



## Lakmé Fashion Week - Back with a bang, Along with latest trends in fashion, innovation, and sustainability

After two years of digital showcases, Lakme Fashion Week is back with a bang. The powerhouse of fashion and beauty will be taking over the capital in style for the very first time. The LFW, held from March 23rd to March 27th at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, has embraced all of fashion, innovation, and sustainability. This year, Lakme Fashion Week and the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) have teamed up to host a season-fluid edition in New Delhi.

Opening the FDCI x Lakmé Fashion Week was the exquisite collection "The Enchanted Garden" by internationally renowned and award-winning designer Rahul Mishra at the Italian Embassy, New Delhi. The show integrated the best of Italy with one of India's most renowned designers. Some of the iconic Italian brands with presence in India were showcased as accessories in Rahul Mishra's show including Zegna, Canali, Georgio Armani, Versace, Salvatore Ferragamo and Bottega Veneta

Ambassador of Italy to India, H.E. Vincenzo de Luca said "We were eager to partner this year with FDCI X Lakmé Fashion Week. This collaboration kicked off in 2021 with Reliance Brands and has since then brought together the best of Italy and India in the field of lifestyle and fashion. We had on board

some of the most exclusive Italian brands which are the true actors of Italian soft power around the world. I am sure this partnership has opened great opportunities for both the Italian and Indian market and will encourage a growing number of designers to showcase and work in both countries".

Sunil Sethi, Chairman FDCI commented, "We couldn't have picked a more apt designer than Rahul Mishra to open the FDCI X Lakmé Fashion Week. The Fashion Design Council of India's endeavour is to highlight the great work of our designers to the global community. We are delighted that this season's FDCI X Lakmé Fashion Week had a truly international appeal through our partnership with the Italian Embassy and designer Rahul Mishra who continues to make strides globally."

Jaspreet Chandok, Head – RISE Fashion & Lifestyle said, "We were so glad to have Rahul open the FDCI X Lakmé Fashion Week and the showcase kicked off the exciting event with the best that Indian fashion has to offer. We were also excited to partner with the Italian Embassy to initiate collaborations in the fashion and lifestyle space and we looked at this as the start point of various actions and programs we will build on in the coming year."

## 20 fashion design students showcased their collections at INIFD Launchpad



The 20 INIFD fashion design students who presented their collections at the INIFD Launchpad the collections were a great visual showcase of creative talent from various INIFD Centres all over India. The students worked on a pre-designated theme for INIFD design festival season 6 and took inspiration from OTT series or movies to create fashion collections and interior design sets. The INIFD Launchpad unveils amazing talent that will contribute to the growth of the Indian fashion industry in the future. Ending with the very perky Bollywood Star, Soha Ali Khan, who looks radiant in a white corset blouse and layered pastel midi skirt.

## JJ Valaya's eco-conscious collection is made from Tencel™ Luxe filament yarn



JJ Valaya's new collection has a modern feel steeped in traditional elegance with monochrome, graphic prints, and sleek silhouettes. The luxury occasion wear brand's take on sustainable fashion with Tencel is far from the earthy tones many expect to see when they hear the term and instead shows that eco-friendly textiles can look luxurious. For women, leather-look obi-style belts, the brand's signature belted sarees, and oversized animal prints gave a slight resort feel. For the men, sharply tailored fusion-style suits paired with printed turbans had a bold effect.

Payal Pratap's latest collection, "JAVA," is made from Bemberg™ yarn



Having spent her formative years in Indonesia, Payal's collection, titled "JAVA," was a nostalgic journey through the good old days of maximalism. With a focus on prints, the designer worked on hand-painted artworks that have since been digitized. The designs captured detailed elements and a three-dimensional depth and texture from the age-old craft of Batik and powerful imagery and minute detailing from the ancient craft of Chintz printing. Using extensive flower, leaf, tree, vines, and bird motives, the collection highlighted sustainability, which is at the heart of the designer's ethos.

Aisha Rao's "Divergence" collection exudes unbridled glitz and elegance



Aisha's collection offered exclusive designs for lehengas and swirling skirts. When it came to the base fabrics that once again created a lasting appeal for the ensembles, Aisha chose luxurious tissue, organza, lush raw silk, as well as lightweight yet wearable georgette. Myriad patchwork embellishments played a major role, with myriad colours and craft, as they came together for a long-sleeved creation. Strappy slinky gowns, shararas with flared tunics, flouncy skirts and tunics with bell-bottom pants dazzled on the ramp. By eliminating the dupatta in many entries, the collection was aimed at the bridal festivities during the coming months. Men's wear was as festive, with kurtas, bandis, and sherwanis completing the offering.

## Exotic Collection "Fil Rouge" by Vaishali S



Vaishali S's couture collection explored the designer's creative journey to date and featured Shadangule's signature rope-like draped details and surreal silhouettes. Layers and textures added intrigue to monochromatic looks, and volume in skirts and cocktail dresses added drama. The colour scheme of red, purple, brown, and gold was rich and conveyed traditional Indian festivities. By mixing traditional embellishments such as gold trims with more deconstructed, tactile details, Vaishali S played with heritage aesthetics while still respecting them. Notable looks included a tactile red gown with a funnel-like neck-piece and a voluminous purple gown with a textured shoulder detail.

## Dreamy Collection "Blooming Tales" by Siddhartha Bansal



Siddhartha Bansal's dreamy collection, Blooming Tales, takes you on a mystical voyage featuring blossoming flowers and paisley designs. All in all, the line had a lovely and magical wonderland vibe to it. Intense, colourful embroidery with bold prints ensured that the theme of the collection was totally kept intact. There was a grand mix of hues for every ensemble, some with dramatic, impressive sleeves that were the cynosure of all eyes. Shading played an important role in the fabulous prints and colours. Unveiling kaleidoscopic designs, the creations included knits, minis, bralettes, with mini-skirts or suits, off-shoulder flouncy dresses, hipster pants, and tiered gowns. The line then moved to a will-power maxi, layered balloon skirt gowns, and flared smock dresses. Men's wear followed the printed story, as tees, cropped jackets with embroidery, and the suit/shirt trio in a fabulous print.

## "Sayuri" collection by Rajdeep Ranawat



The "Sayuri" collection showcase featured a fragile beauty for the apparel, as Rajdeep took the audience on a journey to the Orient Express. This season, the designer's print storey revolved around a mélange of unusual multi-coloured prints, fabrics, bizarre silks and some unconventional embroidery. The blend of prints and embroidery at times gave a stylish jolt to the senses with the strong mix of elements for the surface ornamentation. Rajdeep ensured that each piece made a fashion statement that would have an impact. Flowing, fluid silhouettes, swirling skirts, intricately crafted overshirts, luxurious scarves, billowy kaftans, and maxis made Rajdeep Ranawat's "Sayuri" collection one that many ladies would like to own for the next season.

## "Lakshmi" the culture and art forms of Rajasthan by Punit Balana



Lakshmi is a canvas painted with bold lotuses, birds, and enchanted gardens. They largely experimented with explorative layered metallic embroidery on prints and solid tones, while the creative use of antique coins, threads, and mirrors breathed magic into the rich palettes of neutrals, tones of henna, and earthy hues. The collection is replete with Balana's signature skirts with pockets, well-fitted corsets and capes, deep shoulder cuts and short crop blouses paired with printed saris, metallic bralettes, printed shararas and peplum jackets, and sheer slip dresses.