



GI Tag for Five Iconic Products

Why in News?

The Bihar state agriculture department is working together with **Bihar Agricultural University (BAU)** in Bhagalpur to obtain [geographical indication \(GI\)](#) certification for at least 54 distinct region-specific products.

- Research is already in advanced stages for **five key items** as part of this collaborative effort.

Key Points

- Five advanced stage products are **'litti chokha'** (Bihar's staple dish), **Sonachur rice** and **Gulshan tomato from Rohtas**, **'singhara'** (water chestnut) and **Digha Malda mango from Patna**.
- The states with the **most geographical indication (GI) tags** are **Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala**.
 - Bihar has **six GI-tagged products** - [Shahi litchi](#), [Bhagalpuri Zardalu mango](#), [Katarni rice](#), [Maricha rice](#), [Magahi paan \(betel leaf\)](#) and [makhana \(foxnut\)](#).
- The central government's commerce ministry is backing the drive for Geographical Indication (GI) tags, in accordance with India's commitments as a member of the [World Trade Organization](#) and under the [TRIPS \(Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights\) agreement](#).

Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- A GI tag is a **name or sign used on certain products** that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
- The GI tag ensures that only the **authorised users or those residing in the geographical territory** are allowed to use the popular product name.
 - It also protects the product from being copied or imitated by others.
- A registered **GI is valid for 10 years**.
- GI registration is overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.