



Amalsad Chikoo: Significance, Registration Process and Benefits of Geographical Indication Tag

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A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place. In addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin. Since the qualities depend on the geographical place of production, there is a clear link between the product and its original place of production.



Procedure to Register the GI Tags in India

In a world where globalization often overshadows local identities, the protection of region-specific products has become increasingly important. Certain goods derive their uniqueness not merely from their ingredients or craftsmanship, but from the geographical region they originate in reflecting the culture, environment and traditional knowledge of that area. This is where the concept Geographical Indications (GIs) becomes significant. A Geographical Indication is a form of intellectual property right that links a product to a specific location, acknowledging that its distinct quality, reputation or other characteristics are essentially attributable to that place of origin. From Darjeeling Tea and Mysore Silk to Pochampally Ikat and Aranmula Mirror, India is home to a diverse range of products that carry a strong geographical identity. The registration and protection of such goods under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 aim to preserve traditional knowledge, promote rural economies and prevent unauthorized use or imitation of regional products.

Legal Framework for Geographical Indication (GI) Tags in India

India provides legal protection to Geographical Indications (GI) under the following statutory instruments:

The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999

This is the primary legislation governing the registration, protection and enforcement of GI rights in India. The Act came into force on 15th september 2003, with the objective of:

- Protecting the unique identity and reputation of region-specific goods,
- Preventing unauthorized use by non-entitled parties,
- Promoting rural and traditional producers.

The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Rules, 2002

These subsidiary rules lay down the detailed procedural framework for filing, examination, opposition, renewal and enforcement of GI registrations.

Administrative Authority

The administration of GI laws is carried out by the:

- Geographical Indications Registry, located in Chennai.
- Under the supervision of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM).
- Functioning within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Who can Apply?

Under Section 11(1) of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, an application for registration of a geographical indication may be made by any association of persons, producers or any organization or authority established by or under any law for the time being in force, provided such applicant represents the interests of the producers concerned. The application must be made in writing in the prescribed form, containing full particulars of the goods and the geographical area of origin and must be submitted to the Registrar of Geographical Indications along with the prescribed fee as notified under the Geographical Indications Rules, 2002.

Procedure for Geographical Indication (GI) Registration in India

The process of registering a Geographical Indication (GI) in India is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, along with the associated Rules of 2002. It involves several legal and procedural steps, outlined as follows:

Determining eligibility

Before beginning the registration process, it is essential to confirm that the product qualifies for GI protection under Section 2(1)(e) of the Act. The product must originate from a defined geographical area and must possess distinct qualities, a particular reputation or unique characteristics directly attributable to that region. These attributes may stem from natural conditions such as climate and terrain or from traditional human expertise and practices.

Application Filing

The application for GI registration must be submitted by an association of producers, a group of persons or an organization or authority that represents the interests of the producers. The applicant must also provide an affidavit affirming their authority to represent such interests. Applications must be submitted in the prescribed form, either directly or through a registered GI agent or legal representative, as per the format stipulated in the Geographical Indications Rules, 2002.

Submission of Required Documentation

The application must be filed in triplicate along with all necessary supporting documents. These include a Statement of Case outlining the specific characteristics and reputation of the product, a map of the geographical area, details regarding the method of production, the structure of the inspection body monitoring quality and evidence establishing the connection between the product and its region of origin.

Preliminary Scrutiny and Examination

Once the application is received, it undergoes an initial examination by the Registrar to verify compliance with procedural norms. If deficiencies are found, the applicant is allowed a period of one month to correct them. Subsequently, the application is reviewed by a consultative group of subject matter experts to assess the validity of the claims made regarding the GI.

Issuance of Show-Cause Notice (If Necessary)

If the Registrar identifies grounds for objection, a Show-Cause Notice is issued. The applicant must respond within two months, either in writing or by requesting a personal hearing. If the Registrar finds the response unsatisfactory or no response is received within the stipulated time, the application may be rejected. However, the applicant is granted a reasonable opportunity to be heard before any final adverse decision is made.

