



Saris of India **Tradition and Beyond** **Rta Kapur Chishti**

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- An unmatched and comprehensive documentation of the sari, exploring weaving, printing, and draping traditions across 15 sari-producing states, covering hundreds of regional styles and techniques
- With richly illustrated with hundreds of photographs and detailed diagrams, **Saris of India** celebrates the aesthetic, social and symbolic dimensions of India's most iconic garment
- Serves as a vital reference for fashion and textile designers, researchers, historians, and anyone interested in heritage crafts, sustainable fashion or cultural identity

The sari is the most representative apparel of India that has intrigued men and tempted women all over the world. Worn in a variety of ways, the sari is a fabric-length of varying densities in its body, borders and end pieces often woven by combining a range of cottons and silks in colors and patterns that are constantly evolving. **Saris of India** is an exhaustive overview of this fascinating unstitched garment and a cutting-edge documentation of design and all that supports it socially, culturally and economically.

Traveling district by district, village by village, the book explores an entire spectrum of traditional weaver and printer settlements in fifteen sari-producing states of India. Thus emerges the first comprehensive compilation of the whole range and scale of the sari: the structures, designs, colors, the format, and technology that make up the lingua of the sari; the inspiration, living experience and sensibilities of the weaving and printing communities; their economic viability and market system; and their predicament in an age of transition.

For the first time, this book offers a step-by-step guide for at least 108 ways of draping the sari, through a series of line drawings and color photographs, after revealing the rationale of the varying lengths and widths of the sari in the distinctive wearing styles of every region. Produced after 20 years of research, **Saris of India** illustrates the vibrancy and splendor of this age old garment through extensive documentation and stunning photographs. A vivid account of how saris come into being for the lay reader and the specialist – be they textileists, designers, scholars or developers who will find this book equally engaging.

Rta Kapur Chishti is the co-author and editor of previously published *Saris of India* volumes on Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal as well as *Handcrafted Indian Textiles – Tradition and Beyond*. She has been a contributing author to several other publications. As a writer and translator she has written about the life and work of craftspersons and scripted for films and exhibitions. She has been consistently involved with research and development of handspun-handloom textiles. She is the founder of the label Taanbaan which produces saris and organized workshops for those who wish to learn the wonders of this unstitched garment and make it more relevant to their lives today.