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A Descriptive Study on Demography of Geographical Indicators of IPR in India

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Abstract

Intellectual Property rights in India always has its own stake holders i.e it is meant to those who know about it. Even in the components of IPR, the Geographical indicators are least known to general public, specially to rural population. Total there are 643 geographical indicators which are registered but to what extent is it applied and leveraging on its registration is always a concern to be addressed. Though the local sellers or producers are aware that the product is popular but they are not aware of the GI tagged products and they miserably fail to protect their rights of GI tagged products. In this study we are making an attempt to describe the GI tagged products across the states. The Geographical Indications (GI) registration in India provides insights into the distribution and sectoral contributions of these tags across the country. With 643 registered GIs, the diversity of regional and product-specific heritage is evident. Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka lead with 236 tags, or 38.31% of the total, highlighting their role in preserving India's cultural and agricultural heritage. Southern India, with 185 tags (30% of the total), particularly Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, is a significant hub for GI tags. Handicrafts and agricultural products dominate the GI registrations, accounting for 54% and 35%, respectively. This emphasizes the importance of these sectors in India's cultural and economic fabric. The geographical distribution of GIs indicates widespread recognition of unique products, reflecting India's diverse cultural richness. The GI tag system not only protects India's heritage but also enhances the economic potential of these products globally.

Key words: IPR, Geographical Indicators, GI Tags, Average distribution, GI Contribution.

1. Introduction

Geographical Indicators (GIs) are markers used to identify products originating from specific regions and possessing qualities or characteristics inherent to those locations. In India, GIs serve as a critical mechanism to preserve cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and biodiversity. The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, operational since 2003, provides the legal

framework for GI protection. Iconic products such as Darjeeling Tea, Mysore

Silk, Banarasi Saree, Kashmiri Pashmina, and Alphonso Mango have gained recognition under this act, reflecting their unique regional qualities. However, challenges such as counterfeiting, low awareness, quality control issues, and bureaucratic hurdles threaten the efficacy of GI protection.

The government has demonstrated strong commitment by establishing the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai and launching initiatives like "One District One Product." International collaborations, notably with the European Union, further enhance GI protection in global markets. By promoting GIs, India not only safeguards its unique products but also strengthens its cultural legacy and creates economic opportunities for future generations. GIs are integral to India's intellectual property rights framework, offering legal protection and supporting rural development. The first product to receive a GI tag in India was Darjeeling Tea, setting a precedent for others.

Background of the Study

GIs play a pivotal role in protecting intellectual property linked to specific regions, fostering rural development, economic growth, and biodiversity conservation. In India, the enactment of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, marked a significant step in identifying, registering, and safeguarding diverse products. Recognized items like Darjeeling Tea, Mysore Silk, and Kashmiri Pashmina epitomize the essence of their regions.

The GI registration process entails documenting a product's origin, qualities, production methods, and historical significance, thereby promoting its cultural and economic importance. However, counterfeiting, lack of producer awareness, and inconsistent quality standards pose significant challenges. Counterfeiting undermines genuine GI products, while inadequate awareness among small-scale artisans limits the potential benefits of GI registration. Ensuring quality standards is particularly difficult for resource-constrained producers.

To address these challenges, the Indian government has launched initiatives such as the Geographical Indications Registry and the "One District One Product" scheme. International collaborations further bolster GI protection. These efforts underscore the importance of GIs in preserving cultural diversity and traditional craftsmanship, while fostering sustainable rural development.

Importance

GIs enhance product marketability by differentiating them from generic goods, leading to increased sales and higher incomes for local producers. For instance, Darjeeling Tea's GI status enables it to command premium prices. GIs preserve traditional practices and skills, sustaining cultural heritage and encouraging artisans and farmers to uphold these traditions. Furthermore, they contribute to rural development by generating employment and improving living standards in economically disadvantaged areas. GIs also assure consumers of product quality and authenticity, strengthening the reputation of regions and fostering customer loyalty.

2. Scope of the Study

This study comprehensively analyzes the demographic aspects of GIs in India within the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) framework. It examines the geographical distribution of GIs across states, sectoral representation, temporal registration trends, and socio-economic impacts on communities. Utilizing quantitative and qualitative methods, the research aims to inform policymakers and stakeholders about strategies to enhance GIs' economic and cultural benefits, thereby promoting regional development and cultural preservation.

3. Review of Literature

Das (2010): Explores the potential and challenges of GIs in India, focusing on their socio-economic impact and implementation hurdles. Through case studies, the article highlights the significance of GIs in safeguarding traditional products and fostering economic development.

Rangnekar (2009): Analyzes the localization aspect of GIs through a case study of Feni, emphasizing their role in regional development and cultural preservation.

Bhat (2017): Examines Darjeeling Tea as a case study, discussing the legal and practical challenges of GI protection within the Indian tea industry and the importance of effective regulatory frameworks.

Bhattacharjee and Dey (2014): Investigates the relationship between GIs and socio-economic development, focusing on their role in empowering local communities, enhancing market access, and promoting sustainable development.

Chaudhuri and Ujjual (2011): Highlights the critical role of GIs in protecting traditional knowledge and promoting economic development, emphasizing the need for robust legal frameworks.

Maniatis (2011): Examines the evolving landscape of GI regulation in India, considering globalization, trade agreements, and domestic policy reforms.

Bose (2010): Investigates the role of GIs in rural development, emphasizing their impact on market access, traditional knowledge preservation, and sustainable livelihoods.

Awasthi (2013): Assesses the implications of GI protection for rural development, exploring its role in economic growth and social progress in rural areas.

Chakraborty (2014): Uses Basmati rice as a case study to analyze the impact of GIs on

economic upliftment, cultural preservation, and sustainable agriculture in rural India.

Sharma and Kulhari (2017): Explores the socio-economic implications of GIs for producers, focusing on Pashmina. The study highlights the potential of GIs to empower producers and enhance product quality.

Research Gap

Existing research on GIs in India predominantly addresses their economic contributions, public awareness, and socio-economic impacts. However, there is limited analysis of the demographic distribution, regional concentration, and sectoral representation of GIs. This study aims to bridge this gap by quantifying and analyzing the regional and sectoral distribution of GI tags in India, focusing on industries beyond agriculture, such as handicrafts and textiles. The research provides a comprehensive understanding of GIs' role in fostering inclusive growth.

4. Statement of the Problem

GIs are critical for economic prosperity and cultural preservation, linking products to their geographical origins and unique qualities. Despite their importance, there is limited understanding of the demographic distribution and characteristics of GIs in India. This knowledge gap hinders effective policymaking and promotion efforts essential for regional development and the protection of traditional knowledge. India's diverse heritage includes numerous products eligible for GI registration, but existing literature lacks insights into their regional concentration, sectoral distribution, and socio-economic impacts. This research addresses these gaps by analyzing geographical, sectoral, and temporal patterns of GI registrations in India, thereby enhancing IPR policies and promoting sustainable development.

