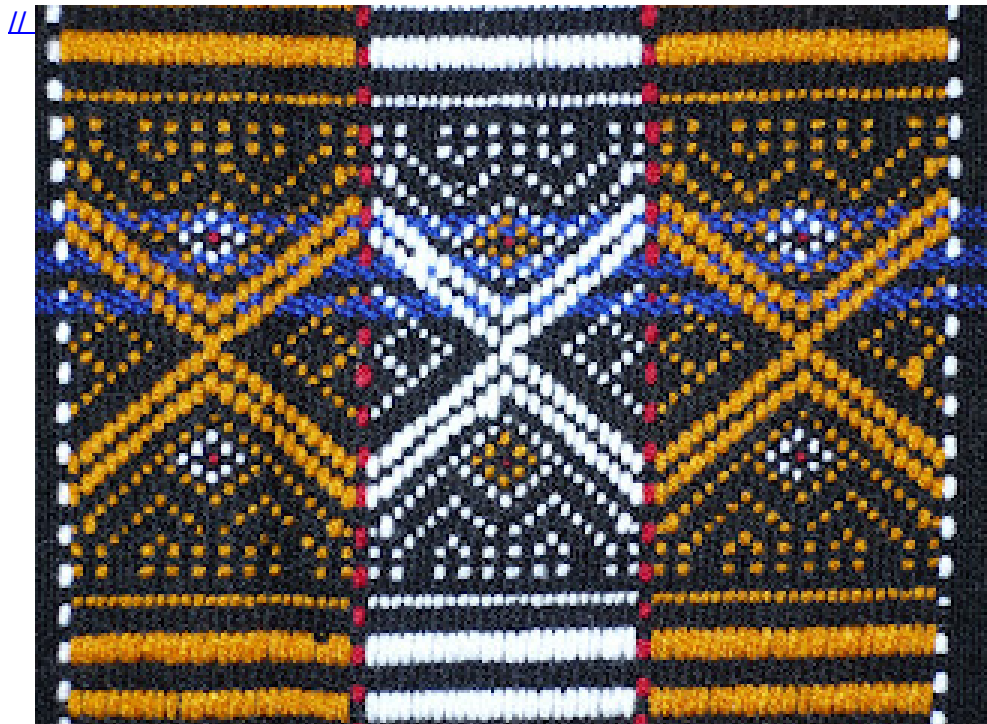




Apatani Textile Product

Why in News

Recently, an application seeking [Geographical Indication \(GI\) tag](#) for the Arunachal Pradesh **Apatani textile product** has been filed by a firm.



Key Points

▪ About:

- The Apatani weave comes from the [Apatani tribe](#) of **Arunachal Pradesh** living at Ziro, the headquarters of lower **Subansiri district**.
 - The Apatani community weaves its own textiles for various occasions, including rituals and cultural festivals.
- The woven fabric of this tribe is known for its **geometric and zigzag patterns** and also for its **angular designs**.
 - The tribe predominantly weaves shawls known as **jig-jiro and jilan** or jackets called **supuntarii**.
- The people here use different **leaves and plant resources for organic dyeing** the cotton yarns in their traditional ways.

- **Only women folk** are engaged in weaving.
- The **traditional handloom** of this tribe is a type of **loin loom**, which is called Chichin, and is similar to the traditional handloom of the [Nyishi tribe](#).
- It is portable, easy to install and operated by a single weaver, especially the female members of the community.

▪ **Apatani Tribes:**

- Apatani are a **tribal group of people living in the Ziro valley** in Arunachal Pradesh.
- They speak a **local language called Tani** and **worship the sun and the moon**.
- They follow a **sustainable social forestry system**.
- They celebrate major festivals – **Dree** with prayers for a bumper harvest and prosperity of all humankind and **Myoko** to celebrate Friendship.
- The Apatanis practice aquaculture along with rice farming on their plots.
- **Rice-fish culture** in the valley is a unique practice in the state, where two crops of rice (Mipyra and Emoh) and one crop of fish (Ngihi) are raised together.
- It is a [scheduled tribe](#) in Arunachal Pradesh.

Present GI Products from Arunachal Pradesh

- Arunachal Orange (Agricultural)
- Idu Mishmi Textiles (Handicraft)

Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

- The tribes of Arunachal Pradesh include: Abor, Aka, Dafla, Galong, Khampti, Howa, Mishmi, Monpa, Momba, Any Naga tribes, Sherdukpen, Singpho.

Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

▪ **About:**

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

▪ **International Protection for GI:**

- Internationally GI are covered as a **component of [Intellectual Property Rights \(IPRs\)](#)** under the **Paris Convention** for the Protection of Industrial Property.
 - The **Paris Convention, adopted in 1883**, applies to industrial property in the widest sense, including patents, trademarks, industrial designs, utility models, service marks, trade names, geographical indications and the repression of unfair competition.
- GI is also governed by the [World Trade Organisation's \(WTO's\)](#) Agreement on [Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights \(TRIPS\)](#).

▪ **GI Protection in India:**

- India, as a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), enacted the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999** which came into force with effect from 2003.
 - The Act provides registration and also protection of GI goods in India.
 - This Act is administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks, who is also the Registrar of Geographical Indications.
- The **Geographical Indications Registry for India is located in Chennai**.
- 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.

- Some of the examples of Geographical Indications in India include **basmati rice, Darjeeling tea, Kancheepuram silk saree, Nagpur orange and Kolhapuri chappal.**
- **Benefit of GI tag:**
 - Once the GI protection is granted, **no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products.** It also provides **comfort to customers** about the authenticity of that product.
 - Having a GI tag for a product **prevents unauthorised use of a registered Geographical Indication** by others, **boosts exports of Indian Geographical indications** by providing legal protection and also enables **seeking legal protection in other WTO member countries.**

[Source: TH](#)

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