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News: India Qatar GI Products Meet

- Recently, the government of India organized a Virtual Networking Meet for Agri and Food Geographical Indication (GI) products in association with the Embassy of India, Doha and Indian Business and Professionals Council (IBPC) Qatar.

Geographical Indication Tags

- A Geographical Indication (GI) is a **sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin**. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a **product as originating in a given place**.
- In addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin.
- Since the qualities depend on the geographical place of production, there is a clear link between the product and its original place of production.
- It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods.

Benefit of GI tag

- Once the **GI protection is granted, no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products.** It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product.
- A **registered Geographical Indications prohibits a third party to use such GI by any means in the designations or presentations of goods** indicating that such goods originate in a geographical area.

International Protection for GI

- Internationally GI are covered as a component of **Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.**
- The **Paris Convention, adopted in 1883, applies to industrial property in the widest sense, including patents, trademarks, industrial designs, utility models, service marks, trade names, geographical indications and the repression of unfair competition.**
- GI is also governed by the **World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).**

GI Protection in India

- India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999** which came into force with effect from 2003.
- The Act provides registration and also protection of GI goods in India.
- This Act is administered by the **Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks, who is also the Registrar of Geographical Indications.**
- The Geographical Indications Registry for India is located in **Chennai.**
- The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a **period of 10 years.** It can be renewed from time to time for a further period of 10 years each.

GI Logo and Tagline

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, in order to encourage the promotion and marketing of Indian products registered as Geographical Indications, **launched a common GI Logo and Tagline.**
- The **Logo contains the letters 'G' and 'I'** which are used together as an acronym for Geographical Indication.
- It also resembles the general location symbol, indicating that each GI has specific characteristics which are attributable to its place of origin.

- The Tagline "**Invaluable Treasures of Incredible India**" written below it represents the spirit of Geographical Indications of India and will assist in effective branding and promotion of GIs.
- This will also help in engaging more people on the subject of GIs and create awareness about the benefits of a GI tag.