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Mandar of Jharkhand: The Folk Drum's GI Tag

Study/source context: Akashvani News 29 September 2026 (GI grant notice); GI Registry: application no. 777 (filed 24 September 2021; status: registered) | Actual publication date: 20 October 2026 | Art and culture: folk instruments and the Geographical Indication (GI)

News Context

Per Akashvani News's 29 September 2026 report, Jharkhand's traditional folk instrument Mandar has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The Government of India's Geographical Indications Registry, located in Chennai, granted "Mandar of Jharkhand" this registration, giving its geographical and cultural identity legal recognition. Per the GI Registry entry (application no. 777), the applicant is Raidih Mandar Producer Company Limited (Gumla, Jharkhand) and the entry status is "registered".

The GI application was filed on 24 September 2021; the application placed traditional craftsmanship, the use of local red clay, indigenous construction technique and the distinctive sound as its main features. "Mandar Samrat" Manpuran Nayak called it a tribute to the ancestors and to Jharkhand's soil. The recognition is expected to give traditional artisans' products a stronger footing in domestic and international markets.

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Type: double-headed percussion instrument. Structure: cylindrical red-clay body, bulging in the middle; leather on both ends. GI: "Mandar of Jharkhand"; application 24 September 2021. A folk instrument tied to both tribal and non-tribal traditions.

(If the diagram's letters look small, touch the image to open it larger and zoom. An original concept diagram based on the article's primary sources.)

The Instrument's Structure and Playing

The Mandar is a cylindrical double-headed instrument made of red clay, whose body is slightly bulging in the middle and hollow inside. Both ends are covered with leather - the right head smaller, the left larger - and the leather is tightened with braided ropes. A special paste called kiran is applied on the smaller head, which produces the Mandar's unique resonant sound.

The player hangs it from the shoulder with a rope and plays it even while walking in rhythmic step. It is the leading instrument of festivals, harvest celebrations, religious rites and cultural programmes, and has been part of tribal and non-tribal communities' dance-song traditions for centuries.

What Is a Geographical Indication (GI)?

Per Intellectual Property India (IP India), a geographical indication is a sign that links a product's origin to a country, region or place; such a name is an assurance of quality and distinctiveness that comes essentially from that geographical origin. In the Paris Convention and the TRIPS agreement, GI is considered an element of intellectual property rights.

In India, GI's legal basis is the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. For traditional products like the Mandar, GI registration is a means of both legal protection of artisans' heritage and market recognition.

Prelims: Practice Questions

Question 1. What is the Mandar and which state is its GI related to?

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(b) Wind instrument; Karnataka

(c) Solid (ghana) instrument; Rajasthan

(d) Double-headed percussion instrument; Jharkhand

▶ Answer and explanation

Question 2. Choose the correct statements about the Mandar's structure:

1. It has a cylindrical red-clay body bulging in the middle.

2. The right head is bigger than the left head.

3. A paste called kiran is applied on the smaller head.

(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3 (c) Only 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

▶ Answer and explanation

Question 3. In the "Mandar of Jharkhand" GI case, which fact is correct?

(a) The GI Registry is in New Delhi

(b) The application was filed on 24 September 2021

(c) This is India's first GI

(d) The GI Act is of 1972

▶ Answer and explanation

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Short answer: per Akashvani News's 29 September 2026 report, Jharkhand's traditional folk instrument Mandar has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

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Question: What is the Mandar's structure like?

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Sources

- https://newsonair.gov.in/jharkhands-traditional-musical-instrument-mandar-gets-geographical-indication-tag/ - Akashvani News: Mandar gets the GI tag, 29 September 2026
- https://ipindia.gov.in/frontend/pdf/mannual/1_49_1_gi-act-1999.pdf - Intellectual Property India: Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 (official text)
- https://search.ipindia.gov.in/GIRPublicSearch/Application/Details/777 - Indian GI

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