



South Indian Perspectives on Trends in Geographical Indications: A Bibliometric Insights From 2018-2023

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Abstract

This paper examines the trends regarding geographical indications (GIs) in South India from 2018 to 2023, with a focus on the application process, promotional efforts, and officially registering protected status for products across five southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana. The study adopted a web-based descriptive survey methodology to analyze data gathered from the annual reports of India's Intellectual Property Office. The results show a consistent rise in the quantity of GI applications and successful registration, especially in the handicrafts and agricultural sectors, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka are the forefront, each making an equal contribution to the region's economic growth. Despite the large volume of applications, there are still issues, such as processing delays and lack of advertised opportunity of public review. This study highlights necessity of an effective GI registration procedure in south India in order to enhance economic benefits and preserve cultural heritage.

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Introduction

Geographical indications (GIs) are a type of intellectual property that identify and preserve unique products according to their place of origin, such as handicrafts, food items and agricultural product. They are referred as to as indication and they are very important in ensuring the quality and distinctiveness of specific products that originate from specific areas. They are also representation of quality, tradition and authenticity. In order to preserve the unique qualities of the product and promote local certificated are also essential because they restrict the use of the name to manufactures located within their assigned region protecting the unique qualities of product and promoting regional economic development, These heritage indications show utilization special rights. GIs They also stand for genuineness, traditional skills, and luxurious flavour. GIs are employed to help sustain the reputations of products as diverse as rural crops and crafts, textiles, and natural resources. These commodities are frequently linked to special environmental conditions, traditional methods and long standing cultural inputs. With the broad variety of peoples and regions in the large Indian South, it is evident that in recent years the number of Geographic Indication registrations has increased dramatically. As for GI recognized products, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are the five main states. Such location identification symbols serve to uphold and hand down cultural traditions; they also increase the market value of local products both on the domestic and world markets. By providing authorized protection from imitation and misuse, geographical indications contribute to socioeconomic progress in rural communities and artisans, making certain the advantages of market achievement are shared reasonably. Geographical indications enable regions to establish themselves globally, attracting both domestic and overseas markets. As consumer awareness about the significance of indication products grows, so too does the demand for authenticity and fuelling the necessity for robust geographical indication safeguards.

This research delves into the trends in applications for geographical indication across Southern India between 2018 and 2023, a time marked by increasing recognition and lawful reforms relating to intellectual property rights. By employing a bibliometric approach is seek to explore the types of goods receiving geographical indication identification, the regional distribution of applications and the development patterns seen over the five year period. The study highlights key geographical indications in Southern India and examines the extent to which they have contributed to regional progress, cultural preservations and economic empowerment.

Review of literature

Silva Martins (2024) ^[7] carried out analysis of relevant studies in this area so as to understand how investigation using GIs has evolved in areas related to the concepts of sustainability and sustainable development. The study identified the four areas of research: a) local socioeconomic impacts, b) environmental conservation-supporting wild animals and plants as well as other biodiversity in different forms, c) governance and legal protection of GIs. d) Post GI evaluation. This topic is not yet well advanced especially development of this field in Asia and Africa remains to be seen. Studied a thorough analysis of geographical indications with a particular special focusing specially on their implementation in Kerala state. There are two primary sections to the study. The first offers a comprehensive overview by defining important concepts, fundamentals components and different classifications. Using a mixed method approach that incorporates both qualitative and quantitative data analysis, the second section examines the various indications registered in Kerala and evaluates their impacts. Gunaseelan *et al.* (2021) ^[4] focused on the problematic nature of Geographical Indications (GIs), an item increasingly known under the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The two basic issues the authors looked into were extending enhanced protection to products other than wines and spirits and setting up a multilateral notification and registration system for GIs. The study tried to explore these issues, focusing in particular on Kachai Lemon in investigated general trends associated with GIs though a extensive bibliometric analysis of global sources from 2010 to 2019. The analysis indicated an increasing the significance of GIs for advancing global community progress though changing trade agreements by carefully reviewing relevant academic publications in the Scopus and Web of Science database about mechanisms connecting origin defining environmental characteristics that differences good and services. Debbarman (2008) ^[1] studied the merging patent landscape in India from the period of 1995 to 2005 was examined using bibliometric techniques. While the USA, Japan, and Germany were major players in variety of technologies and industries, Mahashtra, Delhi and Tamilnadu led the way in patent activity in India. The three main areas of growth were electronics, computers and

