

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 of Natural Goods, Food Stuff
Manufactured Goods, Handicrafts or
Agricultural Goods

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

A Community Right

Economic Empowerment to
Artisans, Producers, and
Manufacturers

650+ Registered GIs and
Numerous Unregistered GIs
Existing in India

Authorized User Registration For
GI Community Members

Legal protection from
unfair usage

GI Logo
indicating Geographical
Origin or location

Social Upliftment and
continuing the
Legacy of the Nation

Prevents counterfeiting and
ensures genuineness of
products through “GI Tags”

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.



© RIPA, Dec 2024

www.ripaonline.com



SARTHEBARI METAL CRAFT

Bell-metal utensils are believed to have medicinal properties and help prevent intestinal problems. They are made from various raw materials like clay, jute fiber, rice bran, mustard oil, charcoal, borax, zinc, and shalpatra. The process is manual, and the objects are heavier and bulkier due to the extensive use of metal. The royal family of Ahom kings of the Great Ahom dynasty of Assam served food in bell-metal glasses due to their mineral content. Common objects made by artisans in Sarthebari include water pots, sarai, dishes, batis, lotas, and tals. The technology used in making these objects is traditional and simple, using anvils, hammers, pincers, files, chisels, and minor equipment. The craft sector operates on a hereditary system, with artisans inheriting knowledge from their elders.

UNIQUENESS

The process of manufacturing traditional Sarthberi brass and bell metal items is not simple, and the tools and implements used by the kanhars of Sarthberi for producing the brass metal products are still in use today. The alloy used in the crafts is made from 78% copper and 22% tin, with charcoal as fuel for shaping the metal. The objects made of brass are heavier in weight due to the extensive use of metal.

RAW MATERIALS

Copper, Brass Metal Sheets, Zinc, Tin, Scrap Metal, Borax, Zinc, Shalpatra

Price

Approx. 1000 onwards
depending upon
the quality

Class of Goods
21

Proof of Origin
7th Century



Geographical Location

Barpeta and Kamrup districts
of Assam

Type of Goods
Handicrafts

Number of Families Involved
Approx. 2000 artisans

METHOD OF PRODUCTION

Bell metal is a traditional Indian craft made from copper and tin. The process begins with the copper being heated in a mohi, turning red. Tin is mixed with copper and heated together in the mohi. The smelted liquid is poured into an aakar, where it cools and forms the solid form. Assam metal workers use two methods for manufacturing their products: hammering and casting. The molten metal solidifies in earthen crucibles, forming small round bell metal insots. The rough edges of the bowls are manually filed off using a strong iron filer called the Reti or Reti.