



**fDCI**  
Fashion Design Council of India

# INDIA COUTURE WEEK

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## Window to year's upcoming WEDDING TRENDS

From redefining how runway style is perceived to relentlessly innovating Indian couture techniques, India Couture Week organised by Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) in partnership with Hindustan Times took place from July 22 to 28 at Taj Palace hotel in New Delhi. What made this edition special was exciting panoply of sought-after designers. The high-glam extravaganza opened with beautifully curated off-site shows by couturiers Amit Aggarwal and Suneet Varma.

"The couture week, this year, commences with designers Amit Aggarwal and Suneet Varma opening the week-long fashion spectacle. The two designers have diverse repertoire in fashion that resonates with new-age ideology, adding a silver edge to couture," says Sunil Sethi, President of the FDCI.

An array of designers such as Falguni Shane Peacock, Pankaj & Nidhi, Rahul Mishra, Reynu Taandon, Shyamal & Bhumi, Sulakshana Monga, Gaurav Gupta and Tarun Tahiliani, showcased their works through the week. Designer Amit Aggarwal believes that the week triggers a wave of fashion that reflects what the year has in store for the modern brides.



## AMIT AGGARWAL presents Lumen

'LUMEN' draws its inspiration from organic structures of the human body that exchange an invisible energy through an overlay of framework, fluidity and form. The womenswear collection features traditional Indian silhouettes that blend with western ideologies of couture. Sculpted Edwardian bustles lend an edge to the quintessential bridal lehenga, while the brand's signature sarees are reinvented with dramatically structured trails. The ensembles have been enhanced by sheer drapes and layers creating an illusion of colour through a play of light.

The menswear collection brings forth sharp tailoring in classic styles with a touch of layering. Ceremonial Indian silhouettes are revived with modern three-dimensional hand embroidery fabricated in modern industrial materials, as well as Jacquards, silks and handwoven geometric textiles. The garments have been enhanced by draping layers, colour blocking through textiles and highlighting it with intricate craftsmanship. This collection is for the traditional Indian man that has evolved and started accepting newer and innovative forms of clothing.



## Shyamal and Bhumika launch The Renaissance Muse

The couture is a constant evolution of traditional embroidery techniques using unique materials and fine detailing season after season. One gets to see intricate embellishments and surface ornamentations with elaborate beading, silk thread embroidery and floral motifs in gold zardosi thread. Inspired by inlay samples in museums, vintage European paintings, architectural details, mogul florals, renaissance costumes, and most importantly the 15th century opera theatre set, the designers have used the most colourful silk threads in delicate embroideries that adorn lustrous silks while making a slight departure from the traditional fashion.

The collection comprises of timeless bridal couture, exquisite mens sherwani jackets, bias skirts with sensuous cholees, shararas, kalidaar paneled lehengas, trendy shoulder baring blouses, structures jackets, saris in sheer organzas, asymmetric hemlines, signature cowl dresses, trailing kalidaars, exquisitely crafted veils, peplum tops, poet sleeves, georgettes & translucent tulle and fun details for brides and grooms for a perfect romantic feel on their big day. Shyamal & Bhumika menswear is designed in understated hand woven tussars, matkas and moonga variety of silks making it unconventionally elegant.



## Falguni Shane Peacock unveil Bonjour Amer

Their collection is reminiscent of the intricacies of the Pink City Jaipur. Falguni Shane Peacock’s silhouettes wove a web of modern eccentricity and yesteryear elegance, evoking a rich repertoire between the two. Stella handcrafted lehengas juxtaposed into red-carpet-worthy gowns, asymmetrical layers cascading into long, sweeping trails, gave the garments graceful fluidity. The ensembles were an explosion of dimension and grandeur; playing with the idea of elaborate couture while retaining its unconventional aesthetic.

Setting the ramp on fire dressed in an ivory lehenga and crop top was none other than Sara Ali Khan, who walked the ramp with graceful aplomb! The colour story seamlessly bound the collection together with shades like Spanish vanilla, lavender fog, smoke green, pewter, ballet pink, prism silver, scallop shell, Tuscan gold and midnight blue. With ‘Bonjour Amer’ Falguni Shane Peacock want to eon escape the ordinary and celebrate the courier through the lens of Jaipur extravagance, eclectic royal landscape and vivid colours.



## Gaurav Gupta showcases Undercurrent

The Undercurrent collection adds a renewed, avant-garde lens, defining sculpting as a science of new couture. The designer has created exaggerated waves and theatrical drapes in his garments bringing a paradigm shift in the way we view couture. For the glocal bride, Gaurav imagined a charismatic, graceful yet playful and well-travelled intellectual who wants to have fun—waltzing in the prismatic corridors of the Hall of Mirrors in multi-layered and cascading bustles along with feathers and corsets, looking like an ethereal goddess.

Epitomising this vision, was global influencer and founder of Post for Change, Diipa Khosla, who was seen in an unending ethereal lehenga layered in ombre hues of champagne. Handcrafted with 150 meters of organza and finely embroidered with pearls, this poufy skirt is Gaurav’s idea of the updated statement lehenga, paired with a body sculpted off shoulder blouse. The perfect accent for this was a special Liberation necklace, designed in the shape of wings interwoven together, stylized to project the movement of a bird gracefully taking flight.







## Pankaj & Nidhi's Fresh & Crisp Sensibility

Their designs are eclectic, make generous use of colour, and are inspired by craftsmanship, symbolic and cultural objects from across the world. Pankaj & Nidhi's ensembles use a contemporary language, and target women who prize authenticity. Mosaic is the duo's inaugural couture collection. It takes inspiration from the decorative art form of the same name that originated thousands of years ago but flourished particularly in the 6th-15th century Byzantine empire, when it was gloriously used on walls and ceilings in basilicas and churches.