biotechnology. Increased application volumes were elicited by patent awareness campaigns. Dais *et al.* (2018) ^[2] investigated how geographical indications can protect product identity and promote regional economic development. Differences between EU and US GI registration procedures were identified by the bibliometric analysis. The study found that countries with more designations also tend to produce more research on the topic to variety of institutional corporate interests.

Scope of the study

This study aims to analysing the pattern of GI applications in the South Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala Tamil Nadu and Telangana between the period of 2018 to 2023. The study seeks to identify the types of products from agricultural, handicrafts, textiles, food stuff and other traditional items from these regions for which GIs recognition has been applied and awarded.

Objectives of the study

- To analyse the trends in GI's applications in south Indian states from 2018-2023
- To assess the regional distribution of GI's applications
- To identify the categories of products receiving GI's recognition.
- To Explore the types GI's in each of South Indian States

Research Methodology

This study employs a web based descriptive survey method to Analyse in Geographical Indications (GIs) across South Indian states, Namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, over a five year period from 2018 to 2023. The data for this study were collected from the annual reports published by the official web site of Intellectual property India, Which provides comprehensive details on GI's registration during the specific period. The collected data include information on the types of products that received GI recognition and their distribution across different states. The data were systematically analysing using Microsoft excel allowing for detailed examination of trends patterns and variations in GIs registrations across the south Indian states. The analysis includes year wise distribution of GI applications, state wise breakdown, product categories and types. The findings provide insights into the regional trends in GI s recognition.

Analysis and discussion

This article investigates the patterns and nature of GI submissions made in south India between 2018 and 2023. It seems to look at the growth of field and referred applications especially variations in advertising, objections and processing stages of GI registration systems and also analyse the main trends and conditions of GI filings during this five year period.

Table 1: Trends in GIs application in India (2018-2013) a five year Analysis

Status of GI	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Filed	645	687	745	861	1072
Advertised	353	391	43	0	0
Registered	343	365	370	420	475
In Process	235	200	203	310	464
Disposed	67	122	126	129	131
Under Opposition	0	0	3	2	2
Total	1643	1765	1490	1722	2144

The number of Geographical Indications (GIs) applications and registrations has increased significantly in the last five years. The number of applications in each year increased from 645 in 2018-2019 to 1072 in 2022-2023; this suggests a greater understanding and advanced willingness to protect products reflective of region. Accompanying this increase in applications, the number of successful registrations also rose from 343 in 2018-2019 to 475 in 2022-2023, showing that more regional products are receiving GI recognition. In the filings stage, this has been a much-welcomed reduction in

advertising. Fare also decreased from 353 in 2018-2019 to zero at 2021-2023. The drop may point to a backlog or problems with process. Temporary applications have shown more consistency, standing at 67 in 2018-2019 and 131 in 2022-2023.

This indicates that many applications are still under review, with no noticeable acceleration in the final decision process. The number of opposition cases has remained minimal, with only a few applications facing opposition each year.

