



LAKMÉ FASHION WEEK

Glamorous styles and trends at India's most spectacular fashion event

The Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI is the biggest fashion event of the year, but it's also a great opportunity to network and gain insights into the fashion industry. The event was held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from October 11 to 15, 2023.

The Lakmé Fashion Week event provided a national platform to young designers from across the country. From textile stories and sustainable fashion to paying tribute to the grace and strength of women, Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI was definitely an exciting event. Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI is one of the most watched events in the country. The bi-annual event attracted audiences not only from India but also from across the globe and is one of the most followed platforms digitally.

When it comes to making a splash in the fashion business, Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI is where brands are born and succeed. The INIFD GenNext featured put on centre stage No Grey Area, Sonam Khetan, and Triune, while INIFD Launchpad presented five future names and the Pearl Academy's FDCI 'First Cut' showed dazzled with 32 designers.

The finale of the Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI was one of the most unusual ever created. Keeping the tempo of the show in top gear at the magnificent Fountain in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, moving vocals crooned as the models glided around. The House of Lakmé presented the exquisite creations of New York based designer, Bibhu Mohapatra's spectacular collection 'Come Home'. The show was undoubtedly one of the most memorable happenings in the

Indian fashion world. The most exciting part of the show was the coming together on the ramp, of past and present beautiful Lakmé faces - Lisa Haydon, Carol Gracias, Bipasha Basu, Alicia Kaur, Kirandeep Chahal, Vipasha Agarwal Simone Singh and Shimona Nath who paraded with Ananya Panday, the current Lakmé brand ambassador.

Sunil Sethi, Chairman of FDCI, said, "We are thrilled to return to New Delhi for this season's Lakmé Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI. As we continue to strengthen the platform that serves to showcase the finest design talent in the industry, we're also excited to continue elevating the business of fashion. Our goal is to support both young and established designers, fostering an environment that encourages innovation and creativity. And with this edition, we want to engage and inspire stakeholders from across the industry."

The event also provided plenty of networking opportunities with some of the biggest names in fashion. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and exchange ideas and resources that will help them advance their careers in fashion. Famous brands will join hands with renowned designers to present effortless fashion.

“Ice Watch” collection was the grand presentation by Samant Chauhan

Ice designer Samant Chauhan has been renowned for his skills in combining the beauty of his beloved Bhagalpur silk with modern silhouettes and weaving techniques. His “Ice Watch” collection While the ensembles were an ode to the fragile beauty of the glaciers, it beckoned audiences with its ethereal allure and a poignant message echoing the vulnerability of glaciers. Elegant, yet totally functional, the inspiration of the glaciers was evident in the colour palette that moved serenely through shades of blue, white, and grey, which were delicately interspersed with bits of green and purple. The fabric story had to start with Bhagalpur silk, yet moved gracefully to organza and cotton silks for added elegant glamour. Samant’s silhouettes have always bordered on feminine dreamlike shapes that women long for. There were swirling skirts that floated down the runway, while abstract forms and clever geometric patterns kept the artistry of the designs in firm control.



Captured the festive flavour of celebrations in Bhumika Sharma’s collection

Bringing her signature embroideries inspired by her rich archives to the runway, Bhumika. A mélange of classic and contemporary silhouettes came to life in luxe silk, organza and georgette. Detailing and the use of tantalising tassels was visible on the many dazzling ensembles. On a colour card of red and ivory with neutral black, Bhumika also added earthy muted hues like sage green, tones of olive, blue and grey to liven up the stylish new floral prints. Thread embroidery played a vital role with metallics like dori work, zardozi and the ornate French knots embroidery. The motifs highlighted by the embellishments were a medley of abstract geometric florals, borders, rhombus, lines and jaals with circular medallions and paisleys. The accent of the silhouettes was feminine with trends and styling being given prime importance. A blend of Indian and western shapes merged seamlessly to bring an interesting fashion dimension to the collection. Wide legged pants, elegantly cut jackets, pant suits, gorgeous lehenga, choli, dupatta, trios and the innovative Kalidar jackets teamed with floor sweeping skirts were eye-catchers. For the traditional dressers it was the 6-yard wonder- the sari, - which appeared in the traditional form or draped with capes. Co-ord sets made a striking appearance to suit the sartorial needs of the fashion-conscious wearer.



