

Kolhapuri Chappals: India's Timeless Style Icon Now Graces Prada's Global Runway.

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From Indian streets to international fashion shows, the Kolhapuri sandal proves its timeless global appeal.

Mumbai: The iconic **Kolhapuri chappal**, a symbol of **India's rich handicraft tradition**, has never really left the fashion scene in India. But now, this humble leather sandal is making global waves, most recently spotted on the **Prada runway**, putting it in the global luxury spotlight. While some might call this a fashion comeback, the truth is, **Kolhapuri sandals** were never out of style in India.

A Heritage Steeped in History

Originating from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, **Kolhapuri chappals** have been a part of India's **cultural fabric** for centuries. In the **1970s**, the West's hippie counterculture embraced these handcrafted sandals, making them a part of the global bohemian aesthetic. But in India, Kolhapuris remained a daily essential for people from all walks of life—**whether worn during festivals, weddings, or casual strolls in village lanes.**

Versatile Yet Practical: Except in Monsoons!

Indian wearers have always known when to switch their Kolhapuris for rubber flip-flops—during the rainy season. But for the rest of the year, Kolhapuris remain the perfect blend of **fashion, comfort, and heritage**. This is why they never became a fleeting trend—they're **part of India's lifestyle**.

From Local to Global: The Prada Moment

Recently, **Kolhapuri chappals** were featured on the ramps of **Lakme India Fashion Week**, and now, they've made it to the global stage at **Prada's show**. Even back in 2009, Indian model **Milind Soman** sported them during the '**Mai Mumbai**' Fashion for Relief event, showcasing how **traditional Indian craftsmanship** can blend effortlessly with high fashion.

A Youth Favourite in Modern Fusion Wear

In today's fusion fashion era, where ethnic and modern styles mix, Kolhapuris have become a must-have in both casual and ethnic wardrobes of Indian youth. Whether paired with **jeans, kurtas, or Indo-Western outfits**, these sandals add a touch of effortless elegance.