KABRANG

SPRING SUMMER 2026



A LOVE LETTER TO KHURKHUL, FROM MANIPUR

KABRANG:
THE THREAD, THE MYTH, AND OUR STORY, SUMMER 2026

11 Tareng works closely with skilled weavers from Khurkhul, honouring the traditions behind its precious silk while bringing it into contemporary fashion.

Rooted in traditional Manipuri attire, the collection reinterprets the fluid drapes of the Phee, the structure of the Mapan Naiba and the Phige Phanek through modern silhouettes.

Every detail carries cultural meaning, from Kajenlei-inspired embellishments representing the Meitei tradition's "Fire Halo" to Kheiroithek's distinctive zigzag weave inspired by a squirrel's movement.

Balancing softness with structure and heritage with modernity, the collection celebrates the enduring language of Manipuri craftsmanship.















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11 TARENG: WHERE MANIPURI HERITAGE MEETS CONTEMPORARY LUXURY







Founded in Imphal, Manipur, in 2023 by fashion professionals Jayshree Koijam and Reena Ahanthem, 11 Tareng is a contemporary couture label reimagining Manipur's rich textile heritage through a modern design language.

At its heart is handwoven Khurkhul silk, traditionally used in Manipuri garments such as the dhoti and phanek, transformed into contemporary silhouettes through elegant draping, sculptural tailoring and intricate craftsmanship.

Subtle Meitei motifs, embroidery and references to traditional wedding attire lend each creation a distinctive cultural identity. Blending indigenous craftsmanship with contemporary sophistication, 11 Tareng celebrates a living heritage that continues to evolve, connecting Manipuri traditions with the world of modern couture.







The intricacy of silk lies in its delicate weave, natural lustre, and fine craftsmanship. A study in technique, texture, and the timeless art of textiles.



THE STORY OF KHURKHUL SILK

An old folk tale from Manipur, passed down through the Chakpa community, tells the story of Princess Leima from the land of Kabaw, who married a soldier from Khurkhul. According to the legend, Leima would retreat into a dark room each night and emerge with a beautiful piece of silk. Her family eventually discovered that she transformed into a silkworm, spinning threads through the night. When her secret was revealed, she could no longer return to her human form. From her resting place, silkworms emerged, giving rise to the silk-making tradition of Khurkhul.











Known locally as Akhungba Til, or the 'Quiet Worm',
these silkworms are believed to spin their cocoons in silence.

Feeding on mulberry leaves, they produce the fine threads that become Khurkhul silk. The process, from rearing silkworms and forming cocoons to reeling and handweaving, remains closely tied to the knowledge of local artisans.

What distinguishes this silk is its connection to Khurkhul, where its production carries a story unique to the village.



MULBERRY SILK

Mulberry silk is produced by silkworms that feed on mulberry leaves.

One of the most widely produced natural silks, it is known for its fine fibres and is cultivated across India, China and other parts of Asia.

The cocoons are carefully reeled to extract continuous silk filaments, which are then processed into yarn.









For 11 Tareng, the yarn is sourced from Bengaluru and handwoven by skilled weavers into fabric for the collections. Though it shares the same natural origin as Khurkhul silk, its journey is different, shaped by its sourcing, processing and weaving.

KHURKHUL SILK VS MULBERRY SILK

Both **Khurkhul silk** and the **Mulberry silk** used by *11 Tareng* belong to the same family of natural silk. The difference lies in their origin and journey.

The **Khurkhul silk** comes from the traditional silk-making practices of Khurkhul village in Manipur, where silkworm rearing, cocoon formation, reeling and weaving are rooted in local knowledge and generations of practice.

The **Mulberry silk** used by *11 Tareng* follows a different route, with yarn sourced from Bengaluru and handwoven by skilled weavers. While the material is essentially the same, the sourcing and production processes give each fabric a distinct story one tied to Khurkhul's local traditions and the other to a wider silk-weaving network.









KAJENGLEI

ALSO CALLED LEITRENG



It is the traditional crown-like headgear worn by Meitei women of Manipur. It is an important part of Meitei cultural and ceremonial attire.

- It is traditionally worn by brides during Meitei weddings.
- It is also worn by performers of classical Meitei dance forms such as Ras Lila.
- Historically, it is associated with Meitei goddesses, royal women, and ceremonial occasions.





The Kajenglei holds a significant place in Meitei mythology and the Sanamahi tradition. Associated with the goddess Panthoibi, its radiant, crown-like form represents the divine halo and features fine brass strips fanning outward.

Worn by brides during traditional Meitei weddings, Manipuri Raas Leela dancers and Maibis during Lai Haraoba, the Kajenglei signifies divinity, grace and spiritual presence. Across these settings, it connects ceremonial adornment with the sacred narratives of Meitei culture.

KAJENLEI (MANGAAN NAIBA LEITHENG):

THE EMBODIED FIRE HALO OF MEITEI TRADITION

Kajenlei is a ceremonial headgear in Meitei culture, representing the radiant, flame-like halo of a goddess. Unlike the halo depicted behind deities in traditional imagery, Kajenlei transforms this symbol of divine energy into a wearable form.

Crafted with pithrai, red fabric and threads of green, white and yellow, its structure evokes the colours and vitality of fire. In this collection, 11 Tareng translates these elements into contemporary silhouettes and surface ornamentation, carrying the symbolism of Kajenlei into a new design language.

