

MUGHAL PERIOD COSTUME

The Mughal period is called the “golden period of Indian History”. Along with them they brought their culture, religion and customs which influenced the costumes and jewellery of that period.

The Mughal inspired tailored salwar kameez became popular. Skilled masters and workmen were brought from other countries to make dresses. In the 16th century, during Akbar’s reign, the dresses consisted of knee length coat with a full skirt.

Noorjahan, the wife of Jahangir, was the inventor of brocade. Noorjahan ushered in the cottage industry, and got her clothes made in chickenkari. Textile industry blossomed under the Mughal patronage.

MATERIAL USED

A variety of material were used during mughal period ranging from fine muslin to heavy brocades. Silk was the most common material used for the king’s dress. Nets were used for the veils. Golds and silver threads were also used.

DESIGNS AND MOTIFS

Persian influence dominated pattern was the paisley. It was used for corners design, overall decoration and borders.

Mughal Costume

- The ladies and gents of the Mughal empire wore beautiful and expensive clothes made from the finest materials and adorned themselves with jewellery from head to toe.
- The garments of Mughal ladies were made of the finest muslins, silks, velvets and brocades.
- The muslins used for their clothes were of three types: Ab-e- Rawan (running water), Baft Hawa (woven air) and Shabnam (evening dew).
- Muslins called Shabnam were brought from Dacca and were famous as Dhaka malmal.



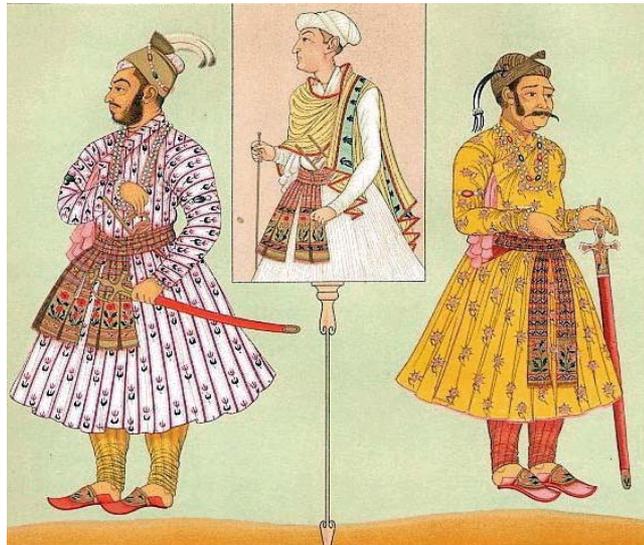
Mughal Men's Clothing:

- **The Jama:** The Yaktahi Jama (an unlined Jama) originated in Persia and Central Asia, where it was worn both short and long, over a pai-jama to form an outfit known as the "Bast Agag". In Persian, the word "Jama" means garment, robe, gown or coat. The definition of the Mughal Jama is a side-fastening frock-coat with tight-fitting bodice, nipped-in waist and flared skirt, reaching the knees.
- **The Chogha:** This is a very ancient garment which we have seen all throughout the Persian, Mongolian and other areas. The word Chogha in Mughal times referred to a long sleeved coat, open down the front, usually down to hip length or knee length.

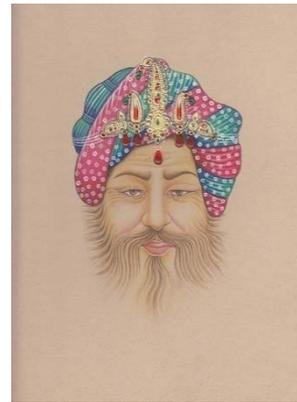
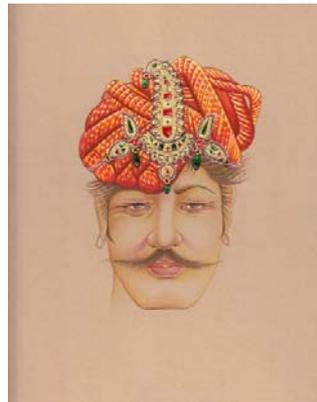
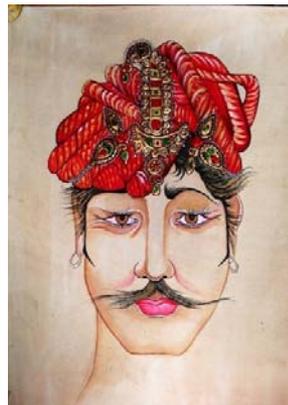


- **Dhoti and Paijama :-** During the Akbari period, men wore trousers invariably with their jamas (in this context, coats), and there is no artistic evidence to suggest that dhotis were ever worn in combination with the coats. Therefore, while Rajpal may have worn a dhoti in the privacy of his home, in public he wore trousers.

Paintings of the period indicate that the paijamas were loose and flowing from the waist to the knee, where they became snug down to the ankle. Often the fabric on the lower legs is wrinkled, suggesting that the paijamas were longer than the leg itself and pushed up, just like the sleeves of the jama, in a display of conspicuous consumption. At no time do the paijamas match the jama in colour, and solid colours appear to have been the fashion during Akbar's reign.



- **The Patka** :- Around the waist of the Jama, a long piece of fine fabric was tied like a sash. This was the Patka, from which a jeweled sword could be suspended. Patkas were hand-woven with complex designs, or embroidered, or hand-painted or printed. Many made for royalty showed textile craftsmanship at it's best.
- **Pagri or Turban** :- The most important accessory for an Indian man was his turban, which proclaimed his status, religion, caste and region of origin. To submit a turban to anybody was a sign of total subjugation and the removal of a turban was the most humiliating punishment that could be inflicted on any man.

