

Two Decades of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999: A Review of 547 Registered Geographical Indications

Aqa Raza^{1†}, Kanika Malik² and Desmond Oriakhogba³

¹Jindal Global Law School, O P Jindal Global University, Sonipat — 131 001, Haryana;
Ph.D. Candidate at National Law Institute University, Bhopal, India

²CSIR–National Institute of Science, Communication and Policy Research (CSIR–NIScPR), New Delhi — 110 012, India

³Department of Private Law, Faculty of Law, University of the Western Cape, Bellville 7535, South Africa

Received: 26th February 2024; revised: 5th July 2024

The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 came into force after four years from the date of its publication on the Gazette of India. Out of the 1181 total applications submitted, only 46.31 (forty-six point three one) percent, making a total of 547 geographical indications, have been registered and granted registration certificates under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, as of January 2024. Adopting quantitative method, this Paper reviews the total registered Geographical Indications in the last two decades. For convenience, this paper has been divided into five parts. Part I gives an outline of the paper. Part II seeks to review the total registered geographical indications of foreign countries under the Act in six broad heads and five sub-heads. Part III reviews the state-wise total registered geographical indications under five different heads and in two sub-parts including the tags shared by the Indian states with other state(s) and the union territories. Part IV reviews the union territory-wise registered geographical indications in two sub-parts and in nine broad heads. Part V concludes.

Keywords: The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Rules, 2002, Geographical Indications, Registered, Goods, Agricultural Goods, Manufactured Goods, Food Stuff, Handicrafts, Natural Goods, Indian States, Union Territories, Foreign Countries, Two Decades, Twenty-first Century, The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) (Amendment) Rules, 2020, Draft Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) (Amendment) Rules, 2023, Geographical Indications Registry, Gazette of India, WIPO, Review

Geographical Indications (GIs) are signs placed on goods to indicate their place of origin. The protection afforded these signs is based on the premise that, in the eyes of consumers, the goods possess certain unique qualities and reputation due to that place of origin. Usually, the signs consist of the name of the place of origin of the product. According to WIPO,¹ geographical indications are often utilized in respect of agricultural products, which typically have qualities that derive from their place of production and are influenced by specific local geographical factors, such as climate and soil. However, the deployment of geographical indication is not only limited to agricultural products. They may also relate to certain products with unique qualities and reputation drawn from the product's place of origin. Common examples of geographical indications include Champagne (France) for wine, Tuscany (Italy) for olive oil, as well as Darjeeling Tea and Basmati Rice in India.

The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999² (*hereinafter*, the Act) and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Rules, 2002,³ (*hereinafter*, the GI Rules) govern the application for, and registration of, GIs in India. The Act came into force after 3 years, 8 months, and 15 days⁴ from the date of its publication on the Gazette of India.⁵ In the title of the Act published on the Gazette of India, there is one error, the word 'Geographical' is mentioned as 'GEOGRAPHICAL'.⁶ However, this does not affect the validity, scope, and application of the Act. It also does not distort the intents and purpose of the Act. The Act was introduced in the last decade of the twentieth century, and brought into force in the first half of the first decade of the twenty-first century. The Act has completed two decades (20 years) of its coming into force. Since coming into force of the Act, a total of five hundred and forty-seven (547) geographical indications (GIs) have been

[†]Corresponding author: Email: aqaraza@outlook.com

registered under the Act,⁷ as on January 2024.⁸ Since, intellectual property (IP) is a territorial right, the foreign countries have also registered GIs under the provisions of the Act. Out of the 547 registered GIs, thirty-three (33) GIs from thirteen (13) foreign countries are registered. The number of registered GIs in Indian states is five hundred and seven (507), while that from the union territories is seven (7), making a total of five hundred and fourteen (514) Indian GIs. Of these 514 GIs, some GIs are jointly shared by the states and the union territories. The first Indian state, foreign country, and union territory to get GI tags are: West Bengal, Peru, and Pondicherry (now Puducherry)⁹ respectively. In the order of registration, the first registered GI is from a State, followed by one from a foreign country, before a GI from a union territory was registered. The following discussion examines the specific details of the respective GIs granted under the Act. This data is drawn from the Indian Geographical Indications Registry.⁷

