



## Showcases the brightest and most creative minds in the fashion industry

After a successful editions, the powerhouses of fashion & beauty in India, Lakme, Reliance Brands Ltd and the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) hosted edition of Lakme Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI at the state-of-the-art Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai from 13th to 17th March 2024.

Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI are back with a line-up of designers, talent discovery programs for new and emerging talent, workshops, launched more. The platform appeared to further its sustainability-based efforts, given its focus on inclusivity and diversity and introduced the latest beauty trends in the country. India's largest and official fashion week returned to Mumbai for its latest edition, at the iconic Jio World Convention Center. Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI continued to be the biggest fashion x beauty event, setting the benchmark for excellence and creativity, bringing together the finest talents all under one roof. Year after year, it remained a pinnacle of the fashion world, where innovation and artistry converged to inspire and delight audiences.

'NEXA presented the Spotlight,' an initiative by NEXA and Lakme Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI, remained committed towards spotlighting and nurturing new and emerging design talent in the country. In its seventh edition, the initiative was recognized for showcasing some of the brightest and most creative minds in the fashion industry.

The five-day celebration of fashion and beauty transformed the city into a vibrant hub of creativity and style, where innovation and elegance intertwined seamlessly. Each day brought forth a plethora of stunning collections, as both seasoned veterans and up-and-coming designers seized the spotlight to reveal their latest masterpieces. Renowned designers and celebrated personalities graced the runway, adding to the allure and grandeur of each presentation. Their presence elevated the atmosphere, infusing each showcase with an extra layer of prestige and excitement. Attendees were captivated by their creative vision and iconic styles, further enhancing the spectacle of the event.

Sunil Sethi, Chairman FDCI said, "We are committed to nurturing emerging talent in the fashion industry. It was as always an exciting experience to collaborate with Nexa for another season of 'Nexa Presents The Spotlight'. We were pleased to see participants from across the country presenting a variety of innovative presentations."

Jaspreet Chandok – Group Vice President, Reliance Brands Ltd. said, "Spotlighting and supporting the best of new design talent through our platform was a key deliverable to the industry from our end. Collaborating with NEXA had been instrumental in achieving this goal, as demonstrated by the success of NEXA Presents the Spotlight over the last six seasons.



## Rohitash Notani – Unconventional Masculinity

His collection “Anima & Animus” was all about workwear and uniform fabrics like cotton drill and Oxford presented with a splash of embroidered materials, trims and florals. Rohitash took a fresh innovative look at clothes that were seamlessly crafted together. Boxy cuts and beads of bugles made a daring fashion statement, while baguettes and crinolines were an offering for every body shape. The khaki, cropped, boxy jacket sprinkled with discreet sequins, metal beads and eyelets were teamed with matching easy high waist trousers, while the basic white buttoned-down shirt added to the fashion quotient of the trio. For the daring dresser, the khaki/black, vertical, stitched railroad-stripped, oversized, hip-length jacket emblazoned with patched, giant sprawling motifs with glass bugle baguettes and rods, was an intriguing addition when worn with black, knee-length wide shorts. For an added extreme look, the gartered, sheer, black socks were eye-catchers.



## Charmee Ambavat – An Organic Offering

Charmee’s collection called “Indigene” drew creatively from timeless, versatile archives. Using 100 per cent locally manufactured cotton made by conscious weavers in India, the garments were a medley of pigment dyes that are kind to the environment. Each garment was a labour of love that maintained a firm holds on low waste production, fair wages, and no animal-based material. The mid-brown, large, lapelled, short dolman-sleeved jacket, cinched at the waist with a double cummerbund, had discreet white piping. The black, three-piece entry with quirky, white, abstract motifs followed the silhouettes of the collection and was easy on the eye and great for comfort. Perky playsuits, cargo pants, matching jackets, sleek suits and sets of trousers and blouson were striking looks in the collection. The mini balloon dress brought a fun element to the look, while a wrap blouse and mini skirt had a trendy appeal. Charmee Ambavat’s label ‘The Terra Tribe’ for the “Indigene” collection was a great merger of design and conscious fashion.