5. Objectives

- 1) To describe the current scenario of geographical Indicators in Indian Context.
- 2) To Classify the state wise contribution of GI.
- 3) To analyze the state wise average registered GI Tags in India.

6. Research Design

The study is descriptive in nature so it mainly relies on quantitative study which is based on secondary data which are available in official website of IPR. As it is already mentioned that it is a quantitative study the

general statistical tools like averaging, mean, median are used in calculation and analysis of data to arrive at a meaningful interpretation. The study is based on secondary data which was collected from the official websites of IPR and WIPO.

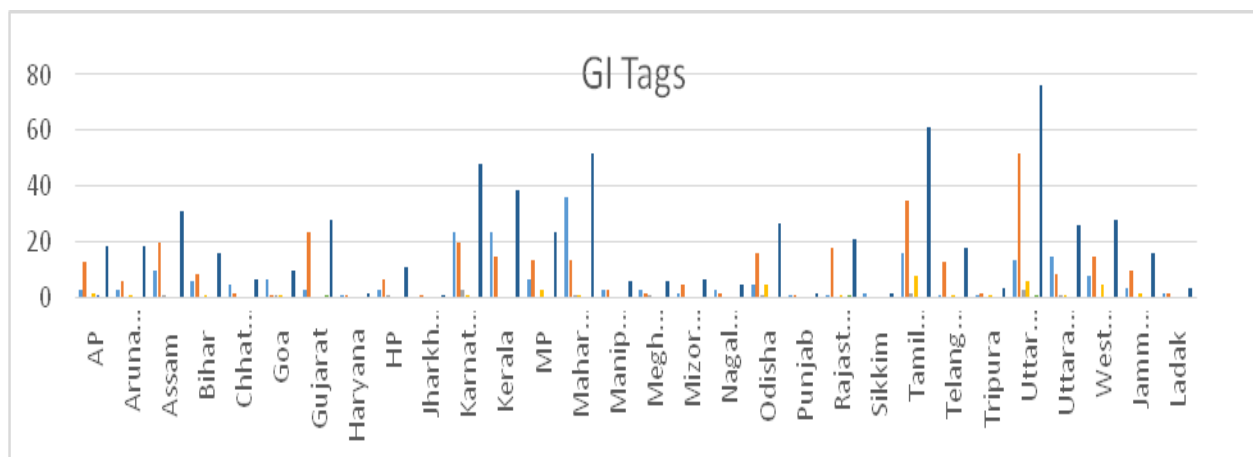
7. Data Analysis and Discussion

India has totally 28 states and in all the states the GI Tags are covered in different numbers. Where Uttar Pradesh has highest followed by Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra i.e 71, 61, 52 followed by Karnataka with 48 GI Tags. Rest of the other state's statistics is given in the below table.

State wise Classification on GI Tags

Sl No	State	Agri	Hand	Manu	Food Stuff	Textile	Natural good	Total GI tags	Percentage
1	AP	3	13	0	2	1	0	19	2.95%
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3	6	0	1	0	0	19	2.95%
3	Assam	10	20	1	0		0	31	4.82%
4	Bihar	6	9	0	1	0	0	16	2.48%
5	Chhattisgarh	5	2	0	0	0	0	7	1.08
6	Goa	7	1	1	1	0	0	10	1.55
7	Gujarat	3	24	0	0	0	1	28	4.35
8	Haryana	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.31
9	HP	3	7	1	0		0	11	1.71
10	Jharkhand	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.15
11	Karnataka	24	20	3	1	0	0	48	7.46
12	Kerala	24	15	0	0		0	39	6.06
13	MP	7	14	0	3	0	0	24	3.73
14	Maharashtra	36	14	1	1	0	0	52	8.08
15	Manipur	3	3	0	0	0	0	6	0.93
16	Meghalaya	3	2	1	0	0	0	6	0.93
17	Mizoram	2	5	0	0	0	0	7	1.08
18	Nagaland	3	2	0	0	0	0	5	0.77
19	Odisha	5	16	1	5	0	0	27	4.19
20	Punjab	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.31
21	Rajasthan	1	18	0	1	0	1	21	3.26
22	Sikkim	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.31
23	Tamil Nadu	16	35	2	8	0	0	61	9.48

24	Telangana	1	13	0	1	0	0	18	2.79
25	Tripura	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	0.6
26	Uttar Pradesh	14	52	3	6	0	1	76	11.81
27	Uttarakhand	15	9	1	1	0	0	26	4.04
28	West Bengal	8	15	0	5	0	0	28	4.35%
29	Jammu and Kashmir	4	10	0	2	0	0	16	2.48%
30	Ladhak	2	2	0	0	0	0	4	0.6%
31	Other Countries							20	3.11%
	Total	180	240	15	37	1	3	643	100

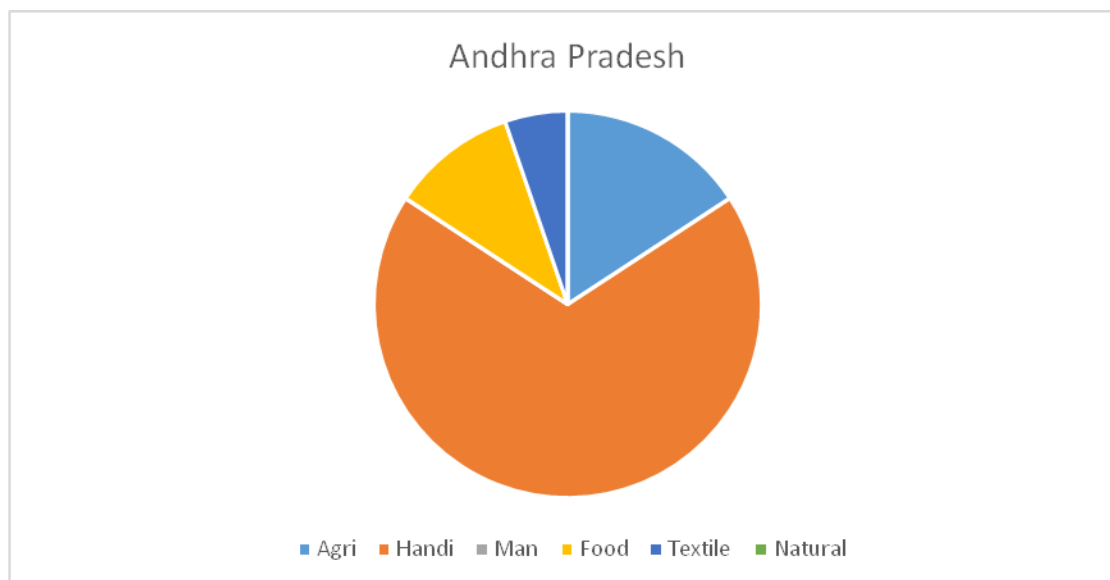


List of GI Tags Regsitered in India from Foreign Countries.

