

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.

VARANASI SOFT STONE JALI WORK

Varanasi Soft Stone Jali Work is a traditional stone carving craft from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, known for its intricate fretwork on soapstone, marble, and limestone. Used in temples, monuments, and decorative items, it reflects the city's spiritual heritage, with motifs inspired by mythology, nature, and historic architecture.

UNIQUENESS

This craft is renowned for its delicate undercutting, two-dimensional reliefs, and hand-painted detailing. Artisans carve scenes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and local folklore, often embedding symbolic narratives into each piece. The jali work is admired for its precision, symmetry, and cultural storytelling, making it a collector's favorite.

RAW MATERIALS

Soapstone, Marble, Limestone, Chisels, Hammers, Sandpaper, Natural Pigments

Price

Approx. Rs. 400
to 50000

Number of Families Involved

Approx.
2000 families

Proof of Origin
17th Century



Class of Goods
27

Type of Goods
Handicraft

Geographical Location
Varanasi,
Uttar Pradesh

METHOD OF PRODUCTION

Soft stone is cut and shaped using chisels and hammers, followed by grinding with pointed tools. Artisans sketch outlines, then buff and polish using sandpaper or carborundum. Designs are carved freehand, often painted to highlight motifs. The process is manual and memory-driven, requiring mastery of masonry and design.