

wear this style with a Maggi sleeve or a three-quarter sleeve blouse with ruffles to channel your inner old-world Bengali diva!

RAJRANI

The Rajrani draping style hails from Gujarat. The anchal is brought to the front instead of throwing over the shoulder, and the right corner is pinned at the shoulder, giving the sari a formal and regal aura. This is a style made famous by the noblewomen of Gujarat for whom it was the drape of choice.

Perfect for weddings, receptions and other formal occasions, this style looks best if the sari is heavily embroidered. The Seedha Pallu style is a variation of this drape. The anchal is brought forward again instead of being thrown over the shoulder, and both ends are pinned at both sides of the waist.

MEKHALA

An elegant style, the Mekhala sari draping style consists of two parts. The bottom part is wrapped around the waist like a sarong with pleats while the upper part is thrown over the shoulder like a shawl. An Assamese style, it looks very regal when worn with the earthy, handloom saris unique to the region.

MOHINIATTAM

South Indian silk is coveted and treasured by women all over South Asia and beyond. This drape requires the wearer to choose a silk sari so as to retain its complicated shape. It begins like the Nivi drape, but the pleats are wrapped around the waist like a fan and secured tightly. Then the innermost layer is rolled outside. A drape favoured by dancers, this is a very traditional style.

NAUVARI

A drape unique to Maharashtra, this style does not require the use of a petticoat. The lower part is draped around the legs like pants, and the anchal is tightly wrapped around the shoulder. There is no pleating involved either. It is a very common style mostly sported by the hardworking, busy women in Mumbai.

KANDYAN

The Sri Lankan style of sari draping is traditional, yet feels modern. This style involves two pieces of sari. The pleats are not done at the centre but at the shoulder, and the anchal is tightly secured because of the pleats. The bottom part is free flowing and easy.

Each draping style is unique. Hidden inside the folds are a wealth of heritage and whispers of history. There is a story, an anecdote, a poem and maybe a song that tells to the world and envelopes its wearer in age-old feminine mystique and beauty. The sari is only half the story; it's the wearer who completes it!

By Sabrina N Bhuiyan

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