SI No	Country	GI Tags
1	Chile	01
2	Check Republic	02
3	France	02
4	Germany	02
5	Greece	03
6	Ireland	01
7	Italy	01
8	Japan	01
9	Mexico	01
10	Peru	01
11	Portugal	01
12	Spain	01
13	Thailand	01
14	United Kingdom	01
15	USA	01
Total		20

Andhra Pradesh

State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
AP	3	13	0	2	1	0	19



Andhra Pradesh is south Indian State with area of 162,975 square kilometers with the population of 49,577,103. It is a state mainly an agricultural state with considerably good area and with good resources. The state has

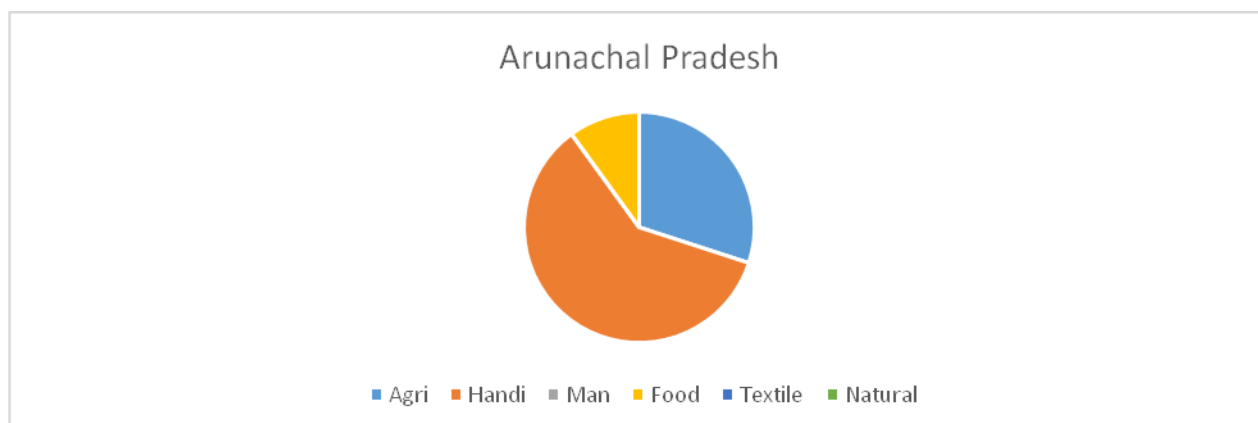
with a the total of 19 GI tags. The average GIs of the state is 8577 Square Kilometers. i.e Andhra Pradesh has one GI tag registered for every 8577 square kilometers.

Arunachal Pradesh

State	Agriculture	Handicrafts	Manufactured	Food stuff	Textile	Natural Good	Total
Arunachal Pradesh	3	6	0	1	0	0	19

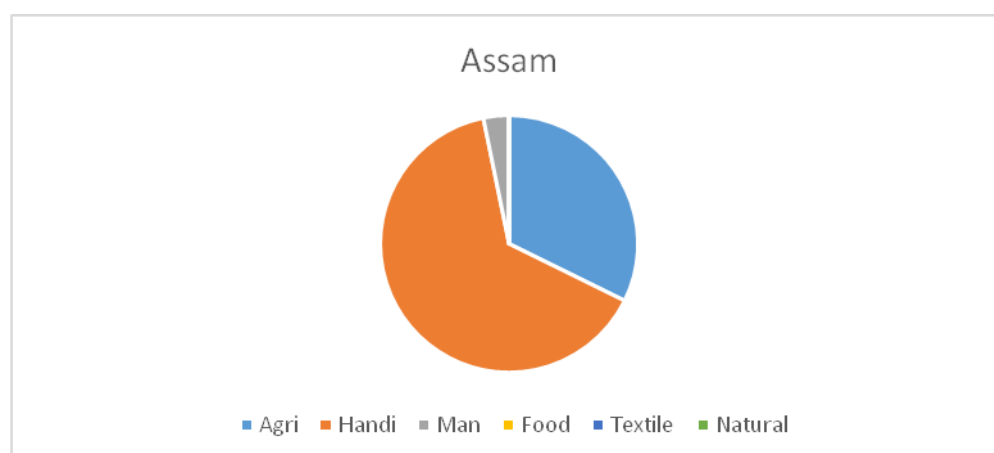
Arunachal Pradesh is an east Indian State with the population of 1,383,727 with the area of 83,743 Square kms. In this state

there 19 Gitags registered. We can find out the average of GI tags 4407.52. that is for every 4407 sq km there is one GI registered.



Assam

State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Assam	10	20	1	0	0	0	31

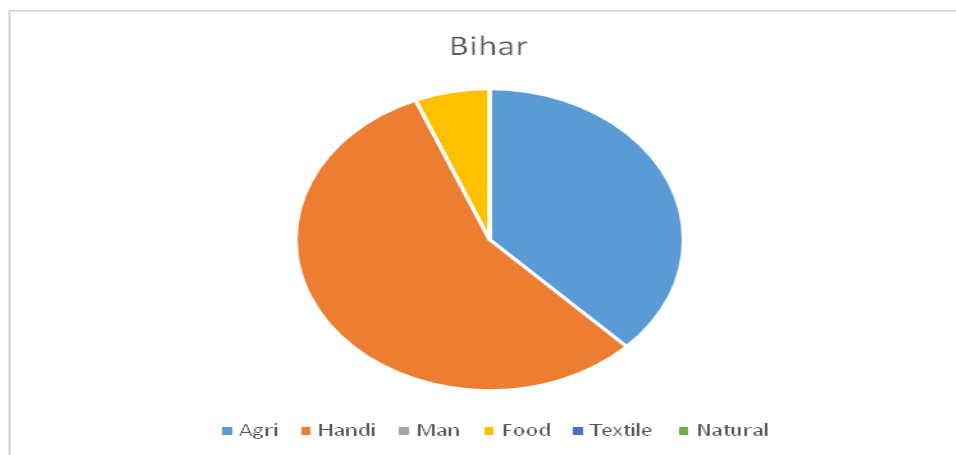


Assam is also an East Indian state with the population of 31,205,576 with the area of 78,438 which is generally of mountainous

region. Assam has registered totally of 31 GI tags. For every 2530.25 sq km there is a GI registered.

