

Sonam Kapoor Reinvents the Sari with Off-Shoulder Drape

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Bollywood star **Sonam Kapoor** recently showcased a striking reinterpretation of the sari. She wore a piece from **Ekaya Banaras** that blended tradition with modern aesthetics. The look featured an **off-shoulder drape** paired with a **knotted bodice**, redefining the common expectations around how a sari can be styled.

Hence it was not merely a fashion statement. It was a nod to India's rich handwoven traditions, updated for the modern era. The ensemble was handwoven in **kadhwa Banarasi technique** using **satin silk**, and bore gold floral motifs over a red-and-orange base.

The Design Philosophy

Overall sari's blouse drew inspiration from the **cheongsam**—a Chinese collar silhouette that added structure and an East-Asian influence. The contrast between the rigid bodice and the soft sari drape created visual tension.

According to Vogue India's fashion desk, this look challenges ideas of how a sari "must" be worn. Thus editorial suggests exploring elements like brocade or jacquard and mixing them with innovative drapes. Hence emphasis was clearly on letting the drape itself become the focal point of the outfit.

Styling Choices that Elevate

She used jewelry from her own and her mother's collections. The pieces included kundan bracelets and chandbalis. A **Tribe Amrapali bag** brought in an old-world charm, while **studded juttis** by Fizzy Goblet completed the look. These juttis craft with oxidised silver, brown beads, and aari jaali work.

Her hair was into a sleek bun to avoid competing with the neckline. Meanwhile, makeup stayed subtle: metallic eyes, strong brows, and rose-toned lips. Thus minimalism allowed the sari and its drape to hold visual weight.

Tradition Meets Reinvention

What makes this story compelling is the balance between respect for heritage and fearlessness in reinvention. While the sari is a centuries-old garment, Sonam's styling shows that it is far from static. Elements like the knotted bodice and cheongsam blouse inject a contemporary, cross-cultural sensibility.

The red and orange palette with gold motifs preserved a festive, celebratory mood. Yet, the cut and drape speak of modern couture. This duality underscores Ekaya Banaras's philosophy: to **bridge India's handwoven heritage with a design language that resonates today**.

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