## **GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION – A PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR APPELLATIONS OF ORIGIN OF NORTH-EAST INDIA**

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This paper discusses about Geographical Indication (GI), an Intellectual Property Right legislated by India through 'The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999', the benefits and protection that it provides to various goods in commercial exploitation at local, national and international level. Further, the paper reveals the various traditional, ethnic and well-known goods of North-East India that can be commercially exploited under the protection system of GI. Finally, the status of North-East India in GI registration has been brought to light to necessitate more GI registration of the different goods–a means to create a safe and secure marketplace for the people of North-East India.