A Free-Spirited Daring collection by Mahima Mahajan

Mahima Mahajan's "FIDA" collection at Lakmé Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI was aimed at the young, free spirited, unabashed women who love to make stylish statements wherever they go. Mahima focussed on a vibrant colour card, which appeared in great profusion as she creatively wove a glamorous, melody of past, present, and future style directions for the coming season. The grand amalgamation of floral prints, silhouettes and stunning volumes moved gracefully in feminine, fluid forms on the runway. The entry of Sindoor red, sunset yellow and blush, brought a burst of visual excitement to the runway. The silhouettes offered organic drapes, when Mahima's choice of organza, georgette and luxe silk floated in unison for the swirling, billowing, elegant creations. Adding dazzle to the ensembles, Mahima was discreet as embroidered beads, reflective mirrors and gold sequins shimmered under the ramp lights.



Paulmi and Harsh unveiled splendid bridal glamour

The inspiration for the "Rooh" collection by Paulmi and Harsh was a grand fusion of art, culture, and timeless literature. Moving back intime, the collection drew its creativity from the Renaissance era as well as literature classics like *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. The luxury of gauzy materials and romantic lace, moved fluidly across the ultra-feminine creations. Chintz, florals, and tapestry prints came in perfect harmony for the modern bridal wear looks. There was a distinct style merger of French and European sensibilities, which were interwoven with traditional motifs and the regal colours that gave life to the ensembles. Luxuriously visualised saris, ornate kaftans, glamorous lehengas, cholis and dupatta trios and kurtas, along with stylish fusion wear created a veritable feast for the eyes on the runway.



Shweta Kapur's 431-88 label made a powerful fashion statement

Shweta launched her label '431-88' in 2012 and ensured that the brand had a unique fashion expression through the years. Fine tailoring, luxe urban wear, representing some classic Indian silhouettes, ensured the look spelt fine apparel chic. This season, Shweta's "Collection 20" had a strong colour card of black, white, grey and brown all ideal for board room drama, which were further juxtaposed impressively with acid green, red and electric blue. To stay on the path of the inspiration, the fabrics moved from power packed suiting fabrics to ultra-glam silks and satins. There was a marked presence of inspirations from different decades as 80's powered dressing was amalgamated with the flirty nature of the 90's. The silhouettes' roster was varied, as structured oversized blazers were teamed with softer options. For evening glamour there was a wide choice that will satisfy the needs of the most fastidious buyers.



'Wedding Wear Collection' as the debut of TASVA by Tarun Tahiliani

Drawing inspiration from India's rich cultural heritage and natural splendour, the collection featured an array of architectural, flora, and fauna motifs. The garments were resplendent with Resham, Aari, and Dori embroidery, artfully accentuated with Zardozi threads, Pearls, and French knots. These intricate details came together to evoke a sense of lightness, modernity, and ease, showcasing skilled embroidery in luxurious threads. The Wedding Wear collection embodied Tarun Tahiliani's signature style, seamlessly blending traditional aesthetics with contemporary design. The collection offered comfortable fits crafted from luxurious silk blends, skin-friendly cotton-viscose, and woven jacquards, allowing freedom of movement.



Reliance presents Abraham & Thakore with latest collection 'Body Language'

Their latest collection 'Body Language', which was predominantly in black and white with bursts of contrasts, had an interesting creative mélange of numbers, alphabets and symbols that formed an amazing language. In a world seemingly immersed in a communication revolution, Abraham & Thakore's collection delved into the intricacies of modern communication, set against the backdrop of a rapidly evolving digital landscape where technologies like ChatGPT and emojis are shaping the way we interact. From embracing bits of braille to morse codes and letters, the ensembles made some witty non-verbal statements. There was fun and excitement in the apparel, as, at times the hidden text even revealed the disguised brand's name. The inspiration of playful typography was realized with detailed craftsmanship as ikat, Ajrakh, brocades, badla sequins, and fine laser cut work were brought seamlessly together. While the coloured monochromes added contrast, there was also the sheer hand block prints, cutwork coat or lace skirt that brought forth a playful jest and a poignant social commentary. Quite noteworthy on the ramp was an artful blurring of formal and casual wear, as the 'Body Language' line of ensembles moved in varying directions.



