


**Intellectual Property**  
**Prof. Feroz Ali**  
**Intellectual Property Rights**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**

**Lecture - 23**  
**Geographical Indications**

Geographical Indications.

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## Meaning

- 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.
  - Examples: Roquefort Cheese, Darjeeling Tea, Banaras saree, etc.
- Not limited to Agro products, extends to others—wine, spirits, handicrafts, etc.

A geographical indication or GI is sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin. And possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. So, when goods come from a particular place and the quality of the good is attributed to that particular place be at by way of its geography or by way of the people who are in that place. Then that product can be regarded as a subject matter of a geographical indication, and they can be a separate right that can be registered and this right is called the geographical indication or GI.

For instance Roquefort cheese, Darjeeling tea, Banaras saree are different examples of the GI. A GI is not limited to agricultural products it extends to other products like wine, spirits, handicrafts etcetera.

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## Characteristics

- A sign must identify a product as originating in a given place
- The qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin
- Clear link between the product and its original place of production

The characteristics of a GI is that a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place. The qualities characteristics or reputation of that product should be essentially due to the place of origin. And there has to be a clear link between the product and it is original place of production.

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## Why GI?

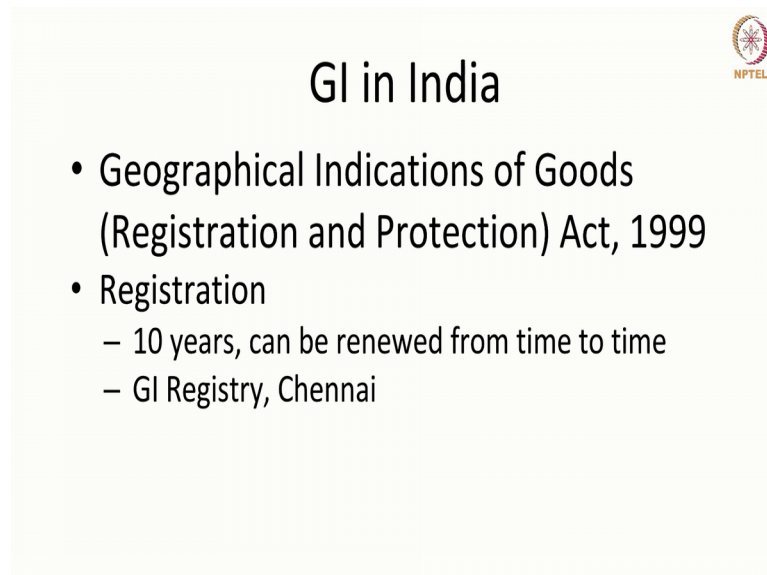
- Protection of knowledge and community rights
- Fair competition
- Market recognition, premium price
- Key source of niche marketing
- Rural development

Now, why do we need GI? It is to protect the knowledge, we required geographical indication for the protection of knowledge and community rights; so that they can we fair competition. For instance, Darjeeling tea should only be sold as Darjeeling tea, we do not

want that to be sold as Assam tea or any other tea, because then that will allow people who do not come from a particular territory to pass off a product as another one, and it would also affect competition fair competition.

Then geographical indication like trademarks, it allows people to identify the quality of a product. The market recognises the product as originating from a particular place and people may be willing to pay a premium price for the product, and it is the source for niche marketing. And it also leads to rural development, because craftsmen in rural areas who are protected by a GI, will be able to sell their products, because it is protected by a GI.

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The slide features a light yellow background. At the top center, the title 'GI in India' is displayed in a large, black, sans-serif font. In the top right corner, there is a circular logo for NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) with the acronym 'NPTEL' written below it. The main content of the slide is a bulleted list:

- Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
- Registration
  - 10 years, can be renewed from time to time
  - GI Registry, Chennai

GI in India is protected by geographical indication of goods registration and protection Act of 1999. Once registered, the GI enjoys a 10 year protection and which can be renewed from time to time like trademarks, and the GI registry is in Chennai.

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## Registered GI

- Darjeeling Tea (Agricultural, WB)
- Aranmula Kannadi (Handicraft, Kerala)
- Mysore Agarbathi (Manufactured, Karnataka)
- Coimbatore Wet Grinder (Manufactured, TN)
- Muga silk of Assam (Handicraft, Assam)
- Orissa Pattachitra (Textile, Odisha)
- Nirmal Toys and Crafts
- Banglar Rasogolla (Foodstuff, WB)

Some registered GI is include Darjeeling tea, which is an agricultural product belonging to West Bengal, Aranmula Kannadi which is a handicraft product from Kerala, Mysore Agarbathi which is a manufactured product, Coimbatore wet grinder again a manufactured product from Tamilnadu, Muga silk of Assam again a handicraft from Assam, Orissa pattachitra which is a textile product from Odisha. Banglar rasogolla which is the Bengali rasogolla which is registered as a food stuff and which belongs to West Bengal. A recently there was some dispute between West Bengal and Odisha as to the origin of rasogolla, the registry at said that granting Bengal rasogolla or Bengali rasogolla does not stop Odisha to having a similar right, and it should not be treated as a certificate of the origin of this sweet itself.