

Prelim Bits 04-03-2024 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

New GI Tagged Products

The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai have given GI tag for Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi, Banglar muslin, Narasapur crochet lace products among others.

- **GI tag** - A form of *certification that recognises unique products* based on their origin.
- **Characteristics** - Products can be *natural or man-made*.
- India being a member of WTO, enacted the *Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999* that came into force from 2003.

The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was Darjeeling Tea in the year 2004-05. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of GI tags in India.

Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi - Jewellery

- It is a *silver filigree, a form of metalwork in jewellery*.
- **Geography** - *Odisha*.
- **Qualities** - Fine craftsmanship and luxurious design.
- **Origin** - As early as *3500 BCE in Mesopotamia*, it was incorporated and even today it is done as Telkari work.
- **In India** - It might have *reached Cuttack from Persia through Indonesia* some 500 years ago by sea trade, also evidences shows the exchange of jewellery and gems between Kalinga and Indonesia.

The Banglar muslin - Handloom Craft

- **Geography** - *Bengal*.
- **Qualities** - This finest muslin is made of *cotton*, which are spun to create threads that maintained *tensile strength higher* than any other cotton products.

Narasapur crochet lace products

- **Geography** - Narsapur in *Andhra Pradesh*.
- **Qualities** - Intricate craftsmanship, unique designs and good quality crochet craft.
- **In India** - It was brought by missionaries to Narsapur.

Ratlam Riyawan Lahsun - Garlic variety

- **Geography** - It is named after Riyawan village in Ratlam district of *Madhya Pradesh*

Ambaji White Marble

- **Geography** - *Gujarat*.
- It is formed when limestone is re-crystallised under the earth's crust due to intense pressure and heat.
- **Qualities** - Pure white Colour with light grey veins.

Majuli mask

- **Geography** - *Assam*

- They are made in different variety and sizes as they are mainly divided into different categories

- **Mukha bhaona face mask** - It covers the face.

- **Lotokoi hanging mask** - It is bigger in size extends to the chest.

- **Cho Mukha huge mask** - It is a head and body mask.

Majuli Manuscript Paintings

- **Geography** - *Assam*.

- It has illustrated numerous stories and chapters taken from the great Hindu epics Ramayana, Mahabharata and above all subjects from the Bhagavata Purana.

Risa Textile

- **Geography** - Tripura

- It is common in almost all 19 indigenous tribal communities of Tripura.

- However, each community has its own design.

Hyderabad Lac Bangles and Kutch rogan craft are the other products that got GI tag recently.

Reference

[The Hindu| Recent GI Tagged Products](#)

Lahore Resolution, 1940

India plans to celebrate the Pakistan National Day in March 2024 at the Pakistan's embassy complex in New Delhi.

***Pakistan National Day** is observed on March 23, the day the Lahore Resolution was adopted in 1940 by the Muslim League.*

- **Adopted by** - *All-India Muslim League* during its general session in Lahore from March 22 to March 24, 1940.
- **Objective** - To formally call for an ***independent state for India's Muslims***.
- **Causes** - Till the early 1930s, many Muslims had been agitating for better representation and safeguarding of their rights within the Indian Union.
 - *Separate electorate* granted to them in the Government of India Act, 1935, was a step towards that.
- However, as the decade progressed, the voices that demanded a total break from India got stronger.

*The Muslim League's 1940 Lahore session was held days after the **Khaksar tragedy**, when members of a Muslim group called the Khaksars, fighting for India's independence, were shot at by the British.*

- **Resolution** - No constitutional plan would be acceptable to Muslims unless it is designed on the following basic principle
- Demarcating geographically contiguous units with such territorial readjustments as may be necessary.
- Grouping the numerically Muslim majority areas like the North-Western and Eastern Zones of India into Independent States, where the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign.
- Providing constitutionals safeguards in other parts of India where the Mussalmans are in a minority and for other minorities in consultation with them.
- **Response by Indian Muslims** - Abul Kalam Azad and the Deoband ulema led by Husain Ahmad Madani criticised the resolution and advocated for a united India.
- **Consequence** - Though the resolution didn't mention the word 'Pakistan', it reached a point from which the Muslim League never turned back and lead to 2 independent states 'India & Pakistan'.
- **Significance** - In March 23rd 1956, Pakistan officially adopted its 1st Constitution, which transformed the Dominion of Pakistan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- Between 1960 and 1968, the **Minar-e-Pakistan** was built at the site where the resolution was adopted and the text of the resolution is inscribed at the base of the tower.

