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## GI Tags

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### Abstract

The article discusses the concept of Geographical Indication (GI) tags and their significance in protecting products with specific regional qualities and heritage. It mentions that products with GI tags often carry a logo or label indicating their protected status. The article provides examples of GI-tagged products from various countries, including India's Basmati rice controversy with Pakistan. It explains the importance of GI tags in preserving cultural heritage and supporting local communities.

The article also highlights the identification of GI tags in India, where a specific logo including "GI" and product details is used. If any duplicate GI tags are suspected, individuals can report them to the relevant authorities in India for investigation and possible action.

Overall, the article emphasises the importance of GI tags in safeguarding the uniqueness of products tied to specific regions and protecting their reputation. It also addresses concerns related to potential infringements and the role of authorities in addressing them.

GI (Geographical Indication) tags are a type of intellectual property right that is used to protect products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are attributable to that origin. The tags are used to help consumers identify and distinguish between products that are associated with specific regions or areas, and to prevent others from using the same geographical name to market their own products.

In India, GI tags are granted by the Geographical Indications Registry,<sup>1</sup> which is a government agency that operates under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Products that are granted GI tags in India<sup>2</sup> include agricultural products, handicrafts, textiles, food and beverages, and industrial products. (Ministry of Commerce and Industry)

Some well-known products that have been granted GI tags in India include Darjeeling tea, Alphonso mangoes, Banarasi silk, and Kashmiri Pashmina. These products are highly valued for their unique qualities and cultural significance, and the GI tags help to protect them from imitation or misuse by others.

<sup>1</sup> <https://ipindia.gov.in/registered-gis.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ipindia.gov.in/writereaddata/images/pdf/classification-of-goods.pdf>

Overall, GI tags are an important tool for protecting the intellectual property rights of producers and preserving the unique cultural heritage of specific regions or areas. These are just a few examples of the many products that have been granted GI tags in India.

1. Darjeeling Tea
2. Basmati Rice
3. Pashmina Shawl
4. Kanchipuram Silk Saree
5. Alphonso Mango
6. Nagpur Orange
7. Assam Tea
8. Coorg Arabica Coffee
9. Mysore Sandalwood Oil
10. Blue Pottery of Jaipur
11. Chanderi Fabric
12. Kashmiri Saffron
13. Malabar Pepper
14. Navara Rice
15. Madhubani Paintings
16. Kantha Embroidery
17. Naga Mircha
18. Solapur Chaddar
19. Dharwad Pedha
20. Tirupati Laddu
21. Rajasthani Kathputlis
22. Salem Fabric
23. Mahabaleshwar Strawberry
24. Goa Feni

[See the complete list of 432 currently registered GI tags in India](#) (Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Department of promotion of industry and Internal trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India)

## Paithani of Maharashtra

Paithani is a traditional saree from Maharashtra, India, that has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to protect its authenticity and uniqueness. The saree is known for its rich silk texture, vibrant colours, and intricate zari (gold thread) work.



Paithani sarees are woven by hand using fine silk threads, which are dyed in vibrant colours using natural dyes. The sarees are known for their unique designs, which feature peacock motifs, lotus flowers, and other traditional Indian patterns. The zari<sup>3</sup> (AnomieBOT) work is done using gold and silver threads, which are woven into the fabric to create a rich, textured look.

Paithani sarees have a long history in Maharashtra, dating back to the 17th century. They were traditionally worn by royalty and nobles, and were considered a symbol of status and wealth. Today, Paithani sarees are still highly valued for their beauty and craftsmanship, and are a popular choice for special occasions such as weddings and festivals.

The production of Paithani sarees is a labour-intensive process that involves skilled artisans who have mastered the art of weaving and zari work. The sarees are made using traditional techniques that have been passed down through generations of weavers, and are an important part of the cultural heritage of the region.

## Nipani Tobacco

Nipani tobacco is a type of tobacco that is grown in the town of Nipani in the Belgaum district of Karnataka, India. It is known for its distinctive flavour and aroma, which is said to be the result of the region's unique climate and soil conditions.

