



FDCI & Hyundai present a splendid collection at India Couture Week

India Couture Week (ICW) 2023, organized by the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), was recently held at the Taj Palace in Delhi. Renowned designers presented the best of Indian fashion on the runway. The event was attended by the biggest names of the Indian textile industry. The 10-day event showcased the latest trends for the upcoming wedding season and offered a glimpse of the new haute couture collections.

Speaking about the event, Sunil Sethi, President, FDCI said, "FDCI brings to the 16th edition of Hyundai India Couture Week its scintillating collection that brings forth age-old craftsmanship with contemporary flavour. This year we proudly announce our association with Reliance Brands Limited, helping accelerate and broaden the proposition. We will also continue our long standing relationship with Lotus Make-up as our beauty partner this season.

"With these exciting partnerships, this edition was a treat for the discerning audience, bringing with it the timeless beauty of fashion. We witnessed mesmerizing performances by the country's leading fashion designers at this one-of-a-kind event." Sunil Sethi said.

For the event, the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) associates with Reliance Brands, bringing additional heft to the event which has been India's premier showcase for bridal and couture designers for the past 16 years. An FDCI initiative, the fashion extravaganza has been "the" platform for showcasing the growing influence of many designer promoted businesses in India and has also brought Indian craftsmanship as the centerstage of homegrown luxury.

Reliance Brands (RBL) helps accelerate and broaden this proposition with its experience and expertise in launching, developing and partnering with international and Indian luxury brands.

Jaspreet Chandok, Group Vice President, Reliance Brands, said, "This partnership re-affirms our commitment towards the growth of the designer fashion industry in India as we look to create global benchmarks in terms of showcase, appeal and visibility. The Hyundai India Couture Week is a unique property, and we are glad to take our already deep partnership with FDCI to the next level."

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17 artistic productions showcased there in the 16th edition of ICW; India's renowned fashion designers unveiled their exclusive collections that will celebrate the richness of craftsmanship through mesmerizing visual story telling. The participating designers are: Anamika Khanna, Ritu Kumar, Tarun Tahiliani, JJ Valaya, Rahul Mishra, Rajesh Pratap Singh, Suneet Varma, Falguni Shane Peacock, Dolly J, Gaurav Gupta, Rohit Gandhi + Rahul Khanna, Varun Bahl, Shantnu Nikhil, Kunal Rawal, Rimzim Dadu, Rose Room and Samant Chauhan.

The first day of the India Couture Week 2023 began with a charming presentation by Falguni Shane Peacock. A calming ballet performance preceded the introduction of the 'Renaissance Reveries' collection, and the show ended with Kiara Advani embracing a contemporary Barbie-core-inspired ensemble.

'Renaissance Reverie' by Falguni Shane Peacock

The 'Renaissance Reverie' collection reflects their love for art and the treasures they encounter during their travels. They draw inspiration from the vibrant colours found in art and the remarkable influences of embroidery textures. This unique fusion embodies the essence of the Renaissance era, showcasing the timeless beauty of its art, architecture, and fashion, while simultaneously paying homage to the artistic mastery of Indian influences and inspirations. Each garment in the collection is a testament to cultural exchange and celebrates the invaluable lessons they have learned from the past. The intricate embroidery techniques and handcrafted details showcase the meticulous workmanship of the skilled artisans, who expertly merge the grandeur of the Renaissance with the richness of Indian heritage.



DOLLY J drew inspiration from the moon for her latest clothing collection

In the vast expanse of the night sky, the enigmatic Moon stands as a timeless symbol of mystery, beauty, and wonder. Its mesmerizing presence has shaped this year's couture collection from the Ateliers of Dolly J, aptly titled "Selene". Soft, flowing silhouettes have been sculpted to accentuate its wearer, thus evoking the Moon's gentle radiance. Pearly white sequins, metallic tissues, Ivory tulle, and iridescent silver sequins mirror its ethereal glow. Embodying the mystique of this celestial body are alluring tones of burnt Copper, Washed gunmetal and deep hues of red. "From her immortal head radiance is shown from heaven and embraces earth; and great is the beauty that ariseth from her shining light". These profound words from the Homeric Hymn perfectly encapsulates.



BARODA: The House of Valaya by JJ Valaya

BARODA: The House of Valaya celebrates the Couture season 2023-24 with its all new collection, BARODA. A medley of exquisite craft and elegant style statements which unfolds through its 3 signature interpretations (chapters). In the first chapter (Art Deco), the collection traverses a fusion based on the craft of Lipan but interpreted in a medley of art deco lines and Mughal inlay motifs; it then moves on to a second chapter (Nomade) where Kutch motifs and mirror work rules albeit in a modern avatar; it finally moves to a third and final chapter (Royale) where the age old Mashru fabric of Gujarat finds its soul mate in patterns inspired by Portuguese Azulejos tiles. The finest of silken and special weave fabrics enhanced with our signature embroideries are used to piece together a glorious offering of Indian Couture through a Bridal and Couture collection for women and men for the season of 2023-24.



