

# CRYSTAL GAZING

Bindu Gopal Rao peeks into the future to predict the apparel trends for 2018.

It's a brand new year and also the time when new trends make waves, defining the year. In the apparel industry, these trends are keenly followed not just by manufacturers and designers but also by customers.

## INSPIRATIONS UNLIMITED

When it comes to trends and looks for 2018, there is something for everyone, but the overriding feeling is one of femininity. The eras that inspire the most in 2018 will be the 1980s and 90s. According to a spokesperson from Cover Story, "Big shoulders, body-con silhouettes, short minis, puffball hemlines and bling accessories are all important. This time around, however, it is less about hard-edged power dressing and more about feminine glamour. The sports trend continues to be big for SS18, but it has moved on from a tomboyish interpretation to a highly feminine one. College stripes and hi-tech performance fabrics are key, but the overall look is soft in both colour and attitude. Utility Cargo garments are mixed with lace and sequins, for a highly glamorous take on army inspired looks." Updating wardrobe classics is a big catwalk trend for 2018. Giving items like the trench coat, pencil skirt, fit and flare dress and classic shirt a real contemporary twist, by playing with proportion and volume is a must for the season. Use of asymmetric hemlines, placement ruffles, and statement sleeves gives wardrobe basics a very modern lift. "Vintage America is a big inspiration for the coming year. This is seen in two ways; through soft, romantic Prairie looks, or via a funky Western Tex-Mex cowgirl spirit. Prairie looks include pastel colours and vintage wallpaper florals, while Western looks have an earthier, festival spirit, and borrow from Native American and traditional Mexican patterns and motifs. 60s London and 70s/80s Paris were also strong catwalk themes. Expect to see plenty of cute Breton stripes, chic French slogans, and cheeky British mod-era graphics. Coming through

for summer, there is a new interpretation of kitsch retro resort wear, inspired by a mix of original Art Deco Miami and 80s pop. Candy stripes and ombré tie-dye effects sit alongside stylised palm tree and beach motifs, for a fresh feminine take on summer dressing," adds a spokesperson from Cover Story.

## CONTEMPORARY CHIC

As opposed to 2017, which was more about prints and clean cut silhouettes, 2018 will see more of solids and flared silhouettes. "There will also be some playing around with a lot of 'gather' and 'pleats' over not only dresses, but jumpsuits, pants, and tops as well. While 2017 saw a lot of print on apparels, home decor and footwear, 2018 is more about printed tops with flared sleeves. Sleeves with details are going to be the focal point of the garment," says Shreyasi Pathak, Stylist at Vajor. Denim silhouettes continue to be slim and tapered. Good stretch denim fabrics and blends with modal, Tencel etc., provide the necessary comfort and ease for activity and movement. Knitted denims with authentic looks provide the perfect versatility demanded by millennials. Rip & Repair, hand stitched uneven patchwork inspired by Japanese Boro technique continues, giving artisanal appeal along with the message of reuse and recycle. "In terms of washes, they vary from super dark, clean looking minimalism to high contrast washes with true vintage denim looks, to extremely washed out sun-faded ones to suit one's mood. With fitness becoming an all-encompassing part of our lives, clothing that functions across work, rest, travel and play, and caters to the all-day active consumer will be the trend. Activewear and sports inspired clothing with functional details will be a big trend. Apart from these bold colours, bold print patterns and colourful plaids would be in trend. Warm brush rose pink is particularly strong for men coming summer. In terms of styling, look out for seventies-style military





shirts, double breast pockets with slouchier cut. Camouflage prints in innovative patterns and colours continue to make a style statement,” says Manjula Gandhi, Chief Product Officer, Numero Uno Clothing Ltd.