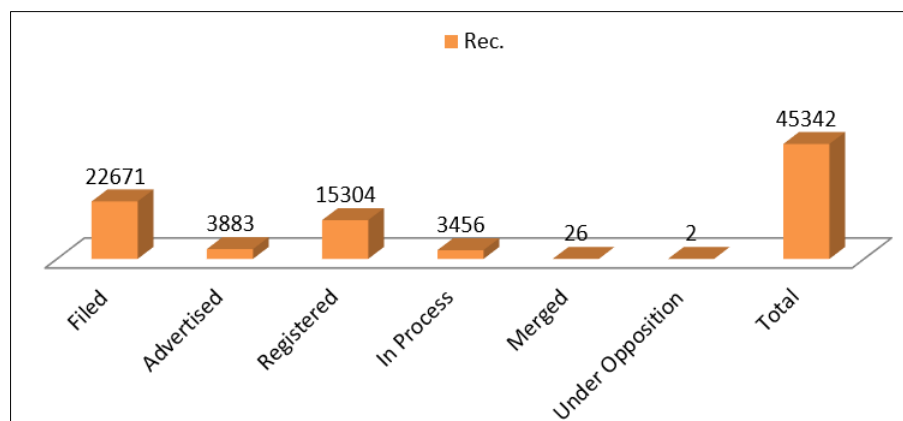


Fig 1: Status of Geographical Indications Applications (2003-2023): A Five year Analysis

From 2003 to 2023, a total of 22671 applications for GI were filed and 15304 registered. 3,883 applications advertised 3,456 still pending. Only 26 applications were merged and only 2 opposed. In total of 45,342 activities were recorded

based on GI, evidencing both the growing recognition of regional products and the increased demand for GI protection, though some applications remain pending.

Table 2: Analysis of GIs applications and registration by product Category (GI Act, 1999)

Goods	No GI Applications Received	No GI Applications Registered
Handicrafts	10983	6092
Agricultural	10998	8760
Manufactured	198	177
Foodstuff	473	268
Natural	19	7
Total	22671	15304

Gis applications and registration by product category and south indian states 2018-2019

Between the years 2018 to 2019, there were in 645 GI applications and 343 were registered. They included the greatest number of applications for agricultural products (157) and the second great number of registered brands (103). Handicrafts come next with 295 applications and 202

registrations. In the Southern states Karnataka was the highest with 41 products, followed by Kerala (27), state of Tamil Nadu (30) and Telangana (14). In South India, the total numbers of GI registrations were 116. The figures showcase the amount of participation that South Indian states have towards GI, particularly in handicrafts and agricultural products.

Table 3: GIs applications and registration by product Category 2018-2019

Goods	GI Applications Received	GI Applications Registered	GI Registered in South India	No.
Handicrafts	295	202	Karnataka	41
Agricultural	157	103	Kerala	27
Manufactured	146	20	Tamil Nadu	30
Foodstuff	40	16	Telangana	14
Natural	7	2	Kerala & Tamil Nadu	1
Total	645	343	Kerala, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu	1
			Karnataka & Kerala	2
			Total	116

Table 4: GIs applications and registration by product Category and 2019-2020

Goods	GI Applications Received	GI Applications Registered	GI Registered in South India	No.
Handicrafts	317	210	Andhra Pradesh	17
Agricultural	173	111	Karnataka	42
Manufactured	146	22	Kerala	28
Foodstuff	44	20	Tamil Nadu	36
Natural	7	2	Telangana	14
Total	687	365	Karnataka & Kerala	2
			Kerala & Tamil Nadu	1
			Kerala, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu	1
			Total	141

In 2019-2020, 687 GI applications were received, with 365 registrations. Of these, handicrafts enjoyed the highest number of registrations and applications (317 and 210 respectively). Following orders were the agricultural products, with 173 applications and 111 registrations. South India contributed significantly, with 42 GI products

registered in Karnataka, 28 in Kerala, 36 in Tamil Nadu, 14 in Telangana. The total number of GI registrations for South India stood at 141 for one year. This suggests strong commitment on the part of South Indian states altogether, particularly in terms both handicrafts and agricultural products.

