

**THE GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION OF GOODS  
(REGISTRATION & PROTECTION) ACT, 1999**

**To be filled in triplicate along with the statement of  
Case accompanied by five additional representation  
of the geographical indication**

**FORM GI-1**

<b>A</b>	Application for Registration of a geographical indication in Part A of the Register Section 11(1), Rule 23 (2) Fee: Rs.5000 ( see entry No: 1A of the First Schedule)	Received Rs. 5000 in cash/ Cheque D.D. No. on 21-9-06 vide entry no. 0169 in the register of valuations <i>[Signature]</i> 21/9/06 D.D.O.
<b>B</b>	Application for Registration of a geographical indication in Part A of the Register from a convention country Section 11(1), 84 (1), Rule 23 (3) Fee: Rs.5000 ( see entry No: 1B of the First Schedule)	

<b>1</b>	Application is hereby made by  Development Commissioner (Handicrafts ), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, West Block No 7, RK Puram, New Delhi.
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<b>a</b>	Name of the Applicant	Development Commissioner (Handicrafts ), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, West Block No 7, RK Puram, New Delhi.
<b>b</b>	Address	Development Commissioner (Handicrafts ), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, West Block No 7, RK Puram, New Delhi.

<b>c</b>	List of Association of persons / producers / organization/ authority	To be filled in by DC (H)
<b>d</b>	Type of Goods and class	Utilitarian and ornamental products made from sikki grass – falling in class 20
<b>e</b>	Specification	Various products made of sikki grass including containers, boxes, baskets, toys, bangles, coasters, hand-held fans, bowls, boxes of all sizes, mobiles and three dimensional figures, figures of deities and temples, and modern functional items like trays, baskets, pen stands, and necklaces.
<b>f</b>	Name of the geographical Indication (and particulars)	Sikki grass products of Bihar (Sitamarhi, Madhubani and Dharbhanga Districts)

g	Description of the Goods	<p>The variety of products made from sikki grass are utilitarian as well as ornamental. They include containers to store grain, rice, and lentils, boxes to keep their clothes and jewellery, baskets to store sweets and keep betel leaf, and containers to store their masalas (spices). Mobiles and toys are made for the children, while the women make bangles for themselves. Coasters, hand-held fans, and bowls and boxes of all types and sizes, mobiles, and three-dimensional figures are made for urban markets, while figures of deities are crafted for religious festivals. The craft products often depict the daily rhythms of craftspersons' lives to their natural surroundings, mythological and religious aspects. Replicas of gods, goddesses and temples depicting Hindu epics to modern functional items like tray, baskets, pen stand, necklaces, bangles etc. are also crafted.</p> <p><b>The wide range of Sikki products can be categorized into two::</b></p> <p><b>Religious &amp; Mythological:</b> Human figures, replicas of gods and goddesses, models of chariots, temples, relief &amp; sculpture.</p> <p><b>Ornamental &amp; Functional products:</b> baskets, boxes, toys animals, birds and, animal &amp; bird modals, trays &amp; baskets, jewellery, beads, pendants, necklaces bangles, bowls etc of different sizes and shapes.</p>
h	Geographical area of Production and Maps	Sitamarhi, Madhubani and Dharbhanga Districts of Bihar.