Reference

[The Indian Express| Pakistan National Day in New Delhi](#)

Grey Zone Warfare

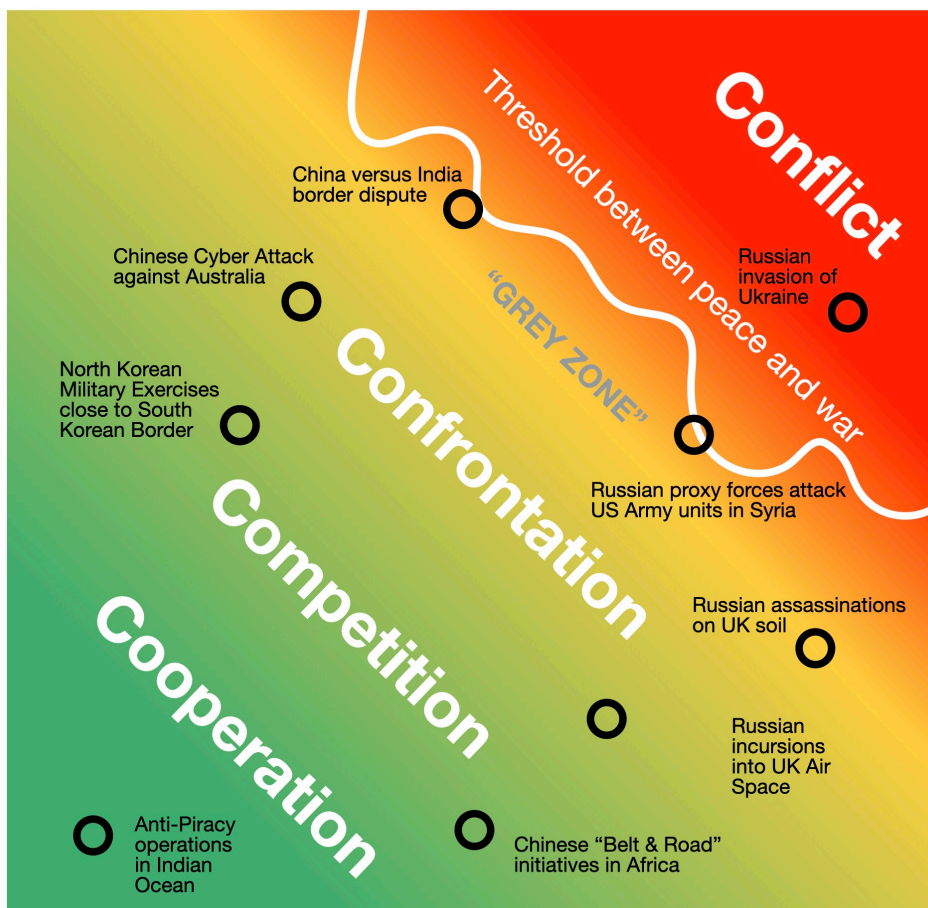
In the recent 9th edition of Raisina Dialogue, India's Chief of Defence Staff mentioned that "grey zone warfare" is the latest in informal warfare.

[The Raisina Dialogue](#) is India's premier annual conference on geopolitics and geo-economics that was designed on the basis of Shangri-La Dialogue.

- **Grey Zone Warfare** - A separate military action which generally means a middle, unclear space between direct conflict and peace in international relations.
- Here, action is often covert or indirect, meaning a country's response needs to be appropriate in terms of its scale.
- **Causes** - In nuclear era, the cost of conventional conflict is high, prompting the nations to seek to covert aggressions.
 - Amid the US-USSR rivalry in cold war era, the knowledge that both were nuclear armed meant direct conflicts had to be restrained.
- They are often employed by parties who have not had access to massive resources or power, traditionally to help them gain an advantage over superior powers.
- **Economic warfare** - Debt traps, economic sanctions among others.
 - Economic sanctions against China and imposition of duties on Chinese imports to the US.

- **Military warfare** - *Proxy wars*
 - Chinese military's presence in the South China Sea threatening Philippines and Taiwan.
- **Geo-political warfare** - *Legal warfare (lawfare), Destabilizing insurgencies, mercenary operations and assassinations.*
- **Cyber warfare** - *Information warfare, cyberattacks* and disinformation campaigns.

The Continuum of Competition



- **Impact** - Though it seems mild when compared to traditional strategic competition, it is *not less vicious*.
- Rather than escalate in one dimension, it tends to *escalate in multiple dimensions* and leads to unintended over-escalation, creating a nightmare for crisis management.

Reference

[The Indian Express| Grey Zone Warfare](#)

Risa Textiles

Tripura's traditional tribal attire 'risa' gets Geographical Indication tag.

