

Arunachal Pradesh Dao Receives GI Tag

1. What is the Arunachal Pradesh Dao?

- A **traditional hand-forged blade** used by multiple tribal communities of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Made using **inherited blacksmithing techniques** passed down through generations.
- Serves multiple purposes:
 - **Daily utility** (farming, household tasks)
 - **Cultural rituals**
 - **Symbolic weapon** reflecting tribal identity

2. Significance of the GI Tag

a. Cultural Recognition

- Officially acknowledges the dao as a **unique cultural product** linked to its specific geographical origin.
- Protects **traditional forging techniques**, tribal craftsmanship and cultural heritage.

b. Legal Protection

- Prevents **unauthorised use**, imitation or misuse of the product name.
- Ensures only genuine artisans can market products as "Arunachal Pradesh Dao".

c. Branding & Authenticity

- Enhances the product's **market value** and **consumer trust**.
- Strengthens the identity of artisans and the reputation of indigenous craftsmanship.

3. Economic Impact on Artisan Communities

- **Better income opportunities** due to premium pricing and wider recognition.
- GI tag helps rural craft clusters access:
 - **New markets** (national & global)
 - **Government branding support**
 - **Skill-development programmes**
- Expected to offer **income stability** for blacksmithing families.
- Helps in preventing the **decline of traditional skills** by making them economically viable.

4. Government Initiatives Linked to the GI Tag

- Training programmes to upgrade **skill quality**.
- Support for **marketing**, exhibitions and craft fairs.
- Promotion through **e-commerce platforms and tourism circuits**.
- Encouragement of **cluster-based development** for blacksmithing communities.

5. Arunachal Pradesh's Growing GI Portfolio

Arunachal Pradesh has already around **20 GI-tagged products**. Notable examples include:

- **Wakro Orange**
- **Idu Mishmi textiles**
- **Khamti rice**
- **Yak churpi** (traditional dairy product)
- **Wancho wooden craft**

This indicates the state's rising contributions to India's **GI ecosystem**, especially in agriculture, textiles and traditional crafts.

6. Exam-Oriented Facts (Prelims Ready)

- **Geographical Indication (GI):**
 - A sign used for products with a **specific geographical origin** and qualities linked to that region.
 - Protects **traditional knowledge**, craftsmanship and authenticity.
 - Regulated by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**.
 - India's GI Registry is located in **Chennai**.
- GI tag for the dao:
 - Preserves tribal **blacksmithing heritage**.
 - Enhances **market access** for rural artisans.
 - Boosts local **branding** & supports cultural identity.

7. Future Prospects & State Policy

- Arunachal Pradesh aims to expand to **50 GI-recognised products by 2030**.
- GI certification will be integrated with:
 - **Rural development policies**
 - **Cultural tourism**
 - **Livelihood missions**
- The dao's recognition will act as a model for **heritage-based economic empowerment**.

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