

The Significance of Costume in South Asia

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Caption: *Daksha Salam*, Costume Illustrations. © MAP Academy.

Link: N/A

Image no: 2

Caption: Martin Adams, Detail, *Early Morning at the Taj Mahal*, 2018, Digital photograph, Unsplash.

Link: <https://unsplash.com/photos/9mTgTSf4Vng>

Image no: 3

Caption: Garbyal, Detail, *Garbyal women rehearsing traditional dance before leaving for the main parade*, 2012, Digital photograph, Flickr, [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).

Link: <https://flic.kr/p/bB2hog>

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Caption: Detail, *The Rulers of the Mughal Dynasty from Babur to Aurangzeb, with their Ancestor Timur*, c. 1707-1712, Ink, gold and opaque watercolour on paper, mounted on card as an album page, MSS 874, Khalili Collection, [CC-BY-SA 3.0 IGO](#).

Link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Khalili_Collection_Islamic_Art_mss_0874.3.jpg

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Caption: Jean-Pierre Dalbéra, Detail, *Ajanta Cave 10 Pillar Paintings*, 2015, Digital Photograph, Wikimedia Commons, [CC BY 2.0](#).

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ajanta_Cave_10_pillar_paintings.jpg

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Caption: Sowrirajan S., Detail, *Lakshmana Hugging Hanuman (left) and Angada*, 2007, Digital photograph, Wikimedia Commons. [CC BY 2.0](#).

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lakshmana_at_Srivaikundam.jpg

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Caption: Detail, *Bibi Ferzana*, circa 1675, Opaque watercolour, gold, and ink on paper, 23.6 x 14 cm, M.72.88.4, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California. Purchased with funds provided by Dorothy and Richard Sherwood.

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bibi_Ferzana_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg

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Caption: Raja Ravi Varma, Detail, *Portrait of a Lady*, 1893, Oil on canvas, 120 x 86.3 cm, 1670, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.

Link:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raja_Ravi_Varma_-_Portrait_of_a_Lady_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg

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Caption: Briana Blasko, Detail, *A Woman Helps a Weaver Settle the Muga Silk Yarn onto the Handloom Frame*, Boko, Assam, April 2010, Photograph, Courtesy of the artist.

Link: N/A

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Caption: Ishan Khosla, Detail, *A Garment Factory*, 2013, Photograph, Flickr, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

Link: <https://flic.kr/p/ehiF4w>

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Caption: SBriana Blasko, *Detail of Kantha Embroidery*, November 2009, Photograph, Courtesy of the artist.

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Caption: Detail, *Dhoti*, 2014, polyester-silk blend, Wikimedia Commons, [CC0 1.0](#).

Link:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dhoti, India, 2014, polyester-silk blend - Saint Ignatius Church, San Francisco, CA - DSC02646.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dhoti,_India,_2014,_polyester-silk_blend_-_Saint_Ignatius_Church,_San_Francisco,_CA_-_DSC02646.JPG)

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Caption: *Man's Robe*, early 19th century, Silk, metal wrapped thread; brocaded, 123.2 cm, 1984.88, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Purchase, Irene Lewisohn and Alice L. Crowley Bequests, 1984.

Link: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/12751>

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Caption: *Standing Buddha*, c. 3rd–4th century, Schist, 50.8 x 18.4 x 10.3 cm, 67.154.5, The

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Bequest of Adra M. Newell, 1966.

Link: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/38820>

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Caption: *Daksha Salam*, Costume Illustrations. © MAP Academy.

