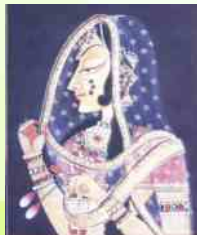


Fashion Industry in India



In either instance, the choice of clothing is dependent on the person's status, wealth and religious orientation.

Information about fashion in ancient India is available only from looking at sculptures as very few examples of costumes, textiles and jewellery have survived. In the Indus Valley Civilization (c. 3000-1500 BC), clothing tended to be simple. Men wore loin-cloths while women were bare to the waist. Status was reflected in the kind of jewellery worn; high-ranking women sometimes covered their bosoms with jewels. It was only with the onset of the Rigvedic period in India that more complicated clothing consisting of upper and lower garments was introduced, to which a cloak was added later. These were generally pieces of cloth draped over the body in a style seen in many Indian costumes today.



Ancient works like *Amarakosha* and the *Brihat-kalpa-sutra* mention a range of subjects including textiles and garments. The range of sculptures and paintings at Ajanta gives a clear idea of the colours and patterns of garments, apart from the manner in which these were worn. Several terms for the female upper garment were used in Sanskrit and Prakrit literature including *uttarasanga*, *uttariyavasan*, *uttariyavasa*, *udaramsbuka*, *samvyana*, *stanamsbuka* and *stanottariya*. There are also numerous references in literature to stitched blouses or jackets: the various

names used for them including *kancbuka*, *kanchulika*, *kurpasa* and *kurpasaka*. The lower garment worn by women were also described by a variety of names like *ambara*, *amsbuka*, *antariya*, *jaghanamsbuka*, *nivasana*, *paridhana*, *vasana*, *vastram*, *vasas* and *sauli*. Texts of the 7th century mention not only the tailor (*tunnava* or *suhaka*) but also his implements like the needle (*sucbi*), sewing thread (*sucbi sutra*) and the scissors (*kattati*). The Sakas and Kushans were the first to introduce turban, tunic, trousers and heavy long coats to Indian costumes.

The total range of costumes in India expanded considerably between the 8th and 12th centuries. Interesting and useful accounts of geographers and chroniclers, especially those of Arab and Chinese origin throw light on the Indian costumes in vogue at different times in history. In their accounts, Masudi, Idrisi and Ibn Hawqal speak of Indian cotton with a sense of wonder and awe. With the arrival of the Mughals in the 16th century, new garments like *qaba*, *jama*, *piraban*, *lilucba*, *libas*, *kasaba*, and the like began to be used. These kinds of costumes are also found illustrated in the historical works like the *Babar nama*, and the *Tawarikh-i-khandaan-i-Taimuriya* and *Tarikh-i-fi*. Abul Fazl has provided probably the best documentation that we have of the costumes of India from any single source prior to the 19th century. He mentions that Akbar had replaced the names of several garments with new and pleasing terms. His *Ain-i-Akbari* mentions that designers from Europe and the Middle East used to frequent the Mughal courts. Muslim from undivided India was an important commodity of export and a high fashion fabric in Europe and other parts of the world.

Indian costumes like the silk *saris*, brightly mirrored *cholis*, colourful *lehngas* and the traditional *salwar-kameez* have fascinated many a traveler over the centuries. Although *sari* is only one of the many traditional garments worn by women, yet it has become the national dress of Indian women. The tightly fitted, short blouse worn under a *sari* is *choli*, which evolved as a form of clothing in the 10th century AD. Apart from the *choli*, women in Rajasthan wear as a form of pleated skirt known as *ghagra* or *lehanga*. Though the majority of Indian women wear traditional costumes, the men in India can be found in more conventional western clothing. Shirts and trousers are worn by men from all the regions of India. How ever, men in villages wear traditional attire like *Kurtas*, *lungis*, *dhotis* and *pyjamas*.

Contd.

Cultural Calendar for November

- November 8** Film - Glimpses of Indian culture through some of its museums
A documentary in English
Venue & Time: ICC 5.30 p.m. Duration : 1 ½ hrs
- November 10** Bharatha Natyam recital
by Mr. Saravanapava Guhendran student of Padmashri Adyar Sri. K. Lakshman
Venue & Time: ICC 6.00 p.m.
- November 11** Painting, Drawing and Essay Competition for children to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
Venue & Time: ICC 10.00 a.m.
- November 14** Film – Taj Mahal
Language: Hindi
Directed by: M.Sidiq
Venue & Time: ICC 5.30 p.m. Duration : 3 hrs
- November 17** Hindustani Vocal Music Recital
by Ms. Nishadi Prageetha Meddegoda
Venue & Time: ICC 6.00 p.m.
- November 21** Film - Kuchipudi Revisited
A documentary in English
Venue & Time: ICC 5.30 p.m. Duration : 1 hr
- November 24** Screening of Koothu – Sri Lankan Tamil traditional dance & Kathakali - Indian traditional dance drama with an introduction by the director Mr. Dharmasiri Bandranayake & a talk by Prof. Sivathamby on Sri Lankan Tamil traditional dance
Venue & Time: ICC 6.00 p.m.

