

## PROBLEMS FACED BY NORTHERN STATES OF INDIA

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### **Abstract**

*A kind of intellectual property known as Geographical Indications (GIs) safeguards goods that have their origins in a particular region. The origin of these items frequently gives them special traits and a sense of history. When it comes to protecting a region's economic, cultural, and historical legacy, GIs are indispensable. Geographical indications play a crucial role in protecting the authenticity of a number of well-known items in Northern India. The different cultures and traditions found in Northern India have come together to form a beautiful tapestry of legacy. Geographical indications play a crucial role in maintaining these customs by safeguarding goods that are intricately connected to the regional culture. Products like Kashmiri Pashmina shawls, Himachali Kala Zeera, and Banarasi silk sarees from Varanasi are more than simply goods; they are representations of the places from whence they originate. The continued use of traditional methods and techniques in their production is guaranteed by the GI recognition, which helps to preserve the cultural heritage linked with these items.*

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## **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

Handicrafts and traditional skills are often linked to several Northern Indian GIs. Receiving GI designation enhances the visibility and worth of these items on both the local and global markets. In addition to creating jobs for craftspeople, this acknowledgment promotes the passing down of traditional knowledge from one generation to the next.

Examples of traditional handicrafts that benefit from GI designation include blue pottery from Jaipur and brassware from Moradabad.

There are millions of tourists who go to northern India every year. By drawing attention to the distinctive culture and goods of a certain area, GIs boost cultural tourism.

Visitors who seek out and buy genuine GI items boost the local economy and ensure the region's cultural and historical legacy will continue to thrive.

### **Economic Significance of GIs in Northern India**

#### **• Market Value and Premium Pricing**

GIs elevate things to a higher social and economic tier, increasing their market value. Products with the GI mark are often priced more than those without because consumers are confident in its quality, authenticity, and place of origin. As an example, the distinctive taste and attributes of Darjeeling tea, which is classified as a GI, cause it to attract a premium price in the worldwide tea market.

#### **• Boost to Local Economies**

In the northern parts of India, GIs are quite important for the local economy. Agricultural and artisanal sectors are only two of the many that benefit from these GIs. Guaranteeing that the economic advantages of these items stay within the area, GIs safeguard both the geographical origin and the techniques of production. As a result, the income of local producers, craftspeople, and farmers goes up.

#### **• Job Creation**

Job opportunities in Northern India are being created by the identification and protection of GIs. Geographical indications (GIs) play an important role in the creation of jobs in a wide range of industries, including the manufacturing of Basmati rice in Punjab and Haryana, Dharmavaram silk sarees in Andhra Pradesh, and Saharanpur Woodcraft in Uttar Pradesh. Not only do these occupations save people from going hungry, but they also keep traditional craftsmanship and skills alive.

#### **• Export Opportunities**

Geographical indications allow Northern Indian items to access global markets. Sourcing goods with distinct regional traits and histories is a common

practice in international marketplaces. When exporting items to other countries, GIs provide legal protection against imitation and abuse of product names. Northern Indian items may get international recognition and a substantial boost to exports and foreign currency revenues if this happens.

### **Legal Protection and Enforcement**

#### **• Protection against Imitation**

Legal protections against the abuse and copying of product names and features are provided by GIs. Only manufacturers located within the specified geographic region are allowed to use the product name, according to the GI register. In order to maintain the high quality and prestige of GI products, this protection is essential in the fight against counterfeit goods. The word “Basmati” is protected for Basmati rice from Punjab and Haryana, for instance, therefore no one else may use it on rice without permission.

#### **• Legal Recourse**

Producers and authorities may pursue legal action against those who infringe on GI rights when they discover a violation. Taking legal action to stop the sale of fake goods and get your money back is part of this. The presence of regulations concerning GIs serves as a powerful obstacle to their abuse.

#### **• Promotion of Fair Trade Practices**

By checking that manufacturers follow long-standing quality standards and conventional techniques, GIs encourage ethical trade practices. This promotes honesty in business dealings and protects buyers against misleading advertising.

### **Rural Development and GIs in Northern India**

#### **• Empowering Rural Communities**

The main producers of several Northern Indian GIs are traditional farmers and craftspeople in rural regions. These communities gain agency via GI recognition, which boosts product value and opens doors to new revenue streams. Local craftspeople in rural Uttar Pradesh, for example, benefit from Saharanpur Woodcraft’s GI designation.<sup>1</sup>

#### **• Sustainable Livelihoods**

Sustainable lives in rural regions may be created with the help of GIs. The continued economic viability of rural communities dependent on these items is guaranteed by GIs via the preservation of traditional methods and the promotion of high-quality production. In turn, this helps keep the population in check by reducing the number of people moving from rural areas to cities.