Registered GIs under the Act

As noted above, out of the total five hundred and forty-seven (547) GIs registered under the Act, five hundred and fourteen (514) are Indian (including the

common shared GIs). These 547 GIs include 33 from the foreign countries, 507 from the different Indian states, and 7 from the union territories. In counting the number of GIs from the Indian states and union territories, GIs from Jammu and Kashmir have been counted in the respective heads — as the State of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Union Territory of Jammu & Ladakh.¹⁰ Some states have shared GI tags with other state(s) and union territory(ies), and these have been counted in the total of each State and Union Territory.

In Table 1 below, the details of the registered GIs under the Act, in the last two decades, have been provided under six broad heads and five sub-heads. For the purposes of calculating the number of registered GIs, unless it is explicitly mentioned, the starting date is the first day of April of that year and the end date is the last day of the mentioned year. For the first head where three years have been counted together, the starting date is the date of commencement of the Act, and the end date is the last day of March of the mentioned year. In all the tables, ‘A’ refers to ‘Agricultural’, ‘M’ refers to ‘Manufactured’, FS refers to ‘Food Stuff’, ‘H’ refers to ‘Handicrafts’, and ‘N’ refers to ‘Natural’ goods.¹¹

Table 1 — Registered GIs in the Last Two Decades (2003–January 2024)

| Years | Total No. of Registered GIs | Goods | | | | | State with Most No. of Registered GIs | Foreign Country(ies) | Whether Shared? |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------|------------|---|---|---|
| | | Agricultural | Handicrafts | Manufactured | Natural | Food Stuff | | | |
| 2003–March 2005 | 3 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 1 each (West Bengal, Kerala, and Telangana) | — | — |
| April 2005–March 2006 | 24 | 2 | 18 | 4 | — | — | 10 Karnataka (6 H; 3 M; 1 A) | — | — |
| April 2006–March 2007 | 3 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 Karnataka (A) | — | — |
| April 2007–March 2008 | 31 | 11 | 19 | 1 | — | — | 12 Karnataka (4 A; 5 H; and 3 A with other states;) | — | 4 (all A; in 1 Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; in 2, Karnataka and Kerala; and in 1, Kerala and Tamil Nadu) |
| April 2008–March 2009 | 45 | 10 | 33 | 1 | — | 1 | 6 Tamil Nadu (4 A and 2 H) | 1 Peru (M) | — |
| April 2009–March 2010 | 14 | 5 | 7 | 1 | — | 1 | 3 each Karnataka and Kerala (Karnataka: 3 A; Kerala: 1 A and 2 H) | — | — |
| April 2010–March 2011 | 29 | 7 | 15 | 4 | — | 3 | 6 Kerala (3 H; 3 A) | 1 France (M); 1 USA (M); 1 Haryana and United Kingdom (M); 1 Italy (FS) | 1 (H; Punjab, Rajasthan) |

(Contd.)

Table 1 — Registered GIs in the last two decades (2003–January 2024) (*Contd.*)