Table 5: GIs applications and registration by product Category and 2020-2021

Goods	GI Applications Received	GI Applications Registered	GI Registered in South India	No.
Handicrafts	338	214	Andhra Pradesh	17
Agricultural	203	112	Karnataka	42
Manufactured	148	22	Kerala	28
Foodstuff	49	20	Tamil Nadu	38
Natural	7	2	Telangana	15
Total	745	370	Kerala & Tamil Nadu	1
			Kerala, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu	1
			Karnataka & Kerala	2
			Total	144

For 2020-2021, there were 745 GI applications received of these, 370 were successfully registered. Handicrafts were the leading sector with 338 applications and 214 registrations. Next was an agricultural product with 203 applications and 112 registrations. GI registrations in South India stood at 144, with Karnataka (42), Kerala (28), Tamil Nadu (38) and

Telangana (15) contributing. Several GI registrations were jointly contributed by the South Indian states Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. This suggests sustained high levels of participation in the GI process especially in terms of handicrafts and in agriculture.

Table 6: GIs applications and registration by product Category 2021-2022

Goods	GI Applications Received	GI Applications Registered	GI Registered in South India	No.
Handicrafts	389	232	Andhra Pradesh	17
Agricultural	252	125	Karnataka	42
Manufactured	149	36	Kerala	30
Foodstuff	61	25	Tamil Nadu	42
Natural	10	2	Telangana	15
Total	861	420	Kerala & Tamil Nadu	1
			Kerala, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu	1
			Karnataka & Kerala	2
			Telangana & Andhra Pradesh	1
			Total	151

In 2021-2022 there were 861 applications for GI and 420 successful registrations. Handicrafts brought in the most applications (389) as well as successful registrations (232). Following closely on their heels were agricultural products: The number of applications received in this sector was 252 with 125 registered to boot. Of the 151 total GI registrations

that South India boasted in 2021, a significant proportion can be attributed to Karnataka (42), Kerala (30), Tamil Nadu (42) and Telangana (15). The data reveals the South Indian states have strong participation in GI registration in particular, with a large number of states jointly applying for registrations of handicrafts and agricultural produce.

Table 7: GIs applications and registration by product Category 2022-2023

Goods	GI Applications Received	GI Applications Registered	GI Registered in South India	No.
Handicrafts	494	252	Andhra Pradesh	17
Agricultural	314	149	Karnataka	44
Manufactured	164	40	Kerala	35
Foodstuff	85	31	Tamil Nadu	55
Natural	15	3	Telangana	16
Total	1072	475	Kerala & Tamil Nadu	1
			Kerala, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu	1
			Karnataka & Kerala	2
			Telangana & Andhra Pradesh	1
			Total	172

In 2022-2023, there were 1072 applications for GIs, of which 475 were formally registered. As for the handicrafts industry, there were 494 applications, but fewer registrations (252). Agricultural products attracted 314 applications and saw 149 registrations. Food items attracted 85 applications with 31 registrations. Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu took the

lead in GI registrations, with 172 registrations in total for the southern states. Among notables, both Kerala & Tamil Nadu and Karnataka & Kerala were seen to engage in powerful collaboration for GI registrations.

Shared geographical indications among the south indian states:

Table 8: Shared Geographical indications among the South Indian States

Sl No.	GIs	Shared States
1	Coorg Coffee	Karnataka and Kerala, particularly in Coorg
2	Hyderabadi Haleem	Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
3	Kolar Betel Leaf	Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu
4	Nilgiri Tea	Tamil Nadu and Kerala, particularly the Nilgiri region
5	Wayanad Coffee	Kerala and Karnataka, especially in Wayanad

The table 8 shows key GI products shared between South Indian States. ‘Coorg Coffe’ is recognized in Karnataka and Kerala, while ‘Hyderabadi Haleem’ is popular in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. ‘Kolar Betel Leaf’ spans Karnataka,

Kerala and Tamil Nadu. ‘Nilgiri Tea’ is grown in both Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and ‘Wayand coffe’ is shared by Kerala and Karnataka.

