



## GI Tagged Feni: Goa

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### Why in News

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Recently, the Goa government's Feni Policy 2021 has paved the way to take the **GI** (Geographical Indication) Certified **Goan Cashew Feni** forward at par with other international Liquors such as **Mexico's tequila, Japanese Sake and Russia's Vodka.**

The Goa government in 2016 classified Feni as the **Heritage Spirit of Goa.**

### Key Points

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- **Goan Cashew Feni:**
  - It is the first liquor product in the country to obtain '**Heritage Drink**' status and got its GI certification in 2000. Only the cashew feni has been **GI-tagged.**
  - Feni is a brew made from **coconut or cashew fruits** and is synonymous with the **Goan ethos and identity.**
  - Feni was first manufactured in Goa in the 1600s, after the Portuguese imported the **cashew plant from Brazil to India.** There are currently 26 varieties of feni manufactured in Goa.
  - It is used in various cultural traditions, cuisines and is well known for its medicinal value also.
- **Other GI-Tags from Goa:**

Khola red chillies/Canacona Chillies, spicy Harmal Chillies, Myndoli Banana or Moira Banana, and traditional sweet dish Goan Khaje.

- **Geographical Indication (GI) Certification:**

- **About:**

- GI is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.

- It is used for **agricultural, natural and manufactured goods.**

- The Geographical Indications of **Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.

- It is also a part of the **World Trade Organisation's** Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

- **Administered By:**

- The Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks- who is the Registrar of Geographical Indications.

- The Geographical Indications **Registry is located at Chennai.**

- **Validity of Registration:**

- The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.
    - It can be renewed from time to time for **a further period of 10 years** each.

**Source: IE**