



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 07-04-2025

GS-1

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Kannadippaya GI Tag

Syllabus: GS-1: Indian Art Culture – Handicrafts.

Context:

- **Telangana's Warangal Chapata Chilli and Kerala's tribal handicraft Kannadippaya** have received the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag.
- With this, India's GI registry has crossed **600 products**.

Geographical Indication (GI) Tag – Overview

- A **GI tag** is used to identify products having a **specific geographical origin** and possessing qualities or reputation due to that origin.
- Ensures **legal protection** and prevents **unauthorised use** of registered names.
- Valid for **10 years, renewable**.
- Governed by:
 - **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**
 - **WTO-TRIPS Agreement**
- Administered by:
 - **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

Warangal Chapata Chilli – Key Facts

- **State:** Telangana (18th GI product from the state; 3rd agricultural GI)
- **Notable Features:**
 - **Bright red colour, tomato-like shape**
 - **Low spiciness, high colouring ability** due to **capsicum oleoresin**
 - Known for **health benefits**: anti-obesogenic, antioxidant, etc.



- **Varieties:**
 - **Single Patti, Double Patti, and Odalu**
- **Cultivation Area:**
 - Mainly in **Nagaram village (Jammikunta mandal)**
 - **Nadikuda** is possibly the **oldest source**
- **Agro-climatic Uniqueness:**
 - Grown in **red and black soils**
 - Unique soil, water, and climate conditions restrict cultivation to this region

Kannadippaya – Key Facts

- **State:** Kerala
- **Significance:** First **tribal handicraft product** from Kerala to get GI tag
- **Communities Involved:**
 - **Oorali, Mannan, Muthuva, Malayan, Kadar, Ulladan, Malayarayan, Hill Pulaya**
 - Found in districts like **Idukki, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Palakkad**
- **Historical Importance:**
 - Once **offered to kings** as a mark of respect
- **Product Details:**
 - Made from **reed bamboo (Teinostachyum wightii)**

- Known for **mirror-like reflective patterns**
- **Functional features:** Provides **warmth in winter, cooling in summer**



Other Recent GI Tagged Products

Product	State	Year	Key Feature/Fact
Banaras Thandai	Uttar Pradesh	2024	Traditional spiced beverage linked to Varanasi
Assam Bihu Dhol	Assam	2024	Traditional drum used in Bihu festivals
Kasti Coriander	Maharashtra	2023	Known for strong aroma and flavour
Koraput Kalajeera Rice	Odisha	2023	Aromatic black rice, dubbed the " Prince of Rice "
Uttarakhand Red Rice	Uttarakhand	2023	High-altitude rice with high nutritional value

Dhansiri River

Syllabus: GS-1; Geography-Rivers

Context

- Environmentalists recently raised concerns with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) over alleged hazardous effluent discharge from Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) into the Dhansiri River, warning of severe ecological damage.

1. Origin & Course

- Origin: Dhansiri originates in the **Laisang Peak of Nagaland** (part of the Barail Range).
- Flow: It flows through Nagaland and Assam before joining the **Brahmaputra River**.
- Tributary: Considered a south bank tributary of the Brahmaputra.
- Length: Approximately 352 km (varies by source).

2. States & Major Cities

- Nagaland: Passes near **Dimapur**, the largest city in Nagaland.
- Assam: Flows through **Golaghat and Karbi Anglong** districts before merging with the Brahmaputra near **Dhansirimukh**.

3. Significance

- Agriculture: Supports paddy cultivation and fisheries in Assam.
- Biodiversity: Flows near Kaziranga National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- Transport: Historically used for trade and transport in the region.

4. Environmental Concerns

- Pollution: Industrial waste and urban sewage (especially near Dimapur) degrade water quality.
- Floods: Causes erosion and displacement in Assam during monsoons.
- Sand Mining: Unsustainable extraction affects riverbed stability.

5. Economic & Strategic Importance

- Hydropower Potential: Limited projects but studied for future energy needs.
- Connectivity: Bridges over Dhansiri improve road links between Assam and Nagaland.

More to know



Thailand

Syllabus: GS-2; International Relations, GS-1; Geography-Mapping

Context

- Indian Prime Minister's recent visit to Thailand resulted in multiple agreements, boosting economic and strategic partnerships.
- Thailand remains a key partner in India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision, enhancing connectivity and maritime security.

Thailand's Geographical & Political Significance

- **Location:** Central to Mainland Southeast Asia, acting as a bridge between India and ASEAN.
- **Borders:**
 - Land: Myanmar (NW), Laos (NE), Cambodia (E), Malaysia (S).
 - Water: Andaman Sea (SW), Gulf of Thailand (S) – vital for Blue Economy & Maritime Security.
- **Capital:** Bangkok
- **Currency:** Thai Baht (THB)
- **Language:** Thai
- **Religion:** Theravada Buddhism (95%)

Geography of Thailand

- **Mountains:**
 - Highest Peak: Doi Inthanon (2,565 m)
 - Others: Doi Chiang Dao, Doi Luang Chiang Dao
- **Major Rivers:**
 - Chao Phraya (flows through Bangkok, crucial for trade & agriculture).
 - Mekong River (forms border with Laos).
 - Others: Mae Klong, Nan, Ping.
- **Climate:**
 - Tropical Savanna (most regions).
 - Monsoon Climate (south & east).