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Caption: Raja Ravi Verma, Detail, *Draupadi and Simhika*, 1896, Oil on canvas, 180 x 110 cm, Sri Chitra Art Gallery, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ravi_Varma-Draupadi_and_Simhika.jpg

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Caption: Adam Cohn, *Woman in Flowing Sari*, 2015, Digital photograph, Flickr, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Link:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/adamcohn/21792694212/in/photolist-zcKfK7-sUs2f2-2jFB59a-219tIsp-zqsN1-2jFxATb-6zdOoH-P5RfOM-C8iIPT-8JFMnG-zvOW59-nPTr32-2jFB56z-brKtyo-2jFB58I-bUAX3M-8OUspE-ca3zcm-uovapi-8JCI7M-B4Cnd6-ozVBvI-an59k4-e1iSSC-RHWLTx-8W2CoG-e1V9YB-c8ogsf-75xWma-2jFBWyp-9I6gD-aZBwmn-2hXOKIc-7PkzE9-4t3T8L-2jFB5dU-2jFxARC-8cyEGt-4estkZ-bHbut8-22k4P9Y-2dHjaQF-4Pg9s8-8JFNEy-PihDrD-k6uXjp-uM9e5o-2jFBWHY-2jFB5cw-fLUyy>

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Caption: Alice Benson, *Rani Shanta Devi Raje Sahib Bhonsle*, Carbon print, 29.7 x 22 cm, PHY.02363, Museum of Art and Photography, Bengaluru.

Link:

https://map.cumulus.co.in/client/map/collection#/search/3236?src=srh&q=PHY.02363&oq=PHY.02363&_qtp=_def&view=grid&searchField=All&perPage=20&pageNumber=1&sortBy=UserNumber3&sortOrder=ASC

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Caption: *Shiva as Lord of Dance (Shiva Nataraja)*, late 12th–early 13th century, Copper alloy, 65.4 x 55.9 x 19.7 cm, 64.251, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Harris Brisbane Dick Fund, 1964. Maureen Barlin, *Afternoon Stroll*, 2016, Digital photograph, Flickr, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

Link: <https://flic.kr/p/O5uDHC>

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Caption: Raja Ravi Verma, Detail, *Damayanthi Vanavasa*, c. 1910, Oleograph, Wikimedia Commons.

Link:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raja_Ravi_Varma,_Damayanti_Vanavasa_\(Oleograph\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raja_Ravi_Varma,_Damayanti_Vanavasa_(Oleograph).jpg)

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Caption: Hamilton Studios Pvt. Ltd, *Maharani Vijaya Raje Scindia*, c. 1940, Silver gelatin print, 26.8 x 17.3 cm, PHY.02134, Museum of Art and Photography, Bengaluru.

Link:

https://map.cumulus.co.in/client/map/collection#/search/3201?src=srh&q=PHY.02134&oq=PHY.02363&_qtp=_def&view=grid&searchField=All&perPage=20&pageNumber=1&sortBy=UserNumber3&sortOrder=ASC

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Caption: Phil Greenhalgh, *Strength*, 2011, Digital photograph, Flickr, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

Link: <https://flic.kr/p/bnmmK3>

Image no: 16h

Caption: Raja Ravi Verma, *Vasantika, Goddess of spring*, Oleographic print, Wikimedia Commons.

Link:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raja_Ravi_Varma,_Vasantika_\(oleographic_print\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raja_Ravi_Varma,_Vasantika_(oleographic_print).jpg)

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Caption: Magalie L'Abbé, Detail, *Untitled*, 2011, Digital photograph, Flickr, [CC BY-NC 2.0](#).

Link: <https://flic.kr/p/9uNdhS>

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Caption: Devare and Co. Bombay, *Maharani Chimnabai II*, c.1920, Silver gelatin print, 27.7 x 20.2 cm, PHY.02758, Museum of Art and Photography, Bengaluru.

Link:

<https://map.cumulus.co.in/client/map/collection#/search/3471?src=srh&q=PHY.02758&oq=PHY.02363& qtp= def&view=grid&searchField=All&perPage=20&pageNumber=1&sortBy=UserNumber3&sortOrder=ASC>

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Caption: Raja Ravi Verma, Detail, *Mohini*, 19th Century, Oleographic print, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raja_Ravi_Varma,_Mohini_\(Oleograph\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raja_Ravi_Varma,_Mohini_(Oleograph).jpg)

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Caption: Abhishek Hajela, *Woman Folding a Saree*, Digital photograph, Pixabay.

