines four disparate bridal outfits worn by Indian-American Hindu brides at their weddings including a white Caroline Herrera gown, a red dress from Macy's, a custom-made gold outfit based on a lehenga seen in a Bollywood film, and a traditional red-and-white South Indian wedding sari, the press release said. Many of Paul and Gehani's designs were created as wedding wear either for the bride or guests.

Ramdya, who was born in

New York City and raised in Long Island, writes about popular culture and current events for a variety of publications, including News India Times.

"Bollywood Weddings" offers an anthropological study of Indian-American Hindu weddings in the New York tri-state area, and is based on interviews with 20 couples.

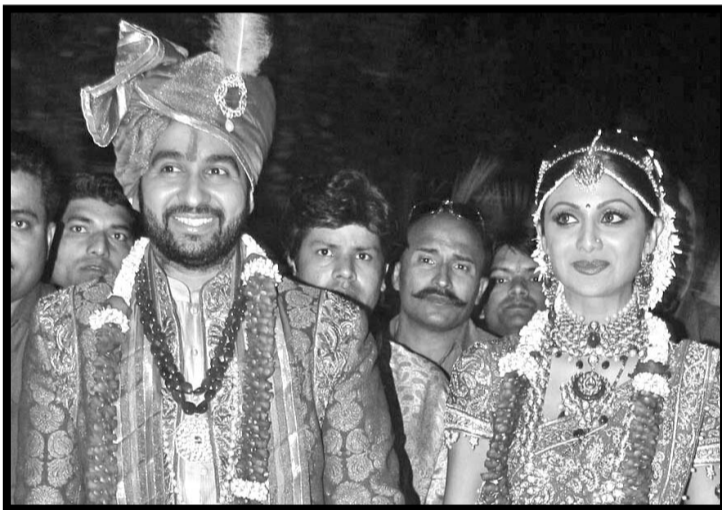
According to Ramdya's Web site, [www.bollywood-weddings.com](http://www.bollywood-weddings.com), the book deals with a range of topics from how to find the right mate to how ancient and modern traditions mingle in a Hindu wedding ceremony in the U.S. to how Bollywood emerges as a significant force in formulating conceptions of love and identity among the diaspora.

## Shilpa Shetty marries London-based businessman

— KHANDALA, Maharashtra  
C lad in a red sari and flaunting diamonds and emeralds, Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty exchanged wedding vows with London-based businessman Raj Kundra in a close-knit family affair in this Maharashtra hill station on Nov. 22.

"Everything went very well. All parents want their children to get married happily and that goes the same for Shilpa's parents as well. They are very happy," Kiran Bawa, Shetty's friend and business partner, said after the wedding.

"Raj and Shilpa both were very nervous before the marriage but now they are happy. We are going straight to Raj's house in Mumbai," she added. Wearing a red sari designed by Tarun Tahiliani, the 34-year-old



Bollywood Actress Shilpa Shetty and London based businessman Raj Kundra pose for the media after their marriage Ceremony in Khandala.

actress married Kundra in a ceremony according to the Bunt tradition of the Mangalorean community the Shettys belong to.

Dressed in a maroon sherwani with golden embroidery and a turban with his face veiled by a sehra (string of pearls), Kundra held a sword in his hand

as he left Amrit Villa, about five minutes away from Bawa Villa, where the wedding was held, in a two-horse chariot. Photographers scrambled to capture the goings-on while curious star-gazers were kept at bay by private and police security.

The wedding was the climax of the two-day festivities that included a sangeet ceremony Nov. 21. "Raj and Shilpa gave a beautiful performance. Shilpa danced to the song 'Mere hathon mein naun naun chudiyon' and Raj did a Michael Jackson performance, which was beautiful," Bawa said. "Instead of being a businessman, Raj should have taken acting as his career."

The sangeet ceremony was a small affair and attended by close friends and family.

— IANS

## Actress says proud to play Amitabh's mother



— NEW DELHI

Bollywood actress Vidya Balan, who is playing Amitabh Bachchan's mother in her forthcoming movie "Paa," seems quite pleased with her role.

"After this role, I can proudly tell my children and grandchildren that Big B was my first child," the actress said about playing mother to the 67-year-old megastar. "Not even in my wildest dreams had I thought of playing mother to the living legend of the industry."

"It was a humbling experience to work with Bachchanji. This is a very special movie for me," said the actress who has starred in films such as "Parineeta" and "Lage Raho Munna Bhai."

Balan is paired with Abhishek Bachchan in "Paa," based on an emotional father-son relationship. Amitabh will be seen as Abhishek's 13-year-old son who is suffering from a rare disease progeria, that accelerates ageing. The film is scheduled for a Dec 4 release.

— IANS

## Is Elizabeth Hurley tiring of all things Indian?

— LONDON

British model Elizabeth Hurley's failure to turn up at India-themed events, including the launch of a fundraiser for victims of the Nov. 26 terror attacks in Mumbai, has prompted a British newspaper columnist to ask if she is "tiring of all things Indian."

"Mandrake asks only because the actress-turned-businesswoman was conspicuous by her absence at the launch of 'To India With Love,' a fundraising book for the victims of the Mumbai terrorist attacks, to which she had contributed," broadcaster and theater critic Tim Walker noted in his Daily Telegraph "news and



Reuters

gossip" column. "Her no-show followed an even more surprising absence earlier this month, at the Royal Rajasthan Gala," Walker said in the column titled "Mandrake."

Hurley is married to Indian-born businessman Arun Nayar.

"It was very disappointing. Her absence certainly raised eyebrows," the column quoted a guest as saying at the gala dinner at the Banqueting House in Whitehall, hosted by the erstwhile maharaja of Jodhpur to launch the Indian Head Injury Foundation.

The erstwhile maharaja, Gaj Singh II, hosted Hurley and Nayar's second wedding reception at the Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur in 2007.

In March, the same column disclosed that friends of the couple were concerned about the relationship between Hurley and Nayar.

"Earlier this month, I reported that Hurley, 44, was said by pals to have reluctantly accepted that she was unlikely to have a baby with Nayar, who has no children from his first marriage," said the column, published Nov. 21.

"She told OK! magazine the other day that Damian, her seven-year-old son from a brief relationship with Steve Bing, the American businessman, 'doesn't want us to add to our family under any circumstances.'"

— IANS