

## Functional FASHION

Timeless pieces of clothing that can be matched with any outfit, this season new designs and colours in shrugs and capes are going to rule the fashion world

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We all love looking glamorous on every occasion. A party, an outing, at the movies or just a dinner...don't we all aspire to make heads turn? Purchasing a heap full of clothes that look rich and classy isn't a simple task. There is, therefore, one easy solution. Shrugs and capes!

### STYLE CHECK

A smart shrug is a brilliant and timeless addition to any well-rounded wardrobe. This season, use these pieces to enhance your look. Akhil Jain, creative director of a clothing brand, says, "Shrugs not only help to cover your shoulders and arms, but can also add style to your ensemble. Whether it's a simple short shrug with an open front or a shrug with little sparkly design or sequins, these pieces help in accessorising the outfit for a perfect evening do. The knitted ones keep you warm during winter, while the light lacy ones can be soothing during summer. A shrug can be paired with any outfit

on almost every occasion—be it a get-together, a party or even a date! A proper fit in shrugs is a must. You can also pair them with sexy, strapless dresses for a formal look."

### CUTS AND QUIRKS

Sleeveless, net, open front or buttoned shrugs, these wardrobe staples can be worn over a tank, tee or even a dress. "Block printed and quilted sleeveless mini shrugs are usually a hot seller during winter. To glam up your party wear, choose a mini shrug in

pastel brocades," suggests Andree Pouliot, creative director of a fashion and block printing design brand. Lace or slinky stretch materials are gradually becoming popular in shrug designs. Drapery knits and woven fabrics with a stretchy rib trim too are becoming hot favourites. Avers Rahul Gupta, COO of an international fashion label, "When it comes to cuts and styles, there's a wide assortment to choose from. A standard shrug covers a small portion of the upper

body. Some shrugs can be tied together just below the bustline. Another style trending is cut-off at the sides and thus is a little more than a pair of sleeves joined at the back. As for the fabrics, lace is trending."

For formal and casual dos, there are choices galore. "For a casual look, simply throw on a shrug with a t-shirt and pair it with denims. A black or bright coloured shrug on simple tees can be a good option for casual day wear. Long or short shrugs, cropped or knitted, can all be sported well for a casual look. For a formal look, shrugs in simple cotton or linen are the best fabrics as they go perfectly well with shirts and pencil skirts. For a formal evening wear, the sequined embellished shrug can jazz up the entire look," says Jain.

### CAPE IT UP

Capes can be your savior this season, whether you want to look smart and chic at work, or for a laidback style for the weekend. So bump up the style meter of your normal outfits and add a little kick to your wardrobe. Invest in cool,

quirky and pretty capes and stop worrying about looking boring. "Capes, ponchos and cloaks are versatile garments. The trending colours are black, blue, printed

tones of grey, bright hues and faux fur. Capes add a feminine touch to your style and can be flaunted in different ways to suit every occasion. Capes are seen with denims,

trousers, tunics and sweatshirts. They come in different materials like wool blend, polyester, leather and cashmere," concludes Nakul Bajaj, CEO of a lifestyle portal.

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