

CoE for Eri Silk Weaving

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Why in news?

Meghalaya CM Conrad K. Sangma inaugurates Centre of Excellence for Eri Silk Weaving.

Eri Silk

- Eri silk is also known as "**peace silk**" or "**ahimsa silk**".
- It is an ethical and sustainable fabric produced without harming the silkworm
- The silkworm moth leaves the cocoon naturally before the fibers are spun.
- The yarn is extracted without killing the silkworms.
- Though not as smooth as mulberry or Muga, Eri has a wool-like texture.
- And it is the only silk whose yarn is spun, not reeled.
- It feels wool-like, soft, and matte, unlike the shiny look of regular mulberry silk.
- It is a strong, heavy fabric that gets softer the more you wear it.
- It is mainly produced in Northeast India, particularly in states like Assam and Meghalaya.
- Assam produces roughly **65% of India's total Eri silk**.
- But it is also found in Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh on a smaller scale.

Oeko-Tex certification

- The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Ltd. (NEHHDC) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, has obtained Oeko-Tex certification for eri silk from Germany.
- Oeko-Tex is a worldwide certification for textiles such as yarns, fabrics, buttons, linens, terry cloth, thread, and other accessory materials that tests for harmful substances in raw, semi-finished and finished textile materials and products.

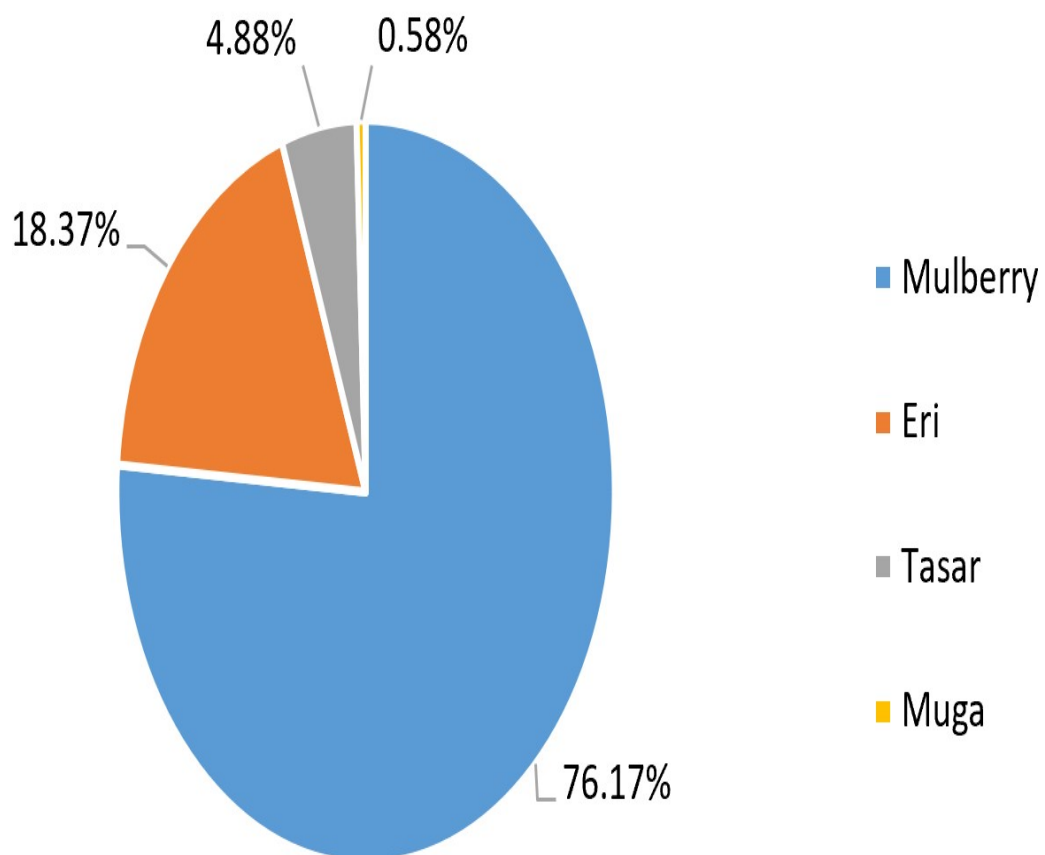
Silk Production in India

- Sericulture, also known as silk farming, is the commercial practice of cultivating and raising silkworms.
- Silk is renowned as the "Queen of Textiles"
- India is **the world's second-largest producer of silk**, generating over 41,000 metric tons annually.
- India is standing out as the only nation that commercially produces **all major varieties of natural silk** (Mulberry, Tropical Tasar, Oak Tasar, Eri, and Muga).

- Kanchipuram, Varanasi, Bhagalpur, Sualkuchi, and Srinagar are each known for distinct weaving styles and craftsmanship.
- Mulberry silk is produced mainly in the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal,
- While the non-mulberry silks are produced in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and north-eastern states.
- Assam produces about ***95% of India's Muga silk.***

Central Silk Board

- **Established:** As Statutory body in 1948 by an Act of Parliament.
- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- **Parent Ministry:** Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Textiles.



Reference

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