Publication in the GI Journal

Once the application clears examination, it is accepted and published in the Geographical Indications Journal. The purpose of publication is to invite objections, if any, from the public or interested stakeholders. This must be done within three months from the date of acceptance.

Opposition Proceedings

Any person opposing the registration may file a notice of opposition within three months of publication, with an optional one-month extension. The applicant must file a counter statement within two months of receiving the notice. Failure to do so results in the application being deemed abandoned. Both parties are then allowed to submit evidence through affidavits and may present arguments during a hearing before the Registrar.

Grant of Registration Certificate

If no opposition is filed or if the opposition is resolved in favor of the applicant, the GI is registered. A Certificate of Registration is issued bearing the official seal of the Geographical Indication Registry. The registration date is recorded as the date on which the original application was filed.

Renewal of Registration

The initial registration is valid for a period of ten years, after which it may be renewed for additional ten-year terms upon payment of the prescribed fee. Renewal must be sought before the expiry date; failure to do so may result in cancellation of the registration.

Additional Protection for Notified Goods

Certain goods with global recognition (e.g., Darjeeling Tea), as notified by the Central Government, may be granted enhanced protection under the Act. In such cases, a joint application by both the registered proprietor and the producers is required. This ensures stronger protection against misuse and enhances global standing.

Right to Appeal

Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Registrar, such as refusal of registration, may file an appeal before the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) within three months of the decision. Orders of the IPAB may, where appropriate, be further challenged before the jurisdictional High Court.

Documents Required for GI Registration in India

In accordance with the provisions of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 and the corresponding Rules, 2002, the following documents are mandatorily required for the valid submission of an application for registration of a Geographical Indication:

Application in Prescribed Form (Triplicate)

The application for registration shall be submitted in Form GI-1, as prescribed under rule 23(1) of the Geographical Rules 2002, in triplicate. The application must be duly signed and verified, accompanied by the prescribed statutory fee and addressed to the Registrar of Geographical Indications.

Statement of Case

A detailed Statement of Case must be enclosed, elaborating upon the nature of the goods, their distinctiveness, quality, reputation or other characteristics and establishing their direct nexus with the claimed geographical origin. The statement shall form the evidentiary basis for the claim of protection under the GI regime.

Description of Product and its Special Characteristics

The application must provide a comprehensive description of the product, inclusive of its technical specifications, method of manufacture, raw material source, climatic and environmental conditions and any traditional knowledge or indigenous process involved, which contributes to the uniqueness of the goods originating from the specific geographical location.

Documentary Evidence Establishing Geographical Link

The applicant shall furnish documentary and material evidence substantiating the linkage between the product and its geographical origin, such as:

- Historical records
- Scientific reports or data
- Photographs of production process and location
- Certificates or testimonials from recognized bodies
- Research publications or surveys

Certified Copies of Regional Map (Three Copies)

The application must be accompanied by three certified copies of a topographical map clearly indicating the demarcated geographical area or territorial boundary to which the GI pertains. This is to define and confine the scope of protection sought.

Particulars of the Inspection Body

Where applicable, the applicant must disclose the details of the Inspection Structure (as per Rule 32(1)(g)), including the constitution, powers, duties and mechanisms adopted to regulate, monitor and ensure compliance with quality standards in relation to the GI goods.

Details of the Applicant(s)

The name, full address, legal status and capacity in which the applicant is acting (i.e., as a producer, organization or statutory authority) must be clearly specified. In the event that the application is made on behalf of multiple producers, a collective reference or representation shall be accepted, provided it is demonstrably in the interest of all such producers.

Power of Attorney / Authorization Letter

In cases where the application is filed through an agent, attorney or legal representative, a valid Power of Attorney or Letter of Authorization must be annexed to the application, authorizing such person to act on behalf of the applicant.