- **Investment in Infrastructure**

Greater investment in rural regions' infrastructure and manufacturing facilities is a common result of GI designation. This includes enhanced marketing campaigns, processing facilities, and agricultural methods.

For instance, plantations and processing plants in the Nagpur area have attracted investment because to the fruit's GI rating.

- **Biodiversity Conservation and GIs in Northern India<sup>2</sup>**

- **Preservation of Crop Diversity**

The protection of GIs is strongly related to the maintenance of diverse crop types and specific agroclimatic environments. A wide range of crops and farming techniques are exclusive to the northern Indian subcontinent. By encouraging their development and protecting traditional agricultural practices, GIs like Himachali Kala Zeera and Darjeeling tea help preserve these crop types.

- **Sustainable Agriculture**

GIs promote environmentally friendly farming methods by drawing attention to the need of preserving product quality and integrity. This often entails conserving natural resources via responsible land management, organic farming, and other means.<sup>3</sup>

- **Biodiversity Protection**

The distinctive biodiversity of Northern India is the basis for several GIs, many of which are linked to agricultural goods. By defending long-established agricultural practices, animal habitats, and ecological systems, protecting these GIs helps to conserve biodiversity in a roundabout way.

The cultural, economic, legal, and developmental importance of Geographical Indications in Northern India is enormous. They are the ones that keep the traditions and arts and crafts that are unique to Northern Indian groups alive and well, protecting the region's wealth of cultural history. From an economic perspective, GIs increase product value, provide employment, strengthen regional economies, and facilitate exports. Products are safeguarded by law to encourage fair commerce and guarantee their integrity.

In addition, GIs are essential to rural development because they build local capacity, provide long-term jobs, and attract capital for infrastructure. Through their work to promote sustainable agriculture and maintain crop variety, they also help in the protection of biodiversity. Northern India's Geographical Indications are more than simply labels; they facilitate rural development, economic progress, legal protection, cultural preservation, and wildlife conservation. Northern Indians

take great pleasure in them, and they stand as a symbol of the distinctiveness and worth of the region's customs and goods.<sup>4</sup>

## **1.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF GIS IN NORTHERN INDIA**

Northern India is a diversified and culturally rich area marked by various landscapes, cultures, and agricultural techniques. To honor this variety and maintain the distinctive qualities of regional products, GIs in this area are crucial. Through a variety of means, they make substantial contributions to the area's socioeconomic development.

### **Economic Growth and Livelihoods**

One of the most visible consequences of GIs in northern India is the encouragement of economic development and the production of livelihoods:

**a. Increased Income:** By attesting to a product's legitimacy and excellence, GIs boost its marketability. Because of this, manufacturers may charge more for their wares. An example of a famous GI that commands a premium price on both the local and international markets is Darjeeling tea from West Bengal and Basmati rice from Punjab and Haryana. Local farmers and craftspeople saw an uptick in their revenue as a result of the better yields.

**b. Employment Generation:** The cultivation of rice, tea plantations, and handloom weaving are all examples of GI-related sectors that rely heavily on human labor. Especially in more remote places, they help keep a large section of the local people employed. There is a steady stream of money and steady work for workers in weaving units, rice fields, and tea plantations.

**c. Tourism and Local Businesses:** Tourists eager in witnessing the history and tradition related with these items are typically drawn to places that have been recognized as GIs. Travelers who stop at Darjeeling's tea plantations or Jammu and Kashmir's Pashmina shawl factories to see the wares help boost the regional economy.

### **Preservation of Cultural Heritage**

**In the fight to protect northern India's rich cultural history, GIs are crucial:**

**a. Tradition and Craftsmanship:** GIs usually specify that a product must be handcrafted or created utilizing traditional techniques. This safeguards the continuation of long-established customs that are intrinsic to the regional culture. As an example, the Jammu and Kashmiri people have preserved their cultural identity and traditional skills by passing them down through the years in the technique of making Pashmina shawls.

**b. Cultural Identity:** Geographical indications (GIs) strengthen regional cultural identity by connecting items to their place of origin. Not only are Uttar Pradesh's Agra Petha and Kerala's Kasaragod sarees goods, but they are also representations of cultural variety and heritage. Northern India's cultural mosaic is reflected in these GIs.

**c. Festivals and Rituals:** Festivals and ceremonies often include many GIs. Basmati rice is a staple at festive dinners, while Pashmina shawls are common tokens of appreciation at formal occasions. The importance of these things is amplified when they are integrated into cultural traditions and rituals.

#### **Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity**

Preserving GIs promotes conservation of biodiversity and sustainable farming practices:

**a. Organic Farming:** Organic or environmentally friendly agricultural methods are often required by GIs. For instance, Basmati rice is usually grown using traditional techniques with very little chemical input. Soil health, environmental preservation, and agriculture's future viability are all enhanced by this.

