A grand Indian wedding

Anant Ambani, the youngest son of Asia's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, is marrying Radhika Merchant, daughter of pharmaceutical tycoons. The wedding celebrations, spanning four months, have drawn significant public attention due to their **extravagance**. Described as a "**royal** wedding," the events include **luxurious** outfits, stunning **jewelry**, and performances by both Indian and global stars. Writer Shobhaa De notes that such **grandeur** is expected from billionaires like the Ambanis, comparing them to modern maharajahs.

However, the wedding has sparked **criticism** in a country where many live in **poverty**, highlighting extreme income **inequality**. Commentator Santosh Desai points out that such **lavish** weddings reflect a cultural shift where wealth is now openly displayed.

The Ambani family's vast business **empire** covers industries like oil, telecom, chemicals, and fashion. Mukesh Ambani's **fortune** is estimated at $115 billion. The family's wealth and influence are well-known in India, though their **opulent** lifestyle has become more **apparent** to the global audience recently.

The pre-wedding celebrations included a grand party in Gujarat attended by celebrities like Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates. Events featured performances by Rihanna, The Backstreet Boys, Katy Perry, and Andrea Bocelli. A cruise along Italy's Tyrrhenian Sea was also part of the **festivities**. Justin Bieber performed in Mumbai, adding to the series of high-profile events.

While some view the wedding as excessively extravagant, it underscores a trend of increasingly lavish Indian weddings. Despite mixed reactions, the wedding remains a major talking point, showcasing India's love for grand celebrations and providing a significant marketing opportunity for designers and event planners.

Vocabulary and Definitions

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1. **Extravagance**: Excessive spending of money; more than necessary.
2. **Royal**: Relating to a king, queen, or their family.
3. **Luxurious**: Very comfortable and expensive.
4. **Jewelry**: Decorative items worn on the body, such as rings, necklaces, or bracelets.
5. **Grandeur**: Splendor and impressiveness, especially of appearance or style.
6. **Criticism**: The expression of disapproval based on perceived faults or mistakes.
7. **Poverty**: The state of being extremely poor.
8. **Inequality**: The unequal distribution of wealth or resources in a society.
9. **Lavish**: Very rich, elaborate, or luxurious.
10. **Empire**: A large group of businesses controlled by one person or company.
11. **Fortune**: A very large amount of money.
12. **Opulent**: Ostentatiously rich and luxurious or lavish.
13. **Apparent**: Clearly visible or understood; obvious.
14. **Festivities**: The events of a celebration or festival.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about spending a lot of money on weddings?
2. How do you feel about the criticism of extravagant weddings in a country with many poor people?
3. Why do you think grand celebrations are important for some people?

True or False Questions

1. Anant Ambani is the youngest son of Mukesh Ambani.
2. The wedding celebrations lasted for one month.
3. The wedding has not drawn any criticism.
4. Celebrities like Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates attended the pre-wedding party.
5. Justin Bieber did not perform at the wedding.

Cloze Quiz

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Anant Ambani, the youngest son of Asia's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, is marrying Radhika Merchant, daughter of pharmaceutical tycoons. The wedding _____ (1), spanning four months, have drawn significant public attention due to their _____ (2). Described as a "royal wedding," the events include _____ (3) outfits, stunning jewelry, and performances by both Indian and global stars. Writer Shobhaa De notes that such grandeur is expected from billionaires like the Ambanis, comparing them to modern maharajahs.

However, the wedding has sparked _____ (4) in a country where many live in poverty, highlighting extreme income _____ (5). Commentator Santosh Desai points out that such lavish weddings reflect a cultural shift where wealth is now openly displayed.

The Ambani family's vast business empire covers industries like oil, telecom, chemicals, and fashion. Mukesh Ambani's _____ (6) is estimated at $115 billion. The family's wealth and influence are well-known in India, though their opulent lifestyle has become more _____ (7) to the global audience recently.

The pre-wedding celebrations included a grand party in Gujarat attended by celebrities like Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates. Events featured performances by Rihanna, The Backstreet Boys, Katy Perry, and Andrea Bocelli. A _____ (8) along Italy's Tyrrhenian Sea was also part of the festivities. Justin Bieber performed in Mumbai, adding to the series of high-profile events.

While some view the wedding as excessively extravagant, it underscores a trend of increasingly lavish Indian weddings. Despite mixed opinions, the wedding remains a major talking point, showcasing India's love for grand _____ (9) and providing a significant marketing opportunity for designers and event planners.

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Quiz Answers

True or False Questions:

1. Anant Ambani is the youngest son of Mukesh Ambani. (True)
2. The wedding celebrations lasted for one month. (False)
3. The wedding has not drawn any criticism. (False)
4. Celebrities like Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates attended the pre-wedding party. (True)
5. Justin Bieber did not perform at the wedding. (False)

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