

Dior unveils its Fall 2023 collection at Gateway of India

HEENA KHANDELWAL
MUMBAI, MARCH 31

WITH THE majestic Gateway of India serving as the perfect backdrop, Thursday evening saw a celebration of Indian craftsmanship as luxury fashion house Dior unveiled its fall 2023 collection in Mumbai in the presence of who's who of the city and beyond.

Besides black and white, on display were colour block sequences dedicated to silks in shades of green, yellow, pink and purple, woven according to ancient techniques used in Tamil Nadu. The silhouettes saw long button-down shirts, draped skirts, sari-inspired straight skirts, long dresses with high slits on both sides as well as pants, boleros, jackets and tops. Adding the right bling, their straight pants, long skirts and jackets were adorned with beads and sequins. While some pieces saw minute fine stitch and zardozi embroidery done on them, others saw embroidery work trans-



formed into a lace to complement an ensemble, done by the artisans of Chanakya School of Craft. Besides embroidery, there were pieces displaying the tie-and-die art form of Rajasthan as well as a saree drape-inspired gown in Madras checks.

Heralded as a tribute to

Indian textile and handicraft, the collection marked the three-decade-long partnership and friendship shared between Maria Grazia Chiuri, Creative Director of Women's Collection, Dior, and Karishma Swali, Creative Director, Chanakya International and Chanakya School of Craft.



(Left) Dior unveiled its Fall 2023 collection in Mumbai on Thursday. Photo courtesy: Thomas Chirif & Gupta Nivedhan
(Above) Sonam Kapoor wore a Dior Fall 2023 pink silk coat, shirt and skirt. Photo courtesy: Getty Images

"With this collection, we tried to explore the various genres of craft that exist across the country. We have worked with handweaving and handspun textiles like Madras check and craft like block print. We also worked with different schools of hand embroidery, and brought a

language that is more fragile, contemporary and in alignment with Maria and House of Dior's vision," said Swali at the press conference held on Wednesday. Stating that textile and embroidery were one of the first activities of human beings, Chiuri added, "We are looking at craft

that may be going out of circulation and finding ways to contemporise them."

In attendance at the event were actors Sonam Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Karisma Kapoor, Anushka Sharma, Shobhita Dhulipala, Athiya Shetty and Ananya Panday, dressed up in Dior's newly unveiled collection. Creating a storm at the event with her sheer presence was Rekha, looking splendid in her signature red-golden Kanjivaram silk sari. From the international diaspora, Bridgerton star Simone Ashley, Never Have I Ever's Pooja Jagannathan, Game Of Thrones' Maisie Williams, model and Suicide Squad actress Cara Delevingne, Shmdog Millionaire star Freida Pinto, renowned sitar player Anoushka Shankar were some of the celebrities present. Also marking their attendance were Shweta Barchhan, Isha Ambani with to-be sister-in-law Radhika Merchant, Virat Kohli, Masaba Gupta, Ananya Birla, Ujjwala Raut, Anaita Shroff Adajania, among others.