



GI Tag for Banarasi Shehnai

[Source:TH](#)

Varanasi's rich cultural and craft heritage gained national recognition as **the Banarasi Shehnai** was granted [Geographical Indication \(GI\) tag](#).

▪ About the Banarasi Shehnai:



- It is a **traditional wind instrument** deeply rooted in the Banaras Gharana of [Indian classical music](#).
- It gained national prominence through [Ustad Bismillah Khan](#), who famously played the shehnai at **the Red Fort** on [India's first Independence Day](#).
 - He elevated the Shehnai to prominence in Indian classical music with his performance at the Calcutta **All India Music Conference in 1937**.
 - He was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the **Bharat Ratna in 2001**.
- The instrument holds a divine and auspicious status, often **performed at weddings, religious ceremonies, and temple rituals**.
- **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag:**
 - **About:** A GI tag is a **name or sign used on certain products** that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
 - The GI tag ensures that only authorised users or those residing in the geographical territory are **allowed to use the popular product name**.
 - It also protects the product from being copied or imitated by others.
 - A registered GI is **valid for 10 years and can be renewed**.
 - GI registration is **overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
 - **Legal Framework:**
 - [Geographical Indications of Goods \(Registration and Protection\) Act, 1999](#)
 - [WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights \(TRIPS\)](#).

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