

The story of the paar

They say, parallel lines only meet at infinity. The paar — borders of saris running along the two edges — never do. The equidistant designs run along the sari; a magic in itself that works like a charm in the realm of fashion aesthetics.



Initially worn as a two-piece garment, the sari evolved into the present-day fabric with a jomin (the body of the sari), a paar (the border), and an anchol (the loose end after the drape) — three primary elements that make it an elegant attire.

The paar binds the jomin, and sometimes the anchol, creating an oeuvre that enchants women, and draws the attention of the onlookers to the intricacy that is the design of the sari. It also serves a very practical purpose: it borders the fabric of the jomin so that the weave does not fall apart. Usually made from thicker yarn, the paar is often stiffer than the rest of the sari so that it does not fold at the edge with wear.



Noted for their floral and geometric extravagance in designs, the Jamdani upholds a richness in the wide variation of motifs that the weavers interpret in the sari. In the past, animal figures were also present in the sari's patterns, which is now all set for a revival.

The paar of this particular textile is unique in the sense that they are translucent in nature, the arrangements juxtaposed on the sheer weave, which is often in the same colour and texture as the jomin. Most often in contrasting colours, the Jamdani paar is neither broad, nor short or narrow. It is in the taant saris of Tangail, and Northern regions where the size of the paar becomes a prominent feature.