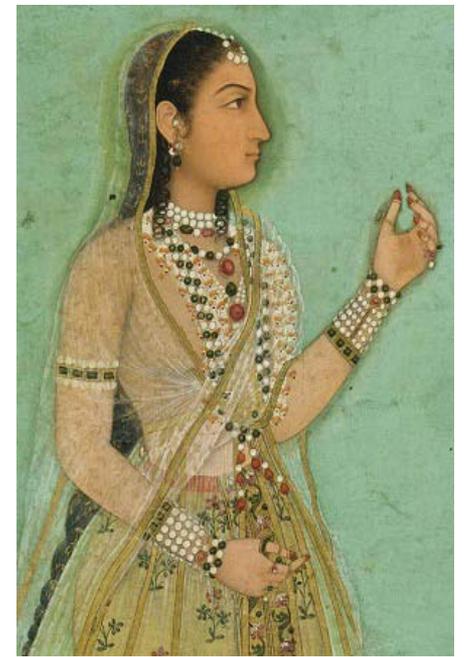


Mughal women's clothing :

- **Peshwaz** : - Loose jama-like robe, fastened at the front, with ties at the waist. Usually high - waisted and long-sleeved.
- Sometimes several fine transparent muslin peshwaz were worn, for a layered look. Sometimes a choli (blouse) was worn under the Peshwaz.
- **Yalek** :- A long under-tunic reaching to the floor, usually with short sleeves or sleeveless.
- **Pai-Jama** :- This is a compound of two Persian words "pai" meaning legs or feet and "jama" meaning cover. Drawstring pai-jamas have been worn in Persia since very ancient times. From about 1530 onwards, several types of pai-jama were worn in India.



- **Churidar** :- Cut on the bias, much longer than the leg, so that folds fall at the ankle, worn by men and women.
- **Shalwar** :- A triangularly cut pai-jama with a quilted band at the ankle (poncha) worn by men and women.
- **Dhilja** :- A woman's pai-jama made of silk, cut wide and straight.
- **Garara** :- A woman's pai-jama cut loose to the knee and adding gathers.
- **Farshi** :- A woman's pai-jama cut without folds to the knees, and then gathered into pleats to the floor.



Head Wear :-

- **Turban** :- Mughals tied their turbans, then added decoration by way of bejeweled bands, pin jewellery or other ornamentation.

- **Caps**: Caps worn were heavily ornamented and in a variety of styles.

The **Chau-goshia**, made in four segments

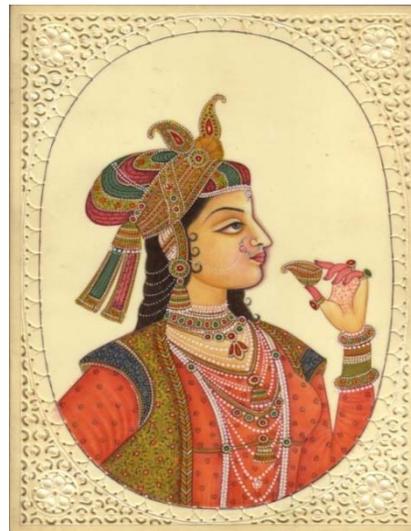
The **Qubbedar**, dome-shaped

The **Kashi \ ti Numa**, boat-shaped

The **Dupalli**, small narrow cap with front and back points

The **Nukka Dar**, for nobles, heavily embroidered

The **Mandil**, usually black velvet embroidered with gold or silver thread



- **Mughal Ornaments:** - The Mughal ladies loaded themselves with a large variety of ornaments. Most of the traveler agree that ornaments were the very joy of their hearts. Different types of head ornaments, ear ornaments, nose ornaments, necklaces, hand ornaments, waist belts and ankle/foot ornaments were used in the Mughal Empire.

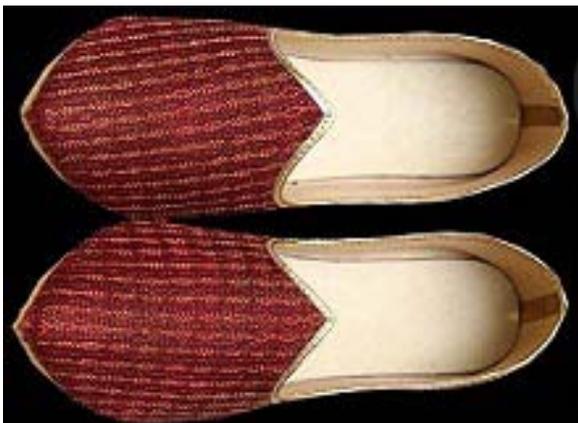


- **Footwear :-**

Ornamented shoes with turned up toes (Jhuti) were Persian in style, and were worn by men and women. Some other footwear were:

- The Kafsh, worn by nobles and kings
- The Charhvan, with a curling tongue fixed to the toe
- The Salim Shahi, decorated in gold
- The Khurd Nau, very lightweight, made of kid leather

Lucknow was most famous for it's footwear in Mughal times, and the art of Aughi, embroidery on leather and velvet footwear, was very popular.



For Reference:

http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/49561/10/10_chapter%204.pdf

<https://www.josbd.com/the-costume-of-mughal-period/>