Link: <https://pixabay.com/photos/woman-indian-woman-saree-5977329/>

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Caption: Detail, *Marathi Woman in Traditional Nauvari Sari*, 2011, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Marathi_Women.jpg

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Caption: Franz Xaver Winterhalter, Detail, *Princess Gouramma*, 1852, Oil on canvas, 153.2 x 91.8 cm, Royal Collection, Osborne House, England.

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Princess_Gouramma.jpg

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Caption: Detail, *Young Girl in Gujarati Sari*, 1880, Albumen photograph, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gujrati_Sari.jpg

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Caption: MV Dhurandhar, Detail, *A Denizen of the Western Ghats*, c. 1928, Watercolour, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ghats.jpg>

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Caption: MV Dhurandhar, Detail, *A Gond Woman*, c. 1928, Watercolour, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gond_lady.jpg

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Caption: MV Dhurandhar, Detail, *A Fishwife of Bombay*, c. 1928, Watercolour, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fishwife.jpg>

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Caption: MV Dhurandhar, Detail, *Styles of Sari*, c. 1920, Watercolour, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Styles_of_Sari_\(H\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Styles_of_Sari_(H).jpg)

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Caption: M.V. Dhurandhar, Detail, *Hindu Marriage Ceremony*, 19th-20th century, Watercolour, Wikimedia Commons.

Link:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:M.V._Dhurandhar%E2%80%99s_Scene_Of_Hindu_Marriage_Ceremony.jpg

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Caption: Detail, *Four Recruits in White Dhotis (Page from the Fraser Album)*, 1810-1820, 25 x 37.8 cm, 1981.247, Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois. Kate S. Buckingham Fund.

Link:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anonymous - Four Recruits in White Dhotis, page from the Fraser Album - 1981.247 - Art Institute of Chicago.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anonymous_-_Four_Recruits_in_White_Dhotis,_page_from_the_Fraser_Album_-_1981.247_-_Art_Institute_of_Chicago.jpg)

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Caption: Anoop, Detail, *Indian Man in Mundu*, Digital photograph, Pixabay.

Link: <https://pixabay.com/photos/man-indian-traditional-outfit-groom-6570355>

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Caption: Abhas Mishra, Detail, *Indian Man Standing in Doorway*, 2016, Digital photograph, Unsplash.

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Caption: Beverley M. Sutherland, Detail, *Sri Ponnunala C. of Palakkad*, India, Tippu Sultan Fort, 2006, Digital photograph, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Achan-dhoti-tipu-sultan-fort.jpg>

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Caption: Detail, *Lava and Kusa, the Sons of Rama*, c. 19th century, Watercolour on paper, 23.70 x 30 cm, 1880,0.2057, The British Museum, London, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lava_and_Kusa,_the_sons_of_R%C4%81ma..jpg

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Caption: *Standing Bodhisattva*, 1st - 3rd century CE, schist, 120 cms, Guimet Museum, Paris, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bodhisattva_Gandhara_Guimet_181171.jpg

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Caption: Ekta Parishad, Detail, *Young Indian Women*, Chhattisgarh, India, 2005, Digital photograph, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Young_Indian_women,_Chhattisgarh,_2005.jpg

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Caption: Sandeep Achetan, Detail, *People of Jaipura Garh*, Rajasthan, India, 2017, Digital photograph, Flickr, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/).

Link: <https://flic.kr/p/237cuZr>

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Caption: Pramati Anand, Detail, *A Winter Morning in Palampur*, 2019, Digital Photograph, Courtesy of the photographer.

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Caption: Detail, *Woman's Shawl*, mid-19th century, Goat-fleece underdown (cashmere wool) twill with double-interlocking tapestry-weave patterning, pieced, with wool embroidery, 363.2 x 139.7 cm, 60.46.12, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California. Gift of Anna Bing Arnold.

