

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) TAG

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Context:

Risa, a traditional tribal attire from Tripura, has recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Background:

Risa is a handwoven cloth used primarily as a female upper garment. It also serves as headgear, a stole, or a present to express respect. This exquisite fabric is woven in colourful designs and holds significant social and religious importance.

About Geographical Indication (GI) tag:

A Geographical Indication (GI) tag is a distinctive sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are essentially due to that origin. It serves as a form of intellectual property protection, safeguarding the unique identity and value of these products.

Significance of GI Tags:

1. **Authenticity:** GI tags ensure that registered authorized users are allowed to use the popular product name.
2. **Preserving Tradition:** They protect traditional methods of production and recognize the product's historical roots.
3. **Promoting Local Artisans:** GI tags benefit local artisans and promote cultural heritage.

Governance of GI Tags in India:

1. The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 governs GI tags in India.
2. As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), India implemented this Act to fulfil its obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
3. The Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry grants these tags.
4. Darjeeling tea holds the distinction of being the first product in India to receive the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.