Rahul Mishra showcased his collection 'We, The People' - an ode to India and artisans

With reality and imagination woven into its fabric, Rahul Mishra's Couture 2023 collection 'We, The People' strives to draw the enablers of couture, the artisans, to the face of its narrative. It envisions them as the juncture where artistic expression meets age-old craft and technical prowess that allows them the godlike ability to turn imagination into reality. The surfaces of the collection are an articulation of the fashion worker's trance interlaced with their immediate reality. 'We, The People' is a work of wonderment that assumes if an embroiderer would really envision the adda (embroidery frame) turning into a lotus pond and if there is an instance when they feel themselves in the Sundarbans amidst its virgin forest, caressing a majestic tiger.



“Dhup Chao” collection by Kunal Rawal

Kunal Rawal’s collection is a travel across time, taking inspiration from our own past, while deep diving into the future of fashion. We have crafted modern day heirlooms which stand on the right side of history, and put India’s vibrancy in the spotlight. One of the key aspects of the collection is that it pays homage to our country and the many cultures embedded within it. The pieces in the collection are subtle, yet statements in their own right. They are urban, nostalgic and relevant, while being consistently rooted in luxury. Each signature silhouette is reimagined in innovative architectural shapes, and textures play a significant role throughout. From intricate thread dipped pieces and embroidery to surface embellishments in the form of 3-dimensional motifs and the creation of their own signature fabrics - the garments are thoughtfully crafted to create an immersive tactile experience.



Rimzim Dadu presented her latest collection ‘Hydrochromic’ at the fashion show

Rimzim Dadu’s latest couture collection is a subtle ode to water – its form, its power, and versatility. We sense a shift in our consciousness – static to rhythmic, structure to variability, form to motion. These new ways of thought are mysterious and leave space for endless variability, like tides in the ocean high and low. The ways of water have fascinated the human species from time immemorial. The highlight remains the textural forms from techniques derived from mesh and lace, from soft organic to bold architectural forms. We delicately balance structure and fluidity and are unafraid to end the old order to give birth to the new. Each garment flows like the tide, almost unpredictable in form. Each cord embodies the spirit of ripples transversing through water bodies – a meditation on abstract perception and the fluidity of identity.



The Ritu Kumar's collection encapsulates a new feminine aesthetic through heritage textiles

Before anyone else there was Ritu Kumar, the OG of Indian Fashion. The lexicon of the Ritu Kumar design aesthetic is so entrenched in Indian fashion that it has become ubiquitous and you don't even know you are looking at it. It's the vintage patina of vegetable colour, the layout design of the kurta, the balance of scale in paisley and buti, the finesse of the dabka gold thread curved around a flower motif. The country owes much of its design ethos to the revival work done by the first 'barefoot doctor' of Indian fashion. This season, the legacy stays intact while the mood mirrors the style of today's India. The collection encapsulates a new feminine aesthetic through heritage textiles and nuanced classicism on Dresses, Jackets, Capes and Anarkalis. The complexity of the glittering kasab and floral kashidakari are laid out with couture tailoring which makes the collection timeless & familiar while paving the way for what's to come. After all, it's the OG.



EQUINOX: A couture collection for men and women by Rohit Gandhi + Rahul Khanna

Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna's couture collection 'Equinox' draws inspiration from a phenomenon of the same name where the sun lines up with the earth to make day and night equal halves. The duo's collection marries faith and fable, with architecture and craft to birth a collection that is equally balanced. RGRK's Equinox draws on an appreciation for mesmerizing patterns and brings them to life in rich, unlined fabrics, and hypnotic 3D embroidery techniques. Much of the collection draws from long wintry walks where ancient metal fences with trellis designs were the only spot of floral hope. Every garment comes to life in colors that span the sky- shades of blue from milkyway to vivid, and highlights in garnet, rosewood and twilight lavender. The craft in this collection however is in its representation of body art, or tattoos, on gossamer fabric.



Anamika Khanna spreads love through her collection

A collection about love, freedom and a personal collaboration with art, those moments where there was time, enough. Enough to sense, to feel the emotions of love and anguish, each piece intensely expressing the need to show, cherish and demand gentleness, strength and compassion. Set in today's context, but deriving from the past, it is an ode to love, sometimes literal, sometimes expressions and hints. Silver and gold metallics, mostly antiquated, emeralds and pearls, pastel pink and blue, ivory's and black's. Love for everything Indian in its modernity, the "Khinkhab brocade", the zardozi, the textures, hand embroideries, tailoring and fluidity. Structured draping and yet the abandon of it. The lace and romance of it. Little hearts and bows and the eventual bird of love, the swan.



