

The Eternal Sari

In ancient India, cloth was never stitched. Fabrics were draped, knotted and tucked. The sari is an amazing garment. A long strip of cloth can be draped one hundred and eight ways. Really!!! Saris were draped to cover the breasts, since cholis (blouses) were not invented until the Moghuls brought the concept of stitching. Many tribals still do not wear cholis. Fabrics for saris range from the lightest muslin to heavy silk brocades. For grace and beauty, there is nothing like a well draped sari.



Dear Friends,

The beautiful sari is **India's pride**. The grace and beauty of the drape and the colours of the saris are a sight for my eyes. From every state in India, comes a different weave, a different pattern, un-changed for hundreds of years.

The sari is very versatile. There are 106 registered ways to wear the sari, and still counting!

Most female tourists try on the sari and take pictures of themselves. All over the world, the sari is recognised as **inherently Indian**.

Many saris are handed down from mother to daughter and daughters-in-law for generations. The mothers give to her daughters the saris she brought in her trousseau. The new bride in the family receives the saris given to her by her mother-in-law. Most of them would have been worn once or twice. No alteration needed. **The sari adapts to every figure.**

I accept that the world has changed. Women drive cars, and the sari can get tangled in the clutch. Younger ladies drive scooters. The pallu may be a danger, as it flies in the wind. Jumping up into a bus needs two hands, and the pleats may trip the lady.

But for weddings, festivals and parties, saris rule. And what a beautiful sight it is! Reason enough to make it the theme of this year's Calendar! And celebrate the sari!!

Pradip Burman

ABOUT THE ARTIST

He's done it again! This was a tough one, and he did it. It took a long time, because there is little information and less pictures of the saris of India. It was an eye opener for all of us. There are thirty-two drapes for the sari! Most of them are not used anymore. But he researched. And even went to a sari museum in Ahmedabad. That is dedication. And then, he chooses the most difficult media, acrylic. If you put on paper, you can't get it off. Every stroke must be exact or the whole thing has to be discarded - and start again.

But he did it. Quickly. And perfectly. And on time.

We are still looking for a medium he can't use. Suggestions?

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Gautam Partho Roy

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According to Hindu mythology, Kanchi silk weavers are the descendants of **Sage Markanda**, the master weaver of the Gods, who is supposed to have woven tissue from lotus fibre. While cotton is considered to be the favourite fabric of Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu prefers silk. In ancient India, cloth was never stitched. Fabrics were draped, knotted and tucked.

The sari is an amazing garment. A long strip of cloth can be draped one hundred and eight ways. Really!!!

Saris were draped to cover the breasts, since cholis (blouses) were not invented until the Moghuls brought the concept of stitching. Many tribals still do not wear cholis. Fabrics for saris range from the lightest muslin to heavy silk brocades. Traditionally, cotton saris are worn in summer. In winter, silks keep you warmer. Synthetic fabrics are useful for office going ladies, since they don't crush. However, an air-conditioned environment is required, as synthetics keep you hot in summers and frigid in winters. Pallus are very useful. Mostly used to cover one's head, women also use it to clean a spot of dust, pick up hot dishes, **wipe children's tears and sometimes, their own.** The corners are used to **tie keys**, money and anything small that the lady wants to keep handy. Strangely, Kashmir - the coldest state - makes the finest, lightest silks. Whereas South India - the hottest part of India - produces heavy silks that drape like a dream. This does not mean that the saris woven in one state are worn only in that state. **Every lady needs a Banarasi sari**, with golden motifs and a heavy pallu, for **weddings and feasts.** Rajasthan's light cotton saris are worn all through the hot summer days. For grace and beauty, there is nothing like a well draped sari.

2019-2020

Andhra Pradesh



Venukagundaram



Gochi Kattu



Guda Kattu



Kaccha Kattu

Gunam P. P. 18

Bihar



Purnia



Bhagalpuri Silk



Madubani

Chhattishgarh



Chhattisgarhi



Sarguja



Variation Sarguja

Gujarat



Dangi



Parsi



Gujrati



Gujrati

Tharkhand



Santhal Pargana



Tussar Silk



Santhais



Ranchi Saiko

Kerala



Adivasi/Tribal



Danda Mundu



Maar Kachha



Namboothiri

Madhya Pradesh



Balaghat



Jhabua



Maheshwari & Chanderi



Balaghat

Maharashtra



Traditional Lavani



Shahi Mastani Nauvari



Irkal Nauvari



Warlit

Odisha



Kotapad



Kuncha



Meher



Bomkai Handloom

Tamil Nadu



Madisar



Traditional Madisar



Munn Kossavam



Madisar

Uttar Pradesh



Banarasi



Seedha Palla



Designer Banarasi



Chikankari

West Bengal



Cotton Handloom



Kantha Tussar



Baluchari Silk



Silk Jamdani