



*The Art of Survival :  
The GIs of Andaman and Nicobar*





## **CRAFTSMANSHIP, SUSTAINABILITY, AND SURVIVAL**

Far away in the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are home to communities whose lives have long been shaped by the sea, forests, and tropical climate.

For generations, the indigenous Nicobari community has developed unique crafts and structures that reflect both cultural identity and practical knowledge. These traditions are not only artistic expressions but solutions designed to adapt to the island environment

**Recognizing their cultural and traditional importance, several Andaman and Nicobar crafts have received Geographical Indication (GI) status.**



## **GI-TAG TRADITIONS FROM THE NICOBAR ISLANDS INCLUDE:**



**NICOBARI CANOE**



**NICOBARI HUT**



**NICOBARI MAT**



## NICOBARI CANOE (GI):

A traditional boat carved from a single tree trunk, used for fishing, transportation, and inter-island travel. Its design reflects the community's deep understanding of the sea and navigation.

### USE IN SURVIVAL

**Mobility and Fishing:** The Nicobari Canoe (GI) enables islanders to travel between islands, fish in surrounding waters, and transport essential goods.



## NICOBARI HUT (GI):

Circular huts built using bamboo, wood, and thatch, often raised on stilts to protect against flooding and to allow ventilation in the tropical climate.

### USE IN SURVIVAL

**Climate-Resilient Housing:** The Nicobari Hut (GI) is built on stilts using bamboo, wood, and thatch, protecting residents from flooding, coastal winds, and tropical rains while allowing natural ventilation.



## NICOBARI MAT (GI):

Handwoven mats made from pandanus leaves, widely used in homes for sitting, sleeping, and various daily activities.

### USE IN SURVIVAL

**Sustainable Living Materials:** The Nicobari Mat (GI), woven from pandanus leaves, provides a durable and breathable surface for sitting, sleeping, and household activities in the humid island climate.



## GI RECONSIGNATION

Together, the Nicobari Canoe, Hut, and Mat showcase how craftsmanship in the Nicobar Islands goes far beyond decoration or utility. They represent a living tradition where culture, environment, and survival are deeply interconnected.

Through GI recognition, these unique traditions are preserved, ensuring that the knowledge and skills of the Nicobari community continue to be valued and passed on to future generations.



## About RIPA

RIPA (Reinforce Intellectual Property Association) is a dedicated notfor-profit organization focused on the promotion and advancement of indigenous Intellectual Property (IP) in India, with outreach that extends to the international stage.

Our mission centers on addressing both current and future needs for the growth and development of indigenous IP, actively supporting the country's unique innovation landscape through local research and development initiatives. RIPA's commitment to the IP community spans every stage of the IP lifecycle—from idea generation to the successful commercialization of inventions.

Join us to supports indigenous crafts across the country.

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