

CHAPTER - 21

CLOTHING AND CULTURE

Our country India is a vast country. It has many diversities. There is diversity in dresses, cultures, languages, food habits etc. This diversity is due to the geographical conditions. Our country has mountains, plains, valleys and coastal areas. In these places the life style of people varies in accordance with the climate and available resources.



Different dishes are made in different regions. Similarly, the dresses of the people also varies in different parts of the country. In this lesson we will study about the various dresses and cultures of various states of India.

Jammu & Kashmir

Kashmir Division has a very cold climate. The people here need to wear dresses which completely cover their bodies. For this, they wear long loose coats called phirans and salwars. This woolen fabric protects the Kashmiri people from the cold. The women wear veils and the men wear fur caps. Ladies wear a lot of silver jewellery. The Kashmiri people love to



A Kashmiri couple

sing and dance. Their special dance is Rouf. They like to eat rice, fish, meat and rajma. In Kashmir most formed meal is "Wazwan" and is a must for all special occasions and no ritual is complete without serving Wazwan. They prefer to drink Kahwa. The Jammu Division of the state has moderate climate. The people living in and around Jammu city are called Dogras. The men wear long kurta, chudidar pyjama and pagri. The women wear salwar and kurta called Dogri suits. Their special folk dances are Dhamachda, Kud, Fumani and folk songs are Bhakhan, Suhag, etc. They like to eat babbar, malpude, rajma and rice, chatneys, madhras, ambal, kalari and khatta meat.

Himachal Pradesh

As the name suggests, the state also has cold weather so people wear warm clothes. The warm coats the people wear here are known as cholas. Beautifully embroidered caps of men and scarves of women are known as dhazu. They also love to sing and dance.



Dress of Himachal Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh

Generally the climate of this state is of normal temperature. The traditional dress of Uttar Pradesh is dhoti or kurta-pyjamas and caps for men and saree-blouse for women. Men also wear trousers and shirts. Salwar-suits are also worn by women. Village women wear colourful ghagra-choli. The usual diet of people includes roti, rice, dals and vegetables.



Dress of Uttar Pradesh

Punjab

The Punjabi men wear lungi or kurta-pyjama and a head gear pagdi or safa. Most women wear salwar-kurta or salwar-kameez with duppatta. The people of Punjab prefer to wear colourful clothes. The most popular dances of Punjab are Bhangra and Gidda.



Dress of Punjab

Their staple food is roti. Chhole-bhature is also very famous. They prefer to take a lot of curd and drink lassi. They are also fond of non-vegetarian food like chicken, fried dish, etc.

Delhi

Being the capital of India, people from almost all the states, cities and towns come here and stay. Here men like to wear trousers and shirts. Women wear salwar-suits, sarees, skirts and even trousers. Since people of different states live here, food habits vary and are also changing. The habit of non-vegetarian food is also very common here.

Haryana

It is a neighbouring state of Delhi. Most of the people live in villages. The men wear dhoti or pyjama with kurta or kamri. The women wear ghagra-kurta or salwar-kameez with odhni.

Their main food is roti and dal with butter or ghee. They also take a lot of curd. They all like lassi and milk.



Dress of Haryana

Kerala

The traditional dress of Kerala is mundu and shirt for men. Ladies wear mundu and blouse. The women of Kerala love to wear cream coloured handloom sarees with golden border on them.

They are also fond of music. The famous dance of Kerala is Kathakali which is based on Ramayana and Mahabharata.

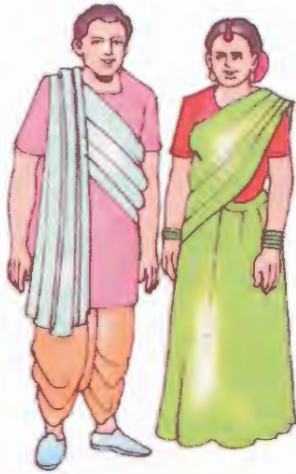
Rice is the main food of Kerala. They also like to eat fish curry. The famous dishes of Kerala are idli, dosa, utappam, sambhar, aviyal, etc. Since it is a coastal state, people prefer to take a lot of sea food.