Pallavi Mohan's latest collection "My Journey - Just the Beginning"

Pallavi's visual romance with flowers and nature has always been translated into 3D embellishments and surface ornamentation along with ingenious crafting of laser cut flowers. Her new collection was a grand album of Pallavi's traditional techniques that brought the 3D floral hand appliqué to striking life in gorgeous pastels and multi coloured tones. There was a mélange of hues like aqua, earthy moss green, pretty vanilla peach, soft blush, sage green, striking navy blue and mustard that moved gracefully into neutrals like grey, metallic ecru and shades of denim blue. Clever layers of the laser cut textures were eminent on the billowing sheer and mesh fabrics. Luminous fabrics played a tantalising game with sheer and peek-a-boo textures. It was the beauty of sheer organza, French tulle, the very exotic high sheen velvet, silk satin and twill along with tones of denim and fake leather, which created a visual impact on the runway. The line of great formal wear offered amazing mix and match possibilities with unique directions.



The Kalki bridal wear collection dazzled on the ramp

Latest collection by Kalki 'Zayra' is a testament to the brand's kaleidoscopic, captivating colours stitched in graceful drapes. This collection is a visionary creation, meticulously crafted by the ingenious minds of its three male founders: Saurabh, Shishir, and Nishit Gupta. As their brainchild, the brand stands as a testament to their collective ingenuity and unwavering dedication to the world of fashion. For the radiant bride, KALKI's ornate saris, lehengas, dramatic gowns with trials and veils added a touch of mystic, while the mermaid skirts with impressive cholis were memorable offerings. The draped saris at times with tiny blouses or the majestic gowns with over-powering necklines and sleeves ensured that brides will be the cynosure of all eyes. The fabrics were rich and luxurious, while the neutral white and ivory added a majestic appeal to the creations. Men's wear from KALKI was a veritable feast for the audience. From formal to bridal wear, there was a choice of kurta sets, sherwanis, tunics, kurta/jacket combos and Indo-west trios. Menswear too was discreetly embellished with tonal embroidery and shimmered with the various patterns in the neutral white and ivory.



Aseem Kapoor brought an interesting, unconventional collection called "Beyond Ken"

Aseem's collection celebrated the dark and light side of human nature as the Fall 23-24 look drew inspiration from the life and artwork of Austrian artist Adolf Wolfli. The artist's vibrant, coloured abstracts gave the brand its dull jewel tones. In addition, there was the tribal moti Bharat work, which was aimed at reflecting the trend towards global fashion movements. Aseem also drew his inspirations from Japanese facades and oriental layering to intensely accentuate the importance of contrasts that gave the collection an Eastern flavour. The use of fabrics, textures and styles brought a fashionable thrust towards the essence of Indian culture and the contemporary world. The tribal beadwork and detailing further highlighted the traditional aspect of the ensembles. Textured velvet brought forth the beauty of Indian craftsmanship into the limelight. Aseem believed in the thought "think global act tribal", which ensured that the collection was also sporty and edgy but not quite apart from tradition at the same time.



Anurag Gupta's collection called "Failed Promises"

Anurag Gupta has always felt that fashion is an intelligent medium to tell a story and it should be used as often as possible. Hence, the designer has always ensured that his clothes tell an inspiring story every time. Anurag's collection called "Failed Promises" looked at the deeply concerning condition of manual scavengers in India. Anurag's creations have always been a kaleidoscope of interesting construction with intense detailing that has turned his garments into instant best sellers. His clever uses of prints and solid fabrics have always been strong fashion pointers that would set trends for the next season. Co-ord sets, tunics, maxis, coloured ensembles brought the brand's fashion sensibilities to the forefront in a variety of silhouettes, prints and detailing. Anurag Gupta's collection "Failed Promises" not only made an impressive fashion statement, but also ensured that a thought-provoking social message was presented to the buyers of the garments.