### Shimona Agarwal – A Modern Interpretation

Shimona unveiled her collection “HUE”, which was a re-imagining of fashion for the modern soul and a modern interpretation of crafts and styles that could transcend seasons. Crafted in her hometown of Varanasi, the treasured city of Banaras, the ensembles were in pure handwoven silk that were beautifully textured into a 3D canvas of intricate crinkling and ironing processes. The brilliant, vibrant colours, edgy formal silhouettes, some with intriguing, long, pointed collars, presented a unique blend of unconventional, timeless style with contemporary touches. There was a great intertwining of age-old craftsmanship with modern design elements. The rich hues of electric blue were majestically broken with sashes and stoles in chocolate brown. The elegant, feminine, calf-length silhouettes were ideal for comfort wear and made a definite statement. The red crinkled drape, pleated skirts, kaftans, cropped unconventional tops, midi dress, stylish cover and trousers added to the drama of the collection. Shimona Agarwal’s “HUE” collection incorporated several techniques that gave a new definition to contemporary luxury.



### Kriti Greta Singhee – Fluid, Geometric Elements

Her collection “Third Space - Sustainable Future” focussed on a creative flow of geometric patterns mathematical art and folds. The colour palette was warm and earthy to match the title of the collection. There were tons of white, grey and ash tones, which were highlighted with pleats and folds, while the fabrics were a medley of organic, sustainable eco-friendly, hand-woven, natural silks and cotton silks from Fulia in Bengal. The silhouettes were stylishly experimental. The white, micro, pleated skirt with tonal embroidery was worn with an intricately crafted blouse and topped with a tiny bolero. The trousers created a great ‘mix and match’ option for the quartet of ensembles. The long-sleeved, cropped jacket was ideal for the notched, lapelled inner, while the cleverly pleated matching skirt completed the trio. Making an eye-catching entry was the ultra-feminine, sheer, textured blouse with a bundie and worn with wide pleated trousers. Intense surface texturing was seen on the wide pants, skirts, blouses, cool midi dress and draped accents.





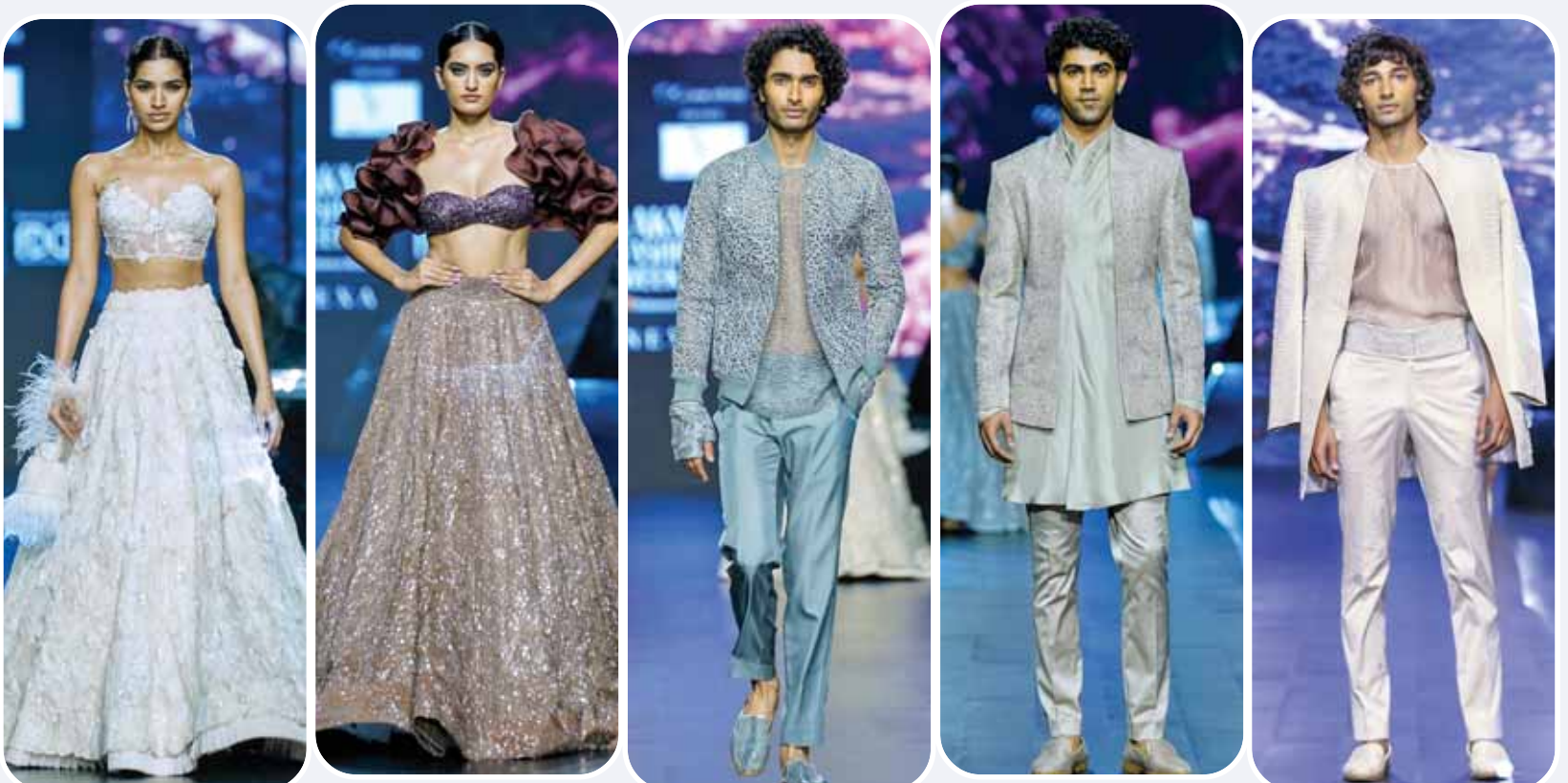
## Gaurang Shah wove creative magic with his collection titled 'GULAL'