<sup>3</sup> **Zari** (or *jari*) is an even thread traditionally made of fine [gold](#) or [silver](#) used in traditional [Indian](#), [Bangladeshi](#) and [Pakistani](#) garments, especially as [brocade](#) in [saris](#) etc.<sup>[1]</sup> This thread is woven into fabrics, primarily [silk](#), to make intricate patterns and elaborate designs of embroidery called [zardozi](#). *Zari* was popularised during the [Moghul](#) era; the port of [Surat](#) was linked to the [Meccan pilgrimage](#) route which served as a major factor for re-introducing this ancient craft in India (AnomieBOT)

In 2011, Nipani tobacco was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Government of India, which recognized its special status as a product of a specific geographic region with unique qualities and characteristics.

Nipani tobacco is typically used in the production of chewing tobacco, snuff, and other tobacco products, and is popular among consumers for its rich and distinctive flavour.

### Lasalgaon onion

Lasalgaon onion is a type of onion that is primarily grown in the Lasalgaon census town<sup>4</sup> of Nashik district in the state of Maharashtra, India. It is known for its unique taste, texture, and aroma, which are said to be the result of the region's unique soil and climatic conditions.

In 2013, Lasalgaon onion was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Government of India, which recognized its special status as a product of a specific geographic region with unique qualities and characteristics.

Lasalgaon onion is typically used in a variety of Indian dishes, and is especially popular in the preparation of spicy curries and chutneys.

### Turmeric from Sangli (Halad)

Turmeric from Sangli<sup>5</sup> is a variety of turmeric that is grown in the Sangli district of Maharashtra, India. It is known for its high curcumin content, which gives it a deep yellow colour and distinctive flavour.

In 2019, Turmeric from Sangli was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Government of India, which recognized its special status as a product of a specific geographic region with unique qualities and characteristics.

Turmeric from Sangli is widely used in traditional Indian medicine as well as in the preparation of a variety of dishes, including curries, pickles, and snacks.

### The patent dispute about Turmeric in USA and India

There has been a long-standing patent dispute between the United States and India regarding the patenting of turmeric. In the 1990s, two US patents were granted for the use of turmeric in wound healing and for the treatment of inflammation. However, these patents were based on traditional knowledge and practices that have been used in India for centuries.

The Indian government challenged these patents, arguing that they were based on existing knowledge and practices in India and should not have been granted. In 1997, the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) filed a petition with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) challenging the patents. After a long legal battle, the USPTO eventually revoked both patents in 2005.

This case highlighted the issue of biopiracy<sup>6</sup>, where indigenous knowledge and resources are exploited by outside entities without fair compensation or acknowledgement. In response, India has established laws and

<sup>4</sup> Lasalgaon is located at [20.15°N 74.23°E](#).

<sup>5</sup> Sangli 16° 51' 10.8" N, 74° 34' 58.8" E

<sup>6</sup> Biopiracy refers to the unauthorised use or commercial exploitation of biological resources or knowledge, especially by corporations or organisations based in developed countries, without giving proper compensation or recognition to the people or communities who originally discovered, developed, or preserved the resources or knowledge.

The term "biopiracy" often applies to the misappropriation of genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and cultural expressions related to indigenous peoples, local communities, or farmers in developing countries. Some examples of biopiracy include the patenting of medicinal plants or traditional healing practices without the consent or involvement of the source communities, the development of genetically modified crops using genes or traits from local varieties without

regulations to protect traditional knowledge and prevent biopiracy, including the establishment of a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)<sup>7,8</sup> to document traditional knowledge and prevent its unauthorised use.

The case also emphasised the importance of protecting Geographical Indications (GIs), such as the GI tag for Turmeric from Sangli.

## Chanderi fabric



Chanderi fabric is a traditional handloom textile that is known for its fine texture, lightweight feel, and luxurious look. It is produced in the town of Chanderi in Madhya Pradesh, India, and has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to protect its authenticity and uniqueness.

Chanderi fabric is made from a combination of silk and cotton, and is woven using a unique technique that produces a translucent texture with intricate designs and patterns. The fabric is known for its sheen, softness, and durability, and is often used to make sarees, salwar kameez suits, and other traditional Indian clothing.

