

## ABOUT GI

Geographical Indications (GIs) are associated with the legacy of a product connected with a specific location having unique blend of nature, culture, tradition, and artisan. In India, there are several registered GIs and there are numerous GIs which are not yet registered officially, but are potential registerable GIs.

GI based on classes to Natural Goods, Food Stuff  
Manufactured Goods, Handicrafts  
or Agricultural Goods

GI based on uniqueness,  
weather, and  
terrain of the place of origin

Legal Protection from  
unfair usage

Registered by the  
Authorized  
community of the GI

GI Sign or symbol  
indicating  
Geographical Origin  
or location

Economic empowerment  
to Artisans, Producers,  
and Manufacturers

Social Uplifting and  
continuing the Legacy of  
the Nation

700+ registered GIs and  
numerous unregistered GIs  
existence in India

Prevents counterfeiting  
and ensures  
genuineness of products

Preservation of local Culture,  
Tradition,  
and Legacy



A GI reflects a shared heritage that has evolved over generations, deeply influenced by local knowledge, distinctive environments, and cultural traditions. It highlights that certain products are far more than just items of trade; they represent the history, narratives, and dedication of the artisans, farmers, and communities who have kept these practices alive. By recognizing this inherent value, the GI system establishes a structure to safeguard and encourage these traditions, ensuring they thrive and adapt in today's competitive landscape.

# BANARAS SHEHNAI

Banaras Shehnai is a double-reed wind instrument from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, known for its auspicious sound, ceremonial use, and classical music prominence. Crafted from seasoned teak or sheesham wood with a metal bell (pyala), it is revered for its two-octave range, nasal tone, and spiritual resonance, especially in temples and weddings.

## UNIQUENESS

This craft is admired for its quadruple reed structure, hand-drilled bore, and precise tonal calibration. Popularized globally by Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan, the Banaras Shehnai blends ritual sanctity with concert artistry. Artisans in Varanasi have preserved this tradition for over 200 years, crafting each piece with mathematical precision and devotional care.

## RAW MATERIALS

Teak/Sheesham Wood, Aluminum/Iron Bell, Dumraon Cane,  
Mustard Oil, Cotton Thread, Tuning Tools

**Price**  
Approx. Rs. 1500  
to 15000

**Number of Families Involved**  
Approx.  
60 families

**Proof of Origin**  
19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Class of Goods**  
15

**Type of Goods**  
Handicraft

**Geographical Location**  
Varanasi,  
Uttar Pradesh



## METHOD OF PRODUCTION

Sheesham or teak wood is seasoned and hollowed, then fitted with a metal bell. Seven holes are burned with hot rods, and the reed (puttur) is crafted from Dumraon cane. The instrument is oiled, tuned, and polished, with final adjustments made by mouth pressure and finger modulation. Each piece takes 2–3 days to complete.