Bihar

State	Agriculture	Handicrafts	Manufactured	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Bihar	6	9	0	1	0	0	16



Bihar is a north eastern State with the population of 104,099,452 which is slightly higher with the area of 94,163 sq km and

there totally 16 GI tags with an average of 5885 sq km. That means for every 5885 sq km there is a GI tag registered.

Chhattisgarh

State	Agri	Handicrafts	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Chhattisgarh	5	2	0	0	0	0	7

Chhattisgarh is located in central part of India which was actually a part of Madhya Pradesh but it got its independent state status in the year 2000. The state's population is 25,545,198 with the area of 135,192 sq km.

The total GI registered tags are 7 and if it is averaged we get 19313 sq km. that means for every 19313 sq km there one GI tag registered

Goa

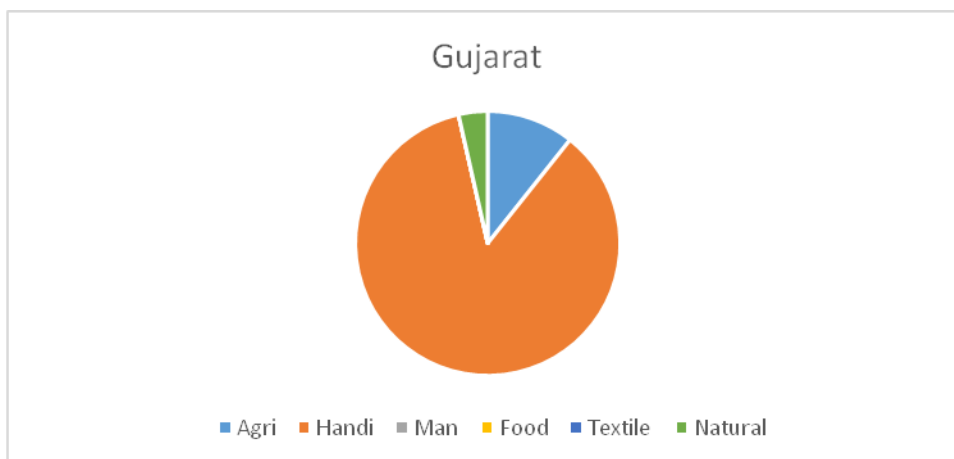
State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Goa	7	1	1	1	0	0	10

Goa is western costal state with Portuguese culture. It has the population of 1,458,545 with the area of 3,702. It is relatively a smaller state geographically but it earns it

revenue from tourism. Totally 10 GI tags are registered and the average GI tags for sq km is 370.2

Gujarat

State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Gujarat	3	24	0	0	0	1	28

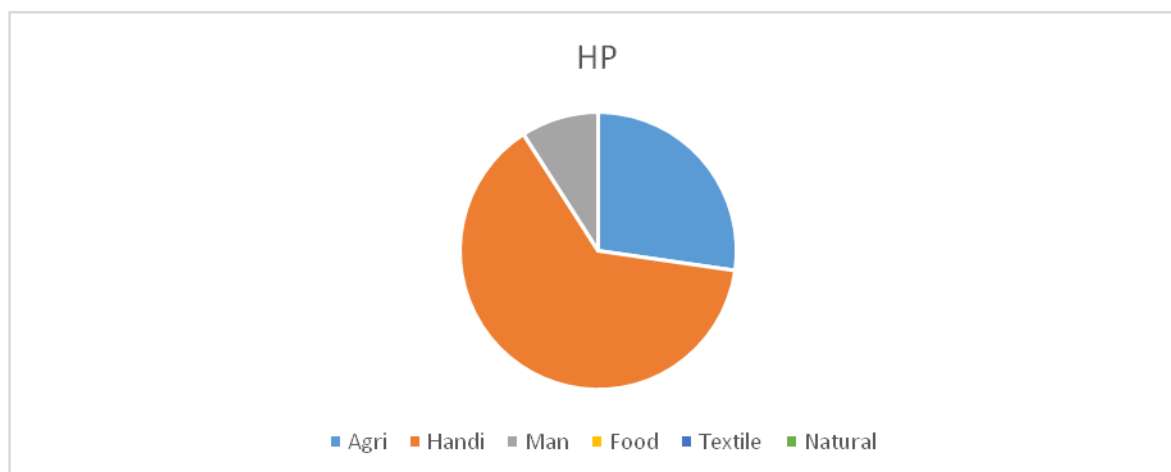


Gujarat is again an Eastern state with the population of 60,439,692. Mostly it is an industrialized state in India with the area of 196,024 sq km. There are totally 28 GI tags registered where 24 of them are registered

under Handicraft category. The average GI tags of the state would be 7000.85. i. e for every 7000 sq km there one GI registered in Gujarat.

Himachal Pradesh

State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
HP	3	7	1	0		0	11



Himachal Pradesh is a state northern state with the area of 55,673 sq km with the population of 6,864,602. The total number

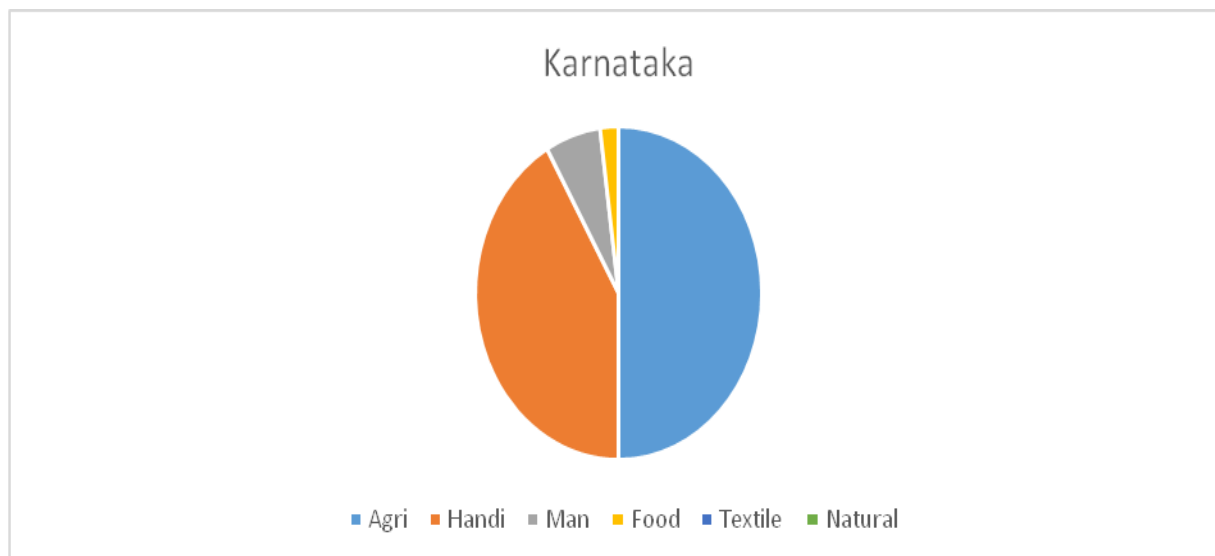
of GI tags are 11. The majority of GI tags are registered under handicraft category, for every 5061 sq km there is one GI registered

