



01-04-2024 NEWS

60 Products got GI Tag

- Over 60 products from across India have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- This is the first time that such a large number of products have been given the GI tag at one go.
- More products from Assam including Asharikandi terracotta craft, Jaapi (bamboo headgear), Mishing handloom products, Bihu dhol, Bodo Dokhona, the traditional attire of Bodo women; and Bodo Eri silk, referred to as the fabric of peace or ahimsa have bagged the GI tag.
- Bodo Jwmgra (a traditional scarf), Bodo Gamsa (traditional dress of Bodo men), Bodo Thorkha (a musical instrument), and Bodo Sifung (a long fute) are also on the list.
- The famous Banaras Thandai, a drink made by blending milk with a mix of nuts, seeds and spices, also got the tag.
- The drink was first introduced as an offering to the Shri Kashi Vishwanath deity on the occasion of Mahashivaratri, Rangbhari Ekadasi, and Holi.
- The Banaras Tabla, Banaras Shehnai, Banaras Lal Bharwamirch, and Banaras Lal Pedas are among the products that got GI tags in this region.
- The Tripura region secured two tags — one for the Pachra-Rignai, which is a traditional dress worn on special occasions, and the other for the Matabari Pedas, a sweet preparation.
- Meghalaya Garo Textile weaving, which is linked to socio-cultural and religious rituals, Meghalaya Lyrnai Pottery, and Meghalaya Chubitchi also secured the tag.

Kachchatheevu: RTI documents

- Kachchatheevu is located 12 miles from Rameswaram and 10.5 miles from Jaffna.
- Being the smallest island, its total area is 285 acres. Length is 1.7 km.
- India claimed that Kachchatheevu was under the zamindars of Rameswaram until the zamindari system was abolished in 1948, after which it became part of the Madras province.
- Sri Lanka has claimed that the islands have been under their control since the colonial rule of the Dutch and British, specifically since 1921.
- Amid long-standing tension between the two countries, in 1974, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi made Kachchatheevu a part of Sri Lanka.
- Signed the ratification agreement. Karunanidhi was then the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

RTI Documents:

- The Sri Lankan Army said that the Indian Army should not come to Kachchatheevu without their permission. In 1955, Sri Lanka started training at Kachchatheevu.
- In 1960, the then Attorney General Setalwad said that India has the right to Kachchatheevu.
- In 1961, Nehru said about Kachchatheevu: I will not give any importance to the small island. I have no qualms about giving up ownership of the island. He said he did not want the matter to be discussed again and again in Parliament.
- The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi signed an agreement in 1974 recognizing Sri Lanka's claim to Kachchatheevu.
- The agreement was signed first in Colombo on 26th June 1974 and then in Delhi on 28th June 1974.

Success in Sea

- The Indian Navy in the name of 'Operation Sankalp' carries out tasks such as rescuing ships, protecting cargo ships from attacks by missiles and drones, prevention of pirate attacks to ensure the security of the Indian Ocean region.
- The 'Operation Sankalp' has gained momentum following the attack in December last year on the vessel MV Chempluto, about 220 nautical miles off the Indian coast.
- The Indian Navy has so far safely rescued six cargo ships that were attacked by drones and missiles by Houthi rebels.
- After a few hours of operation, INS Kolkata recovered the pirate-owned vessel in the North Arabian Sea, about 2,600 km from Indian waters.
- Due to the perils of sailing through the Indian Ocean, especially the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, insurance premiums for cargo ships have increased by 35% to 40%.
- The rent of cargo vaults (containers) also increases from \$500 to \$2,000. Traveling around the tip of the African continent means that the cost of transportation will increase significantly. The operations of the Indian Navy are also essential to India's commercial traffic. 60% of India's crude oil imports must come through the Arabian Sea.
- About 50% of India's total trade is through the Arabian Sea.
- Therefore, ensuring the security of the Pacific Ocean region is also India's need.