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RADAR STYLE BULLETIN Need-to-know fashion and beauty news



Dark is beautiful

Pakistani model Amna Ilyas dedicated her 2015 Lux Style Award for Best Female Model to "all the dark-skinned girls."

Big bucks

According to Boston Consulting Group, Bangladesh is poised to be one of the fastest-growing markets worldwide. It's likely to become a consumer superpower in the next decade.

Starry campaign

Pakistani actress and Bollywood's latest muse, Mahira Khan, is the new face of Pepe Jeans Pakistan.

Fab fitness

Fitness brand Mio Global has officially entered the Indian market, by inking an exclusive deal with Amazon India.

Christmas wish

Sri Lanka's Embark fashion label recently launched its Christmas campaign, which continues to have a charitable focus on bettering the lives of special needs animals and street dogs in the country. —Hina P. Ansari





ONE TREND, TWO WAYS

CREAMSICLE EYES

Soft washes of orange and peach make a surprisingly flattering statement

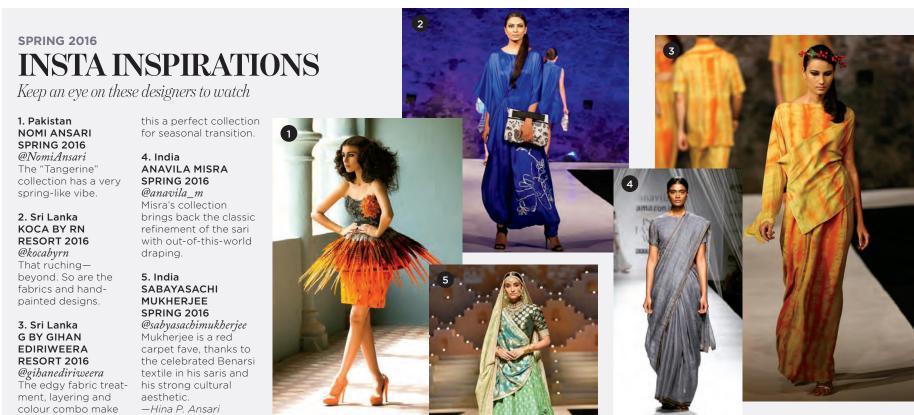
1. Pretty pastels at Thakoon

Taking inspiration from the Northern Lights, makeup artist Diane Kendal used a blush duo on eyes to finish off Thakoon models' softly reflective makeup. After applying the bronze shade all over lids and blending out toward the temples, she amplified the look with a wash of peach, and lined the waterline with a white pencil.

2. Two-tone at Altuzarra

Tom Pecheux channelled Ingrid Bergman's cool beauty and understated elegance when he painted lids in warm pastels at Altuzarra. He used his fingers to blend warm orangey copper around the outer half of the eyes and added pale grey at the inner corners to create a colour-blocked effect. -Carly Ostroff

NARS EYESHADOW DUO IN MEDITERANEE, \$35, NARSCOSMETICS.COM. M.A.C COSMETICS MACNIFICENT ME EYE SHADOW IN CHEER ME ON, \$19, MACCOSMETICS.CA



-Hina P. Ansari

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NOW TRENDING

GOTHIC'S NEW GLAMOUR

Fashion has fallen for the dark arts. The current nostalgia for Victorian-inspired pieces takes traditional fabrics and turns them into modern masterpieces

BY AYA MCMILLAN



Addams. Attagirl. With her rebellious spirit and distinctive personal style, baring organza and lace. "I love that Addams has always been an unofficial tailored look," she says, "that structure spirit animal for the fashion set. Now that works with your body." that moody, broody Victoriana has cast a dark shadow on the Fall 2015 runways, is its focus on the craft of fashion. Inside she's set to have a whole new impact on the Narces atelier, a group of artisans women's wardrobes.

the parade of floor-skimming petticoats and fitted riding jackets at Marc Jacobs. Leave it to Alexander Wang to kit out Kendall Jenner in an inky velvet fluted skirt trimmed with chains for a streetwise-Lolita take on Victoriana that fashion. "So many things are knocked surely never existed circa 1865.

labels such as Giles, Simone Rocha and Montreal-bred Erdem fashioned swirling capes with bonded patent leathers, unfinished brocades and mohair-melded guipure lace. In Paris, Givenchy's Riccardo Tisci—the original torchbearer for dark romance—viewed Victoriana through a Latin lens with a nod to the Chola girl: Ethereal frills aesthetics" cited in Tisci's program notes piercings and tattoos). Call it delicacy knocked off, but it looks so...cheesy." charged with defiance.