| Years | Total No. of Registered GIs | Goods | | | | Food Stuff | State with Most No. of Registered GIs | Foreign Country(ies) | Whether shared? |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------|------------|--|--|--|
| | | Agricultural | Handicrafts | Manufactured | Natural | | | | |
| April 2011– March 2012 | 23 | 4 | 15 | 4 | — | — | 3 each Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, and Odisha (M); 1 (Gujarat: 2 A and 1 H; Jammu & Kashmir: 3 H; and Odisha: 1 H, 1 M, and 1 A) | 1 France (M); 1 Portugal (M) | — |
| April 2012– March 2013 | 21 | 2 | 18 | 1 | — | — | 6 Tamil Nadu (1 A and 5 H) | 1 Mexico (M) | — |
| April 2013– March 2014 | 22 | 4 | 17 | 1 | — | — | 6 Uttar Pradesh (4 H, 1 A, and 1 M) | — | 2 (1 H and A / in H, Maharashtra Gujarat, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu / in A, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh) |
| April 2014– March 2015 | 20 | 11 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 Uttar Pradesh (4 H and 1 M) | — | — |
| April 2015– March 2016 | 26 | 9 | 17 | — | — | — | 7 Maharashtra (7 A) | — | 1 (A/ Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir) |
| April 2016– March 2017 | 33 | 14 | 13 | 2 | — | 4 | 13 Maharashtra (12 A and 1 H) | 3 Italy (2 M & 1 FS) | — |
| April 2017– March 2018 | 26 | 7 | 18 | — | — | 1 | 9 West Bengal (6 H, 2 A, and 1 FS) | 1 Thailand (HS) | 1 (A / (Telangana and Andhra Pradesh) |
| April 2018– March 2019 | 23 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 Karnataka (4 A, and 1 H with Maharashtra) | 1 Italy (M) | 2 (1 H and 1 A / in another, H, Karnataka and Maharashtra; and in A, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha) |
| April 2019– March 2020 | 22 | 8 | 9 | 1 | — | 4 | 6 Tamil Nadu (3 FS, 2 H, and 1 A) | 1 Ireland (M) | 1 (A; Manipur and Nagaland) |
| April 2020– March 2021 | 5 | 1 | 4 | — | — | — | 2 Tamil Nadu (2 H) | — | — |
| April 2021– March 2022 | 50 | 16 | 18 | 14 | — | 2 | 8 Uttar Pradesh including 1 A with Madhya Pradesh (6 H and 1 A) | 1 Greece (M); 9 Italy (8 M & 1 FS); 1 Czech Republic (M); 2 Germany (M); 1 Ireland (M) | 2 (A / Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; Sikkim and West Bengal) |
| April 2022– March 2023 | 55 | 24 | 19 | 5 | — | 7 | 13 Tamil Nadu (5 A, 4 H, and 4 FS) In this period, 3 GIs (1 A 2 and 2 H) were registered from the Union Territory of Ladakh | 1 Spain (M); 2 Italy (M); Republic of Chile (M) | — |
| April 2023– January 2024 | 72 | 29 | 29 | 2 | — | 12 | 18 Uttarakhand (12 A, 4 H, 1 M, and 1 FS) | — | — |
| Total | 547 | 181 | 281 | 44 | 2 | 39 | — | 33 | 14 |

Out of 547 registered GIs, 181 are for agricultural goods, 281 for handicrafts, 44 for manufactured goods, 2 for natural goods, and 39 for food stuffs. Most number of registered GIs are from Uttarakhand (12 A, 4 H, 1 M, and 1 FS) followed by 13 each from Tamil Nadu (5 A, 4 H, and 4 FS) and Maharashtra (12 A and 1 H); 12 from Karnataka (4 A, 5 H and 3 A with other states). Maximum number of shared GIs (4, all A) are registered in the period April 2007–March 2008 (in 1 Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; in 2, Karnataka and Kerala; and in 1, Kerala and Tamil Nadu).

Registered Foreign GIs

The first country to get its GI registered under the provisions of the Act is Peru for the manufactured goods ‘Pisco’ which was issued Registration Certificate on 19 March 2009. A total of 33 GIs have been registered from 13 countries, namely: Peru, United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Portugal, Mexico, Thailand, Italy, Ireland, Greece, Czech Republic, Germany, and Chile. These 33 GIs are for only three categories of goods: manufactured, handicrafts, and food stuff. Italy is the only country with GI registered for food stuff (3 GIs), and Thailand for handicrafts (1 GI). The remaining countries including Italy (and excluding Thailand) have their GIs registered under manufactured goods. The maximum number of registered GIs are from Italy which is sixteen (16) including thirteen for manufactured goods and 3 for food stuff, followed by Portugal, Ireland, Czech Republic, and Germany with 2 GIs each. The remaining 8 countries: Peru, United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Mexico, Greece, and Chile have only 1 registered GIs each for manufactured goods; and Thailand 1 for handicrafts. Table 2 below under five heads, identifies these 33 registered GIs from thirteen countries.