Geographical Indication (GI) tag is a form of certification that recognises unique products based on their origin which can be natural or man-made. India has enacted Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 for this purpose.

A traditional Tripuri female attire

- **3 parts** - Risa, rignai and rituku.
- **Origin** - Even before the time of the Manikya kings, who ruled Tripura for over 500 years since 15th Century.
- Although this history is contested, Maharaj Trilochana aka Subhrai Raja is said to have invented nearly 250 designs of rignai during his time for his 250 wives.
- **Risa** - A handwoven cloth used as a female upper garment, and also as headgear and a stole.
- As an upper garment, it is wrapped around the torso twice.
- **Rignai** - It is primarily worn as the lower garment which can be understood as an indigenous variety of the sari of mainland India.
- **Rituku** - It is mainly used as a wrap, or like a 'chunri' or a 'pallu' of the Indian saree.
- It is also used to cover the heads of newly married Tripuri women.

- **Risa** - It is common in almost all 19 indigenous tribal communities of Tripura but each community has its own design.
- **Social relevance** - Adolescent Tripuri girls are 1st given a risa to wear in an event called Risa Sormani, at age 12 to 14.
- It is presented as a mark of honour to distinguished recipients.
- As a turban by men during weddings and festivals, a cummerbund over the dhoti, a head scarf by young girls and boys, and a muffler during winters.
- It is also used as a makeshift hanger to hold an infant on mothers' backs.



- **Religious relevance** - It is used in religious festivals such as Garia Puja by tribal communities.
- **Significance of GI Tag** - It would increase its international popularity and marketing potential.

Handloom remains an integral part of the Tripuri household, even with the advent of powerloom-manufactured garments.

Reference

[The Indian Express| GI Tag for Risa Textiles](#)

Sri Ayya Vaikunda Swamigal

The Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to Sri Ayya Vaikunda Swamigal on his birth anniversary.

- A pioneer of the social revolutionaries of south India and Kerala.
- **Birth place** - Shastamkoyil near swamithoppu in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.
- **Original name** - ***Mudisoodum Perumal***, was changed to ***Muthukutty*** due to objections raised by upper caste Hindus.
- **Education** - He had no opportunity to systematic schooling but acquired knowledge of various religious texts.
- **Teachings** - He preached ***ideas of equality*** and advocated the rights of depressed class people in the face of stiff opposition from upper castes as well as princely state of Travancore.
- He requested people to give up irrelevant rites and rituals in their worship and ***also campaigned against animal sacrifices***.
- **Thol seelai porattam** - He was a part of this campaign to cover the upper part of the women of lower castes.
- **Turban protest** - There was restriction of ***wearing the headgear*** on certain section of caste in Travancore so he advocated wearing turban in protest.
- **Samathuva Samajam** - He started this to unite all people of various castes by organising ***inter-dining*** to accomplish it.
- **Ayya** - his followers called him respectfully as Ayya (father) and his cult was known ***as Ayya Vazhi*** (the path of Ayya).
- His ideas were collected into a text called ***Akila Thirattu Ammanai***.
- **Nizhal Thangals** - A simple temple of the Ayyavazhi religion built per the instructions of Akilattirattu Ammanai by commoners in order to worship without distinction of color, race or caste.
- **Thuvayal Thavas** - A religious exercise undertaken by his devotees.
- **Significance** - His teachings affected many social changes in southern India which resulted in the emergence of a series of social and self-respect movements such as

*Sri Ayya Vaikunda Swamigal criticised the rule of the British and the rule of Rajah of Travancore as the **rule of White devils and Black devils** respectively.*

References

1. [PIB| Birth Anniversary of Vaikunda Swamigal](#)
2. [AyyaVaikundar| Sri Ayya Vaikunda Swamigal](#)

Other Important Topics

World Wildlife Day

- In 2013, UN General Assembly (UNGA) declared **March 3** as United Nations World Wildlife Day to mark the adoption of *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)* in 1973.
- **Theme, 2024** - Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.

Haj Suvidha App

Union Minister for Minority Affairs has recently launched the Haj Suvidha App.

- Haj is a pilgrimage that Muslims make to Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- The Haj Suvidha app would provide necessary information, direct access to training modules, flight details, and accommodation to those embarking on the annual pilgrimage.
- The app has been developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N).

Ocean Grace

Union Minister of Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways inaugurated the 60T bollard pull tug named 'Ocean Grace' recently.

- Ocean Grace is the **1st make in India** Approved Standard Tug Design and Specifications (ASTDS) Tug developed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- Green Tugs Transition Programme (GTTP) launched in 2023 has set targets:
 - Green Tugs to start working in all major ports by 2025
 - Convert at least 50% of all the tugs into green tugs by 2030
- National Centre of Excellence for green port and Shipping (NCoEGPS) will act as the nodal entity for GTTP.

