

## Glory of Traditional Sari Draping Styles of India

Singh, Anita

**Received:** June 30, 2016 | **Accepted:** July 22, 2017 | **Online:** August 20, 2017

### Abstract

The traditional sari is a thing of wonder. It shows the skills of handloom workers- its weave and fabric indicating its geographic region. There are no such things as the Indian sari. Sari, by name it is a dress of women of India. Saris are also the expression of women's creativity and could inspire anyone. All the arts that have flourished in India, one of the least known and studied is that of draping. Fashion comes and goes, but sari draping remains the first love of every Indian girl when it comes to look gorgeous and feel feminine. There is a wide spectrum of styles that women from all state of society. Here are the some indian sari draping style i.e. Athpourey sari from Bengal, Nivi sari from Andhra Pradesh, Mekhela Chador from Assam, Nauvari sari from Maharashtra, MundumNariyathum sari from Kerala, SeedhaPallu from U.P., Gujrat and Rajasthan, Kunbi from Goa, Madisar sari from Tamilnadu, Phanek from Manipur, Santhal sari from Jharkhand.

**Keywords:** Sari | Draping | India | Traditional | Glory

### Introduction

A garment that is a true reflection of a woman's elegance and timelessness, India is a treasure trove of different sari varieties. And that's not all; each region has a unique sari draping style as well. Each state boasts of multiple ways the sari can be draped keeping in sync with the needs of the women there. There are many sari draping styles, a part from the regular way to wearing. These styles can make even one single sari look different everywhere you done it.

The basic requirement to drape sari-

- Sari- A long 6 yard drape one piece fabric to wrap around the body.
- Blouse- The essential need of sari, top wears which is almost like a crop top but in well fitting.
- Petticoat- Worn as bottom wears in a long inner skirt serving to carry the drape firmly.

Different traditions and cultures in India have different ways of draping sari in their particular style and method as well such

#### For Correspondence:

Dept. of Home Science, Chandrakanti Ramawati Devi  
Arya Mahila P.G. College, Gorakhpur  
E Mail: [anita4240@gmail.com](mailto:anita4240@gmail.com)

traditional wedding saris. Here are some most used drape styles with their method.

### **Athpourey sari from Bengal**

Bengali saris are well famous for the royal religious look, depicting the royal ethnic look of their Bengali culture. A sari in white and red border is the origin in the culture of Bengali puja rituals. Heavy saris with silk woven motifs and border look are highlighted by this drape. There are no lower drape pleats in this sari.

One of the most recognizable saris draping style is the Bengali style. Unlike the modern day sari, it has a box pleat at the front on both sides. Traditionally a bunch of keys was attached to the pallu thrown over the right shoulder.



### **Nivi sari from Andhra Pradesh**

Nivi style sari is the most common style of draping the sari that is not only seen in India but the World over. Its point of origin has been traced back to Andhra Pradesh.

A typical Nivi drape starts with one end of the sari tucked into a waist line of the petticoat and then wrapped around with the mid even pleats below the navel. These pleats are once again tucked into the waistline of the petticoat and the final pallu is wrapped on the upper part of the body.



### **Mekhela Chador from Assam**

Mekhela Chador is the traditional Assamese dress, worn by women of all ages except children. There are two main pieces of cloth that are draped around the body -

- The bottom portion, draped from the waist downwards, is called the Mekhela. A very wide cylinder of cloth that is folded into pleats to fit around the waist and tucked in. the folds are to the right, as apposed to the pleats in the Nivi style of sari, which are folded to the left.
- The top portion of the two piece dress, called the Chador, is a long length of cloth that has one end tucked into the upper portion of the Mekhela and the rest draped over and around the rest of the body.

### **Nauvari sari from Maharashtra**



Nauvari sari are also called Kacha sari. The Kache sari is also known as the Kasta sari and is essentially a traditional sari worn by women in India state of Maharashtra. In this style of sari, the garment is draped and then tucked at the back in order to create the illusion of wearing parts. Due to the fact that this style of sari actually uses a single cloth that measures 9 yards. In this sari women do not wear a petticoat under the garment.



