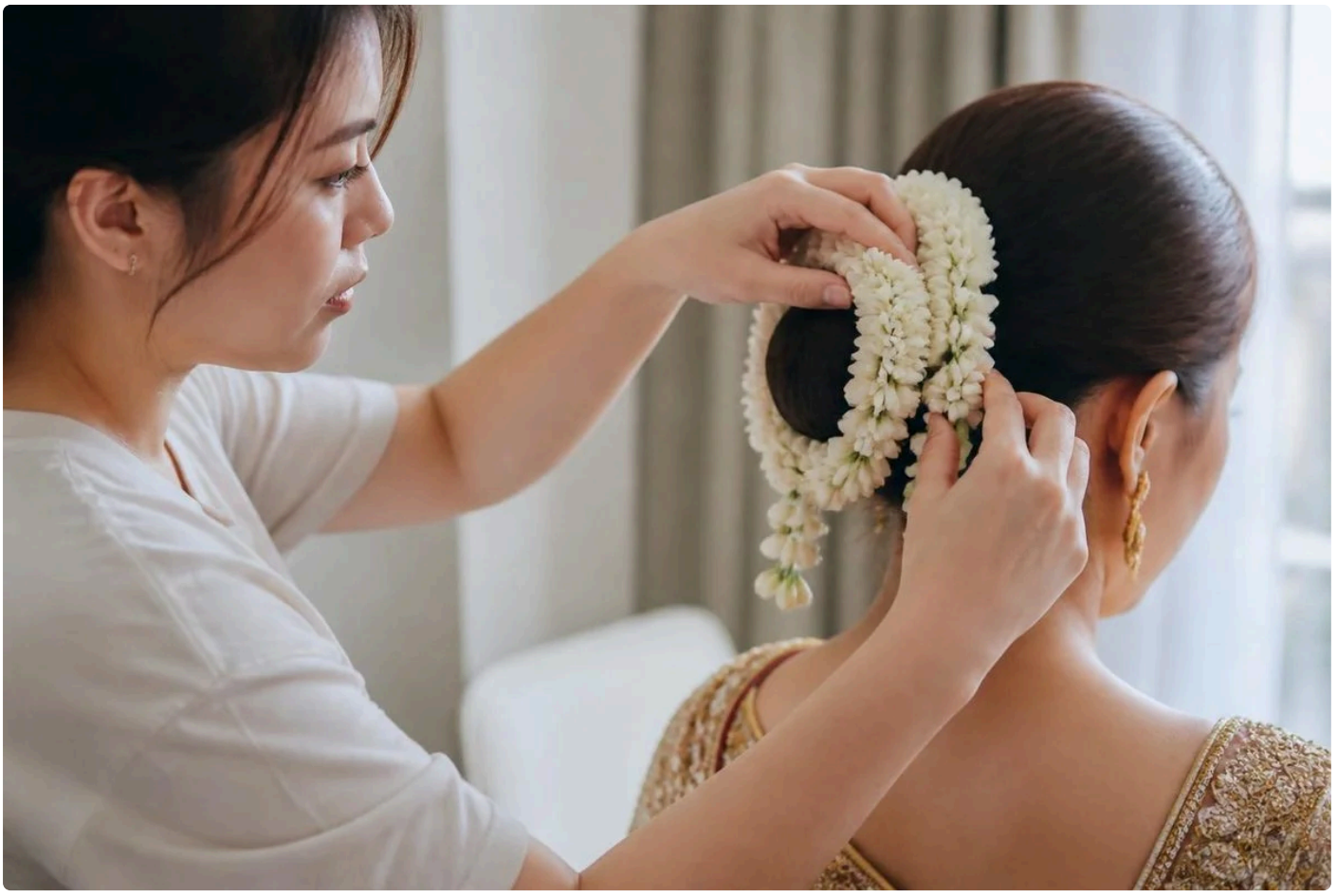

At Indian weddings, jasmine garlands may be worn in the hair, added to decorations or included in the flower strings exchanged by the couple. Their fine white blooms and fragrance make them a familiar choice, but practices differ among regions, families and ceremonies.

Jasmine worn as a hair adornment

A well-known way to wear jasmine is as a gajra, a flower string placed around a bun or woven into a braid. This style is especially common at South Indian weddings. A gajra might circle the head neatly, or run along the full length of a long braid.

Brides, guests and other members of the wedding party may all wear one. The length and shape can be chosen to suit the hairstyle and the wearer's preferred appearance. Some gajras are made only with jasmine, while others mix it with additional flowers.

Jasmine's scent can be quite strong, so a modest amount may be enough. Its fragrance can be a pleasant part of a lengthy celebration, but it will not prevent all the discomfort that dancing in hot weather can bring.

Garlands in wedding rituals

In many Indian wedding ceremonies, the couple place flower garlands on each other. The exchange is often known as the varmala or jaimala. It is commonly seen as a sign of accepting one another, although its timing and significance vary across communities.

Jasmine can appear in these garlands, alongside or instead of other flowers. Roses, marigolds and other blooms are also used. Some garlands are straightforward strings, while others are fuller designs combining several flower

types.

Jasmine strings may also be used by some families to decorate ceremonial areas or objects. No one arrangement represents every Indian wedding. Families may follow practices connected to their community, or select flowers simply to suit their own taste.

Flowers for the wedding setting

Jasmine strings add fragrance and texture to a celebration space. They can be displayed by themselves or combined with greenery and other flowers. Because the blossoms are small, they work for both close-up details and broader floral displays.

- Hang strings around an entrance or doorway.
- Place them around the edges of the ceremony space.
- Arrange short strands among flowers on a table.
- Combine jasmine with roses or marigolds in a floral display.

Fresh jasmine needs attention, especially in warm conditions. Store it somewhere cool before use, and arrange it nearer to the event so it stays looking fresh. The florist or person preparing the flowers can recommend suitable timing for the venue and setup.

Jasmine may be a subtle detail in someone's hair or one part of a larger display. The choice depends on the couple and their families, the customs they observe and the flowers they like.

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