Karnataka

Sl No	Application no	GI	Sector
1	11	Mysore Silk	Handicraft
2	13 & 18	Mysore Agarbathi	Manufactured
3	20	Bidriware	Handicraft
4	23	Channapatna Toys & Dolls	Handicraft
5	24	Mysore Rosewood Inlay	Handicraft
6	29	Mysore Sandalwood Oil	Manufactured
7	30	Mysore Sandal soap	Manufactured
8	31	Kasuti Embroidery	Handicraft
9	32	Mysore Traditional Paintings	Handicraft
10	33	Coorg Orange	Agricultural
11	34	Mysore Betel leaf	Agricultural
12	35	Nanjanagud Banana	Agricultural
13	69	Mysore Malligae	Agricultural
14	70	Udupi Malligae	Agricultural
15	71	HadagaliMalligae	Agricultural
16	76	Ilkal Sarees	Handicraft
17	49 & 56	Malabar Pepper	Agricultural
18	60	Ganjifa Cards of Mysore	Handicraft
19	61	Navalgund Durries	Handicraft
20	62	Karnataka Bronzeware	Handicraft
21	77	Molakalmuru Sarees	Handicraft
22	85	Monsooned Malabar Arabica Coffee	Agricultural
23	114	Monsooned Malabar Robusta Coffee	Agricultural
24	78	Coorg Green Cardamom	Agricultural
25	80	Dharwad Pedha	Food stuff
26	131	DevanahalliPomello	Agricultural
27	132	Appemidi Mango	Agricultural
28	133	Kamalapur Red Banana	Agricultural
29	134	SandurLambani Embroidery	Handicraft
30	129	ByadagiChilli	Agricultural
31	199	Udupi MattuGullaBrinjal	Agricultural
32	213	Kinhal Toys	Handicraft
33	211	Bangalore Blue Grapes	Agricultural
34	212	Bangalore Rose Onion	Agricultural
35	510	Karnataka Bronzeware (Logo)	Handicrafts
36	511	Ganjifa Cards of Mysore (Logo)	Handicrafts
37	512	Navalgund Durries (Logo)	Handicrafts
38	210	GuledguddKhana	Handicrafts

39	224	Udupi Sarees	Handicrafts
40	532	Mysore Silk (Logo)	Handicrafts
41	169	KolhapuriChappal	Handicraft
42	604	Coorg Arabica Coffee	Agricultural
43	606	Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee	Agricultural
44	608	Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee	Agricultural
45	464	Sirsi Supari	Agricultural
46	593	Gulbarga Tur Dal	Agricultural
47	745	Indi Limbe	Agricultural
48	843	Kari Ishad Mango	Agricultural

State	Agricultur e	Handicraft s	Manufactur e	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Karnatak a	24	20	3	1	0	0	48

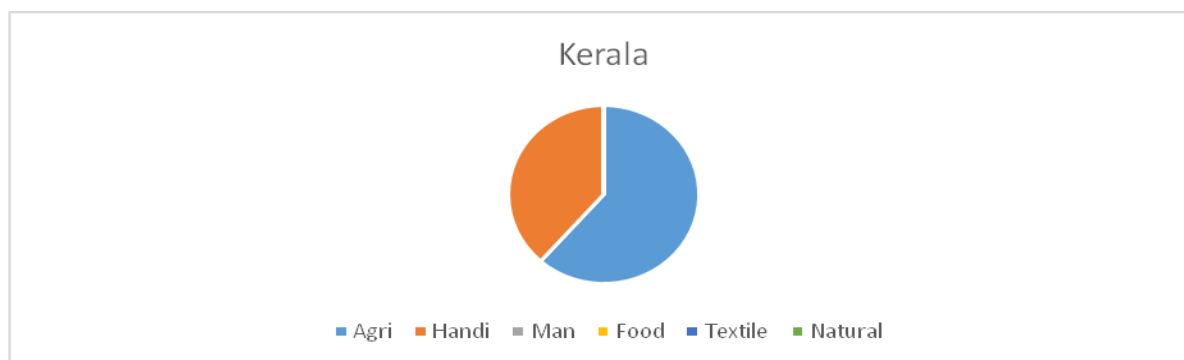


Karnataka is a South Indian state with the population of 61,095,297, of which only 38% is urban population. The major occupation of the state is agriculture. There are totally 48 GI tags registered in Karnataka which are spread across the state. Both Handicraft and agriculture are the

major contributors with 20 and 24 respectively. Followed by manufacturing sector 3 and food stuff 1. The Area of the state is 191,791. The average GI Tags for state will be 3995.64. that means approximately for every 3995 sq km there a GI tag registered in Karnataka.

Kerala

State	Agriculture	Handicrafts	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Kerala	24	15	0	0	0	0	39

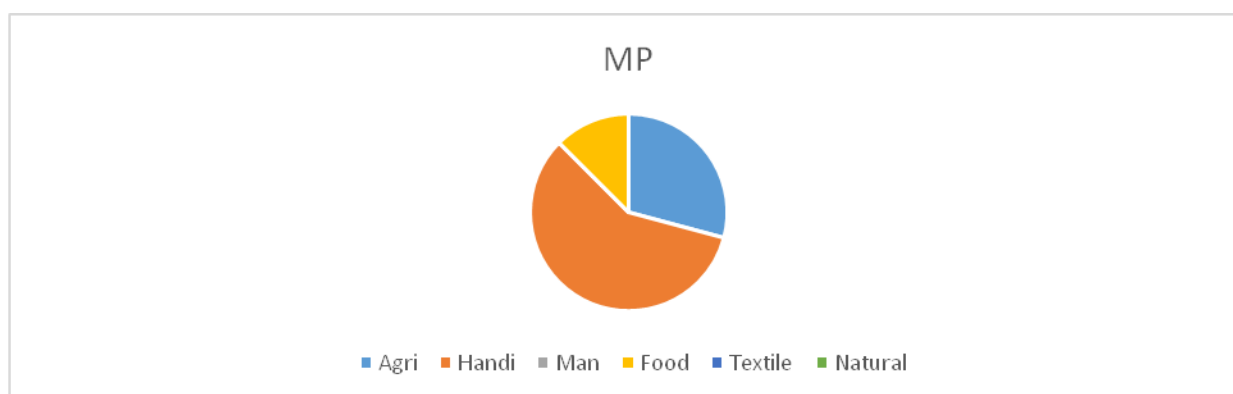


Kerala is the most literate state in India which is located in south western costal region of India with the population of 33,406,061. The state is spread across 38,863 sq km of area. The state has totally

of 39 GI tags and the average of GI tags for the area will be 996.48 sq km, I.e for every 996 sq km there is one GI registered in the state.

