

Golden Thread Glorifying Assam

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Abstract

The silk industry in India is quite famous from time immemorial with respect to analyzing the human culture, civilization, customs and traditions. Among all the different types of silk, the natural golden colour silk known as “Muga” is one of the most recognized and beautiful which Assam has been traditionally producing from ancient times. There are references of Assam silk in the records written by Hiuen Tsang, where he has written about the use and trade of Silk, in Kamrupa during the rule of King Bhaskar Varman. Production of golden Muga silk is unique and at present 20,000 hectares of land is used for it. Muga production received great importance from the Ahom Dynasty under whose reign Muga culture became popular and also an integral part of the socio-economic life of Assamese people. Royal and senior class people were able to afford and wore clothing made of that silk. Muga was a royal statement back then and was kept to show off the status of the family or person who owned them. Queens personally were involved in training people to weave silks including Muga. One of the main materials to be exported during Ahom Dynasty rule was Muga silk. The objective of this study is to show that Muga is one of the best known silks in the world in terms of durability and beauty and how it holds a very important place in the hearts of Assamese folk. It is the pride of the Indian State of Assam.

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