

DRAPING THROUGH TIME

Contemporary twists on the classic sari

The sari, an emblematic attire of South Asian heritage, is not just a garment but a canvas that embodies tradition, elegance, and cultural identity. From time immemorial, this heritage has been passed down to us from our mothers and grandmothers and the generations before them. Yet, the draping of the sari keeps evolving. How the new generation is putting a fresh spin on this six-yard garment is truly amazing and our love for saris remains the same. So, let us walk you through the modern draping styles and the changing trends that are redefining this classic attire.

The classic drapes

When we think of wearing the sari, the nivi drape naturally comes to mind. It involves tucking one end of the sari into the waistband of a petticoat, wrapping it around the waist, and then draping the other end (the anchal) over the shoulder. The modern twist to the nivi drape includes experimenting with blouse designs, adding belts for a chic look, or even altering the anchal's fall for a more contemporary aesthetic.

There is a common misconception that a sari is a six-yard garment, but it is not! Saris can range from three yards to nine yards in length. This is where the traditional South Indian drape or the Madisar, comes in: an eight-to-nine-yard sari style typically worn by the ladies in Tamil Nadu. Unlike the nivi, it does not require a petticoat. It's wrapped around the body with a portion going between the legs and tucked at the back, resembling a pair of trousers for ease of movement.

On the other hand, the Bengali drape is renowned for its unique and traditional style. This drape is characterised by its main feature: the sari is wrapped around the waist, with two pleats placed in the front. The most distinctive aspect of the Bengali drape is the anchal, which comes from the back over the right shoulder, is then brought up under the right arm and once again thrown over the left shoulder. This double-layered anchal, often with exquisite borders, creates a graceful and cascading effect.

The avant-garde draping styles

Today's young generation does not want to confine themselves to a fixed way of wearing a sari. Therefore, changes are taking place.

