



## The standout collections at FDCI X Lakmé Fashion Week 2022



Things kicked off on a high note this October 2022 at FDCI x Lakmé Fashion Week, with designers serving up boundary-pushing statements. A profusion of sumptuous shades, reinvented classics and artisanal craftsmanship techniques flooded the runways. The overarching attitude? Embrace individuality and embellish outside the lines. Some designers amped up their shimmer and shine game that continues to tantalise the ready-to-wear industry, both as gilded textiles and as ornamentation on them. Similarly subversive were the prints, which garnered a rapt audience and much Instagramming from them. But the real signifier is the focus on sustainability.

The platform has always offered two showcase areas (runway and atelier) for designers and will continue to champion sustainability, inclusivity, and diversity through cutting-edge innovations and eco-conscious initiatives. Also live streamed across OTT partners of all showcase platforms to reach a wider Indian and global fashion audience. The business of fashion is also a key driving force, with the largest ever area dedicated to the FDCI Showroom and the presence of buyers expected from around the world.

Sunil Sethi, Chairman FDCI commented, "This season's curation of both designers as well as initiatives across a varied range of commitments by the platform truly inculcates the best talent we have in fashion today. As we navigate through the return of in-person showcases, fashion enthusiasts can expect electrifying and dynamic presentations that are rooted in design compositions that present themselves as nothing short of art on the runway. FDCI is delighted to be back in Mumbai with a grand edition and several unique FDCI showcases along with a huge focus once again on the business of fashion."

Sumati Mattu, Head of Innovations at Lakmé said, "This year at Lakme Fashion Week, we were excited to bring to life our theme "Ready for a Close Up" this year, which celebrates our trend-statement season. We look forward to collaborating with many talented designers and models to bring together the amalgamation of beauty and fashion. The theme is 'Ready for a Close-Up', which encourages the celebration of owning your beauty and wearing it with confidence. We at Lakme have tried to innovate with the ever-evolving Indian woman. This year, we've created an unforgettable fashion and beauty routine. The experience has led to enhanced coveted collaborations with leading designers to create."

Jaspreet Chandok, Head of RISE Fashion and Lifestyle, said, "With this edition, we celebrate the past, present and future of fashion with ideas, showcases and collaborations with powerhouse designers, brand partners and the best talent the industry has to offer."



### Shyamal & Bhumika present a Poetic Celebration of India's Rich

Iconic couturiers Shyamal & Bhumika presented their SS23 collection Blooms of Paradise - a celebration of their globe-trotting muse. It was a line of intense embroidery that created a poetic blend of craft and design on the ramp. It was a line of rare hand-crafted embroideries, weaved with fantasy and reverence for the rich culture and heritage of India that created a poetic blend of craft and design on the ramp. Embellishments were selected with utmost care, as handcrafted embroidery and antique finish metallic threads appeared amongst pearls, beads and multi-hued resham. Techniques like reshamaari, silk-zardozi, metal thread peeta, knotting and sequinning were merged with beadwork, silk thread and crystals. Fabrics that dazzled on the ramp were sustainable, handwoven raw silk, matka silk, sheer silk organza, tulle along with lavish hand dyed velvet.



### Pawan Sachdeva presented an extensively researched Menswear Line

"Pawan Sachdeva collection for this season, 'People of Tomorrow' is all about the future of fashion. The pieces take from how fashion over the years, has created unique signature styles that stand apart via urbanisation be it luxury or street. Dedicated to the youth and the new generation, it champions sporty, relaxed, luxury wear. The designer's extensive research proved that clothes for men have undergone a massive change in style, fabrics, detailing, construction and embellishments. There was a distinct emphasis on biker's jackets, blousons, Tees, hoodies, some two-buttoned jackets; belted unstructured, long coats and buttonless comfy shrugs, with matching pants. Zipper detailing was favoured for many of the jackets to add comfort. The silhouettes were kept close to the body, with patches as a prominent addition on most garments.



### Rina Dhaka took a Retro look at fashion

Rina Dhaka's collections have always been inspired by a variety of themes and stories and at today's showcase, she allowed her creative mood to delve into archives, pieces of vintage embroidery as well as botanical prints. Her "Urban Tribe" collection was a totally relaxed look at glamorous, resort wear that fitted beautifully into Rina's design sensibilities. The white ensembles with laser cutwork for summer wear were just perfect, while the flowing sheer skirts, cool maxis, midi tunics with palazzos and short sack dress added to the holiday wardrobe options. Rina paid marked attention to shoulders, as she brought in off-shoulder blouses, will-power kaftans, bustiers, corsets, a few bikinis, shrugs, along with capri pants and beach robes.