Link: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Woman%27s_Shawl_LACMA_60.46.12_\(1_of_5\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Woman%27s_Shawl_LACMA_60.46.12_(1_of_5).jpg)

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Caption: Detail, Shawl, 1800, *embroidery (phulkari)*, Cotton, 265.4 x 152.4 cm, 1917.34, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio. Gift of Mrs. James J. Tracy.

Link:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India, Punjab, 19th century - Shawl - 1917.34 - Cleveland Museum of Art.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India,_Punjab,_19th_century_-_Shawl_-_1917.34_-_Cleveland_Museum_of_Art.jpg)

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Caption: Eric Meola, Detail, *At the Well*, India, 2007, C-type print, 35.7 x 53.6 cm, PHY.02605, The Deepak Puri Collection, Museum of Art and Photography, Bengaluru.

Link:

<https://map.cumulus.co.in/client/map/collection#/search/3335?src=srh&q=PHY.02605&oq=PHY.02363& qtp= def&view=grid&searchField=All&perPage=20&pageNumber=1&sortBy=UserNumber3&sortOrder=ASC>

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Caption: Detail, *Melancholy Courtesan*, c. 1750, Ink, gold and opaque watercolour on paper, 32.7 x 27.3 cm, 1995.232, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Purchase, Evelyn Kranes Kossak and Josephine L. Berger-Nadler Gifts and funds from various donors, 1995.

Link: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/38012>

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Caption: Nihal Chand, Detail, *Bani Thani*, c. 1750, Painting, National Museum, New Delhi.

Link:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:4 Radha \(Bani Thani\), Kishangarh, c. 1750, National Museum New Delhi.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:4_Radha_(Bani_Thani),_Kishangarh,_c._1750,_National_Museum_New_Delhi.jpg)

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Caption: Riccardo Romano, *Yellow*, 2012, Photograph, Flickr, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

Link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pixxOne/8435219178/>

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Caption: J. Peter, *Indian Man in a Turban*, Photograph, Pixabay.

Link: <https://pixabay.com/photos/man-india-hindu-portrait-hinduism-613601/>

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Caption: Satdeep Gill, *A Punjabi Turbaned Man*, 2018, Digital photograph, Wikimedia Commons, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#).

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_Punjabi_turbaned_man_-_2.jpg

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Caption: Yolanda, *Indian Man in a Turban*, Digital photograph, Pixabay.

Link: <https://pixabay.com/photos/india-man-turban-indian-787720/?download>

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Caption: Rupindar Singh, *Turbaned Man at the Farmer's Protest*, 2021, Photograph, Unsplash.

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Caption: Rupindar Singh, *Turbaned Man at the Farmer's Protest*, 2021, Photograph, Unsplash.

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Caption: Adam Cohn, Detail, *Hindu Men Talking in the Street*, Uttar Pradesh India, 2018, Digital photograph, Flickr, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/).

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Caption: Yann, *Sikh Man*, Agra, India, 2012, Digital photograph, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sikh_man,_Agra_14.jpg

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Caption: Koshy, *Pushkar Camel Trader*, 2007, Digital photograph, Flickr, [CC BY 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/).

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Caption: Christopher Micheal, *Portrait of an Old Man with a Pink Turban*, Rajasthan, 2011, Digital photograph, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Portrait_of_an_old_man_with_a_pink_turban,_Rajasthan_\(6358879131\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Portrait_of_an_old_man_with_a_pink_turban,_Rajasthan_(6358879131).jpg)

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Caption: Kandukuru Nagarjun, *Orange Turban*, 2011, Digital photograph, Flickr, [CC BY 2.0](#).

Link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nagarjun/4763351143/>

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Caption: Jeevan, *Bathing at a Gurudwara*, Patiala, India, Digital photograph, Pixabay.

Link: <https://pixabay.com/photos/gurudwara-patiala-sikh-bath-turban-621065/>

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Caption: Hand Sewing, *video footage*, Envato.