Chanderi fabric has a long history in India, dating back to the Vedic period. It is said to have been patronised by royal families and nobles, and was considered a symbol of wealth and prestige. Today, Chanderi fabric is still highly valued for its beauty and craftsmanship, and is a popular choice for special occasions and weddings.

The production of Chanderi fabric is a labour-intensive process that involves spinning, weaving, and dyeing the threads by hand. It is a traditional craft that has been passed down through generations of weavers, and is an important part of the cultural heritage of the region.

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compensation or acknowledgement of the farmers who conserved them, and the extraction of biochemical compounds from rare or endangered species without sharing the benefits with the countries or communities where the species are found.

Critics of biopiracy argue that it perpetuates inequality, injustice, and cultural exploitation, and undermines the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and traditional knowledge. Some international conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol, aim to regulate and protect the rights of the source countries and communities, and to ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

<sup>7</sup> The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) project, initiated in India in 2001, is a collaboration between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, of India.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.tkdil.res.in/tkdil/langdefault/common/Home.asp?GL=Eng>

## Kashmiri Carpet

Kashmiri carpet, also known as Kashmiri rug, is a hand-woven carpet that originates from the Kashmir valley in northern India. These carpets are known for their intricate designs, vivid colours, and fine craftsmanship.

Kashmiri carpets are traditionally made using wool, silk, or a blend of the two, and are hand-knotted or hand-tufted by skilled artisans. The designs on the carpets often feature floral or paisley patterns, and may also include geometric shapes or intricate borders.

Kashmiri carpets have a long history and are considered to be one of the finest types of carpets in the world. They were originally made for royalty and nobles, and were highly prized for their beauty and quality. Today, Kashmiri carpets are still highly valued and are a popular choice for home decor.

In recent years, the Kashmiri carpet industry has faced challenges due to the availability of cheaper, machine-made carpets. To address this, the Indian government has granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Kashmiri carpets,

## Kashmiri apple

Kashmiri apple is a variety of apple that is grown in the Kashmir valley of India. These apples are known for their distinctive flavour, juiciness, and aroma. The climate and soil of the Kashmir valley are said to be ideal for apple cultivation, and the region has a long history of growing high-quality apples.

Kashmiri apples are typically harvested in the autumn months, and are available in local markets as well as exported to other parts of India and overseas. The most popular variety of Kashmiri apple is the "Delicious" variety, which has a bright red skin and a sweet, crisp flesh.

The Kashmiri apple industry has faced challenges in recent years due to climate change, water scarcity, and other factors. However, efforts are being made to promote sustainable apple cultivation in the region, and to support local apple farmers and businesses. The Indian government has also granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Kashmiri apples.

## Kashmiri or Pashmina Shawl

Kashmiri shawl, also known as Pashmina shawl, is a type of fine woollen shawl that originates from the Kashmir valley in northern India. These shawls are known for their softness, warmth, and intricate designs.

Kashmiri shawls are made from the wool of the Changthangi goat, which is found in the high-altitude regions of the Himalayas.<sup>9</sup> The wool is hand-spun and then hand-woven into a shawl by skilled artisans using traditional

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<sup>9</sup> The Himalayas is a mountain range located in Asia, spanning across several countries, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. It is the highest mountain range in the world, with its highest peak, Mount Everest, reaching an elevation of 8,848 metres (29,029 feet).

The Himalayas are also a region of great cultural, ecological, and geological diversity, with many unique species of flora and fauna, and diverse communities of people who have adapted to the challenging mountain environment over centuries. The region is also a source of many important rivers, including the Ganges, the Indus, and the Brahmaputra, which provide water for millions of people in the region.

The Himalayas are a popular destination for mountaineers, trekkers, and adventure enthusiasts, who come to explore the stunning natural beauty and rich cultural heritage of the region. However, the Himalayas are also facing a range of environmental challenges, including climate change, deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution, which threaten the delicate balance of the mountain ecosystem and the well-being of the people who depend on it.

techniques. The shawls may be decorated with intricate embroidery, or may feature intricate patterns woven into the fabric.

