



Kolhapuri Chappals

[Source: TH](#)

Italian luxury fashion brand **Prada** has acknowledged that its men's footwear design was inspired by traditional Indian handcrafted footwear, after facing backlash for the sandals' strong resemblance to [GI-tagged](#) Kolhapuri chappals, which artisans argue constitutes **cultural appropriation** and a **violation of the GI tag**.

- **Cultural appropriation** in **fashion** is when **designers** use **elements from another culture** without **credit** or claiming they didn't know the **origin**.

Kolhapuri Chappals

- **Origin & Geography:** It is handcrafted in **Kolhapur (Maharashtra)** and nearby districts like **Sangli, Satara, and Solapur**, dating back to the **12th-13th century**, and was originally made for **royalty**.
- **Craftsmanship:** It is made using **vegetable-tanned leather** from **cow, buffalo, or goat**, and is **fully handmade** without **nails or synthetic components**
- **Design Features:** It is recognised for its **T-strap shape**, **detailed braiding**, and **open-toe design**, mostly in **tan** or **deep brown** shades.



- **GI Tag Recognition:** It was granted [Geographical Indication \(GI\)](#) status in **2019**, covering **eight districts** in **Maharashtra and Karnataka**.

GI Tag

- A **GI tag** identifies products with a specific **geographical origin** and ensures only **authorised users** from that region can use the name.
 - It protects against **imitation**, is valid for **10 years**, and is overseen by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.

Read More: [Intellectual Property Rights](#)

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