

⇒ Introduction

Morayan Empire was one of the most powerful empire of ancient India. It is said that it was one of the world's largest empire. Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of this empire covering the areas of Indus river and also the Ganges Valley. He was the founder of Mauryan dynasty who married a Greek princess who took the control of the region of present Punjab & Himalayan belt.

⇒ History And Social Life

simple women
like women
The high ranking women
body with Jewellery. It
is one that India has
consisting

The mixture of foreign and indigenous garments is interesting as it shows one of the early phases of evolution in the costumes of India.

⇒ Religious costumes of Mauryan & Gupta Period

There were three main religions that were found in India, Hinduism, Buddhism & Jainism. The Brahmanic community (Sanyasin) wore a garment made of strips sewn together which was tied at the waist with a cord.

The hair & beard were allowed to grow. Women also wear cloaks and their garments were made of leaves or a bark of the tree. Skins of goat called ajna were also used.

Buddhism was founded by Gautam Buddha and Buddhist monks normally shaved their heads & beards but kept the head hair was worn in a tuft on top of the head. Their dress was Antariya and Uttaraya and a Chaddar.

The 3rd religion Jainism was propagated by Mahavira. In this religion, monks and nuns wore a white costume consisting of a robe and cloak. They covered their nose and mouth with a piece of gauze to ensure they would not inhale so that no smallest living creature will die. Their hair and beard were shaven.



were occasionally studded with precious stones.

Bracelets called kangan very often made of square or round beads of gold. Women in addition wore girdle called kankar a long belt of multi-strunged beads.

Dancing girls wore chains of gold & silver to which bells were attached. All women wore anklets, thumb and finger rings.

There is no evidence of nose rings in the period forehead ornaments for women were quite common and worn below the parting of the hair and at the centre of the forehead. It consisted of thin plate of gold and silver stamped in various patterns as well as a star-shaped silver and kria. And a tiny ornament called bindi.

⇒ Military costumes

For the Persian soldiers, sewn garments were used. This consisted of a sleeved tunic with cross straps across the chest to carry the quiver and a leather belt with a sword. The lower garment was often an Indian dhoti rather than the Persian salwar. The headgear was usually a turban or headband whereas the Persians wore a pointed cap.

material, usually of fine cotton, very rarely silk used which was utilized as a long scarf to drape the top half of the body.

The uttariya was worn in several ways to suit the comfort of the wearer. It is draped on both the shoulders very elegantly or on one shoulder or diagonally across the chest and usually knotted at the waist or it could be even worn loosely across the back and supported by the elbows or wrist and in many other ways according to the whims of weather.

For the labourer and the craftsman, it was more a practical garment to be tied around the waist leaving the hands free for work or again as a towel to mop the face when sweating. Its uses were endless for the poor section of society and for them it would be made of coarse cotton. People living in villages wore simple unbleached variety of

The Uttariyas

The Uttariyas of upper class women were generally of thin material decorated with elaborate borders and quite often worn as a head covering.

Kayabandhs

were also dyers. Four primary colors were recognized in the dyeing of textiles: red, white, yellow & blue. Fabrics were also woven patterns & printed for use as carpets, bed covers, blankets & clothes.