

# BRINGS TOGETHER NEW, EMERGING AND ESTABLISHED TALENT



One of the most eagerly-awaited events in the calendars of all fashion followers in the country, Lakmé Fashion Week X FDCI 2023 recently concluded, giving us a glimpse at all the trends.

Over the past few years, there's been so much conversation around sustainability - it's gone mainstream and it's here to stay for all the right reasons. We're ready to witness what's trending on the fashion front this season with sustainability as its theme. The first season of Lakme Fashion Week in collaboration with FDCI for 2023 is back at Jio World Garden in Bandra Kurla Complex. The four-day beauty and fashion event is held from March 9 to 12 with Sustainable Fashion Day and the Lakme Grand Finale at Jio World Garden.

Along with a host of new GenNext designers, we got to see many familiar names make a comeback on the runway, like Namrata Joshipura and Anavila. From new frontiers of sustainability to a return to classic, old-school high-glamour fashion by the masters, there was something for everybody. Here are all the major highlights that you might have missed from Fashion Week...

Lakmé Fashion Week X FDCI brings together new, emerging and established talent from across the industry to present a world-class beauty and fashion event. 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.

"As India's first and biggest make up and premium skincare brand, Lakme has always taken pride in leading the narrative on fashion and beauty and is now raising the impact at this intersection even more at Lakme Fashion Week. We are truly looking forward to the newest edition of Lakme Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI. Given Lakme Fashion Week is the mecca of the confluence of beauty and fashion in the country, it is here that we want to embark upon our new journey of "Unapologetically Me" - to partner the modern Indian woman to own her beauty and embrace it unapologetically. We look forward to our alliance with all the talented designers, makeup and hair artists, and models to curate a range of showstopping, unapologetic looks with our widespread portfolio and latest launches, Lakme Absolute Lip Mousse and Lakme 9to5 CC Mousse," said Harman Dhillon, Vice President, Hindustan Unilever Limited.

Sunil Sethi, Chairman FDCI commented, "We are all excited to return to Mumbai with this edition of Lakme Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI. As we continue to foster a partnership that brings to the fore the best of talent we currently have in India in the fashion and design space, we could not be more excited to spotlight new and emerging talent as well as give a platform to established designers to bring their creativity to life. Audiences can expect never seen before manifestations of design on the runway that we are sure will contribute to a sustainable growth of fashion and nurture the industry as a whole."

## The Anavila Label opened the Atelier during sustainable fashion

Anavila's collection "DABU" dreamt up by ace designer Anavila Misra. The new collection called "DABU" was devoted to the beauty of the sari and its graceful and elegant drape, which has never been bound by zippers, buttons, or belts. Undoubtedly, the focal point of the show was the unstitch beauty of the sari and its fluid creativity. DABU, which comes from the Hindi word 'dabana' or press, is a very labour-intensive technique and involves several stages of printing and dyeing. The natural dyes of ivory, ochre, sage green, indigo, madder, kashish and black with a luxurious presence of gold and silver danced in gay abundance on the yards of glorious fabrics.



## AKAARO – The Sky Is Mine by Gaurav Jai Gupta

The collection "The Sky is Mine" was inspired by the project 'The Sky is Blue' from the international Klein Blue that the French artist visualised. Adopting this unique artistic approach to fashion, the 'Akaaro' brand brought to centre stage its signature hand woven fabrics that were masterly developed using unconventional materials like stainless steel, Merino wool, monofilament silk, along with cotton for a grand exploration and potential of the colour blue. There were magical blues that brought visions of Lord Shiva in sharp focus, as the hues ranged from deep blue that were reminiscent of outer space, or glossy shades from computer programmes and artificial intelligence that moved on the futuristic theme of the show. There was a great explosion of straight lines as they merged creatively with concentric circles and abstract forms that further added beauty to this contemporary collection of garments.



## Nitin Bal Chauhan collection – THE OUTSIDER

Nitin Bal Chauhan's collection "The Outsider" had a very unconventional inspiration at Lakmé Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI. The designer is known to showcase collections that have inspirations as well as construction, design and silhouettes that make the audience sit up and take notice of the designer's creative talents. The asymmetric silhouettes were the focal point of the look, along with the unusual off-centre design detailing that was eminently eye catching. The juxtaposed panels further added to the inspiration of the collection and created a feeling of absurdity that was derived from the author's novel. Layers of textures formed the base of the look, while the 3D hand embroidery, which is the designer's signature touch was observed on the clothes, shoes and even headgear. Nitin Bal Chauhan is renowned for his clothes that have a marked punk flavour and this season too, his extensive use of metal on the garments projected a neo-minimal punk look.



## Ruchika Sachdeva's 'Bodice' label presented by RISE Worldwide

Through this showcase, Bodice launched its Spring/Summer '23 collection, which celebrated the triumph of colour with an array of fluid silhouettes. Sundresses stood out, and wardrobe staples were refined to elevated daywear. Visible on the ramp was a stylish collision of bright pinks, tangerine and electric blue that perfectly balanced the unbleached beauty of Kora. Comfort was the key word when asymmetric tent tops had tie-up detailing at the waist, while a wide assortment of sundresses were uniquely panelled with gentle, feminine tailoring to satisfy the beach lovers. For more practical options, there were flared trousers and pleated shirt dresses that added to the wide wardrobe variety. Separates were an important aspect of the collection, as versatile coordinate sets could be re-worn, styled in numerous ways as well as mixed and matched as per the moods of the buyers. The fluid, flowing, silhouettes added to the relaxed, edgy look of the ensembles that would suit the holiday mood of the wearer.