Link: <https://elements.envato.com/hand-sewing-I654M3N>

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Caption: Max Tilke, Detail, *Woman's Garments (from Oriental costumes: Their Designs and Colors)*, 1922, Wikimedia Commons.

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Caption: Detail, *Portrait of a Woman Holding a Wine-Cup*, Late 18th- early 19th century, Opaque watercolour and gold on paper, 25.6 x 19.9 cm, PTG.01591, Museum of Art and Photography, Bengaluru.

Link:

<https://map.cumulus.co.in/client/map/collection#/search/10376?src=srh&q=PTG.01591&oq=PHY.0>

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Caption: Detail, *Bodice or Choli*, 1800s, Embroidery, silk on silk satin with mirror-glass inserts, 33 x 91.4 cm, 1925.672, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio. Purchase from the J. H. Wade Fund.

Link:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:India,_Cutch_or_Sind,_19th_century_-_Bodice_or_Choli_-_1925.672_-_Cleveland_Museum_of_Art.tif

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Caption: Detail, *Woman's Skirt*, Early to mid- 20th century, Red cotton plain weave, black cotton plain weave embroidered in multicolored thread, red glass beads, mirrors, metal bells, 94 × 116.8 cm, 2009-50-2, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania. Gift of Anne d'Harnoncourt, 2009.

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Caption: Michael Sotnikov, Detail, *Hindu Women*, 2011, Digital photograph, Flickr, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

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Caption: M.V Dhurandhar, Detail, *Watercolour Illustrations of Different Styles of Ghagra or Lehenga Choli Worn by Women in South Asia*, 1928, Watercolour, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lengha_Choli.jpg

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Caption: Detail, *Portrait of a Mughal Emperor*, c.13th century, Walter Art Museum, Maryland.

Link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/medmss/5852870903/in/album-72157627005979098/>

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Caption: Detail, *Portrait of Asalat Khan*, c. 1645, Opaque watercolour, ink and gold on paper, 16.1 x 9.2 cm, F1929.81, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery- Smithsonian Institution, New York. Purchase — Charles Lang Freer Endowment.

Link: https://www.si.edu/object/portrait-asalat-khan:fsg_F1929.81

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Caption: Bichitr, Detail, *Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan Standing on a Globe (CBL In 07A.16)*, circa 1630, Miniature folio, In 07A.16, Chester Beatty Library, Dublin.

Link:

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Caption: Detail, *Man's Robe (Jama) with Poppies*, 17th century, Cotton, painted, with applied gold leaf, 139.7 x 203.2 cm, 29.135, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Rogers Fund, 1929.

Link: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/448247>

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Caption: Detail, *Portrait of Safdarjung*, early 18th century, Colour and gold on paper, 20.7 x 14.4 cm, F1907.233, Freer Gallery of Art, National Museum of Asian Art- Smithsonian Institution, New York. Gift of Charles Lang Freer.

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Caption: Detail, *Portrait of An Emperor*, 18th century, Colour and gold on paper, 25.3 x 16.5 cm, F1907.266, National Museum of Asian Art- Smithsonian Institution, New York. Gift of Charles Lang Freer.

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Caption: Detail, *Portrait of the Emperor Jahangir*, 13th century, Ink and pigments on brown paper, 20.5 x 16.5 cm, W.705.A, Walters Art Museum, Marland. Bequeathed by Henry Walters.

Link: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Indian - Portrait of the Emperor Jahangir - Walters W705A - Full Page.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Indian_-_Portrait_of_the_Emperor_Jahangir_-_Walters_W705A_-_Full_Page.jpg)

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Caption: Detail, *Portrait of Sultan Daniyal*, 1628- 1658, Bodleian Libraries, Oxford.

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Caption: Detail, *Coronation portrait of the VIIth Nizam*, 1911, Wikimedia Commons.

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Caption: Detail, *Ceremonial Coat*, 1884–90, Cotton, silk, and metal wrapped thread, embroidered, 1979.348, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Purchase, Irene Lewisohn Bequest, 1979.