### Nikhita Tandon's Metallic Fashion offering Glittered on the runway

Nikhita Tandon's 'Mynah Designs' unveiled a line of metallic, glittering creations at Lakmé Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI. Aimed at the community of 'insta-influencers', the look for the Spring-Summer 2023 season had a wide selection of body-con silhouettes with sultry, plunging necklines. From flirty, short, moulded dresses to flouncy, feminine gowns, the collection moved with great verve and vigour on the ramp. The focal point of the ensembles was the very opulent, metallic frills and the added sheen of green – a tropical favourite. Detailing was brought into sharp focus on the garments with careful thought, to enable buyers in making show-stopping entries. Gold was the leitmotif of the collection, along with glittering olive green, for the predominantly evening wear line that brought a new, luxurious direction to fashion.



### **Nikita Mhaisalkar's Summer Fashion Soirée was a celebration of nature**

A symphony of beautiful feminine fashion was unveiled by Nikita Mhaisalkar. Titled "Tropical Times", it was the exotic, serene wilderness of nature during the balmy summer months that nudged Nikita's designing into creative mode. Tropical fauna and flora gave a further artistic push to the designer as she dreamt up a line of clothing in shades of fresh green, but dappled with solid brown, tan and terracotta. Adding a line of dramatic detailing to the ensembles, Nikita presented touches of Amazonian foliage and rustling raffia touches, along with unconventional snakeskin patterns which then moved onto bold and rustic tribal accents to complete the earthy look.



### **Sanjukta Dutta brought a Colourful Festive Fervour**

Sanjukta Dutta showcased her multi-hued, vibrant collection "Palaash". Dedicated to the festivals of Diwali and Durga Puja, Sanjukta was inspired by these popular Indian festivals, when she unveiled a medley of Indian motifs and prints. The runway came alive with deep tones of intense orange, red, purple and black, all beloved hues for Indian buyers. The celebratory offering stayed true to Sanjukta's signature Mekhela Chador, which was transformed into lehengas, luxurious gowns, skirts and into the traditional sari drapes. For Sanjukta it was the beauty of Assamese fabrics that has always been the focal point of her collections and it was evident that the wondrous textiles of the colourful state still enchanted her for her current ensemble.



### **Bridal Wear by Anushree Reddy dazzled on the ramp**

Anushree Reddy is the go-to name when brides want to look their dazzling best on the most important day of their lives. The “Mystic Fantasy” collection was something brides have always dreamt of, and Anushree Reddy ensured their dreams came alive on the ramp during LFW. Inspired by the tales of royal travel, garments combined the beauty of craft and beloved Indian silhouettes to present a creative fusion story. The luxuriously embroidered lehengas floated down the runway on graceful models, while the intricately crafted and embellished cholis provided the perfect fashionable balance. Dupattas completed the ethnic trio while opulent fabrics and embellishments completed the bridal look.



### **The SVA Collection was steeped in Beautiful Heritage by Sonam and Paras Modi**

The ‘SVA’ collection by Sonam and Paras Modi had an almost poetic and unconventional title, “Mor aur Fuaara”. The spirited journey by the designing duo combined nature with a holiday when they stayed at the picturesque Nadesar Palace in Varanasi. The regal heritage location with its gushing fountains and colourful dancing peacocks inspired the pair to fuse visuals onto their ensembles. Vibrant prints for the predominantly western fusion silhouettes had a dreamlike quality. The rich hues of their inspiration were seen on the ramp as lush green, mint, midnight blue, off-white and rose gold pink formed a mainstay of the canvas. Stripes have been ‘SVA’s’ favoured fabric pattern and this season too, varying versions of the popular pattern were interspersed with metallic accents.