Gaurav Gupta's celestial Hiranyagarbha collection

Gaurav Gupta Inspired from the manifested cosmos in Vedic philosophy, the collection includes the interpretations of the five elements: Panchamahabhutas – earth (prithvi), water (jal), fire (agni), air (vayu), and space (akasha) from the universal womb. For this edit of the couture collection, the designer has expanded the Hiranyagarbha story to include reception cocktail lehengas, gowns, saris and modern hybrid silhouettes with the synergies of comfortable, confident, easy couture. The starkness of space is imagined in the absolute whites submerged in lustrous, iridescent pearls and crystals orbiting around the body; The wind is reminiscent in smoke pearl embroideries on shades of moon dust; Glass bugle beads are hand-embroidered on a striking electric blue reflecting the currant of the water; The vibrant Malachite evokes the glory of earth; and the acid yellow reminds us of ferocious flames of the fire.



Rose Room by Isha Jajodia

Embark on a whimsical journey through the enchanting realm of "Romantic Reverie" brought to you by Rose Room by Isha Jajodia. Her collection draws inspiration from the captivating fusion of French Riviera fashion and the allure of Hollywood's Golden Era. Each garment in this collection pays homage to the glamorous vintage era, as intricate chikankari details, delicate laces and dreamy organza fabrics intertwine with pearls and crystals, crafting a mesmerizing tapestry of playful sophistication and exclusivity.



Etheria: Bridal Couture '23 by Shantnu & Nikhil

Drawing inspiration from the ethereal beauty of travel and the irresistible allure of an era long past, Etheria captures the essence of timeless elegance and indulgent luxury. The collection is a descendant of the designer's travels across Italy and especially a gorgeous town called Catania in Sicily. Inspired by the grandeur of Roman palaces, a seamless fusion of Indian and Roman influences creates a tapestry of magnificence that ignites the imagination. The bridal silhouettes from the collection explore exaggerated ornate veils paired with bejeweled capes and gloves, just like in the Gatsby Era. The signature Maison Shantnu & Nikhil cocktail gowns are revisited with a lens of splendor. The menswear houses regal three piece layering with ornamented tuxedos, glittering in crystals and beautiful glass beads, accompanied by a debonair gentleman dressed in opulent Indian Couture.



Varun Bahl collection to the modern bride through dramatic yet functional ensembles

Varun Bahl's upcoming collection showcases artisanal embroideries with beautiful 3D flowers that are synonymous with the brand, focussing on young and playful silhouettes that bring a fresh and contemporary feel to the designs in vivid hues. His collection also includes bridal couture pieces that cater to the contemporary and modern bride. The designs are dreamy, experimental, fun, and edgy, while maintaining a strong emphasis on fine handwork. Marrying free spirited, boho-chic with haute couture craftsmanship, it caters to the modern bride through dramatic yet functional ensembles.



'Mogra' draws inspiration from the incredible traditional motifs and embroideries by Suneet Varma

Mogra by Suneet Varma: The collection titled 'Mogra' draws inspiration from the incredible traditional motifs and embroideries found in the decorative arts of India. It embodies a romantic, feminine, and flirtatious aesthetic. Suneet Varma revisits the great traditional techniques and crafts that have made Indian embroideries a worldwide celebration, while infusing a modern and fresh twist. The collection features large abstract-shaped mirrors adorned with multicolored thread embroidery, offering a contemporary take on bridal wear. The glamorous lehengas, with off-shoulder blouses and short jackets, showcase dark shades of midnight blue and burgundy, complemented by silver accents. Draped skirts worn with capes and ruffled organza shirts paired with high-waisted palazzo pants complete the ensemble.



Tarun Tahiliani unveils "For Eternity": An Ode to Timeless Craft and Artistry of Couture

With "For Eternity," Tarun Tahiliani pays homage to the timeless allure of traditional craftsmanship and art, weaving a tapestry of innovative and covetable explorations in Chikankari, Kasheedakari, Byzantine art, Egyptian Jaalis, and Persian motifs. The collection seamlessly blends the unconscious part of Indian style with modern reflections, elevating Indian savoir-faire through impeccable tailoring, sculptured fits, refreshed draping styles, and a pale spectrum of colors like the patina of a dust storm or the palest colors of the first bloom. As the new season rolls in, Tarun Tahiliani is essaying a renewed vision through couture that echoes the true essence of the India Modern Woman and The New Man. He showcases thoughtfully-handcrafted ensembles that exude weightlessness and agelessness, redefining unique Bridalwear, Couture, and Luxe Pret for the brave new world. Each creation is an heirloom to be cherished and relished through generations, embodying the eternal essence of tradition and contemporary craftsmanship.



Rajesh Pratap's Desert Rose rules the ramp

Desert Rose: An incantation. A quixotic crusade. To question, to search, to seek. maybe find. Rajesh Pratap Singh's collection is inspired by the great gilded Indian Wedding, the desert and the Indian gulab. Woven, embroidered, printed. An extensive lean on the Poshak in various avatars. Pure, and not mired by popularism. We stand in the present, acquiring from the past and looking to the future. A collection that speaks to the non-conformist, willing to embrace the uncustomary. A play of optics and the use of woven gold, silver, pastels and jewel tones. Custom made jewellery and hand-made footwear with metallic elements accessorize the look. In the shadows of shapes we play. Some glitter in the dark. Some respite. Reverberating with the sounds of the Thar.