**b. Biodiversity Conservation:** The biodiversity of the areas where GIs like Darjeeling tea are grown is intricately linked to these locations. amid Darjeeling, you may find a variety of plant and animal life amid the tea gardens. The preservation of local flora and wildlife is an indirect result of GIs' protection of these items.

**c. Soil and Water Management:** Soil and water efficiency are the cornerstones of GI-associated sustainable agriculture techniques. For the sake of the ecosystem's long-term health, this encompasses methods that minimize water consumption, keep soil fertility high, and avoid soil erosion.

### **1.3 GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS IN NORTHERN STATES OF INDIA**

#### **Prominent GIs in Northern India**

Northern India's cultural legacy and economic well-being are greatly enhanced by Geographical Indications (GIs). The complex tapestry of landscapes, agricultural techniques, cultures, and people in this area gives its goods their distinctive flavor. This chapter delves further into the historical, cultural, and economic importance of the most significant GIs in northern India. Not only do these GIs highlight the region's variety, but they also symbolize the meeting point of tradition and innovation.<sup>5</sup>

#### **1. Basmati Rice (Punjab, Haryana, and Other States)**

Northern states of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and

portions of western Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir are the places where you may get the fragrant long-grain rice type known as Basmati. Basmati rice is well-known for its fragrant aroma, thin grains, and delicious taste. The distinctive weather and topography of the area—which includes rich alluvial soil, the presence of the Himalayan foothills, and the use of glacial water from the rivers—are thought to be responsible for these traits.

## **2. Darjeeling Tea (West Bengal)**

Located in West Bengal's Darjeeling area, Darjeeling tea is a black tea type that has gained global fame. The muscatel undertones, flowery scent, and delicate taste of Darjeeling tea are its most lauded features. These traits are a product of the special soil, which contains minerals, a moderate temperature, and tea plantations at high altitudes.

## **3. Pashmina Shawls (Jammu and Kashmir)**

Descended from the Changthangi goat, which is native to the frigid desert areas of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir, Pashmina shawls are sumptuous woolen wraps. Pashmina shawls are well-known for being very cozy, airy, and delicate. Pashm is the name of the wool, which is so thin that it can be woven into complex designs. Making Pashmina shawls is a skill that has been preserved in Jammu and Kashmir for many centuries. The nobility and monarchy loved it because of how well it was made. Jammu and Kashmiri pashmina shawls are treasured items of cultural heritage. They are more than just clothes; they are works of art and cultural markers. Many artists and their families rely on the shawl-weaving business for their livelihood. The Pashmina shawl industry is vital to the regional economy, both in terms of production and commerce. Due to their high quality and rarity, they fetch premium prices in both local and foreign markets.

## **4. Agra Petha (Uttar Pradesh)**

As a sweet treat, Agra Petha is crafted from ash gourd, a vegetable native to the Uttar Pradesh region and the city of Agra itself. The transparent, chewy texture and characteristic cardamom or saffron taste of Agra Petha make it famous. Melon seeds or pistachios are common toppings.

### **Lesser-Known GIs**

Northern India is home to both famous and obscure Geographical Indications (GIs), yet both have important cultural, economic, and historical roles to play. Regional biodiversity, handicrafts, and customs are often reflected in these GIs. Here we take a closer look at a few of these lesser-known GIs, illuminating their unique traits and the ways in which they have shaped the culture and economy of northern India.

### **1. Kangra Tea (Himachal Pradesh)**

Grown in the Kangra Valley in Himachal Pradesh, this kind of tea is known as Kangra tea. The distinctive flavor profile, flowery perfume, and refreshing, tangy taste of Kangra tea have made it famous. The region's favorable temperature and distinctive soil contribute to its distinctive flavor profile, which is sometimes infused with muscatel overtones. The high-altitude tea estates, organic growing methods, and plentiful rainfall all work together to make this tea very superb.

### **2. Kasaragod Saree (Kerala)**

The traditional handwoven saree of the Kasaragod district in Kerala is called the Kasaragod saree or the Kasaragod handloom saree. The exquisite weaving, elaborate designs, and vivid hues of a Kasaragod saree are what make them famous. The patterns are influenced by regional cultural elements, and they are often dyed using natural materials. Traditional weaving skills have been handed down through many generations.

