

**Embassy of India
Thimphu**

Press Release : Khadi comes to Bhutan, 17 October 2019

On the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Embassy of India, Thimphu and the Royal Textile Academy, Thimphu together with the support of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) curated on 16 October 2019 at the Royal Textile Academy, Thimphu, a special event, *Khadi-Thagzo*, jointly celebrating the textile heritage of *Khadi* and traditional *Bhutanese fabric*.

A total of 48 ensembles featuring leading designers from India and Bhutan were showcased on this occasion, fusing *Khadi* with *Thagzo* hand-made textile of Bhutan to create innovative garment lines. From India, the event displayed the works of Anamika Khanna, Rajesh Pratap Singh and Samant Chauhan. From Bhutan, the talent of Chadrika Tamang, Kencho Wangmo, Tshering Choden & Sangay Choden was on display.

In addition, six Indian designers (Anjana Bhargav, Nitin Bal Chauhan, Paras Gairolia, Payal Jain, Rahul Mishra & Renu Tandon) created a special *Khadi* ensemble each, which too were spotlighted at the event.

The event had, as its objective, to encourage traditional textiles and weaving, both a forte of India and Bhutan, and to foster a collaboration between the traditional textile artisans and designers from both countries, further cementing the close & friendly ties between India & Bhutan.

To this end, the four Bhutanese textile designers who showcased their work at the *Khadi-Thagzo* Textile Presentation, had visited Lotus India Fashion Week from 10-12 October 2019, on invitation from FDCI Chairman Sunil Sethi. In follow up to the event, it is proposed to retail *Khadi* in Thimphu, bringing this heritage fabric of India to Bhutan.

The *Khadi-Thagzo* Presentation was witnessed by a high-profile audience including Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck as the Chief Guest, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, KVIC Chairman as the Guest of Honour, Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering, Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors, members of the media and several other distinguished guests.