Table 9: Geographical indications registered by Andhra Pradesh and telangana

Sl. No.	Geographical Indication (GI)	Product Type
1	Bobbili Veena	Handicraft (Musical Instrument)
2	Budithi Bell and Brass Craft	Handicraft (Metal Craft)
3	Durgi Stone Carvings	Handicraft (Stone Craft)
4	Uppada Jamdani Sarees	Textile (Saree)
5	Sarees and Paavadas	Textile (Saree)
6	Venkatagiri Sarees	Textile (Saree)
7	Srikalahasthi Kalamkari	Handicraft (Painting)
8	Kondapalli Toys	Handicraft (Wood Toys)
9	Machilipatnam Kalamkari	Handicraft (Textile)
10	Mangalagiri Sarees and Fabrics	Textile (Saree)
11	Guntur Sannam Chilli	Agricultural Product (Spice)
12	Banaganapalle Mangoes	Agricultural Product (Fruit)
13	Udayagiri Wooden Cutlery	Handicraft (Wood Craft)
14	Andhra Pradesh Leather Puppetry	Handicraft (Leather Craft)
15	Tirupati Laddu	Food Product (Sweet)
16	Andhra Pradesh Kalamkari	Handicraft (Textile)
17	Prakasam Pink Granite	Natural Product (Stone)

Table 10: Geographical indications registered by Karnataka

Sl. No.	Geographical Indication (GI)	Product Type	Sl. No.	Geographical Indication (GI)	Product Type
1	Mysore Silk	Textile (Silk)	15	Ilkal Sarees	Textile (Saree)
2	Mysore Agarbatti	Handicraft (Incense)	16	Bangalore Blue Grapes	Agricultural Product
3	Mysore Betel Leaf	Agricultural Product	17	Devanahalli Pomelo	Agricultural Product
4	Mysore Sandalwood Oil	Natural Product	18	Gulbarga Tur Dal	Agricultural Product (Pulses)
5	Mysore Traditional Paintings	Handicraft	19	Bidriware	Handicraft (Metalwork)
6	Mysore Rosewood Inlay	Handicraft	20	Molakalmuru Sarees	Textile (Saree)
7	Channapatna Toys and Dolls	Toys	21	Kamalapur Red Banana	Agricultural Product
8	Dharwad Pedha	Food Product (Sweet)	22	Navalgund Durries	Handicraft (Rugs/Carpets)

9	Udupi Sarees	Textile (Saree)	23	Mysuru Mallige (Jasmine)	Flower
10	Coorg Orange	Agricultural Product	24	Coorg Green Cardamom	Agricultural Product (Spice)
11	Byadgi Chilli	(Chilli)	25	Nanjanagud Banana	Agricultural Product
12	Karnataka Bronze Ware	Handicraft (Metalwork)	26	Appemidi Mango	Agricultural Product
13	Ganjifa Cards	Handicraft (Card Games)	27	Savanur Betel Leaf	Agricultural Product
14	Kasuti Embroidery	Textile (Embroidery)	28	Bangalore Rose Onion	Agricultural Product

