



Glimpses of Royal India

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Photos : Courtesy, Metropolitan Museum of Art

ENDLESS pleasant surprises have captured the social and cultural scene in the USA since the gala opening of the Festival of India in Washington D.C. in June, 1985. Each event that unfolds from the festival's multi-faceted programme, helps to bring the USA and India closer, thus narrowing the cultural gap between the two countries. And as the festivities reach out in 1986 having journeyed through over 80 cities in 38 States, Americans will have had an unprecedented opportunity to close this gap even further.

Woven into the fabric of this cultural pageant of the

Festival of India is a unique presentation of Indian Court Costumes which mirror the richness and the magic of royal India. Engraved in history for their opulence and luxury, these incredible and extravagant costumes will bring to life the glorious styles of princely India of the 19th and 20th centuries — when even infants wore heavily embroidered satin pajamas appliqued with gold.

Since time immemorial, in India the rhythm of life has been dictated by costumes. Little wonder, then, that the Indian Court Costumes will be casting their spell on New Yorkers when presented at the Metropolitan Museum of





bits have played a key role in the expansion of Indian culture with their adaptability to changing conditions, circumstances and environment, thus keeping alive a rich tradition and heritage.

While the royal apparel is the focus of this event sponsored by Air-India, the exhibition will also present many other artifacts and aspects of court life. These will include royal portraits, albums and paintings; and accessories such as costume jewellery, fans, bangles, tassels and shoes in the style of the period.

Although the display of the Indian Court Costumes forms only a small segment of this celebration in the USA of Indian life both ancient and modern along with other events scheduled for 1985 and 1986, the display will leave a lasting imprint on the American consciousness. Our American friends will have a chance to gain a deeper understanding of India.

Art in the middle of December 1985. It will be an astounding display of 150 coveted costumes, exotic textiles, lavish saris and elegant accessories. The exhibits form a diverse collection from such former princely States as Kashmir; Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota in Rajasthan; from the eastern city of Tripura; the Maratha courts of Baroda, Gwalior and Dewas; and from Chamba, Rampur, Jamnagar and Dharangadhra.

Be it a silk choga robe, delicately embroidered in golden thread, or lehenga (skirt) embroidered all over the caparisoned elephants and horses, these costumes will provide a panorama of Indian craftsmanship. The exhi-

