

Neelam Kothari Elevates Assamese Heritage as Showstopper for Sanjukta Dutta

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New Delhi — At Lakmé Fashion Week 2025, designer **Sanjukta Dutta** transformed the runway into a poetic twilight world with her *Gadhuli* collection. The evening reached a crescendo when **Bollywood veteran Neelam Kothari** took the role of showstopper, bringing both glamor and gravitas to Assam-inspired couture.

“Gadhuli — The Twilight”: Melding Heritage & Modernity

Sanjukta Dutta introduced *Gadhuli* as a space between light and shadow, where tradition meets contemporary silhouette. The collection leaned into **black and maroon hues** — sarees, dhotis, anarkalis, and structured dresses.

One standout moment was the tribute to **Zubeen Garg**: a saree that bore his portrait and lyrics handwoven into fabric. That piece served both as homage and as symbolic merger of music, art, and fashion.

Dutta’s commentary on *Gadhuli* emphasized balance — strength and softness, legacy and evolution. She sought to channel Assam’s essence into a garment narrative that felt timeless yet innovative.

Neelam Kothari as Showstopper: Glamour with Soul

When Neelam walked, the atmosphere shifted. She wore one of *Gadhuli*’s signature ensembles that radiated elegance. The outfit echoed the collection’s palette and motif sensibility.

Overall her experience, Kothari said walking for Sanjukta felt like “carrying a piece of Assamese heritage wrapped in poetry and power.”

Her presence underscored *Gadhuli*’s ambition: not just to showcase clothes, but to animate culture, identity, and emotion on the runway.

Cultural Impact & Fashion Dialogue

Hence collaboration drew praise from fashion critics and media alike. Many appreciated how Dutta elevated North East crafts into a couture vocabulary without diluting their spirit. Moreover, *Gadhuli* sparked conversations about how regional narratives can find pan-Indian resonance through fashion. By bringing Assam’s motifs and stories to a national stage, Dutta reinforced that heritage isn’t static — it evolves in dialogue with contemporaneity.

Neelam Kothari’s involvement added star power and legitimacy, bridging Bollywood and cultural couture in a show that mattered as much visually as emotionally.

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