When Gaurang Shah presented his collection of artistic saris and lehengas, it was a symphony of colours at Lakme Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI. The Gulal collection revolved around the gorgeous hues of pink in the forefront. The tradition of Jamdani and the intriguing jacquard and dobby weaves were a vision of elegance. These timeless weaves were created in hand charkha khadi, fine cotton, silk matka and wondrous natural silks. From the luxurious saris, Gaurang moved his creative skills to the lehengas, cholis, dupattas trio that have been the much-loved ensembles by women for formal, as well as bridal festivities. Giving the lehengas an individualistic flavour, Gaurang revived the forgotten techniques of embroidery like Mochi, Parsi Gara, Petite Point, Kasuti, Phulkari, Kutch and Kashmiri. Gaurang's designs took the audience on a journey of not only colours, weaves, elegance, craft and beauty, but also presented the return of glorious days of yesteryears when luxury was opulent but rare. The Gulal collection by Gaurang Shah was all about a visual medley of weaves presented in a contemporary style.



## Varun Chakkilam unveiled an effortless sophisticated collection

At Lakme Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI, the "Lenora" collection celebrated the beauty of light in all its glory as ensembles were visualised in varying forms of lumination. Varun has been a skilled master at creating bridal and fusion wear that appeals to the contemporary tastes of men and women and this season too, there was a palette of looks that will be favourites of both sexes. The line was a homage to soft textures, delicate embellishments, and a timeless appeal. Women's wear was luxurious with grand lehengas and intricately crafted cholis with 3D embroidery. The vertical or horizontal, panelled, floor kissing skirts with ingenious work were teamed with a variety of cholis, bralettes, and off-shoulder blouses. Men's wear remained practical with jackets, bundgalas and kurtas teamed with comfy pants in muted hues but with discreet surface textures that did all the talking.