### **Mundum Nariyathum sari from Kerala**

MundumNariyathum is the traditional style of clothing of the women in Kerala, South India. MundumNariyathum sari, the basic requirement is the traditional piece of clothing called as the Mundu or the lower garment while the Nariyathum is the upper garment that comes over the Mundu. The one side of the Nariyathu is appropriately tucked inside the petticoat that is also called as pavadi in Malayalam. A blouse is also worn beneath the Nariyathu and the Nariyathu is kept in a way that it reaches above the breast bone of the body. It is then taken over diagonally across the body from along the right hips towards the left shoulder that goes across the midriff. The remaining portion of

Nariyathu is left like a palla on the left shoulder.



### **Seedha Pallu from U.P., Gujarat and Rajasthan**

The gujarati way of draping a sari is also known as Seedha Pallu style. It is not only common in Gujarat, but also in U.P., M.P., Rajasthan and Bihar. This style of draping the sari makes you look slim too. Seedha Pallu is that while normal saree is draped in a clockwise manner with the pallu falling to your back, the Seedha Pallu was anticlockwise direction, with the pallu falling in the front and covering the chest with pleats. This way, the beautiful embroidery on the pallu can be showed off well.



### **Kunbi sari from Goa**

Originally the Kunbi sari was dyed in red and black and woven in small and large checks. This sari was originally worn without the choli, however it was worn with a simple blouse having puffed sleeves. Goan Gauda and Kunbise, use this style of wearing the kappad or the sari, a form of draping, fashioned by fastening a knot below the shoulder in the fabric, with a piece of cloth going across the left shoulder secured at the back.



### **Madisar sari from Tamilnadu**

The Madisar style drape of Tamil Nadu that is worn as part of their culture by the women of the Tamil Nadu is a long sari wrapped around the body and legs in a trouser style. Thus not require one to wear a petticoat. It follows the arghanareeshwara style of draping, meaning half men and half women. The lower half is draped like a dhoti while the upper half is pleated like sari.



### **Phanek sari from Manipur**

A traditional Manipuri costume for women includes a shawl known as Innaphi, a wrap around cloth known as Phanek. The Phanek is usually worn as a mini sari with a blouse and an upper cloth. They are mostly hand woven and are available only in black color's or stripes. In Innaphis worn by Manipuri women resemble the modern innovation of a wraparound skirt.



### **Santhal sari from Jharakhand**

Traditional Santhal saris are characterized by their chequard pattern. One of the simplest saris to drape, it has evolved over the years with an improvement in the economic status of the tribe. It has a box pleat at the front and the pallu is pulled over the left shoulder in a big triangle. The rest of the pallu is tucked in a front.



## References

- BalasurepramanianDeepa. Nivi- Modern Sari Drape that originated from Andhra Pradesh. [www.Kostalife.com](http://www.Kostalife.com).
- Ballika, Vanali. Traditional Saris of Goa. [www.Fibre2fashion.com](http://www.Fibre2fashion.com).
- ChakrabartiSulagna (2017). 18 Traditional Sari Draping Styles from different parts of INDIA. [www.craftswilla.com](http://www.craftswilla.com).
- Different styles of wearing a Saris. [www.ayushveda.com](http://www.ayushveda.com).
- GoenkaShruti (2016). 7 Different ways to wear a Sari with tutorials for trendy newlywed brides. [www.googleweblight.com](http://www.googleweblight.com).
- Gujrati Bridal Sari draping style. [www.Saries.guide.com](http://www.Saries.guide.com).
- Mekhela Chador. [www.googleweblight.com](http://www.googleweblight.com).
- Nauvarisaro and Kacha style Draping (2016). [www.utsavpedia.com](http://www.utsavpedia.com).
- Sari draping- learn step by step how to wear sari in a different styles. (2014). [www.g3fasion.com](http://www.g3fasion.com).
- SenguptaSreoshi (2016). How to Drape: Mundum Nariyathum or Karala Kasavu Sari. [www.Thebridalbox.com](http://www.Thebridalbox.com).
- [www.utsavpedia.com](http://www.utsavpedia.com)