

The magical Manipuri saris

CONTINUED FROM CENTRE

Speaking of Manipuri saris, we met Suranjana Singha from the scenic regions of Sreemangal, Sylhet. As part of the Bishnupriya Manipuri people's community, Singha grew up watching the ladies in her family weave their own clothes. "I learnt to make my own clothes at an early age as well," said the designer turned entrepreneur.

Today, Singha employs around 10 women from the tea estates of Sreemangal, with 20 more training to become self-reliant by their own determinations.

"I employ close relatives of the tea labourers and train them to become artisans in Manipuri weaves. In this way, not only are our heritage weaves restored, but a destitute community also gets the necessary financial assistance to save themselves from the sheer helplessness of poverty," said Singha.

Beginning humbly with a single taant inside her home in March 2022, Singha seems to have stepped on the accelerator for a cause. Today, with five more taants installed inside her home, she dreams of doing wonderful things with the Manipuri weave.

"A single sari can take from 10 to 15 days at most depending on the aptitude of the artisan. When my girls are completely trained, it will take less time," said a hopeful Singha.

Our long-time readers know that every year, we support a particular *deshi* weave to promote the finesse of our country's craftsmanship. Similarly, this year, during Puja, our inclination has been towards Manipuri saris, because the colours and the designs can truly reciprocate the festive vibe of the atmosphere.

Since the occasion is about the celebration of the divine. Let us be ready to welcome the goddess Durga in our best attire. May she bid adieu pleased.

— LS Desk

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Model: Meghla

Makeup: Sumon Rahat

Wardrobe: Ningol

Jewellery: Canvas

Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha

Location: Khazana

Special Mention: Avishek Sinha, CEO, Khazana

Essentials: Facebook Group: Ningol / নিঙল

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