

# Varanasi becomes India's largest GI facilitation centre

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Varanasi has become India's largest Geographical Identifications (GI) facilitation centre as 80 GI applications were submitted by the local NGO, Human Welfare Association (HWA) from 12 states and union territories in just five months under the guidance of GI expert and Padma Shri awardee Dr Rajnikant who broke his own record especially on Indian Small Industries Day on Friday. This record was made when on the website of GI Registry Chennai, five GI applications from Arunachal Pradesh were posted with the technical support of HWA on the day, increasing the number to 80 in this financial year from April to August 2024, in which GI



Traditional products seeking GI certification.

applications of 12 states like 7 from UP, 10 from Rajasthan, 3 from Chhattisgarh, three from Gujarat, 9 from Tripura, 4 from Assam, 6 from Jharkhand, 3 from Haryana, 20 from Jammu Kashmir, 6 from Ladakh, 3 from Bihar and 6 products from Arunachal Pradesh have been sent to GI Registry Chennai and they all have been accepted.

Some of the major products are



Banaras Clay Craft, Lucknow Clay Craft, Meerut Bugul, Rajasthan's Ravanhatta, Jodhpur Wood Craft, Jaipur Marble Craft, Bastar Stone Craft, Chhattisgarh Panika Saree, Jharkhand Dokra, Panchhi Parhan Saree, Jadu Patia Painting, Tripura Cane Craft, Tripura Bamboo Craft, Tripura Painting, Tripura Binni Rice, Harinarayan Rice, Kalikhasa Paddy, Gujarat Patan

Mashru Saree, Saurashtra Beads Work, Ladakh Thanka Painting, Ladakh Chilli Metal Craft, Leh Likir Pattari, Leh Chal Textile, Kashmir Ambri Sev and Maharaji Sev, Walnut, Kashmiri Nadru, Kashmiri Hawk, Kishtwar Chilgoza, Gurez Rajmash, Kishtwari Blanket, Samba Calico Print, Haryana Bahadurgarh Wooden Craft, Hisar Mangali Wooden Beads, Udaipur Thikri and Danka Craft, Darbhanga Terracotta, Patna Kalam Painting, Tawang Yak Churkum, Yak Hat, Yak Blanket, Kaman Digaro Mishmi Textile, Wanchon Beads Craft, Karbi Anglong Handloom, Deori Handloom, Assam Bamboo Craft from Assam have been included in this GI registration process. Earlier in the Amrit Mahotsav

year of Independence, 75 GI applications were made in a year with the technical support of the HWA and now with this achievement, it has been left behind. It is known that Varanasi and the surrounding districts still have the pride of having the highest number of GIs in a land area not only in India but in the entire world with 34 GI tags, in which about 20 lakh people directly and indirectly do an annual business of ₹25,500 crore. Dr Rajnikant's efforts to protect and enhance India's rich heritage started in the year 2007 and with the technical support of HWA, 303 GIs have been filed in 20 states so far in which 148 GI tags have been granted and all the rest will be included in India's intellectual property within a year.