

Wealthy Indian Man Buys Himself \$200,000 Gold Shirt

Pankaj Parakh is a very rich man with very expensive tastes. He is a businessman and local politician from the town of Yeola, near the more well-known city of Mumbai. He made millions through his clothing empire. For his 45th birthday, Mr. Parakh gave himself quite a gift: a shirt made out of 4 kilograms of gold.



The gold used to make the shirt was 18 to 22 carats in purity. The shirt is made of solid gold, but it is smooth, comfortable, and flexible. A thin lining on the inside adds to its comfort. There are also seven solid gold buttons on the shirt.

The shirt is easy to care for. It can be washed and hang dried, it is easy to repair and maintain, and it comes with a lifetime guarantee of durability.

So how much does a 4-kilogram gold shirt cost?

The total value of the shirt is over \$200,000.

A jewelry shop located in Mr. Parakh's city Yeola, designed the gold shirt. But the shirt was created in Mumbai by a team of 20 highly-skilled artisans. These artisans spent a total of 3,200 hours working on the shirt.

Mr. Parakh likes to wear large amounts of gold even when he's not wearing his gold shirt. When he goes to weddings, he makes sure to wear at least three kilograms of gold.

His wife wears a modest 40 or 50 grams to these same weddings. As a matter of fact, Mr. Parakh actually wore more gold than his bride on their wedding day!

Mr. Parakh says he's always been fascinated by gold.

"Gold has always fascinated me since I was five years old and studying in school," Mr. Parakh said. "Over the years, I have become passionate about this royal metal. I never go out with less than two or three kilos of gold jewelry."

Mr. Parakh is especially proud of his wealth because he was once very poor. He had to drop out of school in 1982 to work for his family's clothing business. He worked very hard, and over the years he turned the struggling business into a successful clothing empire.

Mr. Parakh does not give only to himself, though. He is actively involved in projects that help poor people in India receive medical services. Not only that, he also volunteers his own time.

"I spend at least a week each year offering voluntary services at the 1,000-bedded hospital, the biggest and best for polio treatment in India," he said. "I also arrange for any requirements the poor patients have like food, medicines, surgery and blankets, from which I get immense satisfaction."

Mr. Parakh may have ridiculously expensive taste in clothing. He may like to show off his wealth a little too much. But he also does a lot to help less fortunate people, and people who know him say he's very caring and down-to-earth.