Table 11: Geographical indications registered by tamil nadu

Sl. No.	Geographical Indication (GI)	Product Type	Sl. No.	Geographical Indication (GI)	Product Type
1	Kanchipuram Silk	Textile (Saree)	29	Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai	Food Product (Sweet)
2	Madurai Jasmine	Agricultural Product (Flower)	30	Cumbum Paneer Grapes	Agricultural Product (Fruit)
3	Salem Fabric	Textile	31	Karuppur Kalamkari Paintings	Handicraft (Painting)
4	Coimbatore Wet Grinder	Industrial Product	32	Kancheepuram Idli	Food Product
5	Bhavani Jamakkalam	Textile (Carpet)	33	Thanjavur Art Plate	Handicraft (Metal Plate)
6	Thanjavur Paintings	Handicraft (Painting)	34	Tanjore Paintings	Handicraft (Painting)
7	Thanjavur Art Plate	Handicraft (Metal Plate)	35	Thanjavur Dolls	Handicraft (Dolls)
8	Arani Silk	Textile (Silk)	36	Vellore Leather Products	Handicraft (Leather)
9	Salem Mango	Agricultural Product (Fruit)	37	Pattamadai Pai (Mat)	Handicraft (Mat)
10	Erode Manjal (Turmeric)	Agricultural Product (Spice)	38	Chettinad Kottan	Handicraft
11	Virupakshi Hill Banana	Agricultural Product (Fruit)	39	Kovai Wet Grinder	Industrial Product
12	Srivilliputtur Palkova	Food Product (Sweet)	40	Nilgiri Tea	Beverage
13	Kovai Cora Cotton	Textile (Cotton)	41	Bhavani Cotton Sarees	Textile (Saree)
14	Pattamadai Pai (Mat)	Handicraft (Mat)	42	Thirubuvanam Silk Sarees	Textile (Silk)
15	Tirunelveli Halwa	Food Product (Sweet)	43	Arani Silk Sarees	Textile (Silk)
16	Thirubuvanam Silk	Textile (Silk)	44	Madurai Sungudi	Textile (Cotton)
17	Swamimalai Bronze Icons	Handicraft (Sculpture)	45	Sankarankovil Kora Cotton Sarees	Textile (Cotton)
18	Arumbavur Wood Carvings	Handicraft (Wood)	46	Honey	Food Product (Honey)
19	Nachiarkoil Kuthuvilakku	Handicraft (Lamp)	47	Kodai Kanal Malai Poondur (Garlic)	Agricultural Product (Spice)
20	Dindigul Locks	Industrial Product	48	Thirunelveli Halwa	Food Product (Sweet)
21	Salem Silk	Textile (Silk)	49	Viluppuram Groundnut	Agricultural Product (Nut)
22	Erode Turmeric	Agricultural Product (Spice)	50	Ambur Briyani	Food Product
23	Madurai Malli	Agricultural Product (Flower)	51	Erode Chilli	Agricultural Product (Spice)
24	Thanjavur Veena	Instrument	52	Karakudi Kandangi Saree	Textile (Saree)
25	Coffee	Food Product (Beverage)	53	Salem Rasagolla	Food Product (Sweet)
26	Ooty Varkey	Food Product (Bakery)	54	Dindigul Mutton	Agricultural Product (Meat)
27	Palani Panchamirtham	Food Product (Sweet)	55	c Saree	Textile (Saree)
28	Thoothukudi Macaroon	Food Product (Bakery)			

