

This Sweet dish has put Bihar on the World Map!

January 05, 2019:

Silao is a town in Nalanda district of Bihar, India and it is famous for its sweet dish that attracts people to this place.

A sweet dish which is known for its taste, crispiness and multi-layered appearance and has wheat-flour, sugar, clarified butter (ghee), cardamom and aniseeds as ingredients.

Khaja is the dish we are referring to here, or more popularly known as 'Silao Khaja' is a conventional Bihar dessert and the dish just put the state on the world map. On December 11th, the Geographical Indications Registry Chennai has granted GI tag to Silao Khaja.

Geographical Indication (GI) tag is the name or sign used on certain products which correspond to a specific geographical location or origin. In simpler words, GI tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorized users are allowed to use the popular product name.

The application for GI tag was filed by 'Silao Khaja Audyogik Swavalambi Sahakari Samiti Limited'. This committee has around 68 members and most of them are involved in manufacturing and selling of the dish Silao Khaja.

GI Deputy Registrar Chinnaraja G Naidu said "We have granted GI tag to Silao Khaja on December 11. Silao Khaja is popular in Bihar and also among the tourists visiting Buddhist sites of Rajgir and Nalanda."

Silao Khaja finds mentions in many legends and one of them claims that this sweet was offered to Gautam Buddha while he was on his journey. The documents submitted by the applicant for the GI tag mentions the findings of British archaeologist J D Beglar who visited Silao in 1872 and stated that Silao Khaja dates back to the period of King Vikramaditya.

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