

CELEBRATE PAHela BAISHAKH RIGHT

Fresh colours, bold prints, new you

There was a time when Pahela Baishakh fashion was synonymous with red and white — crisp white cottons, bold red borders, and a touch of alta on the feet. And while this timeless combo still holds a special place in our hearts (and wardrobes), recent years have seen a delightful shift. The Bengali New Year is slowly shedding



its monochrome uniform and embracing a new canvas of colours, prints, and playful styling.

This year, we say: keep the spirit, ditch the cliché. Let's go beyond red and white.

Magenta magic

If there's one colour combination giving red and white a serious run for its money, it is white and magenta. The vibrancy of magenta brings in just the right amount of boldness without overwhelming the calmness of white. From handloom

A woman with dark hair styled in a bob, wearing a purple sari with a red and black checkered border. She is also wearing a black choker necklace. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

saris with magenta thread work to plain kameezes with printed or embroidered magenta dupattas that flow like summer breeze, this pairing is fast becoming a crowd favourite, and for good reason! It is festive, fresh, and oh-so-flattering.

Polka dots, please!

Who would've thought that the old-school charm of polka dots would become a Pahela Baishakh staple? But here we are; living and loving it. Polka dots bring an instant burst of fun to any outfit.

Whether it's a retro sari with oversized dots or a breezy kameez with tiny scattered ones, this peppy pattern adds movement, mischief, and a whole lot of personality. Bonus points if you pair it with chunky earrings and a messy bun.

Sunshine and teal dreams

Yellow is a classic for a reason — it is bright,

sunny, and it practically radiates joy. Pair it with teal, and you've got a combination that's equal parts cool and warm. Think teal kameez with yellow embroidery, or a mustard saree with teal blouse and accessories. It's perfect for that brunch-to-evening dinner transition.



Rise of prints and pastels

While bold colours are making a statement, pastels and soft florals aren't far behind. Blush pinks, powder blues, and mint greens are showing up in cotton and muslin sarees, often paired with quirky blouses or contrasting accessories.

Digital prints, hand-painted florals, and abstract motifs are also finding fans among those who prefer subtle elegance over loud hues.

Styling it your way

Gone are the days of rigid outfit rules. Mix

A woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a brown top with a floral pattern and a teal sari with a white floral border, sitting on a chair and looking directly at the camera.

and match is the way to go. Team your traditional saree with a crop top or a denim jacket, or your kameez over contrasting trousers to create your statement co-ord. Play with accessories — beads, silver jhumkas, glass bangles, or just a statement bag. The idea is to reflect the energy of the new year in your own way.

Pahela Baishakh has always been about the celebration of culture, of colour, and of community. And what better way to do that than by dressing in outfits that make you feel festive, fearless, and fabulous? Whether you're stepping out for a party, or lounging at a home dawat, this year, let your outfit be as joyful, vibrant, and diverse as the day itself.

By Nusrath Jahan

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed