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Dear Readers.

Decorated streets, jam packed markets, and the waft of winter. Yes, it is the wedding season in India. With no second opinion this is the most exciting time of the year when people splurge and shop like never before. With several weddings in the row and week long celebrations at incredible destinations, big fat Indian weddings become much-talked about affairs. And, all this gives a big kick to the Indian ethnicwear market, which was already burgeoning off fashion statements in movies and daily soaps. Hence, the theme for Images Business of Fashion November 2014 issue is Indian Ethnicwear.

In this issue we bring to you an overview of Indian ethnicwear apparel market. Led by a research on women;s ethnicwear by Technopak, the cover story of this issue discusses the biggest challenges being faced by the ethnicwear industry. It also highlights the strengths and opportunities of this category. The cover story also covers the potential of Tier II & III cities in ethnicwear segment.

The Infashion section boasts design and trend stories inspired by floral motifs and folk-inspired fashion. A special feature on poly viscose fabric is also a part of this section. PV fabrics are chasing a growth of nine to 10 percent but the fabric is unable to score the first place on the users' priority list. The feature shares insights on what major players are doing to reduce the gap between cotton and PV fabrics.

This time Images BoF monthly features two iconic fashion designers, Neeta Lulla and Rahul Mishra, who share their thought on the Indian ethnicwear category. Bollywood designer, Neeta Lulla defines the Indian ethnicwear category, shares her views on modern retail that promotes Indian ethnicwear, and role of ethnicwear in fashion consumption in India. On the other side, Woolmark prize winner Rahul Mishra divulges that to make it big, he needs to create clothes which have international appeal but remain rooted to Indian culture. Further the November 2014 issue is packed with Indian ethnicwear powerhouse brands and retailers.

Hope you like reading all about the Indian ethnicwear in this issue.

Amitabh Taneja

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#### COVER STORY

THE ETHNICWEAR MARKET IN INDIA

The ethnicwear market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 8 percent to reach US\$ 19,600 million in 2018, share Amit Gugnani and Kanti Prakash Brahma of Technopak

**RENDEZVOUS WITH ETHNICWEAR** 

Indian ethnicwear brands have become active in their branding and offerings thanks to the burgeoning demand for this category

PROMINENT ETHNICWEAR BRANDS IN INDIA

A snapshot on the leading ethnicwear brands in India.



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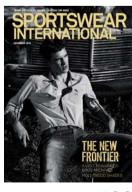
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THE ETHNICWEAR MARKET OF INDIA STOOD AT US\$ 13,100 MILLION IN 2013 OUT OF WHICH THE CONTRIBUTION OF MEN'S ETHNICWEAR IS ONLY 3 PERCENT, CONTRIBUTION OF KID'S ETHNICWEAR IS 9 PERCENT AND THAT OF WOMEN'S ETHNICWEAR IS 88 PERCENT. THE ETHNICWEAR MARKET IS EXPECTED TO GROW AT A CAGR OF 8 PERCENT TO REACH US\$ 19,600 MILLION IN 2018. AMIT GUGNANI, SVP - FASHION (TEXTILE & APPAREL) AND KANTI PRAKASH BRAHMA, PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT - FASHION, TECHNOPAK SHARE MORE INSIGHT ON THE ETHNICWEAR MARKET.

The apparel market of India was valued at US\$ 41 billion in 2013, and is projected to grow at 9 percent CAGR for the next decade. In this huge market, the menswear category contributes 42 percent, womenswear 38 percent and kidswear 20 percent.

The ethnicwear market of India stood at US\$ 13,100 million in 2013, out of which the contribution of men's ethnicwear has been a mere three percent; the contribution of kids ethnicwear has been nine percent; and that of women's ethnicwear a whopping 88 percent. This market as a whole is expected to grow at a CAGR of eight percent to reach US\$ 19,600 million by 2018.

In this segment, the market has largely been driven by women's ethnicwear as it comprises 74 percent of the overall women's apparel market with a market size of US\$ 11,500 million. It is a large part of women's wardrobe and will continue to grow at a promising rate of eight percent.

Unlike in the past, when ethnicwear was restricted to being an apparel of choice, it has transitioned into a fashion essential for the college going girl as well as for the elite socialite. India's fashion legacy lies in its vibrant colours and traditionally available artworks. Handwork and handprint techniques, Rajasthani prints, Kashmiri work, Kutch work and mirror work are some popular traditional methods employed to existing fashion ranges. These style mixes present countless choices of dresses that reveal the background of a particular place. This explains why, in spite of the growing popularity of casuals, traditional ethnicwear continues to



## THE QUINTESSENTIAL **INDIANWEAR**

PRAVEEN AGARWAL, DIRECTOR, PRAPTI FASHIONS SHARES THE JOURNEY AND GROWTH AND EXPANSION PLANS OF THE BRAND WITH IMAGES BUSINESS OF FASHION.