Registered GIs in the Indian States

A total of 507 GIs are registered from all the Indian States. The GIs registered with more than one state and union territories have been included in the respective total of those states and union territories. The GIs registered from Jammu & Kashmir — as a State and as a Union Territory — have been mentioned under the respective heads.

When the registered thirty-one (31) “shared GI tags” (by the states with the union territories) are

counted in the total of each state, the number 514 increases to five hundred and twenty-five (525). This change is due to the fact that more than one State or/and the Union Territory share the same GI tag. A total of 194 are registered as agricultural goods, 2 as natural goods, 14 as manufactured goods, 279 as handicrafts, and 36 as food stuffs. The top three states with maximum number of registered GIs are: Uttar Pradesh (56), Karnataka 48, and Kerala 39. The top three states with maximum number of GIs registered in a year are: Uttarakhand 18 (2023–2024/ 12 A; 4 H; 1 FS; 1 M); Tamil Nadu 13 (2022–2023/ 5 A; 4 H; 4 FS) and Maharashtra 13 (2016–2017/ 12 A; 1 H); Karnataka 12 (2007–2008/ 7 A; 5 H including 3 shared). Maharashtra has maximum number of 27 GIs for agricultural goods; Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are the only states with 1 GI each for the natural goods; Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have 3 GIs each for the manufactured goods; Uttar Pradesh has the maximum 39 GIs for handicrafts; and Tamil Nadu has 8 GIs for the food stuffs. Table 3 below identifies the registered GIs in the Indian states under six heads.

Registered GIs Shared by the Indian States

A total of 14 registered GIs are shared by the states, and also by the states and the union territories. In the shared GI tags, there are 2 union territories, namely: Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu, and National Capital Territory of Delhi; and 20 States (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal). The period from which the maximum number of registered shared GIs are reported is 2007–2008. Two states have 10 shared GI tags. Three states have 2 shared GI tags. 2 states and 1 Union Territory, and 6 states and 1 Union Territory have 1 shared GI tag each. Of these 14 GI tags, 11 are for agricultural goods and 3 are for handicrafts. Among these 20 states with shared GI tags, Karnataka has a maximum of 5 GIs, followed by Kerala (4); Maharashtra (3); Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh (2); and the remaining mentioned states in the below table with 1 GI tag each. Table 4 below, under six heads identifies the registered GIs shared by the Indian states.

Table 2 — Registered GIs of Foreign Countries (2003–January 2024)

