

#FASHION &amp; BEAUTY

# A flair for the dramatic and the timeless

There are outfits we wear, and then there are outfits that wear us. No matter how many fashion waves come and go, timeless garments return stronger and more relevant than ever. Be it a fluid Anarkali, an embellished jacket, or a hand-stitched angrakha, these pieces are more than clothes; they are statements. And perhaps it's time we admitted it — a wardrobe, no matter how modern, is incomplete without at least one of these timeless silhouettes.



## Flares and feelings

There is something inherently cinematic about the Anarkali, right? Maybe it's the way the panels fall with gravity-defying grace, or how the flare follows you a second too late as you walk away. It is drama, yes, but a regal drama. The kind that does not scream, but whispers powerfully.

The beauty — especially of the Anarkali and its kin — lies, to a great extent, in their versatility. You will find them softly structured for everyday elegance or extravagantly layered for wedding aisles. No matter the fabric, no matter the occasion, they adapt, but they

never fade.

Designers across the subcontinent have reimagined the embellished, long jacket in every possible way, but the essence remains unchanged: fitted at the top, dramatically flared or tailored from the waist down, and always a celebration of the female form.

The simpler versions, made of breathable

cottons, light georgettes or chanderi, are perfect for long summer days. Minimal embroidery, soft prints, or delicate threadwork give just the right amount of detail to make the piece feel special without feeling loud.

And then there are ones that come with structured vests. The contrasts are as classic as they are deliberate. Sometimes, the vest carries the detail — the zardozi, the mirror work, the textures — while the fabric beneath moves like water.

Other times, the vest steps back to let the borders, panels, and pleats of the dress speak. And in recent seasons, these vests have evolved into full-length embellished jackets, layered over fluid kurtas or coords, creating looks that blur the line between tradition and couture.

And finally, the bridal Anarkali. That's an ensemble that looks like it was stitched from a royal dream. Woven in Banarasi, brocades or pure silks and adorned with zardozi, resham, and hand-appliqué work, these pieces are nothing short of heirlooms. The kind of pieces you imagine passing down, folded neatly with care and story.

## Beyond the flare

Today's designers are expanding the canvas. There are coords with intricate hand-embroidery — think soft neutral sets brought to life with kantha stitches.