

Geographical Indication (GI) Tags - Simplified Notes

What is a GI Tag?

- A **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag** is a sign used on products that come from a **specific location** and have **special qualities or reputation** because of that origin.
- Example: **Darjeeling Tea** - famous worldwide for its unique flavor due to its place of production.

Where are GI Tags Used?

- **Agricultural goods** - e.g., rice, tea, spices.
- **Handicrafts & textiles** - e.g., Banarasi saree.
- **Food items & natural goods** - e.g., sweets, oils, bamboo crafts.
- **Industrial goods** in some cases.

Why is GI Tag Important?

- Gives **legal protection** to producers.
- Prevents **fake or copied versions** being sold.
- Helps rural communities and artisans get **better recognition and income**.

Current Status of GI Tags in India (till July 2024)

- **First GI Tag:** Darjeeling Tea (2004-05).
- **Total GI Tags:** 605.
- **Top States:** Uttar Pradesh (highest), followed by Tamil Nadu.

Important GI-Tagged Goods in 2024

Uttar Pradesh

- Pilkhuwa Hand Block Print Textile
- Banaras Metal Casting Craft
- Bareilly Cane & Bamboo Craft
- Tharu Embroidery
- Bareilly Zari Zardoji
- Banaras Tirangi Barfi

Assam

- Bodo Aronai
- Bodo Napham (Fermented Fish)
- Bodo Ondla
- Bodo Gwkha – Gwkhwi
- Bodo Jou Gwran / Jou Gishi / Maibra Jou Bidwi
- Bodo Narzi

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- Nicobari Canoe (Hodi Craft)
- Nicobari Mat (Chatrai/Hileuoi)
- Andaman Karen Musley Rice
- Nicobari Virgin Coconut Oil
- Nguat-Kuk’-’Khawtha’
- Padauk Wood Craft

Gujarat

- Kutch Ajrakh (Block Printing)

Challenges of GI Tags in India

1. **Low Registration Rate:** India has 605 GIs, but countries like China (9,785) are far ahead.
2. **Regional Disparity:** Some states have many GI products, while others have very few.
3. **Fake Copies:** Example – Banarasi silk is copied in Surat using power looms.
4. **Low Awareness:** Farmers and artisans often don't know GI benefits.
5. **Disputes:** Different states claim the same GI product (e.g., Basmati rice).
6. **Post-Registration Issues:** Farmers often don't know how to use their GI rights.

Government Initiatives

- **GI Logo & Tagline:** *"Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India."*
- **GI Exports:** Support for exporting GI goods (e.g., Naga Mircha, Black Rice, Assam Lemon).
- **ODOP (One District One Product):** Promotes one special product from each district.
- **ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce):** Helps GI products reach buyers across India and the world.

FAQs on GI Tags

Q1. What is the first GI tag of India?

☐☐ Darjeeling Tea (2004-05).

Q2. How many GI tags does India have as of July 2024?

☐☐ 605.

Q3. Which state has the highest number of GI-tagged products?

☐☐ Uttar Pradesh.

Q4. Why are GI tags important?

☐☐ They protect producers from fake products and increase recognition of local goods.

Q5. Which body promotes GI exports?

☐☐ **APEDA** (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority).

Q6. Give one example of a GI-tagged product from Assam.

☐☐ Bodo Napham (Fermented Fish).

Q7. What is the tagline of GI India?

☐☐ *Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India.*

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