

Assamese gamosa

April 1, 2023 • vajiramandravi.com



About Assamese gamosa

- The 'gamosa or gamocha' is a **hand-woven rectangular cotton piece** of cloth with red borders and different designs and motifs.
- It is traditionally offered to elders and guests as a mark of respect and honour by Assamese people.
- It is an integral part of **all socio-religious ceremonies** in the state and is considered an Assamese identity and pride.
- For specific purposes, it is also made of expensive materials like traditional **Assamese 'Pat' silk** and in different colours as well.
- The 'gamosa' meant for exchange during the **'Bihu' festival** is known as 'Bihuwan'.
- It is a unique scarf found only in Assam and also **received Geographic Indication (GI) tag**.

What is a Geographic Indication Tag?

- A Geographical Indication is a sign used on products that **have a specific geographical origin** and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- This tag is typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts and industrial products.

- The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
 - This GI tag is **valid for 10 years** following which it can be renewed.
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Q1) What is Assamese Bihu?

Assamese Bihu is one of the most important cultural festivals of Assam, which celebrates the change in seasons. It mainly caters to the agrarian culture and society of the state and marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year and harvest season.

Source: [How a 'hybrid' gamosa sparked protests across Assam](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/assamese-gamosa/>

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