



Gulaal Gota

Why in News?

Recently, **Gulaal Gota**, a unique tradition **dating back around 400 years**, was celebrated in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.

Key Points

- Gulaal Gota is a **small ball made of lac**, filled with **dry gulaal**, and weighs around 20 grams when filled.
- Lac, the primary raw material for Gulaal Gota, is sourced from **Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand**.
 - The process of making Gulaal Gotas involves **boiling lac in water** to make it flexible, shaping it, adding colour, heating it, and then blowing it into a spherical shape with the help of a blower called "**phunkni**".
- Gulaal Gotas are made by **Muslim lac makers, known as Manihaars**, in Jaipur, who learned lac-making from Hindu lac makers in Bagru, a town near Jaipur.
- The government of India has given "**artisan cards**" to the lac bangle and Gulaal Gota makers, allowing them to avail benefits from government schemes.
- In a bid to save the tradition, some Gulaal Gota makers have demanded a [Geographical Indication \(GI\) tag](#).

Lac

- It is a resinous substance that is **secreted by certain insects**. The **female scale** insect is one of the sources of lac.
- **To produce 1 kg of lac resin, around 300,000 insects are killed**. The lac insects also yield resin, lac dye and lac wax.
- It is used in various applications, including the production of **lac bangles**.

Geographical Indication (GI) tag

- A GI tag is a **name or sign used on certain products** that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
- The GI tag ensures that only the **authorised users or those residing in the geographical territory** are allowed to use the popular product name.
 - It also protects the product from being copied or imitated by others.
- A registered GI is valid for 10 years.
- GI registration is overseen by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

