

Bhavitha Mandava Becomes Face of Chanel's Couture in Paris

Published on 31 Jan 2026 | By IFI Correspondent



Indian-born model **Bhavitha Mandava** made fashion history at **Paris Haute Couture Week 2026**, closing the highly anticipated Chanel haute couture show — a milestone moment that has captured global attention and celebration.

At just **25 years old**, Mandava walked the finale of the collection designed by **Matthieu Blazy**, marking his first haute couture season as Chanel's artistic director. For the runway's dramatic conclusion, she wore a bridal-inspired white ensemble featuring a feathered shirt, skirt and striking headpiece, paired with elegant white heels — a look that captivated audiences and symbolised a modern twist on couture tradition.

Mandava's path to the world's most prestigious runway was far from conventional. Born and raised in **Hyderabad, India**, she completed her bachelor's degree in architecture before moving to **New York City** to pursue a master's degree in design and media. Her life changed dramatically when she was **discovered by a modelling scout while waiting for the subway**, a chance encounter that led to her debut with luxury fashion houses.

Her first major breakthrough came in 2024 when she walked for **Bottega Veneta** — an opportunity that came quickly after she was scouted. Mandava's rise was swift: she continued to work internationally, walked for **Christian Dior**, and became the **first Indian model to open Chanel's Métiers d'Art show** in New York in December before earning the coveted closing spot at the Paris couture event.

Beyond the glamour of the runway, Mandava's journey is marked by resilience, balancing academic commitments with early modelling work and frequent travel between continents to pursue both her education and fashion opportunities. Her story resonates with many — a mix of talent, fortuitous timing, and relentless determination.

The Chanel couture show itself was a standout of Paris Fashion Week. Creative director Matthieu Blazy transformed the historic **Grand Palais** into a fantastical setting, drawing inspiration from nature and flight with ethereal themes and whimsical design details throughout the collection.

Mandava's prominent role at the event not only celebrates her personal achievements but also highlights the growing presence and representation of South Asian talent on the global fashion stage.

For more style updates & exclusive fashion stories follow indiafashionicon.com