GI SYSTEM IN INDIA- AN INTRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT
In recent years geographical indications (GIs) has emerged as one of the most important instrument of protecting the “quality, reputation or other character of goods essentially attributable to their geographical origin”. Like trademark, geographical indications is valuable to providence. It is a ‘source identifier’ and indicator of quality”. It helps to promote goods of particular region or country and “eligible for relief from acts of infringement and/or unfair competition”. The concern shown by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) gave new impetus to protection of GIs. The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 protect the GI’s in India. Registration of GI is not compulsary in India. If registered, it will afford better legal protection to facilitate an action for infringement. This paper seeks to examine the law and practice relating to protection of GIs in India.

KEY WORDS: Geographical indication, India, Darjeeling tea, Basmati rice, Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights, World Intellectual Property Organization.