## “Kacho” (Raw) Khadi collection by Divyam Mehta

Divyam Mehta’s “Kacho” (Raw) Khadi collection was a visual collage that amalgamated rural Rabari wall patterns with dots that were laid out in geometrical forms. This was achieved with spontaneous brush strokes and immaculately embellished with Kantha stitches. The collection showcased a quiet colour palette comprising slate, fossil, grey and indigo that highlighted the raw textures of the denim and cotton khadi. Divyam added further detailing in hand carved wooden blocks as well as screen prints. The interesting aspects were the stark stitches that were visible on tailored jackets, trousers, odhanis and interesting cocoon like drapes. The design medley of the collection included drapes with meticulous patterns and artisanal construction that was emphasised with darning stitches to highlight the seams.



## Suket Dhir - Tribute to Nature collection

Suket Dhir’s “Spring Forest” collection for men imagined Khadi in a new avatar as images of animals amongst lush foliage were presented in a contemporary format. It was fascinating to see Suket’s versions of animals out from the cold winter as they celebrated Spring in the forest. It was amazing to spot a hornbill relaxing with a cigar, while a black buck whistled in the distance, or another blew bubbles with a chewing gum and a leopard in a helmet was ready to ride away. Khadi was presented as summer and winter garments in muted hues and dreamt up in cotton and cotton silks. The weaves were in different counts that offered plain twill as well as jamdani that was printed in refreshing colours. The garments embellished with kantha, had clever detailing, trims and displayed great, luxurious, satin, silk lining. Sharply cut and very well constructed the men’s wear options in Khadi from the “Spring Forest” line by Suket Dhir gave a variety to choose from.



## “Khadder” collection by Shruti Sancheti

For Shruti Sancheti, Khadi was not just a cloth when she designed her collection “Khadder”. For her, it has always been a fabric that is an integral part of the Indian freedom movement. Creating a line of timeless clothing from Khadi, Shruti selected cotton and silk Khadi woven in small clusters of Vidarbha, in fine thread counts that varied from 120 to 200. Adding her fashion sensibilities to the fabric, Shruti brought in geometric motifs that featured stripes and checks. The colour palette was devoted to indigo, rust, maroon and beige that featured soft and earthy tones to match the textures of the fabric. The hand block printing was however the focal point of the line, while embellishments like cord embroidery and exquisite mukaish work highlighted the detailing of the garments. The wide array of comfortable duster jackets, perky boleros, practical co-ord sets, long layer-friendly dresses, some cool kurtas and bundies offered both Indian and western style directions.



## JJ Valaya showcased a unique collection from his bridge-to-luxury brand “JJV.Kapurthala”

The “JJV.Kapurthala” collection was a travel inspired look that offered occasion wear, based on the travelogues of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala, which is also known as the Paris of Punjab. The collection of 42 immaculately tailored and constructed ensembles showcased a grand tapestry of weaves that brought in unison traditional motifs, abstract designs as well as stripes. The colour card stayed true to the NEXA hues of blue, black, and ivory that highlighted the exquisite silhouettes of the dramatic garments. Against an impressive back drop, the creations were unveiled in their regal glory as men’s and women’s wear glided on the ramp on elegantly styled models. Smart kurta/bundie sets for men were balanced with stylish basic shirts with animal prints. Women’s wear featured an interesting deep ‘V’ neckline for a long-sleeved blouse worn with a colourful maxi skirt.



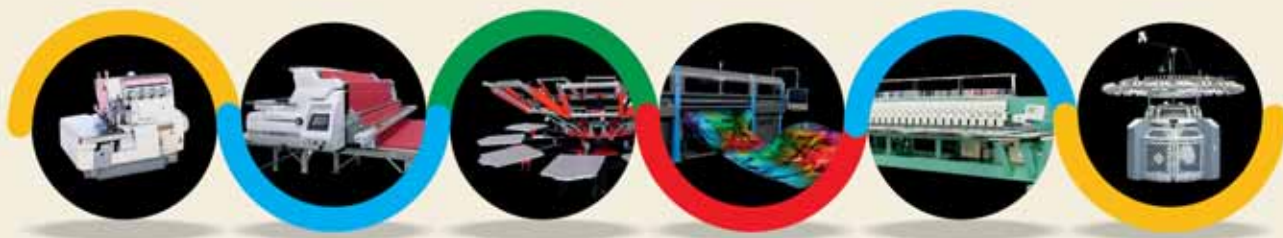
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## Siddhartha Bansal's colourful collection

Siddhartha Bansal's collections have always revolved around colour and prints that have been used in the most creative and innovative manner. Siddhartha's creativity was evident in the intricate, hand craftsmanship on flowing rich fabrics, which offered a dopamine mix of bright prints, patterns and colours that made unique fashion statements. The pastel kaleidoscope of layers gave the silhouettes a visual harmony of flowing ripples. Bringing a frothy, feminine, flouncy look to his women's wear, Siddhartha created an enchanting ombré effect for the abstract, layered, halter creation in shades of pink. Taking the colour story further he added tones of blue, green, crème and white in layered scales for an enticing mini.