Way back in 1990, the residents of Kolkata queued up in front of a boutique that offered stunning collections of ethnicwear for men and women. It was the swanky boutique, located in the prime area of Gariahat, which became a landmark destination for ethnicwear over the years. Spearheaded by Praveen Agarwal, the boutique evolved into an ethnicwear brand in 2010. Between in 2010 and 2014, the brand saw a meteoric rise in the ethnicwear segment and expanded its network to 32 stores and clocked a turnover of ₹80

"When Prapti opened its store in Gariahat, the organised retail was unexplored and there was no one in the category that specialised in ethnicwear retailing. We were the only retailer that catered to this segment, both for men's and womenswear. Hence, we received phenomenal response. However, until then we did not think of exploring the category further through organised retail. We started only in 2010 and it has seen exponential growth since then," says

> All the way through its journey from 1990-2010, Prapti redefined the concept of ethnicwear retailing. It was through its craftsmanship, design and quality that Prapti earned a loyal customer base not only in Kolkata but also in other parts of eastern India. In spite of being a one-store retailer, Prapti established itself as a brand in ethnicwear. "In fact, it was such a landmark destination that even the first Pantaloons store in Gariahat opened bang opposite to Prapti store," informs Agarwal. Prapti Fashions was incorporated in 1985 and since then it has been one of the leading names among ethnicwear fashion brands in India. Currently, the fashionable traditional attire offered by Prapti is retailed across the country by company-owned outlets. In the

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WELCOME TO THE IN FASHION SECTION OF IMAGES BUSINESS OF FASHION. IN THIS SECTION, WE BRING TO YOU THE LATEST VISTAS AND INSIGHTS IN FASHION CREATION ACROSS FASHION DESIGN, FASHION TRENDS AND FASHION INGREDIENTS



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IN INDIA ARE COLOURLESS

Celebrated designer Rahul Mishra shares his passion for wool and other fibres





# **FOLK TALES**

FOR THOSE THAT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CHARMED BY GULLIVER'S TRAVELS OR THE STORY OF POCAHONTAS AND OTHER FOREVERLASTING TALES THAT MAKE CHILDHOOD SO VIVID, WINTER 2014 OFFERS A CHANCE TO RELIVE YOUR GROWING UP IMAGINATIONS, FASHIONABLY. GLOBAL TRENDS FOR THE COMING SEASON CELEBRATE MAGNIFICENT FAIRY AND FOLK TALE MOTIVES JOINT WITH MINIMALISTIC AND AT TIMES EVEN MONOCHROME LOOKS. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD WOULD END UP BEING A TREND SETTER WITH HER RED HOODED CAPE? BY AARTI KAPUR SINGH

From Dolce & Gabbana's forest tale, Alexander
McQueen's nod to Game of Thrones, Fendi's take
on Little Red Riding Hood and Valentino's sense of
ethereal enchantment, designers looked to a whimsical and
imaginative world for their inspiration this season. Beautiful
embroideries, ethnic prints, rich earthy tones and a gorgeous
play on texture are sure to turn this trend into an irresistible
movement. This fall becomes all about mixing traditional
motifs with modern silhouettes, for an aesthetic appearing to
be carved out straight from the pages of a fairy tale.

Folk fashion was actually popular in the 60s as well. Yves Saint Laurent was the first who used folk styles for his collection and today this is one of the most popular trends of new season. Folk fashion doesn't stand for newness,

for innovation, as its beginnings entwine with history, with world-wide traditions and customs that bear their own kind of timeless appeal. But in constantly being reimagined, the folk aesthetic does get a contemporary makeover. For fall 2014, folk fashion merges with the glamour of the '70s, in building a style defined by effortless elegance, and nuanced with plenty of fairy-tale inspired motifs and silhouettes.

Dolce & Gabbana had images of walking knights the models were turned into, as well as flashes from 'Beauty and Beast'. Squirrels, floral prints with fairy tale motives and the extremely charming colour palette really take us to the magical world of our childhood.

Rodarte's show was marked with the curious and creative colour solutions thus putting the colorful prints and patterns

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Fashion Editor: **Juliette Nguyen**Managing Editor: **Wolfgang Lutterbach** 





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### MORE THAN A BOMBER JACKET

ALPHA INDUSTRIES HAS STOOD FOR JACKET EXPERTISE FOR OVER 50 YEARS. NOW, THE EUROPEAN OFFSHOOT IS TAKING THE FASHION WORLD BY STORM WITH TODAY'S VERSION OF ITS EARLIER MILITARY JACKETS. BY MARIA HUNSTIG



The newly opened headquarters of Alpha Industries GmbH & Co.
KG stands out in the crowd. The highly modern and spacious new building is located in quiet, parklike Neu-Isenburg just a few minutes away from the Frankfurt/Main skyline. This is where the team gathered around sales and marketing director Hubertus Junge runs all of the European operations of

the label, well-known primarily for its iconic orange-lined American bomber jackets. Four and a half years ago the German Alpha subsidiary acquired the license to market the locally designed collection not only in the DACH region but all across Europe. Since then it has worked continuously on the distribution network, on building up the brand and on the collection itself.

