

According to Hindu belief, gold and silver are considered as sacred metals. Gold is symbolic of the warm sun, while silver suggests the cool moon. Jewellery had great status with India's royalty



INDIAN FASHION

(By Sharada D Rao)

Sari, (sometimes also Saree) a women's garment from the Indian subcontinent, that consists of an un-stitched stretch of woven fabric arranged over the body as a robe, with one end attached to the waist, while the other end rests over one shoulder as a stole (shawl), sometimes bearing a part of the midriff. It may vary from 4.1 to 8.2 metres in length, and 60 to 120 centimetres (24 to 47 inches) in breadth, and is form of ethnic wear in India. There are various names and styles of sari manufacture and draping, the most common being the Nivi style. The sari is worn with a fitted bodice also called a choli (ravike or kuppasa in southern India, and a petticoat called ghagra, parkar, or ul-pavadai. It remains fashionable in the Indian subcontinent today. The history of sari-like drapery can be traced back to the Indus Valley civilisation, which flourished during 2800–1800 BCE around the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. Cotton was first cultivated and woven on the Indian subcontinent around the 5th millennium BCE. Dyes used during this period are still in use, particularly indigo, lac, red madder and turmeric. Silk was woven around 2450 BCE and 2000 BCE.

Bridal costumes of India

Attire is extremely important in an Indian wedding. The bride is usually dressed up in auspicious colors. Many of the guests attending the wedding wear gold jewelry including the bride and sometimes the groom. The women are additionally adorned with henna patterns on their palms, hand, forearms, legs, and feet. Indian Hindu weddings continue for several days. India is a country that defines diversity, and this is visible even in the wedding and its different styles. The ceremonies, the rituals, and the formalities are all different in each region and culture. Hindu wedding ceremonies do not resemble western marriages and are quite elaborate. In the North, Starting with the Tilak ceremony, each function has significance in the marriage. Tilak, Sangeet, Haldi, Baraat and the Shaadi, all necessitate the Bride and the bridegroom to wear new attire at each occasion. The bride wears a wedding sari or lehenga according to the region. In Indian culture, the wedding dress of bride comes from groom's side as a shagun. Red is considered to be the most auspicious color among Hindus. While the sari is preferred as the bridal dress in South India, West, East India, traditional wear such as the mekhela sador is preferred in North-east India and brides of the North of India prefer Lehenga,

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