

GI Tags to Majuli Masks and Majuli Manuscript Paintings

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Context

Recently the **Narasapur crochet lace craft, Majuli masks and Majuli Manuscript Paintings** has got the **Geographical Indications (GI) tag**.

Narasapur Crochet Lace Craft

- **Region:** The craft is geographically limited to 19 mandals in West Godavari in the Godavari area of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Background:** The women of the farming network of this place began developing fairly attractive artefacts from colourful lace, about 150 years in the past.
 - In 2004, the first of its kind lace park in India was established here where lots of crochet lace makers can market their products.
- **Artwork:** The lace work is done using thin threads and these are again woven with thin crochet needles of varying sizes.
 - The products are to be had in vibrant colours like orange, inexperienced, blue, whitered, and beige.
- The crochet lace products also are exported to nations just like the UK, USA, France, etc.

Majuli Masks

- **Region:** Both Majuli Mask of Assam & Assam Majuli Manuscript Painting find its root in

the river island district of Majuli of the state.

- Majuli is the most important river island in the world and the seat of Assam's neo-Vaishnavite tradition.
- **Art work:** These are handmade masks and are traditionally used to depict characters in bhaonas, or theatrical performances with devotional messages under the neo-Vaishnavite life.
 - The mask can depict gods, goddesses, demons, animals and birds.
 - The masks are made from bamboo, clay, dung, material, cotton, and wooden.
- **Background:** It was delivered by the 15th-16th century reformer saint Srimanta Sankardeva.

Art Practised in Monasteries

- Majuli has 22 sattras, and the mask-making tradition is by and large concentrated in 4 of them — Samaguri Sattr, Natun Samaguri Sattr, Bihimpur Sattr and Alengi Narasimha Sattr.
- Sattras are monastic institutions hooked up with the aid of Srimanta Sankardev and his disciples as centres of religious, social and cultural reform.

Majuli Manuscript Painting

- It is a shape of painting — additionally originating within the sixteenth century — completed on sanchi pat, or manuscripts made of the bark of the sanchi or agar tree, the usage of homemade ink.
- The distinctiveness lies in manuscript writing styles—Gargayan script, Kaithall, and Bamunia.
- These paintings depict Hindu epic stories, specially Lord Krishna's Bhagavata Purana narratives, showcasing cultural history and inventive finesse.
- The earliest example of an illustrated manuscript is stated to be a rendering of the Adya Dasama of the Bhagwat Purana in Assamese by Srimanta Sankardev.
- This artwork was patronised by the Ahom kings. It continues to be practised in each sattr in Majuli.

What is a GI Tag?

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess characteristics or a recognition that are because of that starting place.
- Geographical Indications are a part of the intellectual assets rights that come underneath the **Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property**.
- In India, Geographical Indications registration is run by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999**.
- Geographical symptoms are generally used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and commercial merchandise.
- The registration of a geographical indication is legitimate for a duration of 10 years, it is able to be renewed from time to time for a further period of 10 years every.

Benefits of GI Tag

- It confers criminal protection to Geographical Indications in India which in turn enhance exports.
- Prevents unauthorised use of a Registered Geographical Indication through others.
- It promotes financial prosperity of manufacturers of goods produced in a geographical territory.

Source: [The Indian express](#)

UPSC Prelims Practice Question

Q. 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 |