That tension has long defined the Victorian aesthetic. It's covered up may just be the era's lasting legacy—a but form-fitting, sober in palette but often sensually opulent in detail. "It's lemon alone. "We all need a wardrobe a pragmatic look at what it takes to be of great basics," says Tant, "but if you vice-president of exclusive services at statement you're going to be looking Holt Renfrew. "It's a way of saying, 'I'm for lace, embellishments, detailing, a woman, I'm asserting myself, but don't mess with me,' at the same time."

"I'll stop wearing black when they make a darker colour," said Wednesday collection is full of handcrafted pieces

Part of the allure of Victorian dress help Wirthensohn tailor, embroider The trend started in New York, and embellish clothes for hours on with Rodarte's bejewelled velvet frocks end. "The amount of work that goes finished with flounces and fishnets and into each piece—you just can't do it with a machine," says the designer. "It's important for each dress to have all that intricate detailing."

That attention to detail helps distinguish high fashion from fast off the minute they hit the internet," Across the Atlantic, London says Tant. "Through special prints or embellishments like beading, cutwork and laser-cut techniques, designers are elevating their looks to a demi-couture level, so the actual construction and the quality are very, very high. They're smart to create pieces that are difficult to copy."

"It's very difficult," concurs fashion historian Valerie Steele. "When fast fashion started really having an impact, and lace mixed with the "aggressive" a lot of designers started adding couture touches because it was less easy to be (think face jewellery that replicated knocked off. I think Victoriana can be

This carefully determined synergy between clothes and craftsmanship girl, after all, can't survive on Lulufeminine today," explains Lisa Tant, want something that really makes a very finely lasered materials that take [Victoriana] to a whole different level." Nikki Wirthensohn, the designer of Sometimes, it seems, we need to look Toronto label Narces, understands this back to go forward.



ALDO BOOTS, \$260, ALDOSHOES.COM. **SWAROVSKI** NECKLACE, \$569, SWAROVSKI.COM. **COACH** BAG, \$395, COACH.COM. **ZARA** SANDAL, \$90, ZARA.COM. **H&M** DRESS, \$99, HM.COM

GANG), MAKEUP: MICHELLE ROSEN FOR JUDY INC. (GIRL GANG, UPDOS)

GETTY IMAGES (CELEBRITY). STYLING: NATASHA BRUNO (GIRL



Jasmine Merinsky, 27, junior stylist, Brennen Demelo Studio, 316 Adelaide St. W.

"My goal is to have a lioness mane," says Merinsky, who is in preservation mode after "getting too greedy" with highlights. "My hair was breaking, so I looked into protective styling for natural hair and discovered box braids." A whiz at glassy blowouts and subtle balayage, for parties, she piles her braids on top of her head in vintagey victory rolls or topknots. "It's easier than it looks—and it looks really impressive."

FOREVER 21 DRESS. \$35, FOREVER21.COM. TALULA TURTLENECK, \$40, ARITZIA.COM

Lindsey Buro, 30, senior hairstylist, Dat Salon, 984 Queen St. W.

Buro's party-hair strategy revolves around her once-aweek shampooing schedule. If the fete is on wash day, she'll wear it loose with minimal product, so she doesn't have to start all over the next morning. "But," she explains, "if my hair is on the cusp of needing to be washed, then I can just go full on." She's a top-notch colourist; her own yellow pieces are superbright with dark roots. "In the sunlight, it's like neon."

COS CARDIGAN, \$275, COS.
TED BAKER TURTLENECK,
\$375, TEDBAKER.COM/CA.
JUST BLACK JEANS, \$90,

Carolyn Mila, 28, colour tech, Medulla & Co., 809 Queen St. W.

Mila kicked off her career by colouring theatre wigs, but until last year, she had virgin hair. "I started putting in any fun colour I could get my hands on,' she says. To dress it up, she'll do a French twist, then pin in earrings and necklaces haphazardly. She's learned the hard way not to spray hairspray over them. "It takes the shine away, especially on precious jewels."

PAIGE DENIM JACKET, \$475, PAIGE.COM. GAP TURTLE-NECK, \$65, GAPCANADA.CA NECK, \$65, GAPCANADA.CA PAIGE DENIM JEANS, \$400, THEBAY.COM

Chanel Croker, 32, director, DNS, 163 Sterling Rd.

Croker used to be known as much for her bleached crop as for her beyond-hip salon (Day & Night, now DNS). "I'm getting back into naturallooking hair. A grown-out, dare I say awkward effect is more interesting." She'll scrape her hair into a low, tight pony. "I get it to drop, as opposed to looking too erect"-she laughs-"by putting it into a pony while it's wet." For extra jazz, she likes a '90s-style bobby pin with a small pearl on the end.