'Gulaal' inspired by the splendour of the Pink City by Swati Vijavargie

Swati Vijavargie's "Gulaal" collection was inspired by the pink hues of Jaipur architecture and the shimmer of Jaisalmer, the Golden City. Colours of India were visible as fuchsia moved in coordination with orange, while the marigold tones danced with shades of blue. The red, vermilion, emerald, gulaabi, turquoise and purple hues mirrored the gorgeous colours of the country and completed the "Gulaal" story. Fabrics that brought the collection to life, were the luxurious silks, Mashru, cotton silk, silk organza and Chanderi. The designing skills of Swati were evident in the layered silhouettes and the free flowing images of the ensembles. Making a visually, arresting impact on the ramp was the striped, dolman-sleeved choli with a magnificent multi-coloured lehenga. A fluid sharara appeared with an asymmetric kurti that was topped with an eye-catching dupatta. Layering was apparent for a poncho style kurta, teamed with fitted pants, while the dazzling, flared, asymmetric kurta made a stunning entry with dhoti pants. The very stylised, vertically striped kaftan was a great, formal, resort wear option. Stripes appeared in a dual tone medley, for a swirling skirt and short jacket combo that was accompanied by an angular bustier under it. Adding drama, the draped one-shouldered maxi was topped with an ornate, asymmetric robe that was stylishly cinched at the waist with a belt.



Sanjukta Dutta created a dreamlike balance of elegance and harmony in her collection

Sanjukta Dutta's latest collection "Sapoon" offered a mix of elegance and style. "Sapoon", which means 'dreams', was a mélange of construction and creativity as Sanjukta displayed traditional as well as contemporary trends to buyers. Predominantly in black, colours were also seen in all their vibrant finery, while a symphony of Indian motifs and prints played a fashionable medley for the ethnic and Indo-western ensembles. The "Sapoon" collection was also about simplicity and styles. Making an impressive entry on the ramp was the beautiful Mekhela Chador, a favourite of Sanjukta, which was visible in all its forms. Stunning saris, ornate lehengas, floor kissing skirts and luxurious gowns completed the line. There was an amazing merging of Indian artisanal aspects with Assamese fabrics that brought forth a new fashion dimension. Intricate detailing was Sanjukta's focal point along with textures and timeless craftsmanship.



"The Soft Parade" collection by Payal Pratap on Sustainable Fashion Day

The fabric base was a mélange of handloom linen, woven stripes, and chambray weaves, while the luxe silks, Chanderries as well as the Bandhani prints on silk complemented the presentation. Keeping the inspiration intact, the myriad stitches inspired from ancient kedias were reworked into detailed asymmetric patterns that featured some geometry as well as florals motifs and a dollop of shine. Payal also extensively explored the intricate beauty of patchwork in modern and abstract motifs of nature. It was a great festival of craft as the collection brought together the old with the new of Bandhani, appliqué, multiple hand stitched techniques along with abstract rose motifs that were juxtaposed to create a carpet of patterns. Adding more excitement to the embellishments, Payal created designs of bird chintz, flowers, and Tree of Life patterns. The colors of Kutch brought to life the apparel, as a tinge of red was merged with varying shades of blue, neutral ivories and blacks to form a palette of multicolour hues.



NEXA launched Amit Aggarwal's new experimental PRÉT Collection

The collection titled "Core" stayed true to Amit Aggarwal's signature style statements as well as the NEXA ethos of 'Create. Inspire'. It was a relaxed line of prêt clothing that will appeal to those who long for new additions that can merge with their past wardrobe options. The very striking prêt line offered separates created in luxurious fabrics like silk, cotton, and rubberised textiles. There was a wide array of choices that moved from shirts to tops, then onto capes and cleverly constructed jackets, aimed at the stylish men and women global buyers. Drapes, intense construction, clever structures, and artful manipulation of the fabrics ensured that the apparel offered a unique fashion story. There was a distinct aspect of gender fluidity, as well as a large offering of sustainability that was displayed through the use of upcycled materials.



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