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## GI tag for Mithila Makhana

### Why in Newspapers?

Recently the government has given Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana. This move is expected to help the growers to get maximum price for their premium produce.

### Quick Issue?

- Some of the famous items that have been given this tag include Basmati Rice, Darjeeling Tea, Chanderi Fabric, Mysore Silk, Kullu Shawl, Kangra Chai, Thanjavur Painting, Allahabad Surkha, Farrukhabad Print, Lucknow Zardozi, Kashmir Kesar and Kashmir Walnut Wood Carvings included.

### Historical Background?

- GI is an indicator, which is used to identify goods with special characteristics originating from a certain geographical area.
- The 'Geographical Indications of Goods' (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide better protection and registration of Geographical Indications relating to goods in India.
- It is also part of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organization.
- The decision was taken under Articles 1(2) and 10 of the Paris Convention and also stated that protection of industrial property and geographical indications are elements of intellectual property.
- It is primarily agricultural, natural or manufactured products (handicrafts and industrial goods).
- The registration of Geographical Indication is valid for a period of 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for an additional period of 10-10 years.
- Once given Geographical Indication status, no other manufacturer can misuse its name for marketing similar products. It also facilitates the customers about the authenticity of that product.
- Geographical Indication of a product prevents unauthorized use of other registered Geographical Indications.

### Other Key Facts?

#### Mithila Makhana

- Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: *Euryle ferox salisub*) is a special variety of Makhana grown in the Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal.
- The Makhana is one of the three iconic cultural identities of Mithila.
- Paan, Makhan and Mach (fish) are the three iconic cultural identities of Mithila.
- It is also very famous in the Kojagra festival of Maithil Brahmins celebrated for newly married couples.
- Makhana contains protein and fiber along with micronutrients like calcium, magnesium, iron and phosphorus.



- Which promotes the export of Indian Geographical Indications by providing legal protection and also enables other WTO member countries to obtain legal protection?
- GI tag helps in promoting the export of the product. It also facilitates the customers about the authenticity of that product.
- There is a proper process of registration of GI products which includes filing of application, preliminary inquiry and examination, show cause notice, publication in Geographical Indication magazine, opposition to registration and registration.
- Any association of persons, producers, organization or authority established by or under law may apply. The applicant should represent the interests of the producers.

### Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

**Que. According to which act Geographical Indication (GI) tag is given?**

- (a) Indian Copyright Act, 1957 Act
- (b) New Design Act 2000
- (c) Patent Act, 1970
- (d) Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999

**Answer (d) Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**

**Que. Who issues GI tag in India?**

- (a) Geographical Indications Registry
- (b) Patent Authority of India
- (c) World Trade Organization
- (d) Ministry of Finance, Government of India

**Answer (a) Geographical Indications Registry**

**Que. What is the time limit of GI tag?**

- (a) 10 years
- (b) 20 years
- (c) 50 years
- (d) unlimited time

**Answer (a) 10 years**



## Forever Chemicals

### Why in Newspapers?

According to a recent study, scientists have found that rainwater from many places around the world is contaminated with Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAs).

### Quick Issue?

- They are called Forever Chemicals because of their tendency to remain in rainwater and soil for a long time.
- PFAs are also listed in the Stockholm Convention.
- It is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs.
- POPs are chemicals that persist in the environment for a long time and are geographically distributed, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife.

### Other Key Facts?

#### Filtration System

- Filtration system with activated carbon can be used in rainwater harvesting system.
- Activated carbon will need to be removed and replaced regularly. Also the old contaminated material will have to be destroyed.
- There are many other experimental techniques that are promising but have not been used for the treatment of large quantities of chemicals.

### Historical Background?

- India ratified the Stockholm Agreement on January 13, 2006, in accordance with Article 25(4) which enabled it to place itself in a default "opt-out" position, so as to amend the various annexures to the agreement. may not apply unless the form of verification/acceptance/approval or approval is explicitly submitted to the United Nations Trustee/Depositary.
- Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAs): They are man-made chemicals used to make nonstick cookware, water-repellent fabrics, stain-resistant clothing, cosmetics, fire extinguishers, and many other products that are resistant to grease, water, and water. and resist oil.
- Can enter soil, water and air during its production and use. Most PFAs are not decomposed; they persist in the environment for a long time.
- In addition, some of these PFAs can build up in people and animals if they are repeatedly exposed to chemicals.
- Exposure to PFA is associated with an increased risk of certain diseases, including decreased fertility, developmental effects in children, interference with the body's hormones, increased cholesterol levels, and an increased risk of certain types of cancer .
- Recent research has also shown that prolonged low-level exposure to certain PFAs may make it difficult for humans to produce antibodies after vaccination against various diseases.



- Incineration: The most common method of destroying PFAs is incineration, but most PFAs are remarkably fire-resistant. This is why they are used in fire extinguishing foam.
- PFA has many fluorine atoms attached to a carbon atom and the bond between carbon and fluorine is the strongest.
- Generally, something can be burnt only by breaking the bond, but fluorine's bond with carbon is not easily broken.
- Most PFAs will break down completely at temperatures of about 1,500 °C (2,730 °F), but this is energy intensive and suitable incinerators are rare.
- **Supercritical water oxidation:** - To destroy PFA, scientists have developed supercritical water oxidation. The high temperature and pressure causes the chemistry to accelerate so quickly that the state of the water changes and the hazardous substances are destroyed.
- Plasma reactors: Researchers are working with plasma reactors, which use water, electricity and argon gas to break down PFAs.

### Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

**Que. With reference to the 'Global Environmental Facility', which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- (a) It serves as the financial mechanism for the 'Convention on Biological Diversity' and the 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change'.
- (b) It conducts scientific research on environmental issues at the global level.
- (c) It is an agency governed under the OECD that facilitates the transfer of technology and money to underdeveloped countries with the specific objective of protecting their environment.
- (d) Both A and B

**Ans (a) It serves as the financial mechanism for the 'Convention on Biological Diversity' and the 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change'.**

**Que. In which of the following United Nations Conference/Summit was the Sustainable Development Operation Program (Program of Action for Sustainable Development) adopted?**

- (a) Stockholm Conference
- (b) Rio de Janeiro Conference
- (c) Johannesburg Summit
- (d) Ahmedabad Conference

**Answer (b) Rio de Janeiro Conference**