Link: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/86169>

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Caption: Detail, *Choga*, late 19th century, Silk, metal wrapped thread, embroidered, 95.3 cm, C.I.52.33.3, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Purchase, Irene Lewisohn Bequest, 1952.

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Caption: Detail, *Angarakha*, 19th century, Silk, metal wrapped thread, woven, C.I.64.78.2, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Purchase, Irene Lewisohn Bequest, 1964.

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Caption: Shazaf Zafar, Detail, *A Man Standing on a Country Road*, 2021, Digital photograph, Unsplash.

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Caption: Kafeel Ahmed, Detail, *Man in Red and Golden Marriage Dress Gray Concrete Floor*, 2016,

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Caption: Detail, *A Mughal Dignitary*, c. 1640, Watercolour and gold on paper, 23.2 x 15.9 cm, 1999.136.5, Brooklyn Museum, New York. Gift of Anthony A. Manheim.

Link: <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/126868>

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Caption: Fayzullah, Detail, *A Blindfolded Suitor is Brought Before a Princess*, 1755, Opaque watercolour and gold on paper (recto), 2013.343.a, Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio. Gift in honor of Madeline Neves Clapp; Gift of Mrs. Henry White Cannon by exchange; Bequest of Louise T. Cooper; Leonard C. Hanna Jr. Fund; From the Catherine and Ralph Benkaim Collection.

Link:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fayzullah - A blindfolded suitor is brought before a princess - 2013.343.a - Cleveland Museum of Art.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fayzullah_-_A_blindfolded_suitor_is_brought_before_a_princess_-_2013.343.a_-_Cleveland_Museum_of_Art.jpg)

Image no: 73

Caption: Francesco Renaldi, Detail, *Muslim Lady Reclining/ An Indian Girl with a Hookah*, 1789, Oil on canvas, 55.8 x 69.8 cm, B1981.25.519, Yale Center for British Art, Connecticut. Paul Mellon Collection.

Link: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Renaldis muslin woman.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Renaldis_muslin_woman.jpg)

Image no: 74

Caption: Charles Pieters, Detail, *India Women*, 2016, digital photograph, Flickr, [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

Link: <https://flic.kr/p/G9K7SL>

Image no: 75

Caption: Bernard Gagnon, Detail, *Four women wearing Salwar Kameez*, Puducherry, 2006, Digital photograph, Wikimedia Commons, [CC BY-SA 3.0](#).

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Women_of_Puducherry.jpg

Image no: 76

Caption: Simon Williams, Detail, *Young Baiga women*, India, 2003, Digital photograph, Wikimedia Commons.

Link: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Young_Baiga_women_India.jpg

Image no: 77

Caption: Rodnae Productions, *A Woman Wearing Traditional Clothing*, Video Footage, Pexels.

Link: <https://www.pexels.com/video/a-woman-wearing-a-traditional-clothing-7684806/>

The rich textile practices in the Indian subcontinent have given rise to diverse forms of clothing that have evolved over thousands of years. These have served a number of functions such as providing comfort and protection to wearers, enabling individuals to identify with their communities and sometimes even allowing them to project a sense of status.

The historicity of India's costume traditions is captured in artworks that span ancient murals, early sculptures, narrative paintings and portraits. Depicting a variety of materials, textures and designs, these reveal to us how clothing has always reflected the range of traditions across the country. Traditional costumes in the region are either worn as unstitched fabrics that are draped and wrapped around the body, or as tailored garments.

Off the Loom

The earliest forms of clothing worn on the Indian subcontinent have taken advantage of the natural fluidity and drapability of cloth directly as it came off the loom. Worn without alterations or a need for stitching, these textiles lend themselves to a range of uses.

Sari

The sari is one such garment that has been worn by women in South Asia for centuries. Traditionally composed of a single piece of fabric, saris are wrapped and pleated around the waist, and draped around the torso, with an end piece known as a pallu or pallav that cascades down the shoulder. Covering the entire body, this textile can measure all the way up to 9 yards, or 8.2 metres. It is only since the nineteenth century that saris have been worn with inner garments such as blouses and petticoats, a practice that developed under the influence of colonial-era ideas of modesty.

