TRADITIONAL COSTUMES OF ODISSA
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HISTORY OF ODISHA

• Odisha is an Eastern Indian state of India, by the beautiful Bay of Bengal and enclosed by the West Bengal.
• The Indian state has a unique culture and people of Orissa are very religious.
• This reflects in their costumes as well. It has an ancient culture and popular for classical dance.
• There are lot of mention about the people of Odisha in historical epics like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Manu Samhita, Natyashastra of Bharata Muni and various Indian Puranas and other religious texts of ancient India. But still there no records which gives an exact picture of the original inhabitants of the people of Odisha. In history the early period has records of the people of Odisha belonging to a race known as Odras and the name of their country was named accordingly.
• The people from the Odras racial community where those who were inhabiting this region and are believed to be the earliest Aryan settlers.
Odisha has a lot of ancient history. Even Kalinga is the place which made to change the entire life attitude of Samrat Ashoka
• Here the people interest to preserve their tradition and culture
• In Odisha, women wear different types of saris, which makes for glowing the beauty of women. Odisha is famous for Kataki Sari and Sambalpuri Sari. These sari designs contain very peculiar designs and seem very dignified Most of the women in Odisha interested in wearing these saris during festival occasions, Marriage occasions and other auspicious days.
• Shalwar Kameez is famous costumes in India, here the girls also interest to the Shalwar Kameez.
• Some tribal people also living in some areas in Odisha, they have some variety of dresses to wear.
• Hence most of the women in Odisha interest to beautify themselves by wearing valuable jewelry, fancy ornaments, and much other decorative jewellery.
Most of the Odisha people are hard workers.

Rural areas are very more in Odisha. In Odisha, Men is interesting to wear their own traditional outfits. Generally, Dhoti is common traditional costumes for men in Odisha.

The head of the family wants to learn to his other family members about the importance of wearing the traditional costumes. So he strictly follows to wear their religious costumes. In the way, the generations stay in touch with their tradition and culture.

The advent of the internet, fast communications, and other infrastructure developments are causing the changes in their traditions and culture. So there the changes in dress designs and a variety of costumes are entering into the lives of youngsters. But still, the traditional outfits are seated in the heart of native inhabitants.
Forms of animals, birds, flowers and even miniature handbags and other souvenirs are made in Tarakasi work.

- The Konark Chakra and temple are great favorites as mementos. Scenes from the Mahabharata, in particular the still from the Bhagavad Gita depicting the chariot of Arjuna driven by Lord Krishna are quite popular. Over the years various famous monuments like the Taj Mahal, Eiffel Tower etc. has been made, garnering accolades from admirers of fine arts.

- The filigree jewelry is particularly rich in patterns. In Odisha, the stress is on arm jewelry, necklaces, toe rings and especially anklets, which are a great favorite. They are considered auspicious as well. Intricate anklets, combining use of semi-precious stones are greatly preferred.
The jewelry worn in Odissi, one of the classical dances of India originating from Odisha, are made from Tarakasi work.

• These ornaments adorn the head, ear, neck, hands, fingers and waist of the dancer. The ornaments include a choker, ‘padaka-tilaka’ (a long necklace), ‘bahichudi’ or ‘tayila’ (armlets), ‘kankana’ (bracelets), a 'mekhalaa' (belt), anklets, bells, ’kapa’ (earrings) and a ‘seenthi’ (ornament work on the hair and forehead). These ornaments are embellished with natural un-cut stones lined with silver and gold.

• In India, people of the Cuttack city of Orissa state are majorly involved in creating this art. More than a hundred families in Cuttack city are engaged in producing various patterns of filigree jewelry.
• This incredible thing adds an extra spark to the charismatic personality of the tribal women.
• From Chudi to Kacha, Balang to Baling, Sunguri to Kaja Tedua, these contemporary bangles are utter fashionable to glam up for any occasion. Made of brass mostly, these bangles come in different shapes and sizes.
• With polished contours, these round metallic elements add a dash of boldness to every tribal woman.
• Known as *Hansuli* by Oraon, *Kagudika* by Dongra Kondh and *Kagdang* by Kutia Kondh, these items not only complement the collar bone but also accentuate their outfit. Not just one or two, women mostly prefer to wear a lot of them at a time!
By adding a glamorous vibe to the tribal trend, these colourful necklaces look amazing on a tribal woman’s attire. Be it with different shades or brass beads and even paired with coins of fancy charms, these elegant necklaces are extremely subtle and modish!
• The trend is to typically stack too many hoop rings on the upper ear! Apart from being interesting, these earrings reflect the culture of nomadic and adventurous lifestyle of tribal women!
Giving an edgy look, these nose rings, often referred as *Septum rings* are pierced on the area between the nostrils. Not only these rings give a classy twist to the tribal look of women but also describe their mystique allure!
• Amalgamation of style and elegance, these tribal anklets kindle the charm of one’s personality
• Addressed as *Andu, Khadu, Pairi, Kalpati* or *Panhari* by different tribes, these graceful anklets create their own unique style and are a definite pick for any season.
Tripura Traditional Costumes are very simple

