



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

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- A comprehensive and scholarly survey of Indian saris, documenting weaves, materials, techniques, and regional traditions across fifteen sari-producing states.
- Grounded in decades of field research, the book draws on extensive travel, first-hand engagement with weavers and printers, and deep textile scholarship.
- A landmark contribution to textile and craft studies, shaped by the vision of Martand Singh and the expertise of Rta Kapur Chishti, making it essential for designers, historians, students, and sari enthusiasts alike.

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. This book 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. Travelling district by district, village by village, **Saris of India** explores an entire spectrum of traditional weaver and printer settlements in fifteen sari-producing states of India.

**Martand Singh** (1947–2017) inspired a generation of scholars, textile artists, designers, craftsperson’s and students to develop their latent talents to create the finest in design, technique and aesthetics in the contemporary context. His evolved understanding and worldwide exposure compelled him to strive for excellence in numerous projects he undertook. He worked extensively in the field of handlooms in India for which he was awarded the Padma Bhushan.

**Rta Kapur Chishti** is a sari historian and a textile scholar. She has spent decades researching and documenting the saris of India, while also advocating for the revival of the sari as a garment of everyday use through initiatives such as the Sari School in 2009.

She is the co-author and editor of *Handcrafted Indian Textiles: Tradition and Beyond*. As a writer and translator, she has written about the life and work of craftsperson’s and scripted for films and exhibitions. She has been consistently involved with research and development of handspun-handloom textiles. She is founder of the ‘Sari School’ which produces saris and organizes workshops and private classes for those who wish to learn the wonders of this unstitched garment and make it more relevant to their lives today.