MadhyaPradesh

State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
MP	7	14	0	3	0	0	24

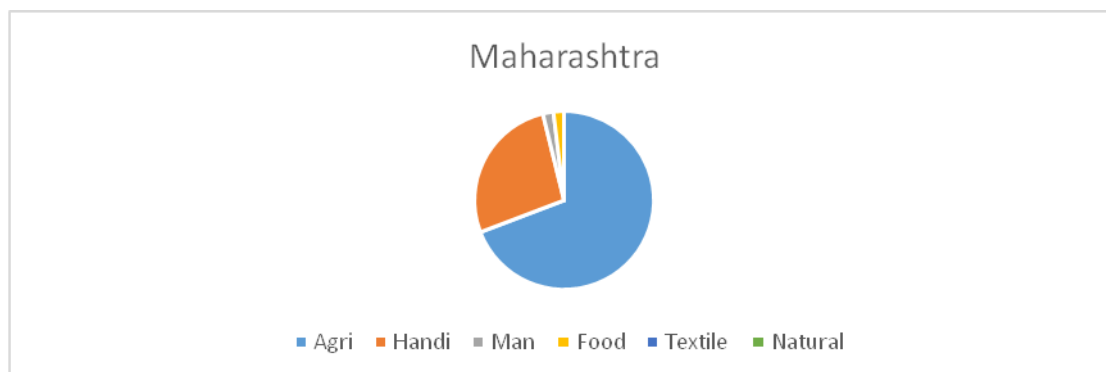


Madhya Pradesh is centrally located state with the population of 72,626,809 and the major occupation of the state is agriculture. It is still process of industrialization. The area of the state is 308,252 sq km. the total

number of GI tags is 24. The average GI for the entire state will be 12843.83. that means for every 12843 sq km one GI is registered in the state.

Maharashtra

State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Maharashtra	36	14	1	1	0	0	52

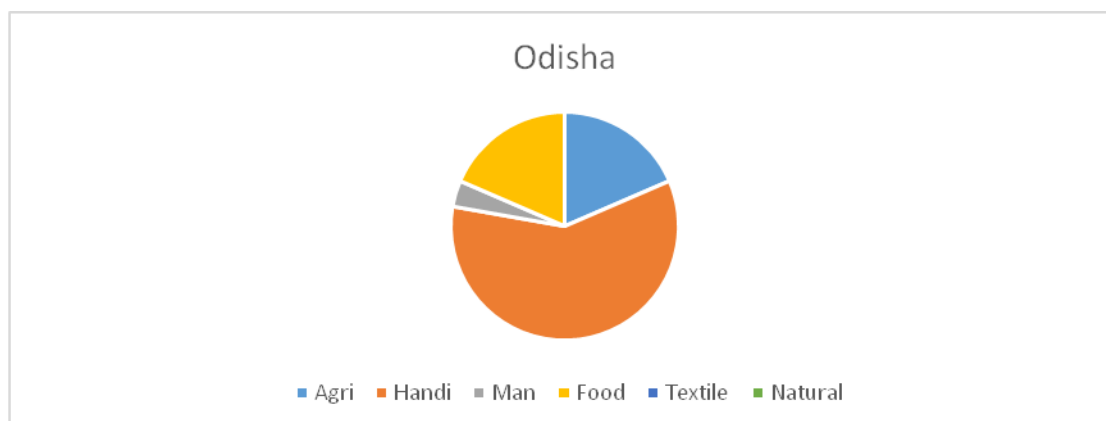


Maharashtra is considerably a developed state with the urban population of 50,818,259 and rural population being 61,556,074 which makes it a total of 112,374,333. The state is located in eastern part of India and it is known to be a commercial capital. The total area of the state is 307,713. Even in this state agriculture is considered to be the

major occupation. There are totally 52 GI tags registered in the entire state which makes it third largest contributor to the GI tags in India out of which agricultural sector has highest registrations followed by handicrafts sector. The 5917 sq km is the average, i.e. for every 5197 sq km there is one GI registered.

Odisha

State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Odisha	5	16	1	5	0	0	27

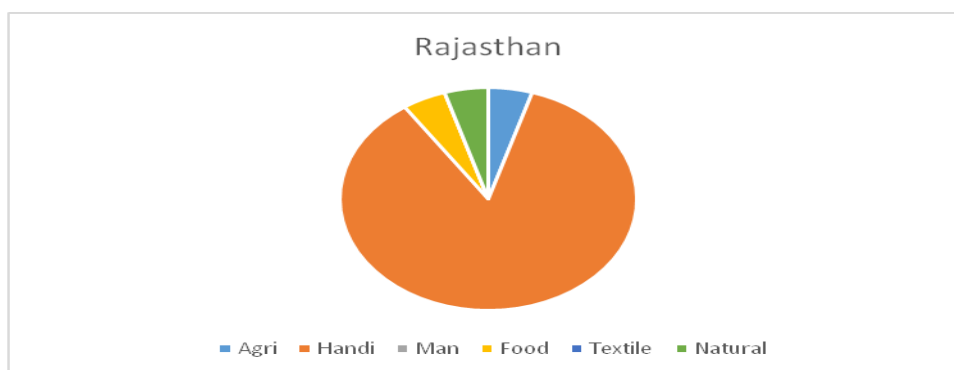


Odisha is an eastern state with population of 41,974,219. The state is agricultural by profession and it is spread in the area of 155,707 sq km. there are 27 GI tags registered in the state

and 15 are in the sector of handicrafts. The average distribution of GI tags in the state is 5766 sq km. i.e for every 5766 sq km there is one GI registered.

