

CORE ITEM UPDATE • INDIA

Core Item Update: Sarees 2026–28

The saree is being redesigned for speed.

Forecut Editorial • 11 October 2026



Overview

The saree is being redesigned for speed. Pre-draped and stitched versions are rising into Festive 26, handloom and tissue add quiet shine, and office-ready fluid drapes are an early signal worth testing. Heavier scalloped organza is at its peak and starts to fade by Festive 27.

4

INVEST

2

TEST

1

MAINTAIN

0

REDUCE

Invest: rising now. Test: emerging. Maintain: at its peak. Reduce: fading.

The details

Each detail with its status for Festive 26, its trend curve and what it does next.

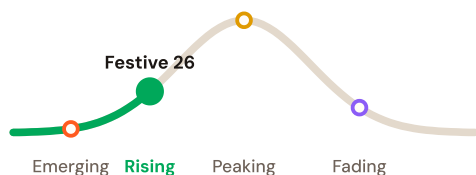


INVEST

RISING

Pre-draped saree gowns

Ready-to-wear sarees with stitched pleats and a fixed pallu, worn in minutes. Growth is building. Commit to it in your next range.



Festive 26
Rising

Summer 27
Peaking

Festive 27
Peaking

Summer 28

Festive 28



INVEST

RISING

Tissue sarees in champagne gold

Metallic tissue as the base colour, not just the border. Growth is building. Commit to it in your next range.



Festive 26
Rising

Summer 27
Peaking

Festive 27
Peaking

Summer 28

Festive 28



INVEST

RISING

Pastel handloom sarees

Dusty rose, powder blue and lavender on handloom bases. Growth is building. Commit to it in your next range.



Festive 26
Rising

Summer 27
Peaking

Festive 27
Peaking

Summer 28
Peaking

Festive 28
Fading



INVEST

RISING

Sarees with belts and jackets

Waist belts and cropped jackets over sarees for a modern drape. Growth is building. Commit to it in your next range.



Festive 26
Rising

Summer 27
Rising

Festive 27
Peaking

Summer 28

Festive 28

Peaking

Fading

Peaking

Fading

Peaking

Fading



TEST

EMERGING

Office-ready fluid sarees

Light printed sarees styled for work, as shown by Satya Paul. Early signal. Trial in small drops and premium lines.



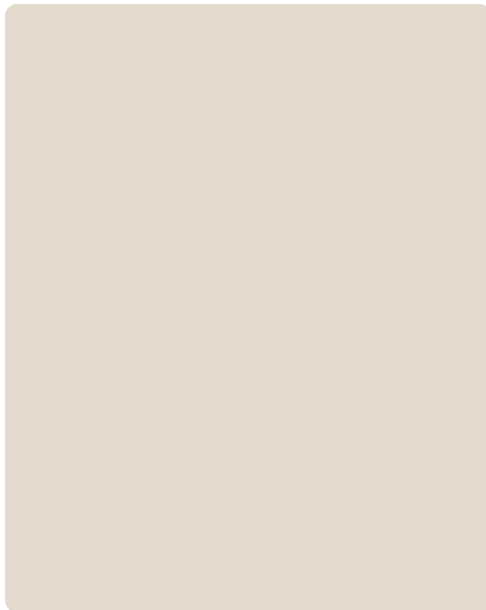
Festive 26
Emerging

Summer 27
Rising

Festive 27
Rising

Summer 28
Peaking

Festive 28
Peaking



TEST

EMERGING

Foil-appliqué tulle sarees

Metallic foil or faux-leather pieces cut into shapes and stitched onto sheer tulle, as shown by Sameer Madan. Early signal. Trial in small drops and premium lines.



Festive 26
Emerging

Summer 27
-

Festive 27
Emerging



MAINTAIN

PEAKING

Organza sarees with scalloped borders

Sheer, structured organza that photographs well. At its height. Keep in core ranges without over-buying.



Festive 26
Peaking

Summer 27
Peaking

Festive 27
Fading

Summer 28

Festive 28

Summer 28

–

Festive 28

Rising

Fading

–

How to update your sarees range

- Offer every hero saree in a classic and a pre-draped version.
- Add belts and jackets as styling add-ons to sell the look, not just the drape.
- Use pastel handloom and champagne tissue for festive capsules that can be worn again.
- Plan the exit for heavy scalloped organza after Summer 27.

See every sarees detail with design notes and downloadable cards in the India Forecast 2026–28.

Statuses are Forecut's forecast for India: Festive 26 (Oct 2026 – Feb 2027), Summer 27 (Mar – Jul 2027), Festive 27 (Aug – Dec 2027), and long-range outlooks for Summer 28 (Mar – Jul 2028) and Festive 28 (Aug – Dec 2028). Sources: India trends summarise public coverage of Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI 2026 (Harper's Bazaar India, Free Press Journal), Aza Fashions festive and ethnic trend guides, Lashkaraa colour and silhouette trends 2026, Pearl Academy Gen Z trend reports, Gully Labs, Global Indian (Prada SS26 Kolhapuri-inspired sandals) and Outlook Business (Gen Z and e-retail).