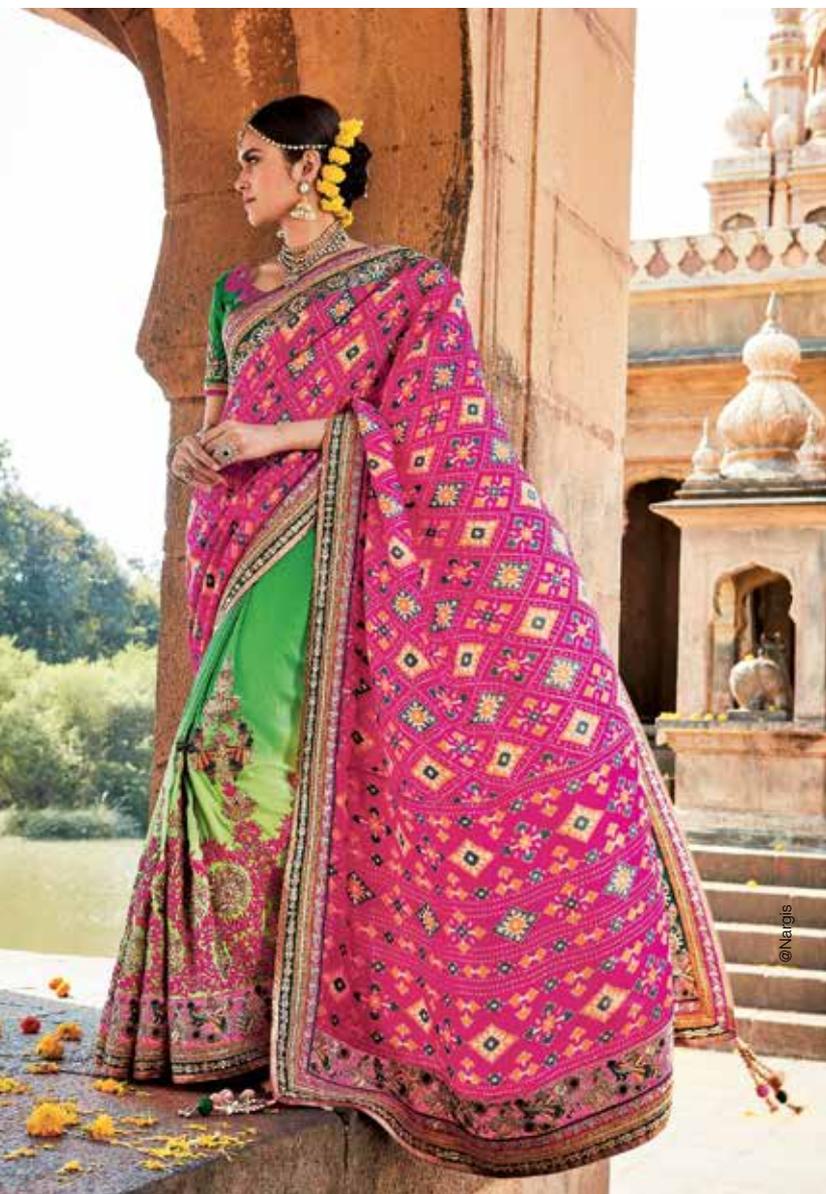
**MATERIALS & MORE**

Tassels and jacquard tapes are going to rule this New Year just like they did in 2017. They add an instant oomph to the garment, and have the ability to turn any simple dress or top into something which adds more personality to your look. Surface ornamentation and elegant embroidery along with statement silhouettes are going to be a hit this year. There are many looks and trends to play with in 2018, giving customers

a wide choice, and leaving room for personal experimentation. It is an ‘anything goes’ time, giving womenswear customers a lot of freedom to try out looks and dress according to how they feel, or how they want the world to see them. “The year 2018 will be dominated by florals, geometric designs, circular shapes, stripes, fusion wear, high necks, and stylish dupattas. Apart from tassels, beading and ruffles, frilly pieces will also be found on every type of clothing. Hues of lavender are the colour for spring 2018. Also, a floor-length lehenga paired with a long jacket, high-waist pants and skirts can set trends that may have an enduring effect on the industry, which means they are almost guaranteed to have staying power as the New Year commences,” avers Anshul Paul, Director, Nargis.

**TREND CHECK**

Although denims with details made an entry last year, 2018 will see a more subtle avatar of the same. “Till now, ripped and rugged denims had made rounds throughout the market. 2018 is more about clean cut silhouettes with typical denim hues. Tie-up necklines and backs are something designers have been working with, and probably 2018 will see more of such detailed garments,” adds Pathak. Floral prints will rule. They will be seen in all scales – big and small – and will be printed all over garments or placed to make bold visual statements. They will be inspired by soft vintage wallpapers and fabrics, or seen as bold photographic prints. “Oversized spots and bold stripes will provide



jacket and jean. Slogans will continue to dominate for tees and tops, and motifs/graphics will be less girly and have more of a quirky, darker edge to them – tattoo art, Goth symbols and insects. For SS18 white and pastels will dominate. However, bright, bold, pop colours will be a refreshing antidote. Lilac and purple shades were strong on the catwalks, so expect to see them everywhere next year,” says a spokesperson from Cover Story.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

With the comeback of velvet fabric, the industry has set a trend in the year 2017 and brocades and banarasi fabrics will rule the coming year. “The 2018 summers and monsoon will witness experiments with black or white polka dots, leopard print, and checks. Lucite green and turquoise tones are totally modern and elegant. The fall and winter seasons, however, will see the unexpected mixing of colours and patterns. Knits will be ruling the trends. Pink with fringes and pearl and shades of midnight black and blue will be the tone of the season,” says Paul. The 80s’ styles will return in 2018. Shirts and jackets will be loaded with 80’s inspired fashion and not in an unflattering way. Oversized blazers and knits will be all the rage. “2018 will see a lot of comebacks that will give the fashion industry a boost. This year will be all about comfort with style. I am excited to see the challenges that the coming year brings. Simple just won’t cut it in 2018, so there will be lot of space to experiment with frills, drapes, embroidery, sequins, patterns and colours,” concludes Paul. ■

an update to wardrobe classics and basics, whilst camouflage and animal prints will give sport and utility looks some pattern relief. Mesh and tulle continues on into 2018, and is seen in soft romantic styles, and simpler sportier layers. Sheer fabrics will be in vogue. Metallic finishes, including sequins, will be big for daytime as much as for evening wear, in hi-shine or matte finish. The biggest new metallic colours have a foil look to them, with red and electric blue being important. Seductive satin and lingerie lace are styled for daywear, for a dressed-up look, or contrasted against vintage worn-in denims. Leather and suede looks continue, particularly for new interpretations of the rock-chick biker