### **1.4 STATUS OF GI IN HORTICULTURE SECTOR OF NORTHEAST INDIA**

Orchids, spices, and medicinal plants are just a few examples of the abundant wildlife found in the eight states that comprise North East India. This area is ideal since it has some of the most diverse terrain, climate, and soil types in all of India. The northeastern part of India is home to a wide variety of citrus fruits, bananas, and jack fruits. Various tropical and subtropical fruits, including those of the genus *Garcinia*, species *Annona*, or *Averrhoa*, *Aegle*, *Passiflora*, or *Tamarindus*, among others.<sup>6</sup> Families may be found in great abundance in North East India. Different varieties of cucurbits, solanaceous vegetables, ginger, turmeric, bamboo, leafy vegetables, etc. are also abundant in the area. The region had the greatest diversity of orchids, ferns, and other blooming plants among the many attractive horticulture crops. However, the local horticultural resources both major and small are underutilized.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Karbi Anglong Ginger<sup>8</sup>**

The herbaceous perennial *Zingiber officinale* may grow to a height of 30-90 cm with pseudo-stems or aerial shoots that are unbranched. The two most common types of ginger grown here are Nadia and Aizol. Additionally, bhola is grown in this region. A medium-to-bold cultivar, the Nadia is light brown in color, fairly pungent, and mild in taste, with an oleoresin concentration of 3.40 percent. The rhizome of the Aizol cultivar is big and has low fiber content.

#### **Tripura Queen Pineapple**

*Ananas comosus*: medium tall (1.0-1.5 m) herbaceous perennial plant with

30 or more trough-shaped and pointed leaves 30-100 cm long.

### **Kachai Lemon**

Citrus jambhiri: High yielding land race of lemon in Ukhrul district of Manipur

- Fruits are spheroid in shape and the individual fruit weight ranges from 70 to 100 g. and are yellow in colour
- Uniqueness of the fruit lies in its bearing habit. Even if it gets ripened it doesn't fall from the tree
- Unplucked fruits remain on the tree and the fruits change its colour in next fruiting season (green to yellow)

### **1.5 CONCLUSION**

Products having traits, attributes, or a reputation strongly linked to their place of origin and connected with a particular geographical area are protected and promoted by Geographical Indications (GIs). Traditional knowledge, cultural legacy, and economic progress may all be protected via GIs in India. Despite the rich agricultural and cultural history of many northern Indian states, these regions encounter several obstacles when trying to make efficient use of GIs. Here are these problems outlined in detail:

1. A major obstacle that the northern states of India encounter is the general public's ignorance of geographical markers. It is possible that many local producers and communities are unaware of the advantages of GIs and the process for having their goods certified as GI. This lack of knowledge may impede efforts to preserve and promote distinctive regional goods in the absence of adequate education and outreach.
2. It's possible that there are less registered GIs from the northern states than from other regions of the nation, despite the abundance of items with distinctive features and characteristics found in these areas. Several reasons, including as a lack of knowledge, budgetary limitations, and bureaucratic hurdles, contribute to the low registration of GIs from states in the North. To overcome this obstacle, relevant government agencies and organizations should assist local manufacturers and encourage the registration of GIs.
3. Protecting their GI goods might be a considerable challenge for governments in the North due to trademark issues. The preservation and promotion of local GIs might be hindered by legal challenges that arise when items from these areas share names or features with comparable products from other regions. Thorough investigation and due diligence must be performed before applying for GI status in order to prevent this issue. The interests of the northern states may be better protected

if there are well-defined rules and procedures for handling trademark disputes.

4. To protect the credibility and excellence of goods, it is essential to enforce GI rights. The ineffective enforcement of GI laws by northern states might result in the illicit usage of GI names. Problems with enforcement may develop when there are insufficient legal processes, insufficient resources, or counterfeit goods on the market. Authorities should coordinate with law enforcement to clamp down on illegal usage and develop legislative frameworks to improve enforcement. Another deterrent that might be used is raising public knowledge about the repercussions of violating GI rights.

5. The authenticity and quality of items linked to GIs must be preserved. To guarantee their goods fulfill the rigorous requirements for GI classification, northern states may have to spend money on quality control procedures. There are several facets to quality control, including manufacturing procedures, raw material procurement, and the use of time-tested techniques. To ensure that their GI products consistently meet high quality requirements, the states in the North may work with certification and quality control groups to establish procedures.

6. It is of utmost importance to establish the required systems and tools for the manufacturing, processing, and packaging of GI goods. When it comes to keeping up with the ever-changing needs of consumers and regulatory authorities, several states in the North may be woefully unprepared. To enhance the supply chain for GI goods as a whole, it is crucial to invest in the development of infrastructure, such as cold storage facilities, processing units, and transportation networks. Furthermore, the competitiveness of Northern states may be enhanced by adopting technology for improved industrial processes and marketing.

7. In order to enhance product quality and achieve the standards for GI registration, producers in the northern states may need financial incentives and help. For regional small-scale producers, limited access to resources and funding is a major obstacle. Producers may greatly benefit from government programs and financial organizations that provide loans, grants, and subsidies to help them achieve GI status and improve their production capacities.

8. Some vendors in the North may find it difficult to keep detailed records of their GI product manufacture, including all of the ingredients, methods, and traditional knowledge. In order to prove that GI items are genuine and original, much paperwork is required. Proper record-keeping and the submission of the necessary paperwork for GI applications may be facilitated with the help of government agencies and trade groups.

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