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NABARD Secures GI Registration for 28 New Products

10 July 2026 ·

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10 July 2026 · 4 min read ·

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WHY IN NEWS

Around July 10, 2026, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) facilitated Geographical Indication (<https://ujjyari.com/terms/geographical-indication/>) (GI) registration for 28 new products, taking its GI-supported tally to 176 products out of the 538 it has promoted.

A Geographical Indication is a stamp of origin that ties a product to the place and the community that make it. When NABARD helps a handloom cluster or a craft village win GI status, it is doing development work that goes beyond credit: it is protecting the livelihoods and identity of rural artisans. The latest batch of 28 registrations continues this quiet but important role of India's **apex** (<https://ujjyari.com/vocab/apex/>) rural development bank.

THE 28 NEW PRODUCTS

The newly registered products span a wide range of traditional crafts, including handloom, bamboo, metalwork, pottery, paintings and musical instruments. They come from several states, reflecting India's diversity of geographically-rooted skills.

PRODUCT	STATE	CATEGORY
Nalanda Bawanbuti Saree	Bihar	Handloom
Gaya Pattharkatti stone craft	Bihar	Stone craft
Kuchai Silk	Jharkhand	Silk textile
Bihu Pepa	Assam	Musical instrument
Khajuraho Metal Craft	Madhya Pradesh	Metalwork

According to NABARD, the effort protects rural artisan livelihoods and is claimed to benefit more than **13,000 artisans** and support over **50,000 jobs**. By securing legal protection for these products, the registration prevents imitation, preserves traditional knowledge, and helps artisans command a premium in the market.

WHAT IS A GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION

A **Geographical Indication (GI)** is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation due to that origin. Examples range from Darjeeling Tea to Banarasi sarees.

Key facts about the GI regime in India:

- **Governing law:** the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**, which came into force in **2003**.
- **GI Registry:** located in **Chennai**.
- **Validity:** a GI registration is valid for **10 years** and is **renewable** indefinitely for further ten-year periods.
- **India's first GI: Darjeeling Tea**, registered in **2004**.

A GI can be applied for by an association of persons, producers, or an authority representing the interest of the producers. Once registered, it prevents unauthorised use by third parties and can support exports by leveraging the origin brand.

NABARD'S ROLE

NABARD was established in **1982** as the apex development bank for agriculture and rural development, on the recommendation of the **Shivaraman Committee**, under the **NABARD Act, 1981**. While it is best known for refinancing rural credit through cooperative banks and regional rural banks, its developmental **mandate** (<https://ujiyari.com/vocab/mandate/>) is far broader.

Facilitating GI registration is part of NABARD's promotional and developmental role. It identifies eligible products, funds documentation and legal work, builds producer collectives, and links registered products to markets. This approach treats rural crafts as **rural enterprises**, integrating traditional artisans into the formal economy and adding value to their output.

Development Beyond Credit

NABARD's GI work illustrates how a development bank can protect intangible cultural heritage while generating income. GI-tagged products often fetch higher prices, encourage the next generation to continue a craft, and attract tourism to the origin region. This aligns with the goals of doubling rural incomes and preserving India's living traditions.

ANALYSIS

The story of the 28 GI registrations is really about the economics of authenticity. In a mass-manufactured world, **provenance** (<https://ujiyari.com/vocab/provenance/>) has value, and GI is the legal mechanism that captures that value for the community rather than for a distant imitator. The risk, however, is that registration alone does not guarantee benefit. Many GI-tagged products in India remain commercially underexploited because producers lack marketing reach, quality control, and awareness of their own rights. NABARD's contribution is most meaningful when registration is paired with market linkage, branding and access to credit. The 176-product tally is a solid base, but converting legal protection into higher artisan incomes is the harder, ongoing task.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 (Governance): Role of **statutory** (<https://ujiyari.com/vocab/statutory/>) and developmental institutions; protection of vulnerable groups such as rural artisans; intellectual property governance.

GS Paper 3 (Economy): GI as a rural-enterprise and value-addition tool; NABARD's developmental role beyond refinancing; preservation of traditional knowledge and its economic potential.

Prelims pointers:

- GI is governed by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**, in force since **2003**.
- The **GI Registry** is located in **Chennai**.
- A GI is valid for **10 years** and is **renewable**.
- **India's first GI: Darjeeling Tea (2004)**.
- **NABARD** was established in **1982** on the recommendation of the **Shivaraman Committee**, under the **NABARD Act, 1981**.

- NABARD's GI-supported tally has reached **176 products** (of 538 it has promoted) after the latest **28 registrations**.

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Mains question: “Geographical Indications can transform rural crafts into rural enterprises, but legal protection alone is not enough.” Discuss with reference to NABARD's role in promoting GI-tagged products. (15 marks, 250 words)

FACTS CORNER

★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

The news: Around July 10, 2026, NABARD facilitated GI registration for 28 new products, taking its GI-supported tally to 176 (of 538 promoted).

Products include: Nalanda Bawanbuti Saree and Gaya Pattharkatti stone craft (Bihar), Kuchai Silk (Jharkhand), Bihu Pepa (Assam), Khajuraho Metal Craft (Madhya Pradesh).

Impact claimed: Benefits 13,000-plus artisans and supports 50,000-plus jobs.

GI law: Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 (in force 2003).

GI Registry: Chennai; validity 10 years, renewable.

India's first GI: Darjeeling Tea (2004).

NABARD: Established 1982 under the NABARD Act, 1981, on the Shivaraman Committee's recommendation; apex bank for agriculture and rural development.

Sources: *NABARD* (<https://www.nabard.org/>), *Geographical Indications Registry* (<https://ipindia.gov.in/>), *PIB* (<https://pib.gov.in/>)

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