Priority Document (Where Applicable)

If the applicant is claiming convention priority based on an earlier application filed in a member country under any international treaty, a certified copy of the priority document along with its verified translation (if not in English) must be submitted, in accordance with Rule 24.

Benefits of Geographical Indication (GI)**Establishes a Product's Geographic Identity**

GI tags connect a product to its place of origin, emphasizing that its unique qualities are deeply rooted in that specific region. It signifies that the product couldn't have been created anywhere else like how Darjeeling tea or Banarasi sarees carry the essence of their birthplace.

Transforms Local Specialties into Recognized Brands

A GI tag works as a powerful branding tool, where the name of the region becomes synonymous with quality and authenticity. It eliminates the need for extensive marketing, as the geographic identity itself builds the product's reputation.

Empowers Original Producers

GI registration ensures that the actual creators farmers, artisans and craftspeople benefit directly. It helps eliminate exploitative middlemen, ensuring fairer prices and higher earnings for the local communities involved.

Acts as a Mark of Authenticity and Quality

In a market filled with counterfeits, a GI tag guarantees originality. It assures consumers that they're purchasing a genuine product, crafted in accordance with traditional methods and regional practices.

Safeguards Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Heritage

Many heritage crafts and indigenous products risk fading into obscurity due to lack of recognition. GI protection revives and preserves these age-old traditions, reinforcing cultural pride and community identity.

Showcases India's Regional Diversity

GI tagged goods often serve as cultural ambassadors, drawing global attention to India's rich diversity. They help promote tourism, generate interest and expand international market access for regional products.

Promotes Sustainable Practices

Most GI products are created using eco-conscious, traditional techniques like organic farming or handloom weaving that naturally reduce environmental impact, supporting sustainable development.

Provides Legal Safeguards

Once registered, a GI tag offers legal protection against unauthorized use and misrepresentation. It restricts others from falsely claiming the name, thereby securing the product's integrity and its creators' rights.

Stimulates Regional Economic Growth

The popularity of GI-tagged products can revitalize local economies by creating employment, increasing income levels and reviving dormant industries that gain new life through GI recognition.

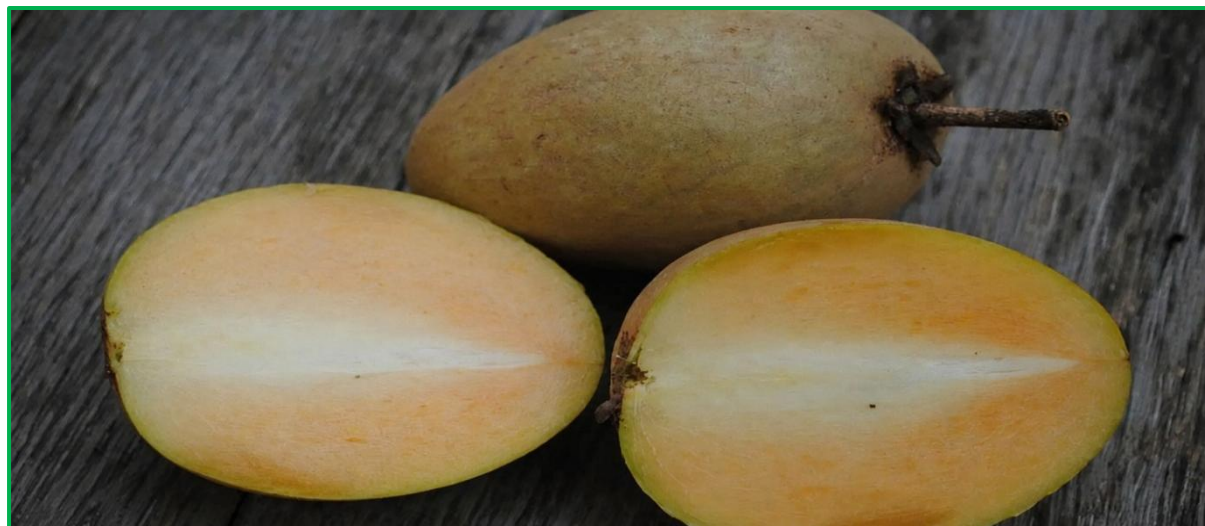
Enhances Global Market Potential

GI recognition increases a product's appeal on the international stage. It elevates its status, builds trust among global buyers and allows Indian products to command a premium pricing in export markets.