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In recent years, the Kashmiri shawl industry has faced challenges due to the availability of cheaper, machine-made shawls. To address this, the Indian government has granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Kashmiri shawls,

### **Changthangi goat**



The Changthangi goat, also known as the Pashmina goat, is a breed of domestic goat that is native to the high-altitude regions of the Himalayas, including the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir in India. This breed is well-known for producing the wool used to make Kashmiri shawls, which are also known as Pashmina shawls.

The Changthangi goat is a small to medium-sized breed, with males weighing between 30-40 kg and females weighing between 25-30 kg. They have a thick coat of long, fine wool that helps them to survive in the harsh mountain climate. The wool is highly prized for its softness, warmth, and durability.

The wool from the Changthangi goat is harvested once a year, in the spring months, when the goats naturally shed their winter coats. The wool is then hand-processed to remove impurities and create the fine fibres that are used to make Kashmiri shawls.

The Changthangi goat is well-adapted to the extreme climate and difficult terrain of the Himalayas, and is an important part of the local economy and culture. However, the breed is also facing challenges due to factors such as climate change, overgrazing, and changes in traditional land use practices. Efforts are being made to promote sustainable practices and protect the breed, as well as to support local artisans and businesses who rely on the wool for their livelihoods.

### **Asafoetida (Hing) from Himachal Pradesh**

In 2020, the Indian government initiated the process of obtaining a GI tag for Asafoetida produced in the four districts of Himachal Pradesh (namely Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur, Chamba, and Shimla) where it is grown and processed in a traditional manner.

## Byadgi Chilli from Karnataka

Byadgi chilli is a variety of chilli pepper that is primarily grown in the Indian state of Karnataka, particularly in the Haveri, Dharwad, and Gadag districts. Byadgi chilli is known for its unique flavour, mild heat, and bright red colour.

Byadgi chilli is a key ingredient in many Indian dishes, especially in the southern states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. It is used to add colour, flavour, and mild heat to dishes like sambar, rasam, chutneys, and curries. It is also used to make chilli powder and is often used as a natural colouring agent in food products like sauces and snacks.

In 2018, Byadgi chilli was granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in India

## GI tags granted world over

Here are some examples of Geographical Indication (GI) tags granted worldwide:

**Champagne (France)** - A sparkling wine that can only be produced in the Champagne region of France. It has a GI tag since 1935.

**Scotch Whisky (Scotland)** - A type of whisky that can only be produced in Scotland. It has a GI tag since 1988.

**Darjeeling Tea (India)** - A tea that can only be grown and processed in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal, India. It has had a GI tag since 2004.

**Parmigiano Reggiano (Italy)** - A hard, aged cheese that can only be produced in certain regions of Italy, including Parma, Reggio Emilia, and Modena. It has a GI tag since 1955.

**Tequila (Mexico)** - A type of spirit made from the blue agave plant that can only be produced in certain regions of Mexico. It has a GI tag since 1974.

**Roquefort Cheese (France)** - A blue-veined cheese that can only be produced in certain regions of France, using specific methods. It has a GI tag since 1925.

**Basmati Rice (India and Pakistan)** - A long-grain rice that is grown in the Indian subcontinent. It has a GI tag in both India and Pakistan.

**Prosciutto di Parma (Italy)** - A type of dry-cured ham that can only be produced in the Parma region of Italy. It has a GI tag since 1963.

**Kobe Beef<sup>10</sup> (Japan) - (Lewis)** A type of beef that comes from a specific breed of cattle, raised and slaughtered in the Hyogo Prefecture of Japan. It has a GI tag since 2002.

**Vidalia Onions (United States)** - A type of sweet onion that can only be grown in certain counties of Georgia, USA. It has a GI tag since 1990.

These are just a few examples of GI tags granted worldwide. There are many more products that have been granted GI tags in different countries, including wines, spirits, cheeses, meats, fruits, and textiles.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Kobe-beef>



## Chinese goods with GI tags

There are several Chinese goods that have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags, which recognize and protect the unique qualities and reputation of products from specific regions. Some examples include:

**Longjing tea:** A type of green tea that is grown in the West Lake region of Hangzhou in Zhejiang province. Longjing tea has a unique flavour and aroma, and is highly prized for its high quality.