There are more than a hundred ways in which saris can be draped, with every region and community in the country developing their own style. The garment's versatility is reflected in the way a simple unstitched fabric can lend itself to so many elegant silhouettes.

Dhoti

Like the sari, the dhoti is an unstitched cloth that covers the lower body, draped around the legs and tied either in the front or at the back. Made out of a variety of fabrics, it's typically worn by men, and also known as lungi, veshti or mundu.

The dhoti dates back thousands of years and is commonly featured in religious and mythological representations of male figures. In this Gandharan depiction of a Bodhisattva, for instance, we can see how the garment moulds itself to the figure's legs. The distinct folds of the fabric are suggestive of the lightness of the material.

Shawls, Odhanis and Turbans

Unstitched fabrics are also worn as accessories such as shawls and odhanis, which typically complement other forms of clothing. Shawls for instance, are draped over the upper body and worn by men and women, especially in colder climates. They vary in design and can be meticulously embroidered like the delicate pashmina shawls from Kashmir, or the rich phulkari shawls from Punjab.

Fabrics made of lighter materials are used more exclusively by women as veils, headcovers and shoulder mantles in the form of odhanis, dupattas or chunaris. As you can see, the figures in these images are wrapped in odhanis embellished with delicate motifs. The sumptuous appearance of the cloth adds to the richness of their attire.

Unstitched textiles are also used as customary headdresses or turbans popularly known as pagris. Typically formed out of long pieces of fabric, these are styled in a number of ways by men across different regions of the country. Pagris symbolise honour and respect, and are often associated with many spiritual and religious practices.

Made to Measure

Over time, advances in sewing technologies have led to significant developments in garment construction. This has given rise to many styles of clothing that are typically stitched for the wearer's body, and continue to be worn across the subcontinent even today.

Ghagra Choli

Ghagras or lehengas are long flared skirts that are fastened around the waist. They are worn by women, with cropped bodices known as cholis or blouses. As you can see here, the ensemble is completed with an odhani or a dupatta which can be loosely draped around the shoulder or even tucked into the skirt to resemble a sari.

While ghagras are most popular in northern India, we can see variations of the garments across the country

Jama

Tailored garments influenced by Central Asian attire, were highly favoured by Indian nobility in the 16th and 17th centuries.

One of the most iconic examples from this time is a type of robe called the jama, which means "garment" in Persian. Worn by men, the jama features a fitted bodice, and flares out below the waist. It could be fastened on either side of the body with strings, and was usually held in place by an embellished sash known as a cummerband or patka. Emperors often tucked jewelled daggers in these patkas to display their wealth and power. As you can see in these miniature paintings, jamas could be made of brocaded silks as well as sheer muslins.

Over the centuries, the jama was adapted to fit various occasions and activities. Other upper body costumes such as chogas, angrakhas, achkans and even contemporary kurtas and sherwanis bear resemblances to it.

All of these garments were often worn with trousers widely known as pajamas derived from the Persian words "pai," meaning leg, and "jama."

Peshwaz and Salwar Kameez

Women in northern Indian courts wore a similar upper body garment, known as the peshwaz, made of sheer material, which was often richly decorated. In this 18th century painting, we see a young woman wearing a translucent muslin peshwaz, complemented by a rose-coloured dupatta. The delicate fabric of her dress adds a touch of opulence to the reclining figure.

The peshwaz has also evolved into contemporary ensembles which include garments worn over pajamas such as the salwar kameez and the anarkali. These are popular among women in South Asia even today.

Costume traditions in the Indian subcontinent are ever evolving, and continue to reflect individual and cultural identities. Not only do they inspire boundless creativity and self expression, but they also remain among the most prominent ways in which people engage with the centuries of textile traditions that exist in the region.

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