| S. No. | Country | Year | App. No(s). | Name | Goods | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| | | | | | Agricultural | Handicrafts | Manufactured | Natural Goods | Food Stuff |
| 1 | Peru | 2009–2010 | 43 | Peruvian Pisco | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 2 | France | 2010–2011 | 140 | Champagne | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 3 | United States of America | 2010–2011 | 146 | Napa Valley | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 4 | United Kingdom | 2010–2011 | 151 | Scotch Whisky | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 5 | Italy | 2010–2011 | 164 | Prosciutto di Parma | — | — | — | — | Yes |
| 6 | France | 2011–2012 | 230 | Cognac | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 7 | Portugal | 2011–2012 | 226 | Porto | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 8 | Portugal | 2011–2012 | 227 | Douro | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 9 | Mexico | 2012–2013 | 243 | Tequila | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 10 | Italy | 2016–2017 | 351 | Parmigiano Reggiano | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 11 | Italy | 2016–2017 | 503 | Prosecco | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 12 | Italy | 2016–2017 | 349 | Asiago | — | — | — | — | Yes |
| 13 | Thailand | 2017–2018 | 534 | Lamphun Brocade Thai Silk | — | Yes | — | — | — |
| 14 | Italy | 2018–2019 | 350 & 577 | Grana Padano | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 15 | Ireland | 2019–2020 | 345 | Irish Whiskey | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 16 | Greece | 2021–2022 | 263 | Chios Mastiha | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 17 | Italy | 2021–2022 | 347 | Gorgonzola | — | — | — | — | Yes |
| 18 | Italy | 2021–2022 | 366 | Brunello Di Montalcino | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 19 | Italy | 2021–2022 | 367 | Lambrusco Di Sorbara | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 20 | Italy | 2021–2022 | 368 | Lambrusco Gasparossa Di Castelvetro | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 21 | Italy | 2021–2022 | 362 | Montepulciano D'abruzzo | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 22 | Czech Republic | 2021–2022 | 251 | Žatecký chmel' | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 23 | Germany | 2021–2022 | 253 | Münchener Bier | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 24 | Italy | 21–2022 | 355 | Toscana | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 25 | Italy | 2021–2022 | 353 | Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 26 | Italy | 2021–2022 | 356 | Franciacorta | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 27 | Italy | 2021–2022 | 361 | Chianti | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 28 | Germany | 2021–2022 | 262 | Bayerisches Bier | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 29 | Ireland | 2021–2022 | 344 | Irish Cream/ Irish Cream Liqueur | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 30 | Italy | 2022–2023 | 346 | Provolone Valpadana | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 31 | Czech Republic | 2022–2023 | 250 | Českobudějovické Pivo | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 32 | Italy | 2022–2023 | 354 | Vino Nobile Di Montepulciano | — | — | Yes | — | — |
| 33 | Chile | 2022–2023 | 689 | Chilean Pisco | — | — | Yes | — | — |

Registered GIs in the Union Territories

A total of 7 GIs are registered from all the union territories (UT). Of these 7 GIs from the UTs, 2 are shared with the States. Ladakh has the maximum number of registered GIs which is four (4) followed by Pondicherry (now Puducherry) with 2 GIs.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, and Lakshadweep have not registered any GIs yet. Jammu and Kashmir after becoming a UT has registered one (1) GI. In a year, the maximum number of GIs registered by any UT is Ladakh which is 3 in the period 2022–2023 (2 H and 1A). The GIs registered