TALULA TURTLENECK, \$50, ARITZIA.COM. COS SKIRT, \$275, COS

Chanel Cezair, 32. co-owner, Fringe, 67 Portland Ave.

"I consider myself a true blond," quips Cezair, a master of swingy, dancefloor-dominating blowouts. She washes her Afrotextured hair and styles it with a steam straightener once a week. "Left to its own devices, my hair goes crazy with body and curl." Not that she doesn't believe bigger is better. "If I'm looking for something really dramatic, I love going for height! Lots and lots of volume."

LE FOU BY WILFRED SWEATER, \$195, WILFRED SWEATER, \$125, ARITZIA.COM



BEST DRY DOS

When the holidays are in full swing, there's no time for the wash-and-blow-dry shebang. Skip the sink and try a dry style service for party hair in a flash

1. VANCOUVER

The do: Customize an "Uptini" for a special occasion, like a twisted take on a classic chignon. Where to go: DryBar

at Nordstrom, 799 Robson St. thedrybar.com Price: \$100

2. TORONTO

The do: In under 20 minutes, get a tousled French twistthe hair equivalent of wearing a rumpled Chanel shirt.

Where to go: The Ten Spot Style Bar at Hudson's Bay, 176 Yonge St. the10spot.com

3. MONTREAL

Price: \$25

The do: Sip a "Bløme-mosa" while your hair is woven into a spectacular half-up fishtail.

Where to go: Bløme Blow Dry Bar, 46 McGill St., blome.ca Price: From \$30

4. CALGARY The do: Try a polished "high society" topknot that

strikes the balance

between laissez-faire and formal. Where to go: Blo Blow Dry Bar, 1317 1st Street S.W. blomedry.com

Price: \$38 -Veronica Saroli

BEAUTY SCHOOL

Updo upgrades

For her first New Year's Eve with natural hair, assistant editor **Natasha Bruno** calls in a pro to take her look from pretty to party

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLYLE ROUTH | HAIR BY JANET JACKSON

I started wearing my hair in an Afro last spring, after 15 years of fighting its natural texture with chemicals and hot tools. For a while, I luxuriated in the time saved (my straightening routine ate up two hours a week), but lately I've been suffering from the beauty version of "I have nothing to wear." So I called on hair whiz Janet Jackson to teach me her no-heat updo ways. The owner of JouJou Hair Studio in Etobicoke, Ont., Jackson has worked with Rita Ora and Keshia Chanté, and she was lead hairstylist on Drake's "Hotline Bling" video. As it turned out, I had two big surprises in store: 1. The styles were way easier than they looked, and 2. They made me feel invincible.



THE SCARF WRAP

This scarf-wrapped pompadour is a killer spin on a 1940s pin-up do. Jackson used a tail comb to section off the front of my hair into a square, and raked it up with an Afro pick to create length. She secured the ends in an elastic, rolled the section back into a Janelle-Monáe-like quiff and pinned the ends down. She pinned the sides back, then wrapped a glittery black scarf around my head and over my ears. She knotted the ends and tucked them under, added a few more pins for safety and fluffed out the curls near the top. **Time spent:** 11 minutes



THE FIERCE FAUXHAWK This cool-girl style demands a killer

outfit, but the look is a surprisingly simple combination of ponytails and defined parts. Jackson divided my hair into four large sections, parting it from side to side. "Wherever you start parting on one side, near the ear, you want to make sure that it matches when you get to the other ear," she says. Using a soft-bristle paddle brush, she brushed each section up into ponytails along the centre of my head. "I'm doubling up the elastic bands because I don't want them to pop," says Jackson. To have even more fun with the shape, she pulled the front section down and over for a slight side bang.

Time spent: 29 minutes





actor A ribbon bow (or two, or three) makes for a bold and flirty look.



Yaya Dacosta, model/actor A sleek braided topknot puts a cool spin on a classic ballerina bun.



Brandy, musician/actor A brushed-out, deep-side-parted Afro lets textured hair take centre stage.



Nicole Ari Parker, actor This twisted pompadour shows that dreadlocks don't lack versatility.