**Lapsang Souchong tea:** A black tea that is smoked over pine wood fires, giving it a distinctive smoky flavour. Lapsang Souchong tea is grown in the Wuyi Mountains of Fujian province.

**Pixian douban:** A type of fermented bean paste that is made from broad beans and chilli peppers. Pixian douban is known for its unique flavour and is an essential ingredient in many Sichuan-style dishes.

**Panjin rice:** A type of rice that is grown in the Panjin region of Liaoning province. Panjin rice is known for its distinctive red colour and soft texture, and is highly prized in China.

**Yantai apple:** A variety of apple that is grown in the Yantai region of Shandong province. Yantai apples are known for their crisp texture and sweet, juicy flavour.

These products, along with many others, have been granted GI tags in China in order to protect their authenticity and promote their unique qualities.

## GI tags granted in USA

The United States has its own system of Geographical Indication (GI) protection, which is administered by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. As of September 2021, some of the GI tags that have been granted in the US include:

**Bourbon whiskey:** A type of American whiskey that is made from a mash of at least 51% corn and aged in new, charred oak barrels. Bourbon whiskey must be produced in the United States to carry this GI tag.

**Florida oranges:** Oranges grown in the state of Florida that meet specific quality and production standards are eligible for this GI tag.

**Idaho potatoes:** Potatoes that are grown in the state of Idaho and meet certain size and quality standards are eligible for this GI tag.

**Maine lobster:** Lobsters caught in the coastal waters of Maine are eligible for this GI tag.

**Napa Valley wine:** Wines produced in the Napa Valley region of California must meet certain production standards to be eligible for this GI tag.

**Vidalia onions:** Sweet onions grown in the Vidalia region of Georgia are eligible for this GI tag.

## Russian GI tags

Russia has its own system of Geographical Indication (GI) protection, which is administered by the Federal Service for Intellectual Property (Rospatent). As of September 2021, some of the GI tags that have been granted in Russia include:

**Altai honey:** Honey produced in the Altai region of Russia, known for its unique flavour and therapeutic properties, has been granted a GI tag.

**Tula gingerbread:** A type of gingerbread that is baked in the city of Tula, known for its distinctive shape and spicy flavour. Tula gingerbread has been granted a GI tag.

**Kamchatka crab:** A type of crab that is caught in the waters off the Kamchatka Peninsula, known for its large size and sweet, delicate flavour. Kamchatka crab has been granted a GI tag.

**Sochi tea:** Tea that is grown in the Sochi region of Russia, known for its high quality and distinctive flavour. Sochi tea has been granted a GI tag.

**Kuban wine:** Wines produced in the Kuban region of Russia, known for their high quality and unique flavour profiles, have been granted a GI tag.

## EU GI tags

The European Union has its own system of Geographical Indication (GI) protection, which is administered by the European Union Intellectual Property Office. As of September 2021, some of the GI tags that have been granted in the EU include:

**Champagne:** A type of sparkling wine that is produced in the Champagne region of France. Only wines produced in this region using specific methods and grape varieties can be called Champagne.

**Parma ham:** A type of dry-cured ham that is produced in the Parma region of Italy. Parma ham must meet certain production standards to be eligible for this GI tag.

**Roquefort cheese:** A type of blue cheese that is made from sheep's milk and aged in the natural caves of the Roquefort-sur-Soulzon region of France.

**Feta cheese:** A type of cheese that is made from sheep's milk and aged in brine. Feta cheese is traditionally produced in Greece, and only products that meet certain standards can carry this GI tag.

**Scotch whisky:** A type of whisky that is produced in Scotland using specific methods and ingredients. Only whiskies that meet certain standards can be called Scotch whisky.

## New Zealand GI tags

**Manuka Honey** - Manuka honey (Richter) is produced in New Zealand and has unique antibacterial properties due to the presence of methylglyoxal (MGO). In 2018, New Zealand and Australia jointly registered "Manuka Honey" as a GI product.