| | | Table 3 — Registered GIs in the Indian States (2003–January 2024) | | | | | | Maximum No. of GIs in the Period(s) | |
|--------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| S. No. | State | Total GIs | Shared GIs (included in the total) | Agricultural | Natural | Goods Manufactured | Handicraft | | Food Stuff |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 21 | 2 A | 3 | — | — | 15 | 3 | 2008–2009: 4 (3 H; 1 A) 2017–2018: 4 (4 H) |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 8 | — | 3 | — | — | 4 | 1 | 2023–2024: 6 (3 H; 2 A; 1 FS) |
| 3 | Assam | 11 | — | 7 | — | 1 | 3 | — | 2014–2015: 2 A 2019–2020: 2A |
| 4 | Bihar | 16 | — | 6 | — | — | 9 | 1 | 2007–2008: 3 H; 2016–2017: 3 H; 2017–2018: 3 A |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 7 | — | 2 | — | — | 5 | — | 2008–2009: 3 H |
| 6 | Goa | 10 | — | 7 | — | 1 | — | 2 | 2023–2024: 5 (4 A; 1 FS) |
| 7 | Gujarat | 19 | 1 H | 3 | — | — | 16 | — | 2008–2009: 3 H; 2011–2012: 3 (2 A, 1 H); 2015–2016: 3 H |
| 8 | Haryana | 2 | 2 (1 H; 1 A) | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 2010–2011: 1 H; 2015–2016: 1 A |
| 9 | Himachal Pradesh | 11 | 1 A | 3 | — | 1 | 7 | — | 2005–2006: 2 (1 A; 1 H); 2013–2014: 2 H; 2018–2019: 2 (1 A; 1 M); 2021–2022: 2 H |
| 10 | Jharkhand | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2020–2021 |
| 11 | Karnataka | 48 | 4 (3 A; 1 H) | 24 | — | 3 | 20 | 1 | 2007–2008: 12 (7 A; 5 H including 3 shared) |
| 12 | Kerala | 39 | 4 A | 24 | — | — | 15 | — | 2007–2008: 7 (6 A including 4 shared; 1 H) |
| 13 | Madhya Pradesh | 22 | 2 A | 5 | — | — | 14 | 3 | 2022–2023: 9 (6 H; 2 A; 1 FS) |
| 14 | Maharashtra | 35 | 3 (2 H; 1 A) | 27 | — | 1 | 7 | — | 2016–2017: 13 (12 A; 1 H) |
| 15 | Manipur | 6 | 1 A | 4 | — | — | 2 | — | 2013–2014: 2 H; 2021–2022: 2 A |
| 16 | Meghalaya | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2014–15: 1 A; 2015–2016: 1 A |
| 17 | Mizoram | 7 | — | 2 | — | — | 5 | — | 2019–2020: 5 H |
| 18 | Nagaland | 5 | 1 A | 4 | — | — | 1 | — | 2008–2009: 1 A; 2014–2015: 1 A; 2017–2018: 1 H; 2019–2020: 1 A (shared) |
| 19 | Odisha | 26 | 1 A | 5 | — | 1 | 15 | 5 | 2023–2024: 8 (4 FS; 2 A; 2 H) |
| 20 | Punjab | 2 | 2 (1 H; 1 A) | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | 2010–2011: 1 H; 2015–2016: 1 A |
| 21 | Rajasthan | 21 | 1 H | 1 | 1 | — | 18 | 1 | 2023–2024: 5 H |
| 22 | Sikkim | 2 | 1 A | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2014–2015: 1 A; 2021–2022: 1 A |
| 23 | Tamil Nadu | 61 | — | 16 | — | 2 | 35 | 8 | 2022–2023: 13 (5 A; 4 H; 4 FS) |
| 24 | Telangana | 17 | 1 A | 2 | — | — | 14 | 1 | 2010–2011: 4 (3 H; 1 FS); 2017–2018: 4 (3 H; 1 A shared) |
| 25 | Tripura | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 2014–2015: 1 A |
| 26 | Uttarakhand | 26 | — | 15 | — | 1 | 9 | 1 | 2023–2024: 18 (12 A; 4 H; 1 FS; 1 M) |
| 27 | Uttar Pradesh | 56 | 2 A | 11 | 1 | 3 | 39 | 2 | 2022–2023: 11 (5 A; 4 H; 2 FS) |
| 28 | West Bengal | 27 | 1 A | 8 | — | — | 14 | 5 | 2017–2018: 9 (6 H; 2 A; 1 FS) |
| 29 | Jammu & Kashmir (before the Amendment) | 16 | 1 A | 5 | — | — | 9 | 2 | 2023–2024: 7 (3 A; 2 H; 2 FS) |
| Total | 29 | 525 | 31 | 194 | 2 | 14 | 279 | 36 | — |