i	Proof of Origin / historical records	<p>At one point of time a very large part of the population in North Bihar was engaged in this craft, which was mainly practiced in some of the pockets in Darbhanga, Madhubani and Sitamarhi districts of Bihar. Sikki work was a skill possessed by women in this region and gradually with active intervention of some of the local NGOs like Adithi this was carried actively to generate income along with an expression of form of their lives, their love and their aspirations.</p> <p>Ironically today, there is yet growing demands for Sikki grass work not only for their outstanding beauty but also for a certain culture; certain value system they stand for. But unfortunately there aren't many actively involved in the craft due to lack of new design and product innovations and as a result there has been gradual reduction of regular sales and income flow due especially due to the bottle neck in regular market.</p> <p>It is estimated that today there are about 1500 skilled artisans but majority are not as actively involved with this craft anymore and the craft is almost in the verge of extinction. In the Sursand block of Sitamarhi district there are about 500 and in Parihar block there are about 800 skilled artisans but many are not involved.</p> <p>The annual turnover is also gradually going down and it is estimated that today the volume of Sikki product sales figure would not be more than Rs 40 to 60 thousand</p>
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	<p>Method of Production</p>	<p>Sikki is the king of stemmed grass found in the wet lands of the north Bihar. The women collect Sikki-grass from the village farms. The upper portion of the stem, which contains flowers, is discarded and the remaining portion cut into small pieces and preserved for making attractive sikki ware.</p> <p>To make the Sikki grass usable it is first cut from near its base and then dried. The upper portion of the flowering stem is then discarded. The remaining portion is finely sliced and shaved and used for making the products. Sikki is sold by the traders at the weekly hat (market) or by itinerant door-to-door sellers. The rate varies, but interestingly, Sikki is not sold by weight, but measured by the fistful.</p> <p>Baskets crafted out of Munj grass are a part of the living tradition of the state and have multiple uses, including the storage of food, clothing, and jewellery. Munj grass, pale lemon in colour, grows wild, and is strong and durable. Used either in its natural shade or dyed into many hues, the colourful baskets are further embellished with fringes of shells. Colours and glue (Arabic) are available in the local market. Sikki grass, dyed in red, blue, black, and gold is imaginatively wrought into a variety of articles. The sikki, which is characterized by its wonderful golden hue, is also coloured into myriad shades to make the products more attractive. The deities that are fashioned are depicted with their own special colours in two-dimensional images. The colours most popular are purple, deep blue, bright yellow, magenta pink, green, and red, all combined with the natural golden to make the final product a riot of colours. The women craft the products throughout the year according to their needs.</p>
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	<p>Method of Production</p>	<p><b>The Technique of making Sikki products</b></p> <p>The desired forms are generally shaped with ordinary grass called khar which is coiled and encased in the softer Sikki, while many of the motifs are derived from the local tantric traditions. Technical improvement, by means of dyeing of grass with fast colours is being introduced. The coiling technique, which is the oldest, is most commonly used in Sikki. The common long grass is wired and stitched together with the Pasikki, dyed in several different shades, using a thick needle called Takua. Especially in constructing the sculptural forms, the whole build up is made by the coils.</p> <p>The technique used for making products from Sikki is the ancient and time honored coiling method. Interestingly the actual form is shaped with Munj, raffia grass, or Khar, which is much cheaper and more abundantly available. This provides the basic shape and gives additional strength to the product. The Munj is completely coiled over and covered with Sikki; The only tool used by the women is a 6 inch long needle-shaped iron object called takua with a rounded head, made of lac, which is used to hold the needle while coiling the grass. The object being made is held firmly while the right hand is completely free to wield the Takua. No threads or cords or any other materials are used. The Sikki is slightly dampened to make it more pliable as it is coiled around the Munj. The colouring is achieved by boiling it in dyes.</p> <p>Each of the Sikki products is not only colourful but also individual. Colours are used in dramatic contrast and each product reflects the creative impulse of its maker. Two-dimensional images of birds and animals, trees, and figures are also beautifully crafted. Some craftswomen are now experimenting and making products only in sikki grass, without using the traditional Munj base.</p>
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k	Uniqueness	<p>The coiling technique, which is the oldest, is most commonly used in Sikki. The common long grass is wired and stitched together with the Pasikki, dyed in several different shades, using a thick needle called Takua. Especially in constructing the sculptural forms, the whole build up is made with coils.</p> <p>The technique used for making products from Sikki is the ancient and time honored coiling method. Interestingly the actual form is shaped with Munj, raffia grass, or Khar, which is much cheaper and more abundantly available. This provides the basic shape and gives additional strength to the product. The Munj is completely coiled over and covered with Sikki; The only tool used by the women is a 6 inch long needle-shaped iron object called takua with a rounded head, made of lac, which is used to hold in grip the needle while coiling the grass. The object being made is held firmly while the right hand is completely free to wield the Takua. No threads or cords or similar materials are used. The Sikki slightly dampened to make it more pliable as it is coiled around the Munj. The colouring is achieved by boiling it in dyes.</p>
l	Inspection Body	To be decided by DCH
m	Others	<p>Sikki work is a skill possessed by women in this region of Bihar. As an activity it generates not only income but also opportunities for expressing the intricacies of their lives and their aspirations. There is growing demands for Sikki-grass work not only for outstanding beauty but also for its cultural value. Like paintings, sikki is also folk in nature, and was prompted by a prevalent Mithila social custom.</p>

Along with the Statement of Case in Class (b) Class 24, in respect of "not included in other classes" –

in the name of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, West Block No 7, RK Puram, New Delhi who claim to represent the interest and producers of the said goods to which the geographical indication relates and which is in continuous use since

In respect of the said goods.

2. The Application shall include such other particulars called for in rule 32(1) in the Statement of Case.

3. All communications relating to this application may be sent to the following address in India:

(a) Development Commissioner of (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, West Block No 7, RK Puram, New Delhi.

Signature: [Signature]

Name of the signatory in

Block Letters: (R. S. YADAV)

Asstt. Dir. (Handicrafts)  
कला विकास विभाग (क.व.वि.)  
Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)  
कला विकास विभाग, नया राई, पटना-14  
CWTSC, Ambedkar Path, Patna-14