Kathakali Dance



Dress of Kerala



Dress of Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu

People here prefer to wear cotton clothes as there is hot and humid climate. Men wear dhotis called veshtis or lungi and shirts. A cotton towel or thundu is also placed over the shoulders. Young girls wear 'pavada' and blouse which is similar to lehanga. Ladies generally wear sarees.



Bharatnatyam

The main dance form is Bharatanatyam and Kolattam (folk dance like the Dandiya of Gujarat). The favourite dishes are dosa, vada, upma, rasam and sambhar. Rice is the staple diet of the people.

Karnataka

The women of Karnataka wear sarees and blouses called kupsas. They like to wear flowers in their hair. Young girls wear Pavadas. The men of Karnataka wear shirts and dhotis. They put a cloth called angavastra over shoulders.

The traditional folk dance of Karnataka is called yakashagana. The people are mainly rice eaters. Idli, dosa, sambhar, upma, rasam, etc., are also very famous dishes of Karnataka.



Kuchupudi

Andhra Pradesh

The people of Andhra Pradesh prefer to wear cool cotton clothes. Men wear dhotis and shirts and women wear sarees. Andhra Pradesh is the home of Kuchipudi dance. The people are fond of music, dance and drama. The main food are chapatis, dosa, idli, fish and meat. They use a lot of tamarind and chillies and their favourite dish is Arattu.

Arunachal Pradesh

A large number of tribal people are seen here. They prefer to wear colourful clothes and have their own customs.



Dress of Nagaland

Nagaland

It is also mainly a tribal state. There are fourteen tribes. Out of them, some important tribes are Angami, Chang, Konyak and Ao. Each tribe is identified by the special design on their shawls. Shawl is a very important part of their dress. The Nagas are very fond of singing and dancing. They eat rice and meat. They drink a kind of beer namely zu.

Assam

The Assamese women wear long skirts called mekhala, alongwith riha and a duppatta called chadar. The Assamese men wear dhoti and kurta. They are fond of eating rice, fish, chapati and vegetables.



Dress of Assam

Mizoram

Here also, there are many tribes. These tribes have their own dresses. Most of the people are Christians and are fond of singing and dancing. Their famous dance is bamboo dance.

Meghalaya

The people of Meghalaya belong to three ancient tribes - the khasis, the garos and the Jaintias. They wear colourful dresses. Each tribe has its own cultures and customs, etc.

Sikkim

The men of Sikkim wear pretty handwoven clothes. The women wear long skirts called baku. They also wear colourful jewellery. The people are of three groups - lepchas, bhutias and nepalese.

Orissa

Men wear dhotis and kurtas. The women wear sarees and blouses. Ladies of Orissa wear a lot of silver jewellery. The Odissi is the classical dance of Orissa. People prefer to eat rice, pulses, vegetables, fish and meat. The tribals of this place live inside the deep forest.



Odissi



Dress of West Bengal

West Bengal

The men of West Bengal wear dhoti and kurta whereas woman wear sarees. The tribals of the state like santhals have their own dresses and cultures. Bengalis are very fond of music. They have a blend of poetry also. Fish and rice are staple food of Bengalis. Sweet dishes like rasogolla and sandesh are very famous.

Bihar

The people of Bihar wear dhoti-kurta (men) and sarees (women). The favourite dishes are rice, chapati, dals, vegetables and fish. Thekua, the sweet dish and madhubani painting of Bihar are famous.



Dress of Maharashtra

Maharashtra

The men of Maharashtra wear dhotis, kurtas and caps or turbans. The women wear sarees tied in a special way. They wear flowers in their hair. When they wear sarees it comes up



Dress of Bihar

to their knees and not to the ankles or feet.

Maharashtrians enjoy the folk dance called 'Tamasha'. Bakri, chapatis made from wheat or jowar, vegetables and curd is the popular food in Maharashtra. Bhelpuri and pavbhaji are also very popular.

