

# Sari Over Jeans, Belt Over Sari - New Fashion Fads In India

BY RADHIKA BHIRANI

India's traditional six-yard wonder is igniting imaginations anew. The sari, say fashion designers, can be worn over a pair of jeans or jazzed up with a sexy slim belt for a trendy look.

Designers like Tarun Tahiliani and Nida Mahmood showcased the sari in new avatars at the recently concluded Wills Lifestyle India Fashion Week (WIFW) here. What's more, young girls are all for these innovative styles.

Kanika Rastogi, 19, says she was resisting the idea of wearing a sari for her sister's wedding for the fear of looking older until she saw models flaunting Tahiliani's saris with a belt.

"I would never have thought of wearing a sari for my sister's wedding. I didn't want to look old. But when I saw models wearing saris with belts, I thought it would make me look really cool. So that's just what I am going to do now - save money by not buying an expensive lehenga and wear a sari stylishly instead," Rastogi told IANS.

When asked about his innovative accessorising of the traditional outfit, Tahiliani said: "Belts can be used over saris by slim and tall people. It accentuates the waist, looks sexy and adds style as well as youthfulness to the outfit."

The designer, who is making Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty's wedding trousseau, says adding a silver or gold belt - a modern alternative to the good old 'kamarbandh' - over a sari also gives a Greek look to the attire.

"The Indian and Greek styles of dressing are

all about draping - and very similar. They usually wear waist bands over gowns so these belts work to add that extra bit of Indo-Western look to a sari," he said.

Young designer Nida Mahmood says it's the coolest thing to wear saris over jeans - a fashion statement she herself made at WIFW.

"The idea of wearing saris over jeans is my interpretation of wearing a sari in a trendy manner. This is a trend that youngsters can follow for any casual party. It looks very good, especially if you are carrying the outfit with the right accessories and look," Mahmood said.

Others like Jai-Parvesh and Hemant-Nandita also have suggestions to make. Both designer duos swear by pre-pleated and lehenga saris, which are easy to wear and carry at the same time.

While pre-pleated saris are like skirts with pleats stitched on to them, lehenga saris have a flowing silhouette (kali) below, and has a heavy pallu replacing a well-draped dupatta on the left shoulder.

Said Jai: "Young girls look for easy attires these days. With something like a pre-pleated sari or a lehenga sari, one doesn't need to be bothered about pleating a sari. You just have to slip in or tuck it at one place. That's what is attracting a lot of girls these days."

Twenty six-year-old Sonakshi Sharma seconded the idea.

She said, "Who has the time and patience to visit a parlour each time before going to a wedding just to get a sari draped? So these sort of attires work well. Just wear it as if you are wearing a skirt - and you look decked up without much ado!"



*A model flaunts an easy to wear lehenga sari by designer Parvesh-Jai. Such trends are catching up among young girls who wish to look trendy and cool even while wearing a sari.*

## Designer Wear Replica Beckons In Delhi's Bylanes

If a sari by Sabyasachi Mukherjee or a lehenga by Manish Malhotra seems out of reach, try visiting the crowded lanes of Chandni Chowk in Delhi's old quarter. The replicas there promise to jazz up every woman's bridal wardrobe even as they give nightmares to designers.

Anarkali Bazar, squeezed between an array of shops offering colorful bridal wear in Delhi's old quarter of Chandni Chowk, is one such outlet. The mannequins on display proudly flaunt designer labels.

Go inside and ask the owner, Ashok Arora, whether the lehengas are actually designed by these top-notch designers, and he candidly shakes his head.

"They are copies. We copy the original designs and offer them to our customers at much cheaper prices. Not everyone can afford these expensive designers, so we are the solution," Arora told IANS.

"You can get any design from the net and my in-house designer team will give you an exact replica of the same design. It would be so close to the original design that it would be difficult for you to differentiate between the copy and the original," he added.

Asked if he was not afraid of copyright violation, Arora said: "I am not the only one. The most important thing is that the designs they create are out of the common man's reach. A middle class woman also dreams of wearing a designer lehenga but it is so expensive that she can't afford it." "This is how the idea came. To make the dreams of bride-to-be to come true. We have our in-house designers and even if you get your own picture, I will copy that perfectly in a dress - that is the level of perfection we have," he added.

The cost of these lehengas ranges from Rs.40,000-Rs.100,000 - half or even one-third of the price of the original creations.

# Vibrant Rajasthani Attire



BY RANISHARMA

The culturally rich state of Rajasthan conjures up images of picturesque sand dunes, beautiful palaces and men and women in vibrant clothing. The essence of this cultural richness is captured in Rajasthani fashion that has transcended the state's borders into international haute couture.

Rajasthani fashion is the new rage- be it parties, everyday wear, evening wear or bridal parties. The bride herself can be dressed in colorful Rajasthani lehngas and saris for the mehndi party, the pujas and the various other ceremonies leading up to her wedding.

A fine possibility for a wedding related ceremonies or just about any party is a fine bandhni solid color sari on gajji silk with the focus on light sequence embroidery.

The bride herself can be dolled up in this (see picture) fine crushed silk lehnga on kathan fabric with a beautiful 4-inch border and a net dupatta. The ensemble is in two complimentary colors with an antique finish.



Keep the makeup bright, to be in synch with your colorful clothes.

For men, the latest trend is to pair a V-neck in brocade or jamdhani, kurta (with beautiful embroidery on the neckline) with patiala salwar. A loop on the sleeve at the elbow in a contrast color completes the effect. The inside of the collar has the same color as the loop.

Rajasthan has a rich tradition of hand printed fabrics. The gujari art is one of them. Although the fabric is today mass produced, the authentic Gujari skirts, lehngas and kurtis are found only in fine emporiums in India.

The bagru print is the art of block printing on cotton. The art comes from the Bagru village near Jaipur where it has thrived for several centuries. The motifs are very distinctive - rich natural colors like black, maroon, or mustard green on beige cotton fabric.

Today, gujari and bagru have caught on the imagination of the urban fashion conscious. These trendy cottons are accessorized with antique silver jewelry.

For more info call me at 404-633-4966.