Rajasthan

State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Rajasthan	1	18	0	1	0	1	21

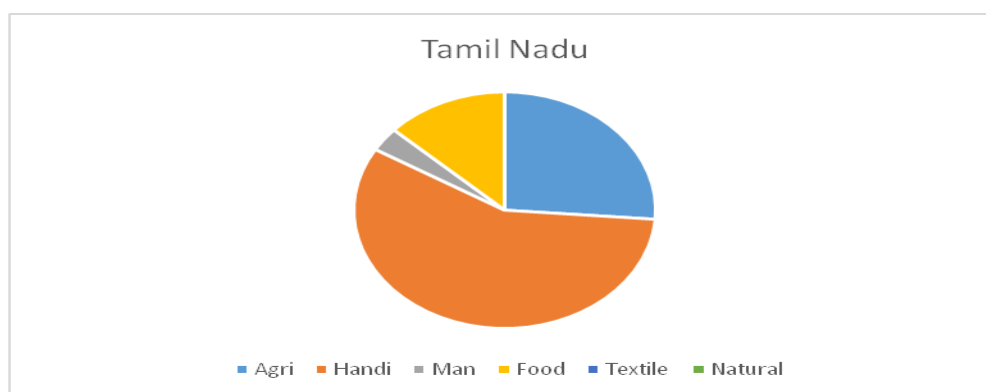


Rajasthan is the state with the population of 68,548,43. The area of the state is 342,239 sq km. the total number of GI in the state is 21, where the majority comes from

handicrafts with 15. The state has 16297.09 sq km as average distribution of GI tags across the state. That means for every 16297 sq km there is one GI registered.

Tamil Nadu

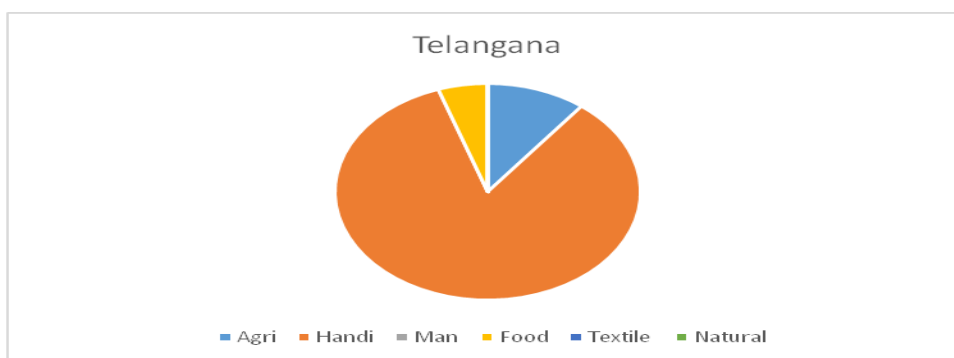
State	Agriculture	Handicraft	Manufacturing	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Tamil Nadu	16	35	2	8	0	0	61



Tamil Nadu is a south Indian state with the population of 72,147,030 with the area of 130,058 sq km. The state is the second largest contributor for GI tags in India with 61, of which 35 are in Handicrafts, 16 are in **Telangana**

agricultural sector. The state's average distribution of GI tags with respect to area is 2132.09 sq km, i.e for every 2132 sq km there is a GI registered in the state.

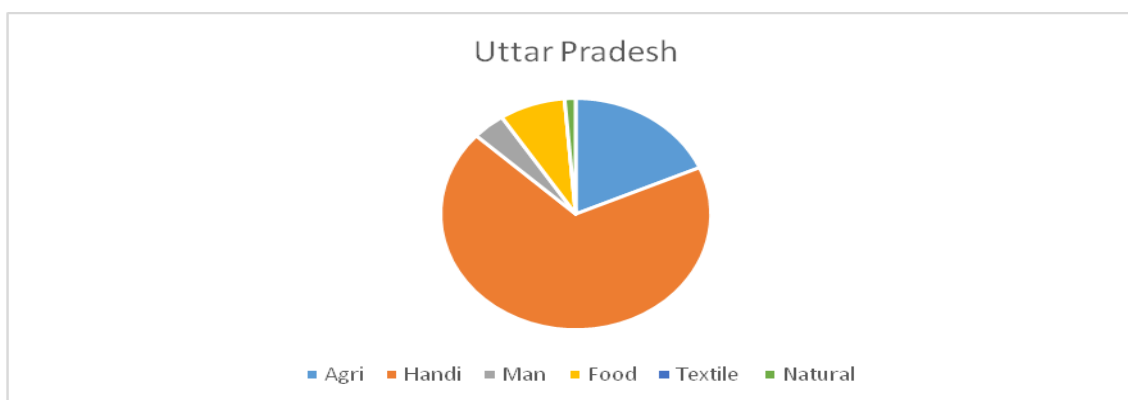
State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Telangana	2	16	0	1	0	0	19



Telangana is again a South Indian State with 112,077 sq km of area and the population is 35,003,674. The total number of GI in the state is 19 out of which 16 are registered only in handicrafts category. The average **Uttar Pradesh**

distribution of GI tags on the area in the state will be 5898.78 sq km. that means the for every 5898 sq km there is one GI registered in state.

State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Uttar Pradesh	14	52	3	6	0	1	76



Uttar Pradesh is fourth largest state in geographical area with 240,928 sq km. This state also has highest population of 199,812,341. This is the state which has highest number of registrations in GI tags with 75. Out

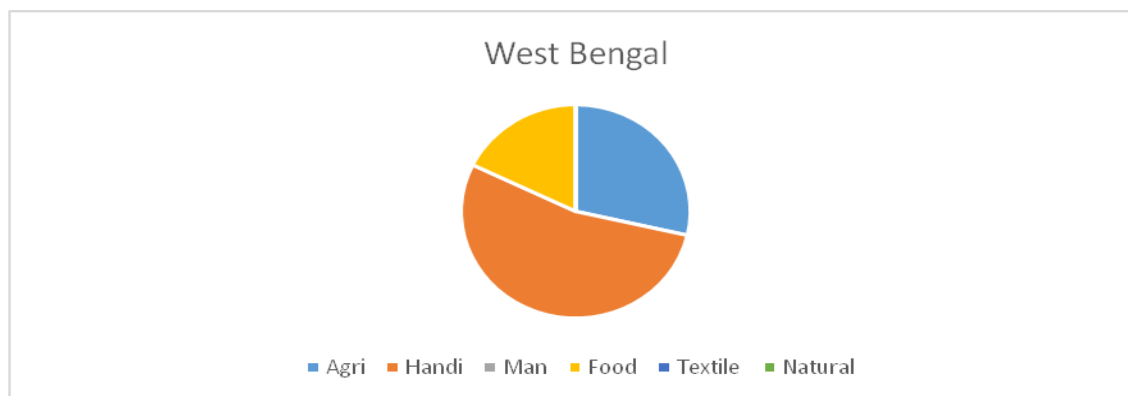
of 75 52 are registered in handicrafts and 14 are registered in agriculture sector. The average distribution of GI tags against the geographical area is 3212.37 sq km. that means for every 3212 sqkms there is one GI registered in state.