### Collaborated with top designer duo Gauri and Nainika for a glamorous presentation

The collaboration between the top designing duo Gauri and Nainika and LG MoodUPTM who are both leading brands in their own segments, was a glamorous but unconventional presentation. The print story was a vivid burst of colours and bold floral designs. It was mesmerising to see the oversized peony blooms as they danced in gay abundance with the intricate rose creeper patterns. The colour card played with deep pink, rich yellow and soft pink, while fuchsia and bottle green brought in variety. The Gauri and Nainika hot favourites like red, ivory and black ensured that the colour palette remain regal and stately. When it came to the fabric choice, the designers went for opulence. Raw silks and duchess satin shimmered on the runway and made amazing style statements of richness. An occasional glam creation was designed in royal velvet that fitted the look of unapologetic, formal elegance. The shirt dresses had an interesting flow, while crepe brought a new dimension to the line. Chiffon came in to add that delicate touch of charm to the collection. Bringing in more silhouette options, the pair created an innovative look for the corsets, with ruffles, crystal embroidery and highlighted them with 3D florals.



### Shahin Mannan brought a collection of individual self expression

Her collection titled quaintly as “Unapologetic” had a unique quality and exuded a spirit of confidence that will add value to the wearer’s personality. The colour choice was unconventional with intricate patterns and amazing detailing. Watch out for clothes that make bold style statements or a vibrant skirt that is ideal to make a sartorial impression. The intricately embellished jacket made an impressive entry on the runway and will be the desired addition in wardrobes for the coming season. The co-ord set with large patch pockets and words like ‘Love Me’ brought a fun element to the look. Quirky motifs of stars, the ‘V’ sign, bicycles and hearts for jacket/trouser duos were cute combos. The asymmetric, long skirt, jackets with giant lapels and knee length coats over denims, made great fashion declarations. The stylish, double-breasted, blazer dress with accented sleeves, boxy waistcoats, long pencil skirts and comfy shirts, will bring an ease of dressing for buyers who want to walk on the wild side of fashion. The “Unapologetic” collection by Shahin Mannan was all about that individual touch of ‘rizz’ that will make the right visual impact for the wearer.





### Sakshi Bhati showcased a collection of intricate floral embellishments

The Sakshi Bhati collection titled as “Ember Bloom” highlight of the creations was the meticulous embroideries or the printed floral patterns that presented a look, which had a marked romantic aesthetic. With florals as the base, the colour card matched perfectly as soft pastels like blush pink, powder blue and mint green projected their dominance. Aiming for the dawn to dusk look for the collection, Sakshi worked around silhouettes that would move effortlessly from day to evening wear. The swirling flowing maxi dresses would be ideal for a brunch or a garden party, while the sharply, tailored blouse was created for more formal interaction. The embroidery was a mélange of resham and bead work in floral patterns, while the matching prints on the high-quality fabrics recreated an intriguing amalgamation of embellishments. Slender kurtis looked amazing when teamed with shararas or ghararas, while the contemporary choli with the lavishly, embroidered, long skirt, revealed fusion accents. Drama came in the form of a floor skimming, scalloped edge robe worn with a bralette and draped skirt.



### Archana Rao’s Sun and Moon collection showcased contrasting elements

When a collection is titled “Sun and Moon” the inspiration of the contrasting celestial bodies will be reflected in the visuals of the ensembles. The Archana Rao brand has always followed the “Less is More” diktat, so the result of the look was an attention to minimalism but with an impactful direction. The silhouettes were stark, yet strong and obviously enhanced with the sun and moon motifs, along with the brand’s favourite florals and illustrations. Creatively embellished with Swarovski crystals and intense appliqués, the floral embroidery was dappled with delicate pearls that created a timeless appeal. The colour story reflected the hues of the inspiration, as Archana’s signature ivory moved effortlessly to gold and dusty pink, while midnight blue and deep black had to be the canvas that projected the stylish dance of day and night. Fabrics revolved around pure luxe options as silk satin, organza and faux leather accentuated the glamorous presentation. There was an easy clutter free vibe of wearable separates with a unique approach to construction.





