

GEOGRAPHY**GI Certification for five varieties of Indian coffee**

The DPIIT has recently awarded Geographical Indication (GI) to five varieties of Indian coffee. The recognition and protection that comes with GI certification will allow the coffee producers of India to invest in maintaining the specific qualities of the coffee grown in that particular region. It will also enhance the visibility of Indian coffee in the world and allow growers to get maximum price for their premium coffee.

GI Tag for 5 Indian Coffee varieties

- Coorg Arabica coffee :It is grown specifically in the region of Kodagu district in Karnataka.
- Wayanaad Robusta coffee :It is grown specifically in the region of Wayanad district which is situated on the eastern portion of Kerala.
- Chikmagalur Arabica coffee: It is grown specifically in the region of Chikmagalur district and it is situated in the Deccan plateau, belongs to the Malnad region of Karnataka.
- Araku Valley Arabica coffee :It is coffee from the hilly tracks of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha region at an elevation of 900-1100 Mt MSL. The coffee produce of Araku, by the tribals, follows an organic approach in which they emphasise management practices involving substantial use of organic manures, green manuring and organic pest management practices.
- Bababudangiris Arabica coffee :It is grown specifically in the birthplace of coffee in India and the region is situated in the central portion of Chikmagalur district.

Selectively hand-picked and processed by natural fermentation, the cup exhibits full body, acidity, mild flavour and striking aroma with a note of chocolate. This coffee is also called high grown coffee which slowly ripens in the mild climate and thereby the bean acquires a special taste and aroma.

Coffee cultivation in India

In India, coffee is cultivated in about 4.54 lakh hectares by 3.66 lakh coffee farmers of which 98% are small farmers. Coffee cultivation is mainly done in the Southern States of India:

- Karnataka – 54%
- Kerala – 19%
- Tamil Nadu – 8%

Coffee is also grown in non-traditional areas like Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (17.2%) and North East States (1.8%).

The Monsooned Malabar Robusta Coffee, a unique specialty coffee from India, was given GI certification earlier.

Unique features of Indian Coffee

- India is the only country in the world where the entire coffee cultivation is grown under shade, hand-picked and sun dried.
- India produces some of the best coffee in the world, grown by tribal farmers in the Western and Eastern Ghats, which are the two major bio-diversity hotspots in the world.
- Indian coffee is highly valued in the world market and sold as premium coffee in Europe.
- Recently the Coffee Board of India has collaborated with Bengaluru-based digital Eka Software Solutions (Eka Plus) for development of a blockchain-based marketplace application.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**A reality check**

The U.S. move to take a listing request for Jaish-e-Mohammad founder Masood Azhar directly to the UN Security Council is an indicator of the frustration of a majority of the Council's permanent members with China's refusal to budge on the issue.

Reason for banning Azhar

- JeM was banned in 2001 with a listing at the UNSC that names Azhar as its founder and financier
- He was accused of working with al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden
- He was seen by the entire world on TV screens as he was exchanged for hostages at Kandahar following the 1999 Indian Airlines hijack,

- Since 2001, the JeM and Azhar have claimed responsibility for several terror attacks that resulted in the deaths of dozens of innocent persons, including, most recently, the February 14 attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama.

China's Stand on resolution

- China has used its veto on Azhar's listing at the 1267 UNSC Sanctions Committee four times in the past decade, evidently to protect Pakistan.
- Its stand on Azhar is at variance with the otherwise tough stand on terror in Xinjiang province.
- Also, it has allowed terrorists and groups based in Pakistan to be listed at the UNSC since 2001 and agreed to "grey list" Pakistan at the Financial Action Task Force for terror financing.
- It joined other UNSC members in passing a resolution against terror financing.

Us recent initiatives on issue

- With the latest proposal, the U.S. plans to "shame" China by bringing the Azhar listing to a public debate at the UNSC.
- And if that fails, it is reportedly considering a UN General Assembly statement condemning Azhar.
- The listing of Azhar is an unfinished task India is justified in pursuing.
- However, the latest U.S. move comes with some concerns.
- To begin with, there is no indication that China is ready to change its stand, particularly in the face of coercion or threat from the U.S., and it could veto this proposal as well.
- There appears to be little to be gained at present by forcing China further into Pakistan's corner, especially as New Delhi has said it would pursue the Azhar listing with China with "patience and persistence", in keeping with its desire not to sacrifice the bilateral relationship over the issue.
- It is equally unlikely that a world power like China would be moved by the threat of public humiliation.