The collection pays tribute to this period of magnificent ornamentation by recreating the same magic with artisanal dexterity on textiles. Three-dimensional, hand-cut appliques and precision inlay work with metallic fabric biscuits have been rendered on translucent tulle and satin organza's to give a breathtaking effect to the garments. Precise and geometric embellished motifs turn a medieval inspiration into a graphic vision for the future. The iridescent colour palette ranges from quarried greys, citrine yellows and sapphire blues to molten gold and silver in modern, red-carpet ready silhouettes for the new-age woman.

## Rahul Mishra champions slow fashion with traditional Indian textiles

His eponymous label represents the finest handwork; hand woven, hand embroidered and hand crafted in India, for the world. He showcases his ready-to-wear line at Paris Fashion Week, and his annual couture collection at India Couture Week. A master storyteller, Rahul weaves stories of people, places and process to bring forth new interpretations and design interventions to craft techniques that serve the larger purpose of engaging, employing and empowering artisans.

His 2019 couture collection takes inspiration from Rahul's observations during a recent trip to Monaco as well as memories of his childhood home in the sleepy village of Malhausi in Uttar Pradesh. He feels there is a strong emotional connect with happiness that runs across the world through the beauty of nature. This collection celebrates the same connection between the home where one is born and a home that one finds during escapades of travel, as well as the beauty of nature. It is a dense play of florals, blended with architectural elements. The vivid interpretation of the landscape and the choice of colours lend the clothes the essence of a vintage painting.





## The Savannah Saga by Designer **Reynu Taandon**

Sunrise paints the sky with pinks and the sunset with peaches, when day & night fleetingly meet at twilight & dawn, an extraordinary tale comes to light\*. The Savannah Saga' is inspired by the multi-faceted skies & its varying hues. This collection bespeaks of serenity, modernity & has a magnificent aroma to it! Reflecting the desires of a contemporary woman by portraying them as a beacon of beauty, love & mysticism. The collection is an amalgamation of pragmatism & graciousness with the right dash of sensuality.

The fusion of traditional embroideries with modern satin bodices reflect two sides of the woman, showing both her delicate & feminine side topped with a bead of coquettish. The silhouettes provide a calm & placid feel & the Satin & Chanderi fabric adds a classic definition to the beautiful range. The collection is true to its inspiration as it brings out surreal powder pastels in garments which include floor length Anarkali's, lehenga & Sarees. The captivation of mirror work & graceful gold laser cuts enhances the embellishments & embroideries in perfect sync. Also, the soft colour palette like powder lilacs, old rose, mint greens bring out the playful innocence in the collection.



## **Sulakshana Monga** presents Varanasi collection

Sulakshana Monga, the woman behind Soltee, has been offering unique designs and elegant handcrafted ensembles since 2003. Her creativity is driven by the use of traditional handwork, luxurious textiles, bold cuts and painterly patterns. With the use of luxury raw silks, intricate embellishment and embroidery techniques, the designer blends' antiquity with modernism.

The 2019 Varanasi collection is eccentric and opulent, and reflects the culture found in the ghats of Varanasi and the traditions of India. The collection brings out Indian heritage and culture through colours. She has used seven colors in the collection. Embroidery techniques have been contemporized and have used nakshi, dabka, sequins, Swarovski crystals, ghungroos, feathers, raffia and lace to make garments look exclusive and extravagant.







## Suneet Varma presents Amara

Meticulous craftsmanship, a strong design sensibility and an undying love for sartorial research, the Varma brand exudes fantasy, sexy sophistication and unadulterated femininity for the woman of today. Associations with some of the strongest international brands make Varma a designer whose forte goes beyond a uni-dimensional profile. He has collaborated with brands BMW, Judith Leiber, Azva by World Gold Council, Moet Chandon, Arttdinox by Jindal Steel, Faces by the Sartorialist, Diacolor jewels and Swarovski.

Amara is the name of Suneet's 2019 Couture Collection. "India has a century-old love affair with couture or made to measure for pleasure. There is no denying the luxurious indulgence of precious finery, the magical beauty of one-off embellished wedding attire and the sparkle of personalized jewels that are made to match with it," says Suneet.



## Tarun Tahiliani's Bloom Collection

More than 80 pieces spanning bridal couture, occasion and festive wear heralded the coming together of technique, craftsmanship and innovation: Lightweight lehengas, shararas, peplum blouses, concept saris, structured drapes, anarkalis and fusion-style jumpsuits exude pure celebration. Contemporary occasion wear for those intimate pre-weddings plays with chikankaari, mukaish embroidery and kanjeevaram, in light, new avatars for the stylish bride. When it comes to couture, contoured construction, patterns and unique fabrics merge to make the garment feel like second skin, sensually moulded to shape every curve, and yet, allow the freedom and comfort to dance the night away.

As seen in the collection, the new bride steals the show in soft pastels of peach, dusty rose, blush pink, coral, teal, vintage gold and aqua. For her pre-wedding functions and cocktails, she chooses from a rich palette of electric blue, deep violet and plum. For the mehendi and poojas, deep, earthy Indian hues are what she selects. Diverse embroidery styles – from Kashmir-inspired Kashida, a fine zari work used around prints, Jammevar and Resham thread embroidery makes sure the bride is not weighed down by her outfit. Floral motifs combine with French knots, tulle, jaali burned in the fabric, lace, and ombré beading to bring a glamorous exquisiteness and drama to each piece.