Table 4 — Shared GIs by the Indian States

| S. No. | GI Name | Application No. | States/Union Territories | Period | Goods | | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------|------------|
| | | | | | Agricultural | Handicrafts | Manufactured | Natural | Food Stuff |
| 1 | Malabar Pepper | 49 and 56 | Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu | 2007–2008 | Yes | — | — | — | — |
| 2 | Monsooned Malabar Arabica Coffee | 85 | Karnataka and Kerala | 2007–2008 | Yes | — | — | — | — |
| 3 | Monsooned Malabar Robusta Coffee | 114 | Karnataka and Kerala | 2007–2008 | Yes | — | — | — | — |
| 4 | Alleppey Green Cardamom | 72 | Kerala and Tamil Nadu | 2007–2008 | Yes | — | — | — | — |
| 5 | Phulkari | 27 | Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan | 2010–2011 | — | Yes | — | — | — |
| 6 | Warli Painting | 239 | Maharashtra, Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman Diu (UT) | 2013–2014 | — | Yes | — | — | — |
| 7 | Nagpur Orange | 385 | Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh | 2013–2014 | Yes | — | — | — | — |
| 8 | Basmati | 145 | Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi (UT), Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir | 2015–2016 | Yes | — | — | — | — |
| 9 | Banaganapalle Mangoes | 241 | Telangana and Andhra Pradesh | 2017–2018 | Yes | — | — | — | — |
| 10 | Kolhapuri Chappal | 169 | Karnataka and Maharashtra | 2018–2019 | — | Yes | — | — | — |
| 11 | Araku Valley Arabica Coffee | 607 | Andhra Pradesh and Odisha | 2018–2019 | Yes | — | — | — | — |
| 12 | Chak-Hao | 602 | Manipur and Nagaland | — | Yes | — | — | — | — |
| 13 | Mahoba Desawari | 401 | Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh | Yes | — | — | — | — | — |
| 14 | Dalle Khursani | 636 | Sikkim and West Bengal | Yes | — | — | — | — | — |

Table 5 — Registered GIs in the Union Territories (2003–January 2024)

| S. No. | Union Territory | Total GIs | Shared GIs (included in the total) | | Goods | | | Maximum No. of GIs in the Period | |
|--------|--|-----------|--|---------|--------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| | | | Agricultural | Natural | Manufactured | Handicraft | Food stuff | | |
| 1 | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 2 | Chandigarh | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 3 | Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu | 1 | 1 H (Maharashtra and Gujarat) | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2013–2014: 1 A |
| 4 | The Government of NCT of Delhi | 1 | 1 A (Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir) | — | — | — | — | — | 2015–2016: 1 A |
| 5 | Ladakh | 4 | — | 2 | — | — | 2 | — | 2022–2023: 3 (2 H; 1A) |
| 6 | Lakshadweep | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 7 | Pondicherry (now Puducherry) | 2 | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2011–2012: 2 H |
| 8 | Jammu & Kashmir (after the Amendment) | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2022–2023: 1 H |
| Total | | 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | — |

with more than one State and Union Territory have been included in the respective total of that State and the Union Territory. Table 5 captures the details of the GIs registered by the Union Territories.

Registered GIs Shared by the Union Territory(ies) and the States

Two Union Territories with eight States have two shared GI tags. In one GI, it is with two states, and in

Table 6 — Registered GIs: Union Territory(ies) and States

| S. No. | Name | Goods | Union Territory(ies) | States |
|--------|----------------|--------------|---|--|
| 1 | Warli Painting | Handicrafts | Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu | Maharashtra and Gujarat |
| 2 | Basmati | Agricultural | Delhi | Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir |

the other, it is with six other states. These two GI tags are for handicrafts and agricultural goods each (Table 6).

Conclusion

Out of 1181 applications for GI registration, the registered 547 GIs constitute 46.31 (point 31) percent. Since coming into force of the Act, on an average, 27.35 (twenty-seven point three five) GIs have been registered each year, or one GI in 13.58 days (0.037 years). The registered GIs from the Indian States constitute 92.68 (point six eight) percent, and the Union Territories constitute 1.27 (one point two seven) percent of the total registered GIs under the Act. Whereas, the percentage of registered GIs from foreign countries is 6.03 (six point zero three) which is 86.65 percent lesser than the states and 4.76 (four point seven six) percent higher than the union territories. Several (new) applications for the registration of GI are under process before the Registrar of Geographical Indications,¹² which shall be decided after following the prescribed procedure. The timely and successful disposal of these applications will certainly add more to the total number of registered GIs.

On the basis of above review of the registered GIs, it may be said that there is a disparity among the states and union territories in terms of the number of registered GIs. One of the reasons could be the intricacies involved in the process of registration which has resulted into delay in the timely adjudication of the GI applications. Also, the Geographical Indications Registry is located only at one place *i.e.*, Chennai (in the State of Tamil Nadu) – making it inconvenient for the producers and entities from other places to be present for hearing, examination, or opposition.