Venice Biennale

- The Venice Biennale (every 2 years) is one of the biggest and most prestigious **art fairs** in the world.
- It was celebrated to commemorate the **silver anniversary of King Umberto I of Italy and Margherita of Savoy** started in 1895.
- National pavilions are usually managed by their ministries of culture but currently, the Biennale consists of **29 permanent national pavilions**.
- Although **India doesn't have a permanent national pavilion**, it officially organised exhibitions in 1954, 2011, and 2019.

Pancheshwar project

- Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (PMP) is a bi-national hydropower project between **India and Nepal** to generate energy and improve irrigation.
- The project involves building 2 dams on the **Mahakali River**.
- India and Nepal had signed a Treaty known as **Mahakali Treaty** in February 1996 with the main aim to implement Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project.
- The **Mahakali River**, also known as the Sharda River or Kali River, is a **transboundary river** starting from the Milan glacier of India and Lipulekh of Nepal.

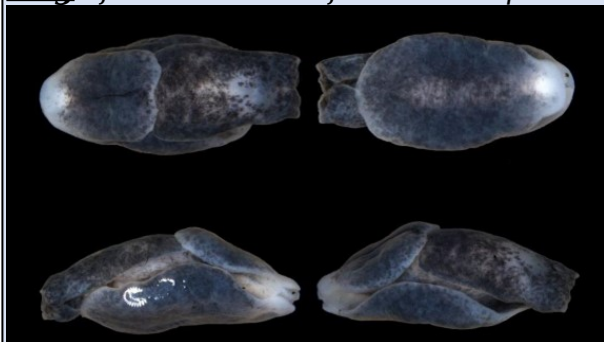
Vikramaditya Vedic Clock

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated 'Vikramaditya Vedic Clock' in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain city.

- 'Vikramaditya Vedic Clock' is the **world's 1st vedic clock** based on the *Indian 'panchang' (almanack)*.
- The unique clock also provides information on planetary positions, Muhurat, astrological calculations, and predictions.
- In addition to this, it also indicates Indian Standard Time (IST) and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- The clock will calculate time from **one sunrise to another**.
- **Ujjain** has been considered the centre of time calculation and the **Tropic of Cancer** also passes through the city.

Melanochlamys droupadi

The Zoological Survey of India named a new marine species of head-shield **sea slug** after President of India Droupadi Murmu.



- This sea slug species belonging to **Melanochlamys genus**.
- It was discovered from *Digha of West Bengal coast and Udaipur of Odisha coast*.
- The new species of head-shield sea slug is found nowhere in the world.
- According to ZSI, species of this group are generally distributed in temperate regions of the Indo-Pacific Oceanic realm but 3 species are truly **tropical distributed**
 - *Melanochlamys papillata* from the Gulf of Thailand,
 - *Melanochlamys bengalensis* from West Bengal and Odisha coast.
 - *Melanochlamys genus* from West Bengal and Odisha coast.

Tyler Prize

- The Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement is an **annual award established in 1973 by John and Alice Tyler** for scientific work on the environment, energy, and health.
- It is considered one of the *world's most prestigious awards* for these fields and the Tyler Laureates receive a \$250,000 cash prize and a medallion.
- The 2024 Tyler Prize will be awarded to **Johan Rockstrom** for his groundbreaking contributions and pioneering work to the development of the Planetary Boundaries framework.

Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and Disaster Recovery Site (DRS)

- **SEBI** has laid out a framework for BCP and DRS for market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) such as stock exchanges, depositories, and clearing corporations.
- The framework aims to ensure that in case of any outage, trading activities continue to take place without any disruptions.
- Besides, it also helps in maintaining data integrity.
- **Business Continuity Plan (BCP)** is a procedural guidance to create plans that prevent, prepare, respond, manage, and recover a business from any disruption.
- **Disaster Recovery Site (DRS)**, also known as a backup site, is a place that a company can temporarily relocate to following a security breach or natural disaster.
- DR sites can be internal, external or cloud-based.

Cheetah Conservation Breeding Centre

- Gujarat is setting up ***India's 1st cheetah conservation breeding centre in Banni Grasslands Reserve.***
- The centre will have open-to-air isolation enclosures and aims to bring cheetahs to Gujarat early next year.
- The **Banni Grasslands Reserve** is an arid grassland ecosystem in the Kutch district of Gujarat.
- It's one of the ***largest grasslands in India and the largest in Asia.***