### Payal Singhal's multihued Resort Wear collection

For this year's collection, Payal, we learn, revisited her old paintings to draw them on paper and eventually bring them on her collection called Painterly. The resort wear and destination wedding-ready collection found inspiration in art — from multi-hued brush strokes and abstract art to miniature Mughal paintings — and translated it into Payal's signature PS Prints. She has also explored the psyche of the young Indian bride of today to create wedding wear to resonate with her, and her coterie of bridesmaids. The silhouettes span the gamut from anti-fit and oversized to unapologetically sexy while exuding the feminine edge. While the brand's signature silhouettes like kalidar shararas and the tie-back cholis remained a constant, there were experimental and deconstructed Indian wear too — pants with tie-up half lehengas, ruffled blouses, hip cut-outs and festive pant suits.



### R|ELAN™ presented a stunning collection by Gauri and Nainika made from biodegradable fabrics

The stunning R|Elan™ x Gauri and Nainika Spring/Summer 2023 show presented a grand biodegradable collection that was a first for R|Elan™ at LFW. The collection called "Midnight Botanica 2023" had a rich, dark, dreamy look with stark contrasting hues of the night and botanical inspirations. Floating fashionably down the ramp were light as air chiffons, crepes and organza's that were turned into swirling dresses, jumpsuits and red-carpet worthy flowing Grecian gowns. The romantic colours set the mood for the collection as fiery red and delicate ivory were merged skillfully with strong jewel tones.



### Gaurang Shah brings festive hues on the ramp with the 'Sindoor' Collection

There was an amazing explosion of colour when Gaurang Shah unveiled his "Sindoor" collection which encompassed the colours of the Earth, sky and fire at Lakmé Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI. The magnificent line of 40 handwoven creations appeared in myriad combinations of vermilion, the most loved and revered colour during Hindu rituals. For such a stunning look, Gaurang zeroed in on traditional weaves, rich in texture and patterns. The magnificence of silk weaves was showcased with Kanjeevaram from the South, while Paithani from Maharashtra was regal. Banaras brocades from Varanasi were majestic in form and design along with Kota, Uppada, Khadi and the ever-popular magical muslin. Embellishments further enhanced the drama of the ensembles, as complex Gara designs, Kasuti, Aari, Chikan and Kutch embroidery appeared in all their beauty on the ramp.



### TENCEL™ presented an Exquisite Poetic Indian Collection by Anju Modi

Anju Modi's "Damayanti" collection presented by TENCEL™ fiber brand at LFW was a poetic fashion showcase that created nostalgic romance on the ramp. Anju's design philosophy has always resonated beautifully to empower the craftsmen of the country and this season too, it balanced perfectly with TENCEL™ lyocell and modal fibers for the new collection. Inspired by the ethereal paintings of top Indian artist Raja Ravi Varma whose muse was Damayanti, Anju's look for the show reflected the western techniques and styles that were pioneered by the artist as the collection unfolded on the runway. The graceful saris were organic while the hand-crafted silhouettes spoke a design language all of their own. The saris were richly embellished with hand embroidery and draped in various traditional forms.



### Contemporary Festive Wear by Nachiket Barve dazzled on the ramp

The very festive, joyful, contemporary collection by Nachiket Barve called "Ephemera", set the mood when colour, style and exquisite, handcrafted detailing appeared on the ramp. It was a very sophisticated, elegant offering with timeless silhouettes and feminine styling. For Nachiket, detailing has always played an important role and it was evident from the surface ornamentation of this collection that hundreds of hours of great craftsmanship were invested by expert Indian artisans. There was a grand medley of cutwork, thread embroidery, interesting appliqué techniques, along with splashes of colourful beading that added wonderful textures to the ensembles. Another remarkable aspect of the collection was, the clever and ingenious use by Nachiket, of upcycled fabrics and trims from previous seasons, which he rejuvenated and repurposed for this line to keep waste at the minimum.



### Rina Singh unveiled a Romantic Ode to Fashion

The 'Eka' collection by Rina Singh called "It's Only a Dream" was an ode to romantic fashion and its endless imagination for the audience. Rina's collection took inspiration from the famous story of Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, where boundaries of truth and fiction blur, while imagination can be seen through romance and could convert a fall into beautiful costumes. 'Eka' celebrated the start of the new era and life post-pandemic with the distinctive touches of the brand for the Summer of 2023. Looking through life's new lens – the electronic media - the brand's pixelated motifs of flowers presented a new language in block prints. Hand-crafted details married with hand-woven textiles further enhance this new language of motifs. Experimenting with an exploration of block prints on hand-woven fabrics like cotton and cotton silk, Kota, linen and blends, innovations in Jamdani are also incorporated into cotton and cotton silk silhouettes.