Simplification of procedure not only helps in achieving the objectives of the Act, but also in disseminating the information, and creating awareness among the stakeholders. Moreover, there is a need to disseminate information about GI and make producers and artisans in rural areas aware of the legal protection, remedies, and registration process, among other aspects. This will further help the entities to come forward for the GI protection. In order to

achieve the objectives of the Act '[T]o provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods', there is a need for:

- (i) a fast-track prosecution of GI applications to avoid long and unnecessary delay;
- (ii) simplification of the registration process; and
- (iii) spreading awareness of GI.

Recently, the GI Rules³ have been amended by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) (Amendment) Rules, 2020.¹³ Also, the Draft Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) (Amendment) Rules, 2023 has been published on the Gazette of India, inviting objections and suggestions from the public.¹⁴

References

- 1 World Intellectual Property Organization, *Geographical Indications: An Introduction* (WIPO, Geneva) 2012, 8.
- 2 The GI Act 48 of 1999.
- 3 The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Rules, 2002. The Gazette of India, G.S.R. 176(E), *Extraordinary*, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) dated 8 March 2002, https://ipindia.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/IPORule/1_27_1_gi-rules.pdf (accessed on 11 February 2024). The Rules were amended by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) (Amendment) Rules, 2020; The Gazette of India, G.S.R. 528(E), *Extraordinary*, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) dated 26 August 2020, https://ipindia.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/pdf/Notification-GI_amenmdent_rules.pdf (accessed on 12 February 2024).
- 4 The Act came into force on 15 September 2003.
- 5 30 December 1999; The Gazette of India, No. 61, *Extraordinary*, Part II, Section 3 dated 30 December 1999, https://web.archive.org/web/20130810082013fw_/http://ipindia.nic.in/girindia/GI_Act.pdf (accessed on 12 February 2024).
- 6 The Gazette Notification of the Act as available on the websites of the Geographical Indications Registry, https://web.archive.org/web/20130810082013fw_/http://ipindia.nic.in/girindia/GI_Act.pdf (accessed on 10 February 2024); and the IP India, https://ipindia.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/IPOAct/1_49_1_gi-act-1999.pdf (accessed on 10 February 2024).
- 7 Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks, Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India (Intellectual Property India); <https://ipindia.gov.in/the-registration-process-gi.htm>; and <https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublic/> (accessed on 11 February 2024).

- 8 All Applications, Geographical Indications Registry, <https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublic/> (accessed on 12 February 2024).
- 9 The Pondicherry (Alteration of Name) Act, 2006 [Act 44 of 2006]; Section 3.
- 10 The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 [Act 34 of 2019].
- 11 Section 2 (1) (f) of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 defines 'goods' as: '*...means any agricultural, natural or manufactured goods or any goods of handicraft or of industry and includes food stuff*'.
- 12 The Controller-General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks appointed under sub-Section (1) of Section 3 of the Trade Marks Act, 1999 [Act 47 of 1999], shall be the Registrar of Geographical Indications.' Section 3 of the Act.
- 13 The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) (Amendment) Rules, 2020. The Gazette of India, G.S.R. 528(E), No. 22, CG-DL-E-26082020-221348, *Extraordinary*, Part II, Section 3(i) dated 26 August 2020, https://ipindia.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/pdf/Notification-GI_amenmdent_rules.pdf (accessed on 11 February 2024), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India.
- 14 The draft Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) (Amendment) Rules, 2023. The Gazette of India, G.S.R. 789(E), No. 611, CG-DL-E-23102023-249634, *Extraordinary*, Part II, Section 3 (i) dated 7 October 2023, https://ipindia.gov.in/writereaddata/Portal/News/929_1_draft_Geographical_Indications_of_Goods_Registration_and_Protection_Amendment_Rules_2023.pdf (accessed on 11 February 2024), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India.