



# Nicobari Hodi Craft

## Why in News?

Recently, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands has filed an application, seeking the [Geographical Indication \(GI\) tag](#) for the Nicobari Hodi craft.

- This is the first application from the Union Territory seeking a tag for one of its products.
- Earlier, the government awarded the [GI tag to Mithila Makhana](#).

## What is Nicobari Hodi?

- The hodi is the **Nicobari tribe's traditional craft**. It is an **outrigger canoe**, very commonly operated in the Nicobar group of islands.
- The technical skills for building a hodi are based on **indigenous knowledge inherited by the Nicobarese** from their forefathers.
- The hodi is built using **either locally available trees or from nearby islands**, and its design **varies slightly** from island to island.
- Considerations to be taken into account **include the length of the finished canoe**, which has to be 12 times that of its width, while the length of the undressed tree trunk has to be 15 times this width.
- Hodis are used for transporting people and goods from one island to another, for sending coconuts, for fishing and racing purposes.
- The tuhet, a group of families under a headman, consider the **hodi an asset**. Hodi races are held between **islands and villages**.

## What is a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag?

### ▪ About:

- The GI is an indication **used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.**
- 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 governed and directed by the [WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights \(TRIPS\)](#).
  - It was decided and also stated under Articles 1 (2) and 10 of the **Paris Convention** that the protection of industrial Property and Geographical Indication are elements of **Intellectual Property**.
- It is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods).

### ▪ Validity:

- This tag is valid for a period of **10 years** following which it can be renewed.

### ▪ Significance:

- Once a product **gets this tag, no person or company can sell a similar item under that name.**
- GI registration of a product provides it **legal protection and prevention against unauthorised use by others.**
- GI tag helps in **promoting the exports** of the product.
- It also provides **comfort to customers about the authenticity** of that product.

### ▪ GI Registration:

- There is a proper process of registration of GI products which includes filing of application, preliminary scrutiny and examination, show cause notice, publication in the geographical indications journal, opposition to registration, and registration.
  - Any association of persons, producers, organisation or authority established by or under the law can apply.
  - The applicant must represent the interest of the producers.
- The Geographical Indications Registry **responsible for administration of GI Goods is established at Chennai.**

### ▪ GI Tag Products:

- Some famous goods which carry this tag include [Basmati rice](#), [Darjeeling Tea](#), [Chanderi Fabric](#), Mysore Silk, Kullu Shawl, Kangra Tea, [Thanjavur Paintings](#), Allahabad Surkha, Farrukhabad Prints, Lucknow Zardozi, [Kashmir Saffron](#) and Kashmir Walnut Wood Carving.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Years Questions (PYQs)

**Q1. Which of the following has/have been accorded 'Geographical Indication' status? (2015)**

1. Banaras Brocades and Sarees
2. Rajasthani Daal-Bati-Churma
3. Tirupathi Laddu

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (c)**

**Exp:**

- 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.
  - Darjeeling tea was the first product in India to get a GI tag.
- Banaras Brocades and Sarees and Tirupathi Laddu have got GI tag while Rajathan's Daal-Baati-Churma does not. **Hence, 1 and 3 are correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**Q2. India enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 in order to comply with the obligations to (2018)**

- (a) ILO
- (b) IMF
- (c) UNCTAD
- (d) WTO

**Ans: (d)**

**Exp:**

- **Geographical indications (GIs) are a type of intellectual property (IP).** The World Trade Organisation (WTO) recognises intellectual property rights under TRIPS (TradeRelated Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement.
- **Under Article 22(1) of the TRIPS Agreement, the GIs are defined** as “indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a Member, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographic origin”.
- **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

**Source: TH**

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