## AKAARO by Gaurav Jai Gupta unveiled an amazing line of textiles and ensembles

The label 'Akaaro' by designer Gaurav Jai Gupta has been synonymous with beautifully invented textiles. Gaurav launched his new line of garments called "Moonrise" designed from amazing, engineered, unused scrap yarn. Gaurav's experiments resulted in yarns like cotton, silk and linen that were imaginatively given a new avatar as revived silks, cotton, linen and molten metallics that appeared in bright pops of colours. It was a refreshing experience to view checks in cotton silk with 'Akaaro's' characteristic textiles and handwoven stretchable silk, cotton 'Kinjis' that made a return, along with saris. There was a clever play with denim finishes on handlooms and woven textiles, like knits. The "Moonrise" collection brought a wonderful sense of urbanity, functionality and modernity in a mix of colours, silhouettes and engineered fabrics. At all times, the focus was on a sustainable development in goals. Making a welcome entry on the ramp were oversized shapes for jackets and blazers, while stretch, waisted trousers flirty skirts, great draped dresses and coverups with power shoulders made an impact. Exaggerated cuffs and sleeves were the detailing to watch out for.



## Anamika Khanna's AK-OK to unveil a spectacular fusion of tribal essence and urban chic

She presented a captivating showcase of her Spring Summer 24 collection, blending tribal motifs with contemporary urban wear. Drawing inspiration from the adventures of a nomadic biker hailing from Orissa's Bonda Tribe, the collection stole the spotlight, captivating attendees with its distinctive fusion of heritage and modernity. Stemming from an informal chat over tea with a dear friend, each piece blossomed into a breathtaking ensemble, effortlessly blending tribal elements with contemporary aesthetics. Renowned for celebrating India's vibrant culture through intricate weaves and motifs, Anamika Khanna elevated her signature approach by infusing Bonda colors, motifs, and embroideries into ensembles suited for urban settings. The collection featured a diverse range of garments, from jackets to slouchy pants, drapes, and kaftans, each reimagining staple pieces into bold statements of style. Denim formed the foundation of the collection, adorned with a palette ranging from quintessential whites, ivory, and blacks to prints and vibrant hues of red and pink. Anamika Khanna ingeniously combined thick threadwork embroidery, reminiscent of biker studs, to reinvent the concept of urban wear, infusing each garment with rich detail and character.





### Rajdeep Ranawat's regal festive collection brought glamour of the colourful past

Rajdeep's specialty has always been to bring together the colours and embroidery of the European cultures and then merge with the orient. The "Nizam" collection was a festive amalgamation of European elegance with the drama of mid-18th century to form a fashionable tapestry of colour and beauty. The rich silks were embellished with the most opulent motifs as they glistened with the vintage metallic cords, pearls and semi-precious gemstones. While the artistic work added richness to the ensembles, there was a discreet muted sparkle that further enhanced the royal appeal of the collection. The colours spanned a wide spectrum of hues that matched the grandeur of the "Nizam" look. From a palette of delicate sea foam to withered rose and pewter, the shade card moved gradually to mustard and a gamut that further added hints of jewel tones of sapphire, ruby and tourmalines. The creations were a dazzling spectacle of prints for kaftans, luxurious kurtas teamed with fluid pants, short hip length capes that looked amazing with printed striped comfy trousers and jackets with slit sleeves teamed with a bralette and low crotch pants. The midi length poncho was an ensemble that women who aim for comfort, will adore.



### Anushree Reddy's collection had timeless elegance and grace

She unveiled her timeless, elegant collection "Gulab-Bari". The "Gulab-Bari" collection was a homage to the Princess of Nizam whose timeless elegance has enchanted several generations. Delicate beadwork was evident on all the garments along with handcrafted artistry in zardozi, resham, thread work and Gotta Patti that added a touch of heirloom appeal to the garments. The creations were further highlighted with the most exquisite flora and fauna motifs, which were meticulously brought to life with needle Ari work and then further embellished with glass cut, tea-stained beads and Zari. The fabrics matched the beauty of the embellishments, and the inspiration, as dreamy organza and luxurious silks were intertwined into a symphony of royal splendour. The colours were a mélange of jewel tones as delicate pastels like shades of rose were creatively merged with lustrous gold, divine blue and green to create a wonderful rainbow of hues.