Natural Resources

- **Key Exports:** Rubber, Rice, Tin, Natural Gas, Tantalum.
- **Other Resources:** Timber, tungsten, fish, gypsum, lignite.
- **Global Leader:** One of the top exporters of rubber and rice.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- **Historic City of Ayutthaya** (Ancient Siamese capital).
- **Sukhothai Historical Park** (Birthplace of Thai civilization).
- **Wat Pho** (Temple of the Reclining Buddha) – Famous Buddhist temple in Bangkok.
- Thailand's strategic location, rich culture, and economic potential make it a vital player in ASEAN and Indo-Pacific geopolitics.



Cape Town Convention

Syllabus: GS-2: Laws and Policies.

Context:

- Rajya Sabha passed the **Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025**.

- It gives legislative backing to the **Cape Town Convention**, aiming to promote aircraft leasing and financing in India.

Cape Town Convention (CTC) – Overview

What is it?

- **International treaty adopted in 2001** along with the **Aircraft Protocol**.
- Establishes **uniform legal rules** for financing and leasing of aircraft, helicopters, and aircraft engines.

Objectives:

- Protect **lessors and creditors** by ensuring legal remedies in case of default.
- Streamline **cross-border aviation leasing** and reduce legal risks.

Key Features:

- **Standardized Legal Framework:** Covers leasing, security interests, and conditional sales.
- **Creditor Protection:** Right to **repossess and deregister** aircraft swiftly upon default.
- **Global Registry:** Centralized international database for aircraft ownership and interests.
- **Legal Certainty Across Jurisdictions:** Enhances investor confidence and facilitates smoother transactions.

Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025

What is it?

- A domestic legislation to implement the **Cape Town Convention** and **Aircraft Protocol** in India.

Objectives:

- Provide **legal clarity** to aircraft leasing transactions.
- Align India with **global standards** to reduce leasing costs.
- Promote **India as a global hub** for aviation leasing and financing.

Key Provisions:

- **Legal Enforceability:** Gives statutory force to Cape Town Convention in India.

- **Creditor Remedies:** Creditors/lessors can repossess aircraft **within 2 months** of default or as agreed.
- **DGCA as Registry:** Directorate General of Civil Aviation to act as **domestic registry** of aircraft interests and dues.
- **Mandatory Reporting:** Airlines and lessors must **regularly update** the DGCA on leasing status and dues.
- **Cost Reduction:** Expected to reduce leasing costs by **8–10%**, making airfares more affordable.

Significance for India

- Aligns India with **international aviation finance norms**.
- Enhances ease of doing business in **aviation finance**.
- Promotes **domestic aircraft leasing hubs** like GIFT City.
- Potentially lowers operational costs for airlines → **cheaper airfares** for consumers.
- Attracts **global investors and lessors** to Indian aviation ecosystem.

Conclusion

The Bill marks a significant step in reforming India's aviation finance regime, enabling faster creditor enforcement, improving transparency, and positioning India as a favorable jurisdiction for aircraft leasing.

The other space race

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Digital India Mission.

Context:

- Despite widespread internet access in urban India, **rural and remote regions lack fibre-optic connectivity and reliable cellular coverage**.
- **Partnerships between Starlink and Indian telecom giants (Airtel, Jio)** aim to provide satellite-based internet access, especially in underserved regions.

Economic Implications

- **For Airtel and Jio:**

- Deliver **high-speed internet in remote areas** without incurring high infrastructure costs.
- **For Starlink:**
 - Access to India's vast market.
 - Bypasses regulatory hurdles via alignment with Indian firms.
- **Concerns:**
 - Not purely commercial – raises **issues of national sovereignty and dependence on a foreign entity** for critical infrastructure.

Geopolitical and Strategic Implications

- Indicates **India's strategic shift towards Western alliances** and distancing from authoritarian regimes like China.
- **Starlink's Dominance:**
 - ~7,000 satellites in orbit; significant **first-mover advantage in LEO internet**.
 - Competitors like OneWeb and Amazon Kuiper lag far behind.
- **Risks:**
 - **Monopoly and pricing control**.
 - **National security vulnerabilities** (e.g., Ukraine incident – Starlink restrictions during military ops).

Digital Sovereignty Framework

Category	Economic Value	Geopolitical Control	Examples
Digital Sovereignty	High	High	China's GuoWang
Market Dominance	High	Low	Starlink
Strategic Asset	Low	High	India's current satellite capabilities

Category	Economic Value	Geopolitical Control	Examples
Marginal Presence	Low	Low	Amazon's Project Kuiper

- **India's goal:** Transition to **Digital Sovereignty** via ISRO-led satellite infrastructure.
- Requires **time, investment, and policy support**.

Role of Domestic Telecom Companies

- Involving **Airtel and Jio**:
 - Allows **partial sovereignty via regulations** (e.g., data localisation, tech transfer).
- **BSNL's Absence**:
 - Missed opportunity for **greater state control and rural outreach**.
 - Possibly due to **financial and operational constraints**.

Key Challenges Ahead

- **Affordability and Accessibility**:
 - If pricing remains high, **rural adoption may remain low**.
 - **Subsidies or tiered pricing** models may be needed.
- **Space Traffic Management**:
 - Satellite congestion and **orbital debris risks** require international collaboration.
- **Global Internet Governance**:
 - Need for **global regulatory frameworks** to address:
 - Monopoly risks
 - National security threats
 - Equitable access and data sovereignty

Conclusion

- Starlink's entry can **rapidly bridge India's digital divide**, especially in rural areas.

- However, it also presents **long-term risks of dependency and reduced strategic autonomy**.
- India must:
 - Balance **international collaborations** with efforts to build **indigenous capabilities**.
 - Aim for **digital sovereignty** through **ISRO**, supportive policies, and possibly reviving **public sector participation** (e.g., BSNL).