## Style and Elegance was evident in the Bhumika Sharma Collection

Bhumika Sharma presented a luxurious, formal wear collection at LFW. Creator of classic silhouettes for dramatic formal wear, Bhumika Sharma's Spring/Summer 2023 had style and elegance for the coming season. Dreaming up a new print story for the show, Bhumika worked with lime and mint green hues that brought a great fresh ambience to the glamorous line. Embellishments played an imposing role for the gorgeous lehenga, choli, dupatta, trios as well as the innovatively draped saris, Anarkalis and glam fusion wear. Concentrating on traditional techniques like dabka and tila work, the crafts added intricate detailing to the ensembles. To further highlight the designs, a rich array of pearl embroidery, signature organza tassels as well as an interesting line of metallic tassels gave a contemporary twist to the line of outfits. Geometrics appeared for the motifs that were splashed extravagantly on the outfits, while the French knots completed the elaborate embellishment and craft story. Some eye-catchers were the long-sleeved printed gown, long-sleeved choli teamed with a printed sari and the strappy choli for Indian wear revealed a luxe look.



## Mahima Mahajan brought new Fashion Sensibilities

Mahima Mahajan brought a free-spirited collection of stunning ensembles. The “Ru•a” collection by Mahima Mahajan was all about timeless glamour that will be desired by a wide cross section of stylish buyers. With Ru•a, we’ve passionately blended our past, present & future & instinctively ventured into the definition of our essence. This collection is whole-heartedly the core of Mahima Mahajan, with the delirious pattern-clash of floral & geometric prints; the play on extravagant volumes and silhouettes; the feminine fluidity colliding with structured silhouettes, the burst of colour with candy pink, sunset yellow & blush - it’s all us! An interesting juxtaposition to our modern prints & silhouettes this season are ‘shabds’ from our very own Gulzar sahab, Mir & Bashir Badr.”



## Sejal Kamdar's collection "Spectrum of Nature"

Sejal Kamdar's collection "Spectrum of Nature" was a luminous oasis of colour. Selecting a colour story that was as vibrant as the rainbow, Sejal zeroed in on rich maroon, striking navy blue, ravishing scarlet red and then added neutral black and ivory. The highlight of the collection was the colourful traditional crafts like, Ajrakh, patchwork and strip work, while the surface ornamentation was visualised with antique cut pipe, bead and crystal work. Here too, it was colour that caught the eye as yellow, magenta, parrot green, sage, orange, fuchsia, grey and wine showcased a kaleidoscopic offering. Fabrics that brought the collection to life, were rich and varied in form and structure. Luxurious German satin, Mashroo silk, pure organza and georgette played an organic medley on the ramp. The silhouettes were aimed at the contemporary fashion sensibilities of the buyer and suitable for the festive occasions. The lehengas, were visualised in a more modern form, while the fluid pants, sharply tailored jackets, jumpsuits, sculpted draped dresses and structured peplum blouses, brought a hint of freshness to the look.





## Manish Malhotra unveils the Second Drop of his Diffuse Collection

Manish Malhotra took a refreshing and playful approach by redefining the societal labels, with a gaming-inspired collection. The showcase presented prints inspired by iconic-games in androgynous styles having a blast alongside a high-octane colour palette of stark blacks, electric purples, shocking neons, unconventional constructs, with the use of unmissable fabrics. The retagged labels were incorporated, proudly and boldly, into the detailing of the collection. The accessories and styling showcase a boatload of alluring metallics, latex, oversized jackets, trench coats, a new version of the MM monogram sweatshirts, hand printed and embellished co-ord sets, lehengas, label placements, pleatings, popular high-slit gowns, and knee high boots, all this and more making a special appearance. The collection checks in with the creative, youthful and experimental spirit of digital natives, while infusing it into timeless and all-season wearable silhouettes and separates – each garment a distinctly quirky, fun, yet unapologetically glamorous conversation-starter.



## Highly anticipated collection "The First Order" by Namrata Joshipura

The collection represents knowledge in artificial intelligence, reflecting the simplest and most fundamental level of organization or experience. Through 'The First Order,' I wanted to create an immersive experience that celebrates the beauty and sophistication of modern design while also looking towards the future. An unconventional offering was the long-sleeved jacket with rear buttons, a glittering, plunging, neckline creation with cut outs and the pussy bow, printed, body suit. The printed, long-sleeved gown with a keyhole interest at the waist added to the glam quotient of the collection. For more drama it was a shimmering corset with matching trousers that raised the luxe level of the ensembles. The silhouettes, sharply constructed, comprised the popular jumpsuits, along with figure hugging body suits and clinging, draped dresses that were ideal for the body conscious buyer.