West Bengal

State	Agriculture	Handicrafts	Manufactured	Food Stuff	Textile	Natural	Total
West Bengal	8	15	0	5	0	0	28

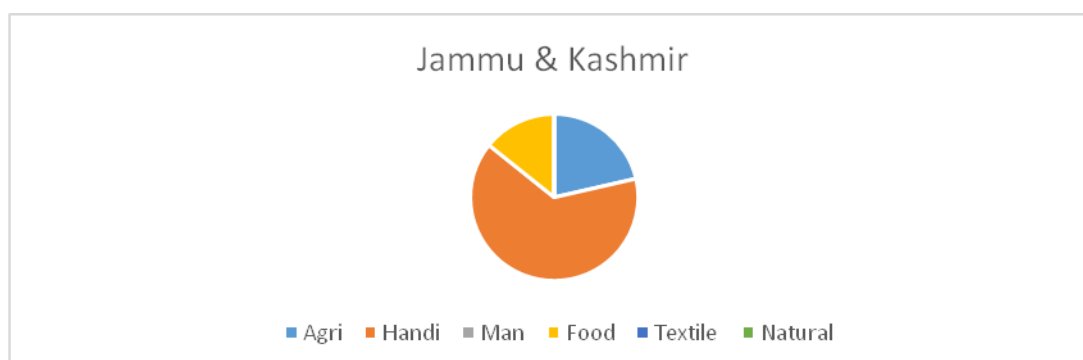
West Bengal located in the eastern part of the country with the population of 91,276,115. The total area of the state is 95,848sq km. There are 28 GI tags

registered in West Bengal is 28 and 15 are from handicrafts. The average distribution of GI tags in the state is 3243 sq km. That means for every 3423 sq km there is one GI registered in West Bengal.



Jammu and Kashmir

State	Agri	Handi	Man	Food	Textile	Natural	Total
Jammu	3	9	0	2	0	0	14



Jammu and Kashmir is the northern state with the area of 42,241 sq km and the total population is 12,267,032. The state has 14 registered GI tags, the average distribution 3017. 21 sq km, i.e for every 3017 sq km there is one GI registered in Jammu and Kashmir.

8. Findings

- There are 28 states in India and all together there are 643 GI registered which are Indian origin, amongst them highest number of GI Tags are registered in UP-75, Tamil Nadu -61, Maharashtra-52, followed by Karnataka with 48 GI Tags in India. Thus we can say that these four states are contributing the highest amount of GI tags in India i.e 236 GI tags are registered in these four states. That makes it 38.31% from these four states.
- It can also be noted that from the southern part of India i.e Karnataka-48, TN-61, Kerala- 39, AP-19 and Telangana-18. Totally 185 GIs are found in South Indian States, and 30% of GI tags are contributed by South Indian states.
- From south India Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are the highest Contributors in with 109 GI tags from only these two states.
- Out of total 616 GI tags 213 GI tags come under the Agricultural products, 332 are Handicrafts items, 15 are manufactured items, 40 are registered under the category of food stuffs, 1 is textile, 3 are Naturally available goods. That means in the GI tags Handicrafts have highest contribution of 332 with 54% as occupancy, followed by Agricultural good with 35% approximately.
- India has Registered totally of 643 GI tags, of which 180 – agriculture sector,

Hypothesis

Ho- There is no relationship between the geographical area of the state and number of GI registrations

H01- There is significant relationship between Area of the state and number of GI registered.

240 in Handicrafts, 15 in Manufacturing sector, 37 are in food stuffs, 1 in textile, and 3 come under natural goods.

- The major contribution to the GI tags from all the state is Agriculture and Handicrafts sector with the whopping number of 420 that is 65% of GI are registered only Handicraft and Agriculture sector. There are 180 from agriculture and 240 from handicrafts. The handicraft sector has contributed highest in the GI tags.
- The total Area of India is 32,87,263 sq. km and total number of GI tags are 643, that means for every 5112.38 sq km there approximately one GI is registered.

9. Suggestions

- There are certain states GI Tags are considerably good, and some states like Rajasthan, Jammu Kashmir, Odisha have considerably lower GI tags, it is due to lack awareness and lack of awareness on benefits of GI tags. So in such states the awareness creation is important. Government shall formulate such policies to create awareness of GI tags.
- GI filing process has to simplified so that it encourages the filings.
- Online and offline filing should be made available so that people can take the advantage of both.
- Government can also announce some incentives for the highest GI filing so that it motivates the filing.

- Assistance in various aspects such as financial, technical, grants, subsidies etc will boost the GI filing in states.
- If the GI tagged products are popular in domestic market, it can be easily promoted in international market. So SME s must be encouraged to more GIs.

10. Conclusion

The Geographical Indications (GI) registration in India offers valuable insights into the distribution and sectoral contributions of these tags nationwide. With 643 GI tags registered, India showcases a rich diversity in regional and product-specific heritage. Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka lead in GI registrations, collectively accounting for 236 tags or 38.31% of the total, underscoring their significant roles in preserving and promoting India's cultural and agricultural heritage. Southern India, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, emerges as a major hub, contributing 185 tags or 30% of the total. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, with a combined 109 GI tags, are particularly pivotal, reflecting the region's rich traditions in agriculture, handicrafts, and food products. The breakdown of GI tags by product category reveals that handicrafts and agricultural products dominate the registrations. Handicrafts account for 332 tags, representing 54% of the total, while agricultural products contribute 213 tags, or about 35%. This significant representation underscores the importance of these sectors in India's cultural and economic fabric. Handicrafts, with their artisanal value and traditional significance, play a crucial role in the GI ecosystem. Together, the agricultural and handicraft sectors contribute 420 tags, amounting to 65% of the total, highlighting

the country's rich agricultural diversity and extensive range of traditional crafts preserved through generations.

The remaining sectors, including manufacturing, foodstuffs, textiles, and natural goods, although smaller in number, add to the diversity and richness of the GI registry. The geographical spread of GI tags presents an interesting aspect. With India's vast area of 3,287,263 square kilometers, the density of GI tags translates to approximately one tag per 5,112.38 square kilometers. This indicates widespread recognition and registration of unique products across the country, reflecting the geographical diversity and cultural richness inherent in India's various regions. In conclusion, the GI tag system in India serves as a testament to the country's rich cultural heritage and agricultural diversity. The concentration of tags in states like Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, along with significant contributions from southern states, highlights regional strengths in traditional crafts and agriculture. The dominance of handicrafts and agricultural products in the GI registry underscores their importance in India's economic and cultural landscape. As India expands its GI registry, it not only protects and promotes its diverse heritage but also enhances the economic potential of these unique products on a global stage.

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