Table12: Geographical Indications registered by Kerala

Sl. No.	Geographical Indication (GI)	Product Type	Sl. No.	Geographical Indication (GI)	Product Type
1	Aranmula Kannadi	Handicraft (Metal Mirror)	19	Payyannur Pavithra Ring	Jewelry
2	Alleppey Coir	Handicraft (Coir Products)	20	Wayanad Jeerakasala Rice	Agricultural Product (Rice)
3	Alleppey Green Cardamom	Agricultural Product (Spice)	21	Wayanad Gandhakasala Rice	Agricultural Product (Rice)
4	Malabar Pepper	Agricultural Product (Spice)	22	Central Travancore Jaggery	Agricultural Product (Sweet)
5	Wayanad Robusta Coffee	Agricultural Product (Coffee)	23	Kanniya Village Cane Furniture	Furniture
6	Vazhakulam Pineapple	Agricultural Product (Fruit)	24	Craft Items	Festive
7	Marayoor Jaggery	Agricultural Product (Sweet)	25	Vithura Vanilla	Agricultural Product (Spice)
8	Pokkali Rice	Agricultural Product (Rice)	26	Kumbla Kasaragod Coconut	Agricultural Product
9	Palakkadan Matta Rice	Agricultural Product (Rice)	27	Pathanamthitta Black Pepper	Agricultural Product (Spice)
10	Navara Rice	Agricultural Product (Rice)	28	Beans	Agricultural Product
11	Chengalikodan Nendran Banana	Agricultural Product (Banana)	29	Attappady Thuvara (Red Gram)	Agricultural Product (Pulses)
12	Cotton Fabrics	Textile (Saree)	30	Edayar Chilli	Agricultural Product (Spice)
13	Kasaragod Sarees	Textile (Saree)	31	Garlic	Agricultural Product (Garlic)
14	Kuthampully Sarees	Textile (Saree)	32	Melon	Agricultural Product (Melon)
15	Nilambur Teak	Natural Product (Wood)	33	Vazhakulam Mango	Agricultural Product (Fruit)
16	Kannur Home Furnishings	Textile (Furnishings)	34	Malappuram Mango	Agricultural Product (Fruit)
17	Tirur Betel Leaf	Agricultural Product (Leaf)	35	Kaipad Rice	Agricultural Product (Rice)
18	Malabar Parotta	Food Product			

Findings of the study

- **Growth in gi applications and registrations:** Over the five year period, there has been a consistently rise in the number of GI applications filed, reflecting an increasing recognition of the value of GI protection among South Indian states. The number of successful GI registration also grew confirming the growing importance of protecting regional products.
- **Dominance of handicrafts and agricultural Products:** Handicrafts and agricultural products dominated the GI applications in South India. Handicrafts continued to show a significant share of the applications, but agricultural product like rice, spices and coffee also saw notable registration, underlining the importance of these

sectors to regional economies

- **Regional Variations:** Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu emerged as the leading states in the GI registration process. While Karnataka had a substantial share of agricultural GI applications, Kerala and Tamil Nadu saw a more diverse range of registration across foodstuff, manufactured goods and handicrafts.
- **Decline in food stuff and manufactured goods:** Compared to other categories foodstuff and manufactured good exhibited lower registration rates. Although there were applications in these categories, the number of successful registration remained limited, indicating a potential area for more focused advocacy and awareness.
- **Strong regional cooperation:** Several instances of cross state GI registration were observed, particularly involving Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu suggesting increasing cooperation between these states in promoting regional products.
- **Processing delays and backlogs:** Despite the rise in applications the number of applications still under process remained relatively high, signalling potential backlogs in the GI registration process. This may require a more streamlined and efficient system to ensure timely recognition of products.
- **Increased awareness of gi benefits:** The data from this study indicates that there is growing awareness about the benefits of GI protection not only in terms of preserving traditional knowledge and cultural heritage but also in boosting local economies by ensuring product authenticity and quality.

These findings underscore the growing recognition of Geographical Indications in South India as an important tool for protecting and promoting regional products, while also highlighting areas where the process could be improved for greater efficiency and impact.

Suggestion and limitations

The study highlights the need for further research into specific regions and product categories that have underutilized the GI system. More focus on increasing awareness and understanding of GI protections in smaller sectors could lead to greater growth in both applications and registration in the future.

The study faced limitation in data availability, relying on publicly accessible reports, which may have been incomplete or inconsistent. The five year period (2018-2023) might not fully capture long term trends or policy changes and regional differences in GI applications and varying registration processes across states made comparison challenging. There could also be biases in the reporting and prioritization of certain GI applications.

Conclusion

The study shows a steady increase in GI applications and registrations in South India particularly in agriculture and handicrafts with Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu leading in registration. Sectors like food stuff and manufactured goods have experienced slower growth. The analysis also highlights inefficiencies in the registration process, with a backlog of applications still under review. Streamlined processes, increased awareness and broader adoption across more sectors are needed to fully realize the potential of GIs

in promoting regional products and preserving cultural heritage.

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