(Admission to all programmes is free on first come first served basis except November 11th)

ICC Members may please note that the cultural performances and talks are being scheduled to start at 6.00 pm on a trial basis.



Tarun Tahilliani



Ritu Kumar

Pavan Aswani, Payal Jain, Ravi Bajaj, Rina Dhaka, Sharon Leong and Chandrajit Adhikari, Shaina NC, Sonali and Himanshu, Wendell Rodricks, Anna Singh, Ashish Soni, Jatin Kochar, Madhu Jain, Manish Malhotra, Ravi Bajaj, Salim Asgarally and Tarun Tahilliani top the growing list of reputed fashion designers in India.

Contd.



ICC

November 2006



Kanchan Chander, "Lavanya IV " Oil and silver leaf, 152 X 92 Cm, 2005

Indian Cultural Centre

133, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 4, Sri Lanka

Telephone: 2500014, Fax: 2598674

E-mail: icc@sltnet.lk

ICC Website: www.iccrindia.org

In Retrospect

14th September Bharatha Natyam Recital by the students of the Indian Cultural Centre, trained by Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan



The students of the Indian Cultural Centre, trained by Ms. Subashini Pathmanathan presented a classical Bharatha Natyam recital on 14th September at the Cultural Centre's auditorium amidst a large gathering.

Different groups of students proved their mastery and ability. The recital started with "Ganapathi Sthuthi" followed by "Pushpanjali" on Lord Ganesha and switched on to a "Venba" by the great Tamil poet Awaysier and that was followed by two different "Sabthams". In "Ragamaliga" set to "Misra Chapu" thala. "Sabtham was followed by "Keerthanam" and dance items for songs on various deities. In all items the students showed their excellent skill in pure "Nirtha", "Nirthya", "Thala" and "Laya".

The finale of the recital was a brisk "Thillana" in "Kanada" raga set to "Athi" thala and concluded with "Mangalam". The evening was a memorable event for art lovers.

15th -20th September Performances by troupe from Kathak Kendra of New Delhi



A 10-member Kathak troupe from Kathak Kendra, New Delhi visited Sri Lanka for the National Art & Literary Festival. The troupe gave performances in Anuradhapura at the Salgado auditorium from 15th to 17th September, in Colombo on Tuesday, 19th September at the Kularatne Hall, Ananda College and on Wednesday, 20th September at the Indian Cultural Centre.

The troupe was headed by Pandit Jai Kishan Maharaj. The troupe consisted of 6 dancers and 4 instrumentalists, Mohamed Nasir Khan on the Sarangi, Siddharth Das on the Sarod, Kaushik Das as vocalist and Pt. Jai Kishan Maharaj on the Tabla. They performed famous Kathak items like the Tarana, Taal-tatkar, Taal-Sangam & Jugalbandi, Darbar-e-salami, a lively dance of salutation and Kramashah, a dance of chronology & sequential movements which captivated the Sri Lankan audiences. The troupe received rave reviews for all their performances.

The troupe's visit to Sri Lanka was sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi & the Ministry of Cultural Affairs & National Heritage, Government of Sri Lanka.



20th September Kathak dance recital by troupe from Kathak Kendra, New Delhi



The performances by the Kathak Troupe at the Cultural Centre kept the audience mesmerized throughout the programme.

The evening commenced with a solo sarangi item by Mr. Nasir Khan and continued with several dance items such as Aum- an invocatory item, Kramashah- a dance of chronology & sequential movements., Darbar-E-Salami- a lively dance item of salutation, Shahi-Mehfil - a lyrical piece full of graceful movements of the wrist & hands, pirouettes and scintillating footwork, and many others. It was a rare treat for the audience gathered at the Centre

22nd September Folk dances of India & creative dance recital by Ms. Anjali Mishra & her students



Ms. Anjali Mishra with her students along with Ms. Pavithra Abeyanayake presented a mixture of Folk dances of India & creative dance items at the Centre. They presented folk dance items from various parts of India such as Rajasthani, Gujarati- Dandiya, Punjab – Bhangada and creative dance items for the songs sung in marriages of India and also a song on peace in which Anjali performed Kathak steps and Pavithra presented Bharatha Natyam steps.