THE SIDE-SWEPT AFRO This look took my go-to side-parted

Afro (yawn) up a few edgy notches. After making a deep side part, Jackson divided the left side into three rows using the end of her tail comb. She applied edge tamer along the hairline to smooth it down before flat-twisting each row back, securing the ends with elastics and a bobby pin. For extra drama, she took my bracelet and pinned it over the elastics. When she'd pulled and teased some random curls, my normally tame hair looked wild and pretty damn fabulous. "With curly hair, it's not about being perfect,' says Jackson. That's something I'm still getting used to, but I'm closer than ever to total hair confidence. Bring on the mirror ball.

Time spent: 20 minutes

TOOL KIT Everything you need to create updos that work with natural texture, not against it



BLACK DIAMOND RATTAIL COMB, \$4, SALLYBEAUTY.COM. MOROCCANOIL BOAR BRISTLE BRUSH, \$79, MOROCCANOIL. BRUSH, \$79, MOROCCAN COM. **ANTONIOS** METAL STYLING PIK, \$4, SALLYBEAUTY.COM



ARGAN OIL PERFECT EDGES, \$5, SALLYBEAUTY.COM. **DRUIDE** ALCOHOL-FREE STYLING HAIR-SPRAY, \$14, DRUIDE.COM. **DEVACURL** SUPERCREAM COCONUT CURL STYLER, \$37, THEBSO.COM



PACK BLACK POLYBANDS, \$4, WALMART. **STYLIZE** CURVED BOBBY PINS, S SHOPPERS DRUG MART GOODY PIN IT UP ROLLER PINS, \$3, WALMART



SPOTLIGHT

PURE POETRY

Handmade oils so lovely your skin will want to write them a sonnet

BY RANI SHEEN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADRIAN ARMSTRONG

A perfectly balanced, quick-absorbing face oil is a triumph of alchemy. Too much of one nut, vegetable or seed oil and it sits heavily on the skin; the wrong combination of aromatic essential oils and the formula can irritate, not illuminate. Mikayla Tran, 26, approaches the blending process with an "artistic appreciation for how the ingredients harmonize with one another." Tran launched Poetic Blends this year after landing on a recipe of oils that balanced her own oily (yes, that's right) skin. A "lover and student of poetry" who lives in Mississauga, Ont., and works 9 to 5 as a social media manager at a bank, Tran sources her materials from suppliers around the world, selecting those who

don't use chemical crop sprays, preservatives, dyes or fragrances. The three blends target different needs: The Hero Oil is designed to soothe blemish-prone skin with apricot-kernel and calendula oils; the Timeless Oil is made of richer stuff like rice bran and sea-buckthorn oils for dry or aging complexions. The Ghost Oil contains no essential oils, so it smells like nothing and vanishes into irritable skin. The first ingredient in all three is squalane, derived from olive oil. "Squalane oil not only is fast absorbing," says Tran, "but can help transport the nutrients of other oils into the dermis faster, which I find absolutely mesmerizing and even poetically beautiful." We do too.

Are you illuminated? At the bottom of the Pacific, microscopic monsters chase every bioluminescent organism

 $twinkling\ in\ the\ brink.$ In my youth, I too was a magnet, and I did not dim for decades.

SKINCARE

Retinol Rx

Find out why doctors hail retinol as a multi-talented skin-improving miracle worker, no matter your age or skin concern

BY JILL DUNN

It's a rare dermatologist who doesn't cite retinol as a #skinwin. "I'd recommend a retinol or prescription Retin-A from 20s until death-most dermatologists do," says Dr. Benjamin Barankin, medical director of Toronto Dermatology Centre. But before you start slathering it on by the bucketload, there are a few things to be aware of. One: It's off-limits during pregnancy because of the risk of absorption. Two: If you're going in for any kind of skin treatment, you should let the staff know you're using it. And three: It can be a lot for your skin to take. Read on for everything else you need to know for retinol to work its magic.

What is retinol, anyway?

It's a vitamin A derivative, part of a class of compounds called retinoids that includes, in order of potency, retinoic acid, retinol, retinaldehyde and retinyl palmitate. The gold standard is retinoic acid (prescribed as tretinoin or Retin-A). "Retinol has to be converted to retinoic acid in the skin to be active," says Dr. Heidi Waldorf, a New York dermatologist and clinical professor at Mount Sinai hospital in Manhattan. "Retinyl palmitate first needs to be converted to retinol, which takes time." That means less of the ingredient gets absorbed but also that it tends to be less irritating. Retinol is generally more consistent in its results, and there is more evidence on its efficacy than on that of the other compounds. But its less potent siblings, properly formulated in high enough concentrations, can be effective. Packaging counts: "Be sure it is in a solid [not clear] container with a small opening—retinol is deactivated by ultraviolet exposure," says Waldorf.

What is it good for?

