



Q&A

Your fashion queries answered



I am tall and slender and like to wear kurtis with culottes. However, there are times when this comes across as too casual. Are there some guidelines which would help when deciding on what looks good for different ethnic wear and where these would be suitable.

A: First of all, I am assuming that when you say kurti, you refer to contemporary tops created with ethnic techniques. Well, if this is the case, some of the basic guidelines to wearing the kurti and giving it a more formal look would include combining it with full-length pants, in your case, straight and slim-cut pants to complement your assets. You should also note that the kurti top should not be loosely cut but well-defined with a formal styling cut such as the Nehru collar or shawl collar, made in plain self-textured fabrics like loom spun cottons or linens. It is also crucial to make sure that the embroidery is created in a single tone and that beading details are kept to the minimum. Once all these guidelines are in place, regardless of whether the occasion is an office setting or if the setting is a parents-teachers meeting... Lady, you are ready to go!

I love bright colours and wear them frequently in a tropical country like Singapore. However I will be migrating to colder climes soon and would like to know what's in vogue for the coming Fall/Winter season in ethnic wear. I also love matching a

vest with a white blouse – can I do the same with a kurti?

A: What's in vogue and will always be in vogue is knowing what suits you best and going with that look. Whatever the season colors and fashion may be, you'll definitely look fabulous, at your very best.

One however, has to be careful when combining different styling elements together, such as matching the extreme contemporary styling of a vest to the extreme ethnic styling of a kurti. The two clash in style and I definitely wouldn't try matching them together. A safer middle ground for mix & match of styles would be to combine the kurti with a soft cashmere turtle neck inner or alternatively, opting to pair the kurti top with a full jacket, similar length as to the kurti will also guarantee that you look absolutely amazing.

I have to attend quite a few corporate events and enjoy wearing ethnic clothes which include kurtis and trousers or saris. Can you suggest ways in which I can give modern touches so I can still look fashionable at a club?

A: Imagine: A well-fitted empire-cut black kurti with stylish light beading on the neckline as well as the waistline, worn over slightly flared pants in light fabric... the epitome of elegance. Or picture a boat-neck tie-dye long top ethnic-inspired embroidery piece paired with white crop pants... the soho look of careless fun.

Kurtis my dear is the perfect answer to a contemporary woman who loves ethnic clothes. This fusion of styling is contemporary yet its ethnic fabrics and traditional embellishments allow you to celebrate your heritage. I strongly believe that the key to making any style look fashionable is to simply wear it with Confidence! So dare to wear Girl! Adopt the look, head out and paint the town red in those beautiful colors and gorgeous beading. **s**



The hot summer is finally relenting to cooler autumn and in some parts of the world – white winter will soon be around the corner. Celebrate the romance of the season with Thomas Sabo's Autumn/Winter 2008 Sterling Silver Collection centred on the theme of love.

REBEL AT HEART

Now you can literally wear your heart on your sleeve, or anywhere for that matter with this new series featuring "the heart with wings" – an internationally popular tattoo design now transformed to 925 Sterling silver.

TAKE ME HIGHER

Get starry-eyed with these eclectic yet glamorous accessories showcasing the small Thomas Sabo Space Robot floating through a galaxy of sparkling stars with his new found love, the Space Girl.

IT-GIRL IN PARIS

A true treasure trove of stylish accessories and feminine fashion attributes, this series includes chic Parisian-inspired high heels, flats, platforms, clutches and a small Eiffel tower.

EAST MEETS WEST

Art Déco design and Asian symbolism come together in this set of spectacular evening earrings, bracelets, and glamorous necklaces inspired by ancient Chinese lacquer work and focusing on black and a hint of red.

ICE BABE

This range of cool and snazzy jewellery items is a fashionable interpretation of winter white and crystalline snowflakes that will melt the hearts of those who look.

GROOVY COLOURS

With a focus on colours, the designer label introduces two versions of this theme capturing the harmonious hues of autumn and a medley of cheerful colours through its collection of bracelets, pendants and necklaces.

Available at 2 outlets starting end of August:
• #01-31, Level 1, Raffles City Shopping Centre
• Level 1, Takashimaya Department Store.

> Faced with a fashion quandary? Write to Rashmi Gogna at rashmi@pureearth.com.sg.



Award-winning designer RASHMI GOGNA, director of Pure Earth, answers your fashion queries.

I have heavy arms and despite Singapore's warm tropical weather, I am reluctant to wear long sleeves. How do I look good and still be cool?

– Sangeeta Kapur

Sangeeta, don't despair! Long sleeves are not the only answer to your dilemma. There are a number of tricks for camouflage. One way is to wear a sleeveless blouse and drape a light organza or chiffon stole over your shoulders. Although organza is see-through, it still takes attention away from the arms. While wearing sleeveless tops, make sure that the armholes are deep cut, as a snugly cut armhole draws more attention to the arms. Most times you can't avoid fuller sleeves so go for fabrics like cotton voiles and silk chiffons. Make sure that the sleeves are slim cut but not tight.

I am blessed with a typical Indian figure and am probably tough competition to many Indian actresses for thunder thighs... what attire do you think is suitable for me?

– Anonymous

A sari is the best outfit for a typical Indian figure. In a more global setting when you are wearing a work suit or jeans, the cut and shape is very important. Keep away from anything that is cut too narrow. Go for straight cut pants with a slight flare on the bottom and avoid tights. Avoid tops that are tight at the waist as it will again accentuate heaviness on the hips. Avoid gathered skirts; lightly flared skirts hide the heaviness on the hips.

I am quite a tall man but very slim too... I will be attending my friends' wedding soon,

what kind of attire should I wear? – Ashok Sharma

The Indian long kurtas is the obvious choice when it comes to a formal Indian occasion., But it is not an obvious choice for you. You could consider a short tunic shirt instead, preferably with lapel collar in a pure silk or tussar fabric. Since these are stiff fabrics they will add more width. Combine this with a sharply contrasting pants in a fabric that has a softer drape. The lapel collar will bring more width and the sharp contrast will cut the figure in two, which will bring more balance to the whole look. You can use this thumb rule for every day dressing too. Enjoy looking good with this one. **is**

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