Examples of Major GI tag related to Gujarat

Sr. No.	GI Product	Category	Region/District
1	Gir Kesar Mango	Agricultural Product	Gir, Junagadh
2	Bhalia Wheat	Agricultural Product	Bhal Region
3	Amalsad Chikoo	Agricultural Product	Navsari
4	Sankheda Furniture	Handicraft	Sankheda
5	Kutch Embroidery	Handicraft	Kutch
6	Surat Zari Craft	Handicraft	Surat
7	Kachchh Shawls	Handicraft	Kutch
8	Patan Patola	Handloom/Textile	Patan
9	Gharchola	Textile	Gujarat
10	Bharuch Sujani Weaving	Handicraft	Bharuch
11	Surat Sadeli Craft	Handicraft	Surat
12	Surat Cut Diamond	Manufactured Product	Surat
13	Rogan Art	Handicraft	Kutch

Details of Amalsad Chikoo



Amalsad Chikoo is one of the most famous sapota (*Manilkara zapota*) varieties cultivated in South Gujarat. It derives its name from **Amalsad village** in the Navsari district, which has long been recognized as a major center for chikoo cultivation and trade. The region's fertile alluvial soils, humid coastal climate and traditional farming practices have helped develop a chikoo variety known for its exceptional sweetness, fine texture and longer shelf life.

The cultivation of chikoo in the Amalsad region expanded significantly during the twentieth century and became an important source of livelihood for farmers in Navsari, Gandevi and Jalalpore talukas. Over time, the fruit gained a strong reputation in domestic and export markets because of its consistent quality and unique taste characteristics. The Amalsad region today contributes a substantial share of Gujarat's chikoo production.

Recognizing the distinct identity of this fruit, the Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST) and Navsari Agricultural University undertook scientific documentation of its origin, cultivation practices and quality attributes. Their efforts led to the application for Geographical Indication (GI) registration. Research established a clear connection between the fruit's unique characteristics and the agro-climatic conditions of the Amalsad region.

In 2025, Amalsad Chikoo was officially granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag**, becoming the third fruit from Gujarat to receive this recognition after Gir Kesar Mango and Kachchhi Kharek. The GI area covers 87 villages across Gandevi, Jalalpore and Navsari talukas. The GI tag protects the identity of the fruit, promotes its market value and supports the livelihoods of local farmers while preserving traditional cultivation knowledge.

Application Details

Application Number	776
Geographical Indications	Amalsad Chikoo
Status	Registered
Applicant Name	Valsad Navsari Jilla Fal Ane Shakhbaji Sahakari Sangh Limited
Applicant Address	P.O. Box No.30, Taluka: Gandevi, District: Navsari – 396 360, Gujarat, India.
Date of Filing	16-09-2021
Class	31
Goods	Agriculture
Geographical Area	Gujarat
Priority Country	India
Journal Number	196
Availability Date	26-11-2024
Certificate Number	663
Certificate Date	27-03-2025
Registration Valid Upto	15-09-2031

Conclusion

Geographical Indications (GIs) are important intellectual property rights that protect products whose quality and reputation are linked to a specific geographical region. GI registration helps preserve traditional knowledge, ensures product authenticity and provides economic benefits to local producers. The GI recognition of **Amalsad Chikoo** highlights its unique qualities derived from the agro-climatic conditions of the Navsari region of Gujarat. This recognition strengthens the market value of the fruit, protects farmers' interests and promotes the agricultural heritage of the region.

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