Barankin describes it as the superhero of skincare, fighting every skin enemy in its path: "Retinol can help with acne and acne marks or scars. It can help with hyperpigmentation, flat brown sun spots and melasma, and it can help even out skin tone. It gives a nice glow to the skin and improves the feel of it. It can help reduce the appearance of pore size and helps reduce wrinkles by helping make new collagen. It can even help reduce precancerous lesions called actinic keratoses." (Jeez, leave some skincare work for the other ingredients.) Waldorf adds that it's been shown to speed up cell turnover (promoting the breakdown of old collagen and formation of new collagen) and reduce whiteheads and blackheads. Plus, it has been shown to work on skin aged by time as well as skin that's aged prematurely from too much sun exposure.

How should retinol be used?

Take a pea-sized amount and dot it on the forehead, cheeks, nose and chin, and then rub it in. Avoid the upper eyelids but do apply it to the crow's feet area and the lower eyelids. Apply your sunscreen overtop every morning. Start slowly: If you're too intense with your retinol use right away, you could end up with redness and peeling, depending on how sensitive your skin is. "Use it two times a week for one month and then increase by one day per week until [you reach] a level that you can tolerate without too much peeling or irritation," says Dr. Barankin. "If you're irritated by it, you need to take a break for two or three days and don't treat through the discomfort."

To minimize discomfort, layer it with other products. "Apply a moisturizer immediately after, or, if you're very sensitive skinned, apply it beforehand," says Waldorf. In the winter, when the air is drier, retinoids can be harder to tolerate, so listen to your skin and use the product less often.



20s RETINOL RECO:

YOUR...

Millennials can recruit retinol to fight breakouts and prevent fine lines. "As long as there is a reason to use it, like acne or pores or sun damage, it can be used,"

says Waldorf. WORD OF WARNING: Don't combine retinol and benzoyl peroxide as

they could cancel each other out, but salicylic acid is fair game—just watch for irritation. STRIVECTIN ADVANCED RETINOL PORE REFINER, \$99, MURALE.CA

30s

RETINOL RECO:

As lines and sun damage become more obvious. you might want to step up vour exfoliation game with alpha-hydroxy acids (glycolic, lactic or malic acids). While there's no contraindication to using them with retinal "generally there is no need-you might add irritation without adding efficacy," says Waldorf.

WORD OF WARNING: If you can't bear to do without your AHAs, use them in the morning and retinol at night, or use

AHA products nightly and a retinoid twice a week. **NEUTROGENA** RAPID WRINKLE REPAIR SERUM, \$29, DRUGSTORES

40s

RETINOL RECO:

As wrinkles deepen, consider asking for a prescription. "The percentage isn't important but the quality of ingredients and penetration are,' says Barankin. "This is best done through medical-

grade products WORD OF WARNING: When you see surface creases deepen, the

temptation is to layer on more product. "Putting on too much too fast and not moisturizing enough with it are common," says Barankin. Resist the urge. PHILOSOPHY HELP ME RETINOL NIGHT TREAT-MENT, \$59, SEPHORA

50s RETINOL RECO:

Hormonal changes at menopause result in drier skin, so layer rich moisturizers or sleeping masks under

and over your retinol. WORD OF WARNING:

The skin becomes thinner around this age as well. Lessen the frequency of treatment if skin flakes or looks red. **DERMALOGICA** OVERNIGHT RETINOL REPAIR (WITH BUFFER CREAM), \$110, DERMALOGICA.CA

60+

RETINOL RECO: Take out insurance at

the creases of the nose, sides of the mouth, chin and by the eyes, which tend to be most sensitive "Applying moisturizer or even petroleum jelly to those areas before a retinoid can protect them," says Waldorf.

WORD OF WARNING:

Retinol does not lift sagging skin or reshape facial contours. "It's great, but not magic!" savs Barankin. CHANTECAILLE RETINOL INTENSE, \$140, HOLT RENFREW

THE KIT

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Designer

Amber Hickson
@amblynncreative Publisher, The Kit

Associate Publisher

Tami Coughlan

Project Director, **Digital Media** Kelly Matthews

Direct advertising Marketing Manager Evie Begy eb@thekit.ca

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MODEL OF THE MOMENT CATWALK CALLING

The Fall 2015 fashion-show circuit was a breakout one for model Bhumika Arora. The 27-year old former MBA student from Karnal, India, (who was discovered on Instagram!) walked 20+ shows, including Alexander Wang in New York, Gareth Pugh in London, Fendi in Milan and Balmain in Paris, Remember her name, —Hina P. Ansari





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