

**22– 11 – 2023**

**News:** Geographical Indication Tags

- Recently, the Geographical Indication (GI) Registry, operating under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has awarded the GI tag to the Department of Industries & Commerce, Ladakh, for 'Ladakh Sea Buckthorn' and Onattukara Sesame.

## **Ladakh Sea Buckthorn**

- Sea Buckthorn (Hippophae L) is a **shrub which produces an orange yellow coloured edible berry that is sour in taste but rich in vitamins, especially Vitamin C.**
- Ladakh Sea Buckthorn is a **vital crop in Union Territory Ladakh, with 90% of its production originating from the region.**
- It is also popularly known as **“Wonder Plant,” “Ladakh Gold,” “Golden Bush” or “Gold Mine.”**
- In India, it is **found above the tree line in the Himalayan region, in dry areas such as the cold deserts of Ladakh and Spiti.**
- It is a **soil-binding plant which prevents soil-erosion, checks siltation in rivers and helps preserve floral biodiversity.**

## Onattukara Sesame

- Onattukara Sesame is a type of sesame grown in Kerala, India.
- The OVA plans to increase the area under sesame cultivation from six hundred hectares to 2,000 hectares.
- Onattukara sesame and its oil are famous for its unique health benefits.
- Higher antioxidant content in Onattukara sesame helps in fighting the free radicals, which destroy the body cells.
- Also, the high content of unsaturated fat makes it beneficial for heart patients.
- Traditional ayurvedic doctors in the region have used Onattukara sesame oil for treating rheumatism (umbrella term that refers to arthritis and other conditions that affect the joints, tendons, and muscle) and skin protection since the 18<sup>th</sup> century.