

## Hyderabad's Bhavitha Mandava Becomes First Indian to Open Chanel Show

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At just 25, Bhavitha Mandava — originally from Hyderabad — has carved an extraordinary place for herself in international fashion. What began as a career in architecture (she studied at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad) and later a master's in design in New York, transformed dramatically after a chance encounter at a New York subway station. That chance meeting with designer Matthieu Blazy changed everything — he cast her as an exclusive for Bottega Veneta, marking her runway debut just two weeks after being discovered.

### A Historic Milestone

On December 2, 2025, Bhavitha walked the opening catwalk for Chanel's Métiers d'Art 2026 show in New York — making her the **first Indian model ever** to lead a Chanel runway.

The show — staged at New York's Bowery Station — also carried deeper symbolism: it echoed the city subway where her modeling journey began, making the moment a poetic “full-circle.”

### Emotion, Pride — and a Viral Moment

The runway walk wasn't just a professional milestone — it was deeply personal. A video Bhavitha shared showing her parents watching her walk brought waves of emotion online. In it, her mother is seen tearfully calling her name, while her father watches with pride.

The post-walk clip went viral, drawing affection and admiration not just from fashion insiders but from people across India — many calling it a moment of “secondary pride.”

### Indian Representation on Global Runways

Bhavitha's success signals a broader shift: global fashion houses are increasingly opening doors to diverse talent — including models from India. Her rise shows that background, geography or prior career path matter less than raw presence, talent, and opportunity.

For India, it's a moment of collective pride: a Hyderabad-born girl — once studying architecture — now stands as a face of global couture. For young aspirants across the country, her story is a powerful reminder that sometimes, **a chance encounter changes everything.**

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