

FASHION'S a fusion at this expo



Alaya, an exhibition to be held in the city this weekend, will showcase hand-printed and hand-woven *saris*, *dupattas*, stoles and accessories from over 20 regions

Renuka Deshpande

Wouldn't it be precious to probably be the only woman flaunting a *sari* with Kutchi Ajrakh work on Karnataka silk? Distinct fare like this, featuring cross-border fusion of different fabrics, prints and embroideries from different regions, will be showcased in town over the weekend with Alaya, an exhibition featuring stoles, *dupattas* and *saris*. The exhibition celebrates 20 years of fabric store, Banjaras Natural Fabrics of India, in the city this weekend.

Hand-printed and hand-woven *saris*, *dupattas*, stoles and accessories come to you from 20 Indian regions, from Orissa to Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh to Karnataka. The garments on display have

been created by Banjaras by sourcing fabrics from a particular region and then developing them for embroidery and printing in a different region. Proprietor Neeta Deshpande explains, "We have taken silks from Karnataka and sent them to Kutch for getting Ajrakh work done on them. Ajrakh is a type of intense block printing done by craftsmen in the Kutch-Pakistan border region, and its process takes 16 steps to complete. We have also gotten Lucknowi *chikankari* work done on Maheshwari tissue saris from Madhya Pradesh and sent crepe saris from Karnataka to Bhuj for development."

Alaya will also showcase exquisite *matka saris* from West Bengal, silks with tribal Lamani embroidery from

Karnataka, silk stoles from Bihar, fabrics created using migratory weaving technique native to the Chhatisgarh-Orissa border and Kanjeevaram saris in plain and two-tone silk. *Dupattas* and stoles, accessories from the Kumaon and Garhwal regions up North, and Lamani tribal jewellery from the South will also be showcased. The price range is between Rs1,000 and Rs10,000 for *dupattas*, stoles and saris, and between Rs350 and Rs5,000 for accessories. Witness India's rich textile heritage in its glory at this exhibition.

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When & Where

Catch the exhibition on Saturday, October 13 and Sunday, October 14, at Ebenos, Hotel Deccan Rendezvous on Apte Road, 11 am to 8 pm



Saris and accessories like purses, bags and cups will be on display at Alaya on Apte Road