Anyone entering the showroom located in the basement will find much more than classic MA-1 bomber jackets—even though that model has been substantially responsible for the fact that in recent years everyone has been talking about Alpha Industries and it has graced the bods of such opinion leaders as Kanye West, Pharrell Williams and Cara Delevingne. Bomber jackets are part of a larger trend toward authenticity and brands with a "heritage"—at the moment all of that is playing to Alpha's strong suit. But Junge knows that you can't rely too much on a single successful

much of a focus on our core styles, but for some time now we have been continually expanding our range in all the product categories and are trying to incorporate emerging trends into the collection better. Currently, for example, the fashion trajectory of the bomber jacket has established itself with slender silhouettes and new materials in Scandinavia and southern Europe. At the same time we feel there is still a lot of potential for it in central Europe," he explains. As a result, the current fall/winter 2014 collection contains many variants on the MA-1: more slender models, reversible jackets, down-filled, wool or soft shell, with a hood, pilot patches or camouflage prints. "We've also worked on the other classics, for instance the M-65 field coat, and have created a wide range of variants," he adds. Although the trend-conscious customer prefers the original model with loose sleeves or the quilted jacket liner, which can be worn on its own, the version in the more slender "vintage fit" with less visible branding is also turning up in stock at menswear stores. Over the years Alpha Industries has come to appreciate the tastes of its customers-and they are as varied as the distribution network which extends from military shops to designer boutiques. "We are continuing to work with army shops because that's where we come from. These army shops have been customers for years and years, some managed over several generations," he says.

"In addition, this sales mix makes it possible for us to market products at army shops as well as in the streetwear and urban fashion area in the same city, because our Alpha product range is continuously expanding and highly varied."

To expand in fashion, Alpha will concentrate more strongly in on image-driven collaborations with other brands in the near future. A few projects are already in the pipeline. Womenswear too, which currently accounts for 20% of Alpha sales at the most, will be tackled: With tailored fits, a broader range of colors and key styles such as the fishtail parka. Alpha Industries achieves the lion's share of its sales through its core product, jackets, supplemented by cargo pants, shirts, sweaters, tracksuits and accessories. Does Alpha intend to branch out to running its own retail outlets in the future? Junge won't rule it out, but for now the product range must first be expanded. "At the moment with our product portfolio we are planning shop-in-shop concepts. We still have a lot to do!"









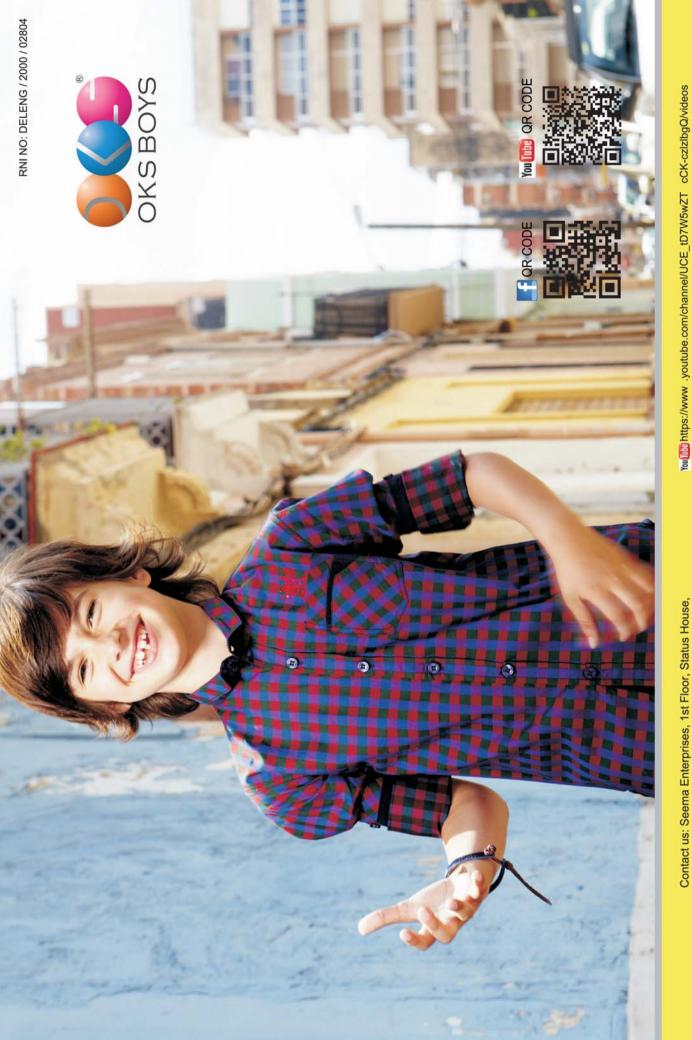


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