Madhya Pradesh

The central part of India, Madhya Pradesh, is very simple towards its dress. People wear simple light clothes as there is not too cold or too hot weather. Men wear dhoti-kurta or pyjama-kurta and women wear saree-blouse and ghaghra-choli. Rice, dal, chapatis and vegetables are the staple food.

Goa

The dress of men is trousers and shirts. The women wear skirts, blouses and sarees. In some parts, men wear lungis and shirts.

Rice, vegetables, sea food and meat are their favourite dishes. The Goans like to sing and dance and lead a happy life.



Dress of Goa



Dress of Rajasthan

Rajasthan

People in Rajasthan wear their own particular dresses. Men wear pajami and kurta or churidar trousers with achkan or angarkha and coloured turbans. The women wear ghaghra-choli called kachli and odhani. The people like to have roti, dal and vegetables. People there like to drink camel's milk.

Gujrat

As Gujrat is situated on the bank of Arabian Sea, people wear light clothes. The Gujarati men like to wear Dhoti-Kurta and Gandhi cap. Some wear churidhar payjamas with jackets and colourful turbans. The women wear sarees, lehengas, cholis and odhnis.

The most famous dances of Gujrat are the Garbha and the Dandiya Ras. Gujrati peopl like to eat rice, puri, dals, vegetables, curd and pickles. Their most famous dish is dhokla.



Dress of Gujrat



Garbha Dance



Dandiya Ras

In this chapter, we can conclude that saree is a popular dress all over India among ladies. Some popular brands of sarees are Banarasi from Varanasi, the Patola from Andhra Pradesh, the Chanderi from Madhya Pradesh and Kancheevaram from Tamil Nadu. Among men dhoti, kurta-pyjama, trouser-shirt, etc., are very common.

Revision Points

- * India is a vast country which has many diversities.
- * Different dishes are famous in different regions of India.
- * In cold regions, people wear warm dresses.
- * Dresses and cultures of different states are different.
- * Saree is a popular dress all over India for women.
- * Men prefer to wear dhoti, kurta-pyjama, trouser, shirt, etc.

Exercises

I. Fill in the blanks

1. India is a Country.
2. Jammu & Kashmir has very Climate.
3. The special dance of Jammu is

4. Dhazu is worn by ladies of
5. The headgear that Punjabi men wear is

II. Answer the following questions.

1. In which two states are milk and lassi popular drinks ?
2. Name the famous dance form of Kerala.
3. Which state is famous for Bharatanatyam ?
4. Name the folk dance of Tamil Nadu.
5. What is the special name of blouses worn by women of Karanataka ?
6. Which is the famous dance of Andhra Pradesh ?
7. Name the state where most of the people are Christians.
8. Name the classical dance of Orissa.
9. Which is the folk dance of Maharashtra ?
10. In which state Gandhi cap is very famous ?

III. Write the name of clothes worn by the people of following states.

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Kerala
3. Jammu & Kashmir
4. Gujrat
5. Orissa

IV. Match the following.

A

1. Churidar trousers with achkan
2. Mekhala
3. Shawl with special designs for identification
4. Angavastra
5. Bhakhan and Suhag

B

- (a) Assam
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Jammu & Kashmir
- (e) Rajasthan

V. Write (T) for true (F) for false against the following statements.

1. Phiran is used in colder regions.
2. Kud and Rauf are the famous dances form of Jammu and Kashmir
3. The most famous dish of Gujrat is Dhokla.
4. Tamasha is the folk dance of Rajasthan.
5. Light clothes are worn in regions where there is moderate temperature.

VI. Classify the following dresses into men and women.

Kurta-Pyjama, Saree-blouse, Lehenga, Gaghra-choli, Odhani, Achkan, Salwar, Mundu, Coat, Skirt.

Men

Women

Projects

1. Collect pictures of different dresses of various states and paste them in your scrapbook
2. Collect the pictures/photographs of various dances of India.