27th September Hindustani vocal music recital by Pt. Sarathi Chatterjee



A Hindustani vocal music recital by Pt. Sarathi Chatterjee from India enthralled the audience gathered at the Centre. He sang raag Vajraspathi in & Vilamba & Chota Kheyal. The recital was a special treat for music enthusiasts.

28th September Hindi Certificate Distribution Ceremony



A function to distribute certificates to students who have passed the Hindi Language exam held in February 2006, was held at the High Commission of India. The exam is conducted annually by the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, India. The students received the certificates and prizes from the Chief Guest, Her Excellency Smt. Nirupama Rao, High Commissioner for India in Sri Lanka. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. (Mrs) Indra Dassanayake – Hindi Teacher and followed with a speech by the Chief Guest. Vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Sylvia Perera – Hindi Teacher. The programme concluded with a small reception.

SHANKAR'S INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S COMPETITION 2007



The Shankar's International Children's Competition 2007, in the categories of writing, painting and drawing, is open to children all over the world born on or after January 1, 1991. The competition was started in 1949 by late Shri Keshav Shankar Pillai, a celebrated cartoonist and recipient of several awards including "Padma Shri" and "Padma Vibhushan". The International Participation in the competition has increased greatly over the years with children from over 130 countries participating and winning prizes.

The last date of receipt of entries in New Delhi for the Shankar's competition is 31st December 2006. Results will be announced in August 2007. For rules and further details, please call the Indian Cultural centre at telephone number 2500014.

Fashion Industry... Contd.

Fashion and dress-designing goes in tandem with professional ramp modeling. In India ramp modeling has come of age with a rapidly growing genre of professional ramp models, both male and female, making a mark in domestic as well as international arenas. Madhu Sapre, Helen Brodie, Bipasha Basu, Nayanika Chatterjee, Nina Manuel, Annie Thomas, Anupama Verma, Liza Ray, Malaika Arora, Maria Goretti, Meher Jesia, Namrata Barua, Sheetal Mallar, Sheries Meher Homji, Sonali Rosario and Ujwala Raut are among the leading female models of India while Milind Soman, Andrew Piers, Arjun Rampal, Atul Wokulu, Himanshu Malik, Marc Robinson, Rahul Dev and Rohit Ticu are among the leading male models.

Now more and more leading fashion designers like Ritu Beri, Rina Dhaka and other are concentrating on Indian wear even for men. As the best of designs, motifs, themes and skilled craftsmen are available in India and India fabrics and styles are best suited for the country, such efforts bearing fruit. As a result we find more and more men and women adopting the *Swadeshi* clothes and designs. The *Sherwanis*, *Jodhpuris*, Nehru jackets, shawls and *Kurta-pyjamas* have all sprang back as the "latest designer wear" among men. A similar revival is evident in women's costumes. Several Indian designers are also launching ranges that are easy on the pockets of ordinary people. The Indian designers are also found to take up social themes like the cause of environment in their designer wear.

Today the fashion designers from India have created a lasting impression on the world market and have won clients in the Middle East, UK, and USA. Ravi Bajaj has designed various fashion lines for export houses targeting the US and European markets. Ritu Beri has an outlet at the prestigious Regent Street in London and in New Jersey in USA. Indian designers like Gitanjali Kashyap, Rohit Bal and others frequently participate in fashion shows abroad. Interestingly an Indian shawl and a *salwar-kameez* ensemble, created by leading Mumbai couturiers Abu Jani and Sandeep Khosla, fomed part of the exotic wardrobe of French actress Sophie Marceau in the latest James Bond adventure "The World is Not Enough".

Source: Website

Films in November

Glimpses of Indian culture through some of its museums

A documentary in English produced by the External Publicity Division, Ministry of External Affairs. The film takes the viewer through 5000 years of Indian History via visits to the great museums of India.

Taj Mahal

Language: Hindi
Directed by: M.Sidiq
Starring: Bina Rai, Pradeep Kumar, Veena, Jeevan & Rehman



Kuchipudi Revisited

A documentary in English produced by the External Publicity Division, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and sponsored by the Kuchipudi Dance Centre, New Delhi. The film showcases some of the well known Kuchipudi dancers of India and offers a glimpse into the intensive training behind the dance form.