**Marlborough Wine** - Marlborough is a region in the South Island of New Zealand that is famous for producing Sauvignon Blanc wine. In 2017, Marlborough wine was granted a GI tag in the European Union.

**Tequila** - While Tequila is a spirit that is primarily associated with Mexico, New Zealand has also been granted GI protection for its production of 100% blue agave tequila.

**Waipara Wine** - Waipara is a region in the South Island of New Zealand that is known for producing high-quality wines, particularly Pinot Noir and Riesling. In 2017, Waipara wine was granted a GI tag in the European Union.

**Westland Milk** - Westland Milk is a dairy cooperative that is based in the West Coast region of New Zealand. In 2018, Westland Milk was granted a GI tag in China for its "Westgold" brand of butter.

## The situation in Pakistan

Pakistan was too late in the GI registration of its products. By the end of 2020, the country had not registered any product as its exclusive brand. (Bhutta)

The bureaucracy moved only after India claimed Basmati rice as its brand in the European market.

In Pakistan, there are several products that could potentially be eligible for a GI tag, such as:

**Multani Mitti:** a type of clay found in the region of Multan, known for its skin-healing properties.

**Sindhri Mango:** a variety of mango grown in the Sindh province, known for its sweet and juicy flavour.

**Swat Valley Emeralds:**<sup>11</sup> high-quality emeralds mined in the Swat Valley of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Basmati rice was registered on January 21, 2021 whereas the process for giving GI protection to Pink Rock Salt commenced on February 22, 2021.

“The GI law can protect Hunza apricots, Charsadda (Peshawari) chappal, Multani halwa, Hala’s Ajrak, Kasuri methi, Dir knives, Swat wild mushrooms, Nili-Ravi buffalo, Chaman grapes, dates from Dera Ismail Khan, Turbat and Khairpur and Pashmina shawls, etc.” (Siyal)

## The Basmati rice controversy

The Basmati controversy between India and Pakistan relates to the legal dispute over the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Basmati rice, which is a long-grain aromatic rice known for its distinct flavour and aroma. The dispute involves the claim of both India and Pakistan to the origin and exclusive rights over the Basmati rice.

India has been producing and exporting Basmati rice for many years and was granted a GI tag for Basmati rice by the European Union in 1997, which recognized the rice as originating from India and certain regions in India. In 2020, the Indian government filed an application with the European Union seeking to extend the GI tag to cover the entire Indian subcontinent, including parts of Pakistan.

Pakistan, which is also a major producer and exporter of Basmati rice, has challenged India's claim to the exclusive rights over Basmati rice, arguing that Basmati rice is a shared cultural heritage of both countries and that Pakistan has been producing and exporting Basmati rice for more than a century.

The issue has become a matter of national pride and economic significance for both countries, as the Basmati rice trade is a major source of revenue for both India and Pakistan. The controversy has also raised concerns about the potential impact of the GI tag on small farmers and producers in Pakistan who rely on Basmati rice for their livelihoods.

## How to identify a product having a GI tag?

In many countries, products that have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags are marked with a logo or label that indicates their status. However, the specific requirements for using the GI logo or label can vary depending on the country and the product.

In general, if a product has a GI tag, you can look for the following indicators:

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.visitswatvalley.com/swat-emerald/>

**Look for a label or tag:** In some countries, products with GI tags are required to carry a label or tag that identifies the product and its place of origin. For example, a product with a GI tag may have a label that says "Protected Designation of Origin" or "Indication of Geographical Origin".