The North-Eastern states influence a lot on the tradition and culture of Tripura.

Here the people follow the similar tradition and wearing clothing styles of other north-eastern states. But the outfits are totally different and designs and patterns also quite different from other states of India.

Generally, Tripura is a hilly area surrounded by natural beauties. Here the weavers very experienced and very experts to create stunning designs on the clothes.

They are very talented to weave the dresses for kids, youngsters and elders. Tripura region contains various group of Tribes; the main tribes are Lushei, Khakloo, Kuki-Chin, and Hallam. These tribes weave their traditional outfits.
Khakloo tribes weave outstanding designed clothing. They lead a simple lifestyle and humble manner. The costume designs also very simple and most of the tribe people wear the same pattern dresses. The dresses are a very comfort to do the work in hilly weather. During the rainy season and in winter people are very aware of wearing the clothes and used Loincloth dresses during these seasons.
Tripura Costumes for Men:

• Traditional costume for men in Tripura is a towel, which is known as Rikutu Gauche.
• Kubai is one type of shirt. Men wear Rikutu Gamcha with Kubai.
• During the summer to protect from the excessive heat Tripura Men wear turban or Pagri over their head.
• Here the people also influencing to the western culture, especially the younger generation are interesting to wear Jeans, Trousers, Shirts and T-shirts and variety of modern lifestyle costumes.
Rinai is a traditional cloth of Khakloo tribe women. Khakloo is a large piece of cloth; women cover themselves with this cloth. The cloth dropped till the knees and cover across the waist. Risa is a short size of cloth and designed it with gorgeous embroideries. At the time of working outside, women wear headdresses to protect from weather. The Tripura females wear the coin strands and plethora of beads for their beauty to enrich more. They wear the petticoat with a blue cotton fabric. During the festival seasons and the dance performance movement, they wore extra clothing and beautiful jewelry. Tripura people celebrate their traditional festivals by following their traditions strictly.
The origin of the inhabitants was found related to the Chinese-Tibetan people who migrated through the mountains.

The Tripuris are the major group among nineteen tribes and many subtribes of this state.

Tripura has colorful cultures and authentic traditions that the people conserve through the heart.

One can get a picture of this state’s customs through the costumes and jewelries used by the people till now.

Among all the tribes of Tripura, Reang and Tripuri jewelries carry the essence of this hilly state.

Tripura is famous for its incredible handicrafts and handmade costumes.
Animal horns and bones are also used for jewelry making.

The jewelry designs also encrypt the relation between man and wild. For example, a necklace made in design of the Gaur buffalo head, or headbands made from animal bones.

Many also use bird feathers to decorate the headbands.

The Tripura Museum shows a collection of coin jewelries with then reigning king’s or kingdom’s history was sculpted. Plane and round heavy metal necklaces are worn by the Reang women. Nowadays in many of the jewelries the face of Goddess Tripurasundari is sculpted.
BAMBOO AND CANE JEWELLERIERS OF TRIPURA

- **For men**
- Tripuri men usually don’t prefer wearing jewelries. In specific occasions, some may wear metal rings along with headbands and belts made of coins. This attire looks great with the traditional costume. Occasionally men will wear a single “Kara” or bangle in one hand. Coin necklaces are also available for men in Chakma tribes.
The jewelries from Tripura are being exported throughout the country as well as abroad. The tourists who visit this North-eastern state also throngs for the shopping of tribal jewelries. This is helping to increase the financial growth curve of Tripura exponentially. Both the state and central government are looking forward to commercialize more and more the costumes and artefacts of Tripura. Visitors going to Tripura can get a collection of these jewels from the Tripura Government handloom shops or directly from the tribals in villages. Tribal jewelries of Tripura are now an evident inclusion in the “Junk Jewelries” available in all markets of our country. The native Tripuris have a lot of hope and positive attitude for their upcoming future in the country.