The term ‘jewel’ comes from the old French word *joule* – as something that gives ‘joy’. So, by ‘jewel’ is implied everything that gives joy when worn. In India, the joy derived from adornment was not restricted to precious metals or even precious gems. Shells, feathers, bone, ivory, and all kinds of beads were fashioned into body decorations to give pleasure when worn. In religion, literature and poetry, jewels and gems are used as metaphors for character, beauty, and physical attributes. The entire cosmos – earth and beyond is incorporated into the materials and designs of Indian jewellery.
Brooch
Indus Valley, Harappa
c. 2600-1900 BCE
Gold, steatite
Acc. No.49.254/5
Bangle (*kada*)
Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
19th century
Gold, diamonds, rubies, enamel
Acc. No.57.105/2 (b)
Necklace

Indus Valley, Mohenjodaro

C. 2600-1900 BCE

Gold, jade, agate, steatite

Acc. No. 49.254/13
Pendant (*padakkam*)
Karnataka
Late 19th century
Gold, rubies, diamonds, emeralds
Acc. No. 57.105/3
Turban ornament (*sarpech*)
Rajasthan
19th century
Gold, diamonds, emeralds
Acc. No. 57.10/9
Armbands (bazuband)
Rajasthan
Late 19th century
Gold, diamonds, enamel
Acc. No. 57.10/5 (a-b)
Rama and Sita
South India
Early 19th century
Gold, rubies, emeralds
Acc. No. 80.357 & 80.358
Belt (*kamarband*)
North India
19th century
Gold, diamonds, rubies, enamel
Acc. No. 82.259
Nose ring (*balu*)
Himachal Pradesh
Early 20\textsuperscript{th} century
Gold, pearls, semi-precious stones
Acc. No. 87.1168
Marriage pendant (*tali*)
Chettinad, Tamil Nadu
19\textsuperscript{th} century
Gold
Acc. No. 88.623
Visiting Information

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