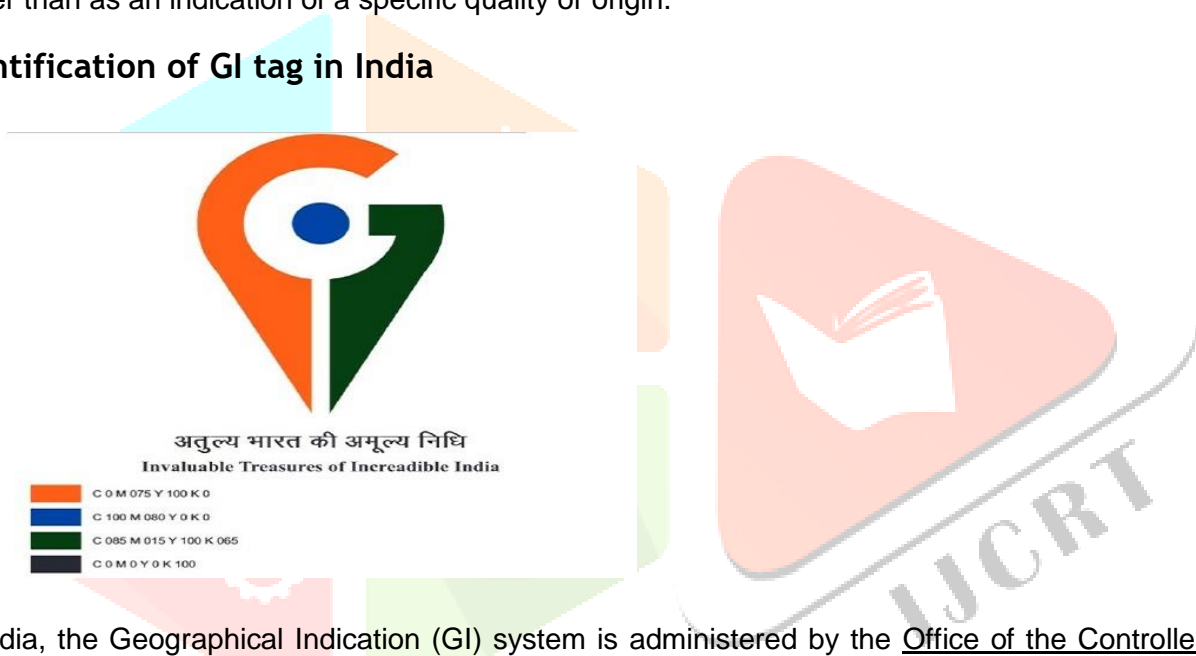
**Look for a logo:** Many countries have a specific logo or emblem that indicates that a product has been granted a GI tag. For example, in India, products with GI tags are marked with the "GI" logo.

**Check the packaging or product information:** The packaging or information that accompanies a product may indicate that it has been granted a GI tag. For example, the product may be described as "traditional" or "authentic", or may mention the place of origin.

**Do some research:** If you are unsure whether a product has a GI tag, you can do some research online or ask the seller or producer for more information. Many countries have databases or directories of products that have been granted GI tags, which can be searched online.

It's important to note that not all products with geographical names or indications are necessarily protected by a GI tag. Some products may be using a geographical name or indication in a generic or descriptive sense, rather than as an indication of a specific quality or origin.

## Identification of GI tag in India



In India, the Geographical Indication (GI) system is administered by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks, which is part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.<sup>12</sup> Products that have been granted GI tags in India are marked with a logo that includes the words "GI" in a stylized form, as well as the name of the product and its place of origin.

The logo is intended to help consumers identify products that have been granted GI tags, and to distinguish them from products that may be using similar names or descriptions but do not meet the required standards or originate from the specific region. The logo is also intended to help promote and protect the reputation of products that are closely associated with their place of origin, and to support the livelihoods of local producers and communities.

If you suspect that a product in India is using a duplicate Geographical Indication (GI) tag, you can report the matter to the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks, which is responsible for administering the GI system in India. The Office has a mechanism for investigating complaints and taking action against infringers, which may include cancelling or revoking the GI tag for the product.

To report a suspected case of duplicate GI tag, you can contact the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks directly, either by phone, email, or by submitting a complaint through their online portal. You should provide as much information as possible about the product in question, including its name,

<sup>12</sup> <https://ipindia.gov.in/gi.htm>

place of origin, and the details of the suspected infringer. You may also be asked to provide evidence to support your complaint, such as photographs, samples of the product, or other documentation.

It's important to note that the process for investigating and resolving complaints about duplicate GI tags can take some time, and may require additional evidence or documentation. However, by reporting suspected cases of infringement, you can help to protect the integrity of the GI system, support local producers and communities, and ensure that consumers are able to make informed choices about the products they purchase.

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