Conclusion: New Delhi must applaud the strong support the U.S. and the other UNSC members have provided on the issue of cross-border terror threats, and on the vexed issue of Azhar's listing. But it must be careful not to stake too much on an immediate win at the UNSC vis-a-vis China, and keep its expectations realistic.

ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Government sets up group to monitor terror sympathizers

To take action against "hard core sympathizers among government employees, including teachers, who are providing covert or overt support" to terror-related activities, the MHA has formed a Terror Monitoring Group (TMG).

Terror Monitoring Group

- In order to ensure synergized and concerted action against terror financing and other related activities in J&K, a multi-disciplinary monitoring group comprising eight members has been constituted.
- The TMG has to take coordinated action in all registered cases that relate to terror financing and terror-related activities and bring them to a logical conclusion.

Composition

- The TMG will be chaired by Additional DGP, CID of J&K Police, and include Inspector General of Police of J&K and Additional Director of IB, J&K, as members.
- It will also have representatives from the CBI, NIA, CBDT and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

Terms of reference

- It will identify all key persons, including leaders of the organisation(s), who are involved in supporting terrorism in any form and take concerted action against them.
- The TMG will investigate the networks of various channels being used to fund terror and terror activities and take coordinated action to stop flow of such funds.
- The group will meet on a weekly basis and submit action-taken report regularly to the MHA.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

Report on India's Carbon emission

International Energy Agency found that India's carbon emissions grew by 4.8% during 2018, in spite of the national focus on climate change in energy policy.

Indian carbon emission

- There is wide recognition of the fact that Indians are not historically responsible for the problem.
- It is the rich nations led by the U.S. that have pumped in the stock of carbon dioxide linked to extreme climate impacts being witnessed around the globe.
- As the IEA points out, India's emissions have grown, but per capita they remain less than 40% of the global average.

The situation regarding efforts to handle global climate change

- Equity among nations is therefore at the centre of the discussion on energy emissions, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is central to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- Reassuring as this may be, the universal challenge of climate change has grown to such proportions that urgent action to sharply cut carbon emissions is crucial, and all countries, including India, must act quickly.
- Intensive measures in key sectors — scaling up renewables to raise their share in the energy mix, greening transport, updating building codes and raising energy efficiency — will help meet the national pledge under the Paris Agreement to cut energy intensity of GDP by 33-35% by 2030, over 2005 levels.

Progress in the usage of renewables sources

- At the global level, renewable sources of energy grew by 7% during 2018, but that pace is grossly insufficient, considering the rise in demand.
- Moreover, it was China and Europe that contributed the bulk of those savings, in large measure from solar and wind power, indicating that India needs to ramp up its capacity in this area.
- In fact, as the founder of the International Solar Alliance, India should lead the renewables effort.

Challenges in India

- Rooftop solar photovoltaics: in spite of falling prices and rising efficiency, the potential of rooftop solar photovoltaics remains poorly utilised. It is time State power utilities are made responsible for defined rates of growth in the installation of rooftop systems.
- Coal power plants: A second priority area is the cleaning up of coal power plants, some of which are young and have decades of use ahead.
- India's record in promoting green transport has been uninspiring, and emissions from fossil fuels and the resulting pollution are rising rapidly.

Hump-backed Mahseer

The hump-backed Mahseer, found in the waters of the Cauvery, has been added to the IUCN Red List with Critically Endangered Status.

Hump-backed Mahseer

- The hump-backed mahseer is a large freshwater fish also called the tiger of the water and found only in the Cauvery river basin including Kerala's Pambar, Kabini and Bhavani rivers.
- It is now "Critically Endangered": more threatened than the tiger is, as per the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species.
- The fish is one of the 229 species added to the Red List last November; this update also reveals that the threat status of 12 other Indian species, including great hornbills, has increased.
- The inclusion was possible only once the fish got its scientific name last June—*Tor remadevii*.

5 other species added: Five other species have also made it to threatened categories: two wild orchids, the Arabian scad (a marine fish) and two wild coffee species found only in a few localities in the Western Ghats.

More threats to Hornbill

- The great hornbill was earlier categorised as "Near Threatened".
- It is now "Vulnerable" due to high hunting pressure coupled with habitat loss and deforestation, while the wreathed hornbill has moved from "Least Concern